

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF  
THE STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP (SWG-1)**

17-18 Rabi-I 1429H (25-26 March 2008)  
IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

This proceedings of the 1st Statistical Working Group (SWG) meeting held on 25-26 March 2008 presents papers on Statistical activities and Capacity Building of the OIC Institutions namely SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI and IDB. It also contains presentations made by the representatives of OIC institutions along with summary and conclusions of the Meeting. This document is aimed to serve as the background document for the future SWG meetings.

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## PART - I

### INAUGURAL SESSION



## **Welcoming Address** **by Dr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse<sup>1</sup>**

*Bismillah Rahmanir-Raheem*  
*Assalaam 'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh*

### **Director General, SESRIC** **Distinguished Participants** **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you, on behalf of Islamic Development Bank, to the First Meeting of Statistical Working Group (SWG) at OIC level taking place today at IDB Headquarters. I would also like to express our thanks and appreciation to you for honouring our invitation and for preparing and submitting a paper on the theme of the meeting. Indeed, this is the first-of-its-kind meeting in the annals of OIC, where representatives of OIC Institutions dealing with statistical activities (namely SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI and COMCEC) are brought together to discuss mechanisms for achieving greater synergy between them, and for coordinating statistical programs and activities with a view to enhancing and sustaining the effectiveness of statistical support to member countries.

As you all know, the OIC is the second largest body globally only next to the United Nations (UN) in terms of the size of its membership and population. It has a number of specialized entities that undertake diverse activities for the benefit of member countries. Because the OIC constituency comprises countries at various levels of development which require different development assistance, it is essential that activities common to the OIC Institutions be coordinated --- especially those in the realm of statistics which underpins the several initiatives of OIC and IDB--- to enable optimal utilization of scarce resources and avoid duplication of efforts.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It would be recalled that in the last decade the number of initiatives at country, regional, international and institutional level have increased considerably. Some of these initiatives are the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, the IDB 1440H Vision, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISDF) and Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) which contain goals and targets that depend on quality data to monitor, evaluate and benchmark progress. This development

has placed an unprecedented demand for quality data from countries whose capacities, among others, are constrained by underfunding and inadequate manpower.

To help member countries address these constraints, the IDB organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Statistical Capacity Building on 29 April 2007 at its headquarters, whose outcome contains a set of recommendations at OIC and IDB levels as well as member countries level. On our part, I am pleased to inform you that all the recommendations for IDB from the EGM have been implemented and the last one is the launching of the Statistical Working Group at the OIC level. At this juncture, I would like to put on record the efforts of the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Salvat Alpaz, who is present with us today for proposing similar initiative during his recent visit to IDB. In September 2007, just four months after the EGM, the IDB launched its statistical capacity building (IDB STATCAP) initiative for member countries. It is a multi-pronged initiative offering scholarships for statisticians working in national statistical offices; providing support for statistical training, workshops, exchange of experts and study visit; and granting technical assistance for statistical activities including physical infrastructures. The guidelines and procedures for utilizing the IDB STATCAP are now announced on IDB Website and I call on you to explore the initiative to undertake joint activities for strengthening statistical capacities in member countries.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would now share some thoughts with you on the theme of this meeting. Evidence abound that there is lack of coordination among the OIC Institutions in the area of statistics on one hand and between OIC Institutions and member countries' national statistical offices on the other hand. This problem is long over due and it is high time to address it. Therefore, we should not use this meeting as a forum to just meet and exchange views; rather we should focus on putting in place a quick-fix mechanism for coordinating statistical activities among OIC Institutions and formulating strategy to develop strategic alliances with member countries and other partners. In my view, coordination and cooperation are not only necessary to avoid duplication of activities, but more importantly are required to ensure that the quality of statistical services offered by the OIC Institutions is of the highest standard.

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<sup>1</sup>Vice President, Operations, Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

The OIC Institutions would need to reposition themselves to remain relevant and responsive to the emerging challenges of the Ummah. There are many statistical issues that are yet to be fixed. For instance, how many people live under \$1 a day in OIC countries? And what is the size of intra-investment among OIC countries? Etc. Answers to all these and many others are elusive. I expect OIC Institutions to use the Statistical Working Group to set standards, provide quotable figures, engage in joint studies, lead in taking and implementing initiatives, break new grounds, and champion good statistics on poverty indicators and other major indicators of OIC countries. To achieve this, we need to work hard to coordinate statistical activities to save cost, avoid duplication and conflicting statistics.

Although the task before you is daunting, I am confident that you will come up with a framework for coordination of statistics at all levels. Let us take inspiration from Allah's words in the Qur'an:

*“Verily, Allah will not change the condition of a community (or people), unless they change themselves” (Q13:11)*

It is time to use this meeting to open a new chapter in the history of OIC Institutions by embracing change and serve the Ummah in a coordinated and efficient way. This is the right moment to undertake serious soul-searching work to identify areas of overlapping activities and develop a lasting framework and solution to address our common problems for the betterment of the Ummah.

I wish you a most productive and stimulating meeting and would like to assure you that IDB look forward to receiving the outcome of this meeting.

Thank you all.

## Address by Director General, SESRIC Dr. Salvas Alpay<sup>2</sup>

*Bismillahi Ar-Rahmanir-Raheem  
Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh,*

### **Vice President (Operations), IDB, Distinguished Participants,**

I would like to express very strongly my sincere thanks to the IDB for taking up this important initiative on “Better Statistics, Better Policy for the OIC”, that is what I call the target of Statistical Working Group (SWG). Statistical improvement is a very significant component of the recent dynamism introduced into the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. We see a lot of new activities being undertaken by different OIC institutions within the framework of the implementation of the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action; improving the quality of statistics and statistical capacities is in fact a key prerequisite for the achievement of almost every single item targeted in the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action. It is not possible to design policies in any subject without knowing the current stance, without knowing where we stand as compared to others, and without specifying achievable targets. All these require statistics: statistics of what, where and how. I do not want to emphasize the need to improve the quality of statistics and statistical capacity in most of the OIC member countries to this august committee as we will be discussing this issue in detail during our workshop.

It is a great pleasure for me to observe the keen interest of many OIC institutions to improve their statistical activities. In this regard, I would like to mention some of the recent undertakings by the SESRIC.

Since May 2006, a strong emphasis has been placed on statistics in our Centre. Two critical areas have been targeted:

- Data collection and Dissemination;
- Training programs for statistical capacity building in the member countries.

Firstly, we have improved our IT infrastructure both in terms of hardware and software tremendously. I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK) for their strong support and cooperation during the improvement phase. The Centre has also launched a new web site, which facilitates the development of the data

collection and dissemination system. The accessibility of the SESRIC web site has been vastly increased by the deployment of dedicated and internal web servers located within the SESRIC. All these changes brought the Centre in line with the standards of other international organisations such as the World Bank, and the IMF.

Secondly we have given a special importance to enhancing our interaction with the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the member states. We made use of every opportunity to meet with them. In this regard, I can mention our meetings with the NSOs of the member countries during the following Conferences/Meetings:

- Regional Pre-conference of Second OECD World Forum for the African Countries in Kigali, Rwanda on 14-17 January 2007,
- UNECA, Fifth Session of the Committee on Development Information-Statistical Capacity Building in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 April – 6 May 2007,
- Regional Pre-conference of OECD World Forum for Middle East and North African Countries in Sanaa, Yemen on 19 April 2007, and
- Second OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in Istanbul, Turkey on 27-30 June 2007.

Regarding the recent initiatives of SESRIC in the area of training, we introduced new strategies that would make the member countries better informed of each other’s potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate the elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes among them. In this connection, the Centre started to send questionnaires regularly to the member countries in order to determine their capacities and needs in various fields of statistics. The Centre, then, arranges for training programmes to contribute to the statistical capacity building activities in the member countries based on their responses to the questionnaires.

Finally, our Centre also enhanced its cooperation with the most relevant international and regional organisations to provide high-level training opportunities to an increasing number of staff from the member countries in various branches of statistics and socio-economic activities. In this connection and in accordance with a resolution of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC, which was held in Istanbul in

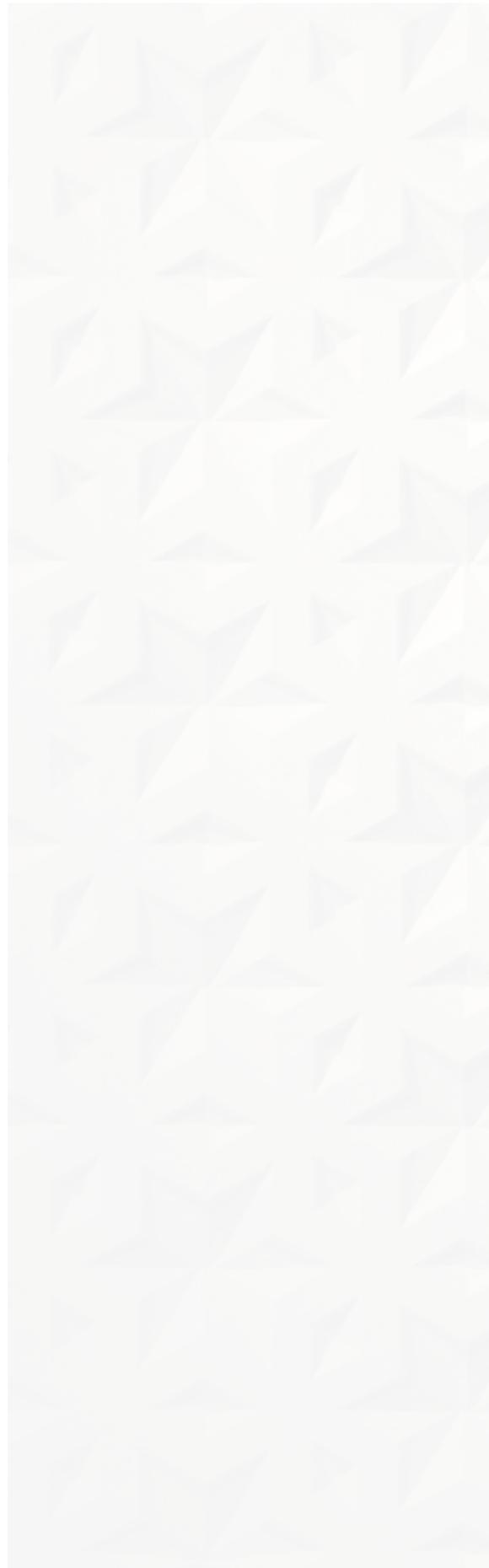
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<sup>2</sup>Director General, SESRIC, Ankara-Turkey.

November 2006, the Centre became a member of the organisational committee of the Second OECD World Forum, which was held in Istanbul in June 2007, where the Centre facilitated and ensured the effective participation of 16 member countries in the said Forum and its preparatory regional meetings.

The Centre has also been welcomed as a new member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) at its 8<sup>th</sup> Session held in Montreal, Canada, in September 2006. This Committee is composed of international organisations like UN, WB, IMF, OECD etc. that are active in the area of statistics.

By the Grace of Allah SWT, this workshop will be a turning point for a substantial improvement in the statistical mandate and activities of the OIC institutions. I applaud and congratulate the IDB for taking the initiative in this regard. I wish all the success to this workshop, and may Allah SWT bestow his mercy on the undertakings of this august committee.



## PART - II

# DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR STATISTICAL COORDINATION AT OIC LEVEL



## **An Overview of IDB Statistical Capacity and Activities<sup>3</sup>: “Towards Developing a Framework for Statistical Coordination at OIC level”**

This is a structured document prepared for the 1st Meeting of the Statistical Working Group by the Data Resource Center (DRC) in the Economic Policy and Statistics Department of the Islamic Development Bank which is the organizer of the meeting scheduled for 25-26 March 2008 at IDB Headquarters. It is a structured document because the paper attempts to address specific questions within some broad themes designed in line with the agenda of the meeting.

### **1. Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities**

- **What does your institution do? Please state the history and background of your institution including the date of establishment, objectives/purpose, and activities**

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB on simply the Bank) is an international financial institution established in pursuance of the Declaration of Intent issued by the Conference of Finance Ministers of Muslim Countries held in Jeddah in Dhul-Qadah 1393H (December 1973). The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors took place in Rajab 1395H (July 1975) and the IDB formally commenced operations on 15 Shawwal 1395H (20 October 1975).

Its purpose is to foster economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of *Shari'ah* (Islamic Law).

Its main function is to provide various forms of development assistance for poverty alleviation through human development, forging economic cooperation by promoting trade and investment among member countries, and enhancing the role of Islamic finance in the social and economic development of member countries. It also establishes and operates special funds for specific purposes including a fund for assistance to Muslim communities in non-member countries, in addition to setting up trust funds. Furthermore, it mobilizes financial resources using *Shari'ah*-compliant modes and provides technical assistance to member countries including provision of training facilities for personnel engaged in development activities in member countries.

Because statistics is the lifeblood of development institutions, the Bank has established an outfit, since

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Abdullateef Bello, Chief, Data Resource Center, Economic Policy and Statistics Department, IDB.

its inception, in one of the oldest departments now called the Economic Policy and Statistics Department (EPSD), and formerly known as the Economic Policy and Strategic Planning Department. The outfit has evolved from a Statistics Section into a DRC at Divisional level, and it is charged with data collection, processing and dissemination.

The EPSD is organized into three Divisions namely the Economic Studies Division, Policy Development and Implementation Division (PDID), and Statistics Division/Data Resource Centre (DRC). The Divisions collectively implement the functions of the Department.

- **How much resources (both human and financial) are allocated/available to/for statistical activities? Please be explicit in giving the number of statisticians and the budget available for administrative and statistical activities.**

Statistics permeates the development assistance activities of IDB. From preparing appraisal reports, conducting studies, mitigating risks, planning, formulating policies and strategies, preparing speeches, projecting into the future to monitoring progress of goals and targets set in institutional and international initiatives ---such as IDB 1440H Vision and MDGs. And quality assured statistics underpins all these activities.

By nature of its activities, the IDB is a major user of data. It is a producer of data as well as a user of data. It collects data (primarily on its operations, projects, financial transactions etc.) on regular basis from its various departments, offices, and entities on their activities. This data collection activity which focuses on Internal Data (InD) makes IDB a data producer. It also sources External Data (ExD) (mainly socio-economic and financial indicators of member countries) from statistical agencies or international institutions (notably IMF, World Bank, OECD, FAO etc). This activity also makes IDB a data user.

In order to improve its capacity to produce and use good quality data, the IDB has taken strategic initiative to enhance and strengthen its statistical activities. The first initiative was the creation of a Data Resource Center (DRC) at the divisional level. The DRC (or Statistics Division) is the official focal point for quality assuring of InD and ExD and liaising with different data producing entities both within

and outside the IDB to provide reliable, accurate, consistent and timely statistical data upon request to users.

To date, the DRC has 4 sanctioned professional statisticians including the Division Chief. In addition, it has two support staff, although one of these positions is currently vacant and effort is being made to upgrade it to a professional status.

Ideally, given the additional responsibilities assigned to it such as the implementation of IDB-STATCAP, management of COSDAT as well as Data Platform, and Thematic and Sectoral Classification of activities of IDB Group, the DRC in the future would require a dozen staff, of which 8 are to be professionals, 2 Research Statisticians (or Assistant Statisticians) with one or 2 support staff.

In terms of financial resources available for statistical activities, the DRC does not have specific budget apart from the staff salary and remuneration. However, it has IDB-STATCAP Initiative which draws resources from existing Funds and Program of IDB Group.

- **What are your ongoing statistical activities and what do you plan for the future? Pls. list and explain your statistical activities.**

The main statistical activities of the IDB are as follows:

1. Statistical Publications
2. IDB STATCAP Initiative
3. ICP Initiative
4. Management of Databases
5. Statistical Data Services
6. Thematic and sectoral classification of IDB Group activities
7. Reports preparation

### **Statistical Publications**

The DRC produces and distributes 3 flagship statistical publications and contributes data and tables to other publications of the IDB including the Annual Report, occasional papers, and studies prepared internally. All the statistical publications are produced annually and disseminated during the Annual Meeting of Board of Governors. The unique characteristic of these publications is that they contain aggregate statistics on key indicators of member countries --- along with those of OIC countries, the Least Developed Countries, the Developing Countries, High Income countries, and the World --- which can not be found in any other publications worldwide. In addition, the publications also contain data on IDB Group approvals and net cancellations.

### **IDB STATCAP Initiative**

The IDB STATCAP Initiative was launched by IDB in September 2007 in response to the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building held on 29 April 2007. The Initiative aimed at providing technical assistance to assist member countries to build and strengthen their statistical capacities so that they would be able to produce reliable, timely, consistent and accurate economic, financial, socio-demographic and other data (in accordance with international good practice and frameworks) for policy formulation and decision-making. Those data are also vital for monitoring development and poverty reduction, which is the cornerstone of IDB's strategic objective.

The IDB-STATCAP provides scholarships for statisticians working in national agencies to obtain masters degree in statistics and other related fields. It also provides technical assistance facility to support member countries and regional statistical institutions to attend and organize training, workshops, conferences, and exchange of staff from one national statistical office to another. The facility also offers financial support for improvements in the following four components: (i) physical infrastructure and equipment, (ii) statistical infrastructure, (iii) statistical operations, and (iv) institutional framework for national statistics. The guidelines and procedures for applying for technical assistance under IDB-STATCAP are available on the IDB website at <http://www.isdb.org/>.

The IDB-STATCAP is unique for a number of reasons: First, the initiative is the first of its kind in the domain of statistics ever since the IDB was established. Second, it draws resources from existing Fund/Programmes of IDB Group (comprising five entities; IDB as the flagship, IRTI, ICD, ICIEC, and ITFC. Details on these entities are available on IDB's website). Third, it is comprehensive as it involves the use of combined tools/facilities of IDB Group to support and strengthen statistical capacity of member countries (such as provision of scholarship, training, workshops and technical assistance). Fourth, it provides resources for member countries to break out of the vicious cycle of underperformance and underfunding of national statistical agencies. Fifth, it fosters close cooperation between data producers and users through establishment of statistical working group, which meets regularly.

### **ICP Initiative**

Apart from the IDB-STATCAP, the IDB is supporting the International Comparison Program (ICP) of the World Bank to strengthen the statistical capacity of member countries. On 25-26 February 2007, the Board of Executive Directors of IDB, at its 243<sup>rd</sup>

session, approved financial contribution of \$1.15 million to the ICP global trust fund. The ICP is the world largest statistical initiative, involving more than 150 countries in six regions of the world, including 47 of the 56 IDB member countries. An agreement on the IDB-World Bank collaboration was signed on 9th September 2007. As part of the collaborative effort, the Chief of the Statistics Division/DRC was appointed to join the executive board of the ICP. Under the agreement, the IDB's contribution would cover member countries in Asia, Western Asia, Africa, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Some of the activities to be financed include data collection, regional meetings and workshops, technical assistance to member countries, and an independent evaluation of the program in member countries in order to provide feedback and recommendations essential to the preparation of a plan of action for the next round of ICP.

### **Management of Databases**

For long, the IDB has recognized the need to put in place an efficient and effective statistical information system (SIS) for timely access to high quality data for monitoring development in member countries and implementing specific activities of IDB. The first SIS called IDB Live Database (ILDB) was set up by the World Bank in December 2002. The ILDB provides a systematic method to store and maintain information on key economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics on IDB member countries as well as on selected regional and economic groupings. It is a system, not simply a database which comprises (i) a Country Database for in-depth economic work, (ii) Briefings, a management tool for accessing data on selected indicators in a pre-sorted, ready to use format, (iii) Query, a tool for storing, accessing, and manipulating cross-country economic and sector variables, and (iv) Updating tool, for data administrator to manage the system. The ILDB is sourced from several publications of the World Bank, the IMF (GFS, IFS, BOP etc.), ITU, OECD, OPEC, COMTRADE, and the UN agencies such as the FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UN Food Programme, ILO, International Energy Agency, UNCTAD, etc. So far, the ILDB has been updated yearly. However, efforts are underway to further migrate from ILDB to an advanced Data Development Platform of the World Bank.

In order to fill the data gap in the ILDB which has a lag of 2 years, the DRC embarked on developing a *Country-level Statistical Database* (COSDAT) which source data directly from the member countries. The system has been developed and the initial task of populating it with data from the websites of member countries' national statistical offices/central banks is in progress. After this initial phase, the DRC plans to

send structured questionnaires to member countries to capture the missing data for the COSDAT. This is major challenge whose success depends on the statistical capacity of member countries to provide the required data.

### **Statistical Data Services**

As the focal point for statistics on IDB Group activities and member countries' socio-economic indicators, the DRC provides statistical data services to data users within and outside the Bank upon request. It also assists data users in determining the correct statistical methods to use in their studies, in analyzing data, and various other statistical-related matters such as designing questionnaire, conducting survey, piloting, analyzing and interpreting the results.

The DRC is also the focal point for liaising with international community for exchange of data on our common member countries. It has a mutual agreement with the IMF to supply aggregate data on selected macroeconomic indicators of member countries which are reported and analyzed in the Annual Report of the Bank.

In addition, the DRC provides demand-driven data services to users within IDB such as preparation of Country Data (a pager containing data on about 45 socio-economic indicators of each member countries), and Country Approvals (a pager showing IDB Group approvals by fund, entity, and type of operation for each member country). It also supplies and ensures consistency of the data reported in the IDB Annual Report, studies and other booklets.

### **Thematic and sectoral classification of IDB Group activities**

One of the major initiatives of the DRC is to harmonize different sectoral classifications used across IDB Group. Existing classification does not provide reliable reporting on all IDB Group development assistance activities nor do they effectively capture the varied nature of many of its operations and key initiatives in thematic areas nor are they well adapted to monitoring or reporting on alignment with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) or IDB Group objectives nor do they correspond to the classification systems being used by the Bank's development partners making benchmarking nigh impossible. In this context, the DRC proposed new sectors and themes and efforts are being made to undertake reclassification of IDB Group activities and collate operational data based on the new themes and sectors.

### **Reports preparation**

The DRC contributes input into and prepares studies on topical themes aimed at monitoring developments

in member countries and around the world that could affect the operations of the Bank. In recent years, the DRC has participated in preparing sector studies such as trade, energy, microfinance, MDGs etc. These reports, like others prepared by EPSD, are discussed in higher forums in IDB.

- **What are your statistical publications? Please list them with their respective objectives along with the frequency of publication.**

The major statistical publications prepared by DRC on annual basis are (i) Statistical Monograph: Key socio-economic indicators on IDB member countries, (ii) Facts and Figures on member countries, and (iii) Pocket Data Card; all these documents are primarily for external audience. A short description of the objectives of each publication is as follows:

**Statistical Monograph: Key Socio- Economic Statistics on IDB Member Countries:** The Statistical Monograph series is an annual publication of the IDB presenting data on major development indicators of the IDB members' economies. It is usually distributed on the occasion of the IDB's Annual Meetings and subsequently sent to central banks, national statistical offices, ministries of finance, and international organizations in member and non-member countries.

The Monograph's primary purpose is to fill the gap in aggregate statistics on indicators of IDB member countries which are often not readily available in any international and national statistical publications. Thus, the Monograph attempts to help researchers on IDB member countries to have access to comparable data as well as reliable aggregate statistics for use in their works.

The Statistical Monograph contains more than 200 indicators which are grouped under three main headings: Demographic and Human Development Indicators (Part I), Macro-economic Indicators (Part II) and External Sector Economic Indicators (Part III). The Monograph presents highlights of major trends and analyzes the indicators along with tables of data and charts. In addition, the Monograph also shows data on the performances of IDB and OIC economies for various years, together with those of developing countries, least developed countries, high-income countries, and the world, for comparative purposes.

**Facts and Figures on IDB Member Countries:** This 2-page pamphlet presents key development statistics on IDB Member countries as well as IDB Group activities. It is aimed at providing users with a quick access to some of the basic socio-economic indicators, including demographic, macroeconomic, external sector, and IDB Group activities.

**Pocket Data Card:** This is a visa-sized card containing aggregate data on key indicators of IDB member countries on one side and data on IDB Group activities on the other.

- **Which of these statistical publications are widely cited or used?**

The Statistical Monograph is the most cited document in many studies of the IDB. It is also widely quoted by researchers at international institutions such as European Union in Brussels, ISIS in Malaysia, and Muslim organizations in UK; all of these organizations sent us positive comments and requested extra-copies.

- **Where do you source your data used in your publications? Are they from international sources or direct from member countries or both? Please state your sources with explanation and justification for using the specific sources.**

For all our statistical publications, the data reported in them are from the international sources mainly the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) online database, IMF's World Economic Outlook, IMF's Direction of Statistics, IMF's International Financial Statistics, FAO's FAOSTAT, OECD's DAC database, UNCTAD's Handbook of Statistics, etc. We also use the IDB Live database, which in many ways the same as the World Bank's WDI database.

However, currently, the DRC has developed a new database called "COSDAT", as described above, which is to source data from member countries. The websites of national statistical offices (NSOs) and other data agencies in member countries are being explored as the first sources to populate the system. The reason for using these sources is to take advantage of technology to save on cost and later to fill the gap by approaching the institutions directly to collect the remaining data. Undoubtedly, not all the member countries' NSOs have websites and those who have do not update them regularly, which is one of the major problems to be addressed by the IDB-STATCAP initiative.

- **How many databases do you maintain and populate with data?**

As noted above, the DRC maintains two databases: the ILDB (IDB Live database, being phased out and replaced with DP, Data Platform) and the COSDAT. The latter is the only one that we are populating by ourselves, while the ILDB was set up and updated annually by the World Bank.

- **Where do you get the data to populate your databases?**

Mainly from the websites of member countries as

well as the statistical documents sent to us voluntarily by some member countries.

- **Who are the beneficiaries of your statistical activities?**

The IDB-STATCAP Initiative is for our 56 member countries as well as for regional statistical institutions. Apart from these set of beneficiaries, the DRC provides statistical services to staff, researchers, and international organizations.

- **What are the expected outcomes of your statistical activities?**

To provide correct figures on IDB member countries and in particular aggregate statistics on key indicators of OIC and IDB member countries as a group.

## **2. Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?**

- **What are the achievements and shortfalls in statistical activities at OIC level?**

The status of statistical activities at OIC level is low compared to UN, say. With a modest beginning and constrained by resources, the statistical activities of OIC statistical institutions are neither widely known nor making the desired impact. Although some of these institutions are undergoing reforms and making strenuous efforts to discharge their responsibilities, their achievements so far can be gauged from their statistical products and the impact they are making at the OIC level and member countries.

The most serious shortfall of the statistical activities of these institutions is lack of coordination between them leading to duplication of efforts and in turn wastage of resources. The second shortfall is lack of strategic direction for effective and efficient design of statistical activities at the level of OIC. The third shortfall is manpower and financial resources, which constrains their ability to undertake more statistical activities.

- **What are the three top niche areas for statistical activities at the OIC level?**

In our view, the three top niche areas for statistical activities at the OIC level should be as follows:

- Focus on reliable and up-to-date coordinated statistics on key indicators of member countries
- Harmonization of aggregation methodology
- Development of common database for all statistical institutions
- **Do you have partnership agreement with any OIC and Non-OIC institutions in the area of statistics? If any partnership, who and what are they? And what kind of agreement or**

**arrangement? Is it temporary or permanent? Does it involve fee-payment or not? If fees are required, how much do you pay on yearly basis?**

IDB does not have any partnership arrangement or understanding regarding exchange of statistical data with OIC institutions. But it has signed MOU with Non-OIC institutions particularly the World Bank for deployment of Data Platform system (formally called IDB Live Database) for access to over 500 indicators on member countries. It has also an arrangement with the IMF to provide aggregate data on selected macroeconomic indicators of member countries for use in IDB's Annual Report. The DRC is in the process of forging strategic alliances with other regional development banks—ADB and AfDB—to benefit from their experience in econometric modeling. It is also collaborating with the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, to strengthen statistical capacity for our common member countries. All these agreement/arrangement does not involve fees-payment.

- **Do you calculate aggregates for the indicators captured in your statistical publications? If yes, which international institution's approach do you follow and why? If no, do you plan to undertake aggregate calculation in the future?**

One of the uniqueness of IDB statistical publications is the presentation of aggregate statistics on all the 200+ indicators of member countries captured. The aggregation methodology --- from simple summation, percentage change, growth rate, imputation etc. --- varies from one table to another but essentially follows the World Bank approach. We chose the World Bank approach for two reasons; first and most importantly, the aggregate figures for other economic groupings (Developing Countries, Developed Countries, LDCs, and the World) to which the IDB aggregates are benchmarked are taken from the World Bank's WDI, requiring for consistency sake to use the same methodology; second, the World Bank's approach is statistically appealing and well-documented.

## **3. Framework for Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches**

- **What do you suggest to be done to strengthen the coordination of statistical activities at the OIC level?**

The demarcation line between the OIC statistical institutions is blurred; some overlapping functions and activities are obvious. The Statistical Working Group (SWG) should be supported and used as the forum to discuss issues of overlapping activities, among other things, with a view to achieving greater synergy and minimizing duplication of effort and dissemination of conflicting data on OIC countries.

In order to strengthen coordination of statistical activities, the first thing to do is to examine closely the *raison d'être* of the OIC Institutions and take stock of their human and financial capacities. The *raison d'être* of these institutions was set out at inception (many decades ago) and it is not clear whether or not the institutions have outgrown their *raison d'être*. Given that we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century -- the so-called era of rapid technological advancement, globalization, and trade liberalization, all of which are shaping the world economy and development in member countries --- it is imperative for the institutions to be more responsive to the new needs of member countries in terms of statistical development and capacity building so that the OIC Ten Years Programme of Action which set targets can be monitored for progress. Equally important, we should determine the strength of each institution in terms of manpower for data collection activities, analytical ability, and data dissemination practices.

The second suggestion is to identify overlapping statistical activities and then remedy the problem through division of labour; whereby each institution would be required to specialize in data collection on certain indicators and would be the focal point for supplying the other institutions with data in its area of specialty. In other words, if institution A can vouch for its data as reliable, accurate, consistent, and up-to-date, the other institutions should depend and use the data for their publications. This also applies to data collection activities, where each institution will focus on seeking data from member countries only on indicators relevant to its assigned specialty.

The third suggestion for strengthening coordination is to encourage OIC Institutions to enter into strategic alliance. This may involve setting up a mechanism for undertaking collaborative activities. For example, the SWG can be used to organize frequent meetings and exchange information on programmes of activities of all institutions, undertake joint missions, co-finance statistical activities, share best practices and lessons learned, and cross-participate in statistical events such as seminars, workshops, meetings, and sharing of information on activities of other stakeholders in statistical capacity building for member countries.

The fourth suggestion is to consider developing a unified common database, called "joint OIC-level Statistical Database" rather than each institution developing and managing different databases for preparing its statistical publications, which often result in reporting inconsistent and conflicting data. This idea is not new per se, it is similar to what the UN did recently (putting all UN agencies' databases in one format and platform) and what the MDBs also did 5 years ago when they set up the IMF-World-Bank-OECD-BIS joint database on debt statistics.

The joint OIC-level Statistical Database can focus on statistics that are sourced directly from member countries, for example. This initiative would enable optimal utilization of scarce resources.

- **What do you think should be put in place to facilitate standardizing and harmonizing methodology used for aggregation by various OIC institutions' publications?**

The SWG provides an opportunity to share knowledge on different statistical activities of various OIC institutions. To-date, only few institutions engage in aggregate calculation, and those who do, use simple average and summation for aggregation, which may not be appropriate given that member countries are heterogeneous in terms of economic performance and development. In situation where there is large variability among data on the indicator of member countries, it would be misleading to use average as it seriously underestimates the true aggregate value. Similarly, a missing value for one year on a country's indicator can lead to wrong calculation of percentage change, which ideally requires some imputation for the missing data before aggregation. Indeed, it does not augur well for two OIC institutions to report in their publications conflicting figures on the same indicator for the same year.

In order to set standard and harmonize the methods for aggregate calculation used by different OIC institutions, it is important to first identify the types of aggregations computed by OIC Institutions and then agree on the most suitable methods to use and the source of data for each of the indicators. One way forward is perhaps to consider preparing a joint working paper on the subject matter by SWG members.

- **What kind of framework would you propose for effective and efficient functioning of the Statistical Working Group (SWG)?**

SWG shall meet regularly perhaps every 6 months on rotational basis at each OIC Institution. The host institution shall bear the cost of organizing the meeting and the head of that institution (or the most senior Statistician) shall officiate as the Chair of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the host institution and circulated to the members for approval/correction/comments before releasing it for implementation. There should be a minimum quorum for the meeting to hold; at least two-thirds of member institutions should be present. Only appointed staff, by name, shall be allowed to participate in the SWG meeting for continuity and sustainability.

There will be cost-sharing arrangement for events proposed by SWG and efforts will be made to explore financial assistance, wherever possible, from development institutions including IDB.

SWG shall be open to member countries' national statistical offices; maximum of 6 countries may be invited to join (2 each from the major regions, Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA and Asia). In this respect, an arrangement has to be made to finance the attendance of these member countries' NSOs staff. This is an issue that SWG may discuss along with the frequency of their participation in the meetings. One idea may be that SWG at the level of OIC Institutions meets twice a year while member countries participate in every last meeting to reduce the burden of financing them.

Importantly, SWG should be recognized by OIC as the apex entity for coordination of statistics at the Ummah level. It should prepare a report annually on its activities along with the decisions taken and submit it to the OIC Secretariat.

SWG may partner with other similar bodies to exchange ideas such as the UN Statistical Commission and StatCom-Africa.

- **What specific role do you want to play in the SWG and where do you see SWG in the next few years?**

DRC would like to play active and participatory role in promoting the activities of SWG, especially in developing common database as well as template for generating consistent and accurate aggregate statistics. It is also interested in preparing joint studies and undertaking joint initiatives with other OIC Institutions within the framework of SWG and IDB STATCAP Initiative.

We see SWG as becoming a powerful entity in the future for setting statistical agenda for the Ummah especially in areas concerning data collection activities, developing indicators for monitoring OIC and IDB-specific initiatives, and contributing to setting standards, best practices and promoting good use of statistics for decision making at all levels.

- **What type of strategy or policy is needed for SWG to be an important forum for OIC institutions to develop common database platform and coordinate their activities?**

First of all, all OIC Institutions should be committed to the objectives of SWG. They should not see SWG as an attempt to replace or take-over their activities. Rather, SWG will strengthen and make them more responsive to their clients. The current siloed-situation where OIC Institutions are neither coordinating their activities nor sharing experience and best practices is not sustainable because it is not an efficient way to maximize our scarce resources.

Secondly, OIC Institutions should be willing to discuss freely their strengths and weaknesses, share

knowledge on their corporate assets and be ready to commit their resources for developing a common database and fostering the coordination activities of the SWG.

Rather than start from the scratch for the common database project, we may want to use one of the existing databases, review it to incorporate the needs of all OIC Institutions, expand the database and work out the role of each institution in terms of human and financial contribution. Alternatively, we can study the different databases available at OIC Institutions and find ways to merge them; this is exactly what the UN did recently.

## **Statistical Activities of SESRIC<sup>4</sup>**

### **1.1. History and Background**

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), more commonly known within the Islamic Community as the Ankara Centre, was founded as a subsidiary organ of the OIC in pursuance of Resolution No. 2/8-E adopted by the Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), held in Tripoli in May 1977. The Centre started its activities in Ankara on 1 June 1978.

The basic mandate drawn up for SESRIC is threefold:

1. To collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries,
2. To study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to help generate proposals that will initiate and enhance co-operation among them, and
3. To organise training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries as well as to the general objectives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

In addition to the implementation of the above-mentioned mandate, the Centre assumes the role of a focal point for the technical co-operation activities and projects between the OIC system and the related UN agencies. It also acts as the major research arm of the OIC whereby it is assigned the task of preparing the main economic and social reports and background documents for the multitude of economic, social and technical co-operation meetings and conferences held at different levels under the umbrella of the OIC every year.

At the threshold of its 30<sup>th</sup> year of existence and active involvement, within the framework of its

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<sup>4</sup>Dr. Sidika Basci, Senior Researcher, SESRIC.

fields of specialisation, in the common effort towards the realisation of the noble objectives of the OIC, the Ankara Centre is increasingly solicited to put its accumulated experience and acquired know-how at the service of the Organisation and its member countries as reflected in the ever-expanding scope of activities it carries out.

## 1.2. Resources Allocated to Statistical Activities

Statistics department plays a major role in the activities of the Centre. As the Centre hosts the most comprehensive statistical database for the OIC member countries, all researchers employed in the Centre carry out some statistical responsibilities in addition to their research work, and support the statistical activities. Six researchers and IT specialists are employed with full-time statistical responsibilities, and they are also supported by the 2 advisors of the Director General of the Centre. Approximately 500 thousand dollars are allocated from the budget of the Centre annually to statistical activities.

## 1.3. Ongoing Statistical Activities

### 1.3.1 BASEIND

The Centre continues to serve as the major socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC member countries, and maintains a system of computerised databases that support time series data collected at regular intervals from both the national and international statistical sources relating to the member countries. The collected statistics and information are processed and disseminated to all the relevant institutions and interested organisations/individuals in the member countries and elsewhere, both in hard copies, and in electronic format through the Centre's web site ([www.sesrtcic.org](http://www.sesrtcic.org)).

BASEIND is the Centre's main statistical database. It currently contains data on 162 socio-economic variables under 15 categories for the 57 OIC member countries dating back to 1970 and serves as the primary statistical source for the Centre's research activities and statistical publications. It is also available online to benefit all those interested in the OIC community and elsewhere. The content of this database is regularly updated and enriched essentially on the basis of information collected from the national statistical sources. The Centre is also in communication with international organizations such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations, and International Labour Organization for assuring a database as complete as possible. The 15 categories covered in BASEIND are:

- National Accounts (26 indicators),
- Agriculture (21 indicators),
- Education (15 indicators),

- Transportation and Communication (12 indicators),
- International Finance (11 indicators),
- Demography (14 indicators),
- Exports (9 indicators),
- Imports (9 indicators),
- Labour Force (9 indicators),
- Health (8 indicators),
- Industry and Manufacturing (6 indicators),
- Money and Prices (6 indicators),
- Public Finance (6 indicators),
- Energy and Mining (5 indicators),
- Tourism (5 indicators)

In addition to these categories the following four new categories will be soon added to BASEIND database:

- Poverty
- Environment
- MDG Indicators
- Gender

Up to the year 2006, the data collection mechanism of SESRIC based on sending regular questionnaires in hard copies to the member countries. However, starting in 2006, the Centre decided to improve this mechanism by using the facilities of the internet. In this connection, the Centre developed, in collaboration with the National Statistical Organization of Turkey, a new statistical data collection and dissemination software system. This system has two sides: data collection side and data dissemination side.

The data collection side of the system has not been activated yet although it is ready. This requires a strong cooperation and coordination with the NSOs of the member countries. Each NSO needs to assign a focal person for the entry and update of their data through the new system developed by the Centre. Although the online system is very user friendly, the Centre will provide the necessary training to the focal persons in the member countries. The Centre is working on a suitable mechanism to make this system effective soon in collaboration with the NSOs of the member countries. In the meantime, the Centre is using international sources to update BASEIND, and asking the NSOs of member countries to check the data available at the Centre's web site, correct them, if there is any mistake, and to fill the missing ones.

On the other hand, the data dissemination side of the system has been active since the second half of 2007. It is much more user-friendly than the previous system. The system allows the user to download the desired data in html, excel, csv or xml formats through the following five simple steps:

- **Step 1** (Country Selection): One or more countries out of 57 OIC Member States are selected.
- **Step 2** (Category Selection): Categories of interest out of 15 categories are selected.
- **Step 3** (Indicator Selection): Indicators of interest belonging to the categories specified in Step 2 are selected.
- **Step 4** (Year & Frequency Selection): At this time data is shown only in annual format.
- **Step 5** (Report Format Selection): Some formatting options are selected.

The Centre will continue its efforts to further improve the system to make it possible for the users in the near future to download data in different forms including a graphical style. Moreover, it is planned to allow for undertaking calculations on some aggregates for the indicators and also make some forecasts.

### 1.3.2. Publications

There are three main annual statistical publications of the Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC. These are Statistical Year Book, Basic Facts and Figures and Information Series. Each of them is an annual publication.

Each issue of the Statistical Year Book covers all the indicators of BASEIND in the latest 10 years. In addition, it is also possible to find country profiles for some selected indicators. The Statistical Year Book is published in both hard and soft copies. Both hard and soft copies are available. The main aim of publishing a hard copy is to provide it to various libraries all throughout the world since it is demanded very much by these libraries. The Statistical Year Book for 2007 was the last publication where the preparation process was manual. From now on with the help of a program, the updates of the Statistical Year Book will be made by selecting the necessary values from the BASEIND in an electronic environment. This will save time and effort in preparing the Statistical Year Book considerably.

Up to this year, each issue of Basic Facts and Figures includes around 20 most basic indicators selected from BASEIND and displayed in tabular format for the latest 5 years for each of the 57 member countries. However, starting from this year, the Basic Facts and Figures will be published in a new format where some figures and averages on some indicators be presented. This will allow the use to make much easier comparisons on the most basic indicators on the member countries.

Each issue of the annual Information Series of the SESRIC covers one selected category from the BASEIND, considering the most urgent needs of the OIC member countries, and reports the indicators

related to that category. Like Basic Facts and Figures, until this year the presentations in this publication were also in tabular format. This year's Information Series on Education will have a new format as well. Not only the usual statistics on different education indicators for each of the member countries will be presented but also the comparison of member countries with themselves and other developed and developing countries will be included. Moreover, a new section on policy recommendations will be introduced. This new format of the Information Series of the SESRIC will be more useful to policy makers in the member countries.

### 1.3.3. Other Statistical Information at the Centre's Web Site

The Web Site of SESRIC contains a special part devoted to the Statistics and Information Department. In addition to BASEIND, this part includes Special Reports on Selected Indicators, National Statistical Organizations (NSOs), Press Releases from NSOs, Roster of Statistics Experts and Roster of Environmental Experts.

Currently, Special Reports on Selected Indicators include reports on environment, science and technology and poverty with a vast amount of statistics on the mentioned subjects for the member countries.

"Press Releases from NSOs" is a new contribution of the Centre. As is well known, the NSOs of the member countries regularly prepare and disseminate short recent reports related to their basic statistical indicators. As a new initiative, SESRIC cooperates with all the NSOs of the member countries to publish these reports in the Centre's Web Site. We believe that these reports will help researchers, policy makers and all concerned bodies in the member countries and elsewhere to reach the most recent changes related to basic indicators on the member countries from one common source rather than individually searching the website of each NSO. So far, press releases from Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Mauritania, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey are being published in the Centre's Web Site. While Mauritania and Morocco provide the releases in Arabic, Iran and Palestine provide them both in English and Arabic. The releases of all other countries are in English. The topics of these releases include:

- Balance of Payments
- Consumer Price Index
- Demographic Statistics
- Energy
- Environment
- Foreign Direct Investment

- Foreign Trade
- Gross Domestic Product
- Health
- Industrial Production
- Labour Force
- Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Transportation, Communication and ICT
- Wholesale Price Index and Producer Price Index

The roster of statistics experts and that of environmental experts are both aiming at facilitating communication and exchanging of expertise and information among the experts in these fields and promoting and enhancing technical cooperation activities in the member countries.

The Centre has recently started to publish short reports on selected statistical indicators on the member countries in its Web Site. These reports present a cross-country comparative analysis of the current stance of the member countries together with policy recommendations to improve the performances of the member countries in the relevant areas.

#### **1.3.4. Training Programmes for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the Member Countries**

The Centre devotes a large portion of its resources to providing the necessary statistical data and background information that would make the member countries better informed of each other's potentials and needs and, thus, facilitating the elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes. In this connection, the Centre regularly sends questionnaires to the member countries in order to determine their potentials and needs on various subjects. The Centre, then, arranges for training programmes to contribute to the statistical capacity building activities in the member countries based on the responses of the member countries to these questionnaires.

In the last quarter of 2006, the Centre carried out a survey by sending questionnaires to all NSOs of the member countries in order to determine the capacities and needs of NSOs. Initially, 20 out of the 57 member countries responded to the questionnaire. In the last quarter of 2007, the Centre has re-circulated the questionnaires to the NSOs of the member countries. After this second round, now, the total number of responding countries is 32. In the questionnaires the NSOs of the member countries were asked whether they have capacities for or in need of training in the following areas:

- General Statistics
- National Accounts
- Balance of Payments Statistics

- International Trade Statistics
- Monetary and Financial Statistics
- Government Finance Statistics
- Real Sector Statistics
- Agriculture Statistics
- Price Statistics
- Education and Training Statistics
- Industry and Services Statistics
- Labour Statistics
- Environmental Statistics
- Health Statistics
- Science, Technology and Patent Statistics
- Population and Demography
- Web-based Data Compilation Techniques
- Statistical Data Analysis
- Quality in Statistics
- Statistical Organization
- Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques
- Other

Based on the responses, the Centre matched the needs and capacities of the NSOs of the member countries and as a result of this matching, the following training courses were organised in 2007:

After the completion of the Centre's Survey on statistical capacity building, the Centre is planning to include Iran, Tajikistan, Bahrain, Niger, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Tunisia in the 2008 programme as well.

#### **1.4. Beneficiaries and Expected Outcomes of the Statistical Activities of SESRIC**

The number of SESRIC Web Site visitors stands at a considerable level. Around 1000 people per day are visiting the Site. Of course, it is not possible to identify the profession of these visitors but the requests received by the Centre indicate that most of the users of the Web Site are researchers. It is seen that if high quality data on member countries can be provided through the Web Site of the Centre, the number of researchers making use of this service from the member countries will increase as a consequence.

A 4-day study by the IT department of the Centre considering the distribution of top 400 IPs by country connecting to the Web Site of the Centre showed the following distribution:

The direct beneficiaries of the training activities of the Centre are the NSOs since their staff members are trained but one should not forget the indirect benefits associated with these activities. The trained staff will be able to produce better quality work and as a result more useful and timely statistics will be disseminated

Course	Beneficiary Country	Training Providing Country	Date
Labour Statistics	Yemen	Palestine	February 2007
Statistical Data Analysis	Yemen	Palestine	February 2007
Web-based Data Compilation Techniques	Azerbaijan	Turkey	February 2007
Labour Statistics	Morocco	Palestine	June 2007
National Accounts	Indonesia	Malaysia	July 2007
General Statistics	Maldives	Malaysia	July 2007
Population and Demography	Jordan	Egypt	August 2007
Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques	Jordan	Egypt	August 2007
<b>Courses to be organized in 2008</b>			
Census & Survey Processing System (CSPRO) and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)	Sudan	Jordan	4-6 February 2008
Population and Demography and Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques	Senegal	Cameroon	2008
Labour Statistics	Cameroon	Morocco	2008
Real Sector Statistics	Burkina Faso	Benin	2008
Statistical Data Analysis	Gambia	Uganda	2008
International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments Statistics	Gabon	Cameroon	2008
Statistical Data Analysis and Quality in Statistics	Nigeria	Uganda	2008
Agriculture Statistics and Food Security Analysis	Uganda	Turkey	2008
General Statistics	Sierra Leone	Gabon	2008
National Accounts	Kazakhstan	Turkey	2008
<b>Moreover, the following training courses are also being planned for 2008 but the countries which will provide the trainers are not yet determined:</b>			
Statistical Data Analysis and Quality in Statistics	Mozambique		2008
Web-based Data Compilation Techniques	Kuwait		2008
Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques	Mali		2008
National Accounts	Albania		2008

Countries	No of IPs
United States	55
Pakistan	51
Egypt	23
Sweden	19
Saudi Arabia	18
Malaysia	17
United Arab Emirates & Turkey	13
Algeria	11
Iran	10
Canada	9
Netherlands & United Kingdom	8
China & Morocco	7
Germany, Jordan, & Spain	6
Kuwait	5
France, Nigeria, Oman, Romania, Singapore, & Senegal	4
Cote D'ivoire, Korea, Hong Kong, Poland, & Sudan	3
Belgium, Czech Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Palestinian, Philippines, Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar, Taiwan, & Tunisia	2
Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Djibouti, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Venezuela, Viet Nam, and Yemen	1

by the NSOs of the member countries. This will help researchers to undertake more research on member countries. Policy makers will use the results of these researches while giving their decisions. Finally, the ultimate beneficiaries of these activities will be the societies at large.

## **2. Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?**

### **2.1. Achievements and Shortfalls in Statistical Activities at the OIC Level**

A major, even predominant, problem that reflects itself in all statistical activities of the OIC institutions is the lack of coordination both between the institutions and also between the institutions and the NSOs of the member countries. For this reason, this meeting of the Statistical Working Group is a very important step towards the determination of certain ways and means of coordinating these activities.

Statistical data collection and statistical capacity building training are the two major statistical activities where lack of coordination among OIC institutions and among institutions and NSOs of the member countries causes problems. In terms of data collection, each institution tries to collect almost the same data from the member countries. This situation leads to both a duplication of the efforts of these institutions and a more burden on the NSOs of the member countries. On the other hand, it is very much appreciated that each of these institutions is in great effort of organizing statistical capacity building training programmes for the member countries. Yet, it is also an important fact that because of the lack of coordination of the training activities of these institutions, in many cases same training programmes are applied to the same countries and/or regions by different institutions and this leads to waste of valuable resources. Some proposed solutions to this problem are presented in part 3 of this study.

### **2.2. Top Niche Areas for Statistical Activities at the OIC Level**

The Centre has recently undertaken a detailed examination of the data on each of the 57 member countries for the 162 indicators that make up BASESIND. For all of the countries, there are at least around 20 indicators where most of the data is missing and this number is actually very high especially for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. A search of international sources had also been done for the missing indicators but in most of the cases it was found that they were missing in those sources as well. However, most of these indicators are available for developed countries. This shows that most of the NSOs of the OIC member countries are in need for capacity building training programmes on how to collect the data and prepare these indicators according

to the international statistical standards.

In the light of these results, the Centre prepared a document for each of the 57 member countries where the indicators which lack most of the data are presented. These documents are now at the Web Site of the Centre ready to be downloaded by the relevant NSOs of the member countries. In this connection, the Centre also sent letters to the NSOs asking them to provide their missing data, if any.

On the other hand, the results of the surveys carried out by the Centre to assess the statistical capacities and needs of the NSOs of the member countries show that the following 7 areas are the most urgent where member countries are in need of training:

#### **Training Required in areas:**

- General Statistics
- National Accounts
- Labour Statistics
- Population and Demography
- Web-based Data Compilation Techniques
- Statistical Data Analysis
- Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques

### **2.3. Relations with other International Organizations**

The Centre has been welcomed as a new member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) at its 8th Session held in Montreal, Canada, in September 2006. The CCSA agreed to set up a Task Team to explore ways to improve the coordination of technical cooperation programs in statistics at the sub-regional level, and the World Bank was asked to take the lead in getting the Task Team established. The Centre is a member of this Task Team. Recently, the Centre attended the 11th Session of the Committee held in New York.

The Centre is in touch with the relevant departments at the World Bank regarding the e-learning courses on statistics in order to equip its staff with the methodologies and the techniques of designing new projects for developing the capacities of the NSOs of the OIC member countries. The e-learning course is a World Bank project where staff members are educated to develop and manage statistical capacity building programmes and projects and to provide guidance and support to the managers of statistical services.

The Centre is also a member of the Africa Statistics Training Task Team of PARIS21. The Team was organised by PARIS21 at the 5th Session of the Committee on Development of Information (CODI-V), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 April-4 May 2007.

Other international organizations with which SESRIC has working connections are IMF, UNESCWA, UNECA and OECD. The Centre was one of the co-organizer of the Second OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 27-30 June 2007, together with OECD, UN and the EU. Recently, the preparations are underway to organize a workshop on national accounts together with the IMF in the Middle East region.

It is also worth mentioning that the SESRIC library is functioning as a depository library for the World Bank since 1987 and houses more than 5100 of its publications. Consequently, the Centre has recently been authorised a free access to World Bank database. Moreover, in June 2007, the library started to function as a depository library for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Efforts are also being made for a free access to the database of the latter as well.

### 3. Framework for Statistical Coordination

Considering all the above and given the current state of affairs in the area of the statistical activities at the OIC level, we believe that developing a Framework for Coordination of these activities is of an utmost important for the OIC institutions to enhance the quality of their work, develop a common database platform and to coordinate their activities in this important area for more benefit to the member countries. To this end, we believe that the establishment of OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) or OIC Statistical Task Force (OIC-STF) or even OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC) would play a significant role in enhancing the quality of the activities of the OIC institutions in this area and support the statistical capacity building efforts of the NSOs of the member countries.

The suggested OIC-SWG or OIC-STF shall be mandated certain short-term tasks and agenda to be undertaken in the next few years with the overall aim of developing a Framework for Coordination of Statistical Activities among the OIC institutions. The OIC-SWG or OIC-STF should comprise all OIC subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions and convene annually with the participation of representatives of some NSOs of the member countries and representatives of some international and regional organizations working in the field of statistics.

In its capacity as the only OIC institution that has been mandated the task of collating, processing and disseminating socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries, and due to its long experience in this area, the SESRIC, in collaboration with the IDB, could be designated to assume the role of the focal coordination institution within the OIC-SWG or OIC-STF.

As an important forum for OIC institutions, the effective and efficient functioning of the OIC-SWG or OIC-STF would facilitate and strengthen the coordination of the statistical activities at the OIC level and develop common database platform. To this end, the OIC-SWG or OIC-STF should develop a framework and put in place the needed strategy and policy which would facilitate the coordination of the statistical activities of the OIC institutions through determining the following:

- The efficient mechanism for collecting and disseminating various statistical data and information on the member countries (i.e. SESRIC software system).
- The type, coverage and source of the data to be collected and published by each OIC institution.
- The standard methodology that should to be used for aggregation in various statistical publications of the OIC institution.
- The efficient mechanism for coordination the training programmes of the OIC institutions on statistical capacity building in the member countries.
- A focal OIC institution to keep and maintain all the databases on the member countries (OIC Data-Bank).

SESRIC suggests preparing a concept paper where the outcomes of this first SWG are reported and distributing the report to all NSOs of the member countries.

### Statistical Activities of the ICDT<sup>5</sup>

On April 29, 2007, IDB organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) of the representatives from member countries, from OIC institutions and regional institutions involved in statistical works to discuss the statistical capacities related issues.

The Meeting highlighted the need for producing reliable and updated statistics, to support the decision-makers to follow-up and evaluate development policies for socio-economic development. However, the OIC institutions producing statistics, national, regional or international do not have sufficient capacities and means to respond to these requests.

In addition, the coordination is needed at national level in different Statistical agencies working in the member countries, more specifically among member countries and OIC institutions. The main purpose is to harmonize concepts, methodologies and practices, on the other hand, to create synergies and to avoid

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<sup>5</sup>Said Hassani Maghraoui, Expert Consultant of ICDT

duplication of efforts in term of collection of Statistics and the establishment of databases.

As an institution of the OIC, the ICDT considers that the lack of inter-agency coordination and especially between the institutions of member countries remains a major problem at the level of the OIC. This issue will be analyzed in the third part of the paper, while the first part will concern the presentation of statistical capacities and activities of the ICDT. The 2nd part will focus on Statistical work conducted by the Centre in their domain of work.

## **I. Statistical Capacities and activities of the ICDT**

### **I.1. Mission of the ICDT**

Since its inception in 1981, the mission of the ICDT is concentrated on the following activities:

- Encourage the development of regular commercial exchanges between member countries;
- Promote investments aiming at the development of commercial cooperation;
- Contribute to the promotion of member states and facilitating the access to external markets;
- Assist member countries in promoting commercial cooperation and facilitating International Trade negotiations.

In its plan of action, the ICDT has planned several activities that are included within the framework of its mission:

- Collect and disseminate trade data;
- Develop commercial database which can be accessed online;
- Assist member countries in the creation and organization of Documentation database and commercial Information Networks;
- Publish an Annual Report on the trade between OIC member countries;
- Conduct sectoral studies concerning products and markets;
- Study the ways to overcome obstacles to the trade between member states;
- Organize trainings for the professionals of member countries;
- Elaborate and publish reports / studies on the Commercial Negotiations;
- Encourages intra-OIC investments;
- Accompany member states in the process of WTO accession.

To successfully conduct these activities, the ICDT uses many types of statistical database according to the needs:

- Statistics on the external trade of member countries products;
- Statistics on the external trade of member countries services;
- Statistics by type of member countries products;
- Statistics on member countries investments;
- Customs rates,
- Data on the non-tariff barriers.

### **I.2. Human and Financial Resources allocated to statistical works**

The ICDT is provided with three professional officers in charges of its statistical work. The staffs involved with statistics represent nearly 25% of the total staff of the Centre.

Financial modes allocated by the centre to statistical activity (including per diem and salaries to the personal in charge with these activities and per diem to external consultants and experts designed by the centre in this domain) represent nearly 20% of the Budget of the ICDT.

### **I.3. Main Statistical Activities**

- Collect, analyze and disseminate data on the commercial trade amongst OIC member countries.
- Intra-OIC imports and exports and to the world.
- Imports and exports by Products.
- Intra-region and inter-region trade.
- Collect study and disseminate data on the commercial services between OIC member countries by main sectors.
- Establishment of database on the non-tariffs trade barriers practiced in the member countries.
- Tariff rate of member countries, which will be used in the OIC-Trade Preferential System (TPS) agreement and in particular, the protocol on the preferential tariff scheme of the OIC namely OIC-PRETAS.

### **I.4. Projects in Progress**

- Complete and finalize databases on tariffs and on non-tariff barriers.
- Develop a database on preferential trade agreements to OIC member countries and Parties. This would complement the existing database on tariffs for harmonizing tariff rates.
- Develop databases on trade in services to include transactions by sub sectors.
- Expand current OIC reports on trade policies to cover non-member countries which are also member of the WTO (Trade Policy Country Profile)

- Establish a database on investment flows between OIC member states.

### **I.5. Publications**

The ICDT publishes an annual report on trade between the OIC Member States, which reflects the trends of trade amongst member countries and identify major obstacles to trade and to undertake required measure to facilitate intra-OIC trade. The annual report of the ICDT also includes aggregates on volume of trade by regions or sub-regions, or by products. The Centre also calculates ratios and indexes for analysing the structures of intra-OIC trade.

In addition, the ICDT publishes various market surveys or studies by sectors based on the request of various bodies of the OIC such as COMCEC. It also takes the initiative of holding specialized workshops or seminars or specialized trade events. The Centre gives priority to operational studies for the buyers-sellers meetings on specific products and helps them improve the business environment, which can enhance the volume of foreign trade.

The Centre tries to do its best, depending on available resources to develop, and publish factual reports on the profiles of the trade policies of OIC member states. This exercise is primarily based on reports of the Mechanism of Trade Policy Review, conducted by the WTO for OIC member countries. This reports documents and reports notifies to member countries to the Committee of Trade Negotiations. The Centre in collaboration with the COMCEC, prepares this report only for a limited number of countries that are WTO members and the Centre plans to expand it to cover all OIC member countries.

These reports provide a comprehensive inventory of commercial policy measures applied by each country (to import and export) and have an effect on trade flows.

### **I.6. Data Sources**

The ICDT gets data mainly from international sources, which report statistics on trade between countries. These include the DOTS and financial BOP data of IMF database COMTRADE database of UNCTAD and the Trade Map database of ITC.

In addition, depending on international data availability, the Centre also uses primary data coming from member countries. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that member countries do not provide data on a regular and timely basis. The Centre at the beginning of each year sends a questionnaire requesting relevant agency in member countries to provide trade data. However, it only receives 10% of data from national sources.

### **I.7. Databases available and regularly updated**

- Database on trade in goods.
- Database on trade in services by major sector.
- Database on tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

These databases are populated from data received from international databases mentioned above or by national data, as and when it is available.

### **I.8. Beneficiaries of statistical activities**

The OIC institutions including the COMCEC basis its reports, on trade data presented by the ICDT in its annual report.

In addition, the following are the main users of the data:

- The Governments of Member States.
- The bodies of promoting trade in member states.
- The community of businesspersons of the member states.
- The international agencies interested in trade issues.
- The academic and research institutions interested in international trade issues.

### **I.9. Using statistical work published by the Centre**

The publications of ICDT provide insights on the level of intra-OIC trade amongst OIC member countries and identify major obstacles in development of trade. It is a tool for decision makers to formulate appropriate trade policy and specific measures to be under-taken for the development of intra-OIC trade.

These publications also contribute to assisting member countries to better negotiate trade agreement TPS/OIC, to develop negotiating positions.

In addition, the statistical work of the Centre can serve as a basis for organizing trade promotion events and to be a tool for market analysis and planning promotional activities. These publications are also used enterprises and businessmen to get ideas for accessing international market to meet buyers - seller's needs on specific products.

## **II. Evaluation of statistical activities and needs of the ICDT on the subject**

### **II.1. Achievements and difficulties encountered in the field of statistics**

So far, despite the very limited resources available to the Centre, the ICDT was able to perform its basic mission in the area of trade statistics by preparing the annual report on the intra-OIC trade. However,

the ambitions of the Centre to refine and perfect this work remains in many ways unfulfilled.

Among the problems related to statistical activities, which the Centre is facing, includes the issue of availability of data from national sources. As a result, the Centre is obliged to fulfill its mission, and to use international databases (DOTS, COMTRADE, Trade Map,...)

Indeed, it would have been desirable, if statistical activities of the Centre are based on data provided by member countries. However, for reasons of coherence and harmonization, the Centre ensures compilation and processing of data according to its needs. It collects data in coordination with the statistics agencies of member countries responsible for foreign trade statistics (i.e. Customs offices, Trade promoting agencies, foreign trade statistic departments etc).

Using international trade databases, ICDT is often faced with finding differences in the statistics depending on the database it uses (This issue is well illustrated in the third part of this paper). Similarly, the foreign trade data is elusive and it is difficult in some cases to understand the discrepancies between the different sources of trade data provides.

For example, two countries A and B provide the same database their statistics on import and export. Country A says it has exported to a country B value V1 while country B declares that it imported from country A V2 that is less than V1. This is common in international trade data and the gap between V1 and V2 may be due to several factors including:

- Differences in terms of selected; “CIF” or “FOB” as an example.
- The change of destination, the fact that goods exported from country A to country B may just be stored in country B to be used thereafter re-exports to a third country which is not reflected in the data in export of country A, who has improperly accounted for as exports to country B.
- The problem of frequent delays in the shipments from country A to country B. For example, if a country A exported a product in December but lands in country B in January the following year. These shipments are accounted for by exports as country A to country B of the year “n” and a country B, as imports from country A of the year “n +1”.
- Each international database using methods for correcting the internal differences of statements between countries. The different approaches used by major data producers results in variations in the data.

## **II.2. Key priority actions**

For considerations raised, the ICDT believes it would have been more appropriate to build a database on trade from the data coming directly from Member States.

It is a priority for the ICDT to consider ways and means to develop a mechanism to have a regular flow and comprehensive data coming directly from member countries to the Centre.

## **II.3. Partnership Agreements**

The ICDT has concluded a partnership agreement with UNCTAD and ITC, which involve the exchange of data and technical assistance in various fields related to international trade including the statistical aspect. It is permanent agreements where joint activities between the ICDT and these international organizations are co-funded on cost sharing basis.

Generally costs related to activities statistics provided by these organizations amounted U.S. \$ 10,000 per year.

## **II.4. Aggregates calculated by the ICDT**

In terms of ICDT publications, and more specifically the annual report on the intra-OIC trade, the Centre develops various aggregates statistics from individual member states. These include:

- Imports and exports by intra-OIC products to grasp the overall structure of intra-OIC trade.
- Imports and exports for intra-regional regions and subregions which Member States are party to capture the degree of commercial integration of countries or regions in their respective subregions.
- Imports and exports inter-regional regions and subregions, which Member States are party, may serve to analyse the integration of regions and subregions between them.

It is also envisaged to calculate the average tariff level OIC countries and at the level of sub-regions (overall average tariff rate and average per category of products), depending on the availability of necessary data.

## **III. Framework for Statistical Coordination between the institutions of the OIC and recommendations**

Before discussing the ways and means to strengthen coordination on statistical level institutions of the OIC, it is worth noting that the OIC institutions publish in some cases different statistics on the same subject. This fact, which may have adverse effects

on the credibility of the work of the OIC institutions. This may be mainly due to the use of different sources for data collection.

<b>Share of intra-OIC Exports in total Exports</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>ICDT</b>	<b>SESRIC</b>
Egypt	35.76%	23.82%
Syria	40.08%	63.45%
Iran	14.86%	13.30%
<b>Share of intra-OIC Imports in total Imports</b>		
Egypt	28.67%	14.90%
Syria	24.10%	48.18%
Iran	28.87%	25.17%

For example, for data of intra-OIC for the year 2006, some differences exist between the data published by the SESRIC (on its website) and the ICDT, as is illustrated by following table:

	<b>Intra-OIC Trade (Millions US \$)</b>	
	<b>DOTS -IMF</b>	<b>Trade Map-CCI</b>
Intra-OIC (1)	162 440	116 659
Exports overall member states of the OIC (2)	1 190 460	1 210 875
Part (1) / (2)	13.6%	9.6%
Intra-OIC (3)	170 910	91 172
Imports overall member states of the OIC (4)	946 100	861 838
Part (3) / (4)	18%	10.6%

According to the source used, the data can sometimes vary significantly. The statistical differences for the intra-OIC trade between data DOTS - IMF and the Trade Map - ITC are revealing in this respect:

To avoid difference in data reported in the OIC publication of various institutions, the ICDT offers the following recommendations:

Strengthen coordination between institutions under the OIC. To this effect, a process of rapid exchange of data must be established between the different institutions in the sense that each institution wishing to publish or use data in a particular area should consult the institution to which the area in question, on the relevance and the accuracy of the data it plans to publish or use.

Designate institutions of OIC, which must act as a focal point in relation to data within their responsibilities and who will be responsible for providing or give their opinion on the data than any other institution is planning to publish or use and fit with their field of expertise.

In the short term, evolve the mechanism of exchanging data referred. This mechanism of exchange and dialogue must be flexible, quick and informal.

Strengthen the medium term, means of collection and compilation of data from primary sources, namely the Member States. This will avoid the use of databases that may be responsible for differences in Statistics. The ultimate goal should be to build databases of OIC institutions and fed data supplied directly by the member countries of the OIC.

To develop databases from data supplied directly by member countries, it is necessary to adopt a proactive approach in collecting statistics. Indeed, the OIC institutions should gradually approach Statistical agencies of member countries for data. Statisticians in National Statistical agencies would be supported in this task by national consultants recruited specially for this purpose.

Adopt proactive approach and provide incentives to the statistical agencies of member states to “reward” their cooperation. Such incentives may take the form of technical assistance offered to those agencies or contribution in financing programmes aimed at strengthening statistical capacity of Member States.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the heads of institutions involved in this process, which will be reflected in the distribution of tasks and rules of ethics to be followed. The ICDT will submit the Working Group on Statistics a draft MoU that will serve as a basis for formal Working Group on Statistics with the mechanism of dialogue and inter-agency coordination.

Making the informal Working Group on Statistics as permanent forum for consultation and coordination of statistical work carried out by the OIC institutions.

The core Working Group will be composed of the IDB, SESRIC and ICDT. It will subsequently open to participation by the statistical agencies of member states after these institutions of OIC concerned have adopted a process of consultation and coordination between them since the work to be conducted with statistical agencies of member states are another nature. It will be focused mainly on the harmonization of concepts, definitions and methodologies.

Regarding the frequency of meetings of the Working Group, the ICDT believes that the Group may meet as needed, but it is necessary to organize at least two meetings per year. The ICDT should be a permanent member of this group and is prepared to contribute actively to its work.

## Statistical Activities of the ICCI<sup>6</sup>

### Dear participants,

At the outset, I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for providing us an opportunity to participate at this important meeting and represent the Islamic Chamber.

Islamic Chamber being the sole representative of the private sector and as an affiliated institution of the OIC, places great emphasis on data documentation and disseminating it to the users of economic analyses and policymakers.

Before coming to the main topic, I would like to briefly inform you about:

1. Activities of the Islamic Chamber and the projects initiated by it;
2. Constraints identified by the Islamic Chamber
3. Initiatives taken by the Islamic Chamber in removing these constraints
4. Establishment and the structure of ICCI-DataBank
5. In the end, I would briefly give details of a Prototype Project, OIC Businesswomen Information Network

### Establishment of the Islamic Chamber

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an affiliated organ of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). It was established in 1977, as a result of the resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Its Headquarter is in Karachi, Pakistan.

### Membership of the Islamic Chamber

Islamic Chamber membership comprises of the National Chambers, Unions and Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In addition, it also covers Muslim communities in the OIC Observer Member Countries. Through these Chambers and associations, ICCI approaches the private sector and undertake programs and activities as per their needs and requirements.

ICCI has a well-integrated program for the promotion of private sector for providing and supporting the expansion of investment through trade and services. It also provides meaningful technical cooperation to Chambers of Commerce and Industry, as well as to the private business organizations in the fields of: investment and privatization, information technology,

transport and communications, tourism, and help them to create cooperation between Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

**Activities of the Islamic Chamber** are focused for the strengthening of private sector and providing them a platform for interaction and enhancement of trade, especially intra-trade. As per the mandate of the OIC and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) Islamic Chamber gives high priority to economic cooperation through trade and investment.

Since 1994, Islamic Chamber is regularly organizing **Private Sector Meetings**. It was a pioneering concept to provide a common platform for the private sector to converge, meet and discuss areas of mutual cooperation, to find new markets, new investment opportunities and find new trading partners. Till now 11 Private Sector Meetings have been held, while the 12<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting would be held from 18-20 June 2008 in Uganda, concurrently with the 34<sup>th</sup> ICFM under the kind patronage of H.E. the President.

### OIC Task Force Meetings on SMEs

To provide greater support services to the SMEs in Member countries in general and Least Developed countries in particular, and in order to focus more on SMEs sector and to implement the priority recommendations of the Private Sector Meetings, the OIC Secretary General constituted the OIC Task Force on SMEs. Accordingly, ICCI with the cooperation and support of IDB, Member Chambers and SMEs Authorities, has organized 5 meetings. During these Meetings problems and constraints of SMEs in OIC Countries have been examined and some remedial measures have been identified.

Since the Task Force has reached its objectives, both in terms of goals and targets, hence, the last and final Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs will be held in 2008, wherein the members of Task Force would review the recommendations of all the previous meetings and would:

6. Devise a strategy based on prioritizing the recommendations, as a way forward.
7. Prepare a complete and comprehensive Program of Action with short, medium and long-term goals in accordance with the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action.
8. Defining the role of each institution at the level of OIC and the private sector.
9. Networking of SMEs: By Networking, individual SMEs can discuss the problems related to their size and improve their competitive position, which SMEs are not able to solve individually and are unable to capture market opportunities.

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<sup>6</sup>Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan, Researcher, Islamic Chamber and Commerce and Industry

The concept of Networking is of great importance and there are very good examples of Small and Medium Enterprise organizations working in Turkey, Pakistan, and Malaysia. The need is to evolve a mechanism of network among the SMEs Associations. In this regard Islamic Chamber has proposed for the establishment of OIC Network for SMEs Agencies (ONSA), consisting of SME Development Agencies.

The final proposals emerged from the sixth and final meeting would be submitted to the General Secretariat of the OIC, and subsequently, it would be forwarded to COMCEC, and thereafter to the Islamic Conference for Foreign Ministers for the adoption.

### **Businesswomen Forums**

Realizing the economic potential among the businesswomen and also to endorse the Millennium Development Goals on gender issues the Islamic Chamber has initiated a comprehensive program for the economic empowerment of businesswomen of the member states. This has been done by holding Businesswomen Forums in Islamic Countries on annual basis. So far three Forums have been held, First in Sharjah, U.A.E. in March 2005; Second in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 8-10 December, 2006; and the Third was recently held in Doha – State of Qatar from 13-15 January 2008. The Fourth Forum for Businesswomen would be held in Syria in November 2008.

Furthermore, 2 workshops were also organized for the businesswomen, “Development of Women Entrepreneurship in OIC Member Countries” in Karachi, Pakistan in March, 2006 and “Marketing and Packaging of Agro-Products in OIC Member Countries” in Khartoum, Sudan from 25-29 August, 2007.

### **Organization of Capacity building workshops**

In order to develop skills and for the removal of bottlenecks hampering smooth operations of SMEs, ICCI with the collaboration of Islamic Development Bank, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, local chambers and associations of the host countries annually organizes 2-3 Training Programs in the core areas of marketing, production, operations management, information technology and e-commerce and human resources management in order to encourage setting-up of SMEs.

**Incubation Center:** As per the role assigned to the Islamic Chamber by the COMCEC, the Terms of Reference have been finalized with KOSGEB (Turkish SMEs Development Agency) for the organization of a Workshop and Forum for the implementation of “Incubator Management Training in Islamic Countries” in Ankara-Republic of Turkey in 2008.

In addition to this, Islamic Chamber has recently signed a MoU with Sudanese Businessmen Employers Federation for the establishment of “Business and Technology Incubation Center” in Republic of Sudan. A technical meeting was held between ICCI and Innovation Relay Center and Metutech (Technopark) of Turkey for providing technical training for the Managers of Incubation centers.

All the above activities are in the process of negotiations for implementation.

**Tourism Forum:** The First Forum of Tourism in Islamic Countries was organized by the Islamic Chamber in Jeddah in October 2007. During the forum a Tourism Promotion Company has been announced to be established with a capital of US\$100 million. Agreements with international tourism companies for organizing tourist activities in the Islamic world are underway.

**Investment and Privatization Conference:** With the objective of enhancing intra-investment level, and to encourage private sector participation in the privatization process, Islamic Chamber is organizing these Conferences on regular basis on the invitation of the OIC Member Countries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference would be held in Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008.

Islamic Chamber is also organizing **International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conferences** with the objective of increasing cooperation in the fields of economic, trade and to promote culture within OIC Countries. Till now, 2 Conferences have been held; first in Pakistan in 2005 and the second in Thailand in 2007, while the third would be held this year in Iran.

In line with the task assigned to the Islamic Chamber, as per the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action (PoA) adopted during the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference held in December 2005 in Makkah, Islamic Chamber has prepared a Work Plan, which focuses on the challenges being faced by the Islamic World.

### **PROJECTS OF THE ISLAMIC CHAMBER**

In order to achieve the objectives of the Work Plan, Islamic Chamber has initiated some projects. These projects broadly deal with increase of intra-OIC trade and investments, exchange of manpower, development of tourism, youth and education. These projects will be implemented through Companies, which will be set-up with the participation of private sector, with the objective that within a span of 3 to 5 years they become profit generating companies. The rationale behind this concept is to involve the private sector to contribute in strengthening the economic ties. The projects which have been set off are:

1. A comprehensive plan on the establishment of **Human Resource Development Companies** to provide training and placements of labor among the member countries, has been prepared and forwarded to the concerned international institutions for their consent asking their effective participation and coordination among the Labor Ministries, training institutes and employment exchanges.

## 2. **International Foundation of Awqaf:**

- Bye-Laws and the Standing Orders have been prepared.
- Correspondences and contacts are established with Ministries of Awqaf for the endorsement of the Standing Orders and establishment of WAQF Funds.
- Correspondences and contacts are being made with leading businessmen from Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. for contribution and donations.

3. For strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States and to implement 10-Year Programme of Action of the COMCEC, Islamic Chamber's Executive Committee has established **International Islamic Company for Exploration of Investment Opportunities & Promotion of Intra-Trade (FORAS)**, till now following measures have been taken:

- Capital of US\$100 million has been collected.
- The feasibility study and business plans have been prepared.
- Five investment maps for five Islamic countries have been prepared.
- Six new companies are under establishment and incubated to operate in the fields of energy, media, infrastructure, agriculture, technology, health and education.
- Plan is underway to establish its first regional branch in Egypt during the second half of 2008.

4. **Business Owners Union (BOU)** has been established and the measures so far taken are:

- Standing Orders have been adopted.
- Contacts for approval of BOU privileges to its members, are under process with the concerned authorities after being officially endorsed by the States as well as the companies.
- Contacts for soliciting membership were made to the following countries: Pakistan, Indonesia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Benin, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania.

## 5. **International Zakat Foundation**

- It was established upon initiative of the Islamic Chamber and launched by H.E. Abdullah Badawi, the Prime Minister and the OIC Chairman.
- H.E. has also announced the establishment of its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.
- An MOU for the establishment of the International Zakat Foundation has been signed with the Government of Malaysia, IDB, General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions.
- The coordination between the International Organization for Zakat in Kuwait is in process with the purpose of concluding a mutual cooperation protocol.
- Agreements have been signed for the establishment of its branches in Benin, Senegal, Mauritania and Sudan.

## 6. **Emmar International Bank:**

The feasibility study plan has been prepared by an international company and Meetings with the officials of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks of the Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bahrain and Egypt have been held. Preparatory meetings of the founding share holders were held in Jeddah and Malaysia. Meetings at the technical and technological levels were held with Saudi Capital Market Authority, Securities & Commodities Authorities U.A.E. and Deloitte Company). One of the GCC state has given initial approval for the Standing Orders of the Bank.

In addition, Islamic Chamber is also pursuing in the implementation of the OIC Five-Year Plan of Action to strengthen and promote trade, investment and Research in the fields of Cotton and related Textile Industries in the OIC Member States. In order to move forward Islamic Chamber's proposal of appointing of "Centers of Excellence" in Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Burkina Faso and Mali has been duly accepted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

Islamic Chamber is also working on the establishment of an "Islamic Rating & Certification Agency (IRCA)" under which it will award following Certificates: for Ethics 'Kiyam'; for Quality 'Itqaan'; and 'Halal' for Halal products.

Furthermore, for the economic future of the Islamic World, ICCI has initiated a project "Ommar Al-Ard". The objective of the project is to involve the youth of the Ummah, enabling them to establish SMEs or to enhance their existing projects, so that the talents of the youth could be promoted, thus activating their pivotal role in the economic growth of their Muslim Communities.

### **ICCI's Cooperation with Other OIC Institutions:**

In order to successfully implement its activities Islamic Chamber has very close working relations with all the OIC Institutions. Islamic Chamber would like to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to:

- (i) The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Conference and particularly to His Excellency the Secretary General, for taking keen interest in the activities of the Islamic Chamber and gracing us with his presence at different events.
- (ii) The Islamic Development Bank and all its departments namely ICIEC; ICD; IRTI; Technical Cooperation Office; WID Unit; and Trade and Finance Department are playing an important role in assisting Islamic Chamber in carrying out its activities. Islamic Chamber appreciates their efforts and conveys its thanks to H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali, for taking personal interest in the activities of the Islamic Chamber.

Coming to the main topic of the meeting, as you have seen from previous presentations of ICDT and SESTRCIC that we are all trying to bridge the gap of information and our efforts are focused towards providing information especially statistics. I would like to commend the services of all the institutions for collecting and disseminating statistical information.

However, despite all our efforts the level of intra-OIC trade is less than our expectations. The question is why trade is not increasing? Let's find out:

#### **Collection and dissemination of information**

During all the forums, conferences, and capacity building workshops, private sector representatives' always called upon for the establishment of Database, which could provide information about real actors in trade and information and about strengths and weaknesses of each OIC country.

After in-depth analysis of existing scenario and taking into consideration our limitations, Islamic Chamber came up with an idea of establishing **DataBank**, which would have several databases, which would not only benefit from the existing databases within OIC institutions but with other international institutions, such as UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITC, FAO, ILO, and IFAD.

**ICCI-DataBank** would not only provide comprehensive information about the strengths of OIC Member Countries, especially about industries, trade, agriculture but it would also provide information about the investment opportunities in the Islamic world.

The **objective** is to collect **up-to-date** economic data and the **mission** is to disseminate statistical information **year-wise**, **commodity-wise** and **country-wise**. It would also collect and disseminate information

about the Exporters, Importers, and Manufacturers along with their list of products. It would provide information about Financial Institutions and Banks; Trade Fairs; Exhibitions; joint venture projects; business opportunities; investment regulations of all OIC Member Countries.

Here, I would especially like to mention that this DataBank would not duplicate any of the activity that has already been taken by some other organization. Rather it would supplement and complement the services of other organizations.

Now, I would briefly highlight the importance of establishing DataBank; what information would be collected and how it would be disseminated.

As I have already mentioned that the lack of information and outdated statistical data are one of the major constraints in enhancing the intra-trade among OIC Member Countries.

This can also be realized with the fact that 57 countries having a total population of more than 1.5 billion, have 14 percent of the total trade among themselves only, and, if we exclude the oil from this intra-trade it would be around 6-8 percent of the total trade.

Here the question arises why OIC countries could not pool their resources?

- The reason being that they have not realized the importance of "figures" and importance of information dissemination. Countries, who have recognized this have marched toward economic prosperity, like Japan, USA, UK, Germany and now Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.
- Since the Islamic Chamber is the sole representative of the private sector within the OIC, and also its tasks and objectives are to bridge the gap of information it took the initiative to collect data about the resources and disseminate it to the users for economic analysis and policymaking from a single portal.

The **Beneficiaries** of DataBank would be:

- Private Sector of the Member Countries
- OIC and its institutions
- Islamic Development Bank and other Financial Institutions
- Researchers and Educational Institutions
- Government Institutions
- UNDP's SU-SSC Member countries

ICCI-DataBank would provide comprehensive information about the strength of a particular country, industries, trade, agriculture sectors and the available opportunities to the private sector of the Islamic world, in order to:

- Promote trade and investment opportunities;
- Make strategies for economic development; and
- Enhance intra-trade and investment.

#### **What information is collected**

The DataBank is collecting information available (secondary data) on different sectors and recording them in a systematic format. The sources of data are international, national, regional, as well as SESRIC and ICDT publications and web pages.

As per the mechanism, the DataBank would have 4 Main Modules; and data would be stored in a Cubical format; in the first stage information would be recorded in Modules I, II and III simultaneously. In future, the ICCI-DataBank would work in close collaboration with the member chambers and international organizations in order to update the basic data, as it is a continuous process.

**Module-IV:** Once the information about **MOST** of the OIC countries is stored and available with the DataBank, a link would be made between Module-I and II. This link would provide information about the activities in the member countries, such as: What products and services a country is exporting and which companies are exporting (year-wise, commodity-wise and value-wise).

I would like to pin-point and highlight three main factors of the DataBank that have been taken into consideration:

- **First**, the requirement of the Private Sector (required by the companies and CEOs), such as cost of doing business; rules and regulations; policies; investment opportunities etc.
- **Second**, what information, Private Sector wants to disseminate (product, company, profile, etc.); and
- **Third** but not the least, this DataBank would be made sustainable and financially self-reliant.

**Technology Transfer:** Islamic Chamber is also collaborating with UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in implementation of a broad-based project for exchanges of assets, equity, technology, and financial resources (SS-GATE System). The project focuses on three main pillars: policy development and mainstreaming of South-South cooperation, promotion of public-private partnership for poverty reduction, and knowledge management. The system has been developed, and in the first-phase the Participating Organizations (POs) from China, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South-Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and Zimbabwe have been appointed and trained on the system. The main thrust of the project is to transfer technology from South to South countries.

Once the information about the companies and their statistics are being collected and stored in the ICCI-DataBank, it would be linked with the SS-GATE System.

#### **OIC Businesswomen Information Network (www.oic-bin.net)**

Before concluding, I would like to inform the august house that Islamic Chamber with the collaboration of WID Unit of Islamic Development Bank has developed a dedicated web portal to address the issue of providing a networking platform and statistical information about the businesswomen in OIC Countries. The web portal was officially launched during the 3rd Forum for Businesswomen in January 2008.

- This Project would further supplement the ICCI-DataBank.
- 10,000 organizations and personal information have been stored and it is expected that at the end of this year it would have more than 100,000 personal and organizational information (related to businesswomen).
- Statistics is being collected under the following heads:
- Countries General Information (Maps, Flags and Demography)
- Population (total, male, female and other related information)
- Health, Education, Labor, etc. etc.

Now, I would highlight the cooperation Islamic Chamber is having in implementing the ICCI-DataBank:

- A MoU has been signed between ICCI and UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and according to this MoU, SU-SSC would provide technical and financial assistance in implementing the project.
- Furthermore, Islamic Chamber has signed a MoU with Iran Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines for the establishment of Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC). This Center is established to carry out research studies on economic and trade affairs and to complement and supplement the main activities of the Islamic Chamber.

Islamic Chamber has also recently established a Media and Information department, which would further give impetus and provide substantial resources to collect and disseminate information.

#### **Cooperation Sought:**

The activities, projects and initiatives undertaken by the Islamic Chamber are its efforts to promote and strengthen economic cooperation. However, the initiatives of the Islamic Chamber are a part of the joint

strategy and hence their effective implementation also needs collective efforts. Through this august house, the Islamic Chamber calls upon to actively support the activities and initiatives which would ultimately benefit our common objective.

In the end, I once again thank to the Islamic Development Bank and to all the participants of this workshop for providing us an opportunity to be amongst you and brief you about the activities of the Islamic Chamber.



**PART-III**

**SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## Summary of the Conclusions and Recommendations

### BACKGROUND

1. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized the First Meeting of the Statistical Working Group (SWG-1) at the OIC level on 17-18 Rabi-Awwal 1429H (25-26 March, 2008) at its Headquarters in Jeddah. The SWG emanated from one of the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building organized by IDB on 12 Rabi-Thani 1428H (29 April 2007) which called on IDB to “*establish a working group, in collaboration with relevant OIC Institutions, to meet regularly to harmonize statistical activities, exchange experiences and best practices, develop common methodologies for collecting and processing data from Member Countries*”. Similar proposal in the form of a project for establishing SWG was made by the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savas Alpay, during his visit to IDB on 3rd December 2007.
2. The objective of the SWG-1 is to discuss and put in place a coordination mechanism for achieving greater synergy between OIC Institutions and for coordinating statistical programs and activities with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and reporting conflicting statistics.

### ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICCI, ICDT and IDB (see Annex 1 for the list of the participants). COMCEC could not attend the meeting due to workload but informed the IDB that it would convey its views to SESRIC.

### AGENDA

4. The agenda of the SWG-1 (copy attached as Annex 2) was composed of Inaugural and Working Sessions. The Inaugural session was graced with the presence of the Vice President (Operations) of the IDB, Dr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse, who delivered the welcoming address. This was followed by a Statement from the Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savas Alpay and then a PowerPoint presentation entitled “*Setting the Scene: The Big Picture*” by the Division Chief, Statistics (Data Resource Center, IDB), Dr. Abdullateef Bello.
5. The Working Sessions were centered on four themes namely (i) Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities; (ii) Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?; (iii) A Framework for

Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches; and (iv) Statistical Working Group: Functions, Membership, Modus Operandi, and Schedules. In the first day of SWG-1 (25<sup>th</sup> March 2008), the Working Sessions were chaired by Dr. Savas Alpay (Director General, SESRIC) while those of the second day (26<sup>th</sup> March 2008) were chaired by Dr. Lamine Doghri (Director, Economic Policy and Statistics Department, IDB).

6. The participants, during the Working Sessions, made PowerPoint presentations on the themes of the respective sessions based on the papers earlier prepared by them and sent to IDB for distribution during the meeting. The participants also contributed actively to the general discussion. The proceedings of the SWG-1, which will be prepared by IDB as background document for the next SWG meeting, will contain the welcoming address of the Vice President (Operations) of the IDB, the statement of the Director General of SESRIC, the papers submitted by the participants, and the minutes and outcome of the SWG-1 meeting.

### MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

7. The SWG-1 recognized that:
  - (i) It is important to monitor the progress of goals and targets set in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action and IDB 1440H Vision and stressed the need for OIC Institutions to work together to collect, process and disseminate necessary consistent and reliable data.
  - (ii) The statistical activities of OIC Institutions are overlapping which is not cost-effective and stressed the need to streamline these activities.
  - (iii) The human and financial resources dedicated to statistical activities in OIC Institutions are limited and called on the authorities concerned to scale up the human and financial resources by recruiting dedicated Statisticians in all institutions and mobilizing/allocating adequate resources to statistical activities.
  - (iv) There is urgent need to develop a framework for coordination of statistical activities among the OIC Institutions and decided to make SWG to act as an apex body to oversee the development and implementation of the required framework as well as to resolve technical and statistical issues.

## MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8. The SWG-1 agreed on the core areas of statistical activities (i.e. data collection, data processing, and data dissemination) that need coordination as well as on statistical capacity development, framework for coordination, membership of SWG, and date and venue of the 2nd Meeting of the SWG, and decided as follows:

### (A) Data Collection

9. The SWG-1 agreed:

(i) To give priority to sourcing primary data directly from member countries and decided to:

(a) Avoid sending multiple questionnaires from different OIC Institutions to member countries for socio-economic data collection; only one questionnaire developed jointly by the OIC Institutions shall be used. In special cases, individual institution may develop its questionnaire provided there is close consultation with the other members of SWG. In this regard, SESRIC would act as a focal point for developing a proposal to achieve this objective.

(b) Explore ways and means for increasing the response rate to the questionnaire sent to member countries. SESRIC and IDB would submit a concrete proposal in this regard.

(ii) To continue to collect secondary data from international sources and decided to:

(a) Coordinate the selection of the most reliable international sources. To this end, the following focal points shall be responsible for each category of indicators:

- Trade Statistics – (ICDT)
- Socio-Economic and Financial Statistics (SESRIC/ IDB)
- Private Sector Statistics (ICCI)

(b) Request SESRIC to also represent the SWG in the UN Committee for Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).

### (B) Data Processing

10. The SWG-1 agreed to:

(i) Standardize:

(a) Definitions of various indicators used in databases and publications of OIC Institutions. The definitions shall be circulated to all members of SWG for review and standardization.

(b) Methodologies for calculating aggregation.

(ii) Assign responsibilities to the following focal points for each category of indicators:

- Trade Statistics – (ICDT)
- Socio-economic and Financial statistics (SESRIC/ IDB)
- Private Sector Statistics (ICCI)

### (C) Data Dissemination

11. The SWG-1 agreed to:

(i) Immediately provide, on the website of each OIC Institution, both the general and specific links to the statistical pages of all institutions in the membership of SWG.

(ii) Create a common database as a one-stop platform for accessing reliable and consistent statistics on indicators of OIC member countries. It was decided that SESRIC shall lead this initiative and prepare a concept paper to be submitted for discussion in the next SWG meeting.

(iii) Make available the statistical publications of each institution for review by other OIC Institutions for feedback before they are printed and released.

(iv) Jointly produce a “*Special Brochure on Intra-OIC Trade Statistics*” to be released during the forthcoming COMCEC Meeting. It was decided that ICDT shall act as a focal point for this task and prepare a concept paper on issues related to measurement of intra-OIC trade.

(v) Jointly produce a publication titled “*Islamic Ummah in Figures*”, covering OIC countries and Muslim communities in non-OIC member countries to be released on the occasion of the OIC Summits & Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers. It was decided that SESRIC and IDB will coordinate this activity.

### (D) Statistical Capacity Development

12. The SWG-1 agreed to share information on statistical capacity development programs/ activities and coordinate among the OIC Institutions. It was decided that SESRIC and IDB will prepare a document on the coordination of statistical capacity development.

### (E) Framework for Coordination

13. The SWG-1 decided to prepare:

(i) A document on “*A Framework for Statistical Coordination among OIC Institutions*”. SESRIC will prepare the document and circulate to all OIC institutions for comments before submitting the final version to COMCEC.

(ii) A document on “*A Charter for Statistics at OIC level*”. IDB will prepare the draft Charter and send to all OIC Institutions for feedback.

**(F) Membership of SWG**

14. The SWG-1 agreed that:

- (i) The membership in SWG shall compose of representatives of the OIC Institutions that were invited to attend the SWG-1 (i.e. OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC, SESRIC, IDB, ICDT, and ICCI). However, the membership will be opened to all other OIC Institutions.
- (ii) OIC member countries would be invited to participate in the SWG meetings as and when necessary.

**(G) Date and Venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SWG**

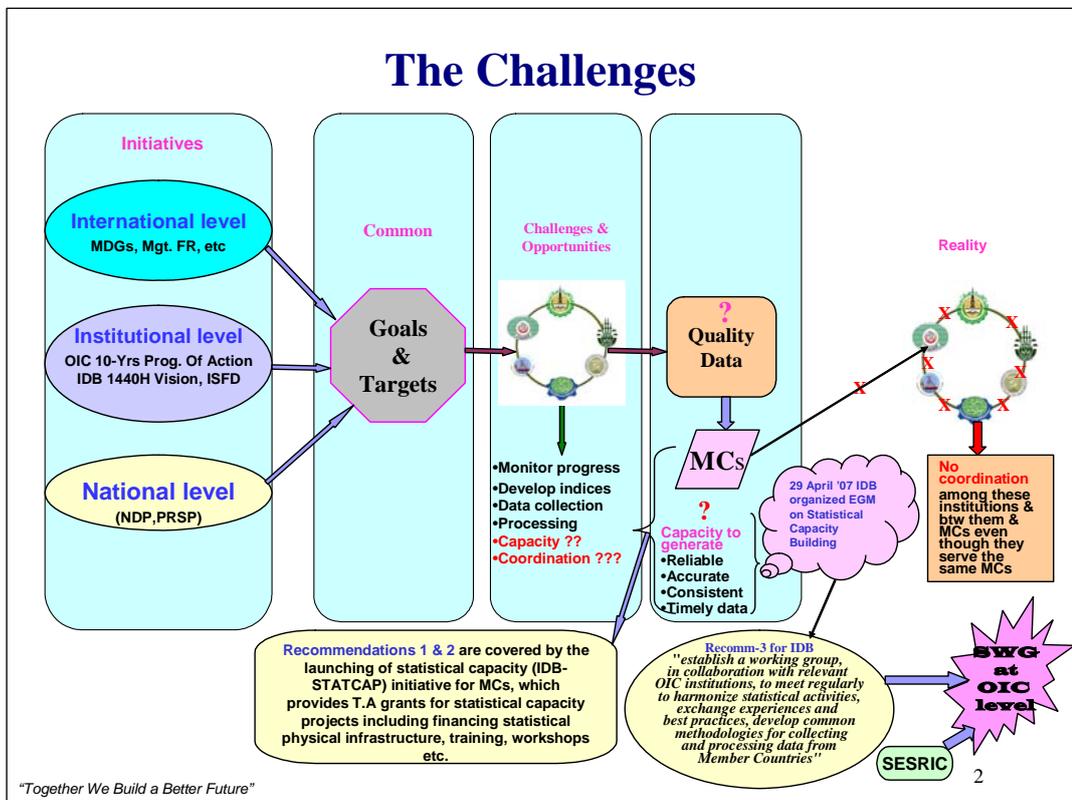
- (iii) SESRIC offered to host the Second Meeting of the SWG (SWG-2) at its Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey, before COMCEC Meeting in October 2008.
- (iv) It was decided that the meetings of SWG will be on rotational basis and that the host institution for a SWG meeting shall act as the Secretariat and will prepare the agenda and relevant documents in close collaboration with the members of the SWG.

**PART - IV**  
**ANNEXES**



## Setting the Scene... The BIG Picture

**Data Resource Center**  
**Economic Policy & Statistics Department**



## **The *BIG Picture*...where do OIC Institutions stand?**

1. Uncoordinated multiple databases (ICDT-Trade databases; SESRIC-BaseIND; IDB-COSDAT; ICCI-DataBank etc.)
2. Missed opportunities...niche areas neglected (oversight for OIC/IDB initiatives, developing indices, compiling statistics on Islamic variables-e.g zakat, awqaf, islamic finance; intra-investment, poverty, setting standards & harmonizing practices)
3. Outlived mandates (repositioning to remain relevant and responsive)
4. Overlapping activities (duplication of efforts)

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3

## **The *BIG Picture*...where do OIC Institutions stand?**

5. Least cited publications/reports (visibility marginal)
6. Fragmented statistical activities (arbitrary and supply-driven)
7. Financial resources meager and no regular stream of income
8. Manpower extremely low (lack of competent and professional statisticians with mixed skills)
9. Lack of focus
10. Published reports fraught with inconsistency (conflicting figures abound) and abuse of statistical techniques ubiquitous (e.g. aggregation method??)

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### The BIG Picture...where do OIC Institutions stand?

#### An Illustration: Exports of goods and services (Annual % change)

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Saudi Arabia	SESRIC*	5.9	-1.1	-7.2	20.0	..	..	..
	ICDT**	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..	..	..
	IDB***	46.7	-11.3	6.4	27.7	33.2	42.6	27.4
Bangladesh	SESRIC*	14.4	14.9	-2.3	6.9	12.5	15.6	15.7
	ICDT**	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	..	..
	IDB***	9.2	9.7	-6.1	8.6	19.0	13.6	10.5

Sources: \* SESRIC's BaseIND (accessed 24 March 2008); \*\*ICDT's Trade Databases (Economic Indicators), accessed 24 March 2008; \*\*\*IDB Statistical Monograph No. 28, from IDB Live Database (= World Bank's World Development Indicators Database)

Which of these figures are correct, SESRIC's, ICDT's or IDB's? .... a \$1 Million question!!!

### What Options are available for OIC Institutions?

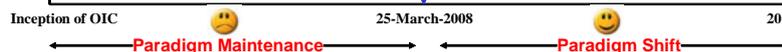
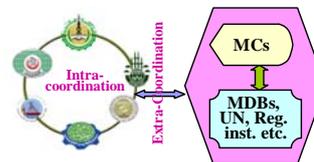
#### Option 1: Siloed or Business as Usual

- Duplication of activities
- Wastage of scarce resources
- Lack of synergy
- Conflicting figures in reports
- No common position at international Fora



#### Option 2: Partnership & Cooperation

- Coordination of activities
- Greater synergy
- Increased productivity/efficiency
- Enhanced quality of publication
- Focused and responsiveness
- Oversight for implementing OIC initiatives
- Resources better managed
- Leveraged best practices
- Access to harmonized data
- Common position at International Fora



Option 2 is where we should be...but would require a quantum leap, concerted efforts, determination, dedication and commitment . Above all, support from the leadership of the OIC institutions.

### Benchmarking: Where we stand vis-à-vis UN?

UN	OIC
<b>Largest organization</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> largest organization</b> (membership+pop.)
<b>Statistical activities through its specialized institutions</b> (UNCTAD, WHO, WTO, UNESCO etc.)	<b>Statistical activities through its institutions</b> (SESRIC, ICDT, ICCL, IDB etc.)
<b>Primary data <u>producer</u></b> (UNCTAD: Investment & Trade...)	<b>Primary data <u>user</u> with limited activity in compiling primary data</b>
<b>Set up UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)</b> (apex entity, coordination & setting standards )	<b>None</b> ....may be <b>SWG?</b>
<b>Set up UN Statistical Division (UNSD)</b> (focal point for monitoring MDGs, repository for all databases e.g. COMTRADE, etc.)	<b>None</b> for OIC initiatives & others
<b>Developed UN Common Database</b> (integrated database system: FAO+UNCTAD+WHO etc.)	<b>None</b> ...standalone databases
<b>100s of professional statisticians</b> e.g. UN-ECA=8, AfDB=27 (Stat. Dept.)	About <b>10</b> in OIC institutions combined!
<b>Donors-supported</b> (countries provide grants etc.)	<b>Annual Budget only</b>
<b>Demand-driven statistical publications</b> (e.g. MDGs progress reports, HDR etc.)	<b>Supply-driven publications</b> (flagship publications)

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### What NEXT?

#### Operationalize the **Statistical Working Group (SWG)**

#### **Future Expectation from SWG:**

- Apex body to set standards and harmonize aggregation methods
- Resolve technical statistical issues (e.g. definition of trade etc.)
- Coordinate statistical activities
- One-stop for quotable figures on major indicators
- Conduct joint studies/reports on emerging issues to support various initiatives

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### **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SWG: To do what?**

- Discuss and put in place a framework for coordination of statistical activities among OIC institutions
- Decide on the functional structure & modus operandi of SWG
- Review the needs-assessment of the SWG membership in terms of capacities (human & financial)
- Discuss the consolidation of various statistical activities
- Discuss monitoring procedures and design advocacy plan for buy-in by the leaders of OIC institutions.



## **Statistical Activities of SESRIC**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Statistical Working Group  
25-26 March, 2008, IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**

## The Mandate of SESRIC

- ❑ The Centre is a subsidiary organ of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) started its activities in Ankara on 1 June 1978.
- ❑ The basic mandate drawn up for SESRIC is threefold:
  - **To collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries,**
  - **To study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to help generate proposals that will initiate and enhance co-operation among them, and**
  - **To organise training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries as well as to the general objectives of the OIC.**

2

## Additional Roles and Acts of SESRIC

- **The Centre assumes the role of a focal point for the technical co-operation activities and projects between the OIC system and the related international agencies.**
- **It also acts as the major research arm of the OIC whereby it is assigned the task of preparing the main economic and social reports and background documents for the multitude of economic, social and technical co-operation meetings and conferences held at different levels under the umbrella of the OIC every year.**

3

## Resources Allocated to Statistical Activities

- Six researchers and IT specialists are employed with full-time statistical responsibilities, and they are also supported by the 2 advisors of the Director General of the Centre.
- Approximately 500 thousand dollars are allocated from the budget of the Centre annually to statistical activities.

4

## Statistical Activities of SESRIC

- Collecting, Processing and Disseminating Statistics and Information
- BAasic Social and Economic INDicators (BASEIND) Database
- The New Statistical Data Collection and Dissemination Software System
- Statistical Publications
- Statistics Department at the Website
- Training Programmes for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the OIC Member Countries

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## Collecting, Processing and Disseminating Statistics and Information

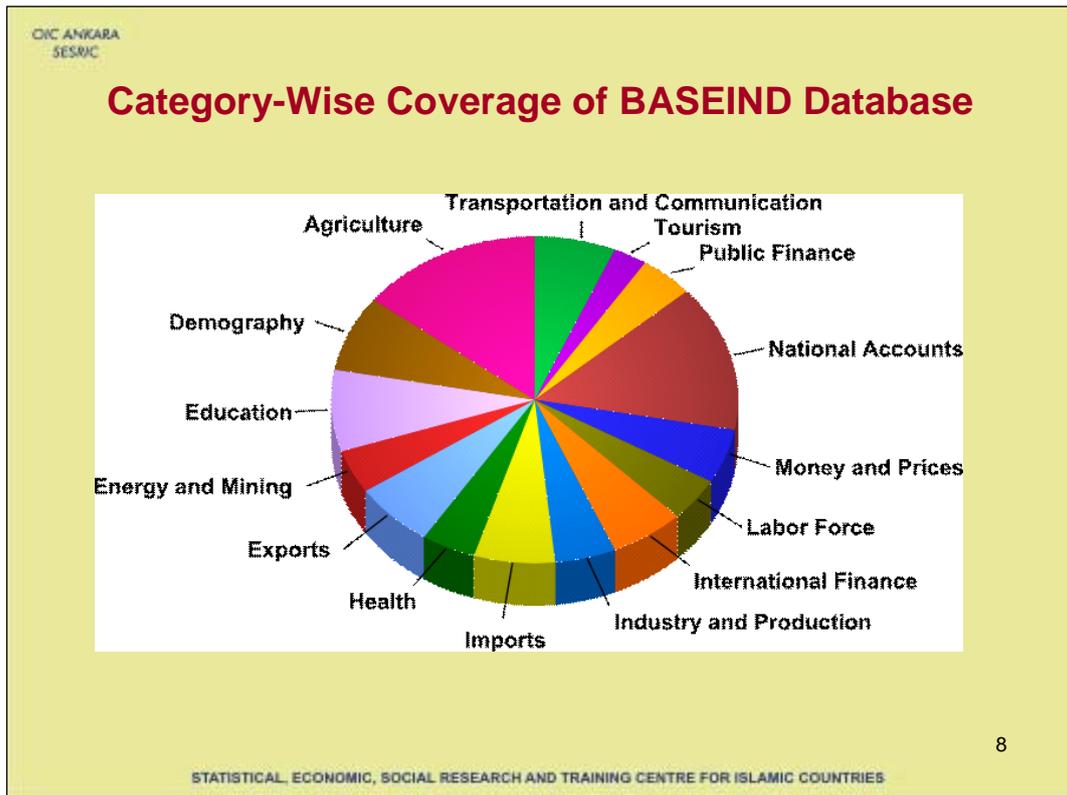
- The Centre serves as a major socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC member countries.
- It provides the necessary statistical data and background information that would make the member countries better informed of each other's potentials and needs and, thus, facilitates their elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes.
- In so doing, the Centre maintains a system of computerised databases that support time series data collection at regular intervals from both the national and international statistical sources of the member countries.

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## Basic Social and Economic INDicators (BASEIND) Database

- BASEIND currently contains data on 162 socio-economic variables under 15 different categories for the 57 OIC member countries dating back to 1970. These categories are:
  - National Accounts (26 indicators),
  - Agriculture (21 indicators),
  - Education (15 indicators),
  - Demography (14 Indicators),
  - Transportation and Communication (12 indicators),
  - International Finance (11 indicators),
  - Exports (9 indicators),
  - Imports (9 indicators),
  - Labour Force (9 indicators),
  - Health (8 indicators),
  - Industry and Manufacturing (6 indicators),
  - Money and Prices (6 indicators),
  - Public Finance (6 indicators),
  - Energy and Mining (5 indicators),
  - Tourism (5 indicators)

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- ### New Categories and Indicators
- The following four new categories will be soon added to BASEIND Database:
    - Poverty
    - Environment
    - MDG Indicators
    - Gender
  - SESRIC is open to any suggestions of introduction of new categories or indicators.
- 9
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## The New Statistical Data Collection and Dissemination Software System

- Up to the year 2006, the data collection mechanism of SESRIC based on sending regular questionnaires in hard copies to the member countries.
- However, starting in 2006, the Centre decided to improve this mechanism by using the facilities of the internet.
- In this connection, the Centre developed, in collaboration with the National Statistical Organization of Turkey, a new statistical data collection and dissemination software system.
- This system has two sides: data collection side and data dissemination side.

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## Data Collection Side of the New Software System

- This part has not been activated yet although it is ready because this requires a strong cooperation and coordination with the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the member countries.
- Each NSO needs to assign a focal person for the entry and update of their data through the new system developed by the Centre. The Centre will provide the necessary training to the focal persons in the member countries.
- The Centre is working on a suitable mechanism to make this system effective soon in collaboration with the NSOs of the member countries.
- In the meantime, the Centre is using international sources to update BASEIND, and asking the NSOs of member countries to check the data available at the Centre's web site, correct them, if there is any mistake, and to fill the missing ones.

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### Data Collection Side (STEP 1)

Select language: Eng Fr Arb

<b>Username</b>	kuwaituser
<b>Password</b>	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

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### Data Collection Side (STEP 2)

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### Data Collection Side (STEP 3)

<b>Country</b>	KWT
<b>Data Year :</b>	2003
<b>Frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Data Year Sub Value :</b>	2003

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### Data Collection Side (STEP 4)

COUNTRY	DATA YEAR	FREQUENCY	FREQUENCY VALUE
KWT	2003	Annual	2003

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	UNIT	VALUE
Labour Force	Active Female Population	Millions	0.36
Labour Force	Active Male Population	Millions	1.06
Labour Force	Share of Females in Active Population	Percentages	25.35
Labour Force	Share of Labour Force in Agriculture	Percentages	1.66
Labour Force	Share of Labour Force in Industry and Services	Percentages	98.34
Labour Force	Share of Males in Active Population	Percentages	74.65
Labour Force	Total Active Population	Millions	1.42
Labour Force	Total Unemployment	Thousands	18.10
Education	Adult Literacy Rate	Percentages	92.25
Education	Annual Education Expenditures per Person	Dollars	***
Education	Enrolment Ratio in Primary Schools	Percentages	77.34
Education	Enrolment Ratio in Secondary Schools	Percentages	71.50
Education	Enrolment Ratio in Universities	Percentages	***
Education	Number of Primary School Teachers	Number	12283.00
Education	Number of Secondary School Teachers	Number	12510.00

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## Data Dissemination Side

- ❑ The data dissemination side of the system has been active since the second half of 2007. The system allows the user to download the desired data in html, excel, csv or xml formats through the following five simple steps:
  - **Step 1 (Country Selection):** One or more countries out of 57 OIC Member States are selected.
  - **Step 2 (Indicator Category Selection):** Categories of interest are selected.
  - **Step 3 (Indicator Selection):** Indicators of interest belonging to the categories specified in Step 2 are selected.
  - **Step 4 (Year & Frequency Selection):** At this time data is shown only in annual format.
  - **Step 5 (Report Format Selection):** Some formatting options are selected.
- ❑ The Centre will continue its efforts to further improve the system to make it possible for the users in the near future to download data in different forms including a graphical style. Moreover, it is planned to allow for undertaking calculations on some aggregates for the indicators and also make some forecasts.

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## Data Dissemination Side (Step 1: Country Selection)

(Number of countries selected) x (Number of Indicators selected) <= 120  
eg. if you select 10 countries at this stage, you can select a maximum of 12 indicators at the 3rd stage (ie. 10 x 12 <= 120)

Step 1 of 5 : Country Selection

<input type="checkbox"/>	Select / deselect all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Afghanistan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Albania
<input type="checkbox"/>	Algeria
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Azerbaijan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bahrain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladesh
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brunei
<input type="checkbox"/>	Burkina Faso
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cameroon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comoros

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## Data Dissemination Side (Step 2: Indicator Category Selection)

Step 2 of 5: Category Selection

<input type="checkbox"/>	Select / deselect all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy and Mining
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exports
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Imports
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry and Manufacturing
<input type="checkbox"/>	International Finance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labour Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	Money and Prices
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Accounts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Finance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism

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## Data Dissemination Side (Step 3: Indicator Selection)

Step 3 of 5 : Indicator Selection

<input type="checkbox"/>	Select / deselect all		
	Categories	Indicators	Units
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Amount of Main Cereal Produced	Million Tons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Arable Land per Tractor	Hectares
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Cereal Production per Person	Kilograms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Fertiliser Use in Arable Land	Kilograms per hectare
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Fish Catches	Thousand Tons
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Forests and Woodland Area	Thousand hectares
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Main Cereal Produced	SITC Code, Rev. 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Meat Production per Person	Kilograms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Number of Chickens	Millions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Number of Tractors	Number
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Percentage of Arable Land Area	Percentages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Percentage of Forests and Woodland Area	Percentages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture	Percentage of Irrigated Land Area	Percentages

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## Data Dissemination Side (Step 4: Year & Frequency Selection)

**Step 4 of 5 : Year & Frequency Selection**

**Select Year Range**

Between :

Select Frequency		
Annual	Quarterly	Monthly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual	<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all	<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all
	<input type="checkbox"/> First Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/> January
	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/> February
	<input type="checkbox"/> Third Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/> March
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Quarter	<input type="checkbox"/> April
		<input type="checkbox"/> May
		<input type="checkbox"/> June
		<input type="checkbox"/> July
		<input type="checkbox"/> August
		<input type="checkbox"/> September
		<input type="checkbox"/> October
		<input type="checkbox"/> November
		<input type="checkbox"/> December

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## Data Dissemination Side (Step 5: Report Format Selection)

**Step 5 of 5 : Sort Order & Decimal Symbol Selection**

**Select report sort order :**

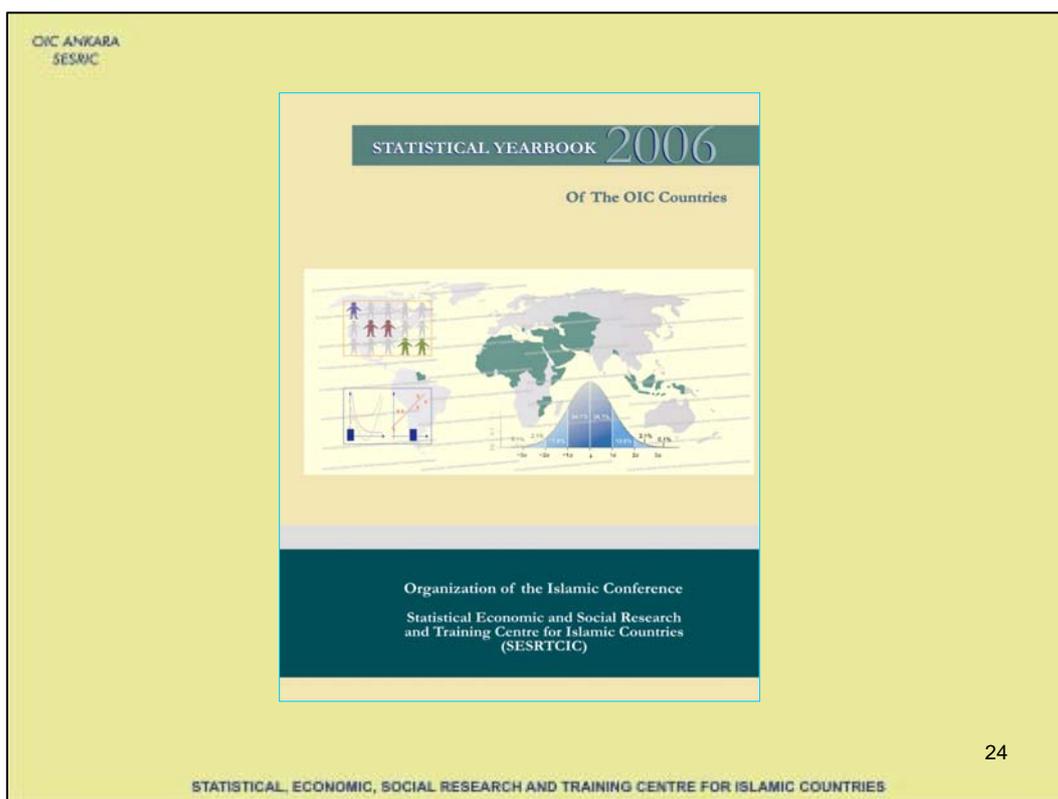
**Select decimal symbol**

08.01.2008
Active Users: 9
11:18:14

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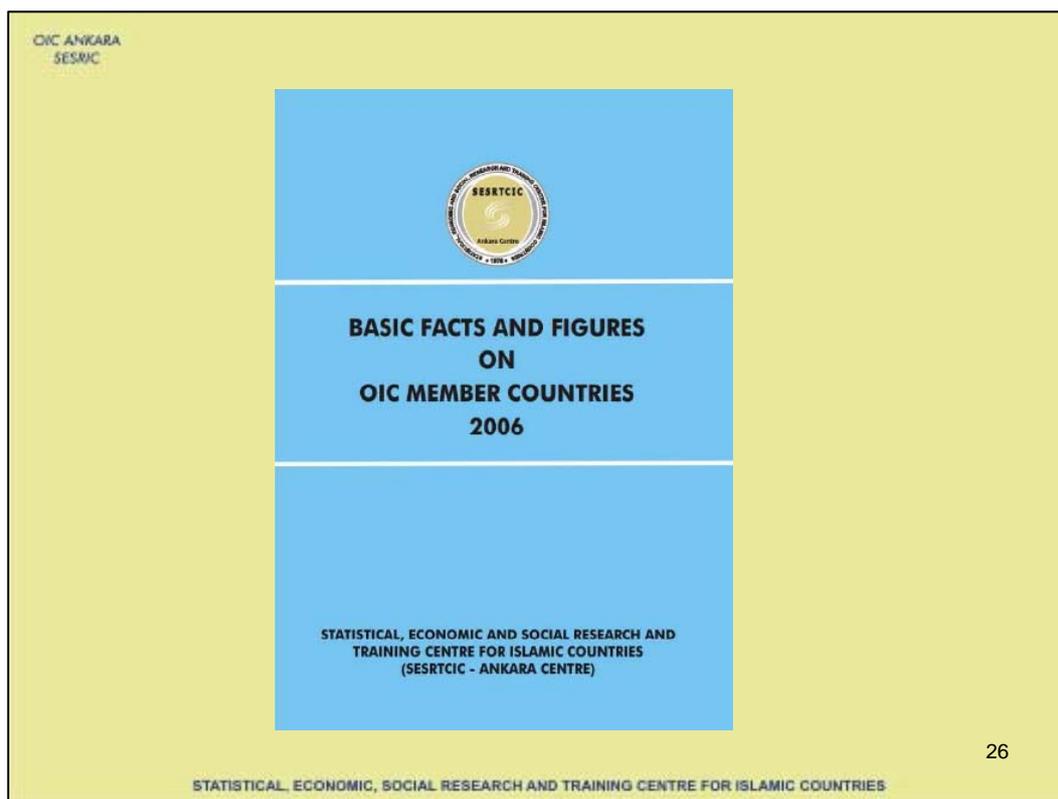
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## Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Member Countries.

- Each issue of the Statistical Year Book covers all the indicators of BASEIND in the latest 10 years.
- In addition, it is also possible to find country profiles for some selected indicators.
- The Statistical Year Book is published in both hard and soft copies. Both hard and soft copies are available. The main aim of publishing a hard copy is to provide it to various libraries.
- The Statistical Year Book for 2007 was the last publication where the preparation process was manual. From now on with the help of a program, the updates of the Statistical Year Book will be made by selecting the necessary values from the BASEIND in an electronic environment.

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STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



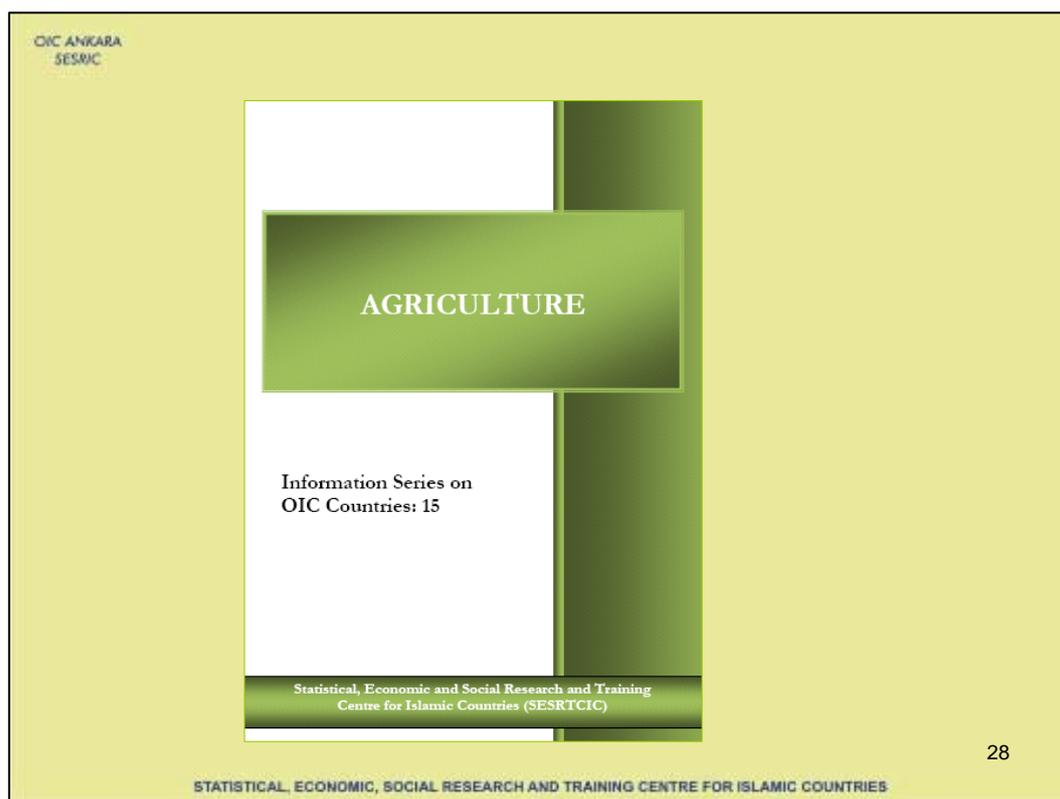
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## Basic Facts and Figures on the OIC Member Countries

- Up to this year, each issue of Basic Facts and Figures includes around 20 most basic indicators selected from BASEIND and displayed in tabular format for the latest 5 years for each of the 57 member countries.
- Starting from this year, the Basic Facts and Figures will be published in a new format where some figures and averages on some indicators be presented.

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STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



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## Information Series on the OIC Countries

- Each issue of the annual Information Series of the SESRIC covers one selected category from the BASEIND, considering the most urgent needs of the OIC member countries, and reports the indicators related to that category.
- Until this year, the presentations in this publication were in tabular format. This year's Information Series on Education will have a new format. Not only the usual statistics on different education indicators for each of the member countries will be presented but also the comparison of member countries with themselves and other developed and developing countries will be included. Moreover, a new section on policy recommendations will be introduced.

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STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

## Statistics Department at the Website

- **Statistics database**
- **Special reports on selected indicators: environment, science and technology, poverty, agriculture**
- **Statistical directories: National Statistical Organizations, roster of statistics experts, roster of environmental experts**
- **Press releases from National Statistical Organizations**
- **OIC Outlook**

30

## Statistical Directories

- **National Statistical Organizations**
  - **Contact information of NSOs are available.**
- **Roster of statistics experts and roster of environmental experts**
  - **The aim is to facilitate communication and exchanging of expertise and information among the experts in these fields and promote and enhance technical cooperation activities in the member countries.**

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## Press Releases from National Statistical Organizations (1)

- As is well known, the NSOs of the member countries regularly prepare and disseminate short recent reports related to their basic statistical indicators. As a new initiative, SESRIC cooperates with all the NSOs of the member countries to publish these reports in the Centre's Web Site.
- These reports will help researchers, policy makers and all concerned bodies in the member countries and elsewhere to reach the most recent changes related to basic indicators on the member countries from one common source rather than individually searching the website of each NSO.
- So far, press releases from Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Mauritania, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine and Turkey are being published in the Centre's Web Site. While Mauritania and Morocco provide the releases in Arabic, Iran and Palestine provide them both in English and Arabic. The releases of all other countries are in English.

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## Press Releases from National Statistical Organizations (2)

- ❑ The topics of these releases include:
  - Balance of Payments
  - Consumer Price Index
  - Demographic Statistics
  - Energy
  - Environment
  - Foreign Direct Investment
  - Foreign Trade
  - Gross Domestic Product
  - Health
  - Industrial Production
  - Labor Force
  - Manufacturing
  - Tourism
  - Transportation, Communication and ICT
  - Wholesale Price Index and Producer Price Index

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## OIC Outlook

- The Centre has recently started to publish short reports on selected statistical indicators on the member countries in its Web Site.
- These reports present a cross-country comparative analysis of the current stance of the member countries together with policy recommendations to improve the performances of the member countries in the relevant areas.

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## Training Programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the Member Countries (1)

- The Centre had carried on a training programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the member countries during 2007.
- The programme aimed at exploring the possibilities of matching the needs and capacities of the NSOs in the member countries and investigating the most practical ways of sharing their existing capacities.
- In so doing, the Centre circulated a questionnaire on the needs and capacities of the NSOs of the member countries and based on the assessment of the responses of the member countries, the Centre arranged for short-term training courses on various areas of statistics.
- This programme will continue during 2008 as well.

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## Training Programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the Member Countries (2)

- 32 out of the 57 member countries have responded to the questionnaire which included the following areas:

General Statistics	National Accounts
Balance of Payments Statistics	International Trade Statistics
Monetary and Financial Statistics	Government Finance Statistics
Real Sector Statistics	Agriculture Statistics
Price Statistics	Education and Training Statistics
Industry and Services Statistics	Labor Statistics
Environmental Statistics	Health Statistics
Science, Technology and Patent Statistics	Population and Demography
Web-based Data Compilation Techniques	Statistical Data Analysis
Quality in Statistics	Statistical Organization
Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques	Other

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## Training Programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the OIC Member Countries (2007)

- Based on the responses, the Centre matched the needs and capacities of the NSOs of the member countries and as a result of this matching, the following training courses were organised in 2007:
  - Training Course on "Labor Statistics" for the staff of the NSO of Yemen (February 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Palestine.
  - Training Course on "Statistical Data Analysis" for the staff of the NSO of Yemen (February 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Palestine.
  - Training Course on "Web-based Data Compilation Techniques" for the staff of the NSO of Azerbaijan (February 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Turkey.
  - Training Course on "Labor Statistics" for the staff of the NSO of Morocco (June 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Palestine.
  - Training Course on "National Accounts" for the staff of the NSO of Indonesia (July 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Malaysia.
  - Training Course on "General Statistics" for the staff of the NSO of Maldives (July 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Malaysia.
  - Training Course on "Population and Demography" for the staff of the NSO of Jordan (August 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Egypt.
  - Training Course on "Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques" for the staff of the NSO of Jordan (August 2007). The trainer was provided by the NSO of Egypt.

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## Planned Training Programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the OIC Member Countries, 2008 (1)

□ The 2008 programme will be implemented as follows:

- Training Course on “Census & Survey Processing System (CSPRO) and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)” for the staff of the NSO of Sudan. The trainer was provided by the NSO of Jordan (4-6 February 2008).
- Training Course on “Population and Demography and Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques” for the staff of the NSO of Senegal. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Cameroon.
- Training Course on “Labor Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Cameroon. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Morocco.
- Training Course on “Real Sector Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Burkina Faso. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Benin.
- Training Course on “Statistical Data Analysis” for the staff of the NSO of Gambia. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Uganda.
- Training Course on “International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Gabon. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Cameroon.
- Training Course on “Statistical Data Analysis and Quality in Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Nigeria. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Uganda.
- Training Course on “Agriculture Statistics and Food Security Analysis” for the staff of the NSO of Uganda. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Turkey.
- Training Course on “General Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Sierra Leone. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Gabon.
- Training Course on “National Accounts” for the staff of the NSO of Kazakhstan. The trainer will be provided by the NSO of Turkey.

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## Planned Training Programme for Statistical Capacity Building in NSOs of the OIC Member Countries, 2008 (2)

- Moreover, the following training courses are also being planned for 2008 but the countries which will provide the trainers are not yet determined:
- Training Course on “Statistical Data Analysis and Quality in Statistics” for the staff of the NSO of Mozambique.
  - Training Course on “Web-based Data Compilation Techniques” for the staff of the NSO of Kuwait.
  - Training Course on “Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques” for the staff of the NSO of Mali.
  - Training course on “National Accounts” for the staff of the NSO of Albania.
- After the completion of the Centre’s Survey on statistical capacity building, the Centre is planning to include Iran, Tajikistan, Bahrain, Niger, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Tunisia in the 2008 programme as well.

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## Beneficiaries of the Statistical Activities of SESRIC (1)

- The number of SESRIC Web Site visitors stands at a considerable level. Around 1000 people per day are visiting the Site.
- Of course, it is not possible to identify the profession of these visitors but the requests received by the Centre indicate that most of the users of the Web Site are researchers.
- It is seen that if high quality data on member countries can be provided through the Web Site of the Centre, the number of researchers making use of this service from the member countries will increase as a consequence.

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## Beneficiaries of the Statistical Activities of SESRIC (2)

- A 4-day study by the IT department of the Centre considering the distribution of top 400 IPs by country connecting to the Web Site of the Centre showed the following distribution:
  - United States (55 IPs)
  - Pakistan (51 IPs)
  - Egypt (23 IPs)
  - Sweden (19 IPs)
  - Saudi Arabia (18 IPs)
  - Malaysia (17 IPs)
  - United Arab Emirates, Turkey (13 IPs)
  - Algeria (11 IPs)
  - Iran (10 IPs)
  - Canada (9 IPs)
  - Netherlands, United Kingdom (8 IPs)
  - China, Morocco (7 IPs)
  - Germany, Jordan, Spain (6 IPs)
  - Kuwait (5 IPs)
  - France, Nigeria, Oman, Romania, Singapore, Senegal (4 IPs)
  - Cote D'ivoire, Korea, Hong Kong, Poland, Sudan (3 IPs)
  - Belgium, Czech Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Palestinian, Philippines, Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar, Taiwan, Tunisia (2 IPs)
  - Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Djibouti, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen (1 IP)

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## Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where do We Stand?

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Statistical Working Group  
25-26 March, 2008, IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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### Lack of Coordination

- ❑ A major problem that reflects itself in all statistical activities of the OIC institutions is the *lack of coordination*
  - both between the institutions and
  - also between the institutions and the NSOs of the member countries.
- ❑ For this reason, this meeting of the Statistical Working Group is a very important step towards the determination of certain ways and means of coordinating these activities.

2

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## **SESRIC Regular Meetings with NSOs of the OIC Member Countries**

### **❖ Participation Rate is Low!**

- ❑ The Centre organised four meetings with the Heads of NSOs of the member countries, the last of which was held in Lahore in February 2004.
- ❑ In an attempt to enhance its regular meetings with the Heads of NSOs of the member countries, the Centre has also organised three meetings in 2007 on the sidelines of different regional and international conferences. In these meetings, the Centre attracted a very high level of participation from NSOs as compared to past meetings.
- ❑ The last of these meetings was organised by the Centre on 28 June 2007 on the sidelines of the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy which was held in Istanbul on 27-30 June 2007. Heads and representatives of NSOs from 21 OIC member countries attended the meeting.

3

## **Major Statistical Activities Where Coordination is Needed**

➤ **Statistical data collection**

➤ **Statistical capacity building**

4

## Statistical Data Collection

- ❑ Different OIC institutions try to collect almost the same data from the member countries. This situation leads to
  - duplication of the efforts of these institutions
  - a more burden on the NSOs of the member countries.
- ❑ The figures that appear in different OIC publications differ so confusion arises.

5

## Total Labor Force in Millions

	ICDT					SESRIC				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Albania	2	2	2	2		1	1	1	1	1
Algeria	10	11	11	12		11	12	12	12	13
Bangladesh	66	68	69	71		57	59	60	62	62
Benin	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3
Indonesia	100	102	104	107		97	100	101	103	105
Saudi Arabia	6	6	7	7		6	7	7	7	7

6

## Missing Data

- ❑ The Centre has recently undertaken a detailed examination of the data on each of the 57 member countries for the 162 indicators that make up BASEIND.
- ❑ For all of the countries, there are at least around 20 indicators where most of the data is missing and this number is actually very high especially for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❑ A search of international sources had also been done for the missing indicators but in most of the cases it was found that they were missing in those sources as well.
- ❑ However, most of these indicators are available for developed countries. This shows that most of the NSOs of the OIC member countries are in need for capacity building training programmes on how to collect the data and prepare these indicators according to the international statistical standards.

7

## Most Urgent Training Areas

- ❑ The results of the surveys carried out by the Centre to assess the statistical capacities and needs of the NSOs of the member countries show that the following 7 areas are the most urgent where member countries are in need of training:
  - General Statistics
  - National Accounts
  - Labour Statistics
  - Population and Demography
  - Web-based Data Compilation Techniques
  - Statistical Data Analysis
  - Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques

8

## Relations with other international Organs

- **Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)**
  
- **World Bank**
  
- **PARIS21**
  
- **IMF, UNESCWA, UNECA and OECD**

9

## Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

- **The Centre has been welcomed as a new member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) at its 8th Session held in Montreal, Canada, in September 2006.**
  
- **The CCSA agreed to set up a Task Team to explore ways to improve the coordination of technical cooperation programs in statistics at the sub-regional level, and the World Bank was asked to take the lead in getting the Task Team established. The Centre is a member of this Task Team.**
  
- **Recently, the Centre attended the 11th Session of the Committee held in New York.**

10

## World Bank

- The Centre is in touch with the relevant departments at the World Bank regarding the e-learning courses on statistics in order to equip its staff with the methodologies and the techniques of designing new projects for developing the capacities of the NSOs of the OIC member countries.
- The e-learning course is a World Bank project where staff members are educated to develop and manage statistical capacity building programmes and projects and to provide guidance and support to the managers of statistical services.

11

## PARIS21

- The Centre is also a member of the Africa Statistics Training Task Team of PARIS21.
- The Team was organised by PARIS21 at the 5th Session of the Committee on Development of Information (CODI-V), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 April-4 May 2007.

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## IMF, UNESCWA, UNECA and OECD

- Other international organizations with which SESRIC has working connections are IMF, UNESCWA, UNECA and OECD.
- The Centre was one of the co-organizer of the Second OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 27-30 June 2007, together with OECD, UN and the EU.
- Recently, the preparations are underway to organize a workshop on national accounts together with the IMF in the Middle East region.

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## Library Connections

- The SESRIC library is functioning as a depository library for the World Bank since 1987 and houses more than 5100 of its publications.
- The Centre has recently been authorised a free access to World Bank database.
- In June 2007, the library started to function as a depository library for the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Efforts are also being made for a free access to the database of the IMF as well.

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## Framework for Statistical Coordination

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Statistical Working Group  
25-26 March, 2008, IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

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### Importance of Developing a Framework for Coordination of Statistical Activities at the OIC Level

- ❑ Developing a framework for coordination of statistical activities is of an utmost important for the OIC institutions
  - to enhance the quality of their work,
  - To develop a common database platform and
  - to coordinate their activities in this important area for more benefit to the member countries.
- ❑ To this end, the establishment of OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG) would play a significant role in enhancing the quality of the activities of the OIC institutions in this area and support the statistical capacity building efforts of the NSOs of the member countries.

2

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

## About the Suggested OIC-SWG

- The suggested OIC-SWG shall be mandated certain short-term tasks and agenda to be undertaken in the next few years with the overall aim of developing a Framework for Coordination of Statistical Activities among the OIC institutions.
- The suggested OIC-SWG should comprise all OIC subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions.
- The suggested OIC-SWG convene annually with the participation of representatives of some NSOs of the member countries and representatives of some international and regional organizations working in the field of statistics.

3

## The Framework for OIC-SWG

- ❑ The suggested OIC-SWG should develop a framework and put in place the needed strategy and policy which would facilitate the coordination of the statistical activities of the OIC institutions through determining the following:
  - The efficient mechanism for collecting and disseminating various statistical data and information on the member countries.
  - The type, coverage and source of the data to be collected and published by each OIC institution.
  - The standard methodology that should to be used for aggregation in various statistical publications of the OIC institution.
  - The efficient mechanism for coordination the training programmes of the OIC institutions on statistical capacity building in the member countries.
  - A focal OIC institution to keep and maintain all the databases on the member countries.

4

## Who should Collect and Disseminate which Statistical Data on the Member Countries?

- ❑ Since SESRIC has been mandated the task of collating, processing and disseminating socio-economic statistics by OIC, it should be the institution where all the macro data should be collected and disseminated.
- The already existing 162 indicators in BASEIND.
- New indicators suggested. (A questionnaire can be distributed to OIC institutions, may be other international organizations as well, by SESRIC.)
- ❑ OIC Institutions which have specializations in some certain fields should go on collecting and disseminating the micro data related to that field. SESRIC should not involve in this activity.
- ❑ If other OIC institutions other than SESRIC wish to disseminate macro data as well, they should take the data from BASEIND so that every OIC institution disseminate the same data.

5

## What should be the Source of the Data that should be Collected by SESRIC?

- ❑ Both the national and international sources should be used.
- Data on all the indicators of the SESRIC BASEIND database are to be, in principle, collected directly from NSOs of the member countries. The NSOs can provide their data using one of the following three ways:
  - Responding to SESRIC questionnaires
  - Online (Through SESRIC data collection software system)
  - From the web sites of the NSOs (Authorizing SESRIC the full access through a user name or a password)
- Data on all the indicators of the SESRIC BASEIND database may also be collected from international sources.
  - OIC institutions should determine the best source of data for each indicator. (A questionnaire on this subject can be prepared and distributed to all OIC institutions by SESRIC.)

6

## The Sequence

- **Currently, the sources of the data on all the indicators in BASEIND are international ones.**
- **Depending on the extent of the provision of the data by the NSOs of the member countries, SESRIC can update the existing data using national sources.**
  - **For consistency, SESRIC should, wherever necessary, apply the same methodology used by the international sources before disseminating the data.**
- **If data, for any reason, can not be obtained from the NSOs, then the international source should be used by SESRIC during the process of updating.**

7

## Using SESRIC BASEIND Database as a Source in all OIC Statistical Publications

- **The figures that will appear in all OIC publications will be the same so no confusion will arise.**
- **Other interested institutions or individuals will be sure that they can get reliable and timely data from BASEIND for OIC member countries. This will increase the number of researches on OIC member countries which will put light to policy makers.**
  - **There are lots of studies related to OECD countries because they have reliable and timely data related to their countries which can be obtained easily from their sites.**

8

**The standard methodology that should to be used for aggregation in various statistical publications of the OIC institutions.**

- **Each OIC institution can provide the information about which aggregations they require for their publications to SESRIC.**
- **SESRIC can examine the methodologies related to the calculation of those aggregations and make its suggestions to the OIC institutions.**
- **After giving the final decision, the methodologies can be published through the web sites of OIC institutions as well as in their publications.**

9

**Coordination of the Training Programmes on Statistical Capacity Building in the Member Countries**

- OIC network should be developed to include the training activities of all OIC institutions as well as those of the international institutions.**
- OIC institutions can make use of the information provided by this network in coordination of their training activities.**
- A system similar to the data collection software system of SESRIC can also be developed for this aim so that every institution can provide their information through the system.**

10

### **Focal Coordination Institution within the OIC-SWG**

- ❑ In its capacity as the only OIC institution that has been mandated the task of collating, processing and disseminating socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries, and due to its long experience in this area, the SESRIC, in collaboration with the IDB, could be designated to assume the role of the focal coordination institution within the OIC-SWG.

11

### **Finally**

- ❑ SESRIC suggests preparing a concept paper on the outcomes of this first SWG meeting and distribute it, for consideration, to all NSOs of the member countries.

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## ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

By  
Dr. Syed Azhar Ibne Hasan  
*Economic Researcher*

### The paper covers following points:

- Activities of the Islamic Chamber and the projects initiated by it;
- Constraints identified by the Islamic Chamber
- Initiatives taken by the Islamic Chamber in removing these constraints
- Establishment and the structure of ICCI-DataBank
- In the end, I would briefly give details of a Proto-Type Project, OIC Businesswomen Information Network

### **Establishment of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an affiliated organ of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). It was established in 1977, as a result of the resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Its Headquarter is in Karachi, Pakistan.

3

### **Membership of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Islamic Chamber membership comprises of the National Chambers, Unions and Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In addition, it also covers Muslim communities in the OIC Observer Member Countries. Through these Chambers and associations, ICCI approaches the private sector and undertake programs and activities as per their needs and requirements.

4

**Activities of the  
Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

- Annual Private Sector Meetings
- OIC Task Force Meetings on SMEs
- Annual Businesswomen Forums
- Capacity Building Workshops
- Incubator Management Training
- Tourism Forums
- Investment & Privatization Conference
- International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conference

5

**Annual Private Sector Meetings**

Meeting Name	From - To	Place	
		Country	City
First Private Sector Meeting	18-19 October 1994	Turkey	Istanbul
Second Private Sector Meeting	30 Sep. – 2 Oct. 1995	Egypt	Cairo
Third Private Sector Meeting	21-23 October 1996	Indonesia	Jakarta
Fourth Private Sector Meeting	27-29 October 1997	Pakistan	Karachi
Five Private Sector Meeting	12-14 October 1998	Lebanon	Tripoli
Sixth Private Sector Meeting	4-6 October 1999	Cameroon	Yaoundé
Seventh Private Sector Meeting	15-17 October 2000	Qatar	Doha
Eighth Private Sector Meeting	9-11 October 2001	Guinea	Conakry
Ninth Private Sector Meeting	21-23 December 2002	U.A.E.	Sharjah
Tenth Private Sector Meeting	4-5 October 2003	Iran	Tehran
Eleventh Private Sector Meeting	5-7 February 2005	Bahrain	Manama
Twelfth Private Sector Meeting	16-18 June 2008	Uganda	Kampala

6

### OIC Task Force Meetings on SMEs

Meeting Name	From - To	Place	
		Country	City
First Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	27-29 January 2002	Bangladesh	Dhaka
Second Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	19-21 May 2003	Mozambique	Maputo
Third Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	16-18 March 2004	Pakistan	Lahore
Fourth Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	24-26 January 2005	Thailand	Bangkok
Fifth Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	5-7 June 2006	Turkey	Istanbul
Sixth Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs	August 2008	Thailand	Bangkok

7

The Task Force has reached its objectives, both in terms of goals and targets, hence, the last and final Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs will be held in 2008, wherein the members would review the recommendations of all the previous meetings and would:

- Devise a strategy based on prioritizing the recommendations, as a way forward.
- Prepare a complete and comprehensive Program of Action with short, medium and long-term goals in accordance with the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action.
- Defining the role of each institution at the level of OIC and the private sector.
- **Networking of SMEs:** By Networking, individual SMEs can discuss the problems related to their size and improve their competitive position, which SMEs are not able to solve individually and are unable to capture market opportunities.

The concept of Networking is of great importance and there are very good examples of Small and Medium Enterprise organizations working in Turkey, Pakistan, and Malaysia. The need is to evolve a mechanism of network among the SMEs Associations. In this regard Islamic Chamber has proposed for the establishment of **OIC Network for SMEs Agencies (ONSA)**, consisting SME Development Agencies.

8

### Businesswomen Forums

Meeting Name	From - To	Place	
		Country	City
First Forum for Businesswomen	1-3 March 2005	U.A.E.	Sharjah
Second Forum for Businesswomen	8-10 December 2007	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
Third Forum for Businesswomen	13-15 January 2008	Qatar	Doha
Fourth Forum for Businesswomen	November 2008	Syria	Damascus

9

### Organization of Capacity building workshops

In order to develop skills and for the removal of bottlenecks hampering smooth operations of SMEs, ICCI with the collaboration of Islamic Development Bank, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, local chambers and associations of the host countries annually organizes 2-3 Training Programs in the core areas of marketing, production, operations management, information technology and e-commerce and human resources management in order to encourage setting-up of SMEs.

10

### **Incubator Management Training in Islamic Countries**

As per the role assigned to the Islamic Chamber by the COMCEC, the Terms of Reference have been finalized with KOSGEB (Turkish SMEs Development Agency) for the organization of a Workshop and Forum for the implementation of “Incubator Management Training in Islamic Countries” in Ankara-Republic of Turkey in 2008.

11

### **Tourism Forum**

The First Forum of Tourism in Islamic Countries was organized by the Islamic Chamber in Jeddah in October 2007. During the forum a Tourism Promotion Company has been announced to be established with a capital of US\$100 million. Agreements with international tourism companies for organizing tourist activities in the Islamic world are underway.

12

### International Conference on Investment and Privatization

Meeting Name	From - To	Place	
		Country	City
1 <sup>st</sup> International Conference on Investment and Privatization in OIC Countries	18-20 April 2003	Pakistan	Islamabad
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Investment and Privatization in OIC Countries	29-30 April 2004	Egypt	Sharm El-Shaikh
3 <sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Investment and Privatization in OIC Countries	December 2008	Iran	Tehran

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### International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conference

Meeting Name	From - To	Place	
		Country	City
1 <sup>st</sup> International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conference	25-26 April 2005	Pakistan	Lahore
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Islamic Economic and Cultural Conference	7-9 September 2007	Thailand	Bangkok

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### Projects of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Human Resource Development Companies
- International Foundation of Awqaf
- FORAS (International Islamic Company for Exploration of Investment Opportunities & Promotion of Intra-Trade)
- Business Owners Union
- International Zakat Foundation
- Emmar International Bank
- Centers of Excellence
- ICCI-DataBank
- OIC-Businesswomen Network

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### Human Resource Development Companies

Would provide training and placements of labor among the member countries. The draft has been prepared and forwarded to the concerned international institutions for their consent asking their effective participation and coordination among the Labor Ministries, training institutes and employment exchanges.

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### International Foundation of Awqaf

- Bye-Laws and the Standing Orders of the Awqaf has been prepared.
- Correspondences and contacts are established with Ministries of Awqaf for the endorsement of the Standing Orders and establishment of WAQF Funds.
- Correspondences and contacts are being made with leading businessmen from Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. for contribution and donations.

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### FORAS

For strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among OIC Member States and to implement 10-Year Programme of Action of the COMCEC, Islamic Chamber's Executive Committee has established International Islamic Company for Exploration of Investment Opportunities & Promotion of Intra-Trade (FORAS), till now following measures have been taken:

- Capital of US100 million has been collected.
- The feasibility study and business plans have been prepared.
- Five investment maps for five Islamic countries have been prepared.
- Six new companies are under establishment and incubated to operate in the fields of energy, media, infrastructure, agriculture, technology, health and education.
- Plan is underway to establish first regional branch in Egypt during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2008.

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## Business Owners Union

- The Standing Orders are adopted.
- Contacts for approval of BOU privileges to its members, are under process with the concerned authorities after being officially endorsed by the States as well as the companies.
- Contacts for soliciting membership were made to the following countries (Pakistan, Indonesia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Benin, Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania).

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## International Zakat Foundation

- It was established upon initiative of the Islamic Chamber and launched by H.E. Abdullah Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the OIC Chairman.
- H.E. has also announced the establishment of the its Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.
- An MOU for the establishment of the International Zakat Foundation has been signed with the Government of Malaysia, IDB, General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions.
- The coordination between the International Organization for Zakat in Kuwait is in process with the purpose of concluding a mutual cooperation protocol.
- Agreements have been signed for the establishment of its branches in Benin, Senegal, Mauritania and Sudan.

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### Emmar International Bank

The feasibility study plan has been prepared by an international company and Meetings with the officials of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks of the Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bahrain and Egypt have been held. Preparatory meetings of the founding share holders were held in Jeddah and Malaysia. Meetings at the technical and technological levels were held with Saudi Capital Market Authority, Securities & Commodities Authorities U.A.E. and Deloitte Company. One of the GCC state has given initial approval for the Standing Orders of the Bank.

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### Centers of Excellence

Islamic Chamber is also pursuing in the implementation of the OIC Five-Year Plan of Action to strengthen and promote trade, investment and Research in the fields of Cotton and related Textile Industries in the OIC Member States. In order to move forward Islamic Chamber's proposal of appointing of "**Centers of Excellence**" in Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Burkina Faso and Mali has been duly accepted by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

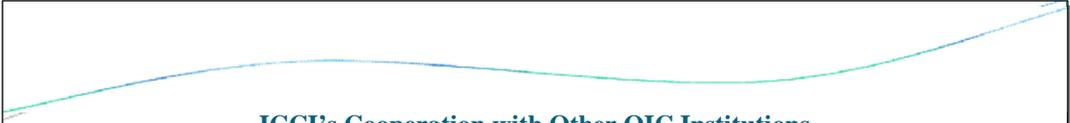
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Islamic Chamber is also working on the establishment of an **“Islamic Rating & Certification Agency (IRCA)”** under which it will award following Certificates: for Ethics ‘Kiyam’; for Quality ‘Itqaan’; and ‘Halal’ for Halal products.

For the economic future of the Islamic World, ICCI has initiated a project **“Ommar Al-Ard”**. The objective of the project is to involve the youth of the Ummah, enabling them to establish SMEs or to enhance their existing projects, so that the talents of the youth could be promoted, thus activating their pivotal role in the economic growth of their Muslim Communities.

23

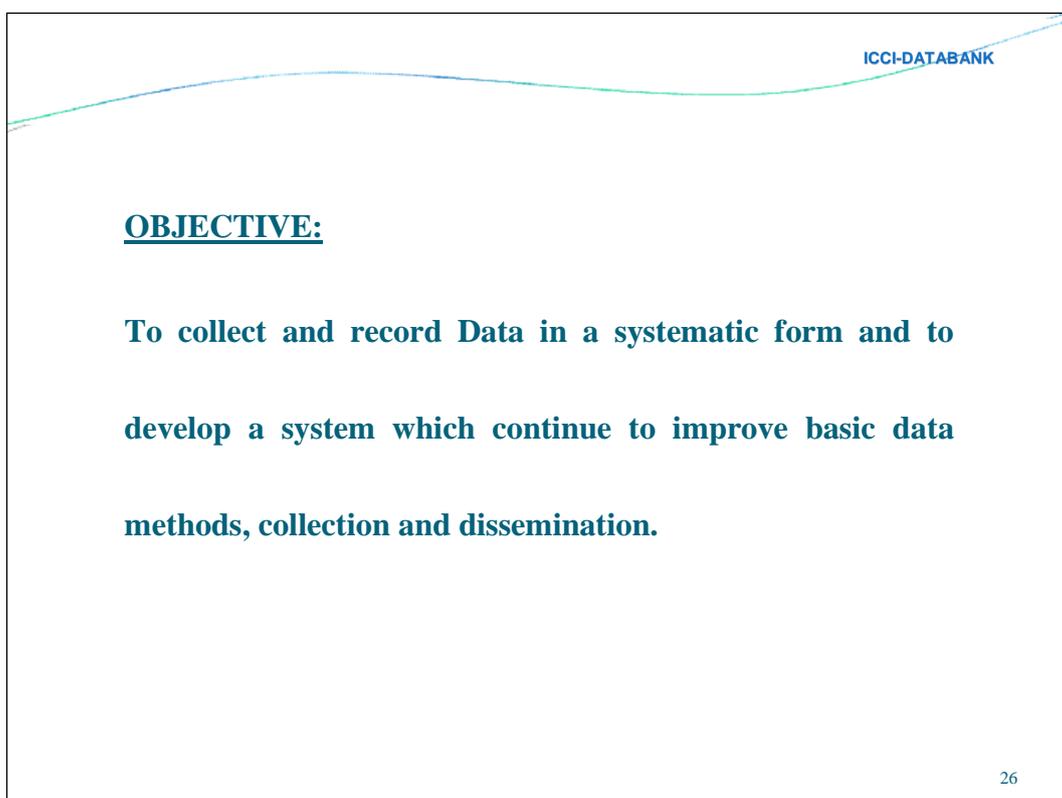
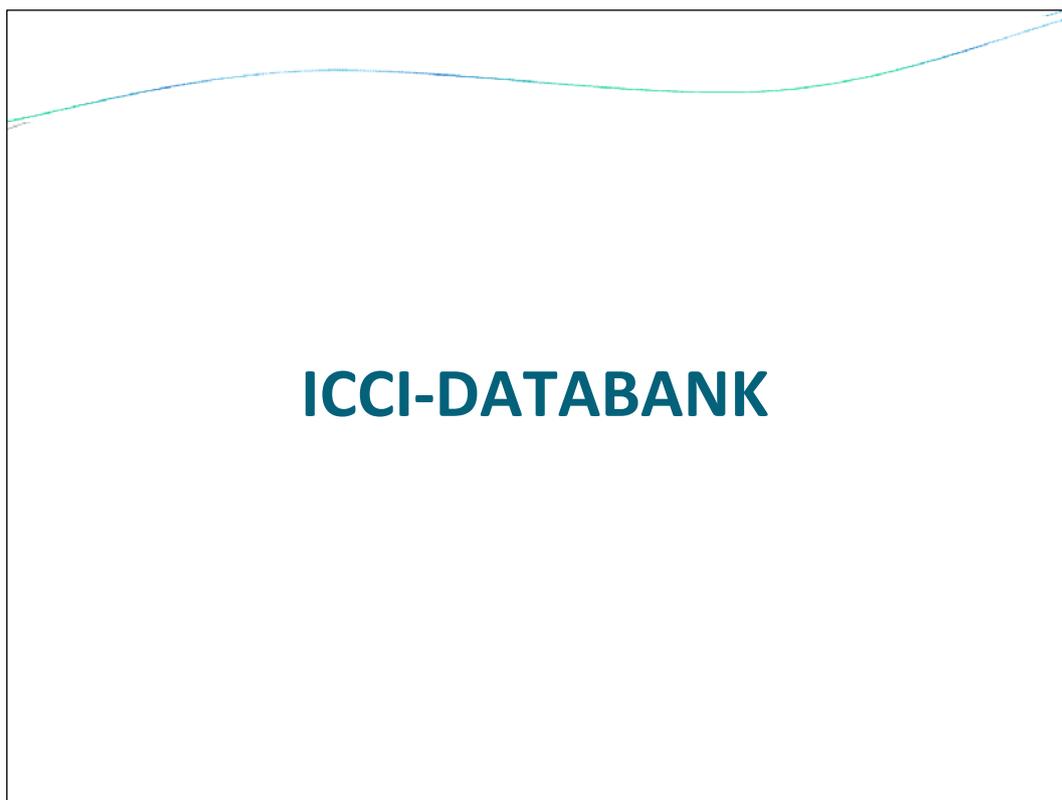


**ICCI’s Cooperation with Other OIC Institutions**

In order to successfully implement its activities Islamic Chamber has very close working relations with all the OIC Institutions. Islamic Chamber would like to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to:

- The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Conference and particularly to His Excellency the Secretary General, for taking keen interest in the activities of the Islamic Chamber and gracing us with his presence at different events.
- The Islamic Development Bank and all its departments namely ICIEC; ICD; IRTI; Technical Cooperation Office; WID Unit; and Trade and Finance Department are playing an important role in assisting Islamic Chamber in carrying out its activities. Islamic Chamber appreciates their efforts and conveys it’s thanks to H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali, for taking personal interest in the activities of the Islamic Chamber.

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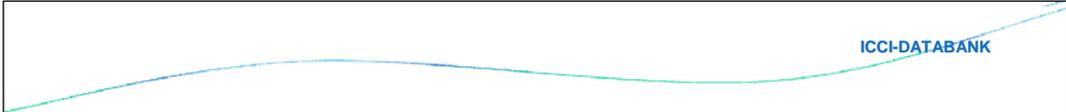


ICCI-DATABANK

The **Beneficiaries** of ICCI-DataBank would be:

- Private Sector of the Member Countries
- OIC and its institutions
- Islamic Development Bank and other Financial Institutions
- Researchers and Educational Institutions
- Government Institutions
- UNDP's SU-SSC Member countries

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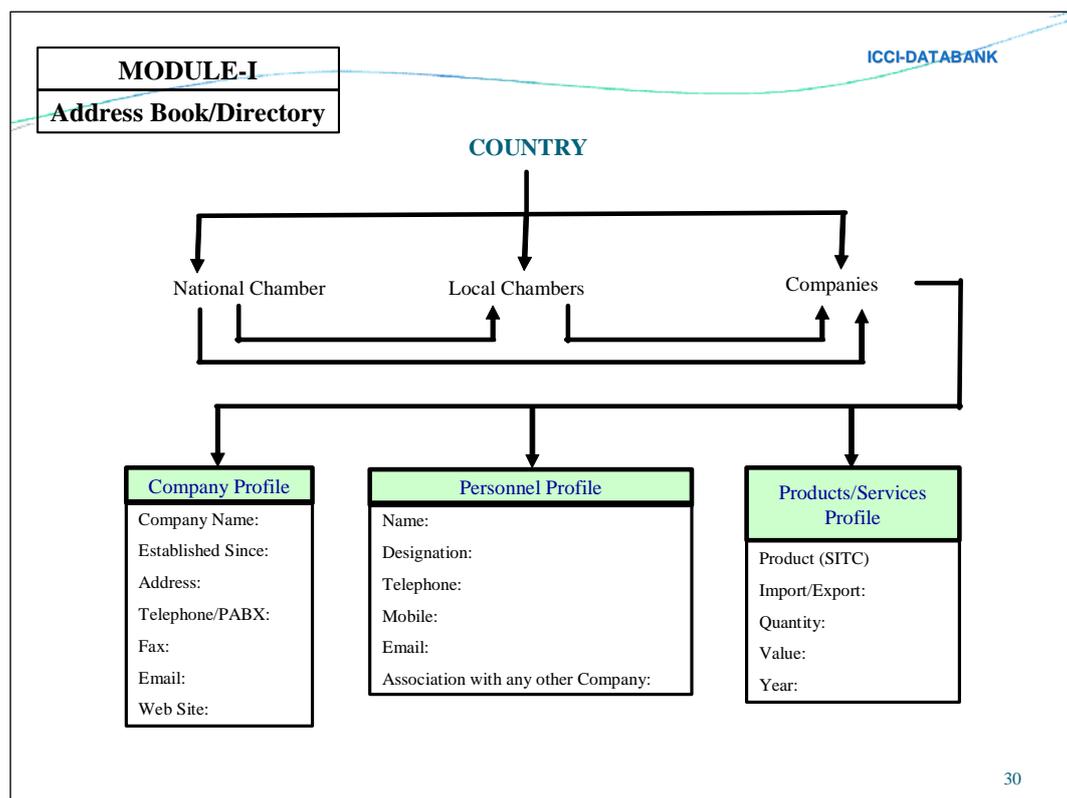
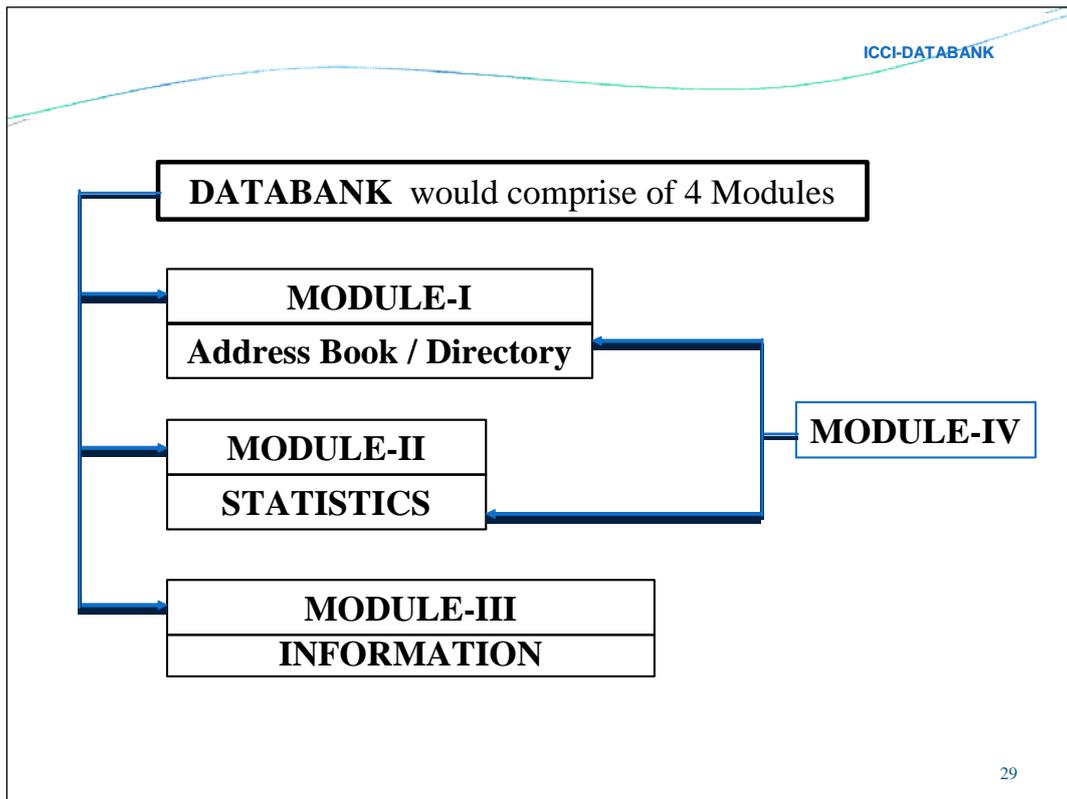


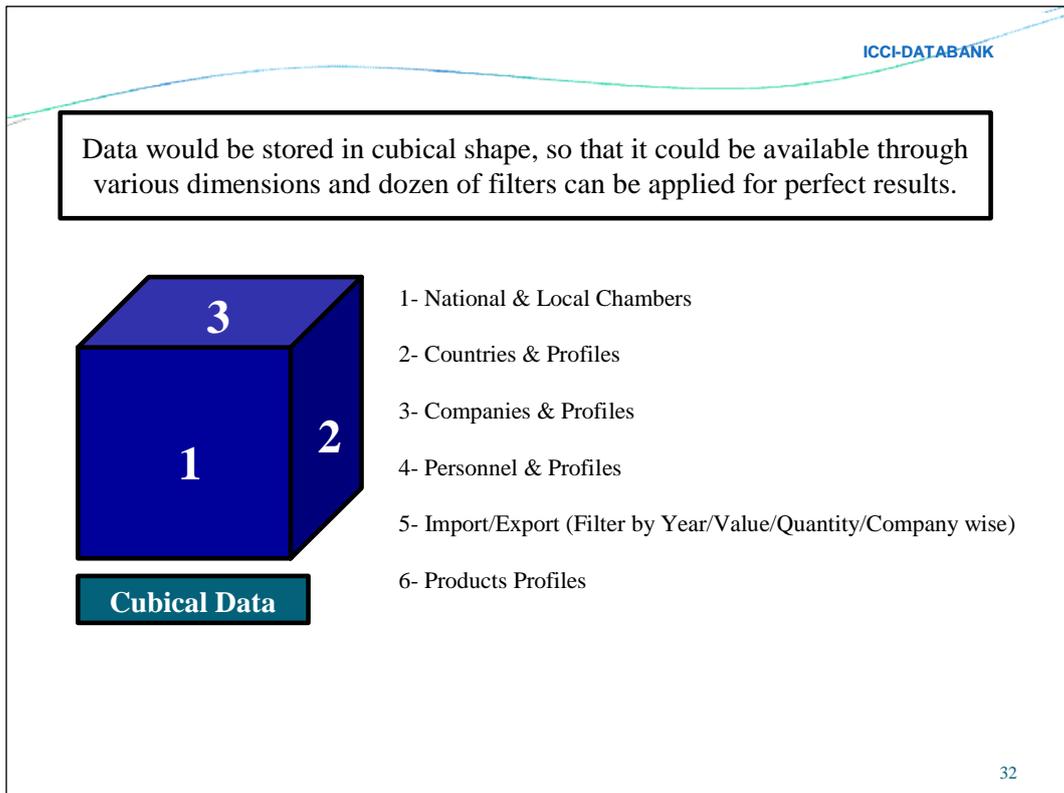
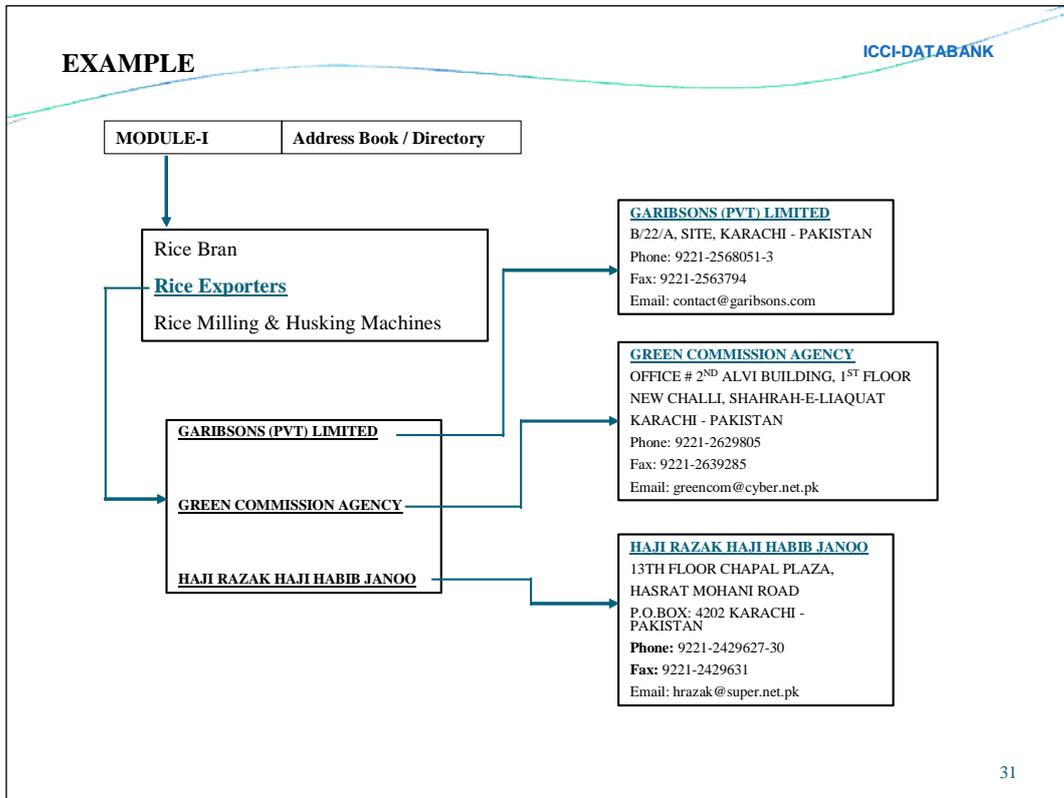
ICCI-DATABANK

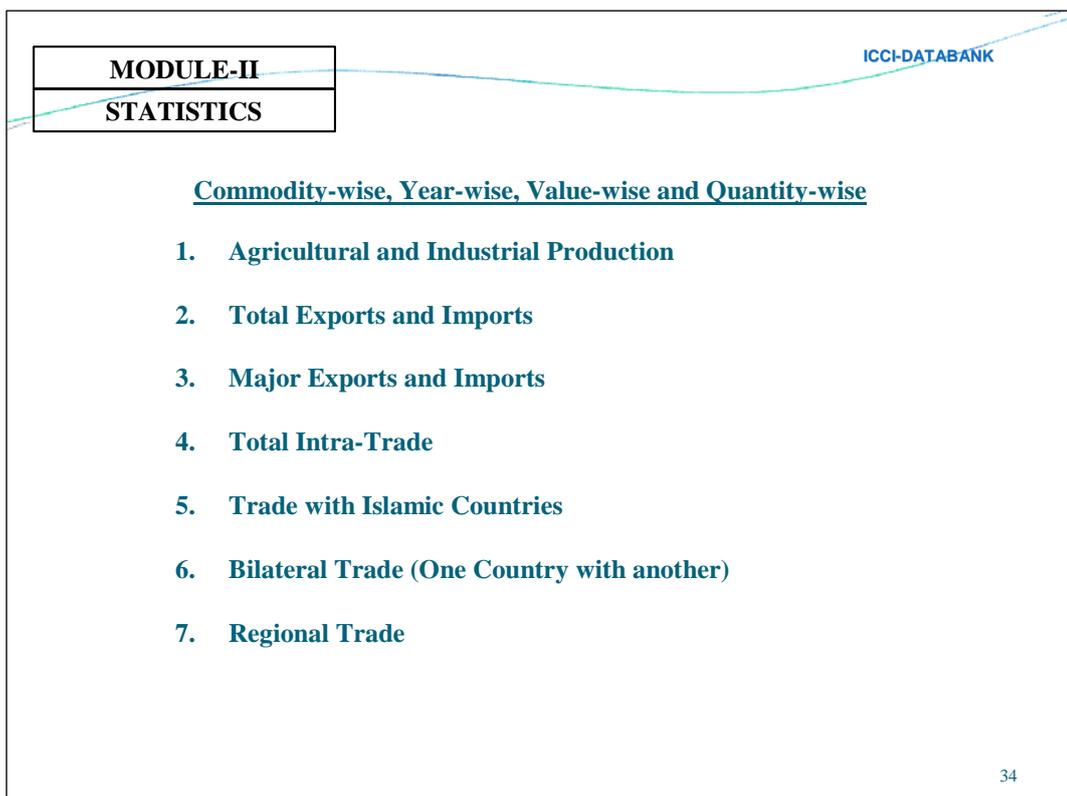
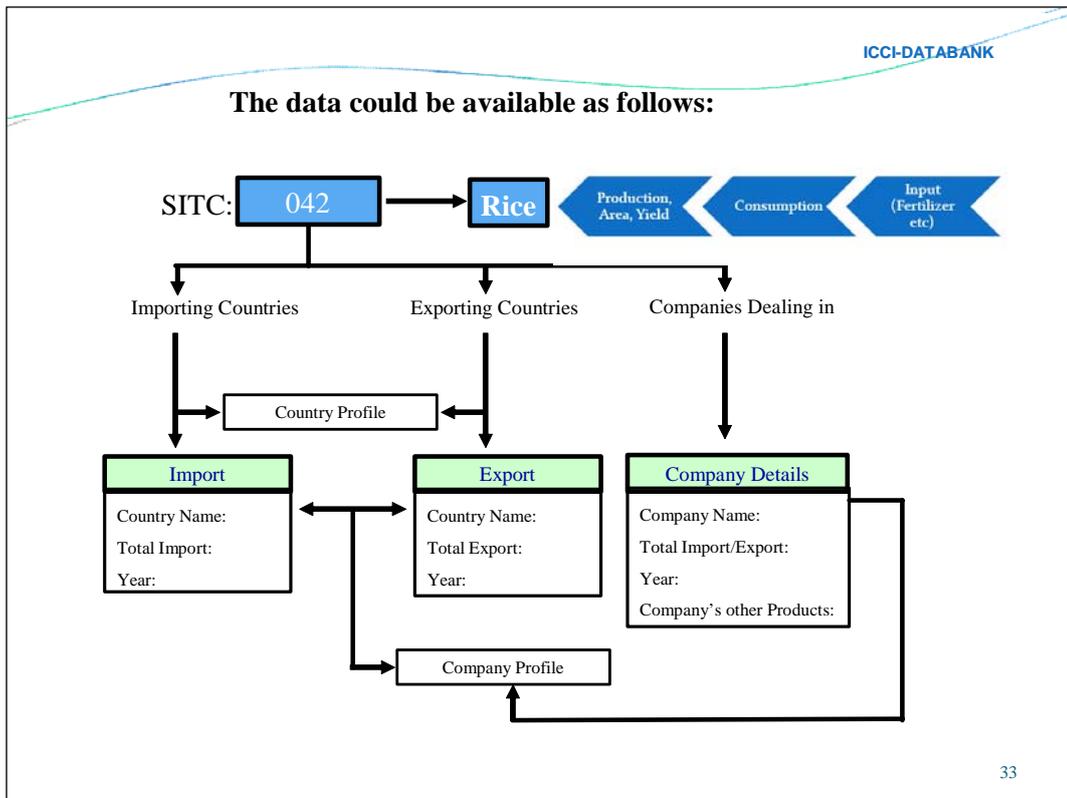
ICCI-DataBank would provide comprehensive information about the strength of a particular country, in order to:

- Promote trade and investment opportunities;
- Make strategies for economic development; and
- Enhance intra-trade and investment.

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## EXAMPLE – Module-II

ICCI-DATABANK

## Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## Trade (in Million US\$)

Countries	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Exports	9,238	9,913	11,930	13,379	16,051	16,470
Total Imports	10,191	11,233	13,038	17,949	25,357	28,405
Intra-Exports	1,979	2,375	3,170	3,307	4,367	...
Intra-Imports	4,451	4,855	4,357	7,038	9,699	...

## Agriculture Production (Quantity in 000 MT)

Commodity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Rice (042)	4,674	5,156	4,803	3,882	4,478	4,848
Wheat (041)	17,858	21,079	19,024	18,227	19,183	19,767
Sugarcane (061)	55,191	46,333	43,606	48,042	52,056	53,419
Cotton (263)	1,495	1,912	1,826	1,805	1,736	1,708

## Major Export

Value in Million US\$

Unit Value: US\$

	Unit	2005		2006	
		Value	Unit value	Value	Unit value
Primary commodities		1,263.9			1,275.0
Rice (042)	MT	555.5	305.2	634.5	348.1
Raw Cotton (263)	MT	49.0	889.0	47.7	1,277.8

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## EXAMPLE – Module-II

ICCI-DATABANK

## Total Commodities export from Pakistan in 2006 (in US\$)

Commodities	Unit/Qty	2006	Commodities	Unit/Qty	2006
Textile & Garments (845)	VALUE	7,457,748	Vegetables (excl. Dried Leguminous)	000K.G.	26,495
Raw Cotton (263)	M.T.	49,016	Fruit & Vegetable Juices	000K.G.	5,026
Yarn (651)	VALUE	976,464	Chemical & Pharmaceutical	VALUE	260,931
Fabrics (655)	VALUE	1,405,116	Engineering Group	VALUE	132,507
Garments (845)	VALUE	2,239,281	Marble & Granite/Onyx Mfg.	VALUE	18,399
Madeups (incl. Bedwear) (658)	VALUE	1,688,839	Gems Jewellery	VALUE	24,774
Towels (652)	000K.G.	374,839	IT Services	VALUE	20,838
Tents and Canvas (658, 657)	M.T.	73,288	Cement	VALUE	10,737
Art silk & Synthetic Textile (261, 651)	000SQM.	574,306	Sugar	M.T.	7,434
Rice (042)	M.T.	555,457	Oil Seeds Nuts and Kernals	M.T.	7,234
Leather and Leather Products (incl. Footwear) (611, 612)	VALUE	694,718	Animal Casings/Guts/Stomach/Bladders etc.	000K.G.	10,153
Sports Goods (894)	VALUE	335,173	Handicrafts N.S.	VALUE	26,790
Wool & Wool Products (268)	VALUE	223,157	Spices (incl. Chillies)	000K.G.	15,924
Surgical Instruments (774, 872)	VALUE	149,965	Footwear (excl. leather)	000Pairs	12,491
Petroleum & Petroleum Products (333, 335)	M.T.	248,575	Office & Stationary Supplies	VALUE	2,776
Molasses (061)	M.T.	45,453	Furniture	VALUE	17,539
Meat & Meat Preparation (011,012,016,017)	VALUE	10,575	Silk	VALUE	920
Developmental Categories	VALUE	841,022	Iron & Steel	VALUE	18,239
Fish & Fish Preparations (034)	000K.G.	134,499	Imitation Jewellery	VALUE	513
Fruits & Vegetables (054, 057)	000K.G.	114,676	Vacuum Flasks	VALUE	0
Fruits	000K.G.	83,155	T O T A L	VALUE	11,160,246

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## EXAMPLE – Module-II

ICCI-DATABANK

## Pakistan Trade with Islamic Countries (in Million US\$)

Country	EXPORTS			Country	IMPORTS		
	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005
Afghanistan	142.58	169.28	315.70	Afghanistan	30.09	22.78	34.81
Algeria	3.82	5.61	6.36	Algeria	0.14	0.06	0.29
Bahrain	43.93	43.10	42.10	Bahrain	75.90	58.80	37.50
Bangladesh	133.84	101.14	114.36	Bangladesh	33.27	27.53	32.64
Benin	19.04	7.83	7.85	Benin	1.07	1.11	2.51
Brunei	1.26	0.93	3.86	Brunei	0.30	0.91	1.35
Cameroon	5.78	2.56	3.24	Cameroon	0.64	1.95	4.19
Cote d'Ivoire	15.32	2.89	0.23	Cote d'Ivoire	0.28	1.23	2.61
Egypt	40.98	38.72	55.71	Egypt	30.07	33.16	35.11
Indonesia	135.94	76.81	73.38	Indonesia	162.34	242.08	258.02
Iran	24.00	29.20	63.16	Iran	0.18	0.23	-
Jordan	15.90	28.43	26.89	Jordan	31.82	28.31	49.01
Kazakhstan	9.53	8.59	10.32	Kazakhstan	0.44	0.34	0.03
Kuwait	45.73	58.36	70.71	Kuwait	959.06	734.32	805.31
Lebanon	10.49	10.77	9.66	Lebanon	0.29	0.52	0.22
Malaysia	50.68	51.76	78.46	Malaysia	429.21	456.14	566.98
Morocco	14.22	10.16	13.57	Morocco	38.07	45.76	36.66
Oman	43.72	47.28	42.44	Oman	25.55	6.83	10.94
Qatar	36.26	32.51	33.50	Qatar	27.24	38.90	23.10
Saudi Arabia	274.13	330.42	476.82	Saudi Arabia	1,252.70	1,202.25	1,303.37
Sudan	5.90	11.56	15.38	Sudan	2.86	4.62	7.56
Syria	5.91	5.35	17.81	Syria	1.82	13.28	6.87
Tunisia	9.98	14.64	13.11	Tunisia	9.71	7.55	16.85
Turkey	100.16	98.26	146.31	Turkey	47.48	34.70	125.84
UAE	628.56	727.47	1,039.17	UAE	1,336.90	1,353.94	1,509.64
Yemen	27.35	35.29	47.65	Yemen	2.80	6.46	4.14

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## EXAMPLE – Module-II

ICCI-DATABANK

## Pakistan's balance of Trade with KSA (in Million US\$)

Year	Exports	Imports	Balance
2003	214.77	922.97	- 708.20
2004	274.13	1,252.70	- 978.57
2005	330.42	1,202.25	- 872.13
2006	476.82	1,303.37	- 826.55

## Rice Exports to Islamic Countries (in Million US\$)

Countries	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	45.74	28.97	40.06	39.53	30.25	...
Kingdom of Bahrain	9.52	12.72	12.72	14.93	12.42	...
State of Kuwait	6.81	9.44	15.21	14.7	12.82	...
State of Qatar	15.17	12.18	12.16	25.29	16.54	...
Sultanate of Oman	24.43	34.24	28.14	33.47	20.43	21.19
United Arab Emirates	79.42	79.05	106.49	106.03	99.56	...

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ICCI-DATABANK

**MODULE-III**

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**INFORMATION**

1. **Cost of doing business**
2. **Investment Laws**
3. **Trade and Investment Policies**
4. **Business and Investment Opportunities**
5. **International developments in (WTO, Textile, Packaging, Agriculture, etc.)**
6. **Sectoral Reports**
7. **News, views, opinions, research articles and papers**

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ICCI-DATABANK

**MODULE-I**

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**Address Book/Directory**

**MODULE-II**

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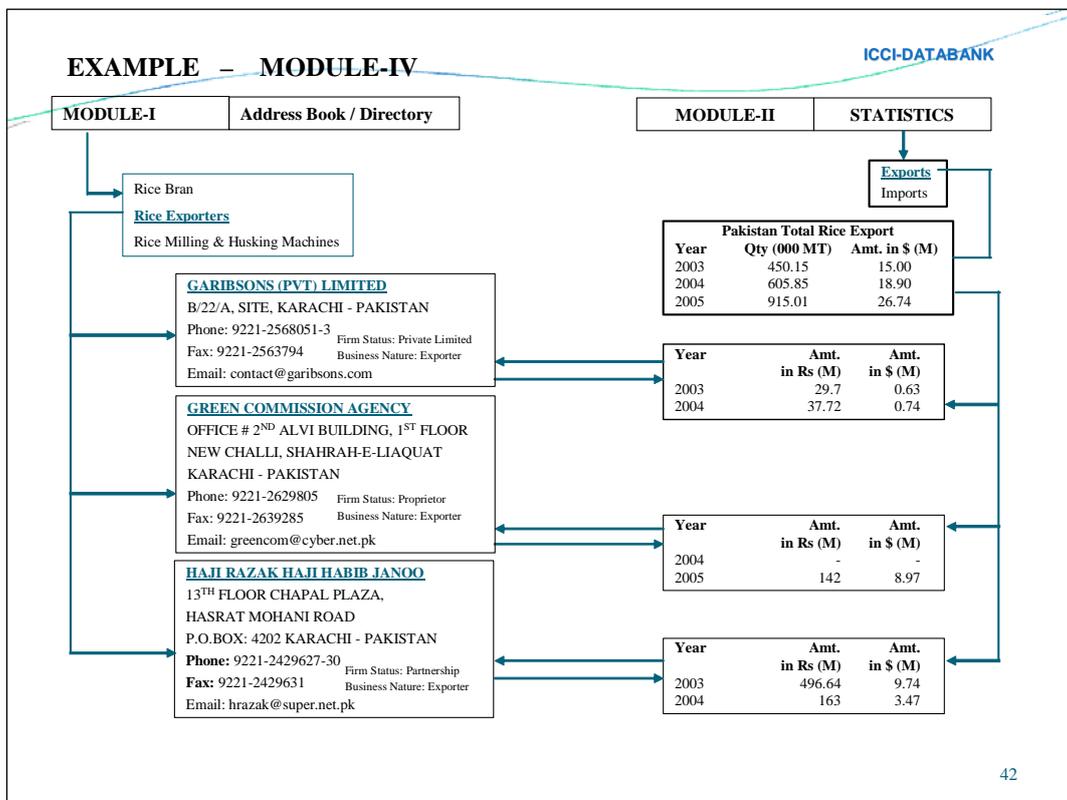
**STATISTICS**

**MODULE-IV**

**This Module would provide a link between**

- **Companies and Statistics**  
total exports of a particular commodity (country-wise)
- **Name and address of the companies exporting the commodity**  
(quantity-wise and value-wise)
- **Provide secondary data to analyze particular commodity imports**  
from various countries (quantity and value wise)
- **List of companies involved in imports and exports (commodity-wise)**

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### SS-GATE System

Islamic Chamber is also collaborating with UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in implementation of a broad-based project for exchanges of assets, equity, technology, and financial resources (SS-GATE System). The project focuses on three main pillars: policy development and mainstreaming of South-South cooperation, promotion of public-private partnership for poverty reduction, and knowledge management. The system has been developed, and in the first-phase the Participating Organizations (POs) from China, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South-Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and Zimbabwe have been appointed and trained on the system. The main thrust of the project is to transfer technology from South to South countries.

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**BUSINESSWOMEN**  
INFORMATION NETWORK

Monday, March 17, 2008 (10 Rabi' al-aw

HOME PARTNERS **DIRECTORY** STATISTICS EVENTS CONTACT US

## Directory

This is a compilation of addresses of the Businesswomen in the Islamic Countries, which would facilitate the process of contact between the interested parties.

Please select country

Company	Address	City	Business Commodities
Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization	89 Abdul Aziz Al-Seoud Street, Manial El Rode, Malek El Saleh	Cairo	Works as an Advocate on all Women Issues
Alexandria Business Women Association	3 Soliman Yussry St., El Shorta building, Kom El Dekka, Flat 91	Alexandria	Micro-Finance Institution
Alliance for Arab Women	28, Adly Street, Apt. 74	Cairo	Research, Training
Arab Business Women Council	7 Hassan Sabry St. Zamalek	Cairo	Women Workers are Employed in The Service or Agricultural Sectors
Arab Organization for Human Rights	91 Al-Marghany Street, Heliopolis	Cairo	Provide Consultative and Educational Services

1 2 3 4 5 6

Disclaimer

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### Egypt

The Arab Republic of Egypt is situated in the African. Greatest distance from north to south is about 1,024 kilometers, and from east to west it is 1,240 kilometers, giving the country a roughly square shape, with the Mediterranean and Red seas forming respectively the northern and eastern boundaries. Egypt bordered on the south with the Republic of Sudan, and on the west with the Libya.



#### AVAILABLE STATISTICS

Capital:	Cairo
Area:	995,450 sq km 384,343 sq miles
Currency:	Egyptian Pound (EGP) 1.0 USD = 5.51034 EGP
Population:	(July 2006 est.) 78,887,00 Annual growth rate (2006 Est.): 1.75%
Labour:	Work force (2005 Est.): 27.637 million Services: 72.8% Industry and commerce: 23.0% Agriculture: 3.8% Undetermined: 0.3%
Time Zone:	Standard Time GMT+ 2 Summer Time GMT+ 3

Done Internet 100%



### Future additions at the Website

<p><b>Statistics related to women</b></p>	<p><b>Company Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment date</li> <li>• Product line</li> <li>• Production capacity</li> <li>• Export market</li> </ul>	<p><b>Product Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product picture</li> <li>• Product price</li> <li>• Product features</li> </ul>
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### Cooperation obtained

- A MoU has been signed between ICCI and UNDP's SU-SSC. According to which technical and financial assistance would be provided for the implementation of this project.
- Islamic Chamber has signed a MoU with Iran Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines for the establishment of **Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC)**. This Center is established to carry out research studies on economic and trade affairs.
- Moreover, Islamic Chamber has recently established a Media and Information department, which would further give impetus and provide substantial resources to collect and disseminate information.

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ICCI-DATABANK

## Cooperation sought

The activities, projects and initiatives undertaken by the Islamic Chamber are its efforts to promote and strengthen economic cooperation. However, the initiatives of the Islamic Chamber are a part of the joint strategy and hence their effective implementation also needs collective efforts. Through this august house, the Islamic Chamber calls upon all of you to actively support the activities and initiatives which are aimed for strengthening economic cooperation.

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**Annex 2 List of participants at the SWG-1**

Institution	Name of Participant	Title	Focal point: Email, Telephone & Fax Number
SESRIC	1. Dr. Savas Alpay 2. Dr. Sidika Basci	Director General Senior Researcher	Email: sbasci@sesric.org Tel: (+90-312) 468 61 72/308 Fax: (+90-312) 467 34 58
IDB	1. Dr. Lamine Doghri 2. Dr. Abdullateef Bello 3. Mr. Aamir Ghani Mir 4. Mr. Abdinasr Nur 5. Mr. Cheick Amadou Diallo 6. Mr. Toka Koita	Director, EPSD Chief, DRC, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Statistician/Database Expert, EPSD Operations Evaluation Officer, OEO	Email: abello@isdb.org Tel: +966-26467430 Fax: +966-2-6467478
ICDT	Mr. Maghraoui Hassani Said	Expert/Consultant	Email: icdt@icdt-oic.org, studies@icdt-oic.org and maghraoui@mce.gov.ma Tel: +212-22-314-974 Fax: +212-22-310110
ICCI	1. Dr. Syed Azhar Hasan 2. Mr. Majali Jamel	Researcher Expert	Email: azharibne@yahoo.com and icci@icci-oic.org Tel: +9221-5874910 Fax: +9221-5870765
OIC	Mr. Jakhongir Khasanov	Economist	Email: jahon5@yahoo.com and info@oic-oci.org Tel: +966-2-6900001 Fax: +966-2-2571953
COMCEC	No representative	None	Email: comcec@dpt.gov.tr Tel: +90-312-294 55 10 Fax: +90-312-294 55 77

### Annex 3 Agenda of the Meeting

	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Statistical Working Group (SWG-1) 17-18 Rabi-I 1429H (25-26 March 2008)</p> <p><b>IDB Headquarters, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia Venue: 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, IRTI Building, Meeting Room</b></p>	
<i>Agenda</i>		
Tuesday, 17 Rabi-I 1429H (25 March 2008)		
08:30	- 09:00 a.m.	Registration <i>Inaugural Session (Board Room, 5th floor, IDB HQTs)</i>
09:00	- 09:05 a.m.	Recitation from the Holy Qur'an
09:05	- 09:15 a.m.	Welcoming Address by the Vice President (Operations)
09:15	- 09:25 a.m.	Statement by Director General, SESRIC
09:25	- 10:00 a.m.	Setting the Scene...the Big Picture <i>(presentation by IDB-DRC)</i>
10:00	- 10:30 a.m.	Tea Break <i>Working Sessions (Meeting Room, 15th Floor, IRTI Tower)</i>
10:30	- 12:30 p.m.	Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities <i>(presentation by SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI &amp; IDB-DRC, 20 minutes each)</i> <i>General Discussion</i>
12:30	- 14:00 p.m.	<i>Prayer and Lunch Break</i>
14:00	- 16:00 p.m.	Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand? <i>(presentation by SESRIC, ICDT, ICCI &amp; IDB-DRC; 20 minutes each)</i> <i>General Discussion</i>
Wednesday, 18 Rabi-I 1429H (26 March 2008)		
09:00	- 11:00 a.m.	A Framework for Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches <i>(proposals from OIC, COMCEC, IDB-DRC, SESRIC, ICDT, &amp; ICCI)</i>
11:00	- 12:30 p.m.	Statistical Working Group: Functions, Membership, Modus Operandi, and Schedules <i>(proposals from OIC, COMCEC, IDB-DRC, SESRIC, ICDT, &amp; ICCI)</i>
12:30	- 14:00 p.m.	<i>Prayer and Lunch Break</i>
14:30	- 15:30 p.m.	Closing <i>Summary and Conclusions</i>