

**REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SESRIC
IN THE DOMAIN OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



**15th Session of COMSTECH General Assembly
9-10 November 2015, Islamabad - Pakistan**

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC/ANKARA CENTRE)**

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SESRIC Research on Education and Scientific Development

SESRIC prepared a report titled “Education and Scientific Development in the OIC Member Countries 2012-2013”. This report provides an evaluation of the recent developments relating to the various important aspects of education in the OIC Member Countries and includes detailed member country profiles on various major indicators in the field of education-related issues. It investigates the educational trends of member countries in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the group of developed countries, non-OIC developing countries as well as the world as a whole. This report has been presented to the 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Khartoum, Sudan on 21-22 November 2012.

A new version of this report is currently prepared to be submitted to the 7th Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers, which will be held in Rabat, Morocco on 18-19 December 2014.

SESRIC has also prepared an OIC Outlook Report on “Early Childhood Care and Education in OIC Member Countries”. This report, which is available in the website of the Centre, presents the state of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in OIC member countries with the recent available data, highlights the obstacles and challenges facing these countries in this important area, and makes some policy recommendations in order to improve ECCE services in OIC member countries.

SESRIC Statistics on Education-related Issues

On the statistical side, in addition to keeping and updating all the data on universities, SESRIC has also identified and collected data on 42 main indicators on education and education-related fields in the OIC Member Countries. These data are available under the section “Education and Science & Technology” category of in the Centre’s database “BASEIND”. Under the framework of Statistical Capacity Building (STATCAB) Programme of SESRIC, a training course on “Education & Training Statistics” was organized in Niger on 12 - 15 January 2011 provided by an expert from the National Statistical Institute of Cameroon.

SESRIC Training and Technical Cooperation Activities in the Field of Education

- Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

In its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC continues to initiate and implement capacity building programmes and training courses in different field and areas of interest to the member countries with the aim of supporting their efforts to enhance the capacity building and the quality of the human resources. Currently, under the umbrella of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC capacity building programmes and training courses cover a wide range of areas such as agriculture, environment and water resources, health, poverty alleviation, natural disaster management, youth employment, finance, etc. The Centre implements these activities in collaboration with the relevant national institutions (through NFPs) in the member countries as well as with the IDB and relevant international organizations. In so doing the Centre facilitates the transfer and the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices among the member countries in these areas, and thus contributes to the south-south cooperation initiative within the OIC community.

- Cooperation with Islamic University in Uganda

With reference to the consultative meeting held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 11-12 May 2014, the Centre was devolved on considering ways and means of strengthening two OIC universities namely Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), including facilitation of strategic partnership with some high ranking universities in Member Countries in 2014 to 2015 through mission visits, diagnostic studies, needs and capacity assessment, exchange of faculty staff and experts. In this connection the Centre has organized a study visit for the Rector of Islamic University of Uganda visited Bezmi Alem University, Istanbul University and Sehir University in Istanbul and Ankara University in Ankara after which a decision of developing a new faculty of medicine in the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) was accepted by twinning the IUIU with Bezmi Alem University in Istanbul. Satisfactorily Islamic University in Uganda is starting Medicine School in 2014. The Centre in collaboration with "Doctors Worldwide" will provide all supports regarding transferring skills and to train up new manpower in this new faculty through arranging various training courses. The Centre has also planned to facilitate secondments of faculty members from these universities to IUIU for 2 semesters.

- Scholarship Opportunities of Education in OIC Member Countries (OIC-SCOPE)

Most recently the Centre is preparing an information booklet on Scholarship Opportunities of Education in all OIC Member Countries (OIC-SCOPE) to stockpile scholarships information in different fields of study announced by the relevant authorities of the OIC Member Countries to international arena especially for the students from other OIC Member Countries. As the Centre is addressed frequently to provide scholarship information in OIC Member Countries from different part of the world, with the aim of quenching the queries the Centre will publish the booklet on its website. The Centre has already an official request along with a questionnaire has been sent to all the Embassies of the OIC Member Countries in Ankara to provide relative scholarship information to the Centre.

SESRIC Internship Programme

SESRIC has started an internship programme during summer 2013, which offers internships to highly motivated and successful young people interested to learn more about the economic and social issues that affect communities around the Islamic World. In particular, the programme provides university students opportunities to study and work that provide hands-on experience, as well as to improve their skills and experience of working in an international environment. Internships are available during each period of the year, which is open to students who are nationals of the OIC Member Countries. As of now, 17 interns have been recruited in the Centre within the framework of this programme.

Ranking Universities in the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC prepared and presented an initial study on "Ranking of Universities Worldwide and its Implications for the OIC Member Countries" to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Kuwait on 19-21 November 2006. The study attempted to identify the current competitive positions of universities in the OIC Member Countries in comparison to world-class universities with a view to discussing procedures and mechanisms of ranking of universities of the OIC Member Countries.

SESRIC was also selected as a member of the "core group", together with the Islamic Republic of Iran; Malaysia; the COMSTECH; the IDB; the ISESCO; and the OIC General Secretariat, with the task of preparing a draft document on the criteria, procedures and mechanisms for the selection and ranking of universities in the OIC Member Countries.

SESRIC presented another version of the study titled “Ranking of Universities in the OIC Member Countries” and presented it at the Seminar on the ranking of universities in the OIC Member Countries, which was held in Tehran on 29-30 April 2007 under the theme “Global Repositioning of OIC Universities”. The document on criteria, procedures and mechanisms for ranking of universities in the OIC region, which has prepared and adopted during the Seminar in Tehran in April 2007, has been later approved by the 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 15-17 May 2007.

Following the approval of the criteria for ranking the OIC universities, the universities in the OIC Member Countries were requested to provide SESRIC with their relevant information and data on the subject matter through the Questionnaire on University Ranking in OIC Member Countries, which is still available online at the Centre’s website. However, it should be mentioned that, since the inception of the project, only 102 universities from 13 OIC Member Countries have responded and submitted the questionnaire on university ranking. Therefore, as the responses to the questionnaire had not reached a satisfactory level, the ranking of the OIC universities by SESRIC was completed by using the publicly available data from international sources in a similar manner to the two-famous world-wide ranking of universities developed by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the QS-Times Higher Education.

SESRIC also prepared a pilot study on “Ranking of Universities in the OIC Member Countries”, employing only the research-based indicators listed under the proposed criteria. The results were characterized merely by research performance of the universities and the study did not cover all of the universities due to limited data available.

SESRIC also prepared a technical document titled “Ranking of Universities in OIC Member Countries: Progress and Challenges” and presented it at the 3rd Core Group Meeting on OIC University Ranking held in Tehran on 21-22 February 2008. The document summarized the progress achieved by that time regarding the process of OIC University Ranking undertaken by SESRIC and presented the Centre’s experience throughout the process with special focus on the problems related to the practice of data collection and the procedure of ranking. The document concluded with proposals for some fine tunings and adjustments in the approved criteria to overcome such problems. The document was also submitted to the 4th Islamic Conference of Ministers Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in 6-8 October 2008, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The conference recommended further examination of the subject and the document.

The 37th Session of the CFM, which was held in Damascus, Arab Syrian Republic in May 2009, requested the OIC General Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in collaboration with the ISESCO, to receive the feedbacks with the purpose of preparing the final document as a basis for future decision concerning implementation. A preparatory Technical Meeting of experts was held in Riyadh on 24 - 25 April 2010. The university rankings document was constructively debated, and it was recommended to amend its criteria, procedures and mechanisms for OIC university ranking as “Key Performance Indicators for Universities in the Islamic World to compete with world-class universities”.

The 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 19 – 20 October 2010 reviewed the recommendations of the Riyadh meeting and requested the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO to prepare a draft document on “Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the Universities in the Islamic World”, and present it to the Extraordinary Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which was held on 4-5 October 2011 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At this Conference, SESRIC presented an overview of current

trends and developments in the OIC Member Countries in the fields of education, scientific research, and science & technology.

The Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 4-5 October 2011) adopted the document on “Key Performance Indicators: A Guide for Assessment and Quality, Enhancement for Universities in the Islamic World” and requested ISESCO and OIC to organize regularly a high level Quality and Accreditation Experts Meeting to set up appropriate mechanisms for the follow-up of the implementation of KPIs for valorising scientific and technological innovation, global quality and accreditation in the universities of the Islamic world.

In line with this Resolutions, the First High Level Experts Meeting hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 6-7 October 2012. Following this meeting, a report was drafted by ISESCO and submitted to the 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Khartoum, Sudan on 20-21 November 2012. The Conference decided to establish a High Level Quality and Accreditation Committee of OIC Member States - chaired by the Ministry of Higher Education of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia- that will submit periodic reports to the ICMHESR reviewing inter alia the follow up and progress on the implementation of the KPIs.

The First Meeting of the High Level Quality and Accreditation Committee to Follow-up Implementation of “Key Performance Indicators” (KPI) in the OIC Member States was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 7-8 May 2014. SESRIC delivered a presentation titled “Improving Higher Education in OIC Member Countries”. The Committee recommended SESRIC to design and conduct Survey on the Prioritization/relevancy of Recommendations Listed in the KPI Document and to organize a University Capacity Building Programme where the universities can be matched based on their needs and capacities (i.e. twinning programme). This will also increase the mobility among the universities in OIC Member States as targeted by OIC Vision 1441H.

Science & Technology

SESRIC Research in the Field of Science & Technology

SESRIC is preparing the report titled “Education and Scientific Development in the OIC Member Countries” every two years to be submitted to the various Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The latest version of this report has been presented to the 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held in Khartoum, Sudan on 21-22 November 2012. A new version of this report is currently prepared to be submitted to the 7th Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers, which will be held in Rabat, Morocco on 18-19 December 2014.

SESRIC has prepared in 2009 the first version of an OIC Outlook Report on “Current Stance of Research and Scientific Development in OIC Countries”. Considering the increasing competition among countries today to become competitive and knowledge-based economies, this report presents an overview on the achievements by the OIC Member Countries in the field of research and development (R&D) and science & technology (S&T), and briefly evaluates their situation in various aspects of these important fields comparing to their counterparts in the world. The report is being updated every two years based on the availability of the data.

SESRIC prepared an initial study on “Nanotechnology Research in OIC Member Countries” with the aim of increasing the awareness of the economic and commercial importance of nanotechnology research in the Member States. This initial study is available at the Centre’s website. This study was prepared by the Centre with a view to investigating the possibility of organising a conference on nanotechnology research in the OIC Member Countries to highlight and discuss the problems and challenges facing the Member Countries in developing nanotechnology research institutions; the possibility of improving networking, training and exchanging of expertise in nanotechnology research among the Member Countries; and initiating project ideas in nanotechnology research that could be applicable in the Member Countries.

Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation Project

In its capacity as the Co-Project Manager of the OIC project of “Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation”, SESRIC continued its efforts within the Joint Management Team and Steering Group of the project to ensure successful implementation. This Project has been originally initiated by the OIC General Secretariat, the Royal Society and Nature Magazine. The objective of the project is to map and evaluate the changing landscape of science and innovation across fifteen countries. The project is supported by international partners such as the Islamic Development Bank, the British Council, International Development Research Centre of Canada and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. According to the timeline of the project, the pilot case studies were undertaken by different research teams, in collaboration with potential project partners from government departments, universities, private sector and civil society organisations. As of October 2014, the country reports of Malaysia (2011), Egypt (2012), Jordan (2013), Kazakhstan (2013) and Indonesia (2014) had been launched. Within the framework of Atlas Project, SESRIC signed a MoU with the National Agency for Technological Development JSC of Kazakhstan (NATD) for cooperation and coordination on their respective activities in order to implement the recommendations outlined in the Kazakhstan Country Case Study, prepared and coordinated by SESRIC, in collaboration with the National Focal Point and relevant institutions of Kazakhstan under the Atlas Project. Together with the Royal Society, SESRIC has also completed the Final Draft Report of the “Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation” and submitted it to the Peer Review Committee for feedback.

SESRIC Training and Technical Cooperation Activities in the Field of Science & Technology

Within the framework of SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building Programme (STATCAB), the Centre has organized the following training courses:

- A training course on Information Society Statistics was held in Niger on 14 - 15 January 2014 provided by an expert from the Directorate of Statistics at the High Commission for Planning of Morocco.
- A training course on Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics was held on 25-27 February 2014 at the premises of the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics in Qatar. The course was taught by an expert of Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT).
- A training course on Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics was held at the Agency on Statistics (AoS) in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 10 - 12 September 2014. The training was provided by TURKSTAT.

Within the framework of OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC has recently initiated the Railway Capacity Building Programme, where so far three short-term training courses have been organized by the Centre as follows:

- Training Course on “Railway System Technologies” on 17-21 June 2013 in Eskişehir, Republic of Turkey.
- Training Course on “Railway Safety Management Training Programme” on 5-8 November 2013 in Eskişehir, Turkey.
- Training Course on “RAMS & LCC for the Railway Infrastructure” on 14-16 October 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey.

SESRIC has also hosted the Brainstorming Session on “the Transfer of Knowledge and Expertise in the Field of Science & Technology among the OIC Member Countries” on 9 January 2014 in Ankara, Turkey, at its headquarters. The aim of the brainstorming session was to discuss the possibilities and modalities of transferring knowledge and expertise in the field of science and technology, and to develop new concrete, feasible and practical proposals for increasing and enhancing cooperation in the field of science and technology among the OIC Member Countries. The session was the first of a series of brainstorming sessions and brought together experts and managers from the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) as well as D-8 Technology Transfer & Exchange Network (TTEN).

Health

SESRIC Research in the Area of Health

SESRIC, as the lead institution, prepared the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023(OIC-SHPA) and its Implementation Plan in collaboration with Member Countries, relevant OIC institutions and international health organizations. The OIC-SHPA was submitted to the 4th Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-24 October 2013. The Conference adopted the OIC-SHPA and its Implementation Plan unanimously.

SESRIC also prepared the “OIC Health Report 2013” as a background document for the 4th ICHM. This report provides a detailed analysis of the trends on major health indicators in the OIC Member Countries at the average OIC group level as well as at the individual country and OIC sub-regional levels. The report also highlights some health related issues in these countries such as health expenditures, the utilization of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the health sector (e-Health) and the OIC cooperation efforts and initiatives in the domain of health.

SESRIC also contributed to the 4th ICHM with a study on “Vaccines Need Assessment in OIC Member Countries”. This study highlights the importance of childhood immunization in preventing the most common diseases like Measles, Meningitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Hepatitis B, and thus in reducing under-five year mortality rates. It examines the immunization trends for the five EPI (expanded programme on immunization) recommended vaccines and provides estimates on number of doses and financial resources required to immunize all children in 31 GAVI eligible OIC Member Countries. It also elaborates on the current status of vaccine production and procurement mechanisms in OIC Countries.

SESRIC prepared an OIC Outlook Report on “Pharmaceutical Industry in the OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges”. The report attempts to investigate the availability of medicines in OIC Member Countries by focusing on the production, consumption and trade patterns of pharmaceuticals in these countries in the period 2000-2007.

SESRIC also prepared an OIC Outlook Report on “The State of Polio in OIC Member Countries”. This report examines the current state of prevalence of polio both at world and OIC levels. It also highlights the major issues and challenges facing the endemic and importation countries and the role of multilateral cooperation to eradicate polio, and provides a brief discussion about the major initiatives taken by the OIC and what measures should be taken both at national and intra-OIC level to speed up the eradication of polio in member countries.

SESRIC is currently preparing the following two reports:

- 1- Healthy Life Style and Non-Communicable Diseases. This report studies the relationship between healthy life style and incidence of non-communicable diseases in the OIC member countries through examining the trends related with healthy diet, tobacco control, physical activity, stress management, ageing, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and respiratory diseases.
- 2- A Business Case for Maternal and Newborn Health for OIC Member Countries. This study investigates the cost and impact of increased investment in proven and cost-effective reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health interventions to achieve the MDGs 4 and 5 targets in OIC member countries.

SESRIC has also prepared an OIC Outlook Report titled “Tobacco Use in OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges”. The report presents an overview on the prevalence of tobacco use among adults in the OIC countries in 2006. In addition to that, a detailed overview is also provided for its use gender wise for the same year. It also compares the prevalence of smoking in OIC countries by their income levels. Furthermore, this report compares smoking prevalence in OIC countries with other regions to assess the challenges that lie ahead for policy makers in the OIC countries and to help them formulate policy responses which may likely prove to be useful in the wake of global and regional efforts in preventing the use of tobacco at the national level.

SESRIC Statistical Activities in the Domain of Health

In its efforts for developing a special database on the main indicators on health and health-related issues, SESRIC has already identified and collected the relevant data on the OIC Member Countries on a set of 21 indicators now available at the Centre’s main database “BASEIND”.

Within the framework of the Centre’s Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB), the Centre organised a three-day training programme on “Health Statistics” at the Central Statistics Department of the United Arab Emirates on 12-14 October 2009. The training was provided by an expert from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of the Arab Republic of Egypt and was attended by 20 staff members of the Central Statistics Department of the United Arab Emirates.

During the 4th Session of OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), which was organized by SESRIC in its capacity as the Secretariat of this important Commission and held at its Headquarters in Ankara on 21-23 April 2014, a special session titled “Towards a More Comprehensive System of Health Statistics and Global Tobacco Surveillance System in OIC Member Countries” was allocated to draw attention to the critical role of

coordination mechanism among the relevant agencies responsible for health statistics within the national statistics systems of the OIC Member Countries.

A MoA was signed between SESRIC and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation (CDCF) in September 2014 to facilitate direct involvement of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) together with the relevant national and international stakeholders which is imperative to successful integration of Tobacco Questions for Survey (TQS) into on-going surveys and, hence, to improve comparability of tobacco data over time by harmonizing tobacco surveillance activities. Currently there are only 7 OIC Member Countries which have already implemented the TQS and 15 OIC Countries have been selected for a pilot study under the framework of TQS project for the term 2014-2015.

SESRIC organised, in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), a regional workshop in Beirut in July 2008 on DevInfo with a specific focus on "enhancing the process for disseminating information on national health statistics". The workshop aimed at providing the participants technical training skills in compiling and managing health related databases, as well as bringing them up-to-date with the most recent upgraded version of the software. The workshop participants were representatives from the NSOs and Ministries of Health of 13 OIC Member Countries.

SESRIC Training and Technical Cooperation Activities in the Domain of Health

Under the umbrella of OIC-VET Programme, two health capacity building programmes and two initiatives of intra-OIC networking have been developed by SESRIC with the aim of enhancing human capacity in the health sector of Member Countries and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among them in this important field. These programmes and initiatives are: Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB), Tobacco Free OIC Initiative, OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Program (OSHCaB).

IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB)

Within the framework of this Programme, several training courses and meetings have been organized by the Centre as follows:

- i. Training Course on "Hospital and Health Care Facilities Management and Administration" in Sana'a, Yemen on 28 September-02 October 2012.
- ii. Training Course on "Pediatric Emergency Medicine" in Mogadishu, Somalia on 01 November 2012-31 January 2013.
- iii. Training Course on "Emergency Medicine" in Mogadishu, Somalia on 01 January-24 February 2013.
- iv. Training Course on "Minimally Invasive Surgery" in Assiut, Egypt on 06-10 February 2013.
- v. Training Course on "Hospital and Health Care Facilities Management and Administration" in Izmir, Turkey on 23 April-02 May 2013.
- vi. Training Course on "Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes" in Kaduna, Nigeria on 01-02 June 2013.
- vii. Consultancy Meeting on "Age Friendly Islamic Countries Strategies and Action Plan" on 16 August 2013, in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

- viii. Medical Doctors from Cameroon Received Certificates in Antalya, Turkey on 15 August-15 November 2013.
- ix. Training Course on “AIDS Recognition and Prevention” in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 07-08 November 2013.
- x. Training Course on “Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes” in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 14-16 May 2014.
- xi. Training course on "Medical Emergency Management", in Tripoli, Lebanon, on 17-18 September 2014.

The Centre took the initiative of signing MoUs with important civil society organizations such as the Aegean International Health Federation (ESAFED), International Anatolian Health Federation (USAF) and Southeast International Health Federation (GUSAF) to develop cooperation with these institutions to further increase the quantity, quality and scope of the health trainings implemented under the framework of IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme.

SESRIC also organized a Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Plan of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)” on 7-8 April 2014, in Ankara. The Workshop brought together various key NGOs operating in the area of humanitarian and technical assistance, particularly on health related issues, in OIC Member Countries. The participants discussed possible ways of cooperation in line with OIC-SHPA. In this regard, the Workshop marked the launch of an OIC network for NGOs in health related issues focusing on the modalities that the civil society institutions can employ in complementing the role of the Member States in the implementation of the OIC-SHPA.

SESRIC in collaboration with OIC GS, USAID, Maternal and Child Health International Programme (MCHIP) and Jhpiego (an international, non-profit health organization affiliated with The Johns Hopkins University) is planning to organize capacity building activities in the domain of maternal, new-born and child health.

SESRIC Tobacco Free OIC Initiative

Tobacco Free OIC is an initiative of SESRIC in response to the spread of tobacco epidemic in the OIC Member Countries. Tobacco Free OIC initiative aims to foster an OIC-wide coordinated approach to curb and control the spread of tobacco epidemic in the OIC Member Countries. This initiative focuses on trainings, workshops, study visits and capacity building programs to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable national tobacco control strategies in the OIC Member Countries. The initiative has been welcomed by the 2nd Session of Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), held in Tehran in 1-4 March 2008, and SESRIC has been encouraged to conduct the necessary surveys and training programmes. Within the framework of this initiative, SESRIC undertook the following activities and actions:

- i. SESRIC was represented on “International Symposium on Drug Policy and Public Health” on 29 September-01 October 2014, in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ii. SESRIC was represented on Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Conference in Geneva on 12-13 August 2013.
- iii. During 2012 and 2013, SESRIC has organized 3 study visits in Turkey on ‘Tobacco Control Policies’ for delegations from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iraq, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and Qatar.
- iv. SESRIC has also participated in the 6th Conference on Tobacco or Health in Erzurum, Republic of Turkey on 20-22 June 2012.

- v. SESRIC organized a Study Visit on 'Tobacco Control Policies' for Palestinian Delegation on 02-04 July 2013 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.
- vi. SESRIC has launched a two-year project in June 2013 titled 'Tobacco Control Movement for Youth and Adults' in Indonesia in partnership with Nahdatu'l-Ulama (NU), the largest civil society organisation in the country, with the objective of promoting health of Indonesians through tobacco control programme. The project aims at building awareness on danger of smoking and exposure to second-hand (passive) smoking among NU's officials and teenage groups and create smoke-free indoor environment in all NU's establishments.
- vii. SESRIC participated in the "Global Alcohol Policy Symposium" on 26-27 April 2013 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.
- viii. First Regional Training Workshop on Tobacco Control and Trade was held at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office on 19-21 March 2013 in Cairo, Egypt.

OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) and Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB)

This initiative of establishing OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) aims to facilitate communication between occupational safety and health experts in the OIC Member Countries, and hence, enhance exchange of information and experiences and promote technical co-operation activities within the Islamic World.

Within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET and under the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC has initiated the Occupational Health and Safety Capacity Building (OHSCaB) Programme. So far, the following short-term training courses have been organized within the framework of the OHSCaB Programme:

- i. Training course on "Occupational Hygiene" on 11-13 August 2014 in Paramaribo, Suriname.
- ii. Training course on "International OSH Regulations" on 26-27th August 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- iii. Training course on Occupational Hygiene" on 23-25 September 2014 in Khartoum, Sudan.
- iv. Training course on "Occupational Security" on 21-23 October 2014 in Tirana, Albania.
- v. Training course on "Occupational Hygiene" on 18-19 November 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
- vi. Training course on "Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure" on 6-8 March 2012 in Malaysia.
- vii. Training course on "Occupational Health and Safety" on 26-28 April 2011 in Pakistan.
- viii. Training course on "Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure" on 25-27 April 2011 in Muscat, Oman.
- ix. Training course on "Occupational Health and Safety" on 19-21 April 2011 in Bander Seri Bagawan, Brunei.

- x. Training course on “Basic Occupational Health and Safety: International OHS Regulations, Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies” on 13-15 December 2010 in Ankara, Turkey.

SESRIC also participated in the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which was held on 11-15 September 2011 in Istanbul and co-organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Turkey, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA). During the Congress, SESRIC organised a symposium on the theme Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).

SESRIC is also maintaining a roster of occupational safety and health experts; an initiative which aims to facilitate communication between occupational safety and health experts in the OIC Member Countries, and hence, enhance exchange of information and experiences and promote technical cooperation activities within the Islamic World.

Environment

SESRIC Activities in the Area of Environment

In 2006, SESRIC prepared the following three studies:

- Environmental Sustainability in the OIC Member Countries
- Environmental Performance in the OIC Member Countries
- Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol: Implications for the OIC Member Countries

These studies have been submitted to the 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Environment, which was held in Jeddah in December 2006.

SESRIC prepared a report entitled “Climate Change: Challenges in the OIC Member Countries”. This report is an overview of various aspects of climate change. It examines the impacts of climate change on the globe, particularly the impacts on water resources, food security, health and energy. It also reviews the international response to climate change starting with Climate Change Convention, then Kyoto Protocol, ending with preparation to Copenhagen Meeting in the end of 2009. The report also discusses the adaptation and mitigation mechanisms to tackle climate change. The report discusses the impacts of climate change on the OIC Member Countries, their adaptive capacity, participation in the Climate Change Convention and the actions and measures taken by OIC Member Countries to address climate change.

SESRIC prepared an OIC Outlook Report on “Climate Change: Impacts on Agriculture in OIC Member Countries”. The report describes in detail the impacts of climate change on water resources, soil fertility and weather patterns in the OIC regions; and investigates how changes in these important variables will affect the agriculture sector and food production in the Member Countries. Keeping in view the higher climate change vulnerability of agriculture sector in the member economies, the report also suggests some relevant policy measures for the preparation of an efficient agriculture strategy, both at national and intra-OIC level, to adapt and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on this important sector.

SESRIC also developed and regularly updated a section on “Environment” in its main database “BASEIND”. This section includes the major statistical indicators on environment issues in OIC countries.

On the other hand, SESRIC has given special importance to training and capacity building in the domain of environment. Under the umbrella of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) has been designed by SESRIC which aims to promote environmentally sustainable lifestyle changes and thereby improve the state of the environment in OIC Member Countries.

Also, within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCab), SESRIC organised a short-term training course on 'Environment Statistics' at the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) in Tirana, Republic of Albania on 27-28 May 2014. The Course was provided by an expert from Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT).

SESRIC is also maintaining a roster of environmental experts in OIC Member Countries. The aim of the roster, which is available for updating online in the Centre's website, is to facilitate communication between the experts with a view to encouraging and facilitating a fuller utilisation of the human resources and institutional capacities available to the OIC countries. The roster is also expected to play an important role in facilitating the flow of information between SESRIC and relevant institutions of OIC Member Countries.

Water Issues

SESRIC Activities on Water-Related Issues

SESRIC prepared two OIC Outlook reports on water resources and their use in agriculture in OIC Member Countries. These two reports outlined the current state of water resources in the OIC Member Countries and highlighted the challenges facing them due to the scarcity of internal renewable water resources in many Member Countries located in arid and semi-arid regions, the overexploitation of water resources, particularly in agricultural use, the high dependency on external water resources, increase of demand for water due to increasing population and economic activity, and the impacts of climate change on water resources depletion.

SESRIC Web Portal on Water Resources

The OIC Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water (5-6 March 2012, Istanbul, Turkey) strongly recommended the establishment of a web portal on water resources to facilitate matching of needs of Member States with offers in terms of training, capacity building, exchange of experience, expertise and technical assistance. The Meeting welcomed the offer by SESRIC to collate information from Member States on their needs and offers for cooperation. Accordingly, SESRIC has established the web portal on water resources in OIC Member Countries (<http://www.sesric.org/oic-water-vision.php>). This Portal includes documents and research reports and statistics on water-related issues such as OIC Water Vision, "Water Resources" Section in BASEIND Database of SESRIC, Country Profiles on Water indicators and the following SESRIC Research on Water Resources:

- Water Resources and Their Use in Agriculture in the OIC Member Countries - 2009
- Water Resources and Water Related Issues in OIC Member Countries - 2009
- Overview of Water Related Issues in OIC Member Countries - 2009
- Water Resources and their Use in Agriculture in Arab Countries - 2005

- The Role of Irrigation in Food Production and Agricultural Development in the Near East Region - 2002

The Centre's Database, BASEIND, was also be expanded to include 18 major water statistical indicators for the OIC Member Countries, such as average precipitation (mm/year), internal and external renewable water resources (km³/year), total renewable water resources per capita, water dependency ratio, water withdrawal, agricultural water withdrawal, irrigation area and irrigation techniques, etc.

Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB)

SESRIC has also developed the Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) with the aim of enhancing capacities of human resources in Member States by facilitating exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the domain of water and thus contributing to the implementation of the OIC Water Vision. Within the framework of this programme, SESRIC has organized the following two short-term training courses:

- i. Training Course on "Water Resources Management" in Baku, Azerbaijan on 06-07 February 2013.
- ii. Training course on "Water Resources Management" in Khartoum, Sudan on 23-24 November 2011.

SESRIC also organized, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), the International Integrated Basin Management Workshop on 25-26 February 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey. High level managers from 18 countries participated in the workshop including 14 OIC Member Countries, namely Djibouti, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Albania and Turkey.
