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**FOLLOW-UP REPORT
ON
COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC)
AND THE
UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Jeddah, September 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	POLITICAL DIMENSION OF THE UN-OIC COOPERATION.....	4
2.	DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	7
3.	TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.....	11
4.	TECHNICAL COOPERATION	14
5.	PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE OF REFUGEES	15
6.	FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE.....	16
7.	INVESTMENT MECHANISMS AND JOINT VENTURES.....	18
8.	HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	19
9.	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND POPULATION	19
10.	DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CRAFTS AND PROMOTION OF HERITAGE.....	22
11.	DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY	24
12.	EDUCATION AND ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY.....	24
13.	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES	26
	Participants.....	29

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Pursuant to United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolutions 50/17 of 28 November 1995 and 59/8 of 16 January 2003, a general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system (UN) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions was held at the Headquarters of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Morocco, from 11 to 13 July 2006.

The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology of the OIC, and by Ms. Mehr Khan Williams, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Meeting was attended by high level delegations from the Secretariats of the OIC and the UN.

Representatives from 6 OIC subsidiary organs, 2 specialized institutions and 6 affiliated institutions participated in the Meeting.

In addition to the UN Secretariat, 19 UN entities, programmes and funds, and specialized agencies took part in the Meeting.

The Meeting discussed the following areas of cooperation

1. Political dimension of the UN-OIC cooperation (conflict prevention and resolution, countering terrorism, promotion of human rights, culture of peace and dialogue between civilizations).
2. Development of science and technology
3. Trade and development
4. Technical cooperation
5. Protection of and assistance of refugees
6. Food security and agriculture
7. Investment mechanisms and joint ventures
8. Human resources development
9. Environment, health and population
10. Development of arts and crafts and promotion of heritage
11. Dialogue among cultures and civilizations and cultural diversity
12. Education and eradication of illiteracy

After reviewing the activities being carried out to improve cooperation and collaboration including implementation of joint projects, the Meeting noted with satisfaction the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in all fields. The participants also discussed prospects for and feasibility possibilities of future cooperation projects through bilateral consultations conducted among them.

The Meeting underlined the importance of the increased political contacts between the Secretaries-General of the two organizations.

The Meeting agreed to pursue organizing a coordination meeting between the two organizations in 2007 to follow-up on the decisions and recommendations of the Rabat meeting and review the ongoing activities. It was also agreed that every future meeting of cooperation would start with the presentation of a report about activities undertaken since the previous meeting. It was further agreed that the first such presentation would be made by the OIC.

It is also worth mentioning that the OIC General Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights at a ceremony held on the sidelines of the Meeting. It aims at promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. It also sets sights on increasing cooperation in the area of information-sharing, as well as building regional, sub-regional and national capacities for the adoption of policies and guidelines on human rights and encouraging ratification of human rights treaties.

The present report was prepared in line with the above-cited decision by the OIC General Secretariat with the contributions from the OIC subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions. In this connection, the OIC General Secretariat has circulated Notes Ref. No. OIC/CAB-01/2007/1941, dated 3 April 2007, and OIC/CAB-01/2007/3046, dated 15 May 2007, requesting all concerned OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions to transmit their respective detailed follow-up reports to be prepared in line with the above-cited decision of the Rabat Meeting to the OIC General Secretariat in order to contribute to the preparation of a consolidated report.

1. POLITICAL DIMENSION OF THE UN-OIC COOPERATION

OIC Secretary General's Interaction with United Nations

The OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu represented the organization during the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2006. Besides attending the Annual Coordination Meeting and other OIC meetings, he also made several bilateral contacts with various important dignitaries and heads of various UN agencies and other organizations.

During the Session, the Secretary General held a fruitful delegation-level meeting with the UN Secretary General.

Besides participating in the UN Security Council's Ministerial Meeting on "Cooperation between the UN and Regional Organizations" held on 20 September 2006, the Secretary General also participated in the 7th High-Level Meeting between the UN and Regional and Intergovernmental Organizations in New York on 22 September 2007.

The OIC Secretary General also participated in the high-level segment of the 4th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2007 and effectively projected the OIC's position on these issues. Professor Ihsanoglu held a useful meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the heads of various UN agencies.

The OIC Secretary General held a fruitful exchange of views with the new UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, on the sidelines of the 19th Arab League Summit which was held in Riyadh on 28-29 March 2007.

UN Secretary General's Report and Adoption of Consensus Resolution by the UN General Assembly

The expanded level of OIC-UN relations was clearly manifested in the UN Secretary General's comprehensive report on relations with regional organizations submitted to the 61st UNGA Session as well as in the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a consensus resolution on "Cooperation between the UN and the OIC" on 4 December 2007.

Visit of UN Secretary General's Special Adviser

The UN Secretary General's Special Adviser for the Iraq Compact and other Political Issues, Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, held fruitful meetings with the OIC Secretary General and senior OIC officials in Jeddah during his visit to Jeddah on 8-10 March 2007. The discussions focused on a number of issues of common interest, notably the Middle East, Palestine, Iraq, Darfur, Somalia, Combating International Terrorism, Dialogue among Civilizations, the reform of the OIC and creating synergy of efforts between the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action.

OIC – UN Cooperation on Somalia

As a follow-up to his meeting with the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Somalia in Nairobi in January 2007, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Francois Fall, attended the Senior Officials Meeting of OIC Contact Group on Somalia, which was held at the General Secretariat in Jeddah on 26 February 2007. Ambassador Fall also held discussions with the OIC delegation on the sidelines of the meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia in Cairo on 3 April 2007. The OIC Special Envoy for Somalia held a joint meeting with heads of all UN agencies involved in Somalia in Nairobi in January 2007.

OIC – UN Cooperation on Iraq

In addition to the detailed discussions with the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser for the Iraqi Compact, the OIC General Secretariat participated in all the meetings of the Iraqi Compact which were held in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, New York and Sharm El Sheikh.

Joint Organization of a Conference on Terrorism

The OIC General Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Department of Political Affairs (UN-DPA) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), are presently holding consultations on jointly organizing an International Conference on Terrorism in Tunisia on 15-17 November 2007. The Conference will be held under the high patronage of H.E. Mr. Zine-El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic. A series of preparatory meetings were held in Turin, Rome, Rabat and Tunis. The title of the Conference will be “International Conference on Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats and Countermeasures” with the objectives of:

- Identifying areas exploited by terrorists in the political, social and cultural spheres,
- Recommending solutions which will make these fields less conducive for use by extremists and
- Dispelling misapprehensions about Islam.

The Conference’s topics will be:

- Conditions conducive to terrorism,
- Challenging stereotypes and promoting interfaith dialogue,
- Dialogue among cultures and alliance of civilizations and their role in countering terrorism,
- Role of international and specialized institutions in prevention of fanaticism, discrimination, extremism and terrorism.

Participants will be Heads of State and Government or their representatives, parliamentarians and prominent figures from UN member States, representatives of civil organizations and religious leaders, heads of Muslim committees, international experts on terrorism, and officials from the organizing institutions.

OIC – DPA Cooperation

During the 61st Session of the UNGA in September 2006, detailed consultations were made between senior OIC officials headed by Ambassador Samer Bakr, and the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), led by Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary General.

Within the framework of the agreement reached at the OIC-UN General Meeting on Cooperation held in Rabat, in July 2006 and upon the nomination by the UN-DPA, a representative of the OIC General Secretariat participated in and successfully completed the 2007 UNITAR-IPA Fellowship Program in Peace Making and

Preventive Diplomacy held on July 3-12, 2007 in Oslo, Norway. At the end of this program, organizers expressed their desire to have participation from the OIC General Secretariat in the programme in the following years as well.

OIC – UNODC Cooperation

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized its second training workshop on the international legal instruments related to terrorism at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on 11 April 2007.

The UNODC also invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, held in Vienna, Austria, on 27-28 August 2007. The Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to UN in Geneva represented the Secretariat in the said Meeting.

OIC – UNOCHA Cooperation

The first coordination meeting between the OIC General Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was held in Jeddah in November 2006. The meeting identified a number of priority areas for enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two organizations. The OIC General Secretariat also participated in an OCHA-sponsored Regional Organizations Meeting on “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict”, which was held in Dakar in April 2007.

OIC Messages on Important International UN Days

As an expression of its solidarity with the international community, the OIC Secretariat has continued to issue strong messages on the occasion of various international events like International Women’s Day, World Health Day, World Press Freedom Day, World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day, International Day of the Family, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, etc.

ISESCO – OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)

Activities to be implemented in cooperation between the two institutions in 2008-2009 are being finalized.

Discussions are taking place among the various partners (ISESCO, UNESCO, DCCD, ALECSO, and Anna Lindh Foundation) in order to hold a follow-up conference on Rabat commitments.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OIC – UNU (United Nations University)

In line with the Resolution No.2/33-Leg on the Signing/Ratification of (Accession to) the Agreements Concluded in the Framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference adopted by the 33rd ICFM, held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 19-21 June 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 6 December 2006 in Jeddah

and on 1 April 2007 in Tokyo between the OIC General Secretariat and the United Nations University (UNU) to consolidate and deepen cooperation between the OIC and UNU. According to the MoU, both parties can benefit from each other's programmes and cooperate in areas of common interest and share objectives in promoting Science and Technology.

OIC – UNEP

The OIC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had agreed to review and revise the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 28 May 1999. After revising its text, OIC General Secretariat circulated to the Member States for their comments. OIC Secretariat is in the process of collating and incorporating the comments received, with a view to finalizing the text for signature. The MoU aims to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations towards the protection of environment and to work closely for the mutual interest and benefit of both organizations. It also envisages to harmonize efforts to assist the OIC Member States to attain sustainable economic and social development based on rational use of renewable and natural resources.

OIC – WHO

The UN-OIC Coordination meeting in Rabat, Morocco, 11-13 July 2006 suggested that a tripartite consultative mechanism be created among the OIC General Secretariat/IDB/WHO representatives. The representatives of OIC/IDB/WHO held their meeting at the General Secretariat Headquarters on 23 May 2007. The objective of the meeting was to discuss ways and means of strengthening cooperation among the OIC/IDB/WHO and to further the implementation of the decision on combating diseases and epidemics taken by the Third Session of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah-Al-Mukarramah in December 2005.

The Meeting proposed a new cooperation framework for the tripartite consultative mechanism that would allow meetings, on regular basis among the partners -at least once every two years- or any other occasion where the three organizations were participating, such as the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health or the OIC-UN coordination Meeting. The tripartite consultative mechanism will:

- identify public health priorities that would require immediate attention;
- review technical proposals submitted to address these priorities;
- discuss resource mobilization and propose appropriate financial arrangements using the existing and political sources of funding; and
- review and evaluate the implementation of on-going and completed projects.

In order to streamline and improve communications processes among the OIC/IDB/WHO, the focal points for the respective participating members named.

The WHO attended the First Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12-15 June 2007. Kuala Lumpur Declaration and the resolutions adopted at the meeting envisaged further cooperation between the OIC General Secretariat and the WHO, as follows:

- The Declaration invited the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to set up a tripartite consultative mechanism to combat diseases and epidemics.
- It also urged the OIC Member States to assess the existing national public health systems and develop, strengthen and maintain the core country capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005) through the mobilization of both domestic and external resources and expertise and invited the OIC Member States to contribute to and actively participate in the strengthening of the WHO regional and international alert and response systems through close international collaboration and in compliance with the rules and procedures of the International Health Regulations (2005), and ensure and actively participate in effective and transparent international mechanisms in accordance with relevant national and international laws aimed at ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- In the Declaration, the OIC Member States reaffirmed their solemn commitment and support to the efforts being made by international organizations, such as WHO and UNICEF in assisting the OIC Member States to expand national immunization services to reach all unvaccinated children with vaccines of assured quality that will significantly contribute towards Millennium Development Goals.
- The Declaration urged all Member States and International Organizations, including WHO, to provide and mobilize adequate resources and support in Palestine, occupied Syrian Golan Heights and other conflict affected areas.

On the sidelines of a visit to Geneva, the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB met with the representative of the WHO on 4 September 2007 to follow-up the results of the first meeting held in Jeddah and the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health. The meeting agreed on the following:

1. To draft a tripartite framework agreement between the OIC General Secretariat, WHO, and the IDB;
2. To determine the status of pandemic diseases, especially Polio, HIV, Avian Influenza, Malaria in the OIC Member States; and
3. To suggest to the Secretary General of the OIC, the Director General of WHO and the President of IDB to meet as soon as possible to consider the proposed tripartite framework agreement.

OIC – WIPO

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized a Study Visit for the delegations from the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB at its Headquarters in Geneva on 3-5 September, 2007. The OIC delegation and WIPO agreed to work closely on a number of activities for the benefit of the OIC Member States.

OIC – ITU

An OIC representative from the Department of Science and Technology visited the ITU Headquarters on 5 September 2007. At the meeting held during this visit, the two sides agreed to continue communication for establishment of common activities.

ICDT – ITU

ITU agreed on examining the possibility of providing the ICDT with technical assistance in the organization of a specialized exhibition and supply/demand workshop on ‘information and telecommunication technologies’ scheduled to be held in Sharjah, the UAE in cooperation with the IDB in 2008. ICDT had sent the terms of reference of this project to the ITU in August 2006.

ICDT – WIPO

ICDT and WIPO cooperation is excellent. WIPO financed the participation of about 20 countries in the first conference on “Technical Cooperation among Industrial Patent Offices in the OIC Member States” held in Ankara, Turkey on 14-16 December 2006. WIPO also financed the participation of 13 OIC countries in the second conference on “Technical Cooperation among Industrial Patent Offices in the OIC Member States” held in Casablanca, Morocco on 11-13 July 2007.

WIPO also organized a training program for the OIC officials. During the program which lasted three days from September 3 to 6, 2007, the OIC delegation took stock of the basic concepts and principles regarding patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright and geographical indications, covered questions relevant to ownership of rights, licensing and technology transfer, etc.

ISESCO – UNESCO Cooperation

A coordination meeting was held between ISESCO and UNESCO in Paris, in January 2007 in order to evaluate the activities implemented in 2006 within the framework of the Cooperation Programme for 2006-2007, signed on 15 May 2006, and to discuss and agree on the details regarding implementation of 2007 activities, as follows:

- Establishment of International Science Policy Forum-ISF-Asian Region (New Delhi, November 2007)
- International Experts Consultation on New Trends in Mobility of Scientists (Rabat, October 2007)
- Study on Impact of S&T Activities on Development and Economic Growth (Paris, November 2007)
- Study on Promotion of South-South Cooperation in Science and Technology (Malaysia, September 2007)
- Promoting Science, Technology and Gender (Rabat, October 2007)
- Support to the Arab Network for Women in Science and Technology (Bahrain, September 2007)
- Support to the Arab Parliamentarians Networks in Science, Technology and Innovation (Rabat, 2007)
- Strengthening Regional & International Databases and Directory on S&T Policy (Rabat, 2007)
- Support Studies and Training on Policy-relevant S&T Indicators (Paris, August 2007)
- International Science Policy Forum (Budapest, November 2007)
- Africa Regional Workshop on Science and Technology Parks Development (Namibia, May 2007)

3. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

OIC – UNDP Cooperation

The OIC Secretary General held a productive meeting with the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Kemal Dervis, in New York on 25 September 2006. An agreement was reached to intensify cooperation in the areas of poverty alleviation, special development programmes for Africa, good governance and share knowledge and experience including capacity-building programmes for OIC officials. It may be recalled that the UNDP's designated focal point for partnership with the OIC had earlier undertaken a visit to OIC Secretariat in Jeddah in June 2006.

The OIC General Secretariat sent two professional officials to New York on 21 May 2007 for a one-month training programme that has been mainly organized by the UNDP. This programme was organised within the framework of the joint decision of Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC and Dr. Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator, to give an impetus to the relations between the two organizations in compliance with the provisions of the UN-OIC cooperation meeting held in Rabat in July 2006.

Whereas the OIC officials' programme was mainly concentrated on the activities of the UNDP, they also visited the UN General Secretariat's Political Department (DPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN.

OIC – UNWTO

Both institutions agreed to further strengthen cooperation and share knowledge and experience including exchange of information and documents. In this regard, the OIC General Secretariat invited the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to participate in the 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 9-12 September 2006. The Secretary General of the UNWTO, H.E. Mr. Francesco Frangialli participated in the said Session and made a Speech on tourism development.

The UNWTO invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the Twenty-ninth Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for the Middle East, held in Beirut, Republic of Lebanon, on 18 April 2007. The Representative of the OIC General Secretariat attended the said Meeting. The Meeting discussed the issues relating to the development of tourism sector in the Middle East, including the reconstruction of the tourism economy of Lebanon.

OIC – ILO

Both Organizations agreed to explore and develop ways of cooperation between OIC and ILO in the field of poverty alleviation through employment promotion targeted mainly towards youth and women, skills development, self employment, enterprise development and generation of job opportunities in the rural areas. In this connection,

the two organizations agreed on the necessity of enhancing exchange of information and expertise in those fields.

ILO has invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference, held in Geneva, from 30 May to 15 June 2007. The Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC in Geneva represented the OIC General Secretariat in the 96th Session of the ILO.

ICDT – WTO – UNCTAD – ITC – UNWTO

ICDT wishes that the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, ITC and the World Tourism Organization be represented in the forthcoming meeting between OIC and UN, since these Organizations would help ICDT and COMCEC in implementation of the economic provisions of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, regarding, especially, the setting up of a Free Trade Area within OIC and achieving the target that intra-OIC trade would reach 20% of the total trade of OIC Member States.

WTO sent an expert to present a working paper at the workshop organized jointly by the ICDT and the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Paris) on the “Impact of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations of Doha Round on the Economies of the OIC Countries” in Casablanca, Morocco on 18 September 2007.

IDB – UNDP

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 22 November 2006 to consolidate and deepen cooperation between the Bank and UNDP in the areas of: (i) economic and social development in post-conflict countries, (ii) emergency and humanitarian relief assistance) (iii) poverty alleviation programs) and (iv) human resources development through exchange of staff, exchange of visits, and on the job training.

Consultation is underway between the Bank and UNDP to agree on a plan of action for the implementation of the MOU.

The UN resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Saudi Arabia visited the IDB headquarters on 25 April 2005 to have preliminary discussions with various heads of departments/offices on modalities for the implementation of the MOU.

An IDB mission has participated at a Donor Coordination and Workshop on Public Private Partnership for Recovery of the Electricity Sector in Iraq, held in Jordan during the period 06-08 May 2007

ICCI – UNIFEM – IFAD – ILO

UNIFEM and IFAD had shown their interest in Islamic Chamber’s project for economic empowerment of women. In this regard ICCI invited UNIFEM and IFAD to the 2nd Businesswomen Forum, held from 5-10 December 2006, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, wherein they were requested to inform the participants about the programs of UNIFEM and IFAD in the area of economic cooperation. The representatives

actively took part in the Forum and interfaced with all participants to explain their activities. Islamic Chamber also asked for the continuous technical and financial support from both the Institutions in organizing Businesswomen Forums and other activities organized by the Islamic Chamber for the economic empowerment of the women.

In this regard, ICCI has approached UNIFEM and IFAD to support in providing technical and financial resources in organization of 5-day workshop on “Marketing and Packaging of Agro Products” held in Sudan from 25-29 August 2007. As a result, UNIFEM provided the resource person. In addition, on the sideline of the workshop a series of meetings were held with the representative of UNIFEM, during which areas of mutual interest were discussed with a view to exploring possible areas of collaboration in the creation of a Business and Technology Incubation Centre in the Republic of Sudan, in order to provide sustainability to emerging enterprises.

Islamic Chamber has asked the ILO’s technical inputs within the framework of ILO/WEDGE program (Women Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality) to the Annual Businesswomen Forums which are being regularly organized. The 3rd Businesswomen Forum would be held in State of Qatar on 27-29 November 2007.

Islamic Chamber has also asked the support of IFAD, UNIFEM, and ILO in the establishment of the Businesswomen Information Network (www.oic-bin.net) and asked for their expertise and the areas of future cooperation.

ICCI – UNDP

The UNDP’s Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and Islamic Chamber are actively cooperating with each other in the organization of activities and implementation of several projects. The projects and activities are hereunder:

- UNDP-SUSSC had provided financial and technical support in the organization of the 2nd Businesswomen Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In addition, technical details are being discussed for the possible support in the organization of 3rd Businesswomen Forum, in Doha, State of Qatar, to be held on 27-29 November 2007. The said Forum will be organized in collaboration with the Qatar Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) and Qatari Businesswomen Forum. It will be held under the kind patronage of HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, spouse of H.H. the Emir of Qatar on the theme of “Micro-Credit Financing: The Way Forward for Market Conquest”.
- UNDP-SUSSC provided financial support in successful organization of 5-day workshop on “Marketing and Packaging of Agro Products” in Khartoum, Sudan from 25-29 August 2007, eighty participants from 5 OIC Member Countries participated in the said workshop.
- With regard to the establishment of ICCI-DataBank, ICCI had a technical meeting with the UNDP’s SUSSC in March 2007. In this regard, focal points from both the Institutions had several discussions and now ICCI and SUSSC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of the said project. The Agreement also covers areas of future cooperation. SUSSC is under the process of providing financial and technical resources for the

establishment of the said DataBank.

- SUSSC is also coordinating in the implementation of OIC-BIN portal.
- ICCI is also coordinating with a broader project initiated by the SUSSC by the name of SS-GATE System. In this regard a technical committee workshop was organized in Shanghai. The First Track of the System is under implementation and by January 2008, it is expected to be functional, and in this regard a technical workshop be held in November 2007 in Shanghai for training of the Focal Points and Participating Organizations.
- The UNDP's Resident representative in Morocco has been approached by the Islamic Chamber, for providing technical and financial resources for the economic empowerment of the women in OIC African Member Countries by providing training to the women through business and technology incubators.
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI) of Islamic Development Bank Group and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry is organizing a 4-day Training Program on "Devising National SME Development Program for OIC Member Countries" in Dhaka, Bangladesh on December 10-13, 2007. In view of the previous cooperation for the meetings in 2005 and 2006, PGTF extended financial support towards the organization of the said Training Program.
- The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program (SUSSC/UNDP) has been invited for the 6th Meeting of the OIC Task Force on SMEs.

OISA – IMO

Association after Rabat Meeting between IMO and OISA invited twice IMO to attend the joint meetings of Executive Committee and General Assembly in order to give presentation on IMO technical assistance and support in the field of maritime safety/security, maritime environment protection and human resources as well as its objectives and mission. But IMO regretted to attend the meeting due to their unforeseen circumstances and heavy work schedule. Association will continue to invite IMO in its meetings in the future for close relationship.

4. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRTCIC – UNIDO

SESRTCIC held a preparatory meeting with "UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation Centre in Turkey" in April 2007. In the meeting the two institutions discussed initiating joint activities and projects in the field of common concern especially in the areas of "Capacity Building" and "Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities".

SESRTCIC – CCSA

SESRTCIC has been welcomed as the newest member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), at its eighth session, held in Montreal, Canada, on 4-5 September 2006. The CCSA was established on 19 September 2002 to promote coordination and integration among the statistical programmes of

international organizations. It aims to facilitate the use in Member States of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, recommendations and classifications or different international organizations by coordinating the work on methodological development and promoting harmonization of the methodologies in various fields of Statistics. It also aims to achieve an integrated system in the collection, processing and dissemination of international statistics by promoting the coordination of the international official statistical system, including technical cooperation in statistics. The members of the CCSA comprise international organizations such as the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), UNDP, UNCTAD, IMF, the World Bank, FAO, OECD, EUROSTAT, World Tourism Organization and World Trade Organization.

ISESCO – UNDP

The two parties are exploring their cooperation within the fields of poverty alleviation and improving the quality of life

ICCI – UNIDO – FAO – ILO – UNCTAD

FAO, UNIDO, and ILO had shown their interest in the project of ICCI-DataBank and agreed in principle to provide data available at their sources. In this regard, ICCI has approached these institutions asking for access to their database. In addition to this, ICCI has also approached the ITC for the same.

Islamic Chamber is also contacting UNIDO and ILO for cooperation in the following areas:

- women entrepreneurship development project
- trade capacity building
- agro food industry
- exchange of technology
- vocational training programs
- human resource development and capacity building for enhancement of trade and industrial development.

ICCI has also approached UNCTAD asking for access to their database and we are pleased to inform you that they have provided access to their database of TRAINS.

On the sideline of 5-day workshop on “Marketing and Packaging of Agro Products” held in Sudan from 25-29 August 2007, meetings were held with the representative of UNIDO, during which areas of mutual interest were discussed with a view to exploring possible areas of collaboration in the creation of a Business and Technology Incubation Centre in the Republic of Sudan, in order to provide sustainability to emerging enterprises.

5. PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE OF REFUGEES

OIC – UNHCR Cooperation

The OIC General Secretariat continued to hold regular consultations with officials of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regarding the

convening of the OIC Ministerial Conference on the problems of refugees in the Muslim World, which is scheduled to be held in Islamabad. Three sessions of trilateral preparatory consultations were held in Jeddah, Geneva and Islamabad in November 2006, December 2006 and April 2007, respectively.

6. FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

OIC – WFP Cooperation

The World Food Programme (WFP) Representative in Ethiopia held fruitful discussions with the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Somalia in Jeddah in April 2007. It would also be noteworthy to mention that the WFP Office in Kenya extended logistics support during the OIC Envoy for Somalia's visit to Nairobi in January 2007.

OIC – IFAD Cooperation

A representative from the headquarters of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) visited the OIC Secretariat on 2 December 2006 and held useful discussions with all the relevant OIC officials on identifying various areas of strengthening relations between the two organizations. The two sides also recognized the importance of increased attention to the development of the low income OIC Member States.

The two parties agreed to continue consultations particularly as IFAD is currently engaged in reviewing its regional strategies for the development of Africa. Other areas of interest discussed include the land and water resource management, the rural development and microfinance, gender equality, unemployment, land degradation, desertification, and sustainable management of natural resources.

At the meeting, the IFAD representative informed that IFAD developed a very close cooperation with most of the OIC Member States: out of 309 projects, 45 percent of them operated in the OIC Member States. He also informed that close to half of its total lending programs was devoted to Africa.

IFAD invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the 30th Session of the Governing Council of IFAD, held in Rome, Italy, on 14-15 February 2007.

OIC – FAO

FAO invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the 32nd Session of the Committee on Food Security, held in Rome, Italy, from 30 October to 4 November, 2006.

SESRTCIC – FAO

SESRTCIC is working on organizing workshops/seminars on combating desertification and on water resources management aimed at poverty alleviation and

hunger reduction in the OIC countries in collaboration with the FAO and the IDB. In addition, SESRTCIC will pay a visit to FAO headquarter in Rome in 2007 with the aim of exploring the possibilities of undertaking further joint activities in the fields of common concern. SESRTCIC is looking forward to keep strengthening this cooperation under a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with FAO.

IDB – FAO

The FAO and the IDB have implemented several studies and projects in the past under the “south-south” and “food-security” programs in (say) Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Senegal, Yemen, CIS region and elsewhere. Presently, the two institutions are collaborating in the fields of project identification, preparation and technical assistance.

A delegation from FAO visited IDB Headquarters during the period 24 - 25 March 2007, to finalize procedures and to agree on the implementation process of ten technical assistance projects, within the framework of the Special Program for Food Security (SPES), for member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

ISESCO – UNESCO

The two organizations agreed to implement an activity on food safety and food microbiology, in Egypt in November 2007.

ISESCO – WFP

The two parties held the Joint Committee meeting in Cairo on 24-25 July 2007 and agreed on the following activities to be implemented in 2008 and 2009:

2008

- Nutrition Training in Yemen for national government counterparts to be organized and implemented in collaboration between ISESCO and WFP and including other partners. WFP will submit a proposal to ISESCO for review.
- Symposium on Education, School Feeding and the “Essential Package” to be held between WFP, ISESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO, Civil Society Groups and Government counterparts.
- Integration of information on Food Insecurity, Vulnerability Assessment and Markets in Tajikistan, including development in Vulnerability assessment maps. WFP will develop proposal to share with ISESCO.
- Conduct a joint training session on food aid emergencies for civil society and community groups in Tajikistan.
- Collaboration in the dissemination on the World Hunger Map. WFP will share World Hunger Map in English, French, and Arabic (when finalized). ISESCO will support dissemination through its network of Ministries of Education to schools, universities and other institutions. ISESCO will support translation into other languages. Logos of both organizations will be included on the map for distribution.
- Symposium on “Islam and Humanitarianism” to promote dialogue and

understanding on support to humanitarian work on the part on the Islamic world to be organized jointly by WFP and ISESCO in collaboration with LAS, OIC, religious leaders, civil society groups and other UN agencies.

- Partnership on website including highlighting the partnership between the two organizations, web-links and collaboration.

2009

- Workshop on “women in food production and processing” to be held in Syria. WFP will develop a proposal to share with ISESCO.
- Development with Atlas Maps detailing vulnerability and assessment in Tajikistan and Yemen. Collaboration between WFP and ISESCO.
- Joint media workshop to sensitize the press in the Islamic world on issues pertaining to poverty and food insecurity, and humanitarian action.
- Conduct a follow-up symposium on “Islam and Humanitarian” in 2009 with a specific focus on the role of NGOs and civil society organizations.
- Conduct a joint training session on food aid in emergencies for civil society and community groups in Africa (Mauritania, Niger, etc.) in consultation with ODD.

7. INVESTMENT MECHANISMS AND JOINT VENTURES

OIC – UNIDO

Both institutions agreed to further strengthen cooperation and share knowledge and experience including exchange of information. In this context, UNIDO invited the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the following events:

- Thirty Second Session of the Industrial Development Board of the UNIDO, held in Vienna, Austria, on 29th November - 1st December 2006;
- Twenty-third Session of the Program and Budget Committee of the UNIDO, held in Vienna, Austria, on 2-4 May 2007.

ICDT – UNIDO

Mr. Rachdi has met the Director General of UNIDO in Rabat on 25 May 2007; and they decided to re-launch the cooperation notably by expediting the signature of the agreed draft MOU along with a plan of action, including the projects agreed upon in principle in Rabat. The said MOU will be signed in 2008.

ICDT and UNIDO also exchanges publications.

SESRTCIC – UNIDO – UNDP – ILO

SESRTCIC is working on organizing a Workshop/Seminar on “Investment Tools and Technology Transfer for SMEs” in collaboration with the UNIDO, the UNDP and the ILO.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

SESRTCIC – UNECA

SESRTCIC together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organized a special session on “Statistical Capacity Building” on 4th May 2007 as part of the 5th Session of the Committee on Development of Information (CODI-V) event with the participation of 19 OIC African Member countries.

ISESCO – UNESCO

UNESCO and ISESCO are implementing the following activities in 2007:

- Training and Sensitizing Trainers to Water Management (Tunis, 2007)
- Training of Trainers for Women on Water Networking for Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas (Islamabad, September 2007)
- Workshop on Micro Science Experience in Biology (Gambia, Jordan)
- National Training Courses on Micro Science experience in Chemistry (Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Iraq)
- Training Workshop for Policy Analysts and Science Advisers (Islamabad, Cameroon)
- Regional Training Workshop on Science Journalism (Bamako, June 2007)
- Sub-regional Workshop on the Development of Policies for the Promotion of Access to Public Information in the Maghreb (Algeria, April 2007)
- Publishing the Manual on ICTs and Media in the Maghreb, and Holding a Sub-regional Workshop on the Promotion of Journalists’ Know-how in the Field of the Use of ICTs in Information-related Occupations (Tripoli, November 2007)

9. ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND POPULATION

OIC – WHO

Both Organizations suggested that a tripartite consultative mechanism be created with the participation of OIC Secretariat/IDB/WHO to further the implementation of the decision on combating diseases and epidemics taken by the Third Session of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah in December 2005.

ICDT – UNEP

ICDT and UNEP agreed to submit the project on “Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Network of Transborder Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” to the regional office of UNEP in Nairobi. This project will be partly financed by the World Tourism Organization (\$50,000).

The main part of this project, which is at the stage of the feasibility study, may be financed by IDB. In this regard, the Minister of Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, the coordinator of this project, has visited IDB in December 2006.

SESRTCIC – UNEP

SESRTCIC is working on organizing a workshop/seminar on environment and related subjects in collaboration with the UNEP.

IDB – WHO

Currently, the WHO and the IDB are jointly implementing the ongoing **Self Reliance in Vaccine Production Program**. The Program, backed by the OIC, is intended to combating diseases and epidemics, and the WHO is providing technical expertise in both preventive medicine policies and vaccine production aspects.

As part of the normal consultative meetings between the two parties, a mission from IDB visited the WHO Headquarters in Geneva during the period (28/1-1/2/2007), for consultation with the WHO regarding the IDB Quick Win initiative for combating Malaria. Following the technical meetings, an “Aide Memoir” was signed between the two parties with a proposed timeline for the implementation. This “partnership” is also in line with the recommendations of the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the OIC held in *Makkah al Mukarramah* in December 2005 when it adopted a “Ten-Year Program of Action for the Ummah” and called upon the IDB, the OIC and the WHO to draw up a program for combating diseases and epidemics in OIC Member Countries.

IDB – UN HABITAT

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bank and UN-HABITAT is currently under its final stages of approval, and it is expected to be signed within the next few months. It aims at providing a general framework to facilitate cooperation between the two Parties in extending and promoting economic and social development of the CMCs of the two institutions.

ISESCO – UNEP

The Following activities are implemented or planned to be implemented in 2007 and 2008 in cooperation with UNEP.

- Organization of Expert Meeting about Compatibility of National Laws and Legislation on Environment with the International Conventions and Agreements (2007)
- Support Participation of 6 Representatives from Civil Societies/NGOs to Take Part in the Global Forum of Civil Societies, Organizations and Governing Council of UNEP (2007)
- International Seminar on Environment Challenges to the Public Health and their Mitigation in the Arab Region (2007)
- Sub-regional Workshop on Coping with Natural Disaster (2007)
- Preparation of Simplified Booklets for the Benefit of New Literate Learners on Various Environmental Issues (2008)
- Workshop for the Officials Working in Non-formal Education Institutions to Highlight Islamic Concepts Pertaining to Environment (2008)
- Regional Forum for NGOs, Civil Societies, Youth and Women Organizations

to Discuss Environmental Issues on the Agenda of the Governing Council of UNEP (2008)

- Training Course on Protection of Biodiversity and Preservation for the Member States (2008)
- Regional Workshop to Incorporate Environment Concept into Pre-school Education (2007)
- Regional Workshop on Educational Media and Environment Concepts from an Islamic Perspective (2007)
- Regional Workshop on SAICM for the Arab Countries in Dubai (2007)
- Workshop for the Benefit of Youth Organizations on Environment Pollution and its Impact on Public Health (2008)

ISESCO – UNESCO

The two organizations showed satisfaction on the implementation of their joint cooperation programme and are implementing activities in the fields of renewable energy, safety, toxicology and protection of the environment. These activities include:

- Organization of a National Programme on Renewable Energy (Niamey, June 2007)
- National Training in Renewable Energy (Kuala Lumpur, July 2007)
- Training in Use and Applications of Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development (Benin, Guinea, 2007)
- Regional Consultation on Renewable Energy in African Region (Dakar, November 2007)
- 16th Session of the Summer School "Solar Electricity for Rural Areas" (Paris, July 2007)
- Capacity Building on Renewable Energy (Lome, May 2007)
- Providing Training for Executive Staff in the Use of Renewable Energy Sources toward Sustainable Development (Guinea, March 2007)

ISESCO – WHO/EMRO

ISESCO and WHO/EMRO are jointly implementing activities in the field of health in the current year and preparations are underway to hold the joint committee meeting in order to discuss and finalize the 2008-2009 cooperation programme.

The two parties are implementing the following activities in 2007:

- Regional Conference on Health Promoting Schools in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Syria, July 2007)
- Adult Literacy Vocational and Health Curricula Piloted and Packaged for Use in Member States (Cairo, October 2007)
- Development of the Catalogues on Environmental Health Awareness (Amman, 2007)
- Printing 10 Environmental Health Pamphlets in Arabic and its Distribution (Rabat, June 2007)
- Regional Workshop on Environmental Health Risk Assessment and Evidence (Amman, March 2007)
- Support to improvement to Accessibility to Basic EH Needs (water, sanitation,

- hygiene) in Rural Communities in Syria (Syria, 2007)
- Assessment of Water Security Requirement of Health in Tunisia/Morocco (2007).
- Vocational and Health Curricula Piloted and Packaged for Use in Member States.
- A Regional Workshop on Promotion of the Role of Radio Stations in Raising Health Awareness among Rural Areas in the Arab World (Venue & date to be determined)
- Media, a Partner in the Path towards Health for All (Bahrain, February 2007)

10. DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CRAFTS AND PROMOTION OF HERITAGE

IRCICA – UNESCO

On 29 November 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA at UNESCO headquarters for the establishment of a book hospital for training and restoration of old books and manuscripts at Suleymaniye Library in Istanbul. The object is to house a facility of enhancing training courses for trainees from different parts of the world on all the updated techniques of restoration and preservation of old manuscripts. The idea is based on the concept of furnishing this centre with the latest techniques and machines necessary for such objectives in the field restoration and preservation.

The Centre undertook to improve and modernise the laboratory for the conservation of manuscripts, old books and documents existing at the Suleymaniye library in Istanbul, as a “Book Hospital”, in a project to be realised through a cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA. Training courses will be organised in the laboratory simultaneously with restoration activities in order to upgrade the skills of the concerned experts and staff from the Member States and train the trainers in the techniques of repair and conservation of historical manuscripts. The training programs will help meet the needs of the Member States, as well as the needs relating to Islamic manuscripts in surroundings regions outside the Member States, such as in the Balkans and in Asia. Realisation of the project will contribute in repairing and preserving an important part of the written and printed cultural heritage of the Muslim world. Two specialists assigned by UNESCO had completed their studies and submitted feasibility reports and guidelines on the implementation of the project.

A follow-up meeting was held with a Programme Specialist, Information Society Division, Communication and Information Sector, representing UNESCO ADG for Communication and Information at IRCICA premises in Istanbul between 29 and 30 June 2006. After visiting the premises of the Suleymaniye library to see the available technical equipments and the existing relevant materials, both sides agreed on the necessity of start preceding the project operation.

The project aims to enlarge the existing unit in the Suleymaniye Library according to modern standards and in line with educational programs; to spread the conservation, preservation and restoration activities particularly in the libraries of Turkey as well as in the other countries within the borders of Islamic geography in order to preserve

Islamic cultural heritage which is in urgent need of preservation and which constitutes a significant part of world cultural heritage that exists in various libraries.

Enlargement of this unit in terms of equipment and personnel is essential considering the large number of rare works and manuscripts that are reproduced in microfilms and digital media upon the request of researchers and readers. Two specialists assigned by UNESCO have completed their studies and submitted feasibility reports and guidelines on the implementation of the project.

The purpose of these activities is to train personnel who are equipped with theoretical and practical knowledge to undertake the conservation, preservation, pathological examination and restoration of the materials in the libraries.

The personnel to be trained in this hospital will undertake the preservation and conservation work in a scientific manner in various libraries. At the same time, some restoration work will also be undertaken and numerous works will be restored in a shorter time since the work load will be distributed to different libraries.

IRCICA – UNDP

Contacts continued through exchange of correspondences between IRCICA and UNDP on possible ways and means to support technically the Centre's project of enhancing a new series to be devoted to the architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine, and to be organised jointly with the University of Al-Quds and concerned international institutions and organization. The program will bring together architects, restoration and conservation specialists from around the world in collaborative studies on the architectural heritage of Jerusalem and its preservation. The program will not only generate documentation and guidelines for the recording and conservation of this heritage, but also raise public awareness about this heritage, among others. The Jerusalem 2015 Advisory Committee is composed of experts of the field selected from around the world. The main aim of the Program is to realize the following: Contribute in protecting and preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Jerusalem; contribute to the positive urban development of Jerusalem; transfer the successes and the experience of the "Mostar 2004" program to Jerusalem; encourage the use and application of the products of the Jerusalem 2015 architectural and scientific exercise in actual preservation and restoration activities. This activity shall be held annually up to the year 2015. The first event with symposium, workshop and exhibition was held at IRCICA in Istanbul during the period on 24-25 November 2006. A seminar was organized at the premises of the centre between 25 and 26 November 2006. The aim was to conduct an evaluation process on the progress been made for the preparation of this project. A lecture was also delivered on "Al-Quds/Jerusalem2015 Project in Context" and fruitfully discussed among professors and other participants, students from universities from Istanbul and Politecnico di Bari. The lectures were followed by a presentation and discussion of studies on the spot by graduate students from Bari University. During the seminar, an architectural exhibition on Al-Quds medresas was opened. The Exhibition was prepared by Politecnico di Bari graduation students.

ISESCO – UNESCO

The two organizations are implementing the following activities in this field:

- The Safeguarding of Threatened Intangible Heritage in the Maghreb: the Living Human Treasures in the Maghreb - Sub-regional seminar on the Promotion of Intangible Heritage in the Maghreb (Rabat, 2007)
- Support for the Development of Boo-related Field - Sub-regional Experts Meeting on Ways to Support and Develop the Book sector in the Maghreb (in consultation)
- Improving the Quality of Craftsmen Production - Regional Workshop on Quality Improvement of Craftsmen Production In Maghreb and Sahel Countries (Nouakchott, 2007)
- The Reinforcement of Cultural Policies in the Maghreb - Sub-regional Experts Meeting on Ways to Promote Cultural Industries in the Maghreb (Algeria, 2007)

11. DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**ISESCO – UNESCO**

- Guidelines for Promoting Peace and Intercultural Understanding through Curricula, Textbooks and Learning Materials (Paris, June 2007)
- Education, Diversity and Social Cohesion in Western Mediterranean (2007)
- Fostering the Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Concrete and Sustained Action - Follow-up to the Rabat Conference (2007, date and venue to be determined)
- The Promotion of Cultural Diversity: the Enhancement and Protection of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions - Seminar on Evaluation of the National Studies on Cultural Diversity and Protection of Cultural Expressions (Rabat, 2007)

12. EDUCATION AND ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY**IUT – UNESCO**

The Department of Instructor Training and General Studies (ITS) of the Islamic University of Technology is communicating with UNESCO, Dhaka office and they helped the department with resource persons in the workshop arranged by ITS department on “Curriculum Development in Technical and Vocational Education” held from 19 to 21 November 2006. UNESCO has provided some research reports on education and training published by it. A meeting on cooperation was held on 24 July 2007 with the UNESCO Dhaka Office education staff. The meeting agreed to provide IUT with a resource person for the international workshop on “ICT in Teaching Learning in Technical and Vocational Education”, which will be organized by the Department of ITS on 1-5 December 2007 at IUT campus. UNESCO Dhaka Office has invited a programme specialist on ICT from Education Unit of UNESCO Bangkok Office to present a paper on “Enhancing Learning through Technology” in the workshop to be held in December at IUT.

The IUT Library is also communicating with UNESCO regarding the latter's assistance in connection with "Digitization of IUT Library Information Resources" through the latter's offices in Delhi and Bangkok.

IUT – ITU

With the intention to hold a Colloquium with collaboration of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on Emerging Technology and Policy Issues, the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) prepared a proposal for arranging a "Colloquium on Emerging Technologies and Policy Issues in Telecommunications and Wireless Systems". The proposal was sent to the ITU Regional Representative to the Arab States, Head of the Arab Regional Office, Cairo - Egypt on 28 February 2007. It was forwarded to the focal point in Geneva in order to find the right level of speakers as well as add to its content, if possible. ITU agreed to provide IUT with one expert on wireless technology for this colloquium.

The Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CIT) sent a proposal of a short course on "Development of Modern Telecommunication Services" on 1 February 2007 through email and by post to the ITU Regional Representative to the Arab States, Head of the Arab Regional Office, Cairo – Egypt. ITU agreed to provide IUT with one expert on wireless technology for this short course.

IUT – UNIDO

The Department of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (MCE) of IUT prepared a proposal for arranging a workshop on "Investment on Renewable Energy Equipments" to be jointly organized by IUT and UNIDO, and sent the proposal to the Representative of UNIDO on 5 February 2007. The Department still awaits a response on this issue.

IDB – UNESCO

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bank and UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UNESCO/IS) was cleared by the Executive Directors of the Bank at its 244th Meeting held on 7 - 10 April 2007. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate cooperation between the Parties in various activities to benefit Common Member Countries. The MOU is now in the process of being signed by both parties.

A UNESCO delegation from the Program of Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction, UNESCO-PEER/ Somalia Office, visited the IDB Headquarters during the period 20-21 February 2007, to explore further cooperation with regard to projects in Somalia.

ISESCO – UNESCO – ITU

Details of the joint programme in the field of tele-education will be discussed during ISESCO-UNESCO joint committee meeting to be held at the end of 2007 to discuss and agree on the next cooperation programme 2008-2009.

In this field, ISESCO and UNESCO implemented the following activities:

- Capacity Building for Literacy and Non-formal Education in Africa (Senegal, 2007)
- Regional Youth Forum on Health Awareness and Community Development Second Youth Forum (Tunisia, May 2007)
- Regional Workshop on Enhancing Capacities of Facilities in Literacy and Non-formal Education (Cairo, April 2007)
- Regional Workshop on the Development of Educational Policies for the Integration of Children with Disabilities (Rabat, March 2007)

13. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES

OIC – WIPO

Delegates from the OIC Secretariat, IDB and ICDT had a study visit to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Headquarters on 3-5 September 2007, which covered, inter alia, issues related to intellectual property regimes, the role of intellectual property in economic growth, copyright and the digital divide, trademarks, small and medium size enterprises (SME), traditional knowledge and genetic resources and enforcement of the intellectual property rights.

OIC General Secretariat and WIPO have reached an agreement to cooperate on the following strategic areas in the field of intellectual property:

- Creative Industries: Examining and evaluating the contribution of copyright-based creative industries to national economic, social and cultural development through their revenue generation and job creation potential and providing assistance for the factoring in of that potential in national development strategies.
- Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs): Raising the awareness of the value of intellectual property assets to SMEs to enable these enterprises with the capacity to extract value from their creativity and inventiveness and hence increase their market competitiveness.
- Use of Copyright in the Digital Environment: Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to respond to the challenges and opportunities associated with the management of the copyright system in a digital environment and hence contribute to national and international processes aimed at bridging the digital divide.
- Agriculture and Plant Varieties: Promoting an effective system for plant variety protection for the development of new varieties of plants and contribute to sustainable agricultural development.
- Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources: Establishment and effective application of legal, practical and policy intellectual property mechanisms for the protection of traditional cultural expressions, traditional knowledge and genetic resources in line with the needs, interests and expectations of stakeholders.
- Innovation and Creativity: Development of intellectual property strategies covering innovation infrastructure development for the creation of an

environment prone for successful technology licensing, management and marketing.

- Enforcement: Advising on the modernization of enforcement provisions in national legislation and providing assistance for the creation of an efficient enforcement infrastructure for the implementation of relevant treaty obligations, as well as promoting an enhanced capacity of policy makers to engage in debates on optimal measures to address intellectual property enforcement challenges at the international level.

ISESCO – UNHCR

The two parties have agreed to implement 5 activities for the benefit of refugees (women, disabled children and youth) and returnees in Somalia, Yemen, Morocco, Afghanistan and Chad in this year as follows:

- Vocational Training of Adolescent Afghan Refugee Students with Disabilities (Pakistan, 2007 dates to be determined)
- Support to Refugee and Returnee Classrooms in Yemen and Somalia (Yemen and Somalia, between 1 June and 31 August 2007)
- Providing Information to Afghan Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (Afghanistan, during 2007)
- Vocational/Skills Training for Refugee Women/Girls in Preparation for Income Generating Activities (Rabat, during 2007)
- Training to Promote and Facilitate the Use of Solar Cookers as a Means for Saving and Replacing Energy (Chad, during 2007)

ISESCO – UNESCO

- Research Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Maghreb States (Rabat, July 2007)
- Regional Conference on Promoting Ethics and Anti-Doping in Sport (Tunis, June 2007)

ISESCO – WFP

- National Training Session for Marginalized Women in Income Generating Small Projects (Bangladesh, June 2008)
- Sub-regional Workshop in the Field of Gender Mainstreaming and the Eradication of Poverty (Tunis, 2009)

ISESCO – WIPO

WIPO will organize inter regional forum on the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore in Sana'a, Yemen on 4-6 November 2007. OIC Secretariat, IDB and IRCICA are also invited to attend the event.

ISF – Some UN Agencies

The Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) held discussions and agreements with UNHCR, UNRWA, UNDP, WFP and ITU regarding cooperation in fields of common interest.

In this connection, the OIC Secretary General has proposed to the ISF Permanent Council to consider the possibility of allocating annual appropriations of US\$ 200,000 from the ISF budget for the implementation of joint cooperation projects between the ISF and the UN institutions aiming to face the challenges of the Muslim world in the 21st century within the framework of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action. The matter will be submitted to the ISF Permanent Council for consideration and appropriate decision.

Participants

OIC General Secretariat

Subsidiary Organs

1. Islamic Centre on Islamic History, Arts and Culture (IRCICA)
2. Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRTCIC)
3. Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
4. Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF)
5. Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
6. Islamic University in Niger

Specialized Institutions

1. Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
2. Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

Affiliated Institutions

1. Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
2. Organization of the Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA)
3. The Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC)
4. Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)
5. The Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF)
6. World Federation of Arab-Islamic International Schools (WFAIIS)

UN Secretariat

1. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
2. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
4. United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP)
5. World Food Programme (WFP)
6. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
7. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
8. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
9. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
10. International Labor Organization (ILO)
11. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
12. United Nations Development Fund for women (UNIFEM)
13. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
14. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
15. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
16. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
17. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
18. World health Organization (WHO)
19. UN-HABITAT