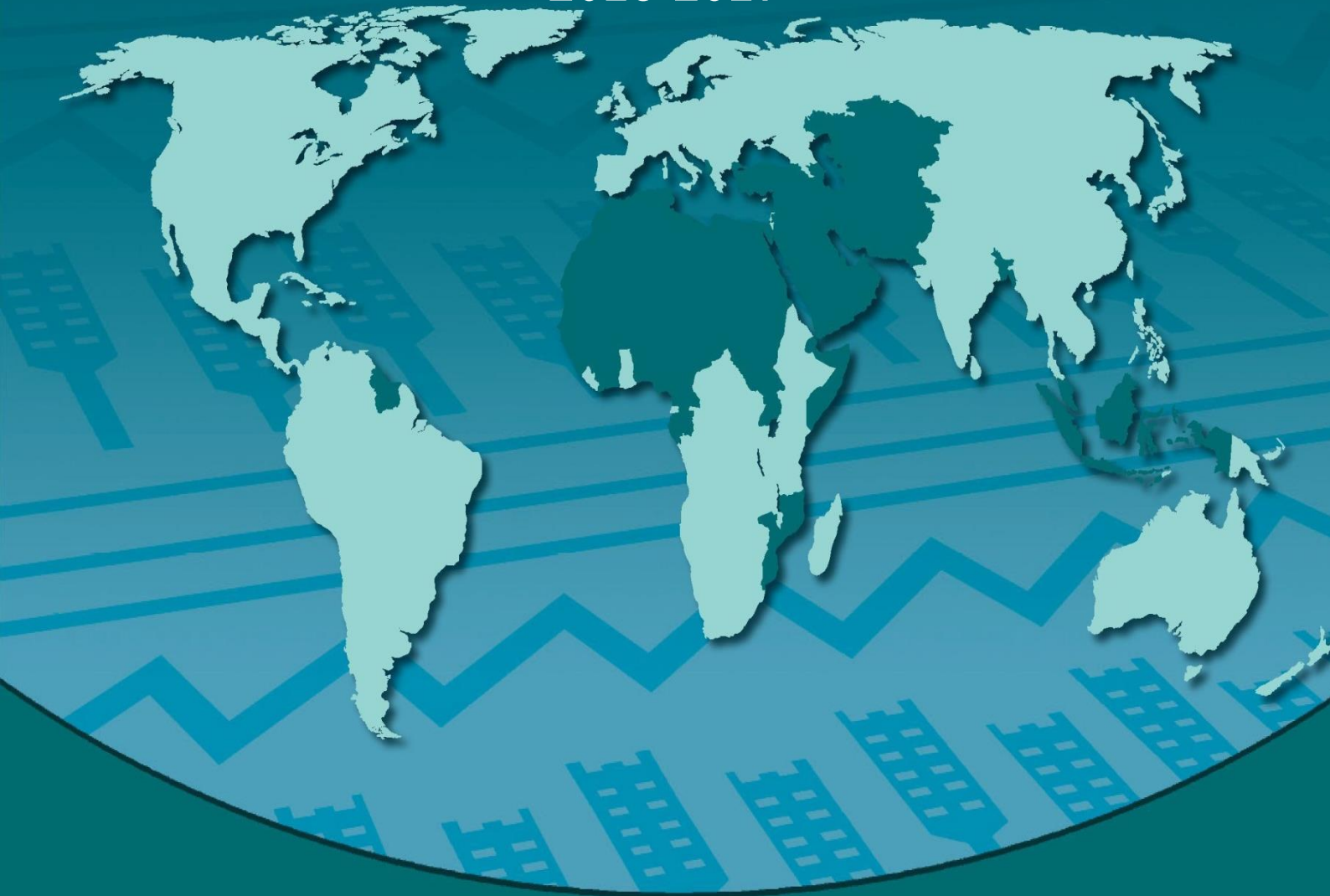




SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION OF OIC FRAMEWORK FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF
TOURISM

2016-2017



THE TENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
TOURISM MINISTERS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES
DHAKA, BANGLADESH
05-07 February 2018

OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism

ACTIVITY REPORT

Submitted to

**THE TENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
TOURISM MINISTERS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES
DHAKA, BANGLADESH
05-07 February 2018**

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
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Implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism

ACTIVITY REPORT

This Activity Report on the Implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism provides a summary of the activities that have been implemented and recently coordinated by SESRIC since the Ninth Session of Islamic conference of Tourism Ministers of the OIC Member States (ICTM), which was held in Niamey, Niger, during the period 21-23 December 2015. Since then, SESRIC has implemented several activities within the context of its mandated areas, namely statistics, research, training and technical cooperation towards the implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism.

Implemented Activities

A. OIC Statistics Database (OICStat)

The **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database** is the first and only international official statistics repository on the Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Enriched with the experience drawn from its predecessor Basic Social and Economic Indicators (BASEIND) Database, **OICStat** is periodically maintained to ensure the dissemination of most up-to-date through the inclusion of categories and indicators on the OIC Member Countries. Equipped with more “user-friendly” features, OICStat currently hosts 310 indicators under 19 categories dating back to 1985. In the field of tourism, the data is available on the following 7 different economic indicators. The abovementioned database could be reached through the website <http://sesric.org/oicstat.php>.

| No | Indicator | Unit |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1 | Balance of Foreign Travel | Million USD |
| 2 | Balance of International Tourism as % of GDP | Percentages |
| 3 | International Tourism Receipts as % of Exports | Percentages |
| 4 | Intra-OIC Tourist Arrivals | Thousands |
| 5 | Number of Tourist Arrivals | Thousands |
| 6 | Tourism Expenditures | Million USD |
| 7 | Tourism Receipts | Million USD |

B. Report on International Tourism in D-8 Countries: Prospects and Challenges, 2016

SESRIC prepared a research report to assess the state of international tourism in the group of Developing-8 (D-8) Countries that is comprised of 8 OIC Member Countries namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. This Report examines the performance and economic role of international tourism sector in D-8 countries in the latest five-year period for which the data are available. After introduction, Chapter 2 of the Report looks at selected international tourism statistics from a global perspective to set the stage. Chapter 3 of the Report focuses on D-8 countries and assesses the state of the tourism sector in terms of tourist arrivals, tourism receipts, economic role of international tourism and intra D-8 tourism. Chapter 4 of the Report elaborates the concept of “Islamic Tourism”, as a new direction in the tourism sector in D-8 countries with a great potential for sustainable growth and significant contribution to the development of the overall tourism sector in these countries. Chapter 5 of the Report finally summarises the challenges ahead of the tourism sector in D-8 countries and proposes some recommendations to serve as broad policy guidelines to overcome these challenges.

C. OIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tr-CaB)

The StatCaB Programme aims to identify and implement training programmes by matching the capacities and needs of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the member countries depending on the survey responses on Statistical Capacity Building. Since 2007, the Centre has organized over 244 statistical capacity building programmes including 175 short-term training courses, 45 international workshops, 10 study visits, and 8 technical missions with the participation of thousands of experts from the NSOs of OIC member countries. In the domain of tourism, SESRIC has organized 14 short-term training courses and 4 international workshops since 2007.

During the period of under consideration, the following training programmes have been implemented:

1. Regional Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Accounts” in Kazakhstan

The Regional Workshop on “Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA)” was organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and hosted by the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 30 November - 3 December 2015 in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan. This Workshop focused on the Central Asia and South Asia regions of the OIC and was attended by 16 experts working at the National Statistical Offices, Tourism Authorities, and Central Banks from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The main purposes of the Regional Workshop on TSA were to explain the TSA structure and the relationships between its tables; provide necessary clarification of the TSA underlying concepts; provide venue for the exchange of knowledge and country experiences in the preparation of TSA, in addressing challenges in collecting basic tourism data as well as in the interpretation of the TSA results for more informed decision making by the tourism industries; and assist countries in setting up their longer term work programme on the TSA development.

2. Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” in Suriname

SESRIC organised the training course on “Tourism Statistics” at Suriname Tourism Foundation of Republic of Suriname on 9-11 August 2016. The course was conducted by BPS-Statistics of Republic of Indonesia with the participation of 16 officials of the Suriname Tourism Foundation, General Bureau for Statistics of Suriname, Central Bank of Tourism, Ministry of Labour and Technological Development, Airport

Management, Tax Authority, Planbureau, Dorot Etiquette Solutions, SHATA, and M. C. Green Experience/Transport.

3. Training Course on “Tourism Statistics” in Gambia

SESRIC organised the training course on “Tourism Statistics” at Gambia Bureau of Statistics on 24-26 August 2016. The course was conducted by Uganda Bureau of Statistics with the participation of officials of Gambia Bureau of Statistics.

4. Training Course on “Inbound Tourism Statistics” in Azerbaijan

SESRIC organised the training course on “Inbound Tourism Statistics” at the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 21-22 November 2016.

The course was conducted by Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), with the participation of officials of SSC.

5. Training Course on “Outbound Tourism Statistics” in Azerbaijan

SESRIC organised the training course on “Outbound Tourism Statistics” at the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 23-24 November 2016.

The course was conducted by Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) of the Republic of Turkey, with the participation of officials of SSC.

6. Training Course on “Tourism Satellite Account” in Suriname

SESRIC organised the training course on “Tourism Satellite Account” at Suriname Tourism Foundation of Republic of Suriname on 14-16 February 2017. The course was conducted by Department of Statistics (DoS) of Malaysia, with the participation of 15 officials of the Suriname Tourism Foundation.

D. SESRIC signed MoU with the United Nations World Tourism Organization

SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to strengthen cooperation between two institutions in the area of statistics, research and training. The MoU was signed by H.E. Ambassador Musa KULAKLIKAYA, Director General of SESRIC, and Mr. Márcio Favilla L. DE PAULA, Executive Director of Operational Programmes and Institutional Relations of UNWTO, on 2 June 2016 in Madrid, Spain. The objectives of the MoU are to improving the National Statistical Systems of OIC Member Countries regarding System of Tourism Statistics including Tourism Satellite Accounts; identifying major prospects and challenges in selected aspects of tourism sector in the OIC member countries; taking necessary steps to exchange technical know-how and to provide inputs related to tourism for the purpose of joint research,

policy analysis, cooperation projects, capacity building, training and consultation; and contributing to the human resources capacity with a linkage to evidence based decision making for tourism sector.

E. Workshop on the Future of Tourism Development in Konya

SESRIC, ICDT and Konya Metropolitan Municipality jointly organized a two days long workshop on “The Future of Tourism Development in Konya” on 15-16 November 2016 in Konya, Turkey within the scope of commemoration of the OIC City of Tourism in 2016. With respect to the rich cultural and touristic resources of Konya, this event was a good opportunity for the participants from different national and international organizations to discuss and debate on different aspects and dimensions concerning the tourism development and its future ahead in this city.

The objective of the workshop was to provide the participants an opportunity to deliberate and to exchange views, knowledge and expertise with a view to determining ways and modalities for future development of tourism in Konya.

F. Training on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism

SESRIC organized a training course on “Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism” with the participation of the senior level officials from 15 OIC member countries on 4-7 July 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. Funded by the COMCEC Coordination Office, the training aimed at building the capacity of tourism authorities in member countries with little or no Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) applications and/or have weak implementations about the potential and positive impact of MFT.

The main activities of the project were a three-day training course and the study visit in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge on development and promotion of MFT by sharing the Malaysian and Turkish experience in developing successful MFT policies, regulations, standards and marketing strategies.

G. Establishment of the OIC Tourism Portal

SESRIC and ICDT have jointly started to work on the establishment of the OIC Tourism Portal through the signed landmark MoU among the parties in 2016. In this respect, SESRIC has developed the first draft outline of the OIC Tourism Portal and shared it with the ICDT for identifying the joint pathway. The OIC Tourism Portal is proposed to be structured under the following sections:

- OIC Documents
- Statistics
- Research
- Capacity Building & Training Activities
- Tourism Fairs & Events
- Tourism Destinations in OIC Member Countries
- Investment in Tourism Projects

The joint studies will be further enhanced on the Portal and it is expected to be featured the Portal on the web within the last quarter of 2017.

H. Workshop on Dates Palm and Oases Economy

ICDT, ISESCO, and SESRIC are going to organize a Workshop on “Dates Palm and Oases Economy” on 26-27 November 2017 in Madinah Al Munawarah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the scope of commemoration of OIC City of Tourism in 2017. SESRIC is going to make a presentation at the Workshop to enrich the discussions. The proposed title of SESRIC’s presentation is “Exploring the Potentials of Oases Tourism in OIC Member Countries” to be delivered during the Session 1: “Oases Economy in the Era of Globalization”.

I. Report on International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges, 2017

SESRIC is preparing the 2017 edition of the report titled “International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges” examines the performance and economic role of international tourism sector in OIC member countries in the latest period for which the data are available. It analyses again the two traditionally used indicators in

measuring international tourism, i.e. international tourist arrivals and international tourism receipts. The analysis is being made at both the individual country and the OIC regional levels. The Report also focuses on intra-OIC tourism figures to reflect recent developments. Chapter 4 of the Report highlights the challenges and potential of Islamic Tourism; as a new dimension of tourism sector in OIC member countries. The final chapter of the Report concentrates on the promotion of regional integration in the OIC countries through tourism. It aims to explore the role of tourism sector and tourism activities in deepening regional integration in the OIC countries such as through visa facilitation among OIC countries, cross-border national park projects for tourism, and joint infrastructure projects for facilitation of tourism (e.g. cross-border railway projects). Overall, the Report sheds light on the challenges of tourism development in the OIC countries and the issue of tourism cooperation among them and proposes some recommendations to serve as policy guidelines.

J. Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries

Considering the importance of Islamic tourism, the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 21-23 December 2015 adopted a Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC Member States, under which the ICTM decided to establish a Working Group on Islamic Tourism, which comprises of the Republic of Indonesia (Coordinator), People's Republic of Bangladesh, SESRIC, SMIIC and IUT and welcomed the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on "Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries". As per this mandate, SESRIC started the preparations and submitted the first draft of the Roadmap Document to the OIC General Secretariat to be circulated among the Member States for their comments and feedback. It is expected that the final version of the Roadmap Document will be adopted during the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 05-07 February 2018.

The Roadmap Document is intended to develop a framework in order to provide a systematic approach to promote cooperation among the member countries in this area and specifies the needed actions for anticipated changes. It further outlines a guideline for the future development of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries via Islamic tourism standards and quality control drafts in management, operations and

implementation. Finally, it sets a stage for cooperation among OIC member countries, OIC Institutions and relevant international organizations in the field of Islamic tourism. The Document identifies five key specific thematic areas of cooperation in the domain of Islamic tourism, namely; data and monitoring, policy and regulation development, marketing and promotion, destination and industry development, and capacity development in order to enhance cooperation at intra-OIC level as well as to improve Islamic tourism ecosystem in OIC member countries.



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