

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



OIC/7-ICTM/2010/REP/FINAL

REPORT
OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
TOURISM MINISTERS

TEHRAN – ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
22-24 ZULHIJJA 1431H
(28-30 NOVEMBER 2010)

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1. The Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 22-24 Zulhijja 1431H (28-30 November 2010).
2. The Ministers and Head of Delegations from the following OIC Member States, OIC institutions and international organization participated in the Meeting:
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
 - State of the United Arab Emirates
 - Republic of Indonesia
 - Republic of Uganda
 - Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - Brunei Darussalam
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Republic of Turkey
 - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Sudan
 - Syrian Arab Republic
 - Republic of Sierra Leone
 - Republic of Iraq
 - Republic of Guinea
 - State of Palestine
 - State of Qatar
 - Republic of Kazakhstan
 - Republic of Cameroon
 - State of Kuwait
 - Republic of Lebanon
 - Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
 - Republic of Mali
 - Malaysia
 - Arab Republic of Egypt
 - Islamic Republic of Mauritania

OIC institutions

- OIC General Secretariat
- COMCEC Coordination Office
- Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA).
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
- The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).
- Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

International Organization

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

(The list of participants is attached as Annex-I).

3. Following rendition of the Iranian National Anthem and recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, the Minister of Tourism of the Syrian Arab Republic and Chairman of the 6th Session of the ICTM, H.E. Dr. Saad Alah Agha Al-Kalaa opened the Meeting. He welcomed all delegations and expressed his country's appreciation to OIC Member States for the support and cooperation given to Syrian Arab Republic during its chairmanship of the 6th ICTM. He further emphasized the importance of achieving sustainable development in the tourism industry and the growing contribution of this industry to the economies of the OIC Member States, while stressing the need to reactivate intra-OIC tourism and implementation of OIC Ten Year Programme of Action. (copy of the Speech is attached as **Annex II**).

Election of the Bureau

4. The Meeting unanimously elected the following members of the Bureau:
 - Chairman: Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Vice Chairman: People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
 - Vice Chairman: Republic of Senegal
 - Vice Chairman: State of Palestine
 - Rapporteur: Syrian Arab Republic

Opening Statements

5. In his opening statement H.E. Mr. Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, Senior advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized the role of tourism in

promoting global peace and security, while calling for an international order that will promote inclusive participation of all peoples in socio-economic development.

6. In his own address, His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, underscored the need for international partnership and closer cooperation with international development banks and institutions, as such would help in surmounting the series of funding constraints, which have always plagued OIC efforts to consolidate the project-based approach to tourism development. He also commended the increasing cooperation among the various OIC institutions, such as the IDB, ISESCO, IRCICA, ICDDT, SESRIC, IUT and ICCI. (the copy of Statement is attached as **Annex-III**).

7. In his statement as the Chairman of the Session, H.E Mr. Hamid Baghaei, Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Head of the Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization of Iran, highlighted the role of tourism in promoting socio-cultural exchanges and preservations of Islamic cultural heritage and also underscored the recent initiatives carried out by the Government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad towards increasing Iran's participation in the development of intra-OIC tourism.

8. In his address on behalf of Dr. Taleb Al Rifai, the Secretary General of UNWTO, Mr. Abdel Ghaffar, Regional Representative of UNWTO pledged the continued support of UNWTO for the various activities of OIC in the domain of tourism and highlighted the need for OIC countries to utilize tourism for the purpose of addressing the four challenges of economic downturn, unemployment, climate change and the poverty gap. (copy of the Address is attached as **Annex-IV**).

Working Session

Adoption of Agenda and Work Programme

9. The Meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Programme, which are attached as **Annex - V and VI**, respectively.

10. The Conference considered and adopted the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the 7th Session of the ICTM held in Tehran, Iran on 28-29 November 2010 as presented by the Chairman of SOM Mr. Mahmoud Barimani, Director General (International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). (SOM Report is attached as **Annex-VII**).

Statements by the Head of Delegations of the OIC Member States

11. Ministers and Head of Delegations made presentations on the various activities of their respective countries towards the development of tourism in OIC Countries.

General Debate

12. During the General Debate, delegations raised issues related to the facilitation of tourist visa arrangements, the protection of the true image of Islam through tourism activities and developing unified approach among the Member States; the increased role of the private sector in tourism development; the promotion of student exchange programs among the Member States; the development of tourism as an important poverty alleviation tool; the promotion of ecotourism, health tourism and regional tourism projects in OIC Member States.

Consideration of the Conference Resolution and Tehran Declaration

13. The Conference adopted Resolution on the Tourism Development among the Member States and Tehran Declaration, copies of which are attached as **Annex-VIII and IX** respectively.

Venue of the 8th ICTM

14. The Conference welcomed the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Sudan to host the Eighth Session of the ICTM in 2012 and urged the Member States to actively participate in the Conference.

Vote of Thanks

15. The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Seventh Session of the ICTM and for the warm reception and brotherly hospitality accorded to all delegations.

16. The Conference also expressed its appreciation to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC, and members of the General Secretariat as well as OIC institutions for their invaluable contributions to the success of the Conference.

Tehran, 30 November 2010