

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ICMT/3-2002/REP/Final

REPORT OF THE
THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF TOURISM
OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
1-3 Shaaban 1423H (7-9 OCTOBER 2002)

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1. The Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 1-3 Shaaban, 1423H (7-9 October, 2002).

2. The Conference was attended by the following Member States:
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - Islamic State of Afghanistan
 - Republic of Albania
 - State of the United Arab Emirates
 - Republic of Indonesia
 - Republic of Uganda
 - Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - Kingdom of Bahrain
 - Brunei Darussalam
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Republic of Tajikistan
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Republic of Tchad
 - Republic of Tunisia
 - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
 - Republic of Djibouti
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of the Sudan
 - Syrian Arab Republic
 - Republic of Sierra Leone
 - Somali Republic
 - Republic of Iraq
 - Sultanate of Oman
 - Republic of Gabon
 - Republic of the Gambia
 - Republic of Guinea
 - State of Palestine
 - Union of Comoros
 - State of Qatar
 - Republic of Kazakhstan
 - Republic of Cameroon
 - State of Kuwait
 - Republic of Lebanon
 - Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
 - Republic of Maldives

- Republic of Mali
 - Malaysia
 - Arab Republic of Egypt
 - Kingdom of Morocco
 - Islamic Republic of Mauritania
 - Republic of Mozambique
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria
 - Republic of Yemen.
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina also attended the Conference as an observer.
4. The Conference was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat of the OIC and those of the following OIC subsidiary organs, specialised, and affiliated institutions:
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
 - Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
 - Islamic Shipowners' Association (ISA)
5. The Conference was also attended by the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the representative of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).
- A complete list of participants is attached as Annex-1 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/LIST).
6. The inaugural session began with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.
7. At the inaugural session, HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation, Inspector General, and Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered the keynote address. Extending a warm welcome to the delegates, he said that the Conference was taking place at a time when the Muslim world faced many political, economic, social and cultural challenges. Under such critical circumstances, it was imperative for the Islamic countries to work in a scientific and organised manner; and also in a way that reflected the noble principles of Islam. Stating that tourism could bring Muslims closer to each other as well as to the rest of the world, he stressed cooperation among the Islamic countries. He also laid stress on developing tourism in a way that reflects the well-established Islamic civilization, culture and values and that strikes a balance between economic and environmental aspects. He recalled Almighty Allah's commandment to populate and preserve the globe as God said in the Holy Quran "He Created you from the earth and sent you forth to settle in it". The Second Deputy Premier said that tourism should be an element of sustainable development without entailing any negative impact on the

environment or society. On concluding his speech, His Royal Highness declared the conference officialy open.

A copy of the statement by HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Second Deputy Premier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is attached as Annex-2 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/SP/KSA).

8. In his capacity as Chairman of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, made a statement at the outset as the interim Chairman. He thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for taking this important step in hosting the third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, which was an important step towards further deepening the existing bonds of solidarity in the Islamic world. He stressed the need for the OIC Member States to unite their efforts to take advantage of the potentialities of tourism and develop the industry systematically. He said that promoting tourism among OIC Member States would play an eminent role in bringing the Ummah closer. He said that the Islamic world must have a shared vision to make tourism a catalyst and an instrument not only for the development of Member States, but also in establishing peace, understanding and unity of the Ummah. The Malaysian Minister recalled his proposal made in the Follow-up Committee meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on the establishment of an OIC Centre for Tourism Development and called for support for the proposal.

A copy of the statement by H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia, is attached as Annex-3 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/SP/MAL).

9. H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, made a statement. The Secretary General expressed his profound admiration for the laudable efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, in the defence of the Islamic Ummah. He also conveyed to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation, Inspector General, and Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, his deepest appreciation and gratitude for graciously honouring this august Islamic gathering with his personal presence. He said that tourism had pride of place in the glorious heritage of Islam. Apart from the ever-increasing importance of the tourism industry as the most rapidly developing industry in the world, as a major source of profitable employment and revenue, and as an effective means of combating poverty and improving the living conditions of many people, the tourism industry can be viewed also from the cultural perspective as a modality for strengthening mutual knowledge and understanding among nations. It also constitutes an effective mode of intercivilizational dialogue as it promotes interaction and dialogue among people. Recalling that tourism was identified as one of the six priority areas within the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, he hoped that positive results would be achieved following the convening of the First Experts Group Meeting on Tourism held in

the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed the readiness of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to strengthen its cooperation with other international organizations, particularly the World Tourism Organization, in implementing the Code of Ethics for Tourism, which aims at developing tourism activities with due consideration to the principles of Islamic culture and values.

A copy of the statement of the OIC Secretary General is attached as Annex-4 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/SGSP).

10. The Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), H.E. Mr. Francesco Frangialli, said at the beginning of his speech that the WTO commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's historic undertaking to open up the country to international tourism and that it sought to strengthen its ties with the Muslim community of nations, at a time when it was suffering from a distorted perception and unfair treatment by a section of the international media. Expressing satisfaction at the signing between the WTO and the Organization of the Islamic Conference of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation, he said that WTO would pay special attention to the difficulties and needs of the Islamic world. Naming Islam as a religion of love and tolerance, he said that Muslims are naturally predisposed to welcoming foreign visitors. Tourism is not just a simple economic phenomenon, he said, stressing its social and cultural dimensions as well. Since it promoted encounters and dialogue between visitor and host, it facilitated international understanding and exchanges. Referring to the adoption of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in 1999, he explained that it testified to the acknowledgement of interest in this important area by the United Nations General Assembly.

A copy of the Message of the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization is attached as Annex-5 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/WTO/SP).

11. At the conclusion of the inaugural session, the Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Moezzedin, Deputy Minister and President of Iran Touring and Tourism Organization, conveyed the Vote of Thanks on behalf of the Arab, African and Asian Group. He thanked the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting this important Conference as well as for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegations.

A copy of the statement of the Head of Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is attached as Annex-6.

12. The working session was opened by H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia and Head of the Delegation of Malaysia (as the interim Chairman in his capacity as the representative of the country holding the Chairmanship of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Kuala Lumpur). Opening the meeting, the interim Chairman, H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Malaysia, raised once again, the subject of establishing an OIC Centre for Tourism Development in Malaysia and recalled Malaysia's proposal in this regard.

13. The Conference unanimously elected HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the Chairman of the Conference, on the basis of a motion by the interim Chairman. The other members of the Bureau were elected as follows:
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|---------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Vice-Chairmen | : | People's Republic of Bangladesh. |
| | : | Republic of Senegal. |
| | : | State of Palestine. |
| Rapporteur: | : | Malaysia. |
14. The Chairman, on taking over the chairmanship, extended strong support to the Malaysian proposal, hoping that it would be operational soon. Considering the importance of the proposal, the Chairman opened a discussion exclusively on the subject. A large number of participants took part in the discussion. There was broad support for the proposal of Malaysia to establish the Centre in Kuala Lumpur. It was agreed that the matter, be submitted to the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in keeping with the provisions of the OIC Charter. It was also agreed that a study should be prepared on this subject before its submission to the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers
15. The Conference adopted its Agenda and Work Programme contained in documents ICMT/3-2002/DA and ICMT/3-2002/WP/Rev.2 respectively, copies of which are attached as Annexes- 7 & 8.
16. H.E. Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Al-Dakhil, Director of International Cooperation of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Officials' Meeting which was held on 6-7 October 2002, presented a report about the meeting. The report contained, inter-alia, a reference to the following reports submitted for the consideration of the Conference, vide Annex-9 (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/SO/REP./Final):
- i) Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat (Document No. ICMT/3-2002/BN).
 - ii) Working Paper submitted by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
 - iii) A paper by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade.
 - iv) A paper by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
 - v) A paper by the Islamic University of Technology.
17. The report of the Follow-up Committee Meeting of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, which was held in Kuala Lumpur on 5-6 September 2002, was presented by H.E. Mr. Shahril Bin Saat, Deputy Secretary General (Tourism), Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia (in his capacity as the representative of the country holding the chairmanship of the 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism).
18. In the general debate, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Iraq, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Republic of the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of

Guinea, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Lebanon, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Islamic State of Afghanistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Cameroon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Chad and the Somali Republic.

19. During the general debate, the Conference took note of the following issues raised by some Member States:
- (i) to organise meetings of travel agents among the Member States;
 - (ii) to prepare maps of Islamic heritage and touristic sites for reference of tourists from Member States;
 - (iii) to encourage the use of information technology in the tourism sector on a wide scale through setting up tourism e-portals and websites and an image centre for the civilization of Islamic States; and by utilizing the Geographical Information System (GIS);
 - (iv) to explore the possibility of procuring funds for preservation and restoration of cultural heritage of Islamic States and to use it as a matrix for tourism and culture activities in the Islamic States;
 - (v) to organise an investment forum on Eco-Tourism among the OIC Member States
 - (vi) to seek assistance for development of tourism industry; and
 - (vii) to call for the settlement of crises and disputes that impede tourism flow by diplomatic means;
 - (viii) to call for the participation of tourism officials in tourism events organized by the private sector; for the participation of the private sector in the meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Tourism; and for the organization of tourism fairs;
 - (ix) the readiness of some Member States to prepare specialized studies on a number of issues related to the development of Islamic tourism.
 - (x) To consider the resumption of civil airflights from and to Iraq and to settle disputes through peaceful means, while preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Islamic States;
 - (xi) To encourage Member States to seek membership of the World Tourism Organization.
20. H.E. the Head of the Iraqi Delegation expressed his reservations on the paragraphs relating to resolving crises and disputes that impede tourism flow through diplomatic and peaceful means as too vague to cover the issue of the embargo on the travel of pilgrims and visitors from and to Iraq.
21. The delegation of Malaysia reiterated that its proposal for the establishment of an OIC Centre for Tourism Development is aimed at ensuring effective implementation of all the resolutions adopted by the ministerial conferences on tourism held so far. Ideally, the proposed Centre should be located at the OIC General Secretariat. However, should there be no other OIC Member State prepared to host it, Malaysia offers itself to be the host country for the Centre. If it is agreeable to establish the Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is prepared to finance the cost. The Chairman urged Member States to work with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to support the setting up of the Centre.

22. The Conference welcomed with appreciation the offer made by the Republic of Senegal to host the 4th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in 2004 and urged the Member States to actively participate in this conference.
23. During the discussion, the delegations expressed particular appreciation of the key-note address of HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was considered to be an important guideline for cooperation among the OIC countries.
24. The Conference considered the draft Resolution on Tourism Development and the Riyadh Draft Declaration, which were finalised by the Senior Officials' Meeting. Following a discussion, the Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism Development and the Riyadh Declaration with some amendments as contained in Documents ICMT/3-2002/RES./Final & ICMT/3-002/RIYADH/DEC, copies of which are attached as Annexes-11 & 12.
25. During the closing session, the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Senegal, presented, on behalf of the Conference, a Vote of Thanks, to the host country. In the Vote of Thanks, the Conference expressed its deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.
26. The participants congratulated the Chairman of the Conference for the excellent manner in which he conducted the deliberations.