



ICMT/2-2001/REP.1/FINAL

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

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA,
25-26 Rajab 1422H (12-13 OCTOBER 2001)

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1. The meeting of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12-13 October, 2001 (25-26 Rajab, 1422H).
2. The meeting was attended by the following Member States:
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
 - State of United Arab Emirates
 - Republic of Indonesia
 - Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - State of Bahrain
 - Brunei Darussalam
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Republic of Tajikistan
 - Republic of Turkey
 - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Sudan
 - Syrian Arab Republic
 - Republic of Iraq
 - Sultanate of Oman
 - Republic of Guinea
 - State of Palestine
 - Kyrgyz Republic
 - Republic of Cameroon
 - State of Kuwait
 - Republic of Lebanon
 - Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
 - Republic of Maldives
 - Malaysia
 - Kingdom of Morocco
 - Arab Republic of Egypt
 - Republic of Yemen.
3. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the General Secretariat of the OIC and those of the following subsidiary organs and specialised as well as affiliated institutions of the OIC and of the other international organizations:
 - 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)
- World Tourism Organization(WTO)
- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

A list of participants is attached as Annex-1 (No. ICMT/2-2001/LIST).

4. The inaugural session began with recitation of the verses from the Holy Qur'an.
5. At the inaugural session, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E.Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, delivered his keynote address. Extending a warm welcome to the delegates, he said that the theme chosen for the conference "Tourism: A Smart Partnership for Solidarity and Prosperity" had been very appropriate as tourism promoted better relations between countries and people and it depended on active mutual cooperation among them. Referring to the recent portrayal of the Muslims being synonymous with terrorism, militancy or extremism in wake of terrorist attacks in USA, he said that, despite the injustice of the treatment, Muslims must not resort to terrorism and instead should use their strength to influence the shaping of a more just world. Referring to Islamic teaching of the existence of different races of people and the need to know each other, he spoke of the importance of tourism within the OIC countries, which could reinforce the solidarity of the Ummah. He termed it to be almost a duty for every Muslim to get to know other Muslims in other countries and called for greater interaction among the Muslim countries. He urged the attending Ministers and other participants to work for increased intra-OIC tourism stressing in this connection the importance of tourism in the economic development of the OIC countries. Following the statement, the Prime Minister of Malaysia officially declared the Conference open.

A copy of the statement by H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, is attached as Annex-2 (No.ICMT/2-2001/SP/PM-MAL).

6. Extending a warm welcome to the delegations, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, recalled the emotional attachment that the Government of Malaysia had with the Organization of the Islamic Conference since its early days. Speaking on the increasing importance of tourism in today's world, he said that tourism provided great potential as a source of revenue for socio-economic growth and that there was a need for a cooperative strategy among the OIC Member states aimed at increasing their share of the global tourism market. Recounting Malaysia's experience in development of a tourism industry, he stressed the importance of developing, alongside international tourism, domestic and regional tourism markets as well. He also laid stress on developing intra-OIC tourism, which, apart from its economic benefits, contributed to the cementing of the Islamic solidarity. He called for adopting some practical steps that could be implemented for the development of tourism in the OIC countries.

A copy of the statement by Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia is attached as Annex-3 (No. ICMT/2-2001/SP/MIN-MAL).

7. In his capacity as the Chairman of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jame'i made a statement at the outset. He thanked the Government of Malaysia for taking this important step in holding the second ministerial conference on tourism, which was an important step towards further deepening the existing bond of solidarity in the Islamic world. He stressed the role of tourism in bringing the nations and peoples closer and in this connection he referred to the fact that the recent session of the General Assembly of WTO declared, at the suggestion of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its theme as "Tourism at the Service of Peace and Dialogue among Civilizations." Referring to the recent negative publicity about Islam, he said that a most effective way to counter this trend would be to expand tourism in the OIC countries, which would facilitate direct communication between different cultural and civilizational heritage.

A copy of the statement by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jame'i, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran is attached as Annex-4 (NO. ICMT/2-2001/IRAN/SP).

8. H.E. Ambassador Thierno Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, read out the statement of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the OIC, who could not attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances. The Secretary General expressed his profound admiration for the laudable efforts of the Prime Minister of Malaysia in the defence of the Islamic Ummah. Referring to the importance of tourism as the most significant growth industry today, he said that it acquired added importance considering its role in promoting transnational understanding. He said that the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States, which incorporates tourism as an area of cooperation, provided a readily available road map that could guide further deliberations at the Conference aimed at developing specific proposals. Emphasizing the need to set priorities, he drew attention of the Conference to the priority areas identified by the follow-up committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, which was held in Tehran in August, 2001. He also stressed on the urgency of holding the first experts group meeting on tourism with a view to undertaking in-depth technical study of the various aspects of tourism in order to pave the way for implementation of the OIC Plan of Action.

A copy of the Statement of the Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex-5 (No. ICMT/2-2001/SPSG).

9. The Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), H.E. Mr. Francesco Frangialli, said that the WTO and the OIC were in the process of developing fruitful cooperation referring to a Memorandum that was about to be signed by the two organizations. He said that the OIC countries had great

potential for developing tourism and a number of OIC Member States that were also members of WTO sought the assistance of WTO in drawing up plans for tourism development. Speaking of the importance of tourism in the economic development of a country, he warned at the same time against irreversible deterioration of sites, over-use of natural resources, impairment of biodiversity, degradation of historic monuments and debasement of moral values that may result from tourism. Referring to the adoption of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, he said that it called for sustainable development of tourism ensuring respect for the host communities and natural environment.

A copy of the Message of the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization is attached as Annex-6 (NO. ICMT/2-2001/WTO/SP).

10. At the conclusion of the inaugural session, the heads of delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Indonesia conveyed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Arab, African and Asian group respectively. They thanked the Government of Malaysia for hosting this important Conference as well as for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegations. They further underlined the importance of the Conference, which will contribute to the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States.
11. The working session was opened by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Masjed Jame'i, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and leader of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (as the interim Chairman in his capacity of the representative of the country holding the Chairmanship of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism held in Isfahan).
12. The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir Bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism and head of the delegation of Malaysia, as the Chairman of the Conference on the basis of a proposal by the interim Chairman. The other members of the Bureau were elected as follows:

Vice-Chairmen:	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Republic of Guinea State of Palestine.
Rapporteur:	Islamic Republic of Iran.
13. The Conference adopted its agenda and work programme contained in documents ICMT/2-2001/DA-1 and ICMT/2-2001/WP.1, copies of which are attached as Annex-7 & 8.
14. The Report of the meeting of the Senior Officials, which was held on 10-11 October, 2001, was presented by Mr. Shahril bin Saat, Deputy Secretary General (Tourism), Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia, on behalf of the Chairman of the meeting, H.E. Dato' Tengku Alaudin Tengku Abdul Majid, Secretary General, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia. The report contained, inter alia, a reference to the following reports

submitted for the consideration of the Conference, vide Annex-9 (NO. ICMT/2-2001/SO/REP.1/FINAL):

- i) Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat (Document No. ICMT/2-2001/BN), Copy of Background Note is attached as Annex-10.
 - ii) Working Paper submitted by Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
 - iii) A paper by Islamic Centre for Development of Trade.
 - iv) A paper by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
15. The report of the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Minsiters of Tourism, which was held in Tehran on 27-28 August, 2001, was presented by H.E. Engineer Mohammad Moezeddin, Secsretary General of Iran Tourism Supreme Council and Deputy Leader of the Iranian delegation.
 16. In the general debate, statements were made by the representatives of the State of Kuwait, Republic of Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Senegal and Malaysia.
 17. During the discussion, the delegations expressed a particular appreciation of the key-note address of H.E. the Prime Minister of Malaysia, which was considered to be an important guideline for cooperation between the OIC countries.
 18. The Conference considered the draft Resolution on Tourism and the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action (annexed thereto), which were finalised by the Senior Officials' Meeting. Following a discussion, the Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism along with the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action as contained in Document ICMT/2-2001/RES./FINAL, a copy of which is attached as Annex-11.
 19. The meeting expressed its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Malaysia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the delegates and for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.
 20. The participants congratulated the Chairman of the Conference for the excellent manner in which he conducted the deliberations.