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Group Photo, 13th ECO Summit, 1st March 2017 -Isamabad



Foreword



Since last issue of ECO Chronicle, ECO has witnessed a series of developments. The 13th ECO Summit, pending for almost 3 years, took place on a high note on 1st March 2017 in Islamabad, gathering our heads of state and government who opened a new chapter in the history of our Organization. They, among others, rendered their full support to "ECO Vision 2025", adopted earlier by ECO Council of Foreign Ministers.

"ECO Vision 2025" superseded the "ECO Vision 2015" in a more comprehensive, rather focused, context.

Evolved around three main principles, namely, sustainability, integration, and conducive environment, the "Vision" is in place to provide policy directions and drivers for ECO in the years to come. The main Vision's policy directions are increased intra-regional trade, enhanced intra-regional connectivity, upgraded energy efficiency, and strengthened regional tourism industry. The key drivers are economic growth, social welfare and protection of environment.

In the same period, ECO continued to expand its external relations with the partners of common interests. Some relationship documents, including agreements and MoUs, have been concluded, some in the pipeline to be signed in the coming months or so.

As usual, this issue of the ECO Chronicle will provide the readers' with a clear picture about the above developments and other activities of the Organization during the preceding time period.

*Ambassador
Halil Ibrahim Akca
ECO Secretary General*



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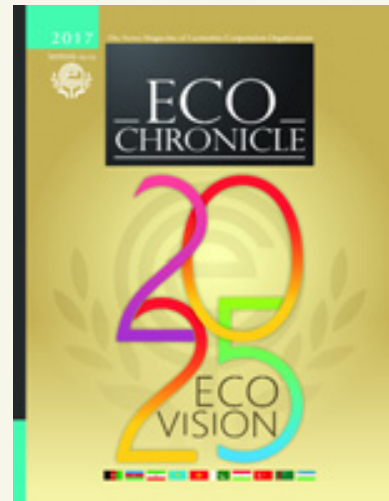
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In The Name Of God

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13th ECO Summit and 22nd Council of Ministers Meeting in Islamabad

ECO CHRONICLE The 13th ECO Summit was held on 1 March 2017 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It was the first ECO Summit since October 2012 when Heads of State and Government convened their 12th Summit in Baku. Presidents of Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan, as well as Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan, Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Uzbekistan and Special Envoy of



President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan attended the Meeting hosted and chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan. High level officials and representatives from the ECO observers as well as regional and international organizations, United Nations and Government of China were also present in the Event.

The theme of the Summit, "Connectivity for Regional Prosperity", was driven by the firm conviction that enhanced connectivity in terms of transit and transport, energy, trade and ICT continue to be a major contribution into the economic development of the coun-



tries of the ECO Region as well as uplifting the social welfare and living standards of their people. Heads of State and Government and other high level officials in their statements in the Summit re-iterated their full support to make ECO Region more inter-connected. They also endorsed the new "ECO Vision 2025" where connectivity and sustainability constitute the main thrust of all its priorities, namely, trade, transport, energy and tourism. The Heads of State and Government at the end of their 13th Summit adopted the "Islamabad Declaration".

On the sidelines of the Summit, Heads of State and Government of the ECO Member States also held bilateral meetings discussing issues of mutual interests.

Preceding the 13th Summit and on 28th of February 2017, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States convened their 22nd meeting (ECO Council of Ministers) in Islamabad. The Council, among others, adopted the "ECO Vision 2025", and approved ECO annual work programme.



Board of Trustees of ECO Educational Institute



ECO Secretary
General

Ambassador Halil Ibrahim AKCA joined the "2nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI)" held in Istanbul on 26 July 2017. The Meeting was hosted by H.E. Ismet Yilmaz, Minister of National Education of Republic of Turkey. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and high level officials from Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan attended the Meeting. Minister of Education of Turkish Cypriot State also participated in the Meeting as special guest.

ECO Secretary General delivered a statement

in the opening of the Meeting briefly informing delegations about ECO activities and underlined the importance of the educational cooperation within ECO Region. He highlighted that this Meeting constitutes a new chapter for cooperation where support by the Member States is essential for the success of the Institute. He also stressed that the ECO Member States give priority to educational cooperation, and the ECO Vision 2025,

adopted during the 22nd COM/13th Summit in March this year, envisions educated societies within the Region for the success of the Vision.

The Meeting discussed ways and means to re-activate the ECO Educational Institute where participating Members agreed to support Institute in its activities. The Meeting also agreed on the new scale of assessments, two-year work programme as well as annual budget of the Institute for

2018. The BoT also agreed to recommend Mr. Mehmet Akif Kirecci from Turkey as the new President of the Institute. The President is supposed to be appointed by the ECO Council of Ministers.



ECO Secretary General met with Iranian Minister of Trade

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General

Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca called on H.E. Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh, Minister for Industry, Mine and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4th July 2017. Both sides discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation within ECO. In his remarks, the ECO Secretary General appreciated the active participation of Iran in the ECO and informed that in the "ECO Vision 2025", approved in the 13th ECO Summit and 22nd COM meetings earlier this year, trade continues to be the central theme of the Organization. Secretary General expressed hope for support from the Honourable Minister in implementation of trade-related components of the ECO Vision 2025. He also emphasized on the importance of trade facilitation measures and removal of trade barriers and requested the Minister for his support in

operationalization of tariff concessions under the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA), the flagship initiative of the Organization. He was of the view that improved cooperation in this area will lead to meaningful dividends for the Region and will usher in prosperity for the people of the Member States.

The Honourable Minister in return underscored the importance and vast potential of regional cooperation and assured ECO Secretary General of his cooperation in expediting the efforts for constructive engagement to enhance intra-regional trade for economic development of the Region. He further assured that his team would look at the various options for early operationalization of tariff concessions under ECOTA. He also emphasized on the importance of banking and other trade-support services for enhancing intra-regional trade and stressed that increased regional cooperation in the banking sector will decrease transaction costs leading to decreased costs of doing business for the private sector.

The ECO Secretary General also extended an invitation to the Minister to attend the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting of Commerce and Foreign Trade to be held in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the second half of 2017.



ECO anti-corruption authorities

met in Baku

ECO CHRONICLE The "3rd Meeting of Heads of Anti-Corruption Organizations and Ombudsmen of ECO Member States" was organized by the Prosecutor General's Office of Republic of Azerbaijan on 6-7 June 2017 in Baku. It was attended by delegations from all ECO Member States. Representatives of International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), and International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) also attended the Meeting. A delegation from the ECO Secretariat also participated in the Event.

The Meeting was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Zakir Garalov, Prosecutor General of Republic of Azerbaijan and Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari, ECO Deputy Secretary General. In the opening session, Mr. Fuad Alasgrov, Assistant to the President of Republic of Azerbaijan also made opening remarks. Conveying to the participants greetings of President of Republic of Azerbaijan, he expressed his

gratitude to the ECO Member States, regional and international organizations and ECO Secretariat for participating in the Meeting. He also highlighted that Republic of Azerbaijan is an active Member of ECO and hosted two ECO Summits. He also expressed confidence that this Meeting would contribute to strengthened regional cooperation.

In his opening statement, ECO Deputy Secretary General Mr. Seyed Jalaledin Alavi Sabzevari expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly the Prosecutor General's Office, for graciously hosting this important Meeting and providing warm hospitality and making excellent arrangements for delegations. He further briefed the Meeting about ECO's profile and recent progress in advancing regional cooperation in formulating ECO regional poli-

cies and actions, including those pursued in addressing the menace of corruption.

During 2-day event, participants shared their national experiences in prevention and fight against corruption

and discussed ways and means to enhance regional cooperation. They agreed also on a set of actions in this regard.

The host country also organized visits to the sites of Anti-corruption Directorate and "ASAN Service" where participants became familiar with the established anti-corruption systems and procedures in Republic of Azerbaijan.

On the sidelines of the Meeting, ECO delegation made bilateral talks with the General Prosecutor of Republic of Azerbaijan as well as other high level authorities and officials of the host country and participating Member States. There were also discussions between ECO Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Martin Kreutner, Executive Secretary of Vienna-based International Anti-corruption Academy (IACA) on the possible joint cooperation.



New Entrance Arch of ECO Secretariat was unveiled

ECO CHRONICLE On the sidelines of the 222nd CPR meeting on 24th July 2017, the new entrance arch of the ECO Secretariat was formally inaugurated. Present in the ceremony were the ECO Secretary General, Mayor of Kashan, ambassadors and representatives of the ECO Member States as well as representatives from Media.

The Arch, inspired by the spectacular and traditional architecture of Kashan edifices, was designed and constructed by the Kashan's craftsmen. As a generous gift by the Kashan Municipality to the ECO Secretariat, the Arch demonstrates " a



token of friendship between ECO Secretariat and Kashan City", the ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca said in his remarks to the high level audience. He further hoped that the other cities in the ECO Region may follow suit in making their footprints in the ECO Secretariat.

Mr. Seyed Mohammad Nazem Razavi, the honorable Mayor of Kashan also made opening remarks touching upon capacities and capabilities of City of Kashan as well as the areas of possible cooperation between ECO and Kashan

Municipality, including tourism.



Secretary General in Board of Governors of ECO Trade & Development Bank

ECO CHRONICLE The 16th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) was held on 23rd May 2017 in Istanbul. ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca participated in the plenary session of the Meeting. In his statement, ECO Secretary General elaborated on some of the activities and efforts made by ECO Trade and Development Bank and ECO Secretariat to boost the socio-economic development of the ECO Member States. He pointed out that nine years have elapsed since the Bank started its operations and the demand of the Member States to utilize the resources of the Bank is growing. The ECO Secretariat is of

the view that this is the time to consider recapitalization of the resources of the Bank with a view to enhancing its contribution to the socio-economic development of the ECO Member States. He underlined that expanding the membership of the Bank to include all ten ECO Member States and uplifting its resource base will pave the way for promotion and consolidation of ECO as a regional entity. Therefore, the remaining four ECO Member States should be encouraged to become shareholders of the Bank.

Secretary General informed the Meeting that ECO Council of Ministers held on February 28, 2017 in Islamabad adopted the "ECO Vision 2025" whose implementation will require significant funds. The "ECO Vision 2025" entails establishment of an "ECO Vision 2025 Fund". The resources for this Fund will come from voluntary grants from the Member States and donors. During the 13th ECO Summit recently held in Pakistan, it was envisaged that the ECO-TDB will manage this Fund and also provide the technical services like appraisals of the feasibilities of the projects submitted. He also deliberated upon ECO-UNIDO's joint project for Trade Capacity Building and highlighted the potential for ECO projects in the field of transport, energy and agriculture.



2nd ECO Training Course on Unification of Height Datums



The 2nd ECO Training Course on Unification of Height Datums (Gravity Potential Approach) was organized on 22-27 July 2017 in Tehran. Jointly held by the National Cartographic Center (NCC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECO Secretariat, the Training Course was attended by representatives from Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan as well as ECO Secretariat. The Course was inaugurated by Professor Alireza Ardalan, Director General of NCC of Iran and Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, ECO Deputy Secretary General. In his opening remarks, NCC Director General underscored the importance of specific knowledge on mapping and geomatics and other related topics. He added that the Course will certainly act as a catalyst in formulating regional plans and programmes to prevent and mitigate the effects of disasters in ECO Member States, and will enhance efforts under ECO Vision 2025 and UN Development Agenda 2030. He called for further enhancing the regional collaboration under the established mechanism of ECO Geomatics Committee.

ECO Deputy Secretary General

in his inaugural remarks underlined the importance of training, capacity building and knowledge sharing among Member States and briefed the audience on ECO Vision 2025 with its priority and cross-sectoral areas for future cooperation, adopted in February 2017. He asserted that ECO Vision 2025 was developed as per requirements and needs of the Member States



while having in mind the global processes such as UN Development Agenda 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. He also emphasized on the role of geomatics and mapping in the ECO Region as instrumental for successful regional cooperation in sectors which involve effective natural resource and land management systems and policies.

During the 5-day long programme, the participants visited different departments/structures of NCC of Iran, including land registry services, cadastre services, map and atlas services, GPS and

archive services and others. They were also engaged in different theoretical and practical training sessions and studied various topics, inter alia, overall concepts of height datums and their unifications and computations, gravitation measurement & corrections, geodesy, tide gauges and related calibrations, satellite altimetry observations, global navigation satellite system (GNSS), GPS, geoid, sea surface topography and mean sea level computation.

The participants also developed some recommendations for future, including the establishment of ECO regional portal for sharing data on disaster management; designing the ECO disaster risk maps; establishment of geodetic datums of different types i.e. gravity datum, 3-D geodetic datum, and height datum; contribution of the ECO Geomatics Committee into the work of the ECO policy-making bodies and implementation of ECO Vision 2025; contribution of ECO Geomatics Committee to implementation of the UN Development Agenda 2030 in ECO Region; etc.

At the conclusion of the training course, participants were awarded with Certificates of Appreciation and Completion.



ECO Workshop on Combating Narcotic Drugs was held in Tehran

 The ECO Workshop on "Combating Narcotic Drugs" was jointly organized by the Police of Iran and ECO-Drug and Organized Crime Coordination Unit (DOCCU) from 16-19 July 2017 at the premises of International Police Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The main objective of the Workshop was to improve the capacity and level of expertise of anti-narcotic forces of the ECO Member States. Law enforcement officials of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey as well as relevant staff of the ECO Secretariat attended the Workshop.

The participants were trained about different kinds of drugs, methods of drug identification, drug-concealment methods, searching and profiling techniques, joint international operations, undercover operations and geopolitics of drugs. During the Workshop, participants exchanged information and the best practices about the aforementioned topics.

The Workshop was formally closed by remarks made by Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi, ECO Deputy Secretary General, General Lotfali Bakhtyari, President of the Police

University of Iran and General Mohammad Masoud Zahedian, the Chief of Anti-narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Police of Iran also expressed readiness to host the 2nd meeting of Chiefs of Anti-narcotics Police of the ECO Member States and jointly organize with ECO a workshop/training course on the controlled delivery operations and sharing of intelligence information for the ECO Member States.

At the end of the Workshop participants were granted Certificate of Participation.



ECO Heads of Railway Convened their Meeting in Baku

ECO CHRONICLE The 13th Meeting of the Heads of ECO Railways Authorities/7th Meeting of Railway Committee of TTCC was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 17-18 April 2017. The Meeting was attended by senior railway officials from the ECO Member States, namely, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan. The Meeting was also attended by a delegation from the People's Republic of China and representatives from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), ECO-TDB, UNECE, UNESCAP and OTIF.

The Meeting reviewed the latest developments on major ECO railway corridors and discussed challenges yet existing and impeding smooth/regular run of container trains along these routes. The Meeting was also updated on ECO's plans regarding commercializing the railway connecting Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Iran. Updates were also provided on the latest situation regarding pre-feasibility/feasibility studies and construc-

tion works on the segments in the territories of the countries enroute the railway connecting China and Europe through Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI). The Meeting was also briefed on the headway made on the segments along the "Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan)" railway.

Representatives of IDB, UNECE, UNESCAP and OTIF also provided presentations on the latest initiatives/projects in the railway sector. Under the agenda item "Dialogue with China" ECO Member States exchanged views with the Chinese delegation on potential for further enhancement of their cooperation. The Chinese delegation also informed the Meeting about the national plans in the railway sector, notably on the major rail projects having relevance and connection to the ECO Region.

The Meeting agreed to hold the next KTAI ministerial Meeting and the 4th "Qazvin-Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan)" HLWG in 2017 in Iran. The Heads of Railways were informed that the next Meeting of Transport Ministers will be held in Turkmenistan in which China will be invited for high level interaction with ECO Ministers.





ECO Workshop on Desertification and Sand

ECO CHRONICLE ECO Secretariat and the ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ECO-IEST) co-organized the Project Development Consultation Workshop on "Combating Desertification with Special Emphasis on Dust Haze and Sand Storms in the ECO Region" on 5-6 July 2017. Representatives from Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Turkey and UNESCAP as well as the International Consultant participated in the Workshop. The representative of the UNCCD Secretariat also joined the Workshop through Skype. The Workshop was jointly inaugurated by statements made by Mr. Seyed Jaleedin Alavi Sabzevari,

ECO Deputy Secretary General and Dr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel, President of ECO-IEST. Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment (EME) also briefed the audience on ECO's environmental profile, including the Project Proposal on desertification, dust haze and sand storms.

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director of ICT and DRR Division of UNESCAP also delivered a presentation on multi-hazard risk assessment and early warning in drought, desertification and sand and dust storms in ECO Region and their impacts on the whole Asia and the Pacific region. Mr. Utchang Kang, Programme Officer of the UNCCD Secretariat also made a presentation through Skype on the "Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms" (SDS) produced by UNEP, UNCCD and WMO.

Mr. Peter John Hunnam,

International Consultant of the Project made a detailed presentation titled "ECO LandCare Initiative" elaborating on various aspects of the Project outline, inter alia, national, regional and global relevance of the Project; budgetary issues; Project's scope and focus on problem and solution mapping with consequences and success indicators in the context of addressing global SDGs; proposed timetable of 3-year Project (2018 - 2020) & 10-year Programme of Actions ("Decade of LandCare" 2021-2030); Project's design & structure; Project's results, monitoring framework and integrated outcomes (collaboration and synergy in LandCare; effective landcare actions; knowledge management for landcare); and Landcare



Storms in Tehran

strategies.

During the 2-day workshop, country presentations and statements were delivered by the participants focusing on the overall national legislations, policies/strategies and action plans in combating major challenges in desertification and related issues. They were actively engaged in three group exercises and questionnaires were distributed for detailed discussions. The participants put forward their views and concrete recommendations for incorporating into the draft Project.

At the end of the Workshop,

participants underscored the need for enhanced ECO regional synergy and coherent policy frameworks needed to dealing with desertification challenges at



national, regional and global levels, and agreed on the need to continue interactions with the ECO-IEST and International Consultant to assist early finaliza-

tion of the project proposal. It was also recommended that Member States, ECO Secretariat and ECO-IEST may participate in the international workshop on "Middle East Dust Sources and their Impacts" scheduled for 23-25 October 2017 in Istanbul. The ECO Secretariat was also encouraged to utilize the forthcoming UNCCD COP13 in September 2017 in Ordos, China for raising awareness about the ECO Project and for soliciting financial support from potential donors.

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council

ECO CHRONICLE The 7th Meeting (Extra-Ordinary) of ECOTA Cooperation Council was organized by the ECO Secretariat on 23-24 January 2017 in Tehran attended by the delegates from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey. ECO Deputy Secretary General Mr. Kanan

Nazarov, delivered the opening remarks.

The Heads of Delegation delivered brief statements highlighting the need for trade liberalization in the ECO Region; progress in the implementation of ECOTA; actions taken by their respective governments to implement tariff concessions; and proposals to expedite trade/economic integration in the ECO Region. The participating delegates in their deliberations acknowledged that delay in the implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement would undermine the prospects of its potential benefits for State Parties.

The Council reviewed progress on the decisions taken by the 6th Meeting of ECOTA Cooperation Council held on 15 June 2015 in Ankara. The ECO Secretariat presented a report on the developments taken place since the last meeting. Extensive deliberations were made on how to expedite the implementation of the ECOTA and how to move forward. The Council also congratulated Afghanistan on its accession to the WTO and hoped that Afghanistan would play wider role in enhancing intra-regional trade.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, the participants met with ECO Secretary General.



Kazakhstan Turkmenistan and Iran ECO Railway Corridor

ECO CHRONICLE The meeting of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran Railway Corridor (KTI) was held on 6 February 2017 at the ECO Secretariat where senior officials of the concerned authorities of the enroute Member States and representatives of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the ECO Secretariat discussed ways and means for the commercialization of KTI corridor. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca, ECO Secretary General, addressed the Meeting with an inaugural statement. The Meeting was preceded by a two day inter-agency meeting among ECO, IDB and ESCAP Secretariats which developed a draft proposed roadmap on commercialization of the Corridor, submitted for consideration of the enroute Member States.

The Meeting achieved a consensual outcome document, fully sup-



Pakistan signed Statute of ECO Regional Center for Anti-Corruption

ECO CHRONICLE In a special ceremony on the sidelines of the third meeting of ECO Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen on 7th June 2017 in Baku, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed the Statute of the "ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen" (RCCACO).

Mr. Zahir Shah, Director General of National Accountability Bureau of Pakistan signed the Statute before the high level participants from ECO Member States and host country Republic of Azerbaijan.

Four countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan) have so far signed the Statute. Republic of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyz Republic have also expressed their interest to sign the Statute. The Center will be functional after ratification by four Member States.



agreed on Commercialization of



ported by the enroute Member States as an inevitable imperative for the future success of the Corridor, triggered an inter-agency initiation of a project with full involvement of the enroute Member States paving the way for implementation of a well-phased process of commercialization of the Corridor. The Meeting also took note of the latest status of the Route's operation, existing challenges and practical proposals for joint efforts of the KTI railway administration. After detailed deliberations and based on recommendations of the inter-agency meeting, the Meeting agreed on, inter alia, developing a intergovernmental agreement among the three countries for commercialization of the Corridor; and preparation of a time bound Action Plan for implementation of intergovernmental agreement. The Meeting also expressed hope that this project will serve as a model for commercialization of other ECO corridors.

3rd ECO-Silk Road Food Festival was held in Zanjan



 The third "ECO-Silk Road

International Food Festival" was held in Zanjan, Iran on 10-12 May 2017. The third Festival, celebrating also the International Year of Tourism For Sustainable Development, was hosted by Zanjan Provincial "Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization" and organized in cooperation with ECO Secretariat. Seventeen groups from ECO Member States and Silk Road members, including Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Bahrain, Bulgaria, China, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine attended the Festival. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a few national NGOs also participated in the Festival through showcasing their publications and activities. A sizeable number of local restaurants and handi-

crafts producers were also involved in the Event this year.

ECO Deputy Secretary General Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi; Mr. Namvar Motlagh, Deputy Head of Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism (ICHTO); Governor of Zanjan and some local officials delivered their statements at the opening ceremony of the Festival, presided over by H.E. Ms. Zahara Ahmadipur, Vice- President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Head of ICHTO. Some members of the Iranian Parliament and high ranking officials as well as Tehran based ambassadors and diplomats also attended the opening ceremony.

The ECO Deputy Secretary General in his statement praised the Festival and said that revival of the Ancient Silk Road would contribute to the development of tourism industry in the ECO Region. He further stated that the ECO Secretariat has extended its support to Member States and has embarked on different projects for the cause of tourism promotion in



the Region. He also mentioned that co-organizing the annual ECO-Silk Road Food Festival in Zanjan is also a manifestation of our will to stand alongside the local communities to utilize their capabilities and capacities and help flourish their potential tourism attractions and introduce them to regional and international community. He also highlighted the theme of this year's Food Festival "Together for Sustainable Tourism" as an intention to highlight and appreciate different cultures, foods, crafts, environments and peoples in ECO Region and along the ancient Silk Road and to present them to the world community.

At the closing ceremony of the Festival and in the presence of the local and invited officials, the "Certificates of Appreciation" were awarded to the participants by Mr. Akbar Khodaei on behalf of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Zanjan is home to Soltaniyeh Dome which along with Turkey's Hagia Sophia Mosque and Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral in Italy, are the largest brick structures in the world, recognized as World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The proposal of organizing the third International ECO-Silk Road Food Festival in Zanjan had been welcomed by the Member States during the 27th Regional Planning Council of ECO in December 2016.



ECO Workshop on Good Manufacturing Practices in Tehran



The "Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)" workshop was jointly organized by "Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA)" and the ECO Secretariat from 10 to 11 May 2017 in Tehran. The Workshop was participated by government's representatives, scientists and experts from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Iran. During the Workshop two instructors, namely, Dr. Amir Mehdizadeh and Dr. Aliasghar Shahmiri, conducted sessions on the topics such as "Pharmaceutical Quality System (PQS)", "Water System Validation", "HVAC System Validation", "Quality Risk Management", "Self Inspection/Internal Audit and CAPA", and "Good Laboratory Practice" (GLP). All presentations were followed by interactive discussions and questions and answers. Participants also shared ideas on possible future cooperation among their respective national authorities, including continued capacity building and training programmes at the regional levels.

At the end of Workshop, Certificate of Participation were awarded to the participants.

ECO
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A Training Course on Strategic Management hosted by the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) in collaboration with Oil and Gas International Training Centre (OGITC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held on 7-9 March 2017 in Tehran.

Participants from Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran (host), Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Tajikistan participated in the Event. The overarching objective of the Training Course was the raising awareness and knowledge-sharing among the participants in the area of strategic management, focusing on formulating visions and proper decision-making for implementation of policies to achieve goals and targets of the organizations and companies in various fields, including oil, gas, and business.

At the beginning of the programme, Mr. Eshagh Farshidi, Head of Training Department of NIGC warmly welcomed and appreciated the participants for attending the Training Course. Dr. Majid Mohammadi, Director of OGITC and Deputy Director of the Institute for International Energy Studies of Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran also underscored the need for capacity building activities in energy sector and noted that strategic

Training Course on Strategic Management in Tehran

planning requires a vibrant educational structure to prepare relevant literature and monitoring mechanism in line with current global developments and trends in science and technology. He further called for establishment of "ECO Regional Center for Oil and Gas Training Courses". He also ensured OGITC's consistent support in organization of workshops/training courses for the ECO Member States' senior managers, instructors, academicians, technicians and experts.

Mr. Fuad Farzalibayov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment (EME) appreciated the host authorities for

organizing the Training Course and briefed the participants on ECO's current state of play in energy sector. He informed that 13th ECO Summit and 22nd ECO Council of Ministers (COM) recently adopted "ECO Vision 2025", which highlights enhancement of energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade as one

of the ECO's core priorities.

During the 3-day intensive schedule, Professor Sadrodin Nejati Gilani, Full Professor of the University of Teesside and Bournemouth University, delivered in-depth lectures on different aspects of Strategic Management, including background, purposes, functions and various types of strategies; strategy making process and execution; vision making and planning; thinking approaches; managerial problems and leadership roles; strategy-making hierarchy; models and tools applied in various organizations, companies and departments to deal with

different problems; and methodologies for achieving the desired goals and tasks of the organizations in an efficient manner. The participants were given opportunity in groups to make practical exercise on making a strategy for a given organization or company.

At the conclusion of the Training Course, all participants were awarded with Certificates of Completion.



2nd Peste des Petits Ruminants Meeting for ECO Region in Dushanbe



ECO Secretariat participated at Second Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Regional Roadmap Meeting for ECO Region in Dushanbe on 28 February-2 March 2017. The Meeting, co-organized by the Governmental of Tajikistan, FAO, OIE, joint PPR Secretariat, and the ECO Secretariat, was officially opened by Mr. Sattori Izzattullo, honourable Minister of Agriculture of Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Memduh Unal, ECO Director of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism, Mr. Viorel Gutu, FAO Representative in Tajikistan and Dr. Kazimieras Lukauskas, OIE Regional Representative for Europe also made opening remarks. The Meeting brought together chief veterinary officers (CVOs) as well as laboratory and epidemiologists from Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

ECO Director chaired the first

session of the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the first PPR roadmap meeting; assessed the PPR epidemiological situation in the ECO Region; discussed the PPR Global Eradication Programme (PPR-GEP) and the template for the elaboration of the PPR National Strategic Plans (NSP); and discussed the use of the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) and the PPR resources mobilization strategy and partnerships in the Region. In line with the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR-GCES), endorsed during the FAO-OIE International Conference held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (31 March- 2 April 2015), the participants adopted the Regional Roadmap of Central Asia to achieve eradication of PPR by 2030.

The first PPR Roadmap meeting for Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries had been held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) from 23 to 25 February 2016.





The ECO Workshop on Industrial Property Rights was held on 21-22 February 2017 in Tehran, hosted by the Center for Intellectual Property Rights of Iran. The Workshop, attended by participants from Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Tajikistan, was inaugurated with the statements by Dr. Mohammad Hasan Kiani, President of the Center for Intellectual Property Rights of Iran and Mr. Memduh Unal, Director of Agriculture, Industry and Tourism of ECO Secretariat. ECO Director briefed the participants on activities of ECO Secretariat on IPR, including organization of three Coordination Committee Meetings and concluding a

ECO Workshop on Industrial Property Rights

Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and WIPO. He also made a comparative analysis of the share of patents and trade-

marks of ECO Region where Iran and Turkey possessed 60 percent of patent registrations and 70 percent of trademark registrations respectively. Participants from Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan and Tajikistan delivered their country reports on industrial property rights in the opening session and presented overview on the latest developments in their respective organizations. The Workshop continued its work with instructors and university professors making lectures and presentations on various subjects of IPR.

The participants also participated in a study visit to Iran Nanotechnology Exhibition to get familiarized with the patent registration system in Iran.

ECO Secretariat attended Tajik ceremony for UN Decade on Water



ECO Secretariat attended a press conference on 7 February 2017 in the Embassy of Republic of Tajikistan in Tehran where a wide range of representatives of the diplomatic corps were present. The Event was held to celebrate adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution on "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028". In his statement, Ambassador of Tajikistan in Iran H.E. Mr. Nematullo Emomzoda addresses water and its growing importance as well as its associated problems. He recalled the initiative of President of Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon with regard to water which was extensively welcomed by world community when UN took decision on establishment of constructive cooperation in this context.



Steering Committee of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security



The "2nd Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Implementation of the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security" was held on 16 February 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. The delegations from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, Turkish Cypriot State (observer) and FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia (FAO-SEC) attended the said meeting. The Meeting was officially opened and welcomed by Mr. Ali Recep Nazli,

Regional Programme Coordinator, ECO Regional Coordination Center (ECO-RCC). The ECO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Kanan Nazarov and FAO-SEC and FAO Representative in Turkey,



Ms. Yuriko Shoji also attended the Meeting.

During the Meeting, the ECO-RCC presented an update on the ECO Regional Programme for Food Security, status of imple-

mented activities and work plan of ECO-RCC. Following deliberations among the participants, the Meeting finalized the Working Principles of the ECO-RCC.

The participants also highlighted the need for feasibility study for establishment of the "Food Security Bank". The Meeting requested the Member States to propose concept projects with the budget (not exceeding 200.000 \$ for national projects and 1.000.000 \$ for multi-country or regional projects) to be evaluated under FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP).

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Cappadocia- Turkey on the third week of February 2018.



ECO Delegation in New York

ECO CHRONICLE An ECO delegation headed by Secretary General H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca visited New York from 19 to 23 to attend informal meeting of ECO Council of Ministers and 72nd UN General Assembly. The delegation also held some bilateral meetings.

The Informal Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers was held on 19 September 2017 on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and was attended by Ministers and high-level officials from Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. Turkish Cypriot State attended the Meeting as "Observer".

At the beginning of the Meeting, the Chairman made his opening statement followed by Secretary General's report to the Meeting elaborating follow-up activities of the Organization since the 22nd Council of Ministers Meeting. Secretary General also addressed the ongoing ECO projects and pro-



grammes and external relations, including relations with other regional and international organizations. During the Meeting the Ministers/Heads of Delegation made statements/remarks elaborating their views on the regional cooperation in the framework of ECO. They also shared with the

Council their views on relevant regional and global developments since last COM Meeting. ECO delegation also attended the general debate of the 72nd UN General Assembly where Heads of State/Government, foreign ministers and high level officials of the UN Member States and observers delivered formal statements addressing a wide array of international issues such as development, peace and security, international and humanitarian law, etc.

ECO Secretary General also held bilateral talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State, H.E. Mr. Tahsin Ertugruloglu, was held on 21 September 2017 on the margins of the General Debate of 72nd UN General Assembly in New York. A number of issues were discussed at the Meeting. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Cypriot State while expressing his gratitude for invitation to attend the Informal Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting requested for Permanent observership in ECO as well as more facilitated participation of observers in ECO meetings. He also informed about preparations for some ECO meetings to be co-hosted by Turkey in Turkish Cypriot State.



ECO and ASEAN Secretaries General reviewed cooperation

ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca and ASEAN Secretary General H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh met on 21 September 2017 on the margins of the of 72nd UN General Assembly ses-



sion in New York and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation. Recalling MoU and Work Programme adopted in 2006, both sides were of the view that tangible cooperation has yet to be realized. They also considered new areas of interest for cooperation such as transport and connectivity, energy, minerals and environment, human resources and sustainable development. In order to strengthen cooperation, it was agreed to develop a new document called "ASEAN-ECO Framework of Cooperation", which will incorporate areas of mutual interest and benefit to both organizations.

ECO Secretary General while referring to the Meeting with ASEAN Member States' Ambassadors in Tehran proposed to strengthen Secretariat to Secretariat cooperation. He also suggested that ECO-ASEAN Member States Meeting at the level of Ambassadors may be held on a regular basis in Tehran. The ASEAN Secretary General in return stated that it is time to add a new dimension to cooperation between the two Organizations. The two sides expressed readiness to continue further discussions and consultations for realizing agreed course of action.

ECO and UNOSS signed MoU

Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSS) signed an Memorandum of Understanding on 19 September 2017 on the sidelines of the Informal Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers. The signing ceremony was attended also by distinguished Ministers/representatives of the ECO Member States. ECO Secretary General Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca and Mr. Jorge Chediek, the "Envoy of the UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation and Director of UN Office for South-South Cooperation" signed the MoU on behalf of both organizations.

ECO Secretary General and UN Secretary General's Envoy in their statements at the signing ceremony emphasized on the need for development of bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, acting primarily on priority areas.



ECO Secretary General met with IDB President in Jeddah

A high level ECO delegation headed by the ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca visited the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG) Headquarters in Jeddah from 19- 22 August 2017. The main objective of visit was to enhance cooperation between the two organizations.

During the visit and on 20th August 2017, the ECO Secretary General held bilateral talks with His Excellency Dr. Bandar Bin Mohamed Hamza Hajjar, President of Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG), where cooperation arrangements as well as areas of mutual interest were discussed. Highlighting the fact that all ECO Member States are also members of IDB, there was a consensus to enhance mutual cooperation to advanced levels, especially under the new "Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy" being finalized by the IDB. ECO Secretary General later held meetings with IDB Vice Presidents Dr. Mansur Mutar and Mr. Sayed Aqa separately, exchanging views on cooperation in various sectoral and thematic areas and ongoing projects.

The ECO delegation also held detailed meetings with the heads and representa-



tives of different departments of the Bank and discussed with them the ongoing projects, new project proposals prepared by the ECO Secretariat, as had been shared earlier with IDB, and prospective new areas for mutual cooperation.

The ECO delegation also held useful meeting with the representatives of the members of Islamic Development Group, including "The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)", "The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)", and "The Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD)".

The representatives of the agencies showed their keenness to develop mutual programmes for cooperation in areas of trade, investment, reinsurance, tourism and agriculture.

The visit was very successful and it was decided to

enhance the relationship between the agencies. The visit ended with the signing of an agreement between Islamic Development Bank and Economic Cooperation Organization concerning the Study for the "Commercialization of the Regional Railway Corridor between IDB-ECO Common Member Countries".



Ambassador of South Africa visited ECO Secretariat

South African Ambassador, H.E. Mr. William Max Philemon Whitehead, visited the ECO Secretariat in Tehran on 25th September 2017 and met with the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Halil Ibrahim Akca.

During the Meeting, both sides explored possible areas of cooperation, including ECO-SADC cooperation. Ambassador Whitehead informed that



South Africa is the current chair of Southern African Development Community (SADC), and expressed hope that SADC and the ECO can start working on establishing a mutually beneficial cooperative arrangement in the near future. ECO Secretary General thanked Ambassador for his interest in ECO and briefed him on activities within the ECO context. He highlighted that ECO attaches great importance to making alliances with regional organizations and a meaningful cooperation arrangement between ECO and SADC will help the both regions greatly.

Both sides agreed to continue contacts in the future in this regard.

Secretary General met with Austrian Ambassador



The newly appointed Ambassador of Austria in Iran, H.E. Mr. Stefan Scholz visited the ECO Secretariat and met with the Secretary General of ECO, Ambassador Ibrahim Halil Akca on 16th August 2017. After exchange of pleasantries, Ambassador Scholz informed the Secretary General about his career background, including his very last post as Director for Strategic Planning for Development Cooperation at the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Highlighting that the Austrian Government attaches great importance to establishing cooperative arrangements with regional organizations worldwide, he assured the Secretary General of his full support in the potential areas for cooperation, particularly energy conservation and renewable energy. As Austria possesses requisite know-how and technological knowledge base, it is helping the developing world through establishing the "Energy Centers" which are linked with regional organizations.

The ECO Secretary General in return thanked Austrian Ambassador and informed him of the Secretariat's proposal for the establishment of "ECO Clean Energy Center", as the topic of energy conservation is of great importance to this region. The Secretariat, at the moment, needs financial assistance and is seeking a partner organization in this regard; since the initial stage will require some funding; while the running costs of the Center when it is established is envisaged to be shared by the Member States. Ambassador Akca also presented an overview about different energy related projects in the region. He further identified disaster risk reduction as another issue of vital importance for the ECO Region where assistance can be rendered to the ECO.

Ambassador Scholz thanked the Secretary General for the information and assured him of his full support in seeking contacts in the relevant agencies. He also informed that Austria will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2018, hence ECO's interactions with the EU and its regional programmes can be facilitated.

ECO Secretary General in Ashgabat Energy Forum



The Government of Turkmenistan in its capacity as the Chair of the Energy Charter Conference in 2017, and the International Energy Charter jointly organized "Ashgabat International Energy Charter Forum: Towards a Multilateral Framework Agreement on Transit of Energy Resources" on 30-31 May 2017 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The Forum provided a platform for policy dialogue on energy transit among high-level government officials, representatives of international organizations, businesses and academia with a view to promoting open energy markets, diversification of supply sources and routes.

ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akça participated in the Forum. In his statement in the opening session of the Forum, Secretary General underscored the importance of energy as one of the priority areas of cooperation within ECO, and the efforts for enhancement of coherence among key energy stakeholders in line with the recently endorsed "ECO Vision 2025". Ambassador Akça pointed out that "ECO Vision 2025" stipulates the enhancement of energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade as one of ECO's strategic objectives.

He also referred to some ongoing regional proj-



ects with global importance in the ECO Region which improve intra-regional connectivity, including the ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM). ECO Secretary General expressed the readiness of ECO Secretariat to engage in active dialogue with the International Energy Charter and other international partners on potential areas of cooperation for the benefit of its Member States and sustainable development of the Region.

The Forum deliberated on the issues of transit and cross-border transportation of energy resources, including natural gas, oil products and electricity. The participants discussed the importance of international energy cooperation for achieving global energy security and implementing the SDGs.

On the margins of the Forum, the ECO Secretary General had bilateral meetings with Turkmen energy officials as well as Secretary General of the Energy Charter. In his meeting with Mr. Maksat Babayev, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan and the current Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference, ECO Secretary General thanked for Turkmenistan's consistent support to ECO activities and briefed him about ECO and its ongoing activities in the field of energy and trade sectors. He invited Turkmenistan to explore the possibility of joining the ECO initiative on establishment of ECO-REM as given



its huge energy potential, Turkmenistan's involvement could add value to advancement of the initiative in future. Ambassador Akça also requested Turkmenistan to consider the possibility of becoming a member of the ECO Trade & Development Bank (ECO-TDB).

In his meeting with Dr. Urban Rusnak,

the Secretary General of Energy Charter, both sides reviewed the areas of cooperation, including the ongoing initiative of establishment of ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) where Secretary General noted the importance of the early launching of the envisaged REM, having been guided by success stories in other regions. Dr. Rusnak expressed readiness to consider IEC's engagement in establishment of ECO-REM and proposed either to support ECO in hiring international consultant for preparation of the Project's Feasibility Study, or to establish a consortium for joint coordination of this project based on the previous IEC experiences. He also suggested reflecting ECO-IEC cooperation in the "ECO Plan

of Action for Energy/Petroleum Cooperation".

ECO Secretary General invited IEC to participate in its capacity as ECO Observer in the 4th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Energy/Petroleum to be held in Turkey in 2017. Dr. Urban Rusnak in return invited ECO Secretariat to participate in the 28th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference, to be held on 28-29 November 2017 in Ashgabat.



PARLASUL President visited the ECO Secretariat

H.E. Mr. Arlindo Chinaglia, President of Parliament of MERCOSUR visited the ECO Secretariat in Tehran on 7 August 2017 and met with ECO Secretary General Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca. At the beginning, ECO Secretary General presented an overview about ECO and its various programmes of regional cooperation aimed primarily at the promotion of trade and regional connectivity. He recalled ECO and MERCOSUR earlier contacts between ECO Secretaries General and ambassadors of MERCOSUR's countries in Tehran, including a meeting in 2011 where both sides agreed to establish a working group to explore the possibilities and areas of cooperation.

Secretary General also informed the President of the Parliament of MERCOSUR on the "Parliamentary Assembly of the ECO" (PAECO), its structure and functions. He said that Parliamentary authorities of ECO Member States have already started interactions through PAECO meetings while it will be formally functional pending one more ratification by signatories. Secretary General highlighted

the importance of inter-regional interactions for both sides including through exchange of experiences in regional integration.

Mr. Arlindo Chinaglia also briefed Secretary General on the state of affairs of MERCOSUR and its parliamentary body, PARLASUL, and shared his views on possible cooperation between ECO and MERCOSUR as well as between PAECO and PARLASUL. He also requested for Secretariat's assistance in facilitating the contacts of the parliamentarians of the two regional blocs through PAECO and PARPASUL.

Both sides agreed to continue exchange of views on optimal

arrangements for cooperation and interactions between two important regional organizations. The working group as agreed in 2011; meetings between MERCOSUR Secretariat and Ambassadors of ECO Member States in Montevideo; meetings between ECO Secretariat and Ambassadors of MERCOSUR's countries in Tehran; contacts and coordination between President of PARLASUL and current

President of PAECO (Speaker of the National Parliament of Pakistan); and participation in each other's meetings were among the measures both sides agreed as helpful in this regard.

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) is a regional integration organization established in 1991 by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was later on expanded to include Venezuela. It has also 5 associated members and 2 observers. The MERCOSUR headquarters is in Montevideo, Uruguay. The MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUL) was established in 2006, as a body representing the interests of the citizens of the States Parties.



UNICEF delegation visited the ECO Secretariat



ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca met with Dr. Will Parks, the Representative of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in Tehran on 23 July 2017. During the meeting held in the ECO Secretariat, the UN official briefed Secretary General about UNICEF's activities in Iran and highlighted the scope of possible cooperation between the ECO and the UNICEF in the era of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and partnership for implementation of SDGs. He also expressed readiness to cooperate in capacity-building, knowledge/experience sharing and policy advice, as well as in implementation of joint projects.

The ECO Secretary General appreciated the presence of the UNICEF delegation in the ECO Secretariat and referred to MoU between ECO and UNICEF (signed in January 1994) as well as the recently expanded cooperation between ECO and UN bodies such as FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, UNODC, UNFF, UNFPA, UNFCC and UNISDR. He informed the UN Representative about other specific ECO projects in areas such as transport and transit; trade promotion and facilitation; renewable energy and environment. He also briefed Dr. Parks on the ECO Vision

2025 recently adopted by ECO Summit/Council of Ministers.

ECO Secretary General welcomed the idea of expanding institutional collaborative linkages between ECO and UNICEF. He further considered the possibility for financial support for joint projects in the ECO Region by financial organizations including Islamic Development Bank.

Both sides agreed to continue contacts with a view to elaborating further the cooperation arrangements and initiatives including in conducting research and studies on children-related fields.



INTERPOL Secretary General visited ECO Secretariat



The Secretary General of INTERPOL H.E. Mr. Jurgen Stock visited ECO Secretariat in Tehran

on 10 July 2017 and met with ECO Secretary General H.E Mr. Halil Ibrahim Akca. At the Meeting, both officials briefed each other on the scope of activities of ECO and INTERPOL, especially on the areas of similar mandates.

INTERPOL Secretary General referred to the ongoing initiative on new global security architecture which entails dialogue among regional police and law enforcement organizations from around the world. He particularly referred to the participation by the ECO Secretariat in the last two dialogues in Singapore (2016) and Lyon (2017) where the



ongoing ECO initiative to establish ECO Police (ECOPOL) received support from Interpol and regional police

organizations. He reiterated Interpol support for ECOPOL establishment.

ECO Secretary General elaborated on the activities within ECO in terms of enhancing regional security for economic development of the countries and the ECO Region as a whole. He also informed about the interest within ECO for capacity building and training programmes.

Both sides further discussed possible ways and means for bilateral cooperation and agreed to work together, including for the capacity building of the law enforcement agencies of the shared Membership.



ECO Secretary General met with UNFPA Representative



The ECO Secretary General welcomed Dr. Leila Saiji Joudane as UNFPA's new Representative in Iran and wished her a successful tenure in Tehran. While referring to the recently expanded cooperation between ECO and UN bodies such as FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, UNODC, UNFF and UNISDR, he informed the UN Representative about some specific ECO projects in areas such as transport and transit; trade promotion and facilitation; renewable energy; environment; disaster reduction, immigration and drugs and organized crime. ECO Secretary General welcomed the idea of expanding institutional collaborative linkages between ECO and UNFPA and assured the latter of ECO's support in implementation of UN agenda in the ECO Region.

Dr. Joudane shared with the ECO Secretary General the UNFPA's readiness for technical support in the areas of evidence-based policies and strategies with the focus on capacity building and training programmes for the youth; harnessing demographic dividend; tackling the burgeoning challenges and creating opportunities for population ageing; meeting the needs of older people and their contribution to society in the ECO Region, including through joint UNFPA-ECO development programmes and projects for the benefit of the people of Region. Both sides agreed to continue contacts with a view to elaborating further possible cooperation arrangements.

Dr. Leila Saiji Joudane, the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Tehran met with ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca on 13 June 2017. While briefing the Secretary General on UNFPA's activities in Iran, she highlighted the scope of possible cooperation between the ECO and the UNFPA in the era of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She expressed readiness of UNFPA's for enhancing cooperation in the field of education in health-related areas, and emerging population issues and best practices in ECO Member States, as well as for intensifying South-South cooperation within the ECO Region through capacity building and training programmes by UNFPA.

ECO Secretariat in Energy Ministerial Conference in Astana

At the invitation of Republic of Kazakhstan and United Nations, the ECO Secretariat participated in "Ministerial Conference and International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development" held on 11 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Meeting, organized in the context of Expo 2017, was attended by the ministers and high level officials from 85 countries, heads and high level officials from UN regional commissions and funds and programmes, and representatives of the business community and civil society.

The theme of the Conference, inaugurated by the distinguished Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, was "Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy" which was addressed through debates and discussions in different ministerial plenary and panel dialogues. Issues such as "Energy Security, Regional Trade & Infrastructure", "Energy-Climate-Food Nexus: Towards a

Circular Economy", "Renewable Energy in Central Asia"; and "Promoting New Technologies and Innovations" were among the lead topics discussed in the ministerial sessions.

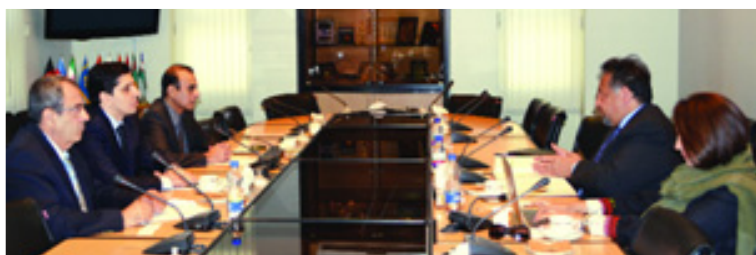
ECO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari was among the panelists in the "Ministerial Dialogue on Energy-Climate-Food Nexus: Towards a Circular Economy". Panelists, which included also Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia, Minister of Natural Resources of Surinam, Deputy Minister of Energy of Georgia, Secretary General of Club of Rome, and Director of Sustainable Energy of UN Economic Commission for Europe, shared their views with the audience on the ways and means and also implications of application of an integrated and synergist approach to challenges of energy, climate change and food security. These three sectors, also addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals, constitute challenges emanating from implementation of the sectoral strategies and policies at the national, regional and global levels. ECO Deputy Secretary General also shared his views on desirability and probability of application of the nexus approach to these sectors at the regional level, including in the ECO Region.

At the end of the Conference, "Ministerial Statement on Access to Affordable Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy" was adopted by the Participants.



ECO Secretariat attended the Energy Charter Training Course

UNIDO Director for Trade & Investment visited the ECO Secretariat



Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director for Trade and Investment of the United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) visited the ECO Secretariat on 1st June 2017 and met with Mr. Kanan Nazarov, the ECO Deputy Secretary General, and other officials from the Directorate of Trade and Investment. During the meeting, Dr. Sarmiento informed that UNIDO would like to continue its cooperation with ECO in the field of trade and investment. In this regard, ECO-UNIDO collaboration in investment, innovation, entrepreneurship, gender equality and women empowerment in business were discussed. He informed that he is also working on reforming and putting the activities in different ways for implementation and proposed a new approach for ECO-UNIDO collaboration. He pointed out that instead of trainings there should be resource-based management and impact analysis. He also proposed that a document should be prepared to cover the trade-related reforms done in each of the ECO Member States. UNIDO Official also handed out to ECO officials some documents prepared on the basis of new approach of UNIDO to implement its activities in the field of trade and investment. These included Training Catalogue on Investment Promotion, Financial Analysis of Investment Projects, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, and Trade, Investment and Innovation. Mr. Nazarov briefed Dr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento on the ECO Vision 2025 recently adopted by ECO Council of Ministers. He requested UNIDO to consider assisting the ECO in implementation of the Vision. He also presented Dr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento with a copy of the ECO Vision 2025. He also emphasized the importance of continuation of the ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project and launching a capacity building project on promotion of investment in the ECO Region. He also assured him that ECO will endeavour to enhance the existing cooperation with UNIDO.

International Energy Charter (IEC) hosted the 10th Executive Training Programme on the role of natural gas, oil and electricity in Eurasian energy security on 1-2 June 2017 in the International Oil and Gas University of Ashgabat. ECO EME Director, Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, and Mr. Djalyzbek Turgumbaev participated in this Training Programme on the invitation of IEC.

Training Programme focused on the topics such as the role of gas in structural changes in the global energy markets; conventional and unconventional oil supplies for global markets; key supply sources and possibilities for diversification; optimization of distribution systems; diversification of gas transportation routes as key elements of gas strategy; key role of gas transit in providing international energy security; and making investments sustainable and commercially viable.

On the sidelines of the training course, ECO delegation discussed with IEC Secretariat the possibility of organizing similar programmes for ECO Member States.

ECO Secretariat in the UN Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 21-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. The Meeting was the first global event since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the UN World Conference in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. The High Level segment of the Global Platform was attended by delegates from 189 countries including Heads of State/Government, Ministers and high level officials as well as authorities from the UN System, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders. At the invitation by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), ECO delegation composed of Mr. Ugur Kilicarslan, ECO Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development (HRSD) and Mr. Javad Heidari, HRSD Programme Officer attended the Event.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Robert Glasser, the Head of UNISDR, gave an overview on the way gone since UN Conference in Sendai in March 2015 and highlighted the challenges of putting in place national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction by 2020 as called for by the Sendai Framework.

During the Event and its thematic and featured panels, representatives of the participating countries and organizations deliberated on ways



and means to implement the Sendai Framework in the years to come. The coherence and inter-linkage between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change was also discussed in the main panels and side events.

ECO Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development, Mr. Ugur Kilicarslan, in his statement in the plenary session of the Meeting briefed about disaster situation in the ECO Region and introduced the draft ECO Regional Framework for DRR. Mr. Kilicarslan further underscored the partnerships developed by ECO with UN relevant bodies such

as UNISDR, UNESCAP, UNHABITAT and UNESCO and highlighted the need to foster collaborative partnerships among regional organizations to drive the global disaster resilience agenda.

The 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was concluded with adoption of "Cancun Communiqué". The Cancun Communiqué calls for accelerated efforts to ensure all countries systematically account for disaster losses by 2020, the deadline set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for all countries to have strategies in place to reduce disaster losses.

ECO delegation also attended a side event on DRR Regional Platform for Central Asia and South Caucasus (CASC) on 23 May 2017. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, the Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations of Tajikistan. During the meeting, Ms. Paola Albritto the Head of UNISDR Regional Office for Europe gave an

overview on the implementation of Sendai Framework and elaborated on the importance of national strategies for implementation of the Sendai Framework and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation for fostering the Sendai 2020 target (Target e).

ECO Director for



HRSD also briefed the CASC Meeting about ECO and introduced the emerging ECO Regional Framework for DRR and reminded that 6 countries of CASC Region are ECO Member States which justifies the merit for UNSIDR-ECO potential cooperation within the Region.

In a brief talk with Mr. Robert Glasser, the Head of UNISDR, the ECO delegation conveyed the ECO readiness to work with the UNISDR for the interest of the Member States. ECO delegation also met with Mr. Fatih Ozer, vice President of Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and discussed the future cooperation, including the organization of the 2nd Experts Group Meeting and 8th ECO Ministerial Conference for DRR in Turkey in 2017.

In a Meeting with Mr. Bill Ho, the Head of Information



Technology and Communication Department of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), two sides exchanged views and information with a view to identifying areas of bilateral cooperation especially in capacity building and training in the years to come. Mr. Ho also expressed interest for a possible MoU between two organizations. ECO delegation also met with Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Officer-in-Charge of UNISDR-Asia and Pacific and discussed ways and means for enhancing the existing bilateral cooperation.

ECO Secretariat attended the Ministerial Segment of the UNESCAP



The Ministerial segment of 73rd session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held on 17-19 May where ECO Secretariat was represented by Mr. Seyed Jalaedin Alavi Sabzevari, ECO Deputy Secretary General. The main theme of this year session was "Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Energy". A number of Heads of State/Government and Ministers, as well as high level officials, from the ESCAP member states and senior representatives from the international and regional organizations were present in the ministerial segment's plenary and ministerial dialogues/panels.

ECO Deputy Secretary General participated as panelist in a high level dialogue on "Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Panel was moderated by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. President of Marshall Islands, Minister of Fisheries of Fiji, Deputy Minister of National Development Planning of Indonesia, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal, State Minister for Information Technology of Bangladesh, Undersecretary of National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, Vice-President of Asian Development Bank, Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and former United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator also attended the Dialogue.

In his remarks in the high level Dialogue, the ECO Deputy Secretary General presented an introduction into the newly adopted ECO Vision 2025 and the prospects for its implementation. He also shared his views on possible direct and indirect impacts on SDGs of the Vision implementation. Emphasizing the importance given by ECO to its partnership with ESCAP and while expressing his satisfaction, Deputy Secretary General emphasized also on the need for more visibility for ECO in the ESCAP documents and researches as ECO Region indeed constitutes an important sub-region in Asia and the Pacific.

On the sidelines of the ESCAP Session, Deputy Secretary General had bilateral talks with ESCAP (on energy and disaster issues), ASEAN (on disaster issues) and UNDP where areas of cooperation were reviewed for ensuing follow-up.

ECO Secretariat in IDB Forum on Regional Organizations



The "2nd Islamic Development Bank Consultative Forum with Regional Cooperation Organizations in the OIC Region" was held on 14-16 May 2017 on the sidelines of the 42nd Islamic Development Bank Group's Annual Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Forum was aimed to establish and institutionalize a consultative gathering for policy dialogue between the IDB and the regional cooperation organizations in the OIC region with a view to seeking their support and cooperation in the implementation of the IDB's programs/projects in different sub-regions. The Forum was attended by 15 regional and international organizations from Africa, Asia and Arab regions. The Meeting was inaugurated with the opening remarks of Dr. Bandar Hajjar, the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group. Mr. MacCormac, the IDB's

Consultant for preparation of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy made a presentation and highlighted the role of regional cooperation organizations/regional economic communities in implementation of the IDBG's RCI Strategy. The Meeting agreed to initiate inter-agency coordination between IDB and the RCOs/RECs concerned for drafting sub-regional programmes for implementation of the RCI Strategy.

The ECO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Kanan Nazarov who represented ECO in the Event, briefed the Forum about the "ECO Vision 2025" adopted during the 13th ECO Summit meeting held in Pakistan in 2017 and requested the IDB for assistance in implementation of the Vision, contributing financially to the "ECO Vision Fund" and strengthening the capacity of ECO as envisaged in its Vision document. He expressed support to the IDB's idea of institutionalizing consultative gatherings and holding forums on sub-regional level and further proposed the following regional projects/activities and initiatives for cooperation and IDB's support and contribution: Implementation of "ECO Vision 2025"; ECO-UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Project (TCBP); Operationalization of priority railway and road corridors identified in the ECO Road and Railway Network Development Plans; Supporting



ECO and UNIDO agreed on arrangements for tourism development

ECO's Project Coordination Unit in the follow up actions on customs provisions of Transit Transport Framework Agreement and modernization of Border Crossing Points; Feasibility Study on ECO Regional Electricity Market; Establishment of "ECO Clean Energy Center"; Establishment of "Clean energy corridor in ECO Region" serving as a catalyst in promoting Renewable Energy Sources; Developing a comprehensive regional strategy for sustainable tourism development in ECO Region; Converting the project proposals in the area of Food Security into the bankable projects; and Establishment of the ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA).

The Forum discussed the achievements in the last one year and came up with the activities in the OIC region to be carried out in 2017-2018. It was agreed that the ECO Secretariat's road and railway networks maps will be included in the IDB's GIS database. The meeting noted with appreciation the IDB's initiative for implementation of the regional study project for commercialization of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) Corridor. The outcomes of the studies will be reported to the next meeting of the Forum. Separate inter-agency meetings will be held with the ECO Secretariat and UNESCAP for commercialization of the KTI corridor. The Meeting also agreed to create GIS database of energy sector for common member countries with ECO, and other regional organizations. The Forum also welcomed the offer of the ECO Secretariat for organizing the First sub-regional (Euro-Asia Region) Inter-Agency Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Organizations in one of its Member Countries.

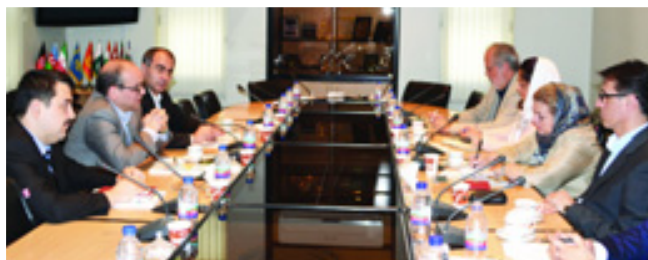


ECO Secretariat and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) agreed on series of joint arrangements to assist tourism industry in the ECO Region. The working arrangements will be jointly followed in the context of existing "Relationship Agreement" between the two organizations signed in 1994.

The document containing the agreed working arrangements was signed when a high level delegation from UNIDO headquarters visited ECO Secretariat in Tehran on 7 May 2017.

During the visit, both sides also reviewed the current status of bilateral cooperation in different areas and shared updates on the recent developments in their respective organizations.

The document envisages arrangements aimed at assisting ECO in promotion and development of tourism sector in the region while contributing to capacity building, job creation and poverty alleviation.



ECO Secretariat attended the Interpol Dialogue on Security Architecture

sented in the Event by Mr. Raheel Ahmad Cheema, Programme Officer of the ECO-DOCCU.

The Dialogue focused on 4 priority areas for enhanced cooperation between INTERPOL and regional organizations and among the organizations, namely, cross-tier coordination; national nodes consolidation; streamlined frontline access; and setting of common police standards. In his opening address, Mr. Meng, the President of INTERPOL highlighted the need for new and better architecture in the context of rapidly changing nature of terrorism and organized crime.

During two-day discussions, the participating regional organizations shared their experiences as well as their expectations with a view to contributing into development of the new global policing architecture. Such policing experiences were of particular importance to the regional police organizations in their formative stages.

At the end of this meeting, and in order to realize the objectives of the Dialogue, the participants agreed on establishing a working group to identify areas of cooperation before holding the 3rd Dialogue.

ECO Secretariat participated in the "2nd Dialogue on an Effective Multilateral Policing Architecture against Global Threats" held on 03-04 May 2017 at the General Secretariat of INTERPOL in Lyon. INTERPOL officials, including Secretary General Mr. Jurgen Stock, as well as senior representatives from regional policing and law enforcement organizations, including the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC), AMERIPOL, ASEANAPOL, Europol and GCCPOL participated in the Dialogue aimed at reviewing the current policing structures and activities, and identifying overlaps and devising strategies for mitigating them. Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency) and the UNODC also attended the Meeting as observers. The ECO Secretariat was repre-



ECO Secretariat participated in UN Forum on Forests

The 12th Session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF12) was held on 1-5 May 2017 at UN Headquarters in New York. Over 300 participants from UN Member States, international organizations, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other major groups attended the Event. ECO Secretariat was represented by Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment. The UNFF12 was inaugurated by statements made by President of the UN General Assembly Mr. Peter Thomson, ECOSOC Vice-President Ms. Marie Chatardova, UN Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr. Wu Hongbo and UNFF Director Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho. UNFF12 addressed the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030, agreed in January 2017 and adopted by UNGA on 27 April 2017.

Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov made an intervention on Agenda Item 6: "Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues". In his intervention he briefed the audience on ECO's growing forest-related profile since 2014 and expressed ECO's readiness to regenerate the needed action at regional scale to address forest and climate change concerns and to identify common regional approaches. ECO

Director also reckoned that the regional organizations could play a greater role in advancing UNFF agenda and UNSPF. In this vein, he highlighted the Expert Meeting on Enhancing Regional and Sub-Regional Involvement in the International Arrangement on Forests, held in September 2016 in Tehran where the need for a inter-regional coordination mechanism for consistent engagement of regional and sub-regional organizations and entities in forest process was discussed.

He also had bilateral consultations with UNFF Secretariat on ways and means of promoting the ECO regional strategy on sustainable forest management, institutionalization of

inter-regional coordination mechanism, and the continuation of capacity-building activities within ECO Region.

UNFF12 adopted the Omnibus Resolution and the Report of the Event. The Omnibus Resolution underscored, among others, the importance of enhancing cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues and welcomed initiatives by Member States, international organizations and major groups contributing to developing and implementing the UNSPF and the Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW) for the period 2017-2020.





A delegation from University of Geneva visited ECO Secretariat

A delegation from the University of Geneva (Switzerland) visited the ECO Secretariat on 27th April 2017 and held bilateral talks with ECO Secretariat officials.

At the beginning of the visit, a presentation was made to the visiting delegation on the ECO and its activities.

The Swiss delegation in return gave an overview on activities of the University and some specific programmes on areas such as disaster risk reduction, global health and SDGs implementation which may be extended to inter-governmental organizations.

Both sides explored possible areas of cooperation, particularly human and institutional capacity building as well as training.

They agreed to continue contacts with a view to coming up with a clear picture of possible cooperation in the future.

At the end of the visit, the delegation met with the ECO Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akca, where Secretary General informed the Swiss academic delegation about the policy directions of the ECO in the years to come, as recently approved by the Member States in the context of the ECO Vision 2025.





International Energy Charter delegation visited ECO Secretariat

A high-level delegation from the International Energy Charter (IEC) Secretariat headed by Mr. Marat Terterov, the IEC Principal Coordinator visited the ECO Secretariat on 20th April 2017 and met with Ambassador Halil Ibrahim Akça, ECO Secretary General. Having welcomed the IEC delegation, ECO Secretary General gave a brief overview on the progress of ECO's energy-related activities, particularly the establishment of "ECO Regional Electricity Market", to which IEC's contribution is under consideration. ECO Secretary General underscored that the ECO-Energy Charter reciprocal observership, established at the last

meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), opens up new avenues for enhanced partnership, and ECO is looking forward to building strong cooperation and institutional linkages between the two organizations. This observership status could also offer immense opportunities in capacity building for promoting energy/electricity trade and transit, energy efficiency, market access, etc.

Mr. Marat Terterov also briefed ECO Secretary General and his team on the IEC activities in 2017 and invited ECO to actively participate in the forthcoming IEC events.

Recalling that 8 ECO Member States are already member parties to IEC, he highlighted that IEC regards ECO as a strong regional partner. He renewed IEC's readiness to cooperate in capacity-building, knowledge/experience sharing and policy advice, as well as in implementation of joint projects.

Both sides reviewed some areas of immediate interests to them, including in capacity building and training domains, and exchanged views on ways and means to implement them. They also agreed to continue contacts with a view to developing frameworks for cooperation and exchanges.



ECO Secretariat attended the UN Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction



The "ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting" (IAP) was organized by UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 5-7 April in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. At the invitation of the UNISDR, ECO Secretariat attended the Meeting. IAP 2017 was the first regional meeting since the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 in New Delhi. The IAP is a multi-stakeholder forum with the role of facilitating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Asia region. The main focus of this IAP Meeting was to discuss the substantive and logistical preparations for the next Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 16-19 July 2018.

The IAP attracted 20 governments as well as representatives from inter-governmental organizations including ASEAN, SAARC and ECO; United Nations bodies; NGOs and civil society organizations; private sector; scientific and academic community and media, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Associations (IFRC) who are engaged in developing technical and strategic input to next AMCDRR meeting. The participants also discussed the main achievements reached under the Asia Regional Plan since November 2016.

At the opening session, the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, highlighted that it is vital for countries and cities across the Asia, the world's most hazard-prone region, to develop or redraft national and local disaster risk reduction plans in line with the Sendai Framework to save lives and protect development gains. He outlined how Mongolia has drafted its 2020 Strategy for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Robert Glasser in his statement recognized Mongolia as one of the countries putting efforts into actions in the field of disaster risk reduction, including parliament's move to revise "Law on Disaster Safety".

In his statement and interventions in the deliberations of the Meeting, Mr. Javad Heidari from the ECO Secretariat shared with the participants information about the disaster-related situations in the ECO Region and briefed them on some developments in ECO Region after the adoption of the "Asia Regional Plan", including developing ECO Regional Framework for implementation of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction as well as the ESCAP-ECO joint mission to Afghanistan in February 2017. He also had informal discussions with representatives from ECO Member States, UN bodies and international and regional organizations on possible technical and capacity building cooperation on the disaster risk reduction matters and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

ECO and UNIDO reviewed cooperation in Tehran

A high level delegation from United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) visited the ECO Secretariat on 27 February 2017 and held consultations with the relevant ECO officials. The delegation was comprised of Mr. Zhen Wang, Chief of Asia and Pacific Division, Mr. Steffen Kaeser, Chief of Standards and Trade Facilitation Division, as well as officers and advisors from the UNIDO departments and divisions of Energy; Regional Programmes and Field Representation; Trade, Investment and Innovation; and Agri-Business Development. During the consultations, the two sides reviewed the current state of affairs and prospects for strengthening institutional linkages between two organizations. Having welcomed the UNIDO delegation, Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, ECO Director of Energy, Minerals and Environment thanked UNIDO for its interest and continuous support to ECO activities in different fields and emphasized on the need for streamlining initiatives and setting priorities for future cooperation. The visiting delegation also acknowledged ECO as UNIDO's partner in serving the interests of the Member States of both organizations and recalled high-level meetings between ECO Secretaries General with UNIDO Directors General over the past few years and expressed UNIDO's readiness to continue supporting ECO activities in different areas.

Both sides further presented updates on their

respective agendas and acknowledged the extensive opportunities for enhanced cooperation. ECO delegation also briefed UNIDO delegation on ECO profile and ongoing activities/projects, notably on energy, renewables and energy efficiency, trade and investment, agro-industries, tourism and environment and highlighted

interest in the initiative on launching the joint ECO-UNIDO programme for Sustainable Energy with its possible core component of setting up a regional Clean Energy Center in charge of renewables, energy efficiency/conservation and environmental aspects. ECO Secretariat also briefed UNIDO delegation on implementation process of the ECO/FAO Regional Programme for Food Security. Both sides agreed to formulate

small/medium scale concept project proposal according to the needs of the ECO Member States with regard to the Capacity Building of Fruit/Vegetables' Seed Breeders aimed at increasing quality and production, as well as addressing the food loss and waste in the ECO Member States.

The need for revision and updating the ECO-UNIDO Relationship Agreement signed in 1994 and enhancing its scope with new elements, including energy, was further raised while two sides also discussed possible organization of training courses, workshops and visits with a view to developing further cooperation between two organizations.



ECO Secretariat attended the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Environment



The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on Environment was jointly organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) from 5 to 8 September 2017 in Bangkok. The Meeting marked a major milestone in combination of two UN ministerial-level meetings on the environment, namely the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 2nd session of UN Environment's Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and Pacific. Held under the theme 'Towards a resource-efficient and pollution free Asia-Pacific', the high level meeting provided an opportunity to shed light on certain skepticism by many stakeholders over pollution-free planet, assess the state of environment sustainability in the region, identify regional perspectives and priorities, and agree on concerted actions to promote sound environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources. High-level officials from over 30 countries of the Asia and the Pacific region, the representatives of intergovernmental organizations, UN Agencies, NGOs and civil society groups attended the Event.

The Summit was inaugurated by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-

General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UNEP. Dr. Akhtar briefed on resource efficiency challenges for the region, highlighting that 32% of the world's GDP is produced in the Asia-Pacific region, where 60% of the world's resources are consumed. She highlighted the need for profound change in resource efficiency encouraging countries to take their own policy measures, notably integrating resource efficiency targets into national development agendas, and introducing resource efficiency standards. Mr. Solheim focused on health implications of pollution and observed that pollution is the biggest killer of humanity. He emphasized that changing the world will require citizen action, political leadership and business dynamism. He also mentioned that despite lagging behind the rest of the world, Asia-Pacific made the fastest bid towards progress in tackling these challenges.

ECO Secretariat was represented in both senior officials and the ministerial segments of the Summit by Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov, Director of Energy, Minerals and Environment. He made an intervention in the senior officials segment emphasizing the need to duly reflect the role of regional and sub-regional organizations and entities in tackling environmental challenges in the Ministerial Summit Declaration and other proceedings of the Event. He also expressed ECO's readiness to contribute to maximization of UN impact and coherence and to act as a regional platform for mobilizing relevant stakeholders across the region for developing programmes on sustainable management of natural resources. In the Ministerial segment, Mr. Farzalibeyov delivered a statement on behalf of the ECO, in which he briefed the audience on ECO's increasing environmental profile and focused on its intention to shift in paradigm towards identification of common applicable approaches on climate change and mobilizing resources for adaptation and mitigation related actions. He highlighted the need to work towards development of environmentally sound mechanisms and innovative solutions for prevailing common challenges at the regional and sub-regional levels. He also expressed confidence that ECO would play an important role in advancement of global and regional coherence for environmental resiliency and would facilitate the UN agencies in pragmatic implementation process of their global climate change agenda in the ECO Region.

The Summit adopted several outcome documents, namely the Report of the Senior Officials and a Chair's Summary of the Second UN Environment Programme Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific; and the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific. The Summit also adopted the Report of the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Summit agreed that the report would also entail a reference on the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).

ECO Secretariat attended the OIC Summit on Science and Technology

The First OIC Summit on Science and Technology was held on 10-11 September 2017 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and high-level representatives of the Member States, high level representatives of the international and regional organizations attended the Conference, chaired by H.E. Mr.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. ECO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Kanan Nazarov, represented ECO at this important event.

The Astana Summit was themed "Science, Technology, Innovation and Modernization in the Islamic World" aimed at determining priorities, goals, and objectives in the field of science, technology and



The Declaration reflects the importance of developing and implementing initiatives and programs, as well as inferential research in the field of education, professional skills, basic and applied sciences, primarily aimed at resolving urgent social problems. Outcome

innovation development in the OIC member states.

The Summit adopted the "Astana Declaration" affirming the commitment of the member states to alleviate poverty, increase the budget for education and join efforts to accomplish the goals envisioned in the OIC 2025 Plan of Action and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.

Document "OIC Science, Technology and Innovation Agenda 2026" was also adopted at the Summit.

At the invitation of the Government of Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Kanan Nazarov also participated in the Closing Ceremony of "EXPO-2017 ASTANA" International Specialized Exhibition.



Interview with H.E. Ambassador Asif Durrani Permanent Representative of the **Islamic Republic of Pakistan in ECO**

Ambassador Asif Durrani is Pakistan's Ambassador in Iran. He is also Permanent Representative of his country in the ECO. As of March 2017, Ambassador Asif Durrani assumed chairmanship of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR). Ambassador Durrani was so kind to accept ECO Chronicle's request for an interview.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was among the founding members of the "Regional Cooperation for Development" (RCD-1964), and its successor Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO-1985). How is Pakistan approach towards such regional cooperation for economic development today?

■ **Ambassador:** Pakistan attaches great importance to regional cooperation for development and is playing a leading role in the Organization. Pakistan has signed and ratified the highest number of charters/ agreements under the umbrella of ECO. Earlier this year Pakistan also hosted 22nd COM meeting and 13th ECO Summit. As part of our commitment to ECO Pakistan is hosting ECO Science Foundation, ECO Postal Staff College, Presidency of ECO - CCI is currently with Pakistan and our Government is ready to host yet another important office of RISCAAM (Regional Institute for Standardization,

Conformity, Assessment, Accreditation and Meteorology).

During last two decades the world witnessed shifting of Industrial base from West to East. Unfortunately, our region has been unable to benefit from this shift and secure its' due share. Consequently, East Asian countries have emerged as major beneficiaries. I believe ECO as an Organization can play a key role in economic development of the region. The ingredients for economic development are present in abundance in the region and the need of the hour is to reign in these potentials. Pakistan is ready to extend its fullest cooperation to all member states for economic cooperation under the banner of ECO.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** The "13th ECO Summit" and the "22nd ECO Council of Ministers" were hosted and chaired by Pakistan early this year. High level officials from Member States in their meetings in Islamabad agreed on future directions of the Organization, depicted in "Islamabad Declaration" and "ECO Vision 2025". How will Pakistan contribute to the implementation of agreed measures, especially during its chairmanship?

■ **Ambassador:** As Chairman of the Organization we have offered our services and



fullest cooperation to all member states especially in the field of finance, science, agriculture and connectivity. We also welcome the offers of other member states in their fields of expertise. We plan to host the next Regional Planning Council (RPC) meeting at the Ministerial level in Pakistan to further fine tune the objectives and goals set by the leadership of the member countries and chart a road map to achieve the objectives given during the 13th ECO summit.

The theme of the last Summit was "Connectivity for Regional Prosperity". Pakistan is seriously looking forward to greater connectivity among the member states of ECO and development of further interlinks between the existing Corridors, especially China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The ECO Vision 2025 adopted during the 13th Summit clearly marked the core principles, areas of cooperation and expected outcomes. The main areas identified besides connectivity were Trade, Transport, Energy, Tourism, Economic Growth & Productivity, Social Welfare & Environment.

We must bear in mind that the export and import baskets of member states are complementary and with the state of the art logistics companies and enhanced connectivity the core objective set by the leadership of the member states can be achieved. However, in order to

achieve our objectives, we need to focus on removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** Seven out of 10 ECO Member States are land-locked countries relying on transit neighbours, including Pakistan, for having access to world markets. This has made transport and connectivity a top priority agenda in ECO, including in the new Vision. How do you assess ECO performance in transport and transit?

■ **Ambassador:** In this regard I would invite your attention to the Corridor based approach adopted by the member states. It is quite successful and we need to further expand interlinks between the already existing Corridors. This will greatly help the land locked member states in enhancing their trade. As you know, the main objective of Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) is facilitation of movement of goods and people which makes it one of the most pertinent legal frameworks of ECO. Pakistan extends full support and cooperation to the existing Corridors i.e. Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI), Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) and Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) and is also looking forward to the inclusion of the proposed Pakistan-Iran- Turkmenistan Corridor among the existing Corridors.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is in the process of upgrading its rail and road infrastructure in order to facilitate smooth flow of goods with our neighbors. The interlinkages developed through these Corridors would not only increase the connectivity in the region but would contribute immensely in the movement of goods, services and people between the member states of ECO. I am confident that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would galvanize the trade opportunity with the ECO member states and I am convinced that the Member States can immensely benefit from CPEC and Gwadar port.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** International organizations normally seek reforms and adjustments while responding to the changing environment or emerging requirements. ECO has also been engaged in tendency for reform in last few years. Do you think "ECO Vision 2025" can serve as a strong driver for institutional, regulatory and other changes in ECO?

■ **Ambassador:** The ECO Vision 2025 is a very important document for the Organization; it would serve as a roadmap for the success of ECO in the coming years. Pakistan extends its support to the reform process in the ECO Secretariat and

feels that reforms are essential, needed not only for the implementation of the Vision 2025 but will give dynamism to the Organization in the coming decades. We look forward to meeting the timelines mentioned in the Implementation Framework of the Vision 2025. As Chairman, we are ready to offer services of our national institutions to the member states in this regard.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** You are Permanent Representative of your country in ECO and at the same time serve as Pakistan's Ambassador in Iran dealing with bilateral relations. Would you please share with us how ECO can benefit from existing bilateral relations among its Member States to fur-



ther consolidate regional frameworks for cooperation?

■ **Ambassador:** A multilateral forum complements the bilateral relations among the member states. ECO provides an alternate channel of cooperation to its members. Pakistan and Iran have established various bilateral institutional mechanisms to boost bilateral relations. ECO provides yet another framework to both countries for cooperation.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** Thank you very much for your time.



Interview with

Dr. Stefan Scholz Ambassador of Austria in Tehran

Ambassador Scholz has recently started his assignment as Austrian Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was so kind to accept our request for an interview where he shares with Chronicle's readers his views on regional and international issues, including Austria's development policies.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is a regional arrangement for promoting economic development in the region and its individual Member States. Austria is member of different groupings, notably the European Union. Would you please share with our readers some experiences of your country as a member of a regional bloc such as EU?

■ **Ambassador:** The European Union is the largest internal market and the second largest economic power in the world. Since 1995, Austria has been a member of the EU,

which has had a major impact on Austria's foreign and European policy as well as its societal development. EU membership opened up new opportunities to make our voice heard and to influence developments. As equal partners we may thus contribute towards designing common European policies and towards shaping Europe's relations with the world in the interests of Austria.

At the moment we are facing several challenges in the EU, such as the crises and conflicts

from the Middle East to Ukraine in particular, migration and the increasing threat of terrorism. In order for Europe to remain a strong international location, after Great Britain has left the EU, we must be ready for reforms which lead to more efficiency in our Union. But for this we must first change the mind-set that for some to win others must lose. Democracy is about compromise and Europe cannot function without compromise.

and to introduce innovative planning methods and processes: elaboration of whole-of-government cooperation strategies together with the governments and civil societies of our priority partner countries as well as the introduction of results-based management in programming and monitoring. I saw successes but also some drawbacks YET, the key lesson was that results based management and effective coordination can never be completed as they constitute an open-ended process towards inclusive growth for sustainable development.

The guiding thematic priorities for our development cooperation are (i) business and industry as a strong partner, because enterprises create local jobs and training opportunities and they also contribute to building stable government institutions through tax revenue; (ii) education/training to give people in our partner countries prospects for development; (iii) migration, because as we can see from the rising numbers of refugees we need to substantially improve the conditions in the countries of origin through external assistance and partnering between state institutions for capacity building and knowhow transfer.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** ECO Foreign Ministers adopted the "ECO Vision 2025" early this year. The "Vision" is supposed to lead the Organization in coming years focusing on areas such as trade promotion, enhanced connectivity, clean energy and energy efficiency, and tourism. These priority areas will be followed while contributing also to the social and environmental components of the sustainable development. Is there any possibility for ECO-Austria partnership to support implementation of the Vision?

■ **Ambassador:** Austria is applauding the ongoing talks between ECO and UNIDO on the feasibility of establishing the ECO Sustainable Energy Centre (ESEC). Austria sees itself a stakeholder in the process, as my country, together with technical expertise of UNIDO, has spearheaded since ten years the creation of a global network of regional energy centers, spanning from West Africa to East and Southern Africa and further to the Caribbean and the Pacific region as well as a feasibility study currently being conducted on a similar center for the Himalaya Hindukush region. If the ESEC materialized, it would serve as a cross-regional link for energy poor countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, as they would be simultaneously member of two regional Energy centers.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** ECO has been acknowledged by international community as a regional partner for global initiatives and programmes. Besides many ECO-UN agencies

■ **ECO Chronicle:** You have been involved in planning for development cooperation of your country. Development aids and assistance are still imperative for developing world. What are the main components of the Austrian development assistance programmes?

■ **Ambassador:** My mission was to modernize the Austrian development system

partnerships in different issues and sectors, we were also engaged in an important drug-related project sponsored by EU. Do you think we can envisage more partnerships between ECO and EU in areas of mutual interest?

■ **Ambassador:** In order to establish a systematic approach beyond isolated projects, ECO and the EU should explore the possibilities for entering into a dialogue at headquarters' level. This would require a political decision and a



strong will by all sides. One complicating factor so far seems to have been that while the EU is represented through some 140 EU Delegations and Offices around the world, it has not opened an EU Delegation in Tehran yet.

When assuming the local EU presidency in the second half of 2018 in Teheran, Austria will offer its good offices to facilitate such a structured dialogue at regional level.

■ **ECO Chronicle:**

Regionalism has been widely debated and valued ranging from "supporting" to "harming" multilateralism. As a top diplomat with vast experiences in multilateralism, and also as representative of a member country of one of the most important regional integration blocs, EU, how do you evaluate prospects for countries' attempts for regional integration, including ongoing efforts in the ECO Region?

■ **Ambassador:** Regional integration and multilateralism can be mutually reinforcing, when regionalism takes regional specificities into account and then carries them into multilateral fora. Vienna-based Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe is a case in point, being a regional organisation under chapter VIII of the UN Charter which encourages regional arrangements to support the UN Security Council by helping to maintain international peace and security, particularly with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

One additional layer is the innovative approach of cross-regional cooperation which has been conceptionally trail-blazed by the Human Security Network, an association of 12 countries from four continents, including Austria. The Network has set itself the task of promoting the concept of human security as a feature of national and international policies, and in particular within the United Nations and in cooperation with academia and civil society.

■ **ECO Chronicle:** Thank you very much for your time.

It is evident that today both the developed and developing countries move towards sustainable energy and "green economy". The global trend of the steadily increasing share and dynamics of clean energy sources in the energy mix necessitates focused attention and strong contribution by all stakeholders, including regional intergovernmental organizations such as ECO.

■ **Rationale and Objectives: Why Clean Energy?**

Over the past few years, ECO has been experiencing the paradigm

shift in energy cooperation towards energy efficiency and renewables, in line with their particular complementary role in ECO's overall energy mandate. These endeavours are motivated by the ECO Member States' stance for promoting energy efficiency policies, whereas their tremendous unfolded potential in clean energy is a built-in regional advantage making ECO Region more competitive vis-à-vis neighbouring and other regions.

Some ECO Member States have set ambitious renewable energy targets in power electricity and different sub-sectors of renewables, which is illustrated in the below table.

With these in mind, ECO strives for building up diverse and resilient energy architecture in the ECO Region supported by transformation to cleaner and sustainable energy sources. To achieve this goal, ECO is pursuing proactive cooperative policy with other international organizations, and is keen on promoting and implementing UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, SDGs with their relevant energy and environment-related objectives, as well as UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL)

ECO Clean Energy Centre: An Attempt Towards Regional Resilient

Country	Sector	Target
Afghanistan	Electricity	100% share of RES in power generation by 2050
Azerbaijan	Electricity	1 GW by 2020 20% share of RES in power generation by 2020
Iran	Solar and wind power	5 GW by 2020
Kazakhstan	Electricity	1.04 GW by 2020
	Bio-power	15 MW by 2020
	Hydropower	539 MW by 2020
	Solar power	713 MW by 2020
	Wind power	1.8 MW by 2020
	Primary energy mix	50% share of RES in power generation by 2030
Kyrgyzstan	Renewables	100 MW by 2025
Pakistan	Electricity	10,000 MW by 2030
	Primary energy mix	10% share by 2025
Tajikistan	Hydropower (small-scale)	100 MW by 2020
Turkey	Bio-power from solid biomass	1 GW by 2023
	Geothermal	1 GW by 2023
	Hydropower	34 GW by 2023
	Solar	5 GW by 2023
	Wind	20 GW by 2023
		30% share of RES in power generation by 2023

Source: Global Status Report, Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21)



Energy Architecture

By Fuad Farzalibeyov

initiative. ECO thus continues to add more weight to its profile on energy efficiency-related cooperation.

■ *Background and Prioritization in "ECO Vision 2025"*

The idea of establishment of ECO Regional Centre for Clean Energy (hereinafter the Centre) was initiated by ECO Secretariat as the outcome of ECO-UNIDO consultations held in Vienna and Tehran in the past few years. The 69th session of the UN General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/69/111 on Cooperation

between UN and ECO, adopted on 10 December 2014, underlined the special and increasing role of renewables to support sustainable energy development and welcomed the idea of establishment of a regional energy centre with possible assistance of the UN agencies .

ECO Secretariat made initial attempts to stimulate policy debates for development of appropriate frameworks for regional partnerships during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings of ECO Experts Group on Renewable Energy Sources held in Tehran (2011), Baku (2013) and Kabul (2014) respectively. However, building a momentum for cooperation in

renewables and energy efficiency requires focusing on synergy impacts and enhancement of regional concerted actions.

"ECO Vision 2025"- recently endorsed at 22nd Council of Ministers - stipulates the enhancement of energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and trade as ECO's strategic objective. It is noteworthy that 3 out of 8 expected outcomes in energy segment of "ECO Vision 2025" directly refer to clean energy and energy efficiency goals. In this respect, the establishment of ECO Clean Energy Centre is explicitly reflected among them.



Source: UNIDO and SE4ALLnetwork

■ *UNIDO's experience in setting up similar centres*

UNIDO has been engaged in a number of similar centres around the globe and its best practices seem promising and encouraging for ECO Region. UNIDO's experience demonstrates that to create a regional renewables and energy efficiency market, it is crucial for the centres to stimulate as much as possible spill-over effects across result areas and national borders. Any such centre should primarily focus on activities and projects with regional impact or national projects which demonstrate high potential for scaling-up or regional replication. The expanding south-south multi-stakeholder partnership comprises various UNIDO-supported centres in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and in other regions.

The process of establishment of UNIDO-supported centres was initiated almost ten years ago with the establishment of ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE). ECREEE covers the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) whereas this Organization has gradually taken steps to mainstream renewables and energy efficiency into its regional activities and policies, while RCREEE aims at enabling and increasing the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices in the Arab region through its solid alliance with the League of Arab States. These two centers have eventually advanced to higher operational phases of development.

Later on, East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE), Southern African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) were also launched in the same path.

Almost all of these Centres share the common objectives to improve energy access, energy security and climate change mitigation by promoting an enabling environment for renewables and energy efficiency investments and industries, and to mitigate existing barriers for

them. RCREEE set an objective to diffuse the implementation of cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, strategies and technologies, and to increase the share of renewables and energy efficiency products and services .

These Centers respond to the urgent need for increased regional cooperation and capacities to mitigate existing barriers to renewable energy and energy efficiency investment and markets. They enjoy high-level support from the energy ministers and respond to the individual needs of the respective national governments. The Centres complement and strengthen ongoing national activities in the areas of policy and capacity development, knowledge management and awareness-raising, as well as investment and business promotion .

■ *Scope of the ECO Centre and its Expected Benefits and Impacts*

Based on UNIDO's experience, ECO Centre may envisage the following components:

- Capacity-building and applied

research

- Knowledge-management and awareness-raising
- Policy and regulatory support
- Investment promotion/private sector involvement in energy-efficiency
- Transformation to "green industry" in the ECO Region

ECO Centre could act as a regional hub and think-tank for sustainable energy in ECO Region and position itself more as a regional renewables and energy efficiency promotion agency rather than an implementer at micro and grass-root levels. It may work action and service-oriented rather than political. Implementation of specific assignments could in many cases be delegated to third parties or the National Focal Institutions (NFIs). Cooperation with a wide range of public/private and local/international stakeholders during implementation will maximize the local added-value, technology and know-how transfer to the Region.

The strong inter-linkage between the establishment of similar centres and increasing energy efficiency has been widely recognized. The functioning of the Centre could consequently pave the way for many energy efficiency solutions. It

will seek to support the transformation to cleaner and sustainable energy sources in ECO Region, contribute to intra-regional trade among ECO Member States through regional connectivity and proper utilization of renewables and energy efficiency.

Opening of the Centre could also promote new relevant programmes and projects, investments (notably private sector investment) and employment creating a robust market on clean energy and thus contributing to the long-term economic growth in the ECO Region. Driven by the experience of several similar institutions across the world, the Centre could focus on activities which demonstrate high relevance for promoting investments in energy efficiency infrastructure, services, local businesses and industry. Investment and business promotion could be an important activity component of the Centre but also a cross-cutting issue across the other result areas (e.g. capacity development, policy, etc.).

The Centre could also contribute towards increased access to modern, affordable and reliable energy services, energy security and mitigation of negative externalities of the energy system by creating a conducive environment for energy efficiency and renewable energy markets and investments. The opening of the Centre will also

complement ECO Energy Ministers' proclamation of 2013-2022 as the "ECO Decade for enhanced Energy Cooperation" at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Petroleum, held in March 2013.

■ *Implications for energy cooperation within ECO and beyond*

The last but not least, the establishment of the Centre is sought to create ample opportunities in stimulating energy cooperation within ECO, and notably in energy efficiency/conservation, renewables, sound environmental technologies and "green economy". This vision also conforms to the Global SDGs adopted during historic UN Summit on Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2015 in New York, particularly SDG7. The Centre will contribute to this trend via introduction of pertinent partnership framework tailored to the needs and aspirations of its Member States. ECO Secretariat has recently launched consultations with other international partners for promoting the establishment of this Centre.

Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov is the Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment in the ECO Secretariat



On-grid solar power plant on the roof of the ECO Secretariat

ECO VISION 2025

An overview

By Mohammad Adnan

The 2015 was an important year for the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO). The Vision 2015, adopted at the 15th Council of Ministers meeting (at Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, 01 October 2005), was nearing its end.

The geo-strategic environment in which Vision 2015 was drafted and adopted had changed by the end of the year 2015. The world had seen one of the worst economic crisis (2007-09) since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Also there were move towards regional economic integration, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). These initiatives towards the regional economic integration are a threat to the non-member developing countries as this tends to decrease exports of the latter with the blocs.

It was against this backdrop of the changing global environment that the ECO had to define its objectives and strategy for the next ten years. A new direction had to be provided to ECO, keeping in view the global and regional challenges. This was done through the "ECO Vision 2025".

In December 2015, a Vision Conference was held during which brain storming sessions were also organized. At the end of this Conference, a Vision Statement was drafted. During the course of next few months, several meetings were chaired by the ECO Secretary General. During these meetings, the core principles, cooperation areas (priority areas), implementation methodology, review and the financial framework were defined. This was further discussed during the special session on Vision which was held just before the 27th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning

Council (RPC) in December 2016.

The "ECO Vision 2025" was finally adopted during the 22nd Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) on 28th February 2017 in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The "ECO Vision 2025" is a comprehensive and more focused document, which also contains an Implementation Framework. The salient features of this Vision are as follows:

■ VISION Statement

"ECO will pave the way to a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation"

Core principles and cooperation areas

The "ECO Vision 2025" is based on the following core principles of "Sustainability", "Integration", and "Conducive Environment". This Vision focuses on the following six Cooperation Areas (priority areas):

1. Trade
2. Transport and Connectivity
3. Energy
4. Tourism
5. Economic Growth and Productivity
6. Social Welfare and Environment

Each of the above Cooperation Areas has its own Strategic Objectives, Policy Environment and the Expected Outcomes. The Strategic Objectives define the broad objectives for what will be achieved. The Policy Environment shows how an enabling environment will be created for realization of the Strategic Objectives. The Expected Outcomes are the specific actions that would be taken for realization of the Strategic Objectives, and these are also the variables against which the implementation of the Vision will be measured.

1. Trade

Background

As the name of ECO implies, trade and investment sector occupies the most important area. Expansion in the global and intra-regional trade (in goods and services) can earn vital revenues which can play crucial role in improving the economies of the Member States. The world trade of the ECO decreased by 3.4 percent in 2016 (from US\$ 648 billion in 2015 to US\$ 626 billion). Both exports and imports witnessed decline from 2015 to 2016—exports from US\$ 285 to US\$ 276 billion and imports from US\$ 363 billion to US\$ 350 billion, respectively. However, it is less pronounced than the sharp decline of 21 percent from 2014 to 2015. The share of the ECO Region's trade in the global trade is about 2 percent compared to the share of its population, which is 6.2 percent of world population.

The intra-regional trade (trade amongst ECO countries) has decreased to 7.6 percent of total trade of the Member States,

which is far below ECO's potential. When compared to other regional organizations, this is negligible. This shows that, from point of view of trade, the ECO is still one of the least integrated regions. Within ECO, the top exporters are Turkey, Kazakhstan, Iran, Pakistan, and Republic of Azerbaijan. These five countries make up 94 percent of ECO's total exports.

The investment trend is not different from the trade profile. The ECO countries received foreign direct investment (FDI) of about US\$ 36.5 in 2016 which is too low compared to the developmental needs of the Region and its potential trajectory of economic growth.

In the "ECO Vision 2025", the basic trade objective is to make efforts to double the intra-regional trade so that the share of ECO trade (specifically exports) is increased in the global trade and the regional trade potential for economic growth is tapped. This will be done by creating a favourable policy environment by removing various constraints on flow of goods and services. The focus will be on free flow of goods and services, policy harmonization, maximization of economic efficiency, and reduction of transaction costs. This trade enhancement strategy entails early operational-

ization of ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) followed by further incremental trade liberalization to ultimately make ECO a free-trade area. Pending agreements relating to various spheres of trade and investment will be operationalised and implemented.

To reduce transaction costs, special attention will be paid to visa facilitation, trade promotion, and trade facilitation. Any constraint in these area increases the cost of doing business. Trade related human development and capacity building will be an important component of this strategy.

On the finance side, the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ECO-TDB) will be strengthened by increasing its membership and recapitalization. A trade financing programme will be developed for enhancing regional trade. Also

important on the financial side is the reinsurance sector. The reinsurance companies transfer the specific risks of the insurance companies. These facilitate regional trade, increase commercial activities and are the key to expansion of trade. Efforts will be made to operationalize the ECO Reinsurance Company at the earliest.

2. Transport and Connectivity

Trade and transport are mutually reinforcing. In this area, the focus will be to maximize connectivity, mobility and accessibility by making major ECO transport corridors commercially viable and operational. This will be done through increasing efficiency, creating a more harmonized and simplified legal and administrative framework, strengthening of private sector, and development of strategies for broadband & information society development.

It will involve accession to/implementation of major international legal instruments, improvement of regional transit transport, operationalization & commercialization of existing corridors, regulatory facilitation, well-organized customs infrastructure, visa facilitation,



and increased penetration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities and improved infrastructure.

3. Energy

This aims at enhancement of energy security and sustainability through wider energy access and increased energy trade, both within the ECO and beyond. This requires common efforts to ensure regional energy sustainability and resilience, in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 'UN sustainable energy for all'. It also needs a conducive policy environment supported by broad political consensus, involvement of all stakeholders, and identification of country-specific energy mix.

This will require efforts towards establishment of regional power & electricity market, enhancement of energy trade, deployment of environment-friendly energy technologies, promotion of investment, and establishment of an institutional advisory mechanism.

4. Tourism

For tourism, the endeavour will be to establish ECO as a peaceful and green tourism destination and development of diverse products and high quality services in the region. This necessitates a comprehensive regional strategy for sustainable tourism development, coherent policy actions, increased visibility of the ECO as a tourist destination and availability of quality services. This will involve development of ECO tourism brand & Silk Road tourism, visa facilitation, development of various tourism niches, efficient utilization of electronic media for promotion of tourism, human resource development, increased stakeholder participation, development of diverse means & new solutions, establishment of compliance infrastructure, and promotion of sustainable green tourism.



5. Economic Growth and Productivity

This is a new area which deals with agriculture, industry and investment. The objective is to achieve long-term growth, knowledge based production through increased contribution of Research and Development (R&D), entrepreneurship, increased participation of private sector, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) & women in these spheres.

The policy framework aims at use of modern technology, research, policy reforms, increasing human capital productivity, decrease in cost of production, enhancement of agriculture volumes & quality, rural development, pro-poor investments, optimum use of natural resources, and investment-friendly business environment. This will be done through the development of agriculture trade-related risk maps, establishment of Agricultural Trade Information System & the Regional Agricultural Trade Forum, capacity building, support to start-ups, SMEs & Women entrepreneurs, an investment-friendly climate, and a green industrial development strategy.

6. Social Welfare and Environment

This is also a new area aiming at improving the standard of living, quality of life, economic welfare and well-being of people, through providing social protection and environment preservation policies in the ECO Region. This needs a multi-faceted policy environment to address challenges like increased population, diminishing natural resources, socio-economic disparities, pressure on eco-systems, natural disasters, drug & human trafficking, food security, health and education problems. This will be done through effective national and regional policies, active involvement of all member countries, and meaningful relationship with the global players and stakeholders

within the context of SDGs.

This will be achieved through capacity development, enhancement of food security and safety, focus on non-communicable diseases, encouragement of universal health coverage systems, environment-friendly economic cooperation, partnership of ECO with regional and global

stakeholders for environment protection, establishment of an integrated disaster risk reduction system, and regional cooperation to combat illegal drugs and human trafficking and other trans-regional organized crime.

Implementation, review and follow-up

The ECO Vision 2025 has an implementation management system, which contains modalities for its implementation, review and follow-up. This will involve measurement of implementation status at regular intervals, appraisals and constructive feedbacks. Follow-up evaluations will be an important part of the process for success of the Vision.

Implementation will be through the 'Implementation Framework' which clearly



delineates goals, activities and timelines to achieve various objectives. This would also serve as a roadmap for developing the Annual Work Plans by the Regional Planning Council (RPC). The sectoral ECO ministerial meetings will synchronize their agendas, activities and decisions for implementation of ECO Vision.

For Monitoring and Evaluation, indicators and benchmarks will be developed by the ECO Secretariat for implementation appraisal. The overall supervision and oversight will be done by the ECO Council of Ministers (COM), which will also discuss "Vision Implementation; Progress and Assessment" in all its meetings. There will be a three-yearly review by the ECO Secretariat which will be submitted to the RPC for assessment, advice and decisions on adjustments (if needed). The final review will be initiated by the ECO Secretariat in 2024, which will provide an overall assessment and necessary inputs and a sense of direction for development of the next vision.

The implementation requires sustained and regular funding. Therefore the ECO Vision 2025 envisages a Financial Framework. An "ECO Vision Fund" will be created which will consolidate all existing funds within the ECO into a single fund. It will finance implementation of various projects and initiatives contained in the ECO Vision 2025. The Financial resources will take form of voluntary grants from the Member States and donor assistance.

Effective and successful implementation

of the ECO Vision 2025 requires more efficient ECO structure, which will be achieved through the Organizational Restructuring of the ECO Secretariat, ECO specialized agencies and regional institutions. This will be done via necessary institutional reforms on the recommendations of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

Post-VISION era in ECO and future prospects

The ECO has come a long way, from its three-member predecessor Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 to present-day ten-member robust Organisation. Although this process of evolutionary cooperation was slow, but it has been progressing in a well-sustained manner. With the successful adoption of the "ECO Vision 2025", ECO has demonstrated that it has come of age. For the first time in ECO's history, a comprehensive approach has been adopted. The new Vision was finalized after extensive consultations with various stakeholders. It was based on the premise that a clear vision attracts the right strategy. It was imperative to develop a clear vision for the next ten years.

Organizations which have clear vision and strategies for implementation of that vision have been very successful. For instance, the success of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established in 1967 (three years after RCD), is a testament to the importance of vision and commitment to regionalism. The share of ASEAN in global GDP has increased from 4% to 25%, and GDP per capita increased from USD 122 to USD 4000 within the 50 years. The ECO, with 6.2% of world population, has much bigger potential.

The adoption of the "ECO Vision 2025" is reiteration of desire of the ECO Member States for continued and deepened cooperation for economic development. The implementation of the "Vision" will not only invigorate the ECO Region, but it will enhance intra-regional cooperation, as well as socio-economic development. This will result in prosperity for the people of the ECO which has been the goal of the leaders of the Region all along.

Dr. Mohammad Adnan is the Director for Trade and Investment in the ECO Secretariat in Tehran

ECO New Web Portal: A Catalyst for Cooperation

Review by
Waqar Siddique

In an inter-connected world, the websites are becoming increasingly popular and integral mode of communication for international and regional organizations, as well as governments. This has also become imperative for the private sector to do business and deliver services through various modes and products. All the public and private sector institutions and establishments are thriving world around on this all-pervasive innovation launched in the recent times. This is narrowing the digital divide in an exponential manner. ECO cannot afford to remain aloof from this digital world as well as technology.

The newly-launched ECO Web portal (www.eco.int) aims, inter

alia, to develop strong relationship with governments and people of the Member States as well as the outside world. Revamped in content and design, it is intended to efficiently disseminate information in a wink of an eye with better service delivery. New website is more user-friendly and interactive containing rich contents with advanced search mechanism embodied with modern technologies and regular update adding to the dynamism of the Organization. Effective communication through the website has soothing effect on the environment of the Organization.

In align with the global trend and basic objectives of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), a ten-member inter-governmental organization taking effect in 1985, Secretariat has ensured "constant improvement" in its IT services as its core support to six Directorates and other integral units. As regards the website of the Organization, the target is increased utility, functionality as well as aesthetics. The internal communication within the Secretariat and with ECO Member States



have also been transformed to paperless mode, with the additional goal to opt environmental friendly working ambience.

The new ECO web portal aims to assist the enquirers and information seekers who aspire or need to know about the Organization, its policies and programmes with greater reliability through timely dissemination of information and user friendly interface. It is needless to highlight that its architecture, design and security structure has been enhanced. It has also been profoundly improved in visual arena. Without delving into the technical details of the website, main features are highlighted as follows:

The "Home page" has been enriched with more additional and useful information from the end-user perspective, including areas such as 'ECO in a Nutshell', 'Secretary General and Secretariat', 'Activities', 'ECO Region and Global Agenda', 'Latest Publications', 'Resources', 'Events', etc. "About ECO" section covers basic information of the Organization, namely, 'History', 'Member States and Observers' under the tag of 'Membership', 'Basic Documents' containing "Izmir Treaty" and other vital agreements/documents. Section of 'ECO Organs' contains further sub-sections of statutory bodies, namely, 'Summit', 'Council of Ministers (COM)', 'Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)', 'Regional Planning Council (RPC)', 'Sectoral ministerial meetings and other meetings.

The "Activities" section is divided according to the ECO Vision 2025, in areas of Trade, Transport and Connectivity, Energy, Tourism, Economic Growth and Productivity, Social Welfare and Environment, Partnerships, and Capacity building and training programmes. The Section provides comprehensive details i.e. goals, sub-goals, indicators/parameters and mechanism of implementation of each area and the principal activities to be carried out.

Being a regional inter-governmental organization, ECO Secretariat has established extensive relations with other regional and international organizations within and outside the Region for extending and strengthening of cooperation and collabora-

tion with the conclusive aim of realization of the organizational goals set forth by the visionary leaders of the Region. Numerous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and cooperative arrangements are in place defining the working relations between ECO and its external partners. This information is available in 'External Relations' section.

The attractive feature particular for researcher and research organizations is 'Publication' section which contains latest publications and periodicals under different Directorates and areas. 'ECO subsidiary and affiliated bodies' section constitutes introduction to and web links of ECO Trade & Development Bank, ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Science Foundation, ECO Educational Institute, ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ECO College of Insurance, ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security, ECO Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, ECO Consultancy & Engineering Company, ECO Regional Center for Risk Management of Natural Disasters, etc. Apart from the aforementioned features, this new website contains multimedia portion like news, photos, and videos which is integrated with social media for its swift dissemination.

It is pertinent to share that online readers generally scroll and scan and in this process the likelihood of omission of major points/highlights is enormous. Footer is probably the last place they look at before exiting. As a solution, placing a sitemap in the footer attracts readers' attention and increase page clicks, views and readership. For this very reason, the whole web portal structure is also placed on the bottom.

About ECO	Events	Activities	Resources
History	Annual Calendar of Events	Trade	Documents and reports of the meetings
Membership	Working Groups	Transport and Connectivity	Publications
Basic Documents	Recent Events	Energy	Research and Studies
ECO Organs		Tourism	Data and Statistics
ECO subsidiary and affiliated bodies	News and Media	Economic Growth and Productivity	ECO Clinics
External Relations	United Nations	Social Welfare and Environment	
ECO Chairmanship	Public Gallery	Partnerships	Work with ECO
	Videos	Capacity building and training programmes	Videos
	Announcements		Job Vacancies
			Meetings
			Consultancies

In sum, in order to disseminate information in an efficient and effective fashion in support with multimedia and social media, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has undertaken this daunting task to develop a state of the art web portal which reflects all working units' policies and programmes. The newly launched website (www.eco.int) will educate and assist the target audience, and integrate the people, businesses and Member States of the ECO Region through architecturally improved, enriched material/content, greater access, and visually enhanced features, coupled with reliability. The IT team of the Secretariat has made tremendous efforts to make it happen in cognizance of the fact that there is always room for improvement, thus welcoming feedbacks to further improve the quality and services.

Mr. Waqar Siddique is Database Officer at ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

"Seismic Hazard Map of the ECO Member States"

Review by
Djalynbek Turgumbaev

Earthquakes are among the most critical natural hazards in the world. Since 1900 about 2.5 Million people lost their lives due to earthquakes and the total economic losses reached 3 Trillion USD. A substantial portion of these losses took place in the ECO Region. Earthquakes are sudden disasters with short term warning. As such, the management of the earthquake risk requires the assessment of hazard and risk and the development of mitigation plans as well as a resilient socio-economic environment. In the ECO Region, the large-scale transform faulting, compressional mountain building, and crustal extension are some of principal plate tectonic processes that play an important role in seismic activity. The famous active tectonic plates in the region include

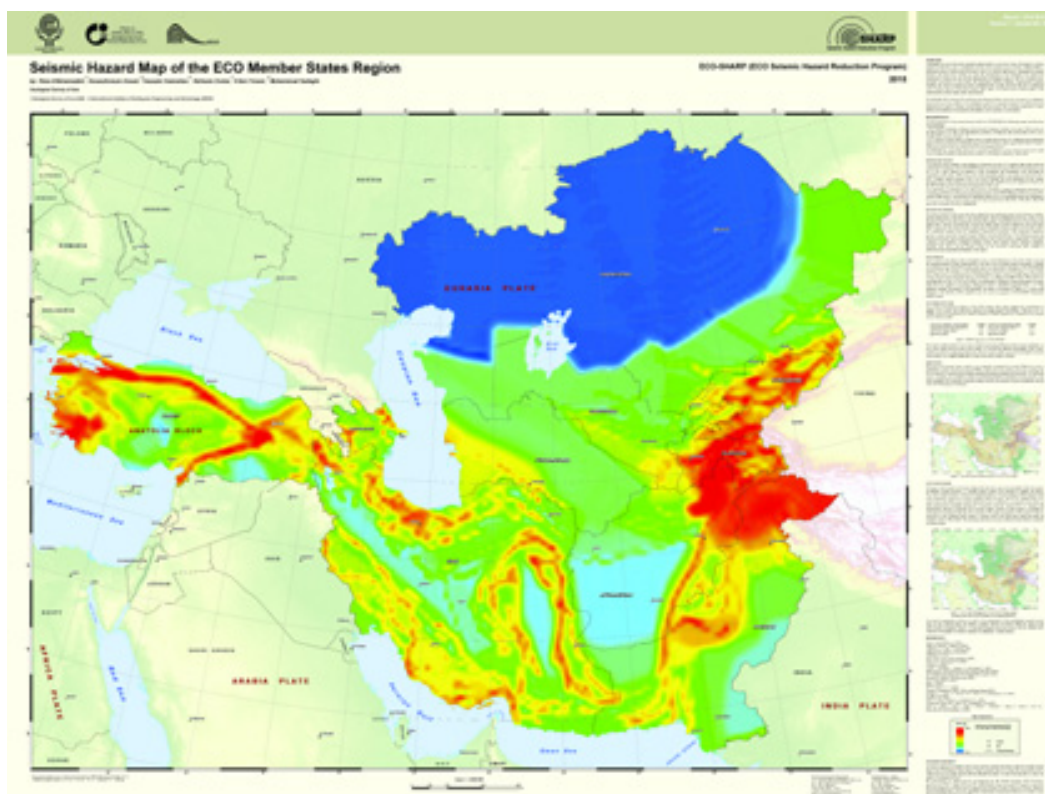
Eurasia, India, Africa and Anatolia.

To mitigate impact from the earthquakes in the ECO Region, a project on ECO Seismic Hazard Reduction Programme (ECO SHARP) was initiated by the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) which was supported by the Member States. ECO-SHARP Project is aimed at assessing the earthquake hazards providing a platform for earthquake experts from the ECO Member States to collaborate and improve their capacity, creating a living hazard and risk model with a flexible architecture to allow addition and updating of components and datasets, and to maintain it continuously.

■ Seismic Hazard MAP of the ECO Member States

For the preparation of the main Map - Seismic Hazard MAP of the ECO Member States, the following inputs and data base were developed:

"ECO SHARP earthquake catalogue. The historical catalogue includes more than 2,000 records for the time period 10 to 1899. The instrumental catalogue covering the time period from 1900 to 2013 includes 3861 records with $M_w \geq 5$;



"ECO SHARP tectonic model. A digital active tectonic map of the ECO Region has been generated. A total of 2000 active fault sections are defined and parameterized. ECO-SHARP has successfully delivered a regional probabilistic seismic hazard assessment model across multiple disciplines spanning from geology to seismology earthquake engineering.

■ **Earthquake Catalog**

The Project Manager focused on establishing the catalog of seismicity for the ECO Member States, using all historical and instrumental events from 1900 to 2012. After removal of duplicate events, foreshocks and aftershocks, and converting all magnitude to Mw scale, 15853 main events with magnitude equal or more than 4 remain from 10 to 2012, using Wiemer's ZMAP package (2001) to identify fore and aftershocks in the catalog. Homogenization of the catalog was achieved using Scordilis (2006) conversion equations between mb, Ms, ML and Mw and by converting all magnitudes to Mw scale.

The magnitude of completeness was determined by cumulative frequency-magnitude distribution of Gutenberg and Richter (1944) and seismological analysis with ZMAP (Weimer, 2001) for entire ECO Region. The threshold of magnitude based on all ECO earthquake data was calculated as 5.7, 5.4, 4.7, 4.5 and 4.0 (or less than 4) for the time periods from 1900-1950, 1950-1960, 1960-1990 and 1990-1995 and 1995-2013, respectively.

■ **Active Faults**

Active faults are the places where earthquakes occur, so the delineation of the active fault zones and the parameterization of their characteristics is the first step in seismic hazard assessment. A digital active seismotectonic map of the ECO Region was generated in ArcGIS format. A total of 2000 active fault sections are defined based on Published Books, Papers and the available Maps and Remote sensing using Landsat 8 Satellite data (just for Turkey, Azerbaijan and NW of Iran). Then faults are parameterized for the ECO SHARP Project. A database of fault parameters for active faults that is capable of generating earthquakes above a threshold magnitude Mw \geq 4.5 was developed. This

database includes information on the geometry and rates of movement of faults in a "Active Fault Database".

■ **Seismotectonic Map (GIS-Ready Format)**

In order to prepare the GIS-Ready Seismotectonic map of ECO Member States, available necessary information and data sets has been brought together from numerous sources on the ECO Member States base map. These information and data sets are:

- line-sources in different available classifications in fault mechanism;
- plate boundaries (convergence, divergence transform);
- earthquake data (Revised Earthquake Catalogs);
- young depression (represents a tectonic depression with smooth slopes);
- global GPS velocity (GPS velocity estimated data);
- depths of Moho (depth of the boundary between the Earth's crust and the mantle);
- Free air-gravity anomaly;
- SRTM (shuttle radar topographic mission, 90 m).

Seismic line sources show distribution of active faults throughout the project area. Classification of the fault mechanism shows Normal Fault, Lateral Slip Fault, Right- and Left- lateral Slip faults. In order to prepare the GIS-Ready Seismotectonic map of ECO member states, same as the GIS-Ready Seismicity Map, the earthquake data have been plotted throughout the project area (epicenters colored by depth to show depth of seismogenic layers). The plot shows distribution of earthquakes between 1900 and 2014 using the Engdahl and Lee seismic catalogs. Epicenters colored by depth to show depth of seismogenic layers. Where it was necessary, the standard teleseismic catalogues (ISC, NEIC) has been used as well. Only earthquakes with magnitudes greater than Ms = 4.0 are shown. The earthquakes are color-coded by depth parameter.

The Seismic Hazard MAP of the ECO Member States is aimed at quantifying the rate of exceeding various ground-motion levels at a site given all possible earthquakes. Seismic Hazard MAP of the ECO Member States involves three steps: 1) specification of the seismic-hazard source model(s); 2) specification of the ground motion model(s); and 3) the probabilistic calculation.

The ECO earthquake Maps/catalogues are designed to help evaluate the seismic hazards of the ECO Region, which in turn will support the development and reconstruction of ECO's infrastructure. The Maps will be used in the seismic hazards study to help define earthquake sources within and in proximity of the ECO Region on the basis of the distribution and focal mechanisms of the catalogued earthquakes, as well as based on the locations of the earthquakes with respect to mapped geologic faults and boundaries of major tectonic plates. The Maps will also be used to derive estimates of the frequency of strong earthquakes for most source zones.

Seismicity, Seismotectonic and more information/report on ECO-SHARP Project are available at <http://www.ecosharp-project.com>

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