

Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme Online Training Course on
'International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments' 20-22 June 2023

Welcome remarks by ECO Deputy Secretary General Amb. J.Asanov

Your Excellency Dr. Zehra Zümür Selçuk, Director General SESRIC

Your Excellency Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician, Department of
Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

Dear colleagues,

I am privileged to greet you at this important workshop.

First of all, I would like to thank our partners Statistical, Economic and Social
Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and Department of
Statistics of Malaysia for their sincere support and valuable assistance that they have
been providing to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The member-states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) highly
value cooperation and interaction of our Organization with SESRIC and DOSM.
Particularly, the 33rd meeting of the Regional Planning Council of ECO, which was
held in January this year expressed its appreciation for holding two online events in
2022: Online Training Course on Big Data Applications for Price Intelligence on 14-
16 June 2022 and Training Course on SDG-9 (Industry, Infrastructure, and
Innovation)" held on 1-3 November 2022.

This time we are gathered to highlight acute issues relating to International
Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments. As all of us know, sometimes we see
diverging figures in bilateral trade figures by statistics agencies of many countries.
Such differences in calculations of international trade figures occur within the ECO
area as well. That is why I am confident that this online training course will greatly
contribute to the improvement of statistical services of our countries.

Dear colleagues,

The ECO has great potential to utilise and economic, trade and investment
relations among the member-states are increasing year by year. In this context the
field of statistics plays one of the important roles both in any country's economic
development and in the development of the entire ECO region as well. Without
statistics it is impossible to have a clear picture of current economic developments
and an idea in which direction the development needs to be directed.

While concluding my remarks, I wish to all of us fruitful training and
exchange of views.