



OPENING REMARKS

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON “INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS”

SESRIC HQs, Ankara

20 June 2023, 09:30

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I wish you all a very Good Day,



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- It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this exciting and timely Online Training Course on ‘International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments’.
- This course is being organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and with technical expertise from top organisations in the field such as the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), UNCTAD, UNSD, and WTO.



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- I am thrilled to have such a distinguished group of participants from across the region come together to learn from some of the best experts in the field.
- Our esteemed experts come from renowned organisations with long-standing expertise in international trade statistics and balance of payments.
- This training course has been developed with informative programmes that I am sure you will all find incredibly valuable.



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- I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Amb. Jandos Asanov, Deputy Secretary General of ECO,
- and H.E. Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician at DOSM, and his team for providing their invaluable support and knowledge for this online training course.



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Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments are crucial indicators to monitor the economic performance of OIC member countries, particularly those that heavily rely on exports.
- Accurate and readily available data on trade flows with partner countries are essential for policymakers and analysts to make informed decisions, identify emerging trends, and tap into new opportunities.



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- According to the OIC Economic Outlook 2022, the top five OIC exporters in 2021 were the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Türkiye, with Qatar, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, and Oman also making the list of the top ten.
- These countries were responsible for a significant percentage of total OIC exports.



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- Given the reliance of many OIC member countries on exports, the accuracy and availability of trade data is essential for policy-making and economic analysis.
- Moreover, some OIC countries are vulnerable to changes in global commodity prices, natural disasters, or political instability, which can impact their economies.
- Thus, analyzing their balance of payments is crucial.



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- In 2021, the OIC countries recorded a current account surplus of US\$ 121 billion, marking an impressive turnaround from the US\$ 170 billion deficit the previous year.
- Despite continuing deficits in services trade, the improvement in the balance of merchandise trade was a significant factor contributing to this surplus.



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Distinguished Participants,

- SESRIC, through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) programme, continues to support the efforts of OIC member countries in enhancing their statistical capacities, including international trade statistics and balance of payments.
- Since 2007, SESRIC has organised 477 statistical activities including 302 statistical training courses, 46 study visits, 20



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technical missions, 25 webinars, 73 workshops/meetings, and 11 sessions of OIC-StatCom.

- Related to international trade statistics and balance of payments, we organised 21 statistical activities including 14 statistical training courses, 2 webinars, 2 study visits, 1 technical mission, and 2 workshops.



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- In terms of statistical publications, SESRIC annually published the “Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries”, which includes International Trade as a category, and Balance of Payments under International Finance category.
- Besides, SESRIC published an OIC Statistical Outlook on “International Finance” in January 2019, which covered international trade and balance of payments in OIC member countries.



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Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As I conclude, I would like to confirm our readiness to organise similar events in the near future to contribute to the efforts of our member countries especially related to international trade statistics and balance of payments.



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- I extend my thanks once more to DOSM, ECO, UNCTAD, UNSD, and WTO for bringing about synergies for the benefit of statistical systems in OIC countries.
- Thank you all for allocating your precious time to participate in this training and I wish you all the success in your deliberations.

Thank you. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.