

Timeline of ERS projects

At onset, the 19th RPC Meeting (Tehran, 12-14 January, 2009) endorsed the following economic research projects: (1) “Alternative Energy Resources in ECO region”; (2) Competitive Goods and Services in ECO region”, (3) “Prospects of Intra-trade in ECO region”, Coordinating country-**Kazakhstan**; (4) “Economic Management Modelling in ECO countries”, Coordinating country – **Pakistan**; (5) “Comparative Study on the Linkage between Energy Consumption and Population Dynamics in the ECO Countries: *a new view toward MDGs*”, Coordinating country-**Iran** (based on UNFPA’s funding), and (6) “Status and Perspectives of ECO Member States’ Economic Development”. The implementation of the latter research project has been contributed by **Iran** (Coordinating country) on gratuity basis with Implementing Agency being the University of Tehran.

Thus, the ECO Economic Research Programme (EERP) had, initially, been compiled of the aforementioned economic research projects. The second of the former two was replaced by Pakistan-proposed project titled “Analyzing Food Security Issues in the ECO region”. Further, the EERP was supplemented by Azerbaijan-proposed research project on economic modeling titled: “Exchange of experiences and strengthening of inter-agency cooperation on the development of ecologically clean agriculture model in ECO Member Countries”.

At implementation side, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have fulfilled their assigned projects well on time. The research projects by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Azerbaijan were fulfilled in 2019. The final reports on the latter two have well been received by ECO Secretariat. Both, the Project Implementing Agencies are the widely-renowned high performing economic research institutions functioning under relevant Ministries of Economy in both the Member States. These, notably are: the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) of Republic of Azerbaijan.

ECO Programme on Economic Research (EERP) has successfully been carried out till present. The last three study projects, notably, (1) “Economic Modeling in the ECO region”, (2) “Analyzing Food Security Issues in the ECO region”, (3) “Exchange of Experiences on Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation on the Ecologically Clean Model in Agriculture in the ECO region” have their 100 hard copy sets disseminated among the ECO Member States. All research projects

completed in the framework of the EERP are now available on ECO web under “*Project Management Section*” web page: “*Programme*”.

As of 2023 ERS is dealing with 3 (three) projects.

“*Agricultural statistics and Land Cover statistics from Earth Observations for selected ECO Countries*”

Following Paragraph-51, I-Sector of ECO Program 2022, the Secretariat, upon finalizing the discussion within Secretariat (December 19, 2021) approached FAOSTAT for the possibility of a new joint statistical project. On March 28, 2022 a video conferencing discussion was held between ECO and FAO to discuss the matters relating to a new project-based cooperation. As the outcome of the discussion, the joint ECO-FAO draft project proposal was shared with ECO Member States for feedback. The draft proposal, along with the agricultural statistics, looks after the Compilation of Price Statistics within the project framework design.

During the 6th Meeting of ECO Heads of National Statistics Offices/ 8th High Level Experts’ Group Meeting the delegation of Tajikistan as pilot country for the project stated its full support for the project proposal.

The 33rd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 16-19 January 2023 (paragraph 40, I-Sector, ECO Work Programme 2023) requested to take initial steps on the implementation of the project.

Currently practical steps are being taken jointly by FAOSTAT, Statistical Agency of Tajikistan and ECO Secretariat.

“*Kazakhstan’s trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities*”

The Project proposal was received from the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and it was circulated among the Member States with Note Verbale No: ERS/2022/1637, dated 30.11.2022. The 33rd Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) held on 16-19 January 2023 (paragraph 8, I-Sector, ECO Work Programme 2023) welcomed a new economic research project proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan titled “Kazakhstan’s trade and economic potential in the markets of the ECO countries in the new geo-economic realities” as a pilot project in a vision to be exemplary to other member states highlighting a need for economic research analyses and macroeconomic economic policy support.

In order to ensure greater transparency it was proposed to finance the project from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) and seek for this the consent of the Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

After comprehensive deliberations CPR agreed to the financing of the project from FGPF.

As of October 2023 ToR for hiring a consultant and Contract for implementation of the project are signed.

“Transformation of ECO Economic Journal”

The Tashkent Communique adopted at the 26th Meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) held on January 24, 2023 expressed support to “the continuation of activities aimed at transforming the ECO Economic Journal borne by the Chief Editor’s office into an internationally recognized, widely disseminated and reputable publication” and called on the Secretariat “to **accelerate the procedure for financing** of the project proposal for the new concept of the journal”.

After the talks of the ECO Secretariat with the ECO Trade and Development Bank (ETDB) the board of the latter decided to allocate USD 20000.

The 282nd meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) endorsed the proposal of the ECO Secretariat to allocate from the Feasibility and General Purpose Fund (FGPF) USD5000 (five thousand US dollars) to the transformation of EEJ.

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