



ECO Newsletter

Economic Cooperation Organization

June, 2025- No. 10



Dear readers,



I am delighted to present the June 2025 edition of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Newsletter.

This month, the Islamic Republic of Iran convened the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, held in Tehran, which unanimously adopted the Tehran Declaration, highlighting our collective resolve to enhance multimodal transport corridors, promote digitalization, and facilitate cross-border trade and transit. Given the presence of seven landlocked countries in the ECO region, these efforts are essential for unlocking the true economic potential of our region and strengthening the bonds between our nations. On the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting, I had the honor of engaging in bilateral discussions with Heads of Delegations from several member states.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also hosted the 3rd ECO Conference on Health Tourism in Hamedan, Iran, which underscored the significance of health tourism as a driver of sustainable development and regional collaboration.

I would also like to acknowledge the Republic of Türkiye for hosting the Global Transport Connectivity Forum, where ECO's initiatives in enhancing regional transport corridors were prominently highlighted. Platforms such as these are invaluable for fostering partnerships and addressing global challenges that impact the development trajectory of our region.

As we prepare for the 17th ECO Summit in Azerbaijan, I am confident that this event will serve as a cornerstone for deeper economic integration and regional solidarity. The Summit's thematic forums on youth engagement, gender inclusion, and investment promotion represent critical steps toward achieving sustainable development and prosperity in the ECO region.

Thank you for your attention to the latest regional developments under the ECO framework.

Secretary General
Economic Cooperation Organization

Tehran Hosts 13th Ministerial Meeting on Transport



June 2, 2025- Tehran

The 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport gathered Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and high-level representatives from ECO Member States, as well as officials from international partner organizations.

Participants exchanged views on current challenges and future opportunities to develop efficient, integrated, and sustainable transport systems across the ECO region. Discussions focused on enhancing multimodal transport corridors, promoting

digitalization in the transport sector, facilitating cross-border trade and transit, and implementing regional agreements and frameworks.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation among ECO Member States. They also emphasized the need for coordinated actions and investments to improve infrastructure, harmonize transport policies, and increase private sector engagement in regional transport projects.

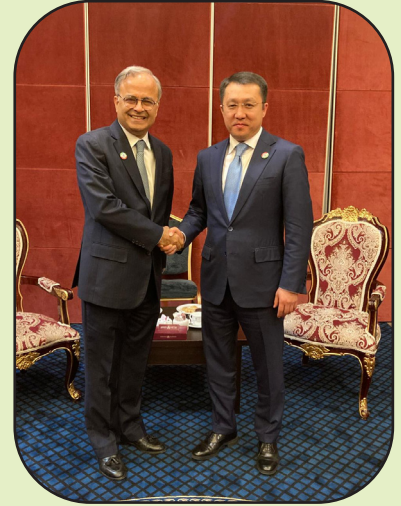
A key outcome of the meeting was the unanimous

adoption of the Tehran Declaration, which outlines strategic priorities and a collective roadmap to enhance regional transport and connectivity. The Declaration underscores the importance of regional solidarity, coordinated policy actions, and multilateral collaboration in fostering economic growth, sustainable development, and people-to-people ties across the ECO region. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of shared goals and a renewed determination to work collectively toward a connected, prosperous, and resilient ECO region.

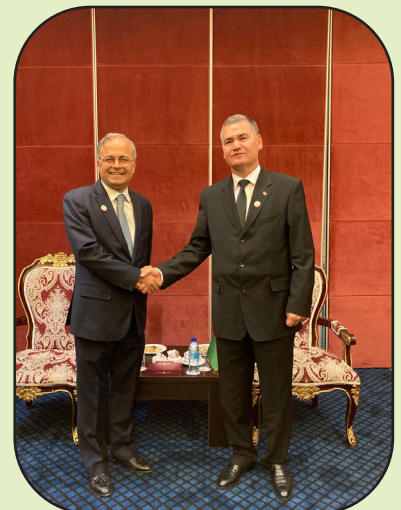
Bilateral Meetings on Sidelines of 13th Ministerial Meeting on Transport



On the sidelines of the 13th Ministerial Meeting on Transport, Dr. Asad M. Khan held a series of bilateral meetings with the Heads of Delegations of Turkmenistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.



Dr. Khan extended his appreciation to the dignitaries for their active participation in the Ministerial Meeting. A key highlight of the discussions was the Tehran Declaration, which was adopted as a roadmap in reinforcing regional connectivity and transport integration. Dr. Khan called for coordinated efforts by member states to implement the Declaration's priorities and to translate shared commitments into tangible outcomes.



Dr. Khan also briefed the delegations on major ECO events scheduled for this year and extended invitations for their enhanced engagement in upcoming activities. Issues of mutual interest—ranging from multimodal transport corridors and infrastructure development to trade facilitation and digitalization—were at the center of the discussions. The meetings reaffirmed the shared vision of ECO member states to build an efficient, secure, and integrated transport network across the region.



Senior Officials Meeting on Transport

June 1, 2025- Tehran

The Senior Officials from the ECO member states met ahead of the 13th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Transport, to review progress since the last Ministerial Meeting and to finalize key document that will facilitate the regional cooperation in the transport sector.

Officials exchanged views on recent developments and achievements within the ECO framework, focusing on enhanced regional connectivity, infrastructure development, and multimodal transport integration. Participants also had an opportunity to deliberate on the new ECO Vision Document, and the potential contribution of ECO to the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action. The meeting successfully finalized the Draft Tehran Declaration, which will be presented for adoption by the Ministers of Transport, on June 2, 2025.



Secretary General Meets Minister of Industry, Mines & Trade, Iran

June 15, 2025-Tehran

Dr. Asad M. Khan held a meeting with Mr. Seyed Mohammad Atabak, Honorable Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Both sides emphasized the importance of fully operationalizing existing ECO mechanisms, particularly through the universal ratification and implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) by all Member States, as a key step toward advancing regional trade.

They also addressed challenges in financial transactions, highlighting their critical role in facilitating trade. Dr. Khan called for stronger political and institutional commitment and greater engagement and ownership in advancing trade and industrial cooperation.



The meeting highlighted Iran's active participation in upcoming ECO events, including the 17th ECO Summit in Baku (July 2025), the 5th ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce and Foreign Trade in Istanbul, and the anticipated 4th Ministerial Meeting on Industry in 2026.

Secretary General Calls on Minister of Interior, Iran



Tehran – June 10, 2025

Dr. Asad M. Khan met with H.E. Eskandar Momeni, Minister of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The discussions addressed several significant issues, including the organization of the 4th ECO Interior Ministers Meeting.

The Minister conveyed their readiness to organize related expert meetings and training courses on critical law enforcement issues, such as narcotics, migration and terrorism, among the ECO member countries. Dr. Khan noted the importance of operationalization of the ECO Regional Center for Cooperation of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Ombudsmen (RCCACO) for institutionalized cooperation in the region.

Both sides concurred that the new vision document of the Organization should encompass emerging challenges, including drug trafficking, terrorism, and transnational crimes.



3rd ECO Confobition on Health Tourism



June 11-12, 2025-Hamedan

Hamedan, a city of historical and cultural significance as the resting place of Sheikh Al-Rais Abu Ali Ibn-Sina, hosted the 3rd ECO Confobition (Conference and Exhibition) on Health Tourism. The event brought together health and tourism leaders from across the ECO region to explore strategies for advancing health tourism and fostering regional collaboration in this rapidly growing sector.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions, exhibitions, and field visits, making the Confobition a platform for knowledge exchange, service showcasing, and partnership-building among public and private sector stakeholders from across the ECO region.

The opening session featured welcome remarks from the Governor of Hamedan and high-ranking dignitaries, including the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the Deputy Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the ECO Secretary General.



Dr. Asad M. Khan emphasized the critical role of health tourism as a driver of sustainable development in the ECO region and reaffirmed ECO's commitment to diversifying tourism offerings, including medical and wellness tourism. H.E. Minister Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri underscored the Iranian Government's prioritization of tourism and proposed the establishment of a joint committee on health tourism under the ECO framework to enhance regional collaboration.

The Confobition concluded with the adoption of the Hamedan Declaration, which outlines key strategies to strengthen health tourism across the ECO region. The Declaration welcomed proposals from the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the establishment of a standing committee on health tourism, the development of a comprehensive regional health tourism strategy, and the creation of a digital platform for health tourism under the ECO umbrella.

Expert panels explored topics such as the impact of Iranian and regional traditional medicine on economic development in ECO Member States, the role of ECO Member States in advancing medical tourism, and the potential of Iran, particularly Hamedan, as an emerging destination for health tourism. Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings between tourism associations from ECO Member States, including Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Turkish Cypriot State (ECO observer), facilitated discussions on thermal tourism, health tourism investments, and related sectors. These engagements fostered regional collaboration and strengthened partnerships to advance health tourism development.



ECO Prepares for 17th ECO Summit in Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan will host the 17th ECO Summit on July 3–4, 2025, in Khankendi. The Summit will convene ECO Heads of States/Government, Ministers, ECO Observers, Special Guests from non-ECO countries and heads of international organizations to achieve development and prosperity through fragile economic integration.

The Summit will feature an inclusive ECO Week, which will be held from July 1–4, 2025, across multiple cities in Azerbaijan. The ECO Week will include a series of thematic forums aimed at advancing youth engagement, gender inclusion and economic connectivity within the region.

The ECO Youth Forum with its thematic focus on “Enhancing the Role of Youth for Building a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future” will be held in Aghdam on July 1, meanwhile the ECO Women Forum focused on “Enhancing the Role of Women for Building a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future” will convene in Lachin on July 2, and the 6th Business Forum will gather business leaders and investors in Fuzuli on July 2, 2025, under the theme of “Investment and Trade Promotion as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in the ECO Region.”

Global Transport Connectivity Forum



June 27-29, 2025-Istanbul

ECO Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Çağatay Öngüt, participated in the Global Transport Connectivity Forum. The high-level event, inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Türkiye, convened leaders, experts, and stakeholders to address global transportation challenges and opportunities.



Speaking during the session on “Emerging Challenges for Global Connectivity,” Mr. Öngüt highlighted the vulnerabilities in global maritime routes and declining water levels in key inland seas like the Caspian. Mr. Öngüt detailed ECO’s ongoing efforts to enhance regional transport corridors, including the Trans-Caspian and Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul corridors, in collaboration with UNECE.



Mr. Öngüt also presented initial findings of a pre-feasibility study on ECO Transport Corridors and ECO Gates, conducted with the Islamic Development Bank. He announced ECO’s upcoming side event at the Third United Nations Conference for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) in Awaza, Turkmenistan, on 6 August 2025.

Kermanshah- Asian Cities' Cultural Capital

Kermanshah – June 10, 2025

An ECO delegation, comprising ECO Deputy Secretary General Mr. Çağatay Emrah Öngüt, Head of Section for Project Management Mr. Faizrahman Kassenov, and Program Officer for Tourism Ms. Hosna Khalvandi, participated in the Festival of Cultural Capital of Asian Cities 2025. The city of Kermanshah was designated as the Cultural Capital of Asian Cities for 2025 by the Secretariat of the Asian Mayors Forum.



The festival brought together members of the diplomatic corps based in Iran, cultural dignitaries, and international delegates. Guests were taken on an journey through Kermanshah's rich history, with visits to iconic landmarks such as the Moaven ol-Molk Tekyeh, the Biglarbeigi Tekyeh, and the Bisotun UNESCO World Heritage Site. The event highlighted the city's historical and architectural treasures, offering a glimpse into its cultural legacy.

The festival concluded with a celebration of Kermanshah's living traditions, complemented by high-level discussions and cultural immersion activities. Delegates explored the centuries-old Kermanshah Bazaar, a UNESCO tentative site, where they experienced the city's unique blend of history and commerce. They also indulged in Kermanshah's renowned culinary heritage, celebrated globally as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, further cementing the city's reputation as a cultural and gastronomic hub.



Economic Cooperation Organization



ECO Secretariat, No. 1, Golbou Alley, Kamranieh St.,, Postal Code: 19519 – 33114, Tehran, Iran
Web: www.eco.int, E-mail: registry@eco.int, Tel: (+9821) 22831733-4, Fax: (+9821) 22831732