

Report of

The 4th ECI Board of Trustees Meeting

(March 21, 2009 - Mazar-e Sharif, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)

The Fourth ECI Board of Trustees Meeting was held on March 21, 2009 in Mazar-e Sharif, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Youth affairs of the *Islamic* Republic of Afghanistan. The BOT Meeting, preceded by the 3rd HLEG Meeting on March 20, 2009, was chaired by H.E Abdul- Karim Khurrarn, the Honorable Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The delegates from the four Signatory Member States i.e. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic. Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Turkey attended the Meeting. H.E Shahram Tavakkoli, Deputy to Iran's Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance, represented LR. Iran .. H.E Khurshid Anwar, ECO Secretary General, Hasan Taherian, ECO Deputy Secretary General, H.E Mohammad Rajabi, President of ECO Cultural Institute and Hafiz Muhammad Jamil Owaisi, ECI Executive Director, participated in the Meeting. The list of participants is in (*Annex-I*).

Item-I

Inauguration of the Meetinll

The meeting was started with the recitation of verses from The Holy Quran and was inaugurated by H.E. Abdul - Karim Khurrarn, the Honorable Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Item-2

Election of the Chairman

H.E. Mr. Khurrarn, the Honorable Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. He thanked the delegations for electing him as chairman and wished for a successful BOT meeting.

Item-3

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the Meeting was adopted (*Annex-H*)

Item-4

Appointment of Drafting Committee.

An open-ended drafting committee was formed to prepare the Report of the Meeting

Item-S

Statements by the Minister Heads of the Delegations

As the Chairman of the 4th BOT Meeting, His Excellency Abdul- Karim Khurrarn, the Honorable Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs of the .Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, welcomed the delegates, reiterated his country' s continued support of *ECO* Cultural Institute and emphasized on the need of further strengthening the existing cultural ties among the ECO Member States.

Representing the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Shahram Tavakkoli, Deputy to Iran's Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance thanked the Government of the LR. Afghanistan for hosting ECI s 4th BOT Meeting, drew attention of the participants to the existing common cultural heritage, impressed upon the need for expansion of cultural cooperation among

the ECO Member States and also highlighted the importance of ECI as an instrument for augmentation of such cooperation.

The honorable Heads of the Delegations from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan also advanced their statements and reaffirmed their country's solidarity with the aims and objectives of ECI- Ch8.11er.

His Excellency, ECO Secretary General, delivered his statement, inter alia, stating that, "ECI has accelerated pace and its President Dr. Mohammad Rajabi has infused a new dynamism into it. He added that ECI'S performance has improved steadily and visibly. It has won appreciation from the 18th Council of Ministers held earlier this month in Tehran". (*Annex-III*)

Item-6

Report by the President of ECI

President of the Institute, H.E. Mohammad Rajabi, presented his progress report on the overall activities of the Institute since the 3rd BOT Meeting in Islamabad (2007). The Board of Trustees considered the report of ECI President and appreciated the performance of the Institute under the leadership of its President. (*Annex-II/*)

Item-7

Approval of the recommendations of the 3rd HLEG Meeting

ECI representative briefed the meeting about the deliberation and report of the 3rd HLEG meeting. BOT appreciated the work done by 3rd HLEG and approved its report. (*Annex-J1*) However, the following items were considered and some of them were proposed to be referred to CPR for their deliberation:

i. Publication of the Works of ECA Region's Luminaries:

BOT acknowledged publication of the works of prominent thinkers, poets and writers of the ECG Region by ECI and also appreciated the Institute's readiness to consider new proposals about the publication of the works of ECO region's luminaries. The Board welcomed the proposal conveyed by the distinguished representative of LR. Iran regarding the publication of comprehensive traditional/legendary works of the luminaries of the ECO region in each Member States with the cooperation of ECI and Member States.

BOT also welcomed to promote Common beliefs of the Region such as Sophism and holding a seminar on this matter in Pakistan.

ii. Eel Monthly /Quarterly Magazines:

While BOT welcomed ECI's new initiatives in publishing the monthly news journals in English ECG Times, Russian ECG Novesti and Persian ECO Norouz, it also appreciated the revival of ECI's research based quarterly cultural magazine under a new heading ECG Heritage. BOT requested the Member States to help ECI by sending news items, reports, articles, photos, advertisements for printing and publishing in its monthly and quarterly magazines. BOT also requested Member States to purchase a sizable number of these magazines for use by libraries, universities, offices public and private both, airlines, etc.

. Approval for the Design of ECI Logo:

The new design of ECI logo was unanimously approved .. (*Annex-VI*)

iv. Establishment of ECO Cultural Trust Fund

BOT supported the measures taken for the establishment of ECO Cultural Trust Fund including the approval of the Modality governing the Fund by 136th meeting of CPR (10th June 2008) to overcome the serious financial difficulties of ECI in running different cultural activities. The Board appreciated the generous contribution of Islamic Republic of Iran for the allocation of US\$1 million out of US\$ 2 million pledged and requested the other Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund.

v. Cultural Proposals

. BOT mandated the ECI-CPR to deliberate the proposals and projects in Cultural fields made by representative of Afghanistan and make necessary decisions *Annex- VII*.

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Launching ECO Satellite T.V Channel:

As emphasized by the 3rd BOT Meeting in Islamabad, BOT acknowledged the modern day importance of mass communication for the promotion of ECO aims and objectives. The BOT recommended that the issue be considered in details for necessary recommendation to COM by CPR

vii. Establishment of National Commission in ECI Member States:

BOT stressed upon *ECI* to establish coordination *units* in each Member States for effective . coordination and communication. Member States were urged to cooperate with ECI and nominate a Focal Person in their respective countries.

Item-8

Status of Signing /Ratification of ECI Charter and Cooperation with other Organizations/States:

BOT stressed upon such Member States as signed the Charter of ECI to expedite the process of ratification and requested those ECO Member States who have not yet signed the Charter of ECI to sign and ratify it. Furthermore, taking into account the importance of utilization of experiences and expertise of international/regional organizations, BOT emphasized on establishment of cooperative relations between ECI and other international organizations /states for cooperation and fund raising.

Item-9

Review of the Financial and Administrative Issues of ECI:

Acknowledging the importance of smooth and effective functioning of the Institute, BOT welcomed the amendments approved by 18th tOM on parts of the Charter, Rules of Procedure and Staff Regulations as reflected in the W.G's Report *Annex-VIII*.

BOT also agreed that there is a need for equalization of salaries and emoluments of ECI staff with those of ECO Secretariat and also revision of ECI Staff Strength and its Organizational Chart. However, as decided by 18th COM, the BOT recommended to CPR to examine and finalize the remaining issues on behalf of COM.

Item-If)

Any Other Businesses:

i. Extension of the Term of Duty of President, Dr. Mohammad Rajabi
The BOT welcomed the proposal of H.E. Mr. Shahram Tavakkoli the leader of the Iranian delegation for extension of the term of duty of His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Rajabi as the President of ECO Cultural Institute for another 3- year period, in one- time relaxation of existing rules, according to Article III - (2) of the ECI Charter and Para 90 of the Report of 18th COM (March 2009) and decided to propose the issue to CPR for necessary action

ii. ECO Youth Study Center
BOT endorsed the proposal put forth for the establishment of an ECO Youth Study Center and invited the relevant authorities in the Member States to collaborate in this regard.

in. ECO Women Affairs
BOT endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a center related to women of ECO region, and invited the relevant authorities for Member States to collaborate with ECL

iv. Active Role for ECI in National Regional Events
BOT welcomed the idea of participation of ECI in important national events of BCO member states and requested the esteemed governments to invite Eel formally in such occasions.

Item-II

Date and Venue of the Next BOT Meeting:

The ECI was instructed to approach the relevant authorities of Tajikistan to confirm the holding of the 5th BOT Meeting in 2011 and providing the date and venue for it.

Item-12

Adoption of Report:

The Report of 4th BOT Meeting was adopted unanimously.

Item-13

Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting:

The Fourth Meeting of the Board of Trustees was concluded with votes of thanks by the Heads of the Delegations. The BOT expressed its profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. AbdulKarim Khurram, Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the LR. Afghanistan for their commendable contribution in successful organization of the 4th BOT Meeting and for the excellent arrangements and their warm hospitality.

List of the Participants

The 4th Eel Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting

(March 21, 2009 Mazar-e Sharif Afghanistan)

Islamic Republic of Mghanistan

1. H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Khurram, Minister for Culture and Youth Affairs
2. Mr. Najibullah Munalay,
Advisor, Ministry of Information and Culture. 3'.
Dr. Aziz Ahmad Panjshiri,
Member of the Policy Board, Ministry of Infonnation and Culture.
4. Zardasht Shams,
Planing Dirictor, Ministry of Inform ati on and CULTure.
5. N agibuUah Dehghanzade
In charge of *ofECa* Ministry of Forging Affairs

Islamic Republic of Iran

1. H. E. Mr. Shahram Tavakkoli,
Deputy to Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance
2. Mr. Behzad Khakponr
ECD Bureau Affairs - Ministry of Forging Affairs
- 3. Mr. Mohamad Kazem Sohani
Islamic Cultural and Relations Organization
4. Mr. Ahmad Marjaninejad
Islamic Cultural and Relations Organization
5. Mr. Masaeli
ECD Bureau Affairs - Ministry of Forging AffaiJrs
6. Mr.
7. Ms. Aghdas Kazemi
Writer, Poet & cultural activist

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1. Mr. Muhammad Ziad Khan
Counsel General, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mazar-e Sharif

Republic of Turkey

1. Erdogan Tolan
Counsellor of Culture and Information, Turkish Embassy, Tashkent/Uzbekistan

The ECO Secretariat

1. H.E. Khurshid Anwar .
ECO Secretary General

2. Hasan Taherian
Deputy Sec. Gen.

ECO Cultural Institute mcn

1. H.E. Dr. Mohammad Rajah]
Eel President

2. Hafiz Muhammad Jamil OWaisi
Executive Director

3. Mr. Mohammad Ali Najafi,
Head of International Affairs,

4. Mr. Khosrow Hajian,
Cultural Expert,

5. Mr. M Abdekhodaei
Advisor to ECI President

6. Mr. Mohammad Taghi Kebari,
Accountant,

7. Mr. Ahmad Reza Nasrollahi,
Event Organizer,

8. Mr. Taymaz Kaviani,
Photographer,

9. Mr. Ali Sabzalian
Advisor to ECI President Editor
in Chief - ECO Times Editor in
Chief - ECO Heritage