

Draft Report
of the 30th Meeting of the
Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR)
(ECI Headquarters, October 30, 2019)

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) convened its 30th meeting at the ECI Headquarters on October 30, 2019 under the Chairmanship of the distinguished Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Meeting was attended by ECI President, Ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and delegations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ECO Cultural Institute. (List of Participants is enclosed as **Annex. D**).

Agenda item 1

Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda of the meeting which had been circulated among Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/718 dated October 28, 2019 was adopted unanimously as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda,
2. Adoption of the Draft Report of the previous ECI-CPR meeting,
3. Appointment of the next ECI President and other Managerial Posts
4. Statement by ECI President,
5. Approval of ECI's Budget for the Year 2019
6. Any other Business.

Agenda item 2

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 29th ECI-CPR meeting

- The draft report of the 29th ECI-CPR meeting which had been circulated among the Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/966 dated November 6, 2018 was adopted.

Agenda item 3

Appointment of the next ECI President and other Managerial Posts

The council made the following decisions:

- 1- The nomination from the Republic of Tajikistan is proposed to be the next President of ECI.

2- Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Mazaheri, will continue his services as the incumbent President of ECI until assumption of duties by the nomination from the Republic of Tajikistan as the new President of ECI.

3- The Council appreciated remarkable efforts made by Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Mazaheri during his tenure as ECI President in management of the Institute with shortage of liquidity due to non-payment/late payment of annual contributions.

4- The Islamic Republic of Iran will hold the post of Executive Director. The nomination will assume the post coincidentally with the new President of ECI.

5- The nomination from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will hold the (D1) post of Assistant Director of the ECI.

6- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan will hold a D1 post at the ECI.

Agenda item 4

Statement by ECI President

H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Mazaheri, ECI President made the following statement:

Honorable Ambassadors and Representatives of the Member States,

It is a great pleasure to convene the 30th ECI-CPR meeting in the company of the distinguished delegations of the Member States.

Before setting out the Institute's activities and programs, I would like to point out that non-payment and late payment of due annual contribution by the member states which is mostly owing to money transfer/cash payment problems, has caused financial constraints for ECI. However, we request the member states to expedite payment of their annual contribution through the mechanisms already proposed during the extraordinary meeting of ECI-CPR, held on 30 May 2018. In this regard, I would like to appreciate the Islamic Republic of Iran for payment of annual contribution for the year 2018, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for payment of annual contribution for 2017 and the Republic of Tajikistan for the payment of annual share for 2018. Also, an amount of 15 billion Iranian Rials has been received from both public and private sector of the Islamic Republic of Iran as extrabudgetary support to ECI.

While no contribution for the year 2019 was received from the member states, the Institute managed to conduct 86.7 percent of its approved work program for the said year. We have done our best to dedicate our programs to all ECI member states.

Regarding our activities in the area of visual arts, 7 events were organized: "Kashmir, Iran-e-Saghir" pictorial and cultural exhibition, ECO Anthropology photo exhibition , 'Borderless Nowruz' photo exhibition, painting exhibition of Master Jamalpour's artworks, "Culture, Life and

Ramadan " photo exhibition, "Life in ECO region" exhibition, a group exhibition by artists of "Tazhib" Institute.

In the area of literature, six programs were held: commemoration of Sheikh Abu Sa'id Abul Khair, Tajikistan Night, seminar on the philosophy of 'Khudi' in the poetry of Iqbal and Sa'di, fifth edition of "Fereshteh" Award, observation of International Mother Language Day and the preparatory meeting for the establishment of ECO House of Shahnameh Narrators.

In the area of music 9 events were organized: Winter Poetry Night, co-hosting traditional Kazakh and Turkish music performance, co-hosting Fajr International Music Festival, Iran-China Music Night, ECO Music Night, Launching Maestro Farhad Fakhrodini's latest book, renowned Iranian composer and "A Review of the history of Daf Persian Instrument » expert panel.

In the area of sport, our activities included contribution to Kish Sports Exhibition, contribution to "Azmoon" International Equestrian Cup, planning for training football coaches of ECO region, nomination of ECO Champion (pahlavân) on Kish Island, and forming the ECO Sports High Council.

The Institute has also a notable performance in the area of tourism and has started collaborating with Kish and Qeshm Free Zones to promote geotourism.

The institute has made great strides in media-related activities. To this end, ECO Media Union (ECOMU) has been established, and establishment of ECO Press is being planned.

In addition, the Institute's peaceful activities include: Participation in the Iranian National Conference on "Peace and Cultural Diversity" and " Futurology of Peace across the Islamic World".

In the area of museums, considerable activities were conducted as follows: Arranging a visit for the diplomatic corps to the Museum of National Bank of Iran, visit to the exhibition the Oxus treasure of the Achaemenid Persian, Visit to Iranian Ayatollah Hashemi's House Museum, and Visit to Imam Khomeini's house.

Concerning women's affairs, the "Women's Message of Peace" seminar was also held.

Also, "Borderless Nowruz" in Tehran was one of the most unique events in the history of the ECI, which was an initiative taken during the current presidency and held in March 2019 in the presence of Ambassadors of the ECO member states.

Distinguished ambassadors and representatives of member states

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We made significant achievements in publishing. The following are the latest publications of ECI: "Economic Cooperation Organization and Cultural Security of the Member States" by Dr. Mohammad Mehdi Mazaheri, "Regional Integration on the Context of Cultural Commonalities (Cooperation of ECO National Libraries)" by Dr. Ali Sadeghzadeh Vayegan and Dr. Azam Najafgholinejad Varjooy and Dr. Mohammad Hassanzadeh, "ECO Diplomatic Library: The Representation of the Convergence of the ECO Member States", "Sotim Olughzada and National

Culture”, by Sirajuddin Imomali, the contemporary prominent Tajik scholar, translated into Persian by Shah Mansour Shah Mirzo, Tajikistan’s Desk Officer at ECI, 'Return of Khawaja Nasreddin” by Taimur Zulfiqarov, the prominent Tajik writer, translated into Persian by Shah Masour Shah Mirzo,

Also, in partnership with Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association, Dr. Nadereh Badieei's book "Travelogue of Tajikistan, Samarkand and Bukhara" was launched.

Concerning the Journals of the ECO Cultural Institute, two issues of the English language cultural heritage "ECO Heritage", focusing on "ECO National Libraries" and "ECO National Museums" were published.

Also, two issues of the English language monthly "ECO Times", focusing on "ECO Tourism" and "Food Tourism."

Moreover, "Nowruz" Persian language magazine is being re-published after nine years of interruption. Two issues of this journal, published in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, deal with 'Historical Coins: Authenticity of Metallic Origin' and 'Authenticity of Arts, Cultural & Historical Objects'. Furthermore, in partnership with Al-Zahra University, two issues were published on "Quality Assessment in Academic Systems", "The Role of Women in Family and Community Health".

Also, the Russian language journal "ECO Novosti" is being re-published after a nine-year interruption. And for the first time ever, the website of ECO Cultural Institute is available in Russian language.

Also, ECI held a variety of specialized workshops and seminars as follows: 'Dual-Space World', "Theology of the Environment", ' God’s Relation to the Universe from the viewpoint of Persian Speaking Luminaries (Molla Sadra', Ferdowsi & Nezami), expert panel on Manuscripts and lecture session on Reading.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the efforts of all member states and my colleagues at the ECO Cultural Institute.

Thanks

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan noted that despite unfilled vacancies of Executive Director and Assistant Director and shortage of aid, ECI President, has ran the Institute very well.

Chairman extended his gratitude to ECI President for his successful performance at ECI. He emphasized that despite financial problems of the Institute, a wide variety of activities have been conducted under the great leadership of Dr. Mazaheri. He wished a brighter future for ECI President.

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his part, thanked ECI President for forging links and partnership with contributing organizations and raising funds for implementing ECI programs.

Agenda item 5

Approval of ECI's Budget for the Year 2019

The Council approved ECI's Budget for the year 2019 as the same amount of the budget for the year 2018. Also, ECI was requested to include the staff strength of the Institute in its proposed annual budget for the year 2020.

Chairman urged the member states to accelerate the payment of their annual contributions to ECI.

Agenda item 6

Any other Business

Upon the proposal made by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran and endorsed by all the member states, a nomination for the post of Accounts Officer at ECI will be conveyed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in due course.

Annex-I

**The 30th Meeting of the
ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

List of Participants

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- H. E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Liwal, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- H.E. Ambassador Majid Bizmark, Director General, Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation

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Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Ahmadi, Advisor to Minister and Head of the Minister's Office

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Riffat Masood, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Mr. Mian Azmat Farooq, First Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Dr. Nizomiddin Zohidi, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan,
- Mr. Mirzosharif Kabirov, Third Secretary

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Mazaheri, President
- Ms. Mirbagheri, External Relations
- Ms. Khalesi, Accounts Officer
- Mr. Shah Mansur Khojeov, Tajikistan's Desk Officer
- Ms. Masuma Nazari, Afghanistan's Desk Officer
- Mr. Mehdi Omranejad, Cultural Expert
- Ms. Firouzkouhi, Translator