

**Draft Report of the 4th Meeting of the Council of Permanent Representatives of
ECI (ECI-CPR)
ECI Headquarters, 16th August, 2010, at 10:00 hours**

- 1- The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR) held its 4th Meeting in the ECI Headquarters on August 16, 2010. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan as well as by delegations of the ECO Secretariat and ECO Cultural Institute. (List of participants at Annex I). The following agenda items were deliberated upon and decision thereof were taken.

Agenda Item No. 1

Inauguration of the Meeting

- 2- The Meeting was inaugurated with the recitation of The Holy Quran. H.E. Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi, ECI President, welcomed the representatives of Member States, congratulated the participants on the commencement of the holy month of Ramadhan. He expressed his deep condolences on Pakistan's flood disaster and victims thereof. He said that a concert would be held after Ramadhan, to raise funds for the flood stricken people of Pakistan.

He also briefed the participants about his recent visits to ECI Member States of Azerbaijan and Turkey and his meetings with the senior officers of the two countries. He said that they agreed to the accession of their respective countries to ECI Charter and showed willingness to become full members of ECI. He added that the accession of Kazakhstan is under consideration by their esteemed government.

He also briefed about the Coordination Units recently established in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. He said that the 1st ECO Calligraphy Festival has been scheduled in Tajikistan in the month of October wherein the works of the renowned artists of Member States will be displayed for general public and, later on, the same Festival will be held in other Member States turn by turn.

Expressing his concern over the identity of ECO, Dr. Ayoubi said that in order to familiarize the people with this Organization, the 6th Festival of Sand Sculptures was held in Mazandaran Province, Iran, in coordination with Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran and ECI, the ECO's map and logo were displayed on sand by the artists which attracted the visitors.

He further stated that one of the aims of ECI was to inculcate awareness among the masses of the Member States about the work being done with regard to cultural heritage, affinities and close relationship among the people of the ECO Region. Participants were also sensitized about "ECO Times" and "ECO Tourist Guide" websites and about the addition of English and Russian languages for ECO News website.

He informed that "we intended to shift ECI to a grand building in Aqdassiyeh. This building is being actively renovated and so far a sum of US\$ 500,000 has been spent. This will contain, in addition to offices, an amphitheater with a capacity of 300 persons, a cinema hall and a musical garden which will be used for holding cultural weeks of the member countries.

Dr. Ayoubi also briefed the meeting about the 1st ECI Cultural Tour to Tajikistan which consisted of 40 professors of University of Tehran. The next tour will be dispatched to Turkey.

ECI President also put forward two proposals: (1) The introduction of a cultural "Schengen Visa" for the elites of the region in arts and culture, which the Iranian government has agreed to, (2) the establishment of a committee for the registration of the heritage of ECO Region at par with UNESCO's model.

Agenda Item No. 2

Election of the Chairman

- 3- The meeting unanimously elected H.E. Mr. M.B. Abbasi, Ambassador of Pakistan, chairman of the meeting.
- 4- Mr. Mohesen Rouhi Sefat, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the I.R. Iran, congratulated the participants on the advent of the holy month of Ramadhan and expressed his sincere condolences for the flood victims of Pakistan.

He said that since Dr. Ayoubi has taken over as ECI President, its image has been propagated quite well in the society. Pointing to the fact that ECO Day will be celebrated in November, he said that holding of an exhibition to reflect ECO's activities undertaken in its seven directorates such as energy and minerals, trade and investment, transportation etc. will go along way in the promoting of ECO's and ECI's objectives. Dr. Ayoubi appreciated the idea.

Agenda Item No. 3

Adoption of the Agenda

- 5- The meeting unanimously adopted the agenda of the 4th ECI-CPR Meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Adoption of the Draft Report of the 3rd ECI – CPR Meeting

- 6- The meeting unanimously approved the Draft Report of the 3rd ECI-CPR Meeting, already circulated by ECI among Member States vide its Note No. ECI/524/380 dated May 23, 2010.
- 7- H.E. Ramazon Mirzoev, honorable Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, expressed his sincere condolences for Pakistan's flood disaster and his sympathy with the people of Pakistan.
- 8- He suggested for further improvement of ECI-CPR sessions. H.E. Mirzoev also requested that ECI might prepare documents concerning CPR in Persian and submit the same to Tajikistan Embassy well before the meeting enabling them to prepare accordingly.
- 9- Moreover, he voiced profound gratitude for the inauguration of ECI Coordination Unit in Tajikistan and also for choosing Tajikistan as the host country for the 1st ECO Calligraphy Festival. He added that this was the first time Tajikistan was holding a Festival.

10- In response to the call of H.E. Abbasi, Chairman of the Meeting, for releasing a statement as a condolence message to the people and government of Pakistan, ECI President announced that journalists from I.R. Iran Broadcasting have already been invited to document the said resolution after the meeting.

11- Mr. Fazlorrahman Hanifi, First Secretary of the Embassy of I.R. Afghanistan congratulated the meeting on the occasion of Ramadhan and expressed his profound condolences on the flood disaster of Pakistan. He also stated that Afghanistan has always been an active member of ECI and will continue its cooperation in future.

Agenda Item No. 5

Review of ECI's Audit Report for the Year 2008

12- The ECI's Audit Report for the Year 2008, presented to the Member States by ECI vide Note No. ECI/524/380 dated May 23, 2010 along with the response of ECI on audit points was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6

Review of ECI's Audit Report for the Year 2009

13- Mr. Sajid Bilal, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of I.R. Pakistan expressed gratitude to ECI for paying attention to the observations made by the Auditors. He, however, advanced his views on certain points as under:

- i. Referring to ECI's Staff Regulations, Mr. Bilal stated that only ECI President was authorized to have a chauffeur-driven car while some other staff members were provided with the same facilities. Therefore, strength of three drivers might be reduced.

Dr. Ayoubi in response stated that with the written permission of ECI's Ex-President, only one of the staff members used to have a pick and drop facility only and the same had been voluntarily surrendered.

- ii. In response to the question raised by Mr. Bilal regarding the maintenance of the cash book as reflected in the Audit Report, as well as preparing all the receipts and documents in English language, ECI Executive Director, said that both observations were being taken care of.
- iii. The ECI's Audit Report for the Year 2009, presented to the Member States by ECI vide Note No. ECI/524/380 dated May 23, 2010 was unanimously approved along with replies to audit paras given by ECI.
- iv. He emphasized that in all sorts of recruitments including directors, ECI Charter might be followed in letter and spirit and concurrence of the concerned govt. or Embassy be obtained. President of ECI said that all legal formalities were observed and concurrence of the Member States obtained accordingly in all employments.

Agenda Item No. 7

Review of ECI's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010

- 14- Mr. Bilal objected to the figure of USD 150,000 as Pakistan's share and informed the meeting that the 147th CPR has previously approved Pakistan's annual share to ECI Budget being USD 120,000 for 3 years which should be reflected in all documents.

In response to the objection made, ECI Executive Director confirmed that the decision of the 147th CPR regarding this issue has been put in effect since last year; therefore, Pakistan's share shall not increase US\$ 120,000 for the time remained and the same will be reflected in the relevant documents of ECI.

- 15- Mr. Bilal also observed that much of expenditure was incurred on the establishment and less on cultural programs. He requested for reduction in the former charges wherever possible.
- 16- The representative of Iran asked for the formation of the managing board of the ECO Cultural Trust Fund for the year 2011 and expressed hope that other Member States would contribute to the Fund as being done regularly by Iran.

Agenda Item No. 8

Extension of contract of ECI staff

- 17- The issue of extension of contract of Mr. M.R. Nasrollahi, was discussed. Considering the remarks made by ECI Executive Director and ECI President, extension of his contract for another 4 years was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9

Any other business

- 18- Under this agenda item, the representative of Iran requested for the establishment of ECO Broadcasting Union.

In response, Dr. Ayoubi announced that he had several meetings with the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in this regard and Iran was ready to host the meeting and bear the costs. He said that the final date of the meeting will be announced soon.

- 19- He also pointed that ECI was also pursuing the establishment of the ECO Youth Union in coordination with the Iranian National Youth Organization.
- 20- The meeting unanimously passed a resolution in support of the flood stricken people of Pakistan for issuance among Member States and Embassies of other countries located in Tehran.

Agenda Item No. 10

Date of 5th Meeting of ECI – CPR

- 21- The date of the next meeting of ECI-CPR will be announced to Member States by ECI.

**The 4th Meeting of ECO Cultural Institute's Council of Permanent Representatives
(ECI-CPR)
ECI Headquarters, Monday 16th August 2010**

List of Participants

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Fazlorrahman Hanifi, First Secretary.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

- Mr. Mohesen Rouhi Sefat, Deputy Director, ECO Affairs Bureau.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Ambassador M.B. Abbasi.
- Mr. Sajid Bilal, Charge d'Affaires.
- Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Third Secretary.

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- H.E. Ambassador Ramazon Mirzoev.

The ECO Secretariat:

- Mr. Jawad Ali, Assistant Director.

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Dr. Hojatollah Ayoubi, ECI President.
- Mr. Hafiz Jamil Owaisi, Executive Director.
- Mr. Mohammad Ali Najafi, International Relations Officer.
- Mr. Mahmoud Tabatabaee, Accounts Officer.