

**Draft Report of the 6th Meeting of the  
Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (E-CPR)  
Held at ECI Headquarters on 29th January 2012**

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (E-CPR) held its 6th Meeting at the ECI Headquarters on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Tajikistan as well as by delegations of the Secretariat of ECO and ECO Cultural Institute. (List of participants Annex -I)

The following agenda items were tabled for discussion and deliberation of the participants:

**Agenda item No.1**

**Inauguration of the Meeting**

H.E. Dr. Hojjatollah Ayyoobi, President of ECI inaugurated the meeting. He welcomed the Member States' representatives for their participation. He informed them that a second meeting, immediately after the E-CPR Meeting, will be followed and the Honorable Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Islamic Republic of Iran will grace it with his presence. This is, in fact, aimed at seeking for financial assistance from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to cater expenses of ECI which are not possible to meet from the annual contributions of member states.

**Agenda item No.2**

**Election of the chairman**

In line with para I of Chapter I of The Rules of Procedures of the Institute, the Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, was unanimously elected as the chairman of the meeting.

**Agenda item No.3**

**Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

The Draft Agenda of the meeting, circulated vide Note No. ECI/523/1320 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 among the member states, was adopted. The representative of ECO Secretariat asked to also include the draft report of the 5<sup>th</sup> ECI-CPR Meeting in this item for approval of the present ECI-CPR. In response, the Executive Director of ECI apprised the participants that according to ECI regulations, since no response & comments were received from the member states on the previous report of the ECI-CPR, the report therefore was regarded as approved. Due to this legal position the

same has not been included in the draft agenda of the present meeting, he added. Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan stated that in the next ECI-CPR, the report of the preceding ECI-CPR may be submitted as a separate agenda item for consideration.

#### **Agenda item No.4**

##### **Report of President of ECI on the activities of the Institute**

4.1 The President of ECI presented a comprehensive report on the projects undertaken by the Institute during 2011. He specifically mentioned the holding of:-

- (i) Calligraphic exhibitions in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan
- (ii) Inauguration of ECI's Art Gallery (which hosted different art exhibitions of ECO member states' artists)
- (iii) Participation of ECI in international press and book fair in Tehran wherein competition of poems recitation among ECO countries was held and was duly broadcasted in Iranian national television
- (iv) Inauguration of ECO handicrafts exhibition in North Khorasan Province, Iran. This event was graced by the presence of President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- (v) Two exhibitions of art works of Afghanistan artists residing in Isfahan and Tehran
- (vi) Participation of ECI in Nowrooz ceremonies in Tehran by different music groups from ECO countries and holding of ceremonies to honor cultural luminaries of 8 ECO countries. ECI awarded Top cultural medals to the artists.
- (vii) Cultural programs held for non members including the Republic of Georgia

4.2 He added that more than one million US\$ has been obtained from the Government of Iran in order to expand and equip the new art gallery of the Institute and \$ 700.000 for cultural activities of ECI. He said that the current budget of the Institute contributed by member states was not enough to cater for the expenses of the Institute and to run the cultural projects.

4.3 Representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran appreciated cultural programs implemented by the Institute. They also appreciated the efforts of President of ECI and his colleagues in the enhancement of ECI's image. Representative of Pakistan proposed that a special meeting might be held soon to consider and finalize activities of ECI for 2012. Mentioning that the current budget of ECI was inadequate for projects to carry out in non-member states, he urged that such ECO member states as are not yet full members of ECI may become its members. This will help the Institute to expand itself and come out from financial constraints. He also advised that ECI may not ask for financial assistance from resources other than members' contributions. ECI may emphasize in their request to member states to liquidate their past outstanding liabilities to become a self-reliant organization. He said that after examination of all programs and projects and incurring expenditure thereon, ECI-CPR

may recommend to BOT for increase of annual share by the members. In the meanwhile, ECI should cater its needs from the arrears pending with certain members. And place this as an important agenda item in the 7<sup>th</sup> E-CPR.

He placed emphasis on approval by ECI-CPR of all cultural programs and projects to be carried out in future by ECI in non-member countries.

4.4 President briefed the meeting that consequent upon his negotiations with ambassadors of Turkey, Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, their concerned authorities are considering actively to become full members of the Institute.

#### **Agenda item No.5**

##### **Consideration of ECI's programs in 2012**

President of ECI informed the participants about the planned activities of the Institute during 2012. He said that owing to budgetary constraints only a part of the programs could be financed from the proposed 2012 budget's allocations. The large part of the projects will be financed from other resources, namely assistance by the Iranian government. He, however, stressed that approval of most of ECI's planned programs in 2012 will be subject to the availability of additional resources. He apprised that ECO Sports-Cup has been planned. It was estimated that an amount of \$ 10,000,000 was needed for the same. If there is no additional contributions from member states, this sports plan would have to be deleted from calendar of events.

In response to request of the representative of Pakistan that "the cost of cultural programs of any non-member countries to be organized in ECI Headquarters should be borne by such country itself", he added that, cultural programs held for non members including the Republic of Georgia have been financed by those countries themselves.

#### **Agenda item No.6**

##### **Approval of ECI's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2012**

6.1 The Executive Director of ECI presented the budget for 2012. He highlighted that there were two main Heads of account in the ECI-budget for the 2012 i.e. administrative budget and cultural budget and under these main heads there are seventeen sub-heads. He informed the participants that the amount of present budget was US\$ 457,330 as against 547,791 of the budget for the year 2011 and was less by US\$ 90,461. He added that in three sub-heads i.e. improvement of library, research projects and cultural activities, budget amounts have been increased to the tune of US \$ 1500, 2000 and 1400 respectively. He requested that since the total level of the present budget was less than the level of the last year's budget, it may be approved by the 6<sup>th</sup> ECI-CPR.

6.2 ECI President explained the reasons for the decrease in the proposed budget. He said that the Institute financed part of its 2011 budget from the Trust Fund and now for the current year to reduce administrative expenses, it has decided to pay salary to 9 persons out of the 14 Sanctioned Posts. Representative of Iran informed that there were small mistakes in the proposed budget which they would like to identify in writing for rectification thereof.

6.3 On the request of chairman, the meeting unanimously approved the proposed budget for 2012 considering the fact that the same was below the level of the budget of the previous year.

**Agenda item No.7**

**Consideration of nominee of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for a P2 grade post**

Under this agenda item, the representative of Afghanistan while referring to his embassy's Note No. 2681 dated December 12, 2011, nominated Dr. Gol Makay Bakhtiari, their former deputy cultural attaché for a P2 grade post in the Institute. ECI President informed that this post stood vacant by Afghanistan since last year. He therefore gave consent to this proposal. The meeting endorsed the appointment unanimously.

**Agenda item No.8**

**Any other business**

No issue was raised under this item

**Agenda item No.9**

**Date of 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of E- CPR**

Date of the next meeting of E-CPR will be announced to Member States by ECI.

## Annex I

### List of participants

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:  
H.E. Mr. Obaidullah Obaid, Ambassador

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran:  
- H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ali Mousavi, Director General, Multi lateral Economic  
Dep.  
- Mr. Javad Heidari, expert, ECO Bureau

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:  
- H.E. Mr. Khalid Aziz Babar, Ambassador  
- Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, Second Secretary

Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:  
H.E. Mr. Davlatali Hotamov, Ambassador

ECO Secretariat:

- Mr. Jawad Ali, Assistant Director.
- Mr. Bahram Heidari, Legal Advisor

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Dr. Hojjatollah Ayyoobi, President
- Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Jamil Owaisi, Executive Director
- Mr. Mohammad Reza Norouzshad, International Relations Dep.
- Mr. Hosein Ali Raees Samadi, Accounts officer