

Report of the 8th Meeting of the¹
Council of Permanent Representatives of ECI (ECI-CPR)
(ECI Headquarters, 4th February, 2013)

The Council of Permanent Representatives of ECO Cultural Institute held its 8th meeting at the ECI Headquarters on 4 February 2013, under the chairmanship of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Tajikistan as well as delegations of the ECO Secretariat and ECO Cultural Institute.(List of Participants is attached as **Annex. I**).

Agenda Item No. 1

Adoption of the Agenda:

Draft agenda of the Meeting which was circulated to the Member States vide No. ECI/524/992 dated 17 January 2013, was adopted unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2

Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Reports of the Previous ECI-CPR Meetings:

- The Draft Reports of the first, fifth and seventh ECI-CPR meetings were submitted in meeting for their consideration and adoption.
- The Meeting adopted the Report of the first meeting. It however adopted the Reports of the 5th and 7th ECI-CPR meetings with the following amendments:
 - Draft Report of the 5th Meeting: The following paragraph should be added after paragraph 10 under agenda item 5: ***"With regard to the legal question raised by Representative of Pakistan at the Meeting concerning legal authority and mandate of the Audit Board to recommend/propose and increase in salaries of the ECI's staff, the secretariat conveyed its legal opinion vide Note***

¹ - The Report Amended and adopted in 12th ECI-CPR meeting.

No. LA\ECI\2011\876 dated 8th June 2011 which was circulated to Member States. The ECI took it into account and observed."

- Draft Report of the 7th Meeting: The title and contents of the agenda item 5 should be amended as follows:

"Consideration of the proposal of the Republic of Turkey to hold photo exhibition of the Turkish Cypriot State in ECI:

The Meeting unanimously approved holding of the exhibition of the Turkish Cypriot State at ECO Diplomatic Art Gallery proposed by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey vide its Note No. 2012/Tehran BE/8821 dated 20th May 2012."

Agenda Item No. 3

Report by the President of ECI:

- A summary Report of the ECI's Activities in 2012 was circulated to the Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/1090 dated 31 January 2013.
- At the outset, ECI President appreciated the Member States for the extension of his tenure. He informed the Council that during this period of extension he was able to complete the unfinished plans and programmes of ECI, including of Talar Shams which is one of the best artistic premises in this area for cultural ceremonies. The funding for construction of Talar Shams came through the grant of 5 million Iranian Rials by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- While appreciating the incoming ECI President, Mr.Iftikhar Hussein Aref from Pakistan, Mr.Ayoobi informed about his recent phone conversation with him. He said that he had assured Mr. Iftikhar for his support and invited him to pay an informal visit to the Institute.
- On the ECI activities, ECI President briefed on the cultural events and activities of the ECI in the year 2012, especially those undertaken since the last ECI-CPR meeting. He pointed out that due to ECI's financial constraints most of these activities were funded by Iranian cultural authorities as well as office of the Presidency.
- Ambassador of Pakistan expressed his gratitude for Mr.Ayoobi for his leadership of the ECI during his tenure as President. He appreciated the financial support of Iranian Government and for providing new

- building for its headquarters. He expressed his confidence that Iranian authorities will assist the new President in the running of the ECI activities and will bless him with its traditional hospitality.
- The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran praised Mr.Ayoobi for his outstanding performance and assured the government of Pakistan and incoming ECI President of full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his Tenure of office. He also welcomed the idea inviting Mr.Iftikhar Aref to visit ECI informally before April 2013.
 - The Ambassador of Pakistan requested for clarification about activities in Non-ECI member states, particularly those referred to under item 5 & 6 of the Report on ECI activities in 2012. He urged that activities should be limited to the member states and the authorization to that effect should be taken from ECI-RPC in advance.
 - ECI President explained the best artistic works on Norouz occasion received from the artists from around the region were displayed in ECI – Art gallery. The Norouz.Festival was held by ECI in 2011 with no financial implication. He also emphasized that ECI cultural activities in non ECI and ECO Member States funded through extra-budgetary resources and grants, are mainly aimed at expanding ECI outreach and attract new member from ECO Region.
 - Representative of Iran while supporting the idea of pre authorization by ECI-CPR for activities reminded the meeting of the mandate given by RPC that ECI activities may be extended to the non-ECI members in the ECO region.
 - The council appreciated the excellent leadership and efforts of Dr.Ayyobi who has promoted cultural activity in ECO Region.

Agenda Item No.4:

Budgetary matter:

- The proposed ECI Budget for the fiscal year of 2013 was circulated to the Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/1090 dated 31st January 2013 for the review and approval by the Council.
- ECI President briefed the meeting on the main items of the proposed budget and mentioned that the total amount of proposed Budget was almost the

same as that the budget of 2012. He further underlined that ECI had not received annual contribution from Member States except Pakistan in 2012. He said ECI received information that Iran's contribution will be received soon. He also explained about the gap between nominal budget based on the Members' contributions and real annual expenditure of the ECI. He said that this gap, if not bridged by member states would cause difficulties for conducting and implementing the main functions of the ECI in future. He proposed that possible increase be explored as a priority matter.

- Referring to the timely contribution of his country in 2012, Ambassador of Pakistan inserted that the will of the countries for timely contribution reflects the level of political commitment and commitment to the cause of organizations. He proposed to the Council that end of February 2013 should be the deadline for all ECI member states to clear their outstanding liabilities and annual contributions.
- The Iranian Representative, while giving the consent of its delegation to the proposed budget for 2013, underlined that the unprecedented delayed contribution by Iran for 2012 shall by no means be interpreted as any changes in its strong support to the ECI. He further explained that the annual contribution of 171000 US Dollars were timely allocated whose transfer to the ECI bank account had faced technical problems. Having in mind this dollar transfer problem, the Iranian government managed to grant to the ECI an amount of 3 billion Riyals (equals to about 120000 US dollar) in 2012 to help ECI afford conducting its activities in 2012. This was an addition to the earlier grant of 5 billion Riyals (equals to about 200000 US dollars) for the completion of the construction of the Talar Shams.
- The Representatives of Afghanistan and Tajikistan while appreciating the extra budgetary financing of the activities in 2012 informed the Council that the issue of contribution was being pursued by their relevant authorities.
- The Council decided to set the deadlines of end of February 2012 and end of March 2013 for the payment of members' contributions for 2012 and 2013 respectively.
- The ECI-CPR also adopted the proposed Budget for the year of 2013. Ambassador of Pakistan emphasized that the matter of coming back to the Pakistan contribution of 171000\$ is still awaiting authorization by the relevant authorities.

- While appreciating the outstanding performance of the incumbent Executive Director, **hafiz Mohammad Jamil Owaisi**, Ambassador of Pakistan requested ECI to make Payment of all this financial claims on mentioned in ECI Charter and also pay to him his arrears of salary amounting to \$15200 as mentimed in its note No dated addressed to Embassy of Pakistan . President ECI also praside outstanding performance of Executive Director and assured ambassador of Pakistan that ECI will make payment of his financial claims.

Agenda Item No.5

Consideration and Adoption of proposed ECI Work Program for 2013

- The proposed ECI Work Program for 2013 was circulated to the Member States vide Note No. ECI/524/1090 dated 31st January 2013.
- The Council decided to defer the item to the next ECI-CPR meeting till the new ECI President assumes his charge.

Agenda Item No. 6

Appointment of Executive Director

- The tenure of office of **Hafiz Mohammad Jamil Owaisi**, the incumbent Executive Director of the Institute, will come to an end on 24th February 2013. In response to the vacancy announcement by the ECO Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran nominated **Mr. Mohammad Reza H. JABBARI** for this position vide Note No.651/2003266 dated 3rd December 2012. No other nomination from other Member State was received. Therefore and per ECI rules, ECI President recommended to the Meeting Mr. Mohammd Reza H. Jabbari for the post of the Executive Director of the Institute and requested the Council to approve it.
- Representative of Iran introduced Mr. Jabbari as one of the high ranking senior diplomat in Iran with extensive experience and knowledge on cultural cooperation as well as his experience in international organizations. He assured that Mr. Jabbari will be of significant help to the ECI and its incoming President. He also proposed a period of 2 week overlap with the

outgoing Executive Director with a view to having coordination and exchange of experiences.

- Ambassador of Pakistan stated that Mr. Jabbari would certainly contribute to the success of the Institute. He however informed the Council that the formal consent of the Government of Pakistan for this appointment was still awaited and would be soon communicated to the ECI and its Member States.

- The Council approved ad referendum the appointment, for four years, of Mr. Jabbari as the new ECI Executive Director with this understanding that the formal consent of Government of Pakistan will be received before the termination of tenure of office of the incumbent Executive Director.

- The Member States and the ECI President expressed their sincere gratitudes for Mr. Owaisi for the best work that he did in the interest of the cultural cooperation in ECO Region and for his outstanding performance in ECO Cultural Institute as Executive Director. Mr. Owaisi also expressed his thankfulness for their kind words.

Agenda Item No. 7

Preparation for the next BOT Meeting

- According to ECI Rules of Procedure, the ECI Board of Trustees shall meet biennially. As agreed in the 5th BOT Meeting in Kabul, the Government of Tajikistan would be the host of the 6th BOT meeting in 2013.

- The ECI-CPR meeting requested the Representative of Tajikistan to follow the matter and intimate the date and venue of the 6th BOT meeting to the Institute.

Agenda item 8

Any Other Business

Under this agenda item, Ambassador of Pakistan referred to the several Notes of his embassy and requested ECI to send its response without any further loss of time.

Agenda item 9

Date and Venue of the next Meeting

The Council decided to convene its next meeting in the first week of March 2013, as close as possible, preferably back-to-back, to the next ECO CPR meeting.

**The 8th Meeting of the
ECI Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR)**

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List of Participants

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

- Mr. Amiri, Cultural Councillor

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

- Mr. Seyed Jalalidin Alavi, Head of ECO Bureau, MFA,
- Mr. Javad Heydari, Senior Expert, ECO Bureau, MFA

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- H.E. Mr. Khalid Aziz Babar, Ambassador,
- Mr. Qasim Mohiuddin, First Secretary

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan:

- Mr. Ekramoldin Nematov, Deputy Ambassador

The ECO Secretariat:

- Mr. Bahram Heydari, Legal Adviser
- Mr. Jehan Zeb, Assistant Director, External relation

ECO Cultural Institute:

- H.E. Mr. Hojjatollah Ayyubi, President
- Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Jamil Owaisi, Executive Director
- Mr. Seyed Majid Ghafelebashi, External Relation
- Mr. Raes Samadi, Accountant Officer