

ECO
Educational Institute
Extended Biennial Report
2017/2020

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2017/2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	8
FOREWORD	10
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	11
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	12
Institutional Structuring.....	12
Academic Activities.....	13
Consultation Meetings.....	14
International Partnership and Cooperation.....	14
Ownership.....	15
Financial Support.....	15
Future Prospects.....	15
BACKGROUND	16
LATEST STATUS OF THE CHARTER OF THE ECOEI	18
INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURING	19
Confirmation of ECO Educational Institute’s Diplomatic Status.....	19
Approval of the Revised Budget Structure.....	19
The Hiring of Personnel.....	19
Acquisition of a Building/Office for ECO Educational Institute.....	20
Digital Visibility.....	20
ECOEI Newsletter.....	21

THE ECOEI's ONGOING PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, and ACTIVITIES	22
A. HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS	23
A.1. 2 nd Board of Trustees Meeting of the ECOEI	25
A.2. Attendance to 28 th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting.....	24
A.3. Collaboration with Embassies of the Member States.....	24
A.4. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran	25
A.5. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.....	25
A.6. Attendance to Consultation Meeting of the ECO Specialized Agencies.....	25
A.7. Participation to 11 th Meeting of the COMSEC Poverty Alleviation Group.....	26
A.8. Attendance to 229 th Committee of Permanent Representatives Meeting	26
A.9. Attendance to 23 rd ECO Council of Ministers Meeting.....	26
A.10. Bilateral Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan	27
A.11. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Turkey.....	27
A.12. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.....	27
A.13. Attendance to 29 th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting	27
A.14. Meeting with ECO Secretary General and Deputies Secretary-General.....	28
A.15. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran	28
A.16. Attendance to 5 th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue	29
A.17. Attendance to 4 th Board of Trustees Meeting of ECO Science Foundation	29
A.18. Visit to Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkey.....	30
A.19. Visit by Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to Turkey to ECOEI	30
A.20. Meeting with the Federal Minister for Education of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.....	30
A.21. Visit to Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkey.....	31

A.22. Attendance to 24 th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers.....	31
A.23. Visit to UNESCO Headquarters	32
A.24. Meeting with the Turkic Council General Secretary.....	32
A.25. Attendance to 30 th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting.....	32
A.26. Visit to ECO Cultural Institute	33
A.27. Visit by Turkey’s Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to ECOEI.....	33
A.28. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey.....	34
A.29. Visit to Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkey	34
B. ADEMIC ACTIVITIES	35
B.1. Language Teaching and Learning Workshop	35
B.2. Participation to Conference on Science and Technology in Almaty.....	36
B.3. Workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Baku, Azerbaijan	36
B.4. Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization	37
B.5. Attendance to the workshop on “Exchanging Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of Sustainable Development”	38
B.6. Teacher Exchange Program between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey.....	38
B.7. Preparation for and Participation to “4 th Preschool Education Summit”	39
B.8. Report on “COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Education”	39
B.9. Research Project on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States”.....	39
B.10. Preliminary work of the report on “Language Teaching and Learning”.....	40
B.11. Workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Isfahan, Iran ...	40
B.12. Seminar on “Teaching Excellence” in Cooperation with Isfahan University in Isfahan, Iran....	40

C. COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS FOR THE ACTIVITIES TO BE PERFORMED UNDER THE ECOEI WORK PROGRAM.....	42
C.1. Preparatory Meetings for Language Learning and Teaching Workshop	42
C.2. Regular Meetings with Education Attachés	42
C.3. Preparatory Meeting with Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) for Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization.....	43
C.4. Consultation Meetings and High School Visit in Baku	43
C.5. Consultation Meeting with Isfahan University.....	43
C.6. Visit to Isfahan Science and Technology Town.....	43
C.7. Consultation Meetings with Education Scholars and Experts	44
C.8. Development through Education Meetings.....	44
C.9. Preliminary Study Meetings on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States”	44
C.10. Preparatory Meeting with the University Community in Uzbekistan for the Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization	44
C.11. Preparatory Meetings of the Scientific Board of the Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization in Ankara	45
C.12. Lunch Meeting with Education Attachés.....	45
C.13. Meeting with the Dean of the University of Applied Sciences and Technology in Iran.....	45
C.14. Consultation Meetings with University Rectors in TRNC.....	46
C.15. Consultative Meeting on Creating “New Models” in Education	46
THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM ADOPTED AT THE 2nd BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING.....	48

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

BoT	Board of Trustees
CAPED	UNESCO Capacity Development in Education Program
CECECO	ECO Clean Energy Centre
COM	Council of Ministers
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ECI	ECO Cultural Institute
ECOEI	ECO Educational Institute
ECO-REM	ECO Regional Electricity Market
ECOSF	ECO Science Foundation
ETDB	ECO Trade and Development Bank
EU	European Union
INSTC	International North-South Transport Corridor
IRIS	Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development

ISC	Islamic World Science Citation Center
ISTT	Isfahan Science and Technology Town
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
RPC	Regional Planning Council
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SDG-4	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Education)
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
TRNC	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
UN	United Nations
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

FOREWORD

It has been three fruitful years since the ECOEI Board of Trustees' bestowed on me the honor to work as the President of this nascent institution. During the last three years, I believe we have made significant progress in terms of initiating the institutionalization of the organization, establishing a firm ground for its future activities.

During my tenure, I tried to uphold three principles which, I believe, are complementary to the vigorous spirit of the brotherly union of the ECO Member countries and supportive of ECO goals and vision. The first one was a commitment to make all ECOEI activities to be truly multilateral with participation from the several ECO Member States, irrespective of their membership to the ECOEI. This principle of inclusivity applies not only at the international level, but also at the domestic level to reach out to people and educational institutions which have less visibility and prominence.

Secondly, it has been my priority to organize targeted activities and projects, which may cost little but bears a significant impact on the quality of education in Member States. Borrowing from the field of medicine, I call this approach, "precision development". Precision development can be defined as customization of educational and other developmental policies with decisions, practices, or products being tailored to each societies' needs, instead of the one thing fits all model. With organizing activities that target the most needed areas in the most efficient way possible, I believe we may establish region-specific modalities for cooperation and communication in various layers of education.

Finally, the ECOEI is resolved to highlight at every instance the central place of education in the attainment of economic development. Education is the central driver of technological innovation, improved governance, open and transparent communication as well as adaptability and creativity. Hence, the ECOEI is determined to never miss the linkage between education and economic development in all its activities, which is also highlighted in the ECO 2025 Vision statement: "ECO will pave the way to a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation".

This report shows some of what we have done, and plan to do for realizing these objectives. On behalf of my team, I'd like to thank all our partners –educators, students, experts and administrators- from all across the ECO region whose trust and support affirmed our resolve, and inspired and encouraged us to work harder for a better future.

Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ
President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) gratefully acknowledges the continued support provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey through the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in pursuing the activities of the Institute during the period of 2017 – 2020. It is especially important to highlight the constant support that was extended by the staff and administration of the General Directorate of the European Union and Foreign Relations of the MoNE.

The Institute would like to express special thanks to the ECO Member States for their participation, collaboration, and support in ECOEI activities through their embassies, ministries, and institutions. The ECOEI is especially thankful to its national and international partners, namely, Turkic Council, Turkish Language Association, Turkish Historical Society, and the Azerbaijan State University of Economics for their generous contribution and cooperation.

The ECOEI also highly appreciates ECO Secretariat in extending every possible support they provided throughout 2017-2020.

Last but not least, the ECOEI extends its sincere appreciation of the financial contribution made by the Republic of Turkey during the term from 2017 to 2020, which made all of the activities listed in this report possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the extended version of the biennial report of the ECOEI President to be submitted to the 3rd Meeting of the ECOEI Board of Trustees as per Chapter I, Article B, Section X of the ECO Educational Institute Rules of Procedure. Since the 3rd BoT Meeting, which was originally scheduled to take place in May 2019, could not convene, the report of the president is presented hereby as Extended Biennial Report, which includes all activities and developments since the last 2nd BoT Meeting held on 26 July 2017.

Institutional Structuring

Since its foundation, the ECO Educational Institute has been making great efforts to conduct its activities efficiently in order to promote educational cooperation between the Member States. For this purpose, the ECOEI initiated negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental bodies of the Republic of Turkey, for the text of the Host Country Agreement to be finalized and ratified. The signing of the agreement which acknowledges the diplomatic status of the Institute took place on 23 July 2020 and Turkish authorities conveyed the Host Country Agreement to the Turkish Grand National Assembly for ratification.

Since the allocation of an independent premise with the required equipment for the ECOEI should be based on the Host Country Agreement, renewal and approval of which is delayed, ECO Educational Institute has been operating in a flat rented by its own means. Allocation of the separate building will follow as promised by the Turkish Government, following the ratification of the Host Country Agreement by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

ECO Educational Institute has established strong footprints in digital platforms in order to pursue its activities based on the approved work plan since October 2017. Digital activities were initiated first by the creation of the ECOEI official e-mail domain along with personnel e-mail accounts, the website, and social media venues including official Twitter and LinkedIn. The 2nd BoT had also urged the President of the Institute to work on the corporate identity of the Institute. Accordingly, the Institute designed professional equipment and items to augment its visibility.

Academic Activities

ECO Educational Institute has been committed to making all its academic events to be truly multilateral with participation from the several ECO Member States. First of these activities, the “Language Teaching and Learning Workshop” was held on the 19th and 20th of October, 2018 in Ankara. A wide range of stakeholders contributed to the thematic discussions in teaching and learning the languages of ECO Member States. The workshop was organized based on the idea that better education, trade, and cooperation start with understanding each other; and that is possible only by learning each other’s language. The major objective of the workshop was to shed light on the challenges of teaching and learning Turkish, Urdu, Persian, Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Uzbek languages in the ECO Member States.

Academicians, linguists, practitioners (language teachers/students), translators, and language experts actively contributed both written and orally to sessions and shared the language teaching materials and their experiences within the scope of the agenda. In addition, students from these countries were invited to witness discussions and share their experiences when learning these languages. The Educational Institute has been working with a group of scholars to produce policy recommendations encompassing the results of the sessions held during the workshop.

The ECOEI organized its second major multilateral event, i.e. a two-day “International Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization” on September 27-28, 2019 in Ankara. The symposium aimed at exploring how the fates of the neighboring peoples of ECO Member States have been linked throughout history. Even in the presence of a vast scholarly corpus on the common heritage of ECO Member States, the shared cultural and historical legacies and connectivities in the Turkic and Persian worlds still offer important aspects and problems that invite close study.

The ECOEI issued a call for papers for the symposium in July 2019, which drew more than 300 abstract submissions. Among them, 80 papers from 15 different countries were chosen to be presented. The symposium was composed of 18 thematic panels in fields ranging from Philosophy, Science, Education, Religion, Literature, History, and Language to Politics, International Relations, Economics, Urbanism, and Museology. ECO Educational Institute published edited volumes encompassing selected papers in Turkish and English.

In order to promote effective publication and dissemination of scientific knowledge produced in the ECO Member States, The ECOEI has organized a workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in cooperation with Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Education, Education Institute, and Directorate of Ph.D. Programs in Baku on 3 May 2019. The main purpose of the workshop was to improve the academic writing skills of graduate students who pursue a Ph.D. degree in Azerbaijani universities and introduce ways of submission, evaluation, and publication procedures of scholarly journals to them. Around 40 Ph.D. students benefited from the workshop. The ECOEI also received an invitation from University of Isfahan to conduct a similar workshop, which was to take place in late February 2020 in Isfahan, Iran. This time, ECOEI decided to supplement this workshop with another event and invite Turkish scholars in the field of education and partner them with their counterparts at University of Isfahan to discuss teaching competence and excellence among university professors. Both of these events had to be conducted via as online meetings on August 5th and 19th, 2020 due to measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consultation Meetings

The ECOEI actively collaborates with representatives of the Member States, scholars, and education experts. The President of the Institute constantly seeks the official help and opinion of the ambassadors, ministers of education, and relevant authorities for planned activities, symposia, workshops, and research projects.

The ECOEI convened consultation meetings with Education Attachés of ECO Member States in Ankara from February 2019 to December 2019 to establish Focal Points in line with Institute's Work Plan 2017-2019. At the last of these meetings, which took place in December 2019, representatives from the Member States were informed about ECOEI's future course of action and called upon for closer cooperation.

The Institute also organized consultation meetings with education experts and scholars from Turkey and other countries to improve ECOEI activities. Following these consultation meetings, the ECOEI has initiated a research project regarding "The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States" and a series of meetings have been made in July, September, and October 2019. The report on the subject matter will be finalized and published by ECOEI before the end of 2020.

More recently, ECOEI conducted the first of a series of meetings with experts and scholars on "Creating Models in Education." ECOEI intends to explore prospects for research on the subject that applies to the ECO Member States.

International Partnership and Cooperation

The ECOEI places high emphasis on cooperation with other international organizations to increase its outreach as was stipulated in ECOEI Work Plan 2017-2019. The President of the ECOEI, Prof. KİREÇCİ has taken an initiative during the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019 and contacted UNESCO Capacity Development for Education (CAPED) Program. UNESCO currently conducts a project on education in Afghanistan and has ample resources at their disposal. The ECOEI is also currently working on a scheme to harmonize its activities about Afghanistan with UNESCO CAPED so that the Institute may benefit from UNESCO's know-how, data, and access. This collaboration will also add to ECO's ongoing commitment to Afghanistan's development and is an important step in achieving the 29th RPC recommendation to the ECOEI about maintaining the nexus with the UNESCO for cooperation/collaboration on SDG-4 Quality Education in the ECO Region.

The ECOEI has also initiated a liaison with representatives at the Turkic Council and shared detailed information on Institute's projects. The officials from both institutions are working on a plan to develop a partnership program in selected fields, the outcomes of which would be visible soon. The ECOEI and Turkic Council are planning to organize exchange programs such as Orkhun Process and create a set of common academic programs and databases for students and academics.

Ownership

The ECOEI actively seeks input from the ECO Member States through formal and informal means to effectively shape the activities of the Institute in accordance with the educational needs and priorities of the Member States. The President of the Institute continually looks for the official assistance and assessment of the official representatives. For an efficient and speedy line communication between the Institute and the Member States, the ECOEI urges the Member States to designate their Focal Points at their earliest.

Financial Support

Member States' continuous support through financial and technical instruments is crucial for the realization of all its planned activities. The ECOEI still lacks a significant portion of its approved budget, including the mandatory payments of the Member States, which constitutes an overwhelming impediment in performing its activities. The ECOEI appreciates the Government of Turkey for its continued financial support and urges other Member States to make mandatory budgetary contributions at their earliest. The ECOEI highlights that economic cooperation would be meaningful when and if supported by cooperation in education and that every dollar invested in education can contribute fifteen-fold in the economy.

Future Prospects

The ECOEI is determined to organize multinational academic events with the engagement of ECO Member States and upheld this principle in the previous years. The ECOEI is expecting further expansion of collaboration and seeking a collective offer of insight from the ECO Secretariat and the Member States into this initiative. The ECOEI acknowledges that the engagement of member countries is crucial in achieving the ECO Vision 2025, which highlights the central place of education in the attainment of ECO goals: "ECO will pave the way to a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation." The ECOEI is ready to take on this task and establish regional networks on higher education, regional exchange, and scholarship programs/mechanisms, but it heavily depends on the ownership of the Member States.

BACKGROUND

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was established by Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran in 1964 under the name of Regional Cooperation for Development. In 1992, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and six former Soviet Republics, namely, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan joined the organization. In 2014, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus acquired the observer country status to the organization. ECO, with its ten member countries, is one of the biggest regional blocs.

The Members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, in order to develop and to increase the means of communication among the people of the region for promoting mutual understanding and more and truer knowledge of each other; are determined to broaden and enlarge the scope of cooperation among ECO countries. To this end, they have created three Specialized Agencies, namely ECO Cultural Institute, ECO Educational Institute, and ECO Science Foundation, each of which has separate personnel and autonomous management.

Later, several other subsidiary bodies were added dealing with areas of regional cooperation such as economic growth, finance, energy, food security, and more.

Recognizing the indispensable role played by education, i.e. mental and physical training in bringing about economic and social progress, as well as cultivating stronger and deep-rooted ties between the people of the member countries, the members of ECO have decided to create ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI). The main purpose of the ECOEI is to promote and encourage development through education. For this reason, the ECOEI tries to enhance collaboration among the people and nations through intellectual activity, including but not limited to the exchange of people in the field of education, conducting research and academic activities, training of educators, experts and scholars as well as the exchange of publications and other materials of information.

The founding decision of the ECOEI in Ankara was taken during the 8th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers which was held in Almaty on 9 May 1998, (in line with the paragraph on “Special Agencies and Regional Institutions” of the Article 10 of the Treaty of Izmir). The Charter of ECOEI was opened for signatures of ECO Member States the same day. So far all member countries, except Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan signed the Charter, and all the signatories, except Kazakhstan, ratified the Charter of ECOEI.

After the ratification of the Charter by Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Tajikistan as well as the Republic of Turkey, ECOEI’s 1st Board of Trustees Meeting (BoT) was held on April 3, 2012, in Ankara and the BoT approved the Rules of Procedure, Staff Regulation, and Financial Regulations of the ECOEI. The Board also approved the 2012 Annual Budget of the Institute and the allocation of the contributions to be paid by the Member States.

During the first three years period, which expired in October 2015, no contribution was received from the Member States except from the Republic of Turkey, which only paid for the first year of the Institute's establishment in 2012. The Institute was not actively working and had no staff. Consequently, the Institute was not able to conduct works in light of the purpose of its establishment nor was it able to actualize its approved work program for 2012-2014. Hence, the organization was not able to attain its major objectives during this period, In the meantime, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan ratified the Charter of the ECO Educational Institute in 2014, becoming full members.

After almost two years period without a President between 2015 and 2017, a new arrangement was to be made in the budget contribution rates and a new President had to be nominated. The 2nd Board of Trustees Meeting was held in İstanbul on July 26, 2017. The BoT nominated Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ to be the new President of the Institute; his nomination was approved by the member countries, effective from 16th of August 2017. In the same meeting, the BoT approved ECOEI Scale of Assessments, its Annual Budget and its Work Program for the years of 2017-2020.

What follows documents the initiatives and works of President KİREÇCİ in an effort to complete the formation of the Institute and make it into a well-functioning organization. Since his appointment, the Institute worked hard to promote educational cooperation and strengthen academic and training activities amongst the Member States. The Institute has focused to implement its activities in accordance with the work program 2017-2020 and accomplished most of its targets.

Bearing in mind the unifying power of education and the power of investment in education to ensure social and economic development, the ECOEI will be a proud partner to Member States in order to achieve their educational and academic goals.

LATEST STATUS OF THE CHARTER OF THE ECOEI

The founding decision of the ECOEI in Ankara was taken during the 8th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Council of Ministers (COM) which was held in Almaty on 9 May 1998, in line with the paragraph on “Special Agencies and Regional Institutions” of the Article 10 of the Treaty of Izmir. The Charter of ECO Educational Institute was opened for signatures of member countries on 9 May 1998, and all member countries except for Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan signed the charter. The current signature and ratification status of the ECOEI charter by the members is as follows:

	States	Signature	Ratification*	Entry into force
1	Afghanistan	9 May 1998	24 June 2014	29 November 2001 under the article VIII of the ECOEI Charter
2	Azerbaijan	9 May 1998	8 December 1998	
3	Iran	9 May 1998	29 November 2001	
4	Kazakhstan	9 May 1998	-	
5	Kyrgyz Republic	9 May 1998	31 January 2003	
6	Pakistan	9 May 1998	22 June 2013	
7	Tajikistan	9 May 1998	12 October 1998	
8	Turkey	9 May 1998	14 November 2007	
9	Turkmenistan	-	-	
10	Uzbekistan	-	-	
	States	8	7	

*Based on the information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, the depository of the ECOEI Charter.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURING

Confirmation of ECO Educational Institute's Diplomatic Status

The Host Country Agreement between the ECOEI and Government of the Republic of Turkey, relating to the rights, privileges, and immunities of the ECOEI, had been signed on September 17, 2015. Yet, the agreement was not ratified and requested to be further discussed by the Republic of Turkey. On the 18th of July 2018, upon extensive negotiations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental bodies of the Republic of Turkey, the text of the Host Country Agreement was finalized. In October 2019, ECOEI has been informed that the required legal authorization has been acquired by the Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education to sign the agreement with the ECOEI. The agreement was signed on 23 July 2020 between Prof. Mehmet Akif KİREÇCİ, President of the ECOEI, and Honorable Minister of National Education of the Republic of Turkey, Prof. Ziya SELÇUK.

Approval of the Revised Budget Structure

During the 28th Regional Planning Council Meeting in Islamabad, in December 2017 and following Reform Meeting in Tehran in February 2018, the issue of budgetary disparities between the ECO Specialized Agencies and Affiliated Bodies was raised by the Secretary-General and presidents of the ECO Specialized Agencies. The suggestion then was made that the salary structure of three ECO Specialized Agencies (ECI, ECOEI, ECOSF) should be in par with each other.

The power to approve the proposed revision regarding the salary structure of the Educational Institute was up to the CPR. Therefore, the matter was brought to the CPR.

The 230th Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) meeting on May 15, 2018, approved the proposed Revised Salary Scales of the ECOEI without any change in the total budget of 2018 which had been adopted at the 2nd meeting of the BoT and the decision was finalized at 231th meeting of CPR held on June 19, 2018.

The Hiring of Personnel

Since early 2018, The ECOEI started hiring personnel to facilitate ECOEI activities following revision of the budget. Up until now, the ECOEI hired 7 non-permanent researchers and 5 permanent staff including the President, Accounts Management Officer, Protocol Assistant, and Steno-Secretary.

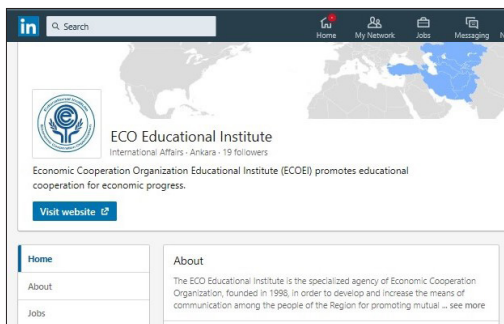
Acquisition of a Building/Office for ECO Educational Institute

Following the 2nd Meeting of BoT, the ECOEI had started the process of acquiring a separate building through the meetings between President of ECOEI and Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Turkey. The allocation of an independent premise with the required equipment for the headquarters of the ECOEI in Ankara by the Government of Turkey was promised in the work program 2017-2019 approved by the 2nd BoT. The government of Turkey reiterated its commitment to allocate a separate building for the ECOEI after the new Host Country Agreement signed between the ECOEI and the Republic of Turkey is ratified by the Turkish parliament.

In the meantime, in order to resume its activities in an uninterrupted manner, the ECOEI, by its own means, has rented a flat that currently serves as its headquarters.

Digital Visibility

The ECOEI actively utilizes digital platforms in order to pursue and announce its activities based on the approved work program since October 2017. Digital activities were initiated first by the creation of the ECOEI official e-mail domain and account (registry@eieco.org) along with personnel e-mail accounts, the website (eieco.org/), and social media venues (@eco_ei) including official Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.



ECOEI LinkedIn



ECOEI Twitter



ECOEI Web Site

ECOEI Newsletter

The ECOEI has been publishing bi-annual newsletters since the 2nd BoT Meeting. So far, six issues (December 2017, June 2018, December 2018, June 2019, December 2019, and June 2020) have been published. The newsletters cover news from the ECOEI, educational data from the Member States, innovative education ideas, important education news from the world, and future educational events and activities.

ECO Educational Institute Newsletter/June 2020

News from ECOEI



10th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council (RPEC)

ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) hosted by President Prof. Dr. Ali Kemal KIRKCI held the 10th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPEC) on 14-15 January 2020 at the ECO Secretariat in Tirane.

ECOEI President KIRKCI addressed a statement about ECOEI activities and functions since the last RPEC Meeting in January 2019. KIRKCI also invited the members of the RPEC to participate in the ECOEI activities and to contribute to the development of the ECOEI in the coming years.

The ECOEI also participated in the 10th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPEC) in Tirane, Albania. The meeting was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

The Workshop on 'Teaching Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The ECOEI participated in the workshop on 'Teaching Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' in Tirane, Albania. The workshop was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

ECO Educational Institute Newsletter/December 2017

News from ECOEI



2nd BoT Meeting of ECOEI

The 2nd BoT Meeting of ECOEI was held in Ankara, Turkey. The meeting was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

The meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey. The meeting was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

ECO Educational Institute Newsletter/December 2018

News from ECOEI



Language Teaching and Learning Workshop

The workshop was held in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

The workshop was held in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

ECO Educational Institute Newsletter/December 2019

News from ECOEI



14th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)

The 14th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) was held in Ankara, Turkey. The meeting was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

The meeting was held in Ankara, Turkey. The meeting was organized by the ECOEI in cooperation with the ECOEI Member States and the ECOEI Secretariat in Tirane.

ECO Educational Institute Newsletter/June 2018

News from ECOEI



10th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM)

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**THE ECOEI's ONGOING PROGRAMS,
PROJECTS, and ACTIVITIES**

A. HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

A.1. 2nd Board of Trustees Meeting of the ECOEI



The governing body of the ECO Educational Institute, the ECOEI Board of Trustees (BoT) held its 2nd meeting in İstanbul, Turkey, on 26 July 2017. It is in this meeting, the BoT nominated Prof. Mehmet Akif KİREÇCİ as the new President of the Institute.



Mr. KİREÇCİ's nomination as the President was approved as of 16 August 2017. Additionally, the BoT approved the Scale of Assessments and the Annual Budget for the ECOEI and Work Program of the ECOEI.

The Meeting was hosted by H.E. İsmet Yılmaz, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Turkey. ECO Secretary General Mr. Halil İbrahim Akça, Azerbaijan Minister of Education Mr. Mikail Cabbarov, Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran Mr. Ali Zarafshan, on behalf of the Minister of Education of Afghanistan, Ankara Ambassador Mr. Amanullah Jayhoon, on behalf of the Minister of Education of Pakistan, Head Consul of Istanbul Mr. Yousaf Junaid, on behalf of the Minister of Education of Tajikistan, Istanbul Consul Mr. Said Emomov, on behalf of the Minister of Education of Kazakhstan, Consul General Mr. Serzhan Sarsenbayev, the President of the ECO Science Foundation Mr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and accompanying delegations participated to the meeting. Minister of National Education and Culture of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Mr. Özdemir Berova also participated in the meeting as a special guest.

At the 2nd BoT Meeting of ECOEI, Secretary-General Mr. H. İbrahim Akça expressed his thanks to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the meeting and making excellent arrangements for the Institute's success. Turkey's Deputy Minister for National Education, Mr. Orhan Erdem delivered a statement and highlighted that education is significant for development and prosperity, and needs special attention from the Member States for the development of the region. The Minister, Mr. Erdem expressed that the Institute will make meaningful contributions to regional cooperation. The BoT discussed how to re-activate the ECOEI where participating



Member States agreed to support the Institute in its activities. The Meeting also agreed on the new scale of assessments, the two-year work program as well as the annual budget of the Institute.

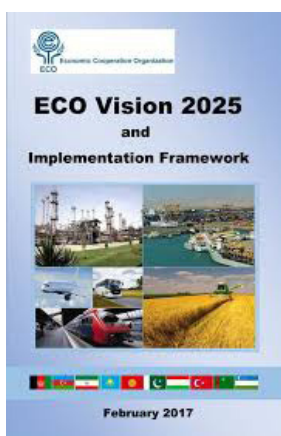


A.2. Attendance to 28th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting

The ECOEI President Prof. KİREÇÇİ and his delegation attended the 28th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC), which was held on December 11-14, 2017, in Islamabad. The delegates from all Member

States, observers (Turkish Cypriot State and Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States), and the ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions attended the opening ceremony of the meeting.

President KİREÇÇİ has also attended a consultation meeting on “Reforms in the ECO Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies” on December 13, 2017 hosted by ECO Secretary General. In the meeting, the parties discussed and reviewed the performances of ECO Specialized Agencies, coordination mechanism, nature, and scope of activities along with financial and administrative issues in order to enhance cooperation among Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and host countries. The ECOEI’s achievements and progress were also discussed at the sessions.



During the 28th ECO RPC, the ECO Secretary-General highlighted the significance of the “ECO Vision 2025” adopted in the 13th ECO Summit, held on March 1, 2017, in Islamabad. Secretary-General also reminded that the 13th ECO Summit tasked the ECO to take necessary and effective measures to achieve the vision targets. He particularly underlined the significance of the ECO’s projects and programs. He also emphasized the importance of the ECO reforms in order to create a more efficient and effective Organization.

The Heads of Delegations also made their national statements in the Ministerial segment and shared their views on the future course of actions within the ECO, especially in the light of the ECO Vision 2025. Heads/officials of the ECO Specialized Agencies and Regional Institutions

also presented their annual reports to the Council. The Ministerial Council adopted, on the recommendation of the Senior Officials segment, the ECO Work Program and Calendar of Events for the year 2018 and put forward for its final approval by the ECO Council of Ministers. On the evening of the 14th December, the



“ECO Day 2017” was celebrated in the presence of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A.3. Collaboration with Embassies of the Member States

As part of the efforts to cooperate with the Embassies of the Member States, President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ pays regular visits to the Ambassadors of Member States in Ankara since the 2nd BoT. ECOEI also encouraged Member States to share the contact information of the focal point persons in order to coordinate the activities of the Institute. Member States were also called upon to make payments of the mandatory contributions in February 2018 via Note Verbale sent through Embassies of the Member States in Ankara.

A.4. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mouhammad Ebrahim Taherian Fard, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey on January 11, 2018.

A.5. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ made a courtesy visit to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey, H.E. Muhammed Syrus Sajjad Qazi, on January 12, 2018, to discuss cooperation opportunities in the field of education.



A.6. Attendance to Consultation Meeting of the ECO Specialized Agencies

On the invitation of the ECO Secretary-General, the President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ attended the Consultation Meeting of Specialized Agencies of the ECO which was held on the 4th of February, 2018 in Tehran, Iran.

President KİREÇÇİ participated in the discussions of mutually significant issues among the three sisterly agencies of the ECO, including the overall performance of ECO Institutions from different perspectives, causes, and effects of low membership rates; establishment of the inter-secretariat coordination mechanism, nature and scope of activities, financial and administrative issues, strengths and weaknesses of the current recruitment policy of the Specialized Agencies, the role of CPR in bridging the gap in decision making, and mechanism for enhancing the cooperation among the Headquarters and the regional institutions.

At the meeting, ECO Secretary-General stated that such consultative meetings should be a regular feature to enhance cooperation among the three sisterly agencies of the ECO, and between the Agencies and the Secretariat. He also stated that ECO greatly appreciates the important role that the Specialized Agencies are performing, and supports their activities in their respective domains and assures its full support. ECO Secretariat was called upon to prepare an outcome minute of the Consultation Meeting and circulate it among Member States for their views/comments. After the feedback received from the Member States, a comprehensive evaluation report on reforms is developed by the secretariat and submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

After the meeting, the President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ attended the lunch hosted by the ECO Secretary-General in the honor of the three heads of the ECO Specialized Agencies.

A.7. Participation to 11th Meeting of the COMSEC Poverty Alleviation Group

The President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ participated and delivered a speech at the 11th Meeting of the COMSEC Poverty Alleviation Group gathered to discuss “Education Quality in the OIC Member Countries” on April 5, 2018.

A.8. Attendance to 229th Committee of Permanent Representatives Meeting

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ attended the 229th CPR Meeting held in Tehran, Iran on April 11, 2018. In the light of provisions of Rules of Procedures of ECOEI, in the absence of BoT or COM, or CPR Meetings shall decide on approving the annual budget of ECO Institutions. Thus, the proposed revised budget of the Institute was requested to be on the agenda of CPR for consideration.



The CPR discussed the issue of budgetary disparities between the ECO Specialized Agencies and Affiliated Bodies. The suggestion then was made that the salary structure of three ECO Specialized Agencies (ECI, ECOEI, ECOSF) should be in par with each other. At the end of the meeting, The Council considered and approved the Revised Salary Scales of the ECOEI without any increase in the total budget of 2018 in 230th CPR.

A.9. Attendance to 23rd ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ, and his delegation attended the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization, which was held on April 16-17, 2018 at Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In his statement, President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ informed participants on the progress, events, and activities of the Institute since the 2nd BoT Meeting of ECOEI. President KİREÇCİ also emphasized that for the Educational Institute to effectively continue and contribute to the wealth and well-being of the Member States, there is a need for the ownership of Member States. Following that, President KİREÇCİ urged the Member States to guide the Institute by asking research projects and activities related to their needs in the field of education. Finally, Prof. KİREÇCİ repeated the Institute's kind request from the Member States to identify individuals to form its Academic Council, among which members of the Executive Committee of the Institute will be selected.

The meeting was attended by all ten Member States and three observers namely, the Turkish Cypriot State, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, and the International Energy Charter Secretariat. The ECO Specialized Agencies/Regional Institutions/Affiliated Bodies and the representatives of the international organizations were also present during the meeting. During their deliberations, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the Member States also reaffirmed their countries' commitment and support to regional cooperation.

The 23rd COM reviewed the activities of the Organization since the last COM, adopted the reports, and approved the administrative matters. The COM also deliberated on the substantial issues that have a significant impact on the regional development and proper functioning of the Organization. The "Dushanbe Communiqué" which includes salient points of cooperation among the Members of the ECO as a regional organization in charge of significant regional issues approved ECO Member States and adopted.



A.10. Bilateral Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan

During his visit to Dushanbe, President KİREÇCİ held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Fathiddin Badriddin, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan, and discussed the potentials of educational cooperation between the Institute and the Republic of Tajikistan on April 17, 2018.

A.11. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Turkey

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ visited Mahmut Özer, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Turkey on November 12, 2018, to exchange information and explain the Institute's events and activities. The parties discussed the cooperation possibilities on educational affairs.

A.12. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on November 13, 2018. President KİREÇCİ informed the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on the Institute's ongoing and upcoming events and activities.

A.13. Attendance to 29th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting

President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ, and his delegation attended the Regional Planning Council (RPC)'s 29th Meeting, which was held on 17-20 December 2018 in Tehran. Delegations from the ECO Member States and observers as well as heads and officials from the ECO Regional Institutions, Specialized Agencies, and Affiliated Bodies participated in the meeting.

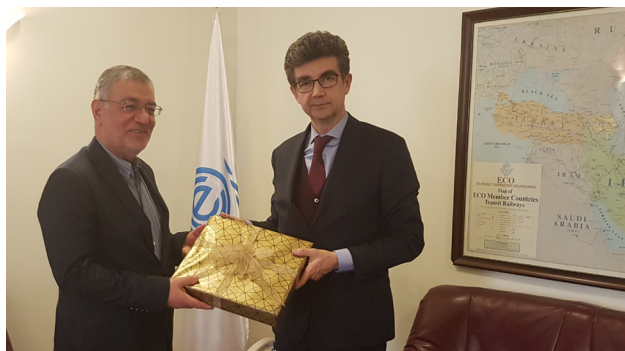


The ECOEI President Prof. KİREÇÇİ, in his speech, discussed the latest academic accomplishments and activities of the Institute. He also elaborated on the plan of organizing a conference on the teaching of history, literature, and cultural heritage in the ECO Member States. He emphasized the importance of Member States' guidance to ECOEI and invited them to convey their educational and higher education needs and concerns to the Institute. He also highlighted how the Institute is pleased to extend collaboration to achieve the common goals and objectives of the ECO Vision.

In his opening speech, ECO Secretary General Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour referred to the value of the organization's new orientation towards a project-oriented one, wished that RPC will elaborate on innovative ideas to promote trade in the region and at his closing speech he thanked the Member States for their proposal to conduct Ministerial Meetings in the forthcoming year.

During the 29th RPC, eight Sectoral Committees such as "Human Resources and Sustainable Development", "Projects, Economic Research and Statistics" and "Trade and Investment" deliberated numerous issues and at the closing session, the Draft Report, Work Program 2019 and the Calendar of Events 2019 were endorsed by the Council, which are to be carried out within the coming year. The next RPC meeting scheduled to be held on 14-17 January 2020 in the ECO Secretariat, Tehran.

A.14. Meeting with ECO Secretary General and Deputies Secretary-General



President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ has attended an official meeting with the ECO Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amb. Hüseyin Avni Bıçaklı and Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Kanan Nazarov on December 18, 2018, in Tehran.

A.15. Meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ has attended an official meeting with Deputy Minister of Education of Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Gholamreza Karimi on December 19, 2018, in Tehran to discuss cooperation opportunities.

On January 15, 2020, the ECOEI had a meeting with Iran Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Gholmreza Karimi with the participation of Dr. Mitra Teymouri, Deputy Director of Center for International Affairs in Tehran.

At the meeting, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ shared information about the program of the symposium on the teaching competencies of university professors and article publishing training in indexed journals, to be held in Isfahan. Deputy Minister expressed that the activities of ECOEI have been followed with interest. Dr. Karimi also mentioned that Kharezmi University and UNHCR will organize a conference Educational Diplomacy on Refugees in cooperation with UNICEF and they will be pleased by the support of ECOEI. Dr. Karimi proposed of which ECOEI organize a visit to the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) in Shiraz.



A.16. Attendance to 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue

The ECOEI President, Prof. KİREÇCİ participated in the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku on the 2nd of May 2019. The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Secretary-General of ECO, H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour was present at the forum as well.



During the visit, ECO Secretary General briefed Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov about ECO's recent initiatives as well as the ECO reform process. The Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan underlined the significance of ECO as a regional economic organization and in enhancing commercial activities in the region. Mr. Mammadyarov offered support of Azerbaijan to the regional economic projects implemented in the

ECO region. Highlighting the regional projects initiated by Azerbaijan, he was of the view that other ECO Member States might benefit from those projects. The views were exchanged on cooperation in trade, information and communication technologies, transport, logistics, connectivity, and other spheres within the Economic Cooperation Organization.

A.17. Attendance to 4th Board of Trustees Meeting of ECO Science Foundation

The ECO Educational Institute was represented by President, H.E. Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ at the meeting at the 4th BoT Meeting of the ECOSF, which was held in Isfahan, Iran on July 10, 2019.

The BoT Meeting was attended by the representatives from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. The ECO Secretariat was represented by the Secretary-General ECO, H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour. In addition, the ECOSF Collaborators in Isfahan - the Isfahan Regional Center for Science Parks (IRIS) / Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT)- attended the meeting as observers upon special invitation.

In his remarks, the Minister for Science and Technology (MoST), Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said ECOSF is one of the most important specialized agencies of the Economic Cooperation Organization and has a key role in the development of science and technology in the region. He further said that it is a fact that there lies the immense potential for growth and prosperity in the ECO region.

The Secretary-General of ECO, H.E. Dr. Hadi Soleimanpour, in his remarks, indicated that the cooperation among the ECO Member States in the field of Science & Technology holds significant importance for the realization of Organization's key objectives as well as strategic goals as envisaged in the Treaty of Izmir, ECO Vision 2025 and UN SDGs.

The BoT evaluated the performance and programs of the Foundation since its last meeting and also approved new initiatives and work program of ECOSF.



A.18. Visit to Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkey

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ has visited H.E. Mr. Alisher Agzamkhodjyev, Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkey on July 18, 2019. During the visit, President KİREÇCİ and H.E. Mr. Agzamkhodjyev have discussed cooperation opportunities in the field of education.

A.19. Visit by Ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to Turkey to ECOEI

H.E. Amb. Kemal Köprülü paid a visit to President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ at ECOEI headquarters in Ankara, on October 3, 2019. Ambassador Köprülü was accompanied by Vice Consul Mrs. Ebru Köprülü.

During the visit, Mr. Köprülü informed Prof. KİREÇCİ about higher education institutions in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). He stated that there are currently 18 universities in TRNC and there is a considerable number of students from ECO Member States. The parties discussed

the possibility of increasing the visibility of higher education opportunities in the ECO member countries including TRNC and elaborated on the plans for holding joint high-level university administrators meeting to discuss the internationalization of higher education in Northern Cyprus and ECO region.

A.20. Meeting with the Federal Minister for Education of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ met with Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, and Federal Minister for National History and Literary Heritage of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Shafqat Mahmood and his delegation on October 8, 2019, in Ankara. During the meeting, the parties discussed cooperation opportunities related to ECOEI's functions and aims. President KİREÇCİ has also brought forward the issue of mandatory budgetary contributions by the members to ECOEI.

A.21. Visit to Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkey



President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ visited H.E. Mr. Abzal Saparbekuly, Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkey on October 8, 2019. The parties discussed cooperation opportunities between Kazakhstan and other ECO members in the field of education and Kazakhstan's membership to ECOEI. Prof. KİREÇCİ invited the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to ratify the ECOEI Charter and discussed the details of the accession process.

A.22. Attendance to 24th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers

The ECOEI President, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ, and his delegation attended to the 24th meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) which was held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey, on November 8-9, 2019.

In the meeting, President KİREÇCİ delivered a statement about ECOEI objectives, activities, and functions since the last COM Meeting in April 2018. Prof. KİREÇCİ briefly described the international events organized by ECOEI, such as Language Learning and Training Workshop, and the workshop

on “How to Write and Publish Articles for Journals” as well as Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization and invited representatives to propose projects for similar events in their respective states. He stressed the importance of education in fostering economic cooperation and stated that ECOEI’s capacity to fulfill its share in achieving ECO Vision Statement 2025, i.e. to make ECO region “a territory of integrated and sustainable economies as well as free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation” heavily depends on the ownership of the Member States.

The meeting was hosted by H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and high-level officials from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan attended the Meeting. Delegations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States also participated in the meeting as observers. Secretary-General of ECO along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat, as well as the Presidents of ECO Specialized Agencies and Affiliated Bodies were also present.

During the meeting, ECO’s policies, programs, and activities that aim to accelerate intraregional trade and economic activities among the ECO Member States and to facilitate regional integration and socio-economic development were discussed. In his statement, H.E. Hadi Soleimanpour, ECO Secretary General particularly focused on the implementation of the ECO Vision 2025, ECO’s transformation into a project-oriented organization as well as the need to foster the spirit of ownership, partnership and commitment to mutual obligations among the ECO Member States.

The meeting was finalized by the Adoption of Antalya Communique by ECO Council of Ministers, which highlights ECO Member States’ willingness to intensify their cooperation in transportation, energy, tourism, and cultural activities.



A.23. Visit to UNESCO Headquarters

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ visited UNESCO headquarters and met with Mr. Jordan Naidoo, Director of the Division for Education 2030 Support and Coordination, and Mr. Bruno

Mesquita de Valle, Chief of Unit for Capacity Development and Field Support, on November 20, 2019. The parties discussed activities of UNESCO Capacity Development in Education Program (CAPED) in Afghanistan, cooperation opportunities between organizations, and exchange information on activities of CAPED and ECOEI.

A.24. Meeting with the Turkic Council General Secretary

The ECOEI President Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ paid a visit to Ömer Kocaman, Deputy Secretary-General of Turkic Council, at the headquarters of the Turkic Council in Istanbul on 8 January 2020.



At the meeting, Prof. KİREÇÇİ briefed the representatives from the Turkic Council about ECOEI's Connectivity Symposium, the Language Teaching and Learning Workshop; and Workshops on Writing and Publishing Academic Articles in Indexed Academic Journals. Consultations were drawn up to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between ECOEI and the Turkic Council. An intention was made to hold the

ECOEI Board of Trustees Meeting, which is planned to take place in the first half of this year, consecutively in coordination with the Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council. At the meeting, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ was also invited to the next General Assembly meeting of the Turkic University Union.

A.25. Attendance to 30th ECO Regional Planning Council Meeting

President Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ and his delegation participated in the 30th Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC) of the Economic Cooperation Organization which was held on January 14-16, 2020 at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

On the first day of the meeting, President KİREÇÇİ delivered a statement about ECOEI activities and functions since the last RPC Meeting in January 2019. Prof KİREÇÇİ briefed the council on the activities organized by ECOEI and highlighted the Institute's commitment making every activity of the ECOEI to be truly multilateral. ECOEI delegation also participated in the sectoral committee meeting on International Affairs and Specialized Agencies, during which ECOEI's past activities and future projects were discussed.

At the 30th ECO RPC meeting, delegations of all the 10 Member States, ECO Observers, Specialized Agencies, Regional Institutions, and Affiliated Bodies took part in various sectoral committees to discuss and formulate ECO's policies and programs on trade, investment, transport, communications, energy, environment, agriculture, industry, and tourism. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the ECO Work Program and ECO Calendar of Events for 2020.



A.26. Visit to ECO Cultural Institute

The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ paid a visit to Mr. Salvar Bakhti, newly appointed President of ECO Cultural Institute on January 16, 2020. At the meeting, President KİREÇCİ and Mr. Salvar Bakhti exchanged information on the activities of ECOEI and ECI and shared interest in cooperation opportunities between the two Institutes.

A.27. Visit by Turkey's Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to ECOEI

A delegation from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey paid a visit to the ECOEI President, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ on January 22, 2020. The delegation consisted of Head of Department Mrs. Binnur Uzun, Education Expert Mrs. Süheyla Demirel Yazıcı, and Mr. İlhan Aksoy. The parties discussed the mutual issues including the Host Country Agreement of ECOEI.

A.28. Visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey

President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ along with his delegation paid a visit to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Turkey on June 25, 2020. During the meeting, ECOEI informed the Ambassador on the Institute's latest events and achievements as well as the details of the upcoming 3rd BoT of the ECOEI. Prof. KİREÇCİ also invited the Government of Pakistan to complete the mandatory contribution to ECOEI and urged to delegate focal points and to make nominations for the formation of the Academic Council of the Institute.

The H.E. Ambassador expressed that the activities of ECOEI have been followed with interest and that the Institute made great progress in institutionalization. President KİREÇCİ has also emphasized the importance of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's contributions to the ECO Educational Institute.

A.29. Visit to Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkey

President of the ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ with his delegation paid a visit to Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkey on June 30, 2020. The H.E. Ambassador has been informed about the Institute's latest events, activities, and future projects. The parties also discussed cooperation opportunities related to ECOEI's functions and aims. The H.E. Ambassador indicated that there are many Kyrgyz students in Turkey as well as many Turkish students in the Kyrgyz Republic. Considering this fact, the parties discussed the possibility of organizing a colloquium with these students under the supervision of ECOEI.

B. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

B.1. Language Teaching and Learning Workshop



ECOEI held “Language Teaching and Learning Workshop” on October 19-20, 2018 in Ankara. A wide range of stakeholders contributed to the thematic discussions in teaching and learning the languages of ECO Member States.

The major objective of the workshop was to shed light on the challenges of teaching and learning Turkish, Urdu, Persian, Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Uzbek languages. The workshop was organized around four major themes, each of which was held on a separate session:

I: Issues and problems regarding the teaching and learning languages of the Member States

II: Best practices and models in teaching and learning languages of the Member States

III: Methods used and/or developed in teaching and learning languages of the Member States

IV: New approaches and new technologies in teaching and learning languages of the Member States



Academics, linguists, practitioners (language teachers/students), translators, and language experts with experience or interest in the Language Teaching and Learning actively contributed both written and orally to sessions and shared the language teaching materials within the scope of the agenda. In addition, students from these countries were invited to witness discussions and share their experiences when learning these languages.



Finally, the Educational Institute published a set of policy recommendations for each language discussed, encompassing the results of the sessions held during the workshop to update the Member States with the outputs gained through the intensive participatory work.

B.2. Participation to Conference on Science and Technology in Almaty



The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ participated and gave a talk titled “Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization,” in the conference held on March 18, 2019, in Almaty which was co-organized by the ECOEI, Eurasia Research Institute and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Faculty of Oriental Studies to commemorate the Year of Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin.

In his speech, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ highlighted the importance of both science and scientific thought in the history of Islam & Central Asia. Prof. KİREÇÇİ has also underlined the contribution of Muslim and Turkish scientists in the fields of medicine, astronomy, engineering, and mathematics. He stated that many books written by these scientists were translated into Latin and used as textbooks in European universities until the 18th century. Continuing his speech, he touched upon the Roman and Arabic numerals and the importance of the discovery of the concept of ‘zero’. He presented several interesting examples from a wide range of technological fields such as astronomy, robotics, cybernetics, military technologies, water management, time measurement, paper manufacturing in the history of Islamic civilization.

The conference attendees also included President of the Board of Trustees of Hoca Ahmet Yesevi University, Prof. Dr. Musa Yildiz, Member of the Board of Trustees of Hoca Ahmet Yesevi University Prof. Dr. Muhittin Şimşek, Deputy Dean of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Faculty of Oriental Studies Dr. Saltanat Jakubayeva, the Head of TURKSOY Department at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Faculty of Oriental Studies Assoc. Dr. Kıdır Torali and Hoca Ahmet Yesevi University Eurasia Research Institute Director, Assoc. Dr. Vakur Sümer.

B.3. Workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Baku, Azerbaijan



Within the scope of the 2017-2019 work plan approved by the 2nd meeting of BoT, ECOEI has organized a workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in cooperation with Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Education, Education Institute, and Directorate of Ph.D. Programs in Baku on 3rd of May 2019. The main purpose of the workshop was to improve the academic writing skills of graduate students who pursue a Ph.D. degree in Azerbaijani universities and introduce submission, evaluation, and publication procedures of scholarly journals to them. Prof. Dr. Ali Ekber Şahin of Hacettepe University, Ankara, TURKEY and the President of the ECOEI,

Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ supervised the workshop which brought together around 40 Ph.D. students.

B.4. Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization



The ECOEI organized a two-day, Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization Symposium on September 27-28, 2019, in Ankara (in cooperation with Turkish Historical Society).

The major objective of the symposium was to highlight and explore the ways in which the fates of the neighboring peoples of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey have been entwined throughout history. Even in the presence of a vast scholarly corpus on this heritage, the shared cultural and historical legacies and connectivities in the Turkic and Persian worlds still offer important aspects and problems that invite close study. Bearing in mind this fact, ECOEI has issued a call for papers, which has been disseminated from 17 July 2019 to 25 August 2019. More than 300 abstracts have been submitted.

In the symposium, 83 papers on historical and contemporary examples of connectivity among ECO member countries were presented. Scientists from 16 different countries discussed their research from a wide range of fields such as Philosophy, Science, Education, Religion, Literature, History, Language, Politics,





International Relations, Economics, Urbanism, and Museology. The symposium lasted for two days, composed of 18 thematic panels, and was held in parallel sessions in three different halls with an opening panel attended by all participants.

Among the papers presented, some examples are as follows: “The Effect of Transoxanian Ulamas on the Formation of Ottoman Kalam Thought”, “Kazakhstan’s Security Concept”, “Jadidism Activities in Bukhara”, “Emergence of Age of Reason and Scientific Knowledge in Medieval Civilizations”, “The Influence of Turkic and Iranian Muslim Peoples in Tatar Religious Song Tradition”, “The Socio-Economic Transformation of Central Asian Cities Under Mongolian Rule”, and “The Hanafi-Maturidi Conception of Faith in the Context of Liberty and Its Contemporary Relevance and Significance”.

The opening speeches were made by the President of the Turkish Historical Society Dr. Prof. Dr. Refik Turan and President of ECOEI Prof. Dr. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ. Deputy Minister of National Education Prof. Dr. Mustafa Safran’s written message was also delivered to the participants. The symposium has also hosted H.E. Amb. Engr. Abdul Rahim Sayed Jan (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan), H.E. Amb. Mr. Mohammad Farazmand (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Amb. Mr. Abzal Saparbekuly (Republic of Kazakhstan), H.E. Amb. Mr. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi (Islamic Republic of Pakistan), H.E. Amb. Mr. Rajabiyn Mahmadali Davlatsho (Republic of Tajikistan) and H.E. Amb. Mr. Kemal Köprülü (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) as well as several members of diplomatic corps in Ankara as part of its distinguished audience.

The panel of the symposium which was moderated by Prof. Dr. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ started with the presentation by the Deputy Minister of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran Assoc. Dr. Gholamreza Karimi, titled “Trends and Challenges for Refugee and Migrant Education in the ECO Member States.” The second presentation of the opening panel was delivered on “Central Asia, Turkey and between Cultural and Religious Cohesion and Impact on Future Multilateral Strategic Partnership” by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, the president of the Global Center for Strategic Studies in Pakistan. The panel concluded with Prof. Dr. Bahar Jalali’s talk on the “Modernization in the Context of the Historical Relation of Turkey and Afghanistan.”

ECOEI aims at publishing a volume of the papers presented at the symposium, and updating the Member States with the outputs gained through this intensive collaborative work.

B.5. Attendance to the workshop on “Exchanging Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of Sustainable Development”

The ECOEI attended the workshop on “Exchanging Experiences in Achieving Educational Goals of SDG” in Ankara on March 5, 2020. The workshop was jointly organized by Turkey’s Ministry of National Education (MoNE) in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and UNESCO.



The main objective of the workshop was to create a platform to discuss Turkey’s progress, achievements, and plans in regards to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in particular the SDG-4: Quality Education which aims to ‘ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’. The speakers included Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Mustafa Safran, Deputy Minister, Turkey’s MoNE, Mehmet Üvez, Principal Economic Inclusion Sector Leader, EBRD, Prof. M. Öcal Oğuz, President of Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and Burcu Eyişoy Dalkıran, Director General for EU and Foreign Relations, Turkey’s MoNE.

B.6. Teacher Exchange Program between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey

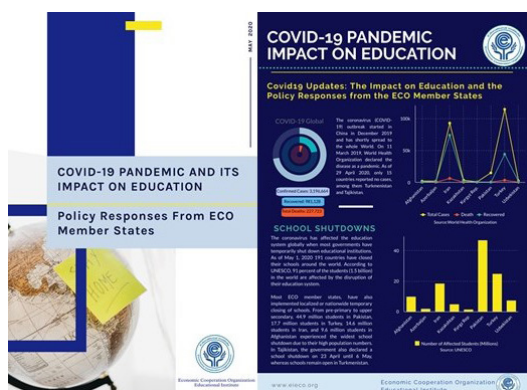
The ECO Educational Institute organized a teacher exchange program between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey, starting in Spring 2020. One science teacher from Pakistan and one mathematics teacher from Azerbaijan were invited to observe Turkish high schools in Ankara in order to share and exchange methods and skills in teaching science and mathematics on April 13-17, 2020. However, the visits are postponed to a future date in line with the precautionary measures taken against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

B.7. Preparation for and Participation to “4th Preschool Education Summit”

As part of the Work Program approved by the 2nd BoT, ECOEI has signed a protocol in order to support the “4th Preschool Education Summit” that was scheduled to take place in İstanbul on April 18-19, 2020. The summit aims to bring experts together in the field of education through engaging, inspiring speeches from different nationalities. More than 30 workshops will be organized with the participation of 2,500 preschool teachers.

The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ would deliver a speech at the summit. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and ongoing precautionary measures, the Summit has been postponed to a future date.

B.8. Report on “COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Education”



ECOEI issued a report which provides an overview of Member States’ educational responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to assess the impact of the pandemic on ECO Member States in terms of education on May 2, 2020. The report covers the developments since the start of the outbreak in China in December 2019 to May 2020, in the ECOEI Member States. The report highlights the measures that are taken to resume education via distance learning methods by the Member States, their good practices and policies, and discusses the long term effects the pandemic might have on education.

B.9. Research Project on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States”

As one of the topics proposed in Development through Education Meetings, ECOEI has initiated a research project on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States” and a series of meetings have been made with a group of scholars and education experts on the subject in July, September, and October 2019. Following the series of consultative meetings, ECOEI commissioned a research project by two scholars on mathematics education in the ECO Member States. titled “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States” which includes a comparative analysis of mathematics results in TIMMS and PISA in Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkey. The project report has been finalized in June 2020. The study will be published by ECOEI before the end of 2020.

B.10. Preliminary work of the report on “Language Teaching and Learning”

The ECOEI prepared a series of reports on Language Teaching and Learning in Member States based on the results of the sessions held during the workshop on October 19-20, 2018 in Ankara. The report was sent to workshop participants to review, comment, and make recommendations in May 2020. The ECOEI published the finalized reports encompassing the policy recommendations and update Member States with the outputs gained through this intensive participatory work.

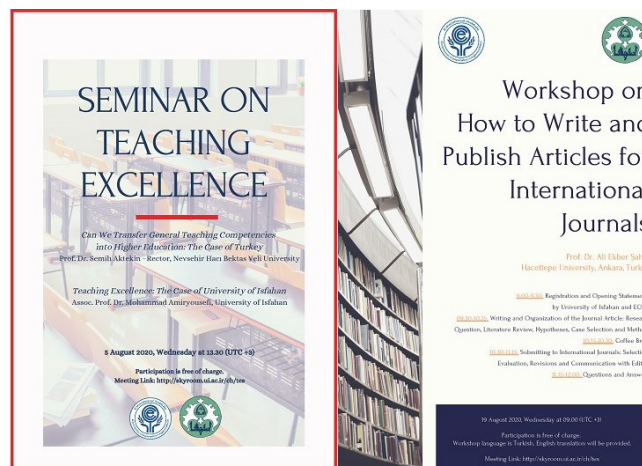
B.11. Workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in Isfahan, Iran

Within the scope of the 2017-2019 Work Program approved by the 2nd meeting of BoT, ECOEI has organized a workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in cooperation with Isfahan University, I.R. Iran on August 19, 2020, via an online platform. Similar in scope with the workshop conducted in Baku in May 2019, the main purpose of the workshop is to improve the academic writing skills of graduate students who pursue a Ph.D. degree in Isfahan University and introduce submission, evaluation, and publication procedures of scholarly journals to them. Prof. Dr. Ali Ekber Şahin of Hacettepe University, Ankara, will conduct the workshop with the participation of around 50 online participants. The 3-hour workshop will consist of three sessions. In the first session, Prof. Şahin will interactively explain the writing and organization processes of a scholarly article, namely formulation of a research question, literature review, hypotheses, case selection, and methods of data collection and analysis. In the second session, Prof. Şahin will explain the submission and revision processes and give tips about how to correspond with the journal editors. In the final session, the students will be able to ask questions and comment on their experiences. ECOEI aims to expand this event to other universities in the ECOEI region to contribute to the academic output of the young scholars in the ECOEI Member States.

B.12. Seminar on “Teaching Excellence” in Cooperation with Isfahan University in Isfahan, Iran

ECOEI organized a joint seminar on Teaching Excellence in cooperation with Isfahan University on August 5, 2020, via an online platform. Panelists included Prof. Dr. Semih Aktekin –Rector, Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University, Nevşehir, Turkey and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Amiryousefi, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, I.R. Iran. In his seminar, titled “Can We Transfer General Teaching Competencies into Higher Education: The Case of Turkey” Prof. Aktekin drew on his experience as a director at the Turkish Ministry of National Education in updating and publishing it in 2017. Aktekin was responsible to revise, edit, and finalize the Competency document. Aktekin argues that this document sets an important framework for the development of policies for teacher education. It is also considered to be a guide to the teachers in terms of their personal and professional development. Aktekin also shared the main details of the Teacher Competency document and his experiences during the preparation of this document. His seminar addressed the following questions: What kind of competencies are needed for teaching at higher education? Do academics need a separate ‘Teaching Competency’ document? Which part of general teacher competencies can be transferred to higher education? How applicable is the Turkish experience in Iranian schools/universities?

In the second part of the seminar, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Amiryousefi, University of Isfahan took the stage and gave his talk titled “Teaching Excellence: The Case of University of Isfahan.” Dr. Amiryousefi discussed the developments regarding improving the teaching competencies of university academics in Iranian universities in general and at the University of Isfahan in particular. The 3-hour virtual event hosted more than 50 academics and young researchers from all around the world.



C. COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS FOR THE ACTIVITIES TO BE PERFORMED UNDER THE ECOEI PROGRAM

C.1. Preparatory Meetings for Language Learning and Teaching Workshop

Starting in August 2018, President of ECOEI visited several universities, holding various consultation meetings with academics, experts and officials in preparation for “Language Teaching and Learning Workshop” to be held on October 19-20, 2018 in Ankara as scheduled in Institute’s Work Plan 2017-2019 approved by the 2nd BoT meeting of ECOEI.

C.2. Regular Meetings with Education Attachés

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ has convened consultation meetings with Education Attachés of ECO Member States in Ankara from February 2019 to December 2019 in order to establish Focal Points in line with Institute’s Work Plan 2017-2019.

Negotiations on cooperation and joint training activities were held with the Uzbekistan Education attaché on 19th of February 2019, with the Second Secretary of Embassy of Pakistan to Turkey Ifrah Tariq on 7th of May 2019, with the Iranian charge d’affaires Jalal Nezafat on 25th June 2019, and with the Azerbaijani education attaché Necibe Nesibova on 10th of September 2019.

At the last of these meetings which took place in December 2019, representatives from the Member States were informed about ECOEI’s future course of action and called upon for closer cooperation.

C.3. Preparatory Meeting with Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) for Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ visited ERI on March 19, 2019, in Almaty to discuss cooperation opportunities and made a preparatory meeting with ERI researchers about the forthcoming ECOEI Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization to be held in September 2019. President KİREÇCİ invited ERI researchers to submit papers and propose panels for the Symposium, covering the interconnectivity among ECO countries.

C.4. Consultation Meetings and High School Visit in Baku

On the 4th of May 2019, President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ visited a high school in Baku, Azerbaijan, and attended a consultation meeting to deliberate on possible collaborations. Later on, he met with officials from the Azerbaijan State University of Economics and discussed cooperation opportunities.

C.5. Consultation Meeting with Isfahan University

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ visited Isfahan University on July 9, 2019. A cooperation and consultation meeting was held between ECOEI and Isfahan University, to discuss a possible exchange program among teachers from ECO Member States. President KİREÇCİ also invited researchers at Isfahan University to submit papers and propose panels for the Symposium, covering the interconnectivity among ECO countries.

C.6. Visit to Isfahan Science and Technology Town



The delegations of the ECO Educational Institute (ECOEI) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) paid a visit to Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) on July 10, 2019. President of ECOEI, Prof. Akif KİREÇCİ, and his delegations, and President ECOSF Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro along with his team were welcomed by President of ISTT Dr. Jaffar Ghaisari at the ISTT.

A detailed presentation was given by Ms. Yazdianpour of ISTT about the Town to the delegates. In the presentation, it was expressed that the Town is one of the oldest, premier, and biggest technology parks

in Iran. The park provides several support services that are essential for promoting the ecosystem of startups including, tax rebates and technical and financial mentorships during various stages of pre-incubation, incubation, and full-scale business facilities. ISTT is also the Category-II center of UNESCO for Science Parks under the name of “Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Business Incubators & Science Parks Development under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS)”.

During the meeting, the delegates from ECO countries were invited to ISTT’s international event that will be organized to celebrate 15 years of Shaikh Bahai Festival.

C.7. Consultation Meetings with Education Scholars and Experts

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ organized consultation meetings with education experts and scholars including Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ali Dombaycı and Prof. Dr. Engin Karadağ on the 9th of April 2019, 18th of June 2019, 30th of July 2019, and 20th of August 2019 and discussed the future course of action to improve ECOEI’s activities.

C.8. Development through Education Meetings

ECOEI has initiated meeting series with the experts in search of “Development through Education”. President of the ECOEI, Prof. KİREÇCİ, and his delegation meets with education experts and academicians twice a year to develop projects, research, and activities on the subject matter.

C.9. Preliminary Study Meetings on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States”

As one of the topics proposed in Development through Education Meetings, ECOEI has initiated a research project on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States” and a series of meetings have been made with a group of scholars and education experts on the subject in July, September, and October 2019. The research is principled on the importance of the effect of mathematics education on engineering and development.

C.10. Preparatory Meeting with the University Community in Uzbekistan for the Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education and Civilization

President ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ held a meeting on the opportunities for cooperation with education experts and officials from the university community in Uzbekistan on July 14-15, 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan where he was an invitee. Preparatory and consultation meetings with Uzbek researchers were carried out for the Interconnectivity Symposium to be held in September 2019.

C.11. Preparatory Meetings of the Scientific Board of the Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization in Ankara

President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ convened the Scientific Board of the Symposium on Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization to be held on September 27-28, 2019 to evaluate the submissions to the symposium and organize the panels on August 26-29, 2019. The Scientific Board subsequently convened on the 6th of September and 23rd of September to finalize the preparation and coordination for the event.

C.12. Lunch Meeting with Education Attachés

The ECOEI held a meeting with education attachés of the Member States on December 18, 2019, in Ankara, and informed them about the ECOEI activities and plans. The meeting took place with the participation of Jalal Nezafat, First Counselor from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkey, Aiganym Asylbek, Education Attaché from the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Turkey, Dr. Meral Alkan, an official from Turkey's Ministry of National Education, Abdulluttalip Cetin, Turkish Education Counselor in Nur-Sultan, Mahmut Agirman, Turkish Education Attaché to Almaty, and Ilhami Ayrancı, Turkish Counselor for Education in Islamabad along with ECOEI representatives.

C.13. Meeting with the Dean of the University of Applied Sciences and Technology in Iran

The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ paid a visit to the University of Applied Sciences and Technology and hosted by the Dean, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Reza Delavar, Advisor to the President and Director General for International and Scientific Cooperation Office. The meeting took place on the 15th of January, 2020, in Tehran.

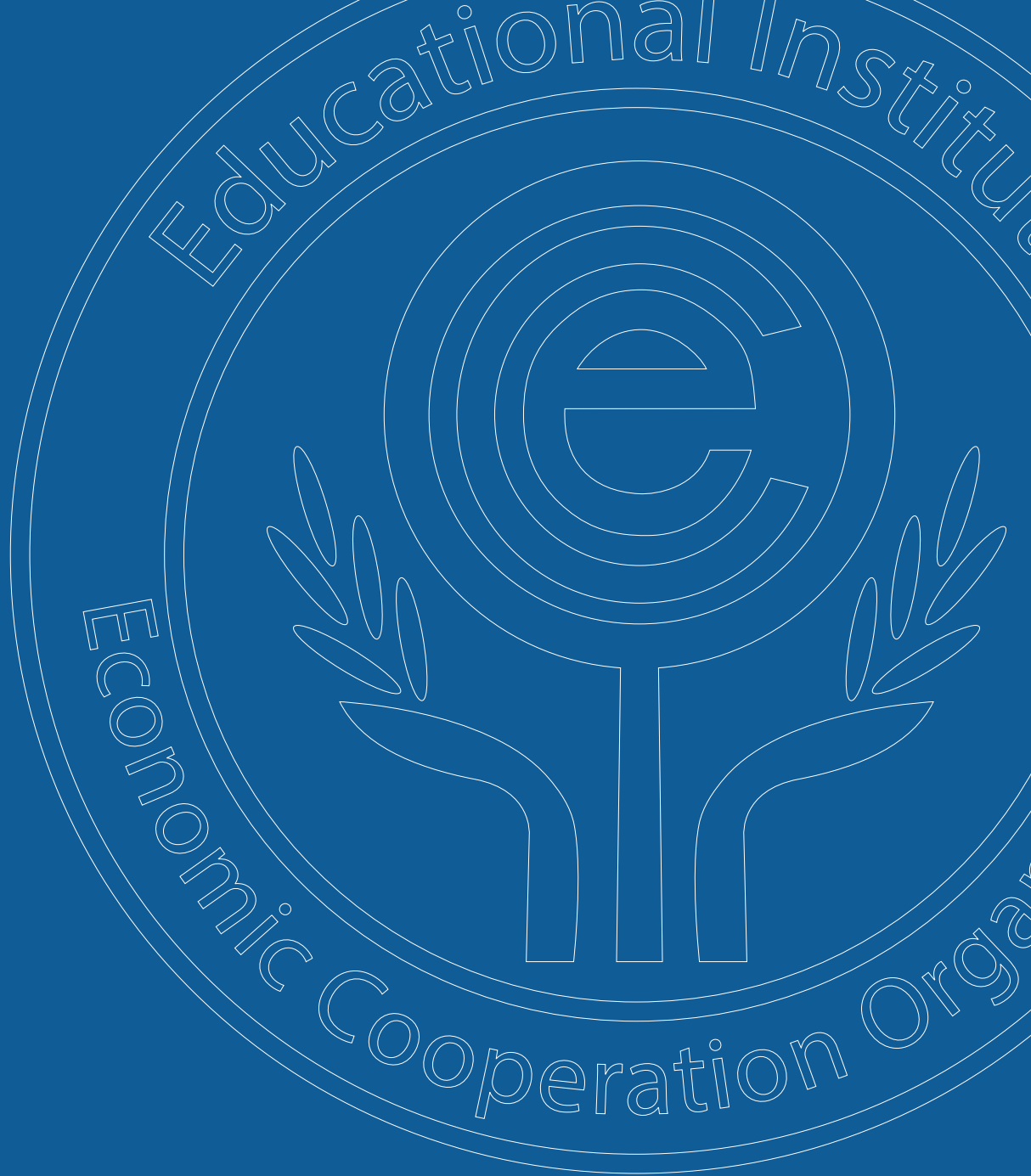
C.14. Consultation Meetings with University Rectors in TRNC

Following the visit of Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to Turkey H.E. Amb. Kemal Köprülü's to President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇCİ on October 3, 2019, ECOEI made preparations for holding a consultation meeting with university rectors in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on March 19-20, 2020 for the preparation of a report on "Increasing the International Academic Visibility of Higher Education in TRNC" aimed at increasing the level of internationalization and recognition in higher education. The planned event included a workshop where three researchers from Turkey, university rectors from North Cyprus, and international education experts would discuss the internationalization of education in TRNC and the ECO Region. However, the planned meeting had to be canceled due to the precautionary measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic.

C.15. Consultative Meeting on Creating “New Models” in Education

The first of a series of meetings has been made with Prof. Dr. Hasan Bacanlı on creating “models” in education to explore research and implementation prospects on the subject. Prof. Bacanlı highlighted that while several education models at different tiers are globally introduced by various Western educators, there is seldom an original model that is borne out of ECO countries. It is the Institute’s objective to conduct several workshops and training at faculties of education in the several ECO Member States to raise awareness about the need for such models, further consider the definition and the scope of what constitutes a model and to organize an international contest to depict best models, with the long term objective of facilitating the development of an accredited education model that is borne out of ECO region and can be applied globally.





**THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WORK PROGRAM
ADOPTED AT THE 2nd BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING**

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ECOEI Work Program (August 2017 – July 2019) Objective	Action	Status
1 Identify a separate building, arrange the legal contract (for lease or purchase) with the Ministry of Education of Turkey, and arrange the furniture.	ECOEI had operated in a jointly rented place, Ulusoy Plaza in Ankara, until July 8, 2019. Then, it moved to its current location, a separately rented flat in Tepe Prime Business Center in Ankara. The Turkish Government is going to finalize the allocation of space for the Institution soon after the signing of the Host Country Agreement is finalized.	In Progress
2 Move the Institute to its new building.	ECOEI has rented a flat and moved to its new location on July 8, 2019.	In Progress
3 Identify, initiate the hiring process, and employ key staff members.	Following the revision of the ECOEI budget at 230th CPR, the Institute hired a total of 5 staff since 2017 including an Accounts Administrative Officer, a Protocol Assistant, and a Steno-Secretary.	Realized
4 Form the Academic Council.	Relevant correspondences conducted with the Member States in the ECOEI Note Verbale No. B. 08.0.ABD.0.03.00.730.06.01.04/8939 dated August 2, 2012. Further correspondences carried on in regards to the designation of Academic Council Members after President KİREÇÇİ's nomination was approved. Also, in his statement at the 23 rd COM Meeting of ECO on April 17, 2018, President KİREÇÇİ requested from the Member States to identify individuals to form the Academic Council. When the official nominations were made by the Member States, the Council will be formed immediately upon receiving the notice from the Member States.	In Progress
5 Inquire with the member/participating states to form a pool of experts and scholars.	ECOEI requested the contact information of focal points from the ECO Member States with the Note Verbale ECOEI/OG/18-3001/01 dated January 30, 2018, in order to coordinate the activities of the Institute. ECOEI has convened consultation meetings with Education Attachés of ECO Member States in Ankara from February 2019 to December 2019 to establish focal points, in order to facilitate the formation of a pool of experts and scholars. Negotiations on cooperation and joint training activities were held at different times throughout 2019. At the last of these meetings, representatives from the Member States were informed about ECOEI's future course of action and called upon for closer cooperation.	Realized & Ongoing

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM
ADOPTED AT THE 2nd BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

ECOEI Work Program (August 2017 – July 2019) Objective	Action	Status	
6	Creation of the ECOEI website and social media venues.	ECOEI has created its official e-mail account (registry@eieco.org), the website (eieco.org/), and social media venues (@eco_ei) in October 2017.	Realized
7	Launch a bi-monthly newsletter of the Institute	ECOEI has published its first newsletter in December 2017. ECOEI continued to publish newsletters bi-annually instead of bi-monthly due to personnel shortage. All the newsletters of the Institute are available to public access on the ECOEI website (http://eieco.org/page/ecoei-newsletter).	Realized & Ongoing
8	The Institute will aim at expanding the capacity of educational systems through commissioned research.	<p>ECOEI initiated a research project on “The Status of Mathematics Education in the ECO Member States” and the report has been finalized and will be published before the end of 2020.</p> <p>The ECOEI has also attempted to initiate a commissioned research with Prof. Dr. Bahar Jalali however, the report could not be completed due to inefficient data and cost of acquiring the relevant data.</p> <p>The ECOEI has also planned a research project with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Semih Aktekin on the subject of “The Transfer of General Teaching Competencies in Higher Education” following the ECOEI initiated seminar on Teaching Excellence.</p>	Realized & Ongoing
9	Workshop on ways of developing or advancing learning/teaching languages of member countries (in Member States).	The ECOEI held the proposed “Language Teaching and Learning Workshop” on October 19-20, 2018 in Ankara. The major objective of the workshop was to shed light on the challenges of teaching and learning the Member States’ languages. Academicians, linguists, translators, and language experts and practitioners from the ECO Member States have actively contributed both written and orally to sessions and shared the language teaching materials within the scope of the agenda.	Realized
	Adopt a policy advice at the end of the workshop. Publish the revised brief.	The ECOEI prepared a report based on the results of the sessions held during the workshop and sent to workshop participants to review, comment, and make recommendations. The finalized report encompassing the policy recommendations will be published before the end of 2020.	Realized & Ongoing

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM
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ECOEI Work Program (August 2017 – July 2019) Objective	Action	Status
<p>10 Seek, identify, and realize collaborative activities with other partners. For example, UNESCO (Headquarters & National Committees) and relevant institutions in each member country. Establish policy & principles regarding the participation of the ECOEI at relevant international forums. Regular and close collaborations with ECOCI and ECOSF.</p>	<p>President KİREÇÇİ has visited the UNESCO headquarters on November 20, 2019. The parties discussed the activities of UNESCO Capacity Development in Education Program in Afghanistan and cooperation opportunities between organizations. The ECOEI plans to get in contact with the Turkic Council and UNESCO National Commissions of each Member States of the ECO and pursue a viable partnership with the UNESCO Headquarters.</p>	<p>Realized & Ongoing</p>
<p>11 Conference on the teaching of history, literature, and cultural heritage in ECO member countries.</p>	<p>ECOEI organized a two-day, Common History, Culture, Education, and Civilization Symposium on September 27-28, 2019, in Ankara (in cooperation with Turkish Historical Society). The major objective of the symposium was to highlight and explore the ways in which the fates of the neighboring peoples of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey have been entwined throughout history. Scientists from 15 different countries discussed their research from a wide range of fields. More than 300 abstracts have been submitted and 80 papers on historical and contemporary examples of connectivities among ECO member countries were presented.</p>	<p>Realized & Ongoing</p>
<p>12 Project for the development of early childhood education.</p>	<p>ECOEI has signed a protocol in order to support the “4th Preschool Education Summit” which aims to bring experts together in the field of education through engaging, inspiring speeches from different nationalities, more than 30 workshops, and participation of 2,500 preschool teachers. The President of ECOEI, Prof. M. Akif KİREÇÇİ was also going to deliver a speech at the summit that was scheduled to take place in İstanbul on April 18-19, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and ongoing precautionary measures, it has been postponed to a future date within the year.</p>	<p>Postponed Due to Covid-19 Pandemic</p>

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM
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ECOEI Work Program (August 2017 – July 2019) Objective	Action	Status
13 Initiate partner schooling project (primary – secondary and high school level)	The ECOEI has initiated a partner schooling project which is planned to actualize through teacher exchanges to high schools in Turkey and the Member States. However, as the teacher visits were postponed to a future date in line with the precautionary measures taken against the COVID-19 Pandemic, the partner schooling project is interrupted.	
14 In-Service training of teachers and junior bureaucrats. Selected teachers from different disciplines will be arranged for visits – including experience sharing, vocational training purposes.	ECOEI has initiated teacher visits between Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Turkey. One science teacher from Pakistan and one mathematics teacher from Azerbaijan were invited to observe Turkish high schools in Ankara in order to share and exchange methods and skills in teaching science and mathematics on April 13-17, 2020. However, the visits are postponed to a future date in line with the precautionary measures taken against the COVID-19 Pandemic.	
15 Establish a web platform for common ground for educational institutions.	The ECOEI started the preparatory work for creating “ECO Higher Education and Learning Center” which would comprise of information regarding the application, academic programs, facilities, faculties, research and scholarship opportunities, accreditation and international standing of English medium universities in the ECO region to help promote the internationalization of education in the region. The web platform (studyineco.org) is currently under construction. The preparatory work can be accessed through ECOEI official website at http://eiico.org/page/Study-in-ECO .	

THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAM
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ECOEI Work Program (August 2017 – July 2019) Objective	Action	Status
<p>16 Organize a workshop for postgraduate students on how to write a good publishable paper.</p>	<p>The ECOEI has organized a workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals” in cooperation with Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Education, Education Institute, and Directorate of Ph.D. Programs in Baku, on 3rd of May 2019. The main purpose of the workshop was to improve the academic writing skills of graduate students who pursue a Ph.D. degree in Azerbaijani universities and introduce submission, evaluation, and publication procedures of scholarly journals to them. Around 40 Ph.D. students participated in the workshop. ECOEI will also organize a similar workshop in cooperation with Isfahan University, I.R. Iran on August 19, 2020, which will be conducted via an online platform due to precautionary measures taken against the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p>	<p>Realized & Ongoing</p>
<p>17 Publish a guide book on how to conduct quality research and how to write good, analytical, and creative papers.</p>	<p>Following the ECOEI’s workshop on “How to Write and Publish Articles for International Journals”, a guide book on the topic has been completed by Prof. Dr. Ali Ekber Şahin and will be published by ECOEI before the end of 2020.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>



