SPECIAL REPORT ON ECO-CCI ACTIVITIES

[illegible] - March [illegible]

ECO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

# STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN THE REGION

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI)

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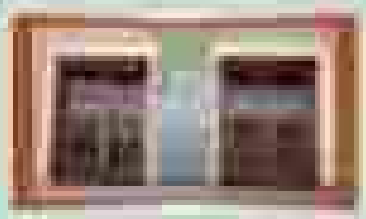
# Contents

## M/S KAS EXPORTERS & IMPORTERS

(A sister enterprise of M/S Rovi Rice Mills Okara)
has a large rice export network around the globe.
We are a part of Multi-dimensional Industrial House
of Okara, which has been playing a dominant role in
the prosperity of locality since early 70's.

This Multi-dimensional Industrial House consists of

- M/S Sahra Oil & Gentral Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
- M/S Eatend Vegetable Oil Mills (Pvt.) Ltd
- M/S Faizal Paper Mills (Pvt.) Ltd
- M/S Sahra Feed Mill (Pvt.) Ltd (FFM 1, 2, 3)
- M/S Nestal Foods (Pvt.) Ltd
- Fuel Station
- Various Environmentally control Sheds (Poultry Farms)
- Sugar factory all over the Country
- Agricultural Land

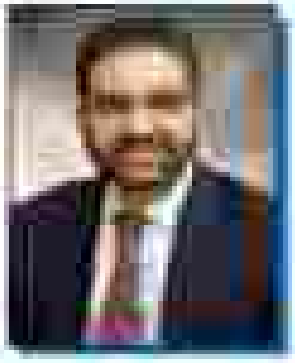


# Office Bearers of ECO-CCI

Mr. Ghazanfar Khan

Mr. Zubair Tufail

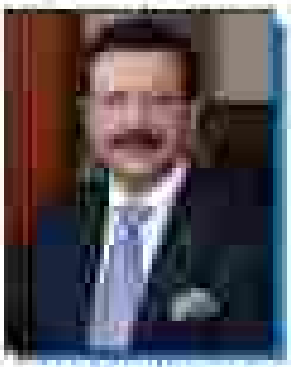
Mr. Abdul Rauf Alam



Major Mohammad Aslam

Mr. Zakaria Usman

## Heads of National Chambers of Founding Members

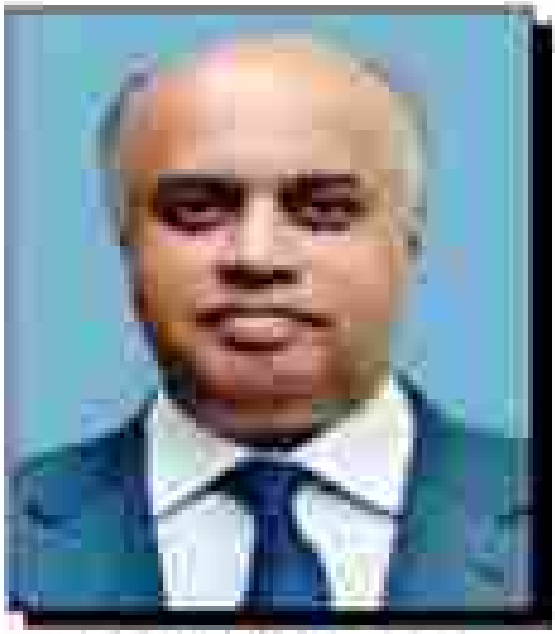


Mr. M. Rathinavelu

Mr. Ghulam Hussain Bhatti

# ECO-CCI Secretariat

**Maher Alam Khan**
Secretary General ECO-CCI



**Dr. Iqbal Thaheem**
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Deputy Manager ECO CCI

# EDITORIAL

It is great honor and pleasure for me to present three year report of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI-ECO) encompassing the activities and achievements from September 2014 to March 2018. During this period, the ECCI has accomplished remarkable achievements for the promotion of trade, investment, economic cooperation, liberalization, harmonization of policies, reduction in cost of doing business, improving of financial infrastructure, and institutional capacity building. ECCI is one of the important blocks for all member countries participating in Kashgar which has gained significant importance in the backdrop of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which will provide connectivity to central landlocked countries of ECO region. In this regard, Pakistan has signed TIR convention in 2012 and formulated and implemented EU rules and regulations properly since October 2017.

It is great honor and pleasure for me to present three year report of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECCI-ECO) encompassing the activities and achievements from September 2014 to March 2018. During this period, the ECCI has accomplished remarkable achievements for the promotion of trade, investment, economic cooperation, liberalization, harmonization of policies, reduction in cost of doing business, improving of financial infrastructure, and institutional capacity building. ECCI is one of the important blocks for all member countries participating in Kashgar which has gained significant importance in the backdrop of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which will provide connectivity to central landlocked countries of ECO region. In this regard, Pakistan has signed TIR convention in 2012 and formulated and implemented EU rules and regulations properly since October 2017.

The promotion and ECO-ECCI secretariat was shifted to Pakistan for three years period in 2014. It was a historical achievement that ECO-ECCI has organized five times its Statutory meetings in three years with the aim to enhance the regionalization, connectivity and improving the trade and economic relationships. Moreover, ECO-ECCI assisted all its specialized Committees on trade facilitation, transportation, tourism, agriculture and women entrepreneurs council and regularly organized their meetings prior to statutory meetings. On the sidelines of the meetings, ECCI-ECO organized workshop on tourism and women entrepreneurs. ECCI-ECO also organized five energy consortium with the collaboration of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture and was very successful. During the period, ECCI-ECO and PECC also felt some weakness in shortcomings in the ECO CIC dialogue and in this regard, a comparative comparing of Trading Members were covered also regularly arranged the meetings and suggested amendments in the draft Statute which will be presented in the forthcoming General Assembly meeting of ECO-CCI.

ECO-CCI utilized serious efforts for activating the not founding members and now most of the not founding members are participating actively and regularly in the meetings. For this purpose, ECCI-ECO regularly contacts with Pakistan's mission in ECO member countries and their missions in Pakistan. Moreover, the proposals related to establishment of ECO Information Center, ECO Visa Sticker scheme, ECO Ahsan Cash Scheme, ECO Business Forum and Workshop on TIR Convention etc were also discussed in detail in different meetings.

A joint force (Trio Jalsa) for the next ten years has also been finalized and implemented whereby the targets and goals were developed on the principles of sustainability, integration, liberalization, transport, connectivity, energy market, minimum growth, productivity, social welfare and environment. Moreover, ECO-CCI constantly focused on the implementation of ECCIDP with the view that to free trade agreement, establishment of Customs Union, filling of proposed Kashgar Kyrgyz investments portfolio, harmonization in business and financial regulations, simplification of visa among member countries, enhancing the regional connectivity and removing of trade impediments etc.

ECO-CCI also regularly participated in the Regional Planning Council (RPC) meetings of ECO Secretariat and gave input including the ECO financial sector efficiency and stress tests. ECC Secretariat also held in Pakistan in March 2017, wherein ECO-CCI participated and gave suggestions for development of transport and communication infrastructure, facilitation of trade and investment and effective use of the region's vast energy resources. In addition to these, ECCI have regularly participated in Pakistan's flag building ceremonies and organizing seminar with the aim to share ECO as expanded from 3 founding members to 10 country organization in 1992. During the last three years, ECO-CCI also opened its strong and significant linkage with other ECO Affiliated organizations such as ECO Trade and Development Bank and ECO Science Foundation etc. For the promotion of Women Entrepreneurship in ECO region, the ECO-CCI also developed ECO-CCI Women Entrepreneurship wallpaper.

In end, I would like to thank the Office Bearers of all Member National Chambers, Pakistan's Missions abroad, Foreign Ministry's Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and ECO Secretariat for the their support and cooperation they provided to the activities of ECO-CCI in benefitting manner. I also appreciate the assistance and support of ECO-CCI & PECC Secretariat in achieving the goals and targets of ECO-CCI.

**Maher Alam Khan**
Secretary General ECO-CCI

# Activities of ECO-CCI

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) is one of the important organ and affiliated body of ECO; was founded by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 1992, in order to promote commercial, industrial and economic cooperation among the member states. It has been established as the representative of the ECO in the private sector, based on the Article 30 of Izmir treaty. Today, ECO-CCI comprises 10 members. Apart from the founding members the other 7 member respectively are the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Since its inception, the ECO-CCI is working for the long term benefits related to economy, trade, investment, industry, business etc instead of short term achievements and produces concrete projects in accordance to the mutual interest of member nations.

As per the Statute of ECO-CCI, the Presidency and Secretariat of ECO-CCI was handed over to Pakistan on September 4, 2014 for three years period. Prior to Pakistan, the Presidency and Secretariat of ECO-CCI was given to Turkey and Iran for three years period respectively. The permanent secretariat will be established after completion of nine years interim period and tenure of Pakistan.

After taking over presidency and secretariat, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) established ECO-CCI Secretariat at FPCCI Head Office Karachi and appointed Vice President as per the ECO-CCI Statute Article 1 and 2 from Afghanistan. For ECO-CCI secretariat, significant staff appointed by Pakistan for making ECO-CCI vibrant and effective body. ECO-CCI has made strong linkages with the embassy of ECO Members Nation in Pakistan and Pakistan's missions in ECO member nations for organizing activities and significant participations in ECO-CCI meetings by all nations. As an outcome of these efforts, all ECO member nations have started participation in activities of ECO-CCI.

First time in history, the ECO-CCI organized its statutory meetings on the sideline of 13th ECO Summit and 2nd meeting of Council of Ministers and gave the member national chambers opportunity to participate in the summit and also took part in the formulation and implementation of ECO Vision 2025 which finalized the target and goals for next few years related to economy, trade, investment, industry, transportation, tourism, energy, environment and others.

ECO-CCI regularly celebrates 28 November as ECO Day, which is a day of ECO region expansion or inclusion of six Central Asian Countries. On ECO Day, the ECO-CCI organizes flag hoisting ceremony and seminar on the issues related to ECO region.

# Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings of ECO-CCI

During the tenure of Pakistan, the ECO-CCI organized five times its Statutory Meetings in Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. All Statutory meetings of ECO-CCI inaugurated by the Federal or Country Ministers on Trade or Development or Industry of hosting country and attended by ECO Secretariat, ECO Trade and Development Bank and representatives of ECO Members Chambers. The main responsibilities of ECO-CCI is promotion of trade and investment, enhancement of interaction between the business community of members nations, harmonization of financial rules, facilitation of trade related activities and capacity building of private sector of member nations etc.

Prior to the Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings, ECO-CCI regularly conducted the meetings of its Specialized Committees and their recommendations presented to the statutory meetings. There are six specialized committees and one sub-committee of ECO-CCI on Trade Facilitation, Transportation, Tourism, Women Entrepreneurs, Arbitration, Industry, Investment and SMEs Promotion and Business Rating Programme. The activity reports of these committees with brief introduction and scenario are given below.

## Statutory Meetings of ECO-CCI

| | Meetings | Venue | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 14th General Assembly, 20th Executive Committee and Specialized Committees Meetings | Turkey | 21 - 23 December 2015 |
| 2. | 21st Executive Committee and Specialized Committees Meetings | Iran | 14 - 17 August 2016 |
| 3. | 15th General Assembly, 22nd Executive Committee and Specialized Committees Meetings | Pakistan | 1 - 4 March 2017 |
| 4. | 23rd Executive Committee and Specialized Committees Meetings | Turkey | 15 - 17 November 2017 |
| 5. | 16th General Assembly, 24th Executive Committee and Specialized Committees Meetings | Iran | 2 - 5 March 2018 |

# Specialized Committees

## Trade Facilitation

Trade facilitation has emerged as a key factor for international trade efficiency and the economic development of countries. This is due to its impact on competitiveness and market integration and its increasing importance in attracting direct foreign investments. The real challenge of trade facilitation is to minimize transaction costs and the complexity of international trade for businesses, without compromising efficient and effective levels of collection of customs revenues and other border controls. Trade plays a crucial role in economic development and transforming the economies of the member states from developed states basically through expansion in inter- and intra-regional trade. The intra-ECO trade accounts around 7 to 8 percent of total trade which is far below than the other regional blocs, grouping the EU, NAFTA, ASEAN. The regional economies are continuously making efforts to promote intra-regional trade and implementing measures to improve regulatory framework in the region. For improving the trade relations, the region signed many agreements like ECOTA.

ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) a preferential trade agreement was signed in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Commerce/Foreign Trade Ministers held, July 2003. The ECOTA entered into force in April 2003, having been ratified by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey so far. The agreement once a period of eight years and more than 85 percent of traded goods more than 10 percent tariffs were reduced. ECOTA excluded trade in services. By this agreement, a free trade area will be established in the ECO region by 2015. After the lapse of 10 years period, the agreement is still too (Underreview).

The ECO grouping includes a diverse range of economies, each at different stages of economic development, market and institutional features and openness to trade and investment flows. For a long time, most of the ECO member states remained closed and inward looking, discouraging foreign direct investment and imports with high tariff and non-tariff measures. Problems involving customs rules and procedures often posed serious impediments to smoother operations of businesses involved in intra-regional trade. These problems can impact adversely on small and medium sized enterprises which generally do not have expertise and resources to cope with. They can also impact adversely on foreign investment because investors in less-developed countries often rely on imported goods. The economic development based on trade efficiency, foreign revenue and investments. The trade plays a crucial role in transforming the under-developed economies into developed economies. However, trade will be expanded, if it is facilitated. In the present global scenario the real challenge of trade facilitation is to minimize the cost and complexity of international transactions.

We all know that ECO region occupies a more geopolitical location, bordering with Russia, China, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea. The member states of this region are also characterized by common religion, culture, historical and economic similarities. This region also has geo-strategic position and rich in energy resources it has a potential to serve as an engine for economic growth in the future. Despite of these facts, I regret to see that the overall trade of ECO member countries in 2010 was only US$ 49 billion which obviously not at par as the potential of ECO region has. If we see it in global scenario we find that trade of all ECO member countries with the world is US$ 2625 billion which is 1.7 percent share in the world trade. The reason behind the low level of intra regional trade is lack of information, low interaction, high cost of doing business and lack of trade complementarities, etc.

In pursuance of the Adoption of ECO-CCI for more liberalization, trade facilitation and promotion of trade activities different agreements and projects devised for harmonizing the trade and investment policies, customs rules and regulations, banking system and rationalization of tariff structure in the region. These agreements and projects are aimed to facilitate and allow the business community of the region to exploit the emerging opportunities. The ECO Vision 2025 aims to double the trade of ECO region in next 2 to 3 years and I believe that the ECOTA has the strength to achieve this target if it is implemented in true spirit. ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) aims at formation of a single regional block with opportunities for growth in trade, finance, industry, investment, market and other key areas of economic development. The ECOTA will enter into force after signing and ratification process of all member countries of ECO. Unfortunately after lapse of more than 10 years ECOTA could not be implemented in the region. Now the world is moving towards free trade regime and accordingly ECO need to push ECOTA into ECO Free Trade Agreement. I would request the ECO Secretariat to update the house on ECOTA.

- **TIR Convention:** The TIR Convention is multilateral treaty was concluded in 1975 with the aim to simplify and harmonise the administrative formalities of international road transport. All ECO Member States has acceded TIR Convention. Pakistan also signed TIR Convention in July 2010 and has implemented its rules and regulation from October 2017. Accession to the TIR Convention will create new corridors, linking Central and South Asia as well as China with Turkey and Europe which in turn will enhance Pakistan's connectivity in the region. The convention provides that goods should be accompanied by an internationally accepted customs document (TIR Carnet), issued in the country of departure and serving as a customs control document in the countries of departure, transit and destination. TIR system has security gifts like secure seals for containers, international guarantee chain, TIR Carnet, reciprocal recognition of customs control, controlled access by Customs and International Road Transport Union and TIR IT risk management tools. WeHOC is an effective and efficient customs operations system with appropriate points to accommodate international transit movements.

- **Implementation of ECOTA:** During the tenure of Pakistan, ECO-CCI repeatedly requested to member states to ratify the agreement and provide the list of concessional items, so that the agreement could be implemented in true spirit.

- **ECO Trade Fair:** In the 17th RPC meeting, ECO-CCI was entrusted to hold the ECO trade fair in 2017. In order to apply the decision, the ECO-CCI had made special arrangements for organizing ECO pavilion in Pakistan International Trade Fair held in October 2017 at Karachi, Pakistan. In order to facilitate the member chamber, ECO-CCI also got special rates from FPCCI for participation of ECO Countries and also compensates them in air ticket and hotel accommodation and also offered special rates for stalls in Pavilion. It is regretted to inform that despite ECO-CCI repeatedly circulation of invitation, none of the member chamber responded except Iran who participated with few companies.

- **4th ECO Business Forum:** ECO-CCI with the collaboration of ECO Secretariat has decided to organize 4th ECO Business Forum in Pakistan and submitted its feasibility to ECO Secretariat under the project on Trade Promotion and Strengthening Cooperation amongst the Private sector in ECO". The representative of the ECO secretariat applied ECO-CC during the 21st Executive Committee meeting of ECO-CCI at Antalya, Turkey that proposal of Business Forum has been circulated among Members States and response is still awaited.

- **Dedicated Booths for ECO in EXPO Pakistan:** The expo Pakistan was held in November 2017 at Karachi and was organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Ministry of Commerce Government of Pakistan. The matter of arrangement of special booths for participation of ECO countries forwarded to relevant authority.

- **Publication of ECO-CCI Bulletin:** In order to update the member chambers, ECO-CCI published quarterly bulletin contains the activities, information and other information. Moreover, ECO-CCI also published a book on "ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Goals and Strategies in Global Scenario" which is a comprehensive publication and covered all facts, figure, economic indicators and potentials, trade and investment opportunities and other information.

- **Meetings with Diplomats:** ECO-CCI was organized a meeting with the ECO diplomats (based in Pakistan) to boost the mutual trade and inter boarder investment among the ECO countries. This brainstorming session was held in Islamabad which was attended by the Ambassadors/Representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkey.

- **Holding of TV Programme:** In order to create awareness, ECO-CCI organized programme on ECO at Business Plus TV Channel and Ring Forums (which is a trading fellows forum of Pakistan). ECO-CCI also published special advertisement on the importance of mutual economic relations of ECO countries on the occasion of ECO Day.

# Industry, Investment and SMEs Promotion

Industry, investment and SMEs are the important ingredients of economy of any country whereas the economic growth, exports, development, prosperity, stability and sustainability depend, investment either domestic or foreign plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty and creating employment opportunities. In developed nations, SMEs consider as a key to ensure economic growth, innovation, job creation and social integration.

The ECO region includes a diverse range of economies, each at different stages of economic development, market and institutional maturity, openness to trade and investment flows. For a long time, most of the ECO member states remained closed and inward looking, discouraging foreign direct investment and imports with high tariff and non-tariff mechanisms. As a result, the contribution of industrial sector is low in national output and generally less than 15 percent except Azerbaijan where contribution is 52 percent. In other nations the contribution are i.e. Afghanistan 22 percent, Iran 36 percent, Kazakhstan 34 percent, Kyrgyz Republic 29 percent, Pakistan 20 percent, Tajikistan 28 percent, Turkmenistan 34 percent, Turkey 28 percent and Uzbekistan 35 percent. Problems involving customs rules and procedures often posed serious impediments to routine operations of businesses involved in intra-regional trade. Moreover, lead time to export and import and document cost of imports and exports are very high. These problems can impact unevenly on small and medium sized enterprises which generally do not have experience and resources to cope with. They can also impact adversely on foreign investment because investors in less developed countries often rely on imported goods.

In order to remove these problems of members, the ECO is making all out efforts to enhance the industrialization and investment promotion in the region. In this context, the APPI – Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment along with its additional protocol is the significant agreement and it is imperative to implement it. The said agreement (APPI) has been signed by Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran and pakistan while its implementation requires ratification of four members out of five signatories. Therefore, the implementation of this agreement is still pending due to non-ratification. All member Chambers of ECO-CCI are the representatives of private sector in their respective countries should take serious measures for getting it ratified from their respective government. The ECO CCI several times pursue this matter with member chambers but responses are still awaited.

The strategy adopted by the members of ECO is to gradually dismantle trade barriers, efforts for greater internal and international market access, rationalization of goods, simplification and harmonization of the national customs procedures, methods of setting preferential tariff measures and adopt customer approaches are currently towards the other region, which implement their relations with other blocs and intra-regional trade is still stagnant at 7 to 8 percent of total trade of ECO region. The improvement in intra-regional relations is also need of the time to eliminate the impact of global uncertainty, economic crisis and international tension on the members nations.

ECO is endowed with richest natural resources and geo-strategic location. ECO Countries possess significant natural resources (produces 12.3 percent of world crude oil and 30-39 percent of natural gas). For instance Iran is one of the Major Oil Exporting Nations, Pakistan has strong textile based industry, Central Asian States are enriched with agricultural and mineral resources and growing industrial bases have further strengthened their economy. However, it is unfortunate that the few resources are currently being exploited while there remain large untapped natural resources yet to be explored. These resources and location has created many investment and trade opportunities for traders and investors. It is an evidence that the huge potential and attractive opportunities exist in this region ; but the potential investors and traders did not come due at desirable level due to various grounds especially infrastructure deficit, poor innovation and technological advancement, low labour productivity, low value addition, lack of diversification, absence of economies of scale, unfortunate geo politics, capacity constraints etc.

In the present era of Globalization, we need to formulate such industrial strategy that could aim at satisfying the need of region and create surplus which could be exported to other nations at competitive prices. To attain this level there is need to create better comprehension of competitive atmosphere in our industrial

Sector for which we will have to transform our focus from light Engineering base to High Tech and Modern Technologies so that the problem of Cost of Doing Business could be addressed effectively. High Tech and Modern Industry are the only instruments required to increase the Industrial Production. The structure of production of ECO countries should shift in favour of labour intensive activities, that more jobs would be created per every % of investment in each sector. Concurrently, escalating competition would force improvements in productivity which would eventually drive up wages.

As like the other Specialized Committees, ECO-CCI regularly organized its meetings prior to statutory meetings and following activities were under consideration and held during the last three year period:

- **Implementation of the Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments:** In order to ratification and implementation of agreement, ECO-CCI regularly pursue this matter with ECO Secretariat and requested the member chambers to pressure their government for early implementation. This agreement was signed by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey during the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Commerce/Foreign Trade in Istanbul in 2005 while Iran and Pakistan signed this agreement in 2008, Iran ratified this agreement in 2010. This agreement envisages for common policy and common action for attracting investment in the ECO region and it would come into force upon signature/ratification of all four ECO member states. This enforcement of agreement will help the member countries, increase the economic and commercial activities with the flow of investments, transfer of technology, new employment opportunities and utilization of raw materials to the optimum level i.e. value addition. The implementation of this agreement is still pending due to non-ratification from some countries. ECO-CCI also communicated and consulted with ECO Trade and Development Bank to fund the intra ECO joint investment projects in interest nations.

- **Presentations on Investment Opportunities in ECO Countries:** In order to highlight and marketing the investment opportunities, ECO-CCI requested all the members chambers to present their investment projects in Specialized Committee meetings so that the participating members chamber may highlight opportunities in their respective nation. In this regard, the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture gave presentation in 2010 while the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry highlighted investment opportunities in Pakistan in 2017 meetings.

- **1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium:** ECO-CCI with the collaboration of ECO secretariat and ECOWA organized 1st Meeting of the ECO Public and Private Sector Energy/Petrochemical Consortium/Companies at Tehran, Iran. The event was attended by the leading companies belong to Energy and Petrochemical sector.

- **Holding of ECO-ASEAN and ECO-SAARC Business Forum:** In order to get the benefits from the policies and technological advancement, ECO-CCI being the representative of private sector is looking towards the private sector of i.e. SAARC, ASEAN and D-8 and has planned to organize activities with these such as ECO Business Leader Caucuses, ECO-ASEAN Business Forum and ECO-SAARC Business Forum etc which would have far reaching impact in the industrial cooperation and promotion of investment in ECO region. These program will be organized in forthcoming years.

- **Holding of ECO Business Leaders Caucuses in Pakistan:** ECO Business Leaders Caucuses is primarily a policy advocacy event which provides platform to the businessmen and private sector of all member country for providing policy recommendations for the promotion of trade and economic activities (with specific theme) into policy makers at the highest level. In the forthcoming meeting, ECO-CCI will organize this program with a view to participate in policy advocacy of trade and economic development related issues.

- **Workshop on ECO Investment projects:** It was mooted that ECO Investment Promotion Agency (ECIPA) workshop/conference will be organized with the participation of private sector investors and the ECO TDM in collaboration by the ECO CCI in order to find solutions to the problem of implementation of the intra ECO investment projects.

# Transportation

Regional connectivity is the recipe for growth, efficiency gain and development of logical infrastructure which brings direct and positive impact by linking and strengthening economic corridors, reducing trade costs and attracting foreign direct investment and foreign peace, security and stability. The connectivity generally indicates how country all provide links with other countries. The physical connectivity centrefaces transport, information technology, communications, services and energy sector linkages. While institutional connectivity would cover trade and economic deep including trade and transport facilitation and facilitation, investment, mutual recognition arrangements and capacity building programmes. People-to-people connectivity would include tourism, education and culture. Post connectivity has not allowed to develop region's production network, value chain and increase the level of development of country.

The ECO region has offers significant potential for a broader level of cooperation that is based not just on trade and investment but also on other avenues including infrastructure, information and communications technology and exchange of technical personnel. The ECO member countries are at different stages of development with different infrastructure needs. Pakistan, Turkey and Iran are relatively more developed countries in the region whereas other regional countries are in the process of upgrading and modernizing their infrastructure. The member countries can develop mutually partnerships by pooling their financial resources as well as sharing technical expertise in construction and infrastructure development. Such technical cooperation can be an effective vehicle for greater development and prosperity of the region.

Transport and communication network is particularly important because seven out of ten member states are land-locked. Afghanistan is also a landlocked country while other landlocked countries are Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The location of these countries could be supported by facilitating transit traffic trade. So far the potential of the Central Asian Countries has not been realized primarily due to the significant "economic distance" from the market induced by transport throughout the region. The economic distance can be significantly reduced not only by improving physical infrastructure but also by strengthening transit and customs procedures, providing information to stakeholders and eliminating corruption.

Afghanistan is the most important country for all Central Asian countries because it has a potential to serve as a transit corridor through which oil and natural gas flows into Pakistan. Pakistan, for example, has a 20 percent electricity deficit, while Tajikistan has significant potential to export surplus summer power, and Uzbekistan has proven in hundred million barrels of power to neighbour Central Asian Market where she's gain access to Indian Ocean (through Arabian sea) and diversify trade partners. Afghanistan Motor Vehicle and Infrastructure Develop between Gwadar port (Pakistan China Corridor) and Afghanistan. This corridor can play a strategic role in development of projects such as modern day silk road and numbers are good now. The New Silk Road Vision will increase trade and economic integration in South and Central Asia.

More were identical in the beginning about the New Silk Road vision, as this region has historically been one of the most economically integrated in the world. ECO member countries are encouraged by the increasing regional consensus around it and the progress to date. This region is becoming more connected (through infrastructure which includes roads, bridges, electrical transmission grids, railways and pipelines – to connect energy, goods, services, and people. We can see the Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) gas pipeline, as a clear vision for South and Central Asia. By connecting abundant energy reserves in Turkmenistan with rapidly rising demand for that energy in South Asia, TAPI can be transformation for the region. Second, the region is becoming more integrated through trade liberalization – which includes the reduction of non-tariff trade barriers, improved regulatory regimes, transparent and efficient border clearance procedures, and coordinated actions – to accelerate the flow of goods, services, and people throughout the region.

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan have also formulated a Cross-Border Transport Agreement. Afghanistan and Pakistan are also working to implement a transit trade agreement which will reduce trade costs and transport delays and now Turkmenistan, too, is considering entering into a Cross-Border Transport Agreement with Afghanistan. The implementation of all these agreements is still awaited because of instability and insecurity in Afghanistan. There are a lot of trade and economic potentials in ECO region. The economies of the region have the advantage of increased complementarities because their cultural, historical, religious and geographical closeness which gave the way for economic cooperation based on comparative advantage benefiting to all countries.

Without an effective modern transportation and communication network, the expansion of trade and economic integration cannot be realized. That is why the transport and communication should be the main area for cooperation

among members of different trade blocs. Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad Train Service (ECO Train or Eco Train) was started in 2009, with a view to provide fast, reliable and low-cost logistic alternatives that has a potential to boost the regional integration. The freight train would carry textile products, cotton, medical hand tools, furniture, sporting goods, fruits and edible products westbound, with machinery and parts, chemical products, paper and paper products, cars spares and agricultural tools going eastbound. The first demonstration container train commenced its journey from Istanbul via Tehran to Islamabad (19 August 2009), which successfully culminated in Istanbul on 28 August 2009. At the moment of the launching, trade between the three countries amounted to US$ 3 billion and the officials of all three countries the railways achieve a significant growth in trade with the solution of all problems related to regulations and traffic of integrated traffic. In wake of the successful operation of the container train Pakistan Railways joined the international Union of Railways through Iran and Turkey acquiring observer status for freight and passenger carriage by rail. The train connects Pakistan via Turkey and is future can carry for transit cargo, for instance, Europe to Afghanistan, China, CARS and South Asia. It was decided in the Regional Planning Council that Commercial Working Groups will be created for activation and marketing of ECO and KTM train.

The ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA), which was signed in 2003, also ratified by all the member states is not fully implemented towards the reduction of cost and acceleration of the transport services through harmonization and standardization of transit transport in the region. The objectives of this agreement include facilitation of movement of goods and passengers, ensuring the safety of goods and passengers and avoiding unnecessary delays during the transit traffic, cooperation and coordination of the efforts to avoid the violations of customs frauds and tax evasion and harmonizing tolerances administrative efforts dealing with transit traffic. This plan will generate a lot of revenue in addition to opening up transport system by providing corridors of trade to the World. There are a lot of technical inefficiencies such as different gauges, different size of cargo trucks, lack of cargo change facilities at border crossing points and absence of a joint transit planning and maintenance facility for rolling stock are gaps in the trade among ECO countries.

In the Ninth High-Level Working Group Meeting of ECO Countries held in Pakistan, the two decided to initiate transhipment and the container train at Sehwan station for Pakistan for loaded and empty containers in ECO and EU. The meeting further decided that the total travel time of the container train from Islamabad to Iran to Istanbul will be 10.5 days. By offering the train, the travel service in Pakistan will be reduced from 18.5 to 6 days. The train operation has been suspended since December 2011, due to upgradation of track between Ankara-Istanbul. The track has been completed by Turkey and Iran and hope that after the completion of work by Pakistan, all three countries may commence ECO Train.

**The other activities of transportation committee are as follows:**

- **Signing of TIR Convention by Pakistan:** The signing of TIR convention by Pakistan was pending since long. With the efforts of ECO-CCI, the Pakistani government has signed TIR convention in July 2015. All the rules, regulations and TORs has formulated and approved by the government of Pakistan and New TIR convention has fully implemented since January 2018.
- **Workshop on TIR Convention:** For the better and proper utilization of TIR convention, it was decided that Turkey (TOBB) will organized workshops for transport operators and others of Pakistan and other countries for creating awareness and proper utilization of TIR convention. In this context, ECO-CCI has requested TOBB many times for announcement of schedule but is pending now. These workshops will be organized through diplomatic channels.
- **Brainstorming session on materializing the benefits of CPEC related projects:** China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a framework of regional connectivity that will connect Gwadar port of Pakistan with China's northwestern region of Kashgar by establishing physical infrastructure and energy corridor. The Economic Corridor is of huge significance. It runs through one of the most important and vital geostrategic locations in South Asia towards Central Asian resulting old Silk Route. This corridor will provide market access to landlocked Central Asian States towards the Africa, South Asia and Middle East countries. It was decided in the last meetings that ECO-CCI will organize brainstorming session for ECO countries for materializing the benefits of CPEC. In this context, a brainstorming session to highlight importance of CPEC for developing and strengthening trade relations among ECO countries organized in March 2017 at Islamabad on the sideline of ECO-CCI Statutory Meetings. The participants of brainstorming session stated that CPEC is an important and viable project not only for Pakistan but also for ECO region. The ECO member countries can derive benefits from CPEC in form of joint ventures and foreign direct investment and enjoy the incentives introduced by Pakistan for foreigners.

# Arbitration

The issue of trade dispute settlement and arbitration is of great significance to the business climate of the ECO region. International arbitration is a rapidly growing area of law and is increasingly being adopted around the world by states and international businesses as a method for resolving international commercial and investment disputes. There are many commercial disputes which create problem in establishing investment and trade relations. In order to resolve dispute problem or Development of Dispute Resolution Mechanism among ECO member nations, ECO arbitration center is the need of the hour.

The development of international trade and investment towards largely upon the success of inter-cultural communication between the nations of different countries, with diverse legal and cultural backgrounds. As economic relationship continue to expand and become more intense, these legal relationships also become correspondingly more complex. If the settlement of disputes and the enforcement of claims arising from economic transactions and foreign investment are uncertain and time-consuming, it can only hamper international economic co-operation and the smooth development of markets. The creation and development of appropriate dispute settlement mechanisms must necessarily accompany the creation and development of trade and investment.

The activities of Specialized Committee on Arbitration are as follows:

- **ECO Arbitration Center:** A large number of business enterprises are facing business disputes because of multiplicity and deficiency in the business market procedures and regulations in enforcing contracts, properties and resolving the settlements. To create increased trade among ECO countries a common regional arbitration centre is required. Though seven out of ten ECO countries are WTO members, but arbitration in WTO is a costly and time consuming procedure. This centre can play a major role in settlement of commercial disputes encompassing trade, investment, joint ventures and industrial activity. While State and individual arbitration centre already operating in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey establishment of a regional arbitration centre will facilitate the business community of the ten ECO member countries.

During the tenure of Iran, ECOMA formulated rules and regulation for ECO arbitration Center. ECO-CCI disseminated these rules and regulation to member chamber for their comments and views. It was also decided that the ECO Arbitration Center will be established after establishment of Permanent Secretariat of ECO-CCI. Moreover, ECO-CCI created a technical committee on arbitration who decided to conduct feasibility study on establishment of location of Arbitration Center.

During the last meeting held at Ankara, Turkey it was decided that a [illegible] and Arbitration on an Agile Framework will be established. In this context, the member countries are requested to submit their local regulations regarding their internal regulations on the Agile Framework (selected about arbitration) which was already submitted by Pakistan in the meeting. To carry out a study on the ECO rules and regulations, only the information regarding the internal regulations of each country is submitted on the Agile framework. For this purpose, 3 names of the legal and IT experts and maximum 3 from IT committee members each from Turkey, Pakistan and Iran will be submitted. Also what to will means of the ECO CCI Arbitration meetings in order to enhance and run the website. Pakistan and Turkey has submitted their experts and now there is a need of preparation of draft budget and its duties regarding creating the website.

To make a training program (additional arbitration training course) for the legal experts from all 10 countries and decide on the source of finance to organize the training program. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey were requested to submit the suggested cost of creating Agile framework and academic arbitration course for two months. The budget of creating Agile framework has not been submitted by any of the ECO Member countries. The source of finance has also not been decided. None of the countries have submitted the names of their legal and IT experts for the purpose of creating Agile framework and an academic arbitration course. The legal team of Pakistan has not been contacted by any of the legal team of any ECO Governed, which is why taking steps forward for ECO-CCI has become very difficult.

However, the draft and concept paper of Arbitration Rules have been submitted to Secretary General ECO Secretariat for necessary verification from the respective member countries. Thus there is no progress and ECO-CCI solely cannot changing the operations and function of ECO until and unless above problems are not removed again.

# Tourism

Tourism has become the most developing industry and plays a crucial role in economic development and growth, poverty alleviation, nurturing employment and improving balance of payment. Tourism industry is widely growing in the developing nations. Nowadays, the importance of tourism industry due to positive cultural and economic impacts has become evident in the world and both developing and developed countries consider tourism as one means for creating new jobs and reducing unemployment. Globally, this industry sector contributes 8.8 percent in GDP (US$ 7.3 trillion) and 8 percent in the world total exports.

As like the other nations, Tourism industry has also received great attention in the ECO (ECO) region due to its contribution to the development of service industries in member nations, enhancing regional and global understanding and cultural awareness for economic cooperation. The ECO region is geographically vast, and well endowed, having numerous natural attractions along with historical, cultural and religious places, mountains, clusters, shrines, international and unique landscapes, quiet environment, moderate climate, architectures, various local and traditional cultures, relatively high population and more than 10,000 years of history and pleasant climate, wide ranging and various medical facilities and services as well as mineral water resources, attracts foreigner and domestic tourist to enjoy a convenient opportunities and utilize the occasions. The region indeed has been a bridge between the continents of Asia and Europe. Each member state has real strengths in certain areas and business opportunities can be capitalized on the basis of producing complementarities.

The unique and attractive features of ECO region offers huge potential of tourism for intra-regional and outside the regional countries, but the overall contribution of tourism industry of ECO region in WORLD tourism is very low. According to the available statistics, around 56 million tourists visited last year in the members ECO region which is just 4.8 percent of world tourist. Out of which 40 million tourists visited only in Turkey, which made Turkey the top tourist destination followed by Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan etc. This also contributes to foreign exchange and as per world bank statistics, Turkey received US$ 27.8 billion from inbound tourism and spent US$ 5.4 billion on outbound tourism while Iran received US$ two billion from inbound and spent US$ 0.2 billion and Pakistan received US$ 0.6 billion from inbound tourism and US$ 2.6 billion spent on outbound tourism. The success factors behind the Turkey are easy visa processing system, strong communication network, branding and infrastructure development. Promotion of tourism in ECO region for member countries tourist is need of time which will helps in expanding intra-ECO trade, intra-regional investment, employment opportunities, access of technology of members nations and also expanding national income.

Tourism continues to offer great untapped potential for ECO regional socio-economic development. The historical and cultural contributions provide the ECO Region with tremendous potentials for tourism promotion as an invaluable and sustainable asset for economic development. ECO Region is the inherent of the history, culture, architecture, art and tradition of the ancient Silk Road, promotion of which will help, among others, establish closer economic interconnections as well as cultural affinity. As per the available information, the intra-region tourism among the Pakistan, Turkey and Iran is better but the movement of people between Pakistan and Central Asian Countries is very low because of lack of connectivity in term of road networks, rail networks and air network.

Relatively new sectors of tourism industry like ecotourism, health tourism and religious tourism are being developed in the world, which also needs due attention in the ECO Region. Different elements of sustainable development are key factors in promotion of tourism industry without which continuity and progress will not be achievable. Tourism employment capacity, with the moderate investment requirements and least environmental limitations, is one of the advantages of this industry over so many other businesses. A part from above, there is a huge potential of education tourism in ECO region. In Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, there is state of the art advanced technology universities that provides education in various science and technology fields at very nominal fees. The other countries of the region can benefits from these resources with a view to create sustainable development in the region.

During the three year tenure, ECO-CCI in collaboration with member chambers and ECO secretariat performed its level best for the promotion of tourism in the region. The activities of Specialized Committee on Tourism are as follows:

- **Workshop on the promotion of Tourism:** ECO-CCI organized a workshop on Promotion of Tourism in ECO region. This workshop was attended by the representatives from Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. During the presentation, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey delivered presentations with respect to their nations.

- **ECO Visa Exemption Sticker Scheme and ECO White Card Scheme:** The ECO-CCI believes that improving and enhancing of people to people contact particularly amongst the businessmen will lead to create more opportunities for joint ventures and enhancement of relations among businessmen. In order to facilitate the businessmen and drivers, the ECO CCI proposed ECO Visa Exemption Sticker Scheme and ECO White card scheme for businessmen and drivers and submitted draft proposal to ECO Secretariat, Tehran Iran. The draft Visa Exemption Sticker scheme and White card scheme is under consideration in Regional Planning Council Meeting of ECO Secretariat and also circulated among member nations for comments and suggestions. However, in the meantime the ECO-CCI proposed that all ECO member states should consider the possibility of granting landing visa on airport to businessmen of ECO countries till the implementation of ECO Visa Sticker scheme.

- **2nd Consultation (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism in ECO member countries:** After the success holding of first Consultation on Health tourism in ECO member countries, the ECO Secretariat has proposed to hold the 2nd Consultation which includes conference and exhibition and it is reported that this event will be held in 2018 in Iran with the collaboration of ECO Secretariat.

- **Workshop on Experience Sharing for Tourism and health Tourism:** TOKB offered to host the Workshop on Experience Sharing of Tourism and health tourism. In this context, the TOKB submitted a concept paper which circulated many times by ECO-CCI to member Chambers for their comments/views. The comments and views are still awaited but regretted to state that none of member chambers has commented over it.

- **Publishing of 2nd ECO Tourism Guide Book:** The ECO Secretariat gave task to ECO-CCI to publish 2nd ECO Tourism Guide book with the collaboration of ECO Secretariat. ECO-CCI has requested many times to all member chambers for providing updated material of tourism sector for publication of 2nd volume of ECO Tourist Guide Book. Earlier Azerbaijan forwarded us the material by email but that is not upto the desired quality. The ECCIMA has requested in the matter and on their advice ECO-CCI will approach the ECO Culture Institution which is in updating process of Web Tourism Information While EPCCI is in contact of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation for getting the updated tourism material. It is expected that the book will be published in 2018.

- **Air Connectivity between Members Nations:** There was no air link between Pakistan and Central Asian Countries. Recently, with the efforts of our businessmen the Turkish airline has started direct flight from Peshawar to Azerbaijan for facilitation of businessmen. Moreover, ECO-CCI is trying to establish the direct linkage among the member nations which will help in promotion of tourism.

- **To sign agreements with the Airlines in order to promote tourism in ECO region:** In order to promote tourism within ECO countries, ECO-CCI has taken this matter with the Airlines such as Turkish Airlines, Emirates Airline and Qatar Airways for signing of agreement for introducing discount rates (20 percent) for group of tourist and businessmen. In the recent past, the agreement between two airlines signed during the Executive Committee Meeting held in Islamabad.

# Women Entrepreneur Council

Women entrepreneurship has been recognized as an important source of economic growth. The participation of women in economic activities is crucial not only from a human resource development perspective but also key for the objective of raising the status of women in society. Women participation enhances women empowerment and reduces gender inequality. Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others and also provide society with different services to management, organization and business problems. However, they still represent a minority of all entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs often face greater based barriers to starting and growing their businesses. Women encounter property, institutional and attitudinal laws and/or cultural practices, lack of access to formal finance, metaphysic broken mobility and access to information and markets, etc. Generally, it is observed that doing business to women raises their social and economic status in the society and offers them the opportunity to socialize and contribute to the development of the family in particular and country in general.

The women entrepreneurship has been acknowledged as an important untapped source of economic growth and development. The Women Entrepreneur Council was created in July 2008 with the aim to activate and use the true potential of the Women Entrepreneurs in the ECO member countries in order to help increase the intra-regional trade of ECO and to promote the improvement of the skills of the Women Entrepreneurs of ECO Region through collaboration at the intraregional, interregional and international levels.

According to World Bank, Women entrepreneurship contributes one third of total entrepreneurship but mainly are working under SMEs and some macroeconomic and regulatory environment. The Women Entrepreneurs are facing different problem in entrepreneurship activities such as financial constraints, technological backwardness and lack of opportunities. As per the statistics of Women Entrepreneurs, about women entrepreneurship in ECO countries, 32.6 percent companies in Turkey have women ownership and this ratio is 28.7 percent in Uzbekistan, 27.7 percent in Tajikistan, 6.5 percent in Azerbaijan. But in case of Pakistan, it is only 12.8 percent and less than 2.5 percent in Afghanistan. While in Iran 87.1 percent of females have financial accounts which is highest compared to other ECO countries (but in Azerbaijan 111.9 percent), Afghanistan (3.8 percent), Pakistan (13.0 percent), Turkey (84.3 percent), Tajikistan (9.1 percent), Turkmenistan (7.4 percent) and Uzbekistan (10.3 percent).

The founder member national chapters of ECO CCI since the inception of Women Entrepreneur Council of ECO CCI in July 2008 have been endeavoring to enhance the role of women entrepreneurs of ECO countries so that trade and economic activities could be maintained to the extent of existing potential of ECO region and thereby it will lead to extensive in economic development and reduction of unemployment and poverty alleviation in the region. Across the globe, the most chronic problems identified by researchers are women's lack of technical skills and knowledge about business and market and difficulties in acquiring entrepreneurial skills.

The activities of Women Entrepreneurs Council of ECO CCI are as follows:

- As like the other Specialized Committee Meetings, the meeting of Women Entrepreneurs Council MM regularly prior to the Statutory Meetings of ECO CCI. During the meetings, several activities of Women Entrepreneurship were decided which includes "Workshop on Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurship and Capacities of the ECO Region; "Seminar on Balancing Family Life and Work in Role Model of Women" and "Competitions where women participants can display their products", and many tours to women entrepreneurs facilities.

- For holding of these activities, the preparatory meeting was held in Iran in April 2010 and Chairperson of Women Entrepreneurs Council of Kazakhstan had meeting with the Secretary General ECO Secretariat for financing of Women activities.

- On the sidelines of last meeting, a separate session on empowerment of the women entrepreneurs and future of women entrepreneurs capabilities in ECO region were organized which was attended by the Women Entrepreneurs from Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan and the women belongs to founding members delivered their presentations.

- On the recommendation of Women Entrepreneurs Council, a Web portal of Women Entrepreneurs created whereby several women belong to TAD and Pakistan made a registration and updated their business profiles. It is expected that the portal will help in exploiting the market access and identifying new market and business partner.

- In all the ECO CCI Women Entrepreneurs Council's meetings, the Women Entrepreneurs of all countries allowed to share their countries success stories and also share their experiences. It is worth mentioning here that in these meetings Pakistan, Iran and Turkey presented success stories and shared their experiences.

# OTHERS MEETINGS

## Business Rating Programme

In the era of globalization, most of the countries trade business dealing and joint venture investment on the basis of the business rating and business performance. Business rating not only indicates the current performance of companies, it also shows the future expected performance, financial risk, diversification, innovations, sustainability and future planning of companies. Further, it helps the companies to make right decision at right time and create the environment of competitiveness among the companies.

In the current scenario, the establishment of Business Rating Programme (BRP) is a good initiative of ECO-CCI, which will market a promotion between businesses through the application of scientific methods and provides the information regarding the potentials sector of business in ECO region. If we analyse the short and long term impacts of BRP, we can observe that the programme will benefit the member's nation.

Before implementation, there is a need of complete analysis of BRP. As the financial rules and regulations are different in all nations that how BRP program will harmonize the rule and regulation. Moreover, in order to review the performance of companies there is a crucial need to develop uniform criteria for judging the performance. In this respect, we should follow the international or foreign criteria for rating the companies and revised the methodology of rating every year. As per the BRP, all the members nation will provide the information of their country's companies for due rating. But this doesn't indicate that which type of companies will include in the BRP. There should be some criteria for the companies to participate in the BRP like their trade and financial performance etc.

At present, all the members nation of ECO-CCI are maintaining nation and among these nations the economy of Turkey, Pakistan and Iran is performing well. At present, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have their own credit ratings companies whose have licence of their respective countries government. In order to implement the BRP program, there is a need of formulation of harmonization of financial system.

As for the other committee, ECO-CCI also organized its sub committee meeting and it was decided that before implementation, the ECO-CCI may get the assistance of government of all member nation. In this context, the concept paper on BRP prepared by Iran has submitted to ECO Secretariat for circulation among member nations for their comments/views.

## Statute Committee Meetings

The Statute of ECO-CCI was approved in 2009 for the one year period and was clearly visible that the statute among its interim documents as it states in several articles that "it will be decided after the establishing of permanent secretariat". In some cases it indicates that decision will be taken later on and in some other cases it is silent. Moreover, there was a long debate on establishment of ECO Arbitration Center. The statute for interim period does not provide any section or mechanism to resolve such issues.

In order to find out the solution of above, a committee was formed to review the statute. The committee consists of the members of National Chambers of Founding Members i.e. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey and they organized meetings twice in a year in Turkey to review the Statute of ECO-CCI. The recommendation of these meetings presented in the Executive Committee held in November 2017 in Turkey. The third meeting of the committee will be held in Iran on the sidelines of the forthcoming statutory and Specialized Committees meetings and their report will be presented to the Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings.

The Committee recommended some suggestions related to establishment of permanent Secretariat and sub offices of ECO-CCI in Member National Chambers, constitution of Executive Committee and General Assembly, relationship providing amongst the members, responsibilities of Secretary General and others.

Moreover, it was decided that founding members will prepared a financial feasibility report in order to decide the subscription. The meeting also suggested that there should be a separate logo of ECO-CCI to be designed with the approval of member countries. To verify that argument they further said all other ECO affiliated bodies like ECO Culture Institute, ECO TTB etc have their own logos. It was agreed that ECO CCI should have its own logo.

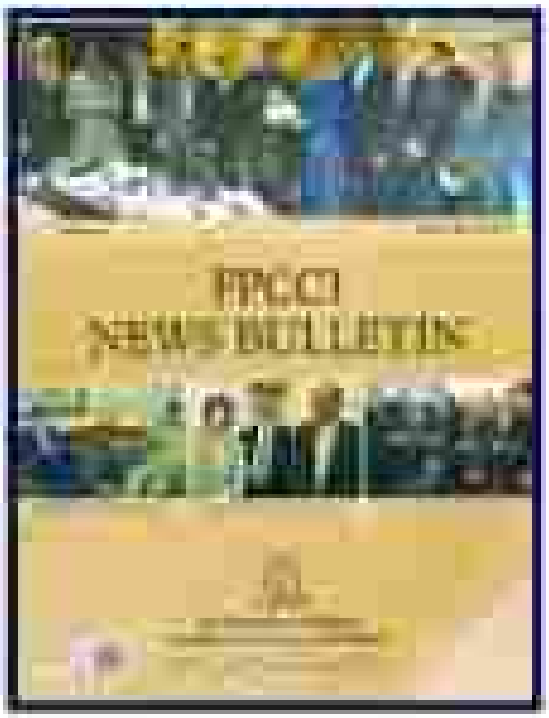
# Future Activities of ECO-CCI

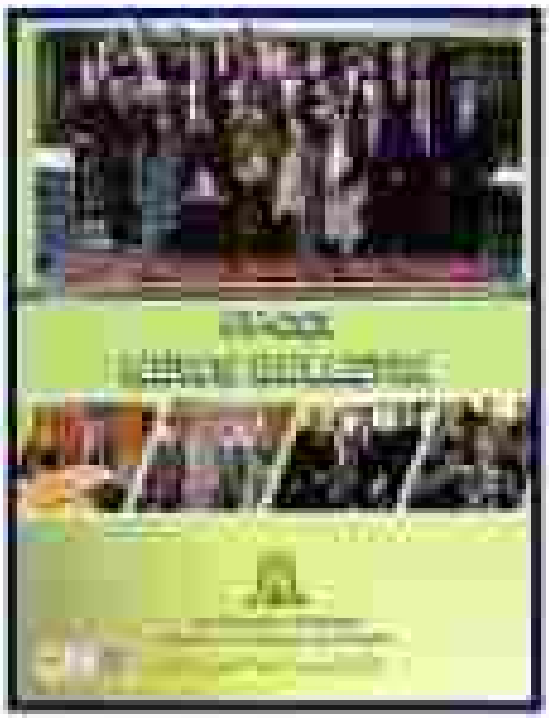
| | Activities | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 4th ECO Business Forum | Pakistan |
| 2. | ECO-SAARC Business Forum | Pakistan |
| 3. | ECO-ASEAN Business Forum | — |
| 4. | 2nd Confabulation (Conference + Exhibition) on Health Tourism | Iran |
| 5. | Second Conference on ECO Investment Promotion Agencies (ECO-IPA) in Private Sector | — |
| 6. | 25th Executive Committee and 17th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI | — |
| 7. | 20th Regional Planning Council Meeting | Iran |

# ECO-CCI Publications



# ECO-CCI Publications



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CHARTERED CUSTOMS AGENTS

**A CUSTOM BROKER / AGENT HAVING CHARTERED COUNTRY WIDE LICENCE TO WORK AT**

**ALL ECONOMIC CORRIDORS AND CUSTOMS PORTS IN PAKISTAN**

**HAVING 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE**


Sheikh Muhammad Tariq

Chief Executive Officer

[illegible]

**KARACHI**

[illegible]

**LAHORE**

[illegible]

# GLIMPES

Taking Over of ECO-CCI Presidency in 2014

Taking Over of ECO-CCI Presidency in 2014

# Activities in 2015

Inauguration of ECO-CCI Secretariat in FPCCI

Inauguration of ECO-CCI Secretariat in FPCCI

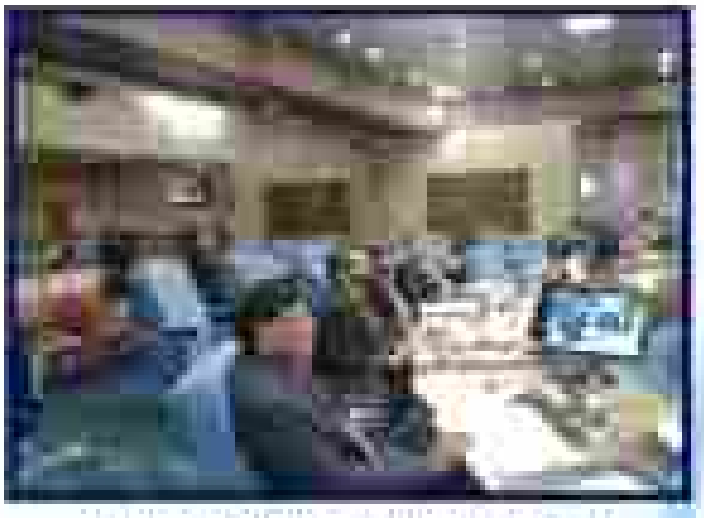
Mian Mohammad Ashraf, President ECO-CCI & FPCCI briefing to Media about ECO-CCI

A Group Photo of President ECO-CCI & FPCCI Mian Mohammad Ashraf with ECO-CCI Secretariat staff and the Diplomats of ECO Countries

Flag Hoisting Ceremony on the occasion of ECO Day

A Group photo of President ECO-CCI and FPCCI Mian Muhammad Adrees with the Ambassadors of ECO and D-8 Countries on the occasion of Dinner hosting

President ECO-CCI and FPCCI Mian Muhammad Adrees Presented crest to the Secretary General of ECO Secretariat at Tehran, Iran



ECO-CCI Delegates on the occasion of 28th Regional Planning Council Meeting at Tehran, Iran

20th Executive Committee and 14th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI at Ankara, Turkey

20th Executive Committee and 14th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI at Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI Member countries delegates on the occasion of ECO-CCI Statutory Meeting at Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI Member countries delegates on the occasion of ECO-CCI Statutory Meeting at Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI Member countries delegates on the occasion of ECO-CCI Statutory Meeting at Ankara, Turkey

Dinner hosted by TOBB in the honor of ECO Countries Ambassadors at Ankara, Turkey

# Activities in 2016

Celebration of Independence Day of Pakistan at Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, Iran by ECO CCI

Celebration of Independence Day of Pakistan at Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, Iran by ECO CCI

Celebration of Independence Day of Pakistan at Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, Iran by ECO CCI

Celebration of Independence Day of Pakistan at Pakistan Embassy in Tehran, Iran by ECO CCI

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

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Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

Statutory Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

Statutory Meetings of ECO-CCI at Tehran, Iran

President ECO-CCI & FPCCI Abdul Rauf Alam briefing to Media about ECO-CCI Meetings

President ECO CCI & FPCCI
Mr. Abdul Rauf Alam presented crest to
Ambassadors of ECO Countries

President ECO CCI & FPCCI
Mr. Abdul Rauf Alam presented crest to
Ambassadors of ECO Countries

President ECO CCI & FPCCI
Mr. Abdul Rauf Alam presented crest to
Ambassadors of ECO Countries

Flag Hoisting Ceremony on the occasion
of ECO Day

Flag Raising Ceremony on the occasion of ECO Day

Meeting with Ambassadors of ECO Countries on the occasion of ECO Day

Meeting with Ambassadors of ECO Countries on the occasion of ECO Day

Meeting with Ambassadors of ECO Countries on the occasion of ECO Day

ECO-CCI Delegates on the occasion of 27th Regional Planning Council Meeting at Tehran , Iran

ECO-CCI Delegates on the occasion of 27th Regional Planning Council Meeting at Tehran , Iran

# Activities in 2017

Mr. Rifat Hussain, President TOBB exchanges gift to Mr. Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Finance. Dr. Zubair F. Tufail, President ECCI & FPCCI and Mr. Nisbar Ali Malik, Vice President FAABC CCI, Malik Sohail Nasir, Chairman Coordination FPCCI with Leaders of Turkish Delegation are also present at PM Secretariat Islamabad.

PRESIDENT SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH DELEGATES OF ECO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AT THE AWARD SAHIL ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 03, 2017. DELEGATION LED BY ZUBAIR F. TUFAIL PRESIDENT FPCCI

A Group Photo of ECO CCI Member Countries delegates on the occasion of ECO CCI Statutory Meeting at Islamabad, Pakistan

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO CCI at Islamabad, Pakistan

Specialized Committee Meetings
of ECO-CCI at Islamabad, Pakistan

MoU signing ceremony held
at Islamabad Pakistan

Inauguration of Statutory Meetings
at Islamabad Pakistan

15th General Assembly and 22nd Executive
Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI
at Islamabad Pakistan

President ECO CCI and FPCCI Mr. Zubair Tufail presenting crest to Eng Khurram Dastgir Federal Commerce Minister of Pakistan at Islamabad Pakistan

President TOBB H.E. Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu presenting crest to Eng Khurram Dastgir Federal Commerce Minister of Pakistan at Islamabad Pakistan

Eng Khurram Dastgir Federal Commerce Minister of Pakistan is addressing to delegates of ECO Member National Chambers at Islamabad Pakistan

H.E. Ambassador Nalli Ibrahim Acka is addressing to delegates of ECO Member National Chambers at Islamabad Pakistan

A Group photo of ECO-CCI Members Countries delegates on the occasion of Statutory Meetings of ECO-CCI at Islamabad Pakistan

A Group photo of ECO CCI Members Countries delegates on the occasion of Statutory Meetings of ECO-CCI at Islamabad Pakistan

A Group photo of ECO-CCI Founder Members Countries on the occasion of Preparatory Meetings of Statute of ECO-CCI

Preparatory Meetings of Statute of ECO-CCI

Inauguration of 23rd Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI

Inauguration of 23rd Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI

23rd Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI

23rd Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI

A Group Photo on the occasion of 23rd Executive Committee Meeting of ECO-CCI


President ECO CCI and FPCCI Mr. Zubair Tufail presenting Souvenir to Turkish Minister at Ankara, Turkey


President TOBB is presenting Souvenir to President ECO CCI and FPCCI at Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI delegates meeting with Turkish Minister at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI delegates meeting with Turkish Minister at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

Specialized Committee Meetings at ECO-CCI at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

Specialized Committee Meetings at ECO-CCI at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI
at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

Specialized Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI
at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

A Group Photo of delegates after Specialized
Committee Meetings of ECO-CCI
at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

Workshop on Tourism among ECO Countries
at TOBB Ankara, Turkey

A Group Photo of ECO-CCI delegates at Pakistan Embassy at Ankara, Turkey

A Group Photo of ECO-CCI Members Countries delegates at Ankara, Turkey

ECO-CCI Meeting at FPCCI Head Office Karachi

Flag Hoisting Ceremony on the occasion of ECO Day at FPCCI Head Office Karachi

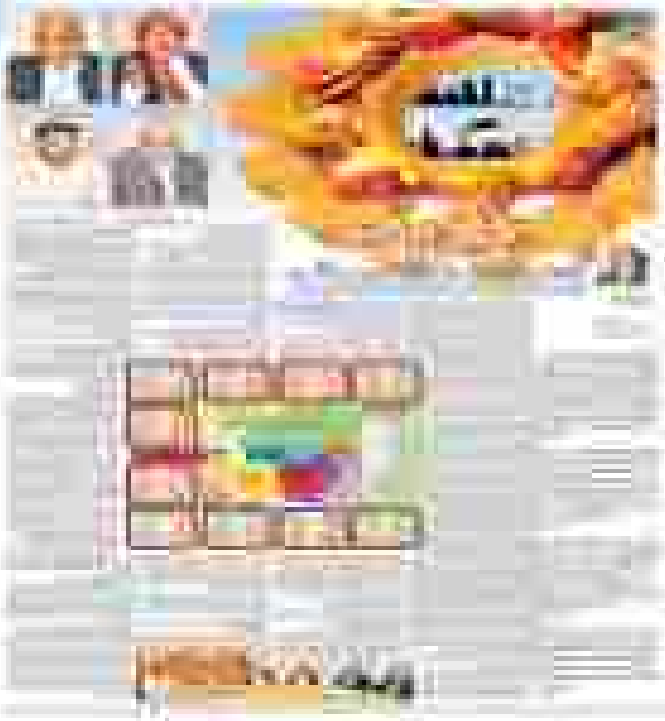
Celebration of ECO Day at FPCCI Head Office Karachi

President ECO-CCI & FPCCI on the occasion of 28th Regional Planning Council Meeting at Islamabad Pakistan

Celebration of ECO Day at FPCCI Head Office Karachi

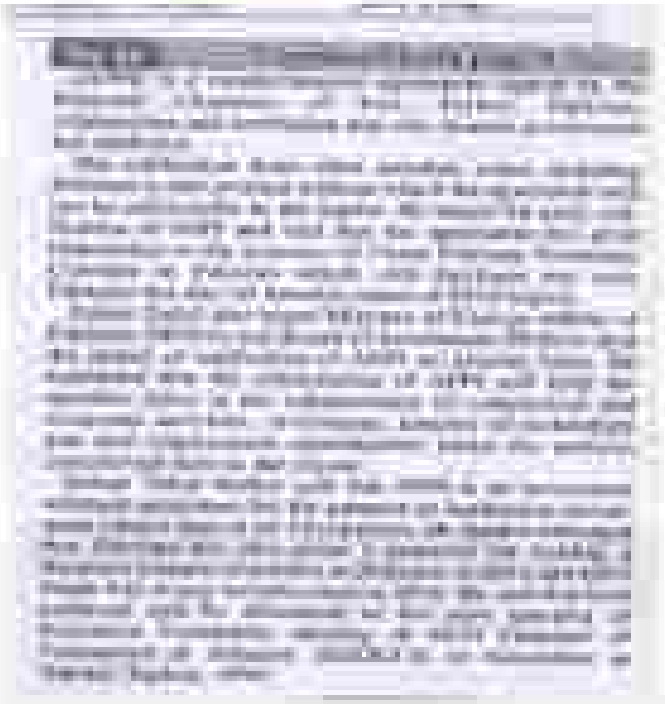
President ECO-CCI & FPCCI on the occasion of 28th Regional Planning Council Meeting at Islamabad Pakistan

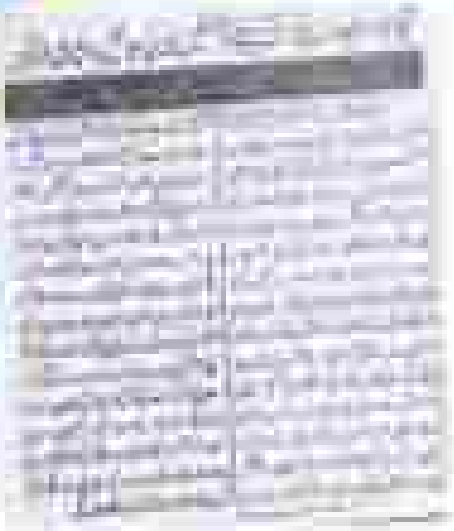
# ECO-CCI in Press

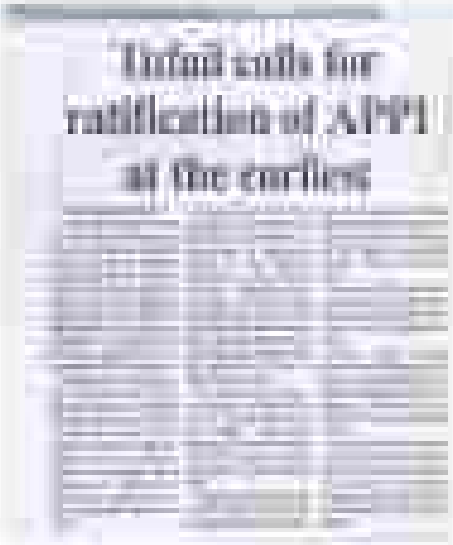


The Financial Daily

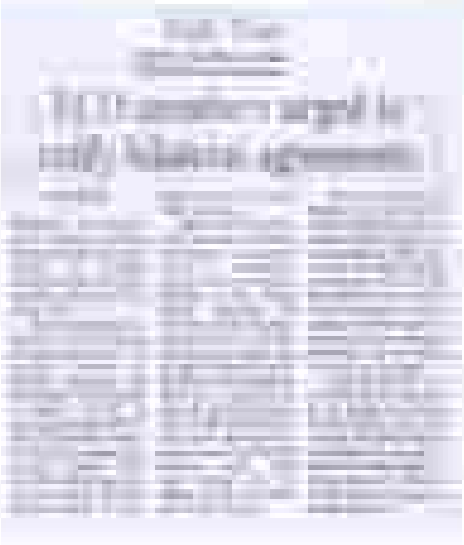
ECO CCI for speed up of 'accord ratification'



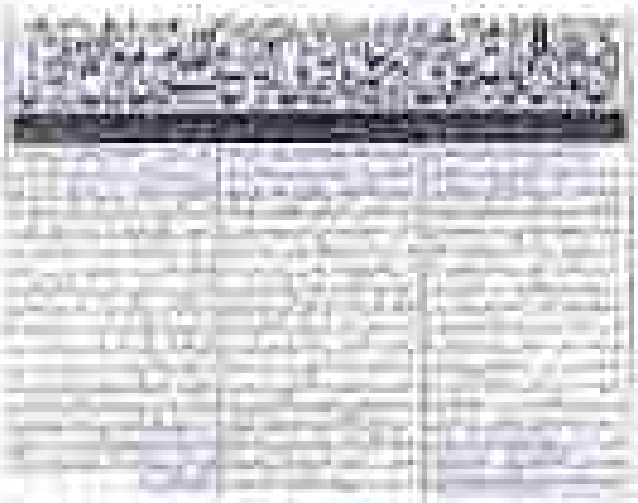


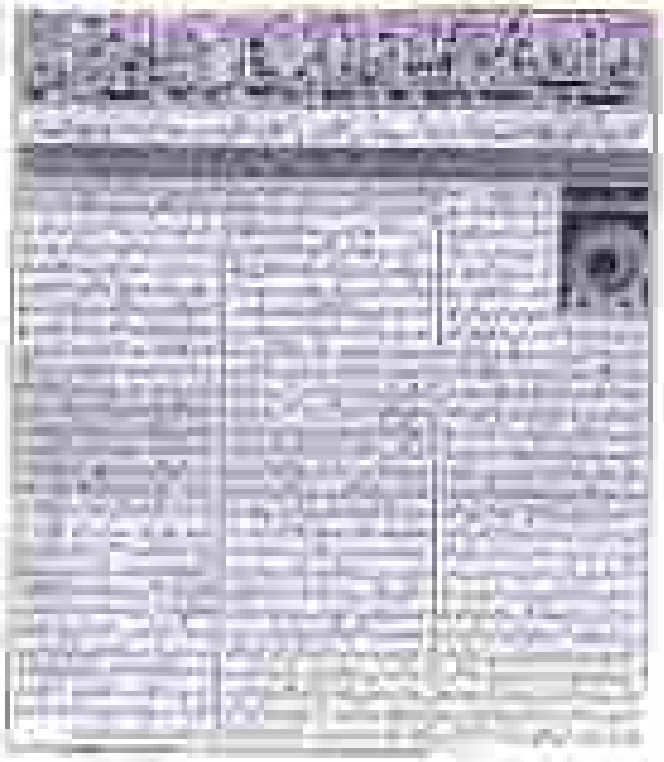


Infaq calls for ratification of APPI at the earliest



Pakistan, Tajikistan agree to revive talks on trade pact






EC/DCCI for implementation
of ECO cing shelter scheme

THE NEWS
Sunday, March 19, 2017

# Dar stresses deeper ties among ECO states

The Nation

# Dar urges ECO nations to tap regional potential

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BASMATI
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