INTER-ISLAMIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON OCEANOGRAPHY (OF COMSTECH)

Eleventh General Assembly of INOC
İzmir, Turkey, 30 November 2020

FINAL REPORT

The General Assembly of the INOC was conveyed as the ZOOM Meeting at 13:00 hours (in Istanbul Time). The participants of the Meeting are:

- Mohammed Ali Maheser (COMSTECH)
- Erdeniz Ozel, Mustafa Ergun, Harun Guclusoy, Harun Ozdas and Barıs Akcalı (INOC)
- Sermin Acik Cinar and Nilhan Kızıldağ (IMST)
- Esra Saglam (TUBITAK)
- Behrooz Abtahi and Fahimeh Foroghş (INOAS-IRAN)
- Hina Saeed Baige (NIO-PAKISTAN)
- Gaby Khalaf (BIHAR-LEBANON)
- Hamet Diadhiou (Oceanographic Research Centre, SENEGAL)
- Amr Hamouda (NIOF, EGYPT)

Session was opened with the introductionary talk by Mustafa Ergun and he gave the floor to Mohammed Ali Maheser (COMSTECH Consultant).

Dr. Mohammed Ali Maheser explained the status of the COMSTECH Networks and **INOC** was the one of the earliest ones in this respect. He mentioned that he was charged with the task of assisting Inter-Islamic Networks (IINETS) of COMSTECH:
☐ To bolster and help, largely dormant institutions to attain full functionality.

☐ To find ways and means to better serve the relevant OIC community.

☐ To make functioning of IINETS more relevant to the needs of member states.

☐ To help Inter-Islamic Networks increase number of their member states.

☐ To help involve focal points come closer to the main institutions in planning and executions of programs.

☐ To help IINETS realize annual contributions from its member states.

☐ To help Inter-Islamic Networks receive regular contribution from its host country for OIC wide programs.

☐ Assist IINETS in finding more resources to widen their activities and broadcast their benefits to more scientists and experts.

☐ Assist Inter-Islamic Networks in all possible manner to attain their goals and realize their complete potential to serve OIC region in most effective manner.

In order to explore jointly with you all possibilities on how best to invest our energy and resources. To bring INOC back online through joint efforts between INOC and COMSTECH.
Our initial objectives in this regard are as follows:
1. Obtain list of programs and proposals that INOC is planning for the year 2021.

2. Obtain estimates of resources required for implementation of its listed programs.

3. Get status of budgetary support that is available to INOC from its host government.
4. Position of annual contributions received from member states of INOC.

5. State of annual contributions still unpaid by member states of INOC.

6. Aver of General Body meeting of INOC to discuss and approve its budget and programs.

In this respect COMSTECH would like to full support and commitment for a big push, not only to breathe new life into INOC and make it fully relevant to the needs of the OIC community. But also to put it in fast forward to bring it on the OIC map at the earliest. We believe it is possible, through our joint efforts, as the Coordinator General COMSTECH is fully committed to use his position for procuring resources for INOC from its host government, member states of the INOC, Islamic Development Bank Jeddah, and the OIC General Secretariat. However, it all depends on a very active and committed President and Executive Director of the INOC who are willing to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly of COMSTECH. And prepared to stay in close contact with the COMSTECH Secretariat to share their problems and coordinate their efforts to resolve sticky issues. It is also important that the INOC open an active channel of communication with its focal points, at least on weekly basis to engage them not only in planning but also in giving them nous that the focal points are true extensions of limbs and levers of INOC that are located in farthest corners of the OIC region to spread its influence and services to the OIC community.

The he went on the funding problems of all the Networks because member countries including the host governments are very reluctant to come forward because certain activities and projects which may not be for the interest of that country. However, we should come these problems working more closely to create the common grounds for

these. With the passage of a long time INOC Charter should be reconsidered and I will be giving more information later.

Mustafa Ergun (INOC Executive Director) took the floor. Firstly, he thanked: Prof.Dr. Ghulam D. QUARISHI (Director of NIO: Pakistan and Prof.Dr. Erol IZDAR (Director of IMST, Turkey) for their vision and establishment of INOC in 1987.

He then went on to explain why the oceans are very important to study and explore. In this respect: Setting a vision for seas and ocean science:
- The ocean is a source of food, water, energy and raw materials, a medium for tourism, transport and commerce, and can provide solutions to many Countries and global policy challenges.
- But the ocean is neither inexhaustible nor immune to damage. In the context of rapid global change and human population growth, it is imperative to achieve human wellbeing by combining economic benefit with environmental protection.
- This presents a highly complex challenge. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary research is the key to providing the knowledge and tools that we need to achieve ecosystem-based management and protection of valuable marine resources and services.

For this, the Goals are:
- Valuing the ocean: Promoting a wider awareness and understanding of the importance of the seas and ocean in the everyday lives of citizens.
- Capitalizing on the World leadership: Building on our strengths to reinforce position as a global leader in marine science and technology for the countries.
- Advancing ocean knowledge: Building a greater knowledge base through ocean observation and fundamental and applied research.
- Breaking barriers: Addressing the complex challenges of blue growth and ocean sustainability by combining expertise and drawing from a range of scientific disciplines and stakeholders.

The final purpose is to attain the "BLUE GROWTH".

INOC Foundation: A meeting of the High Experts Group on Oceanography was held at Dokuz Eylül University, Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, Izmir (Turkey) on August 11-12, 1986. The Third Meeting of COMSTECH held on November 19-22, 1986 in Islamabad, Pakistan, approved the establishment of the Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography. This was confirmed by the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait from 26-28 January 1987 (15/5-87/EC/DR.5/REV.3). The Founding Meeting of Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC) was held on November 10-12, 1987, Izmir-Turkey. The charter of "Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC)" was accepted during this meeting signed by nine member countries as: Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal and Turkey. The headquarters of the Network shall be situated at Izmir, Turkey.

Then Mustafa Ergun give a brief summary of INOC activities between 2015-2020 as given in the Eleventh Session GA of INOC. The International Congress on Estuaries and

Protected Areas (ECPA) meeting was held in Izmir-Turkey from 04-06 November 2014 at the Sabancı Culture Centre of Dokuz Eylül University, organized jointly by the Inter-Islamic Science and Technology Network on Oceanography (INOC) and the Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology of Dokuz Eylül University. The main themes of this congress were Coastal Ecosystems, Environmental Impacts and Impacts of Human Activities on Coastal Change. The Proceedings of the International Conference on "Estuaries and Coastal Protected Areas" was published by INOC on July 2015.

Prof.Dr. Erdeniz Özel and Prof.Dr. Mustafa Ergün was attended the High Expert Group Meeting on Natural Sciences & Oceanography held by COMSTECH on December 2014. Three programs were submitted as:
- Ocean Mapping;
- Antarctica;
- Oceangoing Vessel.

The workshop was held in Tehran (Iran) with financial contributions of COMSTECH, INOC and INIOAS (12*14 May 2016). The proceedings of this workshop was completed in October 2016. "CLIMATE CHANGE & THE CASPIAN SEA.

6-13 June 2016 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO) Executive Council Meeting (Paris-France) and visited International Council for Scientific Investigation of Mediterranean (ICSEM) and International Hydrographic Office (IHO) in Monaco. 16-18 September 2016 Eleventh Execıtive Council of INOC Meeting was held in Izmir-Turkey.

TRAINING COURSE on Development of Aqua Cultural Production and Technologies in the INOC Member States (23-30 April 2017, Tunisia) (www.inoctr.org). You may reach the lecture notes at the INOC webpage: www.inoctr.org.

15-24 March 2018 TRAINING COURSE on Marine Sonar and Seismic Surveys in the INOC Member States (15-24 March 2018, Izmir, Turkey). You may reach the lecture notes at the INOC webpage: www.inoctr.org.

12-14 May 2018 Conference on "Understanding the Problems of Inland Waters: Special Case of the Caspian Region (UPCB)" in Baku (Azerbaijan). Also the Student Event on 11 May 2018 was held just before the Conference. The Lecture notes of this course and the Conference Abstract Book (look: www.inoctr.org).

INOC PROJECT PROPOSALS:TO COMSTECH:
1. COMSTECH-ANTARCTICA PROGRAM
2. COMSTECH-GASHYDRATE PROGRAM
3. MAGHREBIAN FISHERIES PROJECT
4. CASPIAN SEA COMSTECH PROJECT
5. SATELLITE OCEANOGRAPHY
6. LAW OF THE SEA (?????)
7. MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM
8. MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

9. OCEAN MAPPING PROGRA**M**

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS:
1. International Council for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean (CIESM)
2. Regional Centre of Oceanography for the Western Asia (RCOWA)
3. RIMSMER (Marine Sciences of the Maghrebian Institutes Network)
4. ECOSF (Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation)
5. FAO (United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization)

Summary of the Budgetary Situation of INOC for the years of 2016-2020 as below:

INOC BUDGET	(2016-2020)	
YEAR	**INCOME (TL)**	**EXPENSES (TL)**
2016	**191525.66**	**201897.75**
2017	**241744.77**	**208176.56**
2018	**198835.08**	**293085.05**
2019	**35516.52**	**93929.42**
2020	**371980.00**	**88265.79**
TOTAL	**1039602.03**	**885354.57**
IN THE BANK	**154862.16**	

Turkish government made their contribution of 50,000 US$ for the years of 2016- 2017, and 2020 (not for the years of 2018 and 2019). INOC had received about 50, 000 US$ for the Training Courses in Tunisia and Turkey from IsDB (but they stopped funding us since then and IsDB . However, I COMSTECH had supported the Workshop in Iran for amount of 15,000 US$. COMSTECH had also contributed for the Training Courses in Tunisia and Turkey as well as the Conference in Baku for the amount of 5,000 US$ each. COMSTECH was made available 5,000 US$ for the years of 2018 and 2019 (because of no payments from the Turkish Government). Pakistan INOC had received 5,000 US$ from the International Science Foundation (Sweden) for the Training Course in Tunisia. Pakistan have been paying their contributions regularly. Iran contribution had been used for the activities in their country.

Upon completion of the Report, the participants were giving their views on the report as well as the general points for INOC.

Sermin Acik Çinar (IMST) introduced herself to the Assembly and explained about her research in the field of Marine Biology. She also expressed her best wishes working with them as the New President of INOC.

Prof.Dr. Behrooz Abtahi /Iran) stated that Iran is very happy to be involved with the affairs of INOC. He suggested the members of INOC countries should seek the possibilities of bilateral or multi-lateral cooperation's through the scientific and technological agreements between the countries research councils at the governmental level.

Dr. Hamet Diadhiou (Senegal) said that he was glad to be involved with INOC. Senegal is going to be benefitted through working and cooperating with INOC countries. Senegal and Turkey will be working on the fisheries project via Islamic Development Bank "REVERSE LINKEAGE PROGRAM".

Dr. Hina Saeed Baig (Pakistan) said that her country is very happy to be working with INOC. We must try to get the projects of INOC to be more in line with the international and IOC involvements. This way we may contribute more to the international affairs and understanding.

Dr. Gaby Khalaf (Lebanon) said that his country has been benefitted very much working with INOC. He can do his best to make INOC surviving.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Maheser (COMSTECH) took the floor and made some suggestions:
- The Charter of INOC must be updated. I and Mustafa Ergun will work on it and conveyed to you the "Amended Version" for adaptation along line with the suggestions made here.
- All the partners of INOC should fulfill their financial responsibilities.
- We must get more OIC countries to be active members of INOC (as it is from now that only financially contributing countries can be the member of INOC).
- The country contribution can be used for the activity of that country for the involvements international activities (conferences, workshops, seminars etc.).
- We must induce more countries to become the active members of INOC and COMSTECH can help you as much as it may be possible.

Prof.Dr. Mustafa Ergun (INOC) made some suggestions after all these deliberations. Because of the political upheavals in our region, there are a lot of crises and misunderstandings. These are creating havoc and discrepancies as well as frictions and quarrels (even reaching to the levels of wars). INOC will work together to get more countries to become the active members.

Selected menbers of INOC Executive Council members:
President: Ptof.Dr. Sermin Acik Cinar (serminacik@yahoo.com)
Vice-President: Prof.Dr.Behrooz Abtahi: (abtahi.b@gmail.com)
Vice-President: Dr.Hina Saeed Baig: (hina_baig@hotmail.com))
Vice-President: Dr.Hamet Diadhiou: (hamet_diadhiou@yahoo.fr

With thanks the General Assembly was closed…..

AMENDED CHARTER OF INOC

CHARTER OF THE INTER-ISLAMIC NETWORK ON OCEANOGRAPHY

Article (1)

<u>Name</u>

The name will be the "Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography".

Article (2)

<u>Status</u>

The Network shall be an inter-state, non-political and non-profit agency. It shall be an independent, autonomous and self-governing institution under the umbrella of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) Standing Committee for S&T Cooperation (COMSTECH).

Article (3)

<u>Headquarters</u>

The headquarters of the Network shall be situated at Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, Izmir, as offered by the Government of Turkey.

Article (4)

<u>Objective</u>

1. To collaborate and cooperate in research areas of common interest with a view to help each other in building capability in the field.

2. To exchange information and maintain continuing dialogue in the developments in the field for mutual benefit and use.

3. To set up and maintain data banks on the developments in the subject area for use by the members of the Network.

4. To initiate joint projects of research and development of common interest to member countries of the Network.

5. To help and assist in training of quality manpower for the member countries of the Network.

Article (5)

Membership

The member states joining the Network initially will be the founding members. Other members of OIC member states will be welcome to join the Network after contributing appropriately towards capital cost and sharing partly in the recurring expenditure.

Article (6)

General Body

The representative of member institutions of the Network as well as a representative of COMSTECH shall be the General Body of the Network. All powers shall rest with the General Body of the Network. All powers shall rest with the General Body. They shall elect from themselves the President and three Vice-Presidents for a period of three years' renewable.

Article (7)

Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee made up of the President, Vice Presidents, one representative of COMSTECH as ex-officio without right of vote. The President shall nominate to act as secretary of the Executive Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall deal with matters entrusted to it by the General Body and shall take all steps to implement the decisions and policies of the General Body.

3. Simple majority of the Executive Committee shall form the quorum.

4. Any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee, on any account whatsoever, shall be filled by the General Body.

5. The Executive Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure in the light of policies approved by the General Body.

6. The Executive Committee shall meet at least one time per year.

7. The Executive Committee shall prepare a plan of action including the scientific programme and financial lay-outs, for approval by the General Body.

Article (8)

Secretariat

1. The Headquarters of the Network shall be managed by the Executive Director.

2. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the General Body and the Executive Committee.

3. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the General Body on the recommendation of the President on such terms and conditions as it may lay down from time to time.

4. The staff of the Headquarters shall be appointed by the Executive Director. For staff to be recruited on an international basis, prior approval of the Executive Committee will be required.

5. The Executive Director shall participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Body without the right of vote.

6. The Executive Director shall prepare all documents and reports of the Network for the consideration of the Executive Committee and General Body.

7. The Executive Director shall be competent to receive contributions and donations for the Network provided these are in accordance with the procedures approved by the General Body and further these are reported to the Executive Committee at its very next meeting.

8. In case the office the Executive Director falls vacant, a new Executive Director will be appointed as stipulated in Clause 3 of Article (8) above within a period not exceeding two months.

9. The tenure of the post Executive Director shall be of a term of three years, renewable.

Article (9)

Finances

1. The finances for running the Network shall be the responsibility of the member states of the Network as decided by the Fifth Islamic Summit (Kuwait, January 1987) in its resolution IS/5-87/EC/DR.5/REV.3.

2. Further financial assistance may be sought from:
   i. COMSTECH and other OIC agencies,
   ii. International Agencies,
   iii. Private donations.
   iv. Income from subscription and services.

Article (10)

Languages

The working languages of the Network shall be the official languages of the OIC (Arabic, English and French). However, the scientific and technical information of the Network may be processed and/or accessed in the language of its availability.

Article (11)

Amendment to the Charter

Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by the representative of a member country, and shall be governed by the procedure laid down below.

The Charter of the Network may be amended by the General Body a three forth (3/4) majority vote of the members provided that:

a) A two-third majority of the total membership of the Network is present;

b) At least one hundred and twenty (120) days' notice of such amendments has been received by the President of the General Body meeting;

and

c) it has been communicated to all members by the Executive Director at least sixty (60) days before the date of commencement of the General Body meeting.

Article (12)

Withdrawal from Membership

Any member may withdraw from the Network by submitting a written notification to the President of the General Body.

The member country fulfilling this provision shall be permitted to withdraw after the expiry of a period of one (1) year from the date of receipt of such notification by the President of the General Body.

Such a member state shall discharge all obligations of membership until the period of one (1) year is over. The member state having withdrawn from the Network shall have no further rights on the assets and services of the Network.

OLD INOC CHARTER

CHARTER OF THE INTER-ISMİC NETWORK ON OCEANOGRAPHY

Article (1)
<u>Name</u>
The name will be the "Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography".

Article (2)
<u>Status</u>
The Network shall be an inter-state, non-political and non-profit agency. It shall be an independent, autonamous and self-governing institution under the of the OIC) Organization of Islamic Cooperation) Standing Committee for S&T Cooperation (COMSTECH).

Article (3)
<u>Headquarters</u>
The headquarter of the Network shall be situated at Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology

Article (3)
<u>Objective</u>
1. To collaborate and cooperate in research areas of common interest with a view to help each other in building capability in the field
2. To exchange information and maintain continuing dialogue the developments in the field
3. To set up and maintain data banks on the development in the subject for use by the members of the Network.
4. To initiate joint projects of research and development of common interest to member countries of the Network.
5. To help and assist in training of quality manpower for the member countries of the Network.

Article (5)
<u>Membership</u>
The member states joining the Network initially will be the founding members. Other members of OIC member states will be welcome to join the Network after contributing appropriately towards capital cost and sharing partly in the recurring expenditure.

Article (6)
<u>General Body</u>
The representative of member institutions of the Network as well as a representative of IFTAD shall be the General Body of the Network. All powers shall rest with the General Body of the Network. All powers shall be rest with the General Body. They shall select the President and three Vice-President for a period of three years' renewable.

Article (7)
Executive Committee
1. There will be an Executive Committee made up of the President, Vice Presidents, one representative of IFSTAD as ex-officio without right of vote. The President shall nominate to act as secretary of the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall deal with matters entrusted to it by the General Body and shall take all steps to implement the decisions and policies of the General Body.
3. Simple majority of the Executive Committee shall form the quorum.
4. Any vacancy occurring in the Executive Committee, on any account whatsoever, shall be filled by the General Body.
5. The Executive Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure in the light of policies approved in the light of policies approved by the General Body.
6. The Executive Committee shall meet at least one time per year.
7. The Executive Committee shall prepare a plan of action including the scientific programme and financial lay-outs, for approval by the General Body.

Article (8)
Secretariat
1. The Headquarters of the Network shall be managed by the Administrative Officer.
2. The Administrative Officer shall be responsible for the implementation of the General Body and the Executive Committee.
3. The Administrative Officer shall be appointed by the General Body on the recommendation of the President on such terms and condition as it may lay down from time to time.
4. The staff of the Headquarters shall be appointed by the Administrative Officer. For staff to be recruited on international basis, prior approval of the Executive Committee will be required.
5. The Administrative Officer shall participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Body without the right of vote.
6. The Administrative Officer shall prepare all documents and reports of the Network for the consideration of the Executive Committee and General Body.
7. The Administrative Officer shall be competent to receive contributions and donations for the Network. Provided these are in accordance with the procedures approved by the General Body and further these are reported to the Executive Committee at its very next meeting.
8. In case the office the Administrative Officer falls vacant, a new Administrative Officer will be appointed as stipulated in Clause 3 of Article (8) above within a period not exceeding two months.
9. The tenure of the post Administrative Officer shall be of a term of three years, renewable.

Article (9)
Finances

1. The finances for running the Network shall be the responsibility of the member states of the Network as decided by the Fifth Islamic Summit (Kuwait, January 1987) in its resolution IS/5-87/EC/DR.5/REV.3.
2. Further financial assistance may be sought from:
   i.   COMSTECH and OIC agencies,
   ii.   International Agencies,
   iii.   Income from subscription and services.

Article (10)

<div align="center">Languages</div>

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<div align="center">Amendment to the Charter</div>

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