



Under the Patronage of H.E. Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir,
President of the Republic of the Sudan

Sixth Islamic Conference OF MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

“The Role of Higher Education in the Development of Science
and Technology for a Prosperous Future”

Progress Report on the Project
“Atlas of Islamic World Innovation”

ICMHESR-6/2012/2.5

Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with its institutions undertakes a project on Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation (AIWI) in partnerships with European Partners lead by the Royal Society;
2. The project on Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation aims at mapping key trends in science and technology-based innovation across the 57 OIC member countries, looking in greater detail at a geographical and economically diverse sample of several selective OIC countries, exploring how relationships between science, technology, innovation, faith, culture and politics are unfolding within these OIC countries, identifying new opportunities for collaboration between scientists, policymakers, the private sector and non-government sector in the Islamic world and Europe, making developments in science, technology, and innovation (STI) more visible across the OIC and to the wider world and building skills and capacity of STI analysts and decision-makers across the Islamic-World and create new networks for the exchange of ideas, policies and good practice both within the Islamic World and between the Islamic-World and Europe;
3. The OIC General Secretariat presented progress report of the project to the Fifth Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers (Kuala Lumpur, 19-20 October 2010). The Conference in adopting the report, lauded the cooperation existing among the member organizations of the Joint Management Team in preparing member state studies which map the key trends and trajectories in science and technology-based innovation, highly beneficial for policy and decision makers and planners in the concerned countries. The Conference requested the Joint Management Team to accelerate completion and publication of the country studies;

ACTIONS TAKEN

4. The National Focal Point appointed by the respective participating countries cooperated with the project managers and specially recruited lead researcher to conduct field studies and preparations of draft country report for each the country. Each draft country report was reviewed by a Peer Review Group established for each of the country. Two country reports have completed and expected to be launched soon;
5. The project continue to receive financial supports from a number of OIC institutions including the OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, the Qatar Foundation and European partners such as the British Council and the International Development Research Council of Canada (IDRC);



PROJECT UPDATE

6. During its three year lifetime, the Atlas project will prepare a number of country case studies such as: Malaysia (published March 2011), Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Indonesia, Senegal, Kazakhstan and Nigeria. The Royal Society is leading on the project management of the former six studies, with SESRIC leading the others. The project is scheduled to conclude in December 2012 with an overarching final report looking at science across the OIC:
7. Eight country case studies are currently underway. The country reports on Qatar and Egypt are nearing completion.
8. A final report would include the rich heritage of science in the Islamic world, science in the Islamic world today, emerging STI powers in the OIC, key themes emerging from the Atlas case studies to date, and the future of science in the Islamic world. The report will also include a section outlining some common strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for the OIC as a whole. Therefore, the final report could have five main components:
 1. An introduction/opening chapter on science and Islam
 2. A desk-based analysis of STI indicators across the 57 OIC countries
 3. A summary of the findings of the Atlas case studies
 4. A chapter discussing the lessons OIC countries can learn from successful national innovation systems
 5. A final section highlighting common strengths, weaknesses and recommendations
9. A Report on the progress of the project on Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation is submitted to the Sixth Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers for its consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Sixth Islamic Conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministers is recommended to:
 - take note of the progress report of the project on Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation;
 - thank the OIC institutions, the Qatar Foundation and the European partners for providing financial contributions to the project; and
 - request the Joint Management Team and the two project managers to expedite completion of studies in the remaining pilot countries with the view of early releasing of their country reports.