

**13th INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM CONGRESS
- FINAL COMMUNIQUE -**

**Issued by Board of Governance (BOG)
Attending at the 13th International Business Forum (IBF) Congress
Cairo, 12th- 15th October 2009**

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

All praises are due to Allah for the successful conclusion of the 13th International Business Forum (IBF) Congress. This is the 13th edition of the annual event that was attended by 1,750 delegates in day 1 to IBF Congress and 500 delegates to Business Matchmaking in day 2 from 33 countries, totally 2.250 national and international delegates.

IBF members extend their warmest thanks to CCC and MUSIAD for successfully organizing the 13th IBF Congress and providing their hospitality support with the excellent services rendered to the Congress.

We owe particular thanks and gratitude to H.E. Rachid M. Rachid, Minister of Trade and Industry of Egypt, H.E. Dr. Osman Mohamed Osman, Minister of Economic Development of Egypt, H.E. Dr. Tarek KAMEL, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Egypt. We also thank to distinguished minister who has participated from TURKEY, H.E Zafer Çağlayan, State Minister in Charge of Foreign Trade, and from other member countries- H.E. Hadi Neziri - Minister of State from MACEDONIA, H.E. Abujerrah Sultani – Former Minister of State from ALGERIA, H.E. Mladen Zirojevic, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia for attending at the 13th IBF Congress.

We also warmly welcome and appreciate the immense support of **OIC, IDB, CCC, UFT (Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade of Turkey), TEA (Turkish Exporters Assembly), GAFI (General Authority for Investment) and, THY (Turkish Airlines).**

We thank all country delegates totaling 2.250 business people from 33 countries including Egyptian businessmen for their participation in the forum; and, especially, thank to the Turkish delegation for participating with 350 delegates. Also we appreciate strong participation with 55 delegates from Jordan, 20 delegates from Palestine, 50 delegates from Pakistan, 20 from Bangladesh and 25 from Lebanon. The 13th IBF Congress has deliberated on the main topic of **“Trade and Industrial Development in Challenging Era: New Opportunities for Partnerships”** which has been elaborated by the distinguished government representatives and delegate representatives of **Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Chad, Denmark, Egypt, England, Germany, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Macedonia, Morocco, Kosovo, Palestine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen and Palestine Business Forum** that of the heads of delegations and other distinguished speakers.

The IBF Board of Governors (BOG) is pleased to announce the strengthening of member organizations internally; in particular participating IBF Chapters of IBF member countries. Also numerous successful business ventures among member businesspeople have been noted with great excitement since the last Congress in 2008.

The 13th Annual IBF Congress has also provided unique opportunities for participant businessmen and businesswomen from all over the world to pursue their individual trade and investment interests. CCC and MÜSIAD have organized platforms to facilitate interaction amongst attending business people, namely, the congress, sectoral workshops, seminars, and sectoral business matchmaking sessions.

The IBF, launched in Lahore, Pakistan in 1995 and chaired by MÜSIAD in Turkey since 1996, being rotationally organized in Turkey and other member country, has proven to be making a considerable progress on its long-cherished goal of achieving enhanced cooperation and economic links among Muslim Nations, thus contributing to the economic and social development among member countries.

Cognizant of the new opportunities as well as threats arising out of new international developments in collapse of financial of non Islamic financial institutions as led by the developed countries, the IBF strongly calls on the respective OIC governments to aim at achieving more economic and financial integration which will result in better understanding and cooperation amongst business communities in all domains. We call on Islamic countries to depart from westernly- capitalism- oriented monetary system and expedite in producing an alternative payment, reserve unit, and deposit systems according to their own values.

IBF members have also felt encouraged by the acknowledgement of the leading representatives of governments and institutions such as OIC and IDB that mainstreaming of private sector in policy making and economic relations is crucial for sustaining growth.

13th IBF Congress has taken place in a period when the world system had been suffering from a deep economical, political, humanitarian, and environmental crisis.

Under these circumstances, the 13th IBF Congress held in Cairo on 12-15 October has resolved to:

1. Islamic countries should cease to be the raw material repository of the world and the consumption centers for the luxury goods, and choose to become modern economies with high technology, with value added products and more investment in the field of reserche and deveopment.
2. Urgent steps should be taken for integration in the fields of production, trade and finance in Islamic countries.
3. To attain this goal, a motivated and regulated business and labor environment, a business management mentality with high organizational capacity and consciousness of quality should be achieved, in both production and trade.
4. In this regard, the following issues have to be taken into consideration:
 - a. Customs tariffs should be urgently removed and trade should be liberalized,
 - b. Businessmen of the member countries should be exempt from visas,
 - c. Accords on prevention of double taxation should be urgently signed,
 - d. The problem in the mechanism of Letter of Credit confirmation should be somehow solved within Islamic countries,
5. Umbrella organizations like OIC and IDB should play a guiding role in finding solutions to the problems above,
6. Citizens of the member countries should be able to buy property within the Organization of Islamic Countries; and money transfers should be enabled,
7. Stock exchanges and commodity exchanges within the Organization of Islamic Conference should be founded,
8. Intellectual property resources have to be developed through establishment of strategic research centers, and investment in education, human resources development and capacity building measures,
9. Finally, Islamic Countries should seek solutions to regional and global problems within the Islamic World and develop a common standpoint.

It has been resolved that the forthcoming **14th IBF Congress will be held in October 06-10, 2010 in Istanbul/ Turkey to be hosted under coordination of MÜSIAD.** Member organizations have committed themselves to participate in the 14th Congress in Istanbul with a larger representation of businessmen and businesswomen from each country.

Erol Yerar
President
International Business Forum
15th October, 2009, Thursday
Istanbul, Turkey