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Technology Transfer and Exchange Network For D-8 Member Countries (TTEN)

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Introduction

Today, some of the south and developing countries are so powerful and strong that establishment of a balanced and purposeful alliance between them, in the areas of their competitive advantage, will create valuable opportunities for them to reinforce their ability in introducing their competitive products and services to global markets. Islamic Republic of Iran being appointed by the ministry of Industries of D8 Organisation to take over the responsibility for the IT and Telecommunications, and also Science and Technology commissions resulted in setting up the below-mentioned general goals:

- Economic and technology cooperation between member countries aiming to accelerate the process of actualisation of the D8 Organisation objectives through utilising their immense powers and abilities
- Cooperation and collaboration between member countries in political, cultural and economical fields and reinforce the political relations
- Cooperation and taking common international economic approaches between Muslim developing countries
- Cooperation and coordination in industrial and technologic affairs; reinforcing political ties through extensive cooperation
- Make the most of the member countries experiences to overcome the economic and social restrictions and also to confront the international challenges and threats

In order to reinforce and expand the cooperation between the member countries in industrial and technology affairs and, to make an appropriate ground and infrastructure to exchange and transfer of the products data, technologies and services, foundation of a technology transfer and exchange network (TTEN) seems facilitating and essential.

To constitute that infrastructure, and also to represent a horizon of development of the cooperation between member countries, the theme of establishment of techno market by Islamic Republic of Iran was put forward in the first meeting of industry ministers of developing eight countries.

The present proposal introduces a network for transfer and exchange of technology between the eight developing countries. It contains a scope of strengths and abilities of the member countries, the requirements for making a common exchange ground, suggested schedule and, the general infrastructure of Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN) for D-8 Member Countries. It should be mentioned that the primary project once was represented in previous D-8 meetings, by the topic of “D-8 Countries Technomarket”, but later underwent some modification and re-named as “Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D8 Member Countries (TTEN)” to meet more of the requirements of the member countries, and also to be more appropriately understood. There is hope that the cooperation and co-orientation between the D-8 Islamic member countries result in the proper ground for achieving opportunities such as export and excellence of the D-8 Countries’ products and services in global markets, and through actualisation of this ground a bright horizon of sustainable growth and development be realised.

Chapter One: Definitions

1. Technology

Technology includes all sorts of tools that enable us to exploit natural resources, develop and utilise knowledge and its surrounding resources, create added value, and be the result of scientific inventions and innovations. Technology is a multi-dimensional concept and is not absolute and simple. It can be at different levels evaluated, priced and transacted.

2. Technology Exchange

Technology exchange includes processes, through which technology demand and supply is performed in an appropriate structure, and various routes and methods are being used for exchanging technology between at least two bodies. Upon assessment done on a technology, evaluation will carry out and then the technology is ready to be exchanged. Technology exchange is one of the most important factors that form market for technology transfer and also technology products, and counts as the most important process existing in technology market.

3. Technology Transfer

Technology transfer means agreement between technology/know-how supplier and applicant or investor in a way that results into one type of technology transfer contracts. Through the contract, technology transfers from its origin to the destination that the buyer determines and will be utilised there.

4. Technomart

Technomart, or Technology Market, is a place for bartering technologies. Like property market that is a place to trade properties, and like real estate agencies which are information and legal processor arbitrators for trading properties; in technology markets, technomarts are mediators that embrace and organise technology information and provide it to “suppliers”, “applicant”, “entrepreneurs” and “investors”. In the world, technomarts usually represent specialised services and consultations in relation to transfer of technology and know-how, evaluation of technology, intellectual property rights, and commercialisations of science-based companies’ products and services.

5. Technology Demand

Includes demands for; solutions, processes, technologic products or parts, investment in a particular area of technology, and also requesting research on a particular project.

6. Technology supply (offer)

Includes; information on a product and, process, services or a new method for a particular technology, which is being represented clearly and explicitly. Technology supply or offer is usually one of the following cases:

- Innovation, exploration, or invention
- Innovation and creativity for an old method
- Substantial improvement in an activity process such as; enhancement of quality, decreasing the price, improving the productivity and, etc.

7. Expert manpower

Is a real person who, in the area of the introduced technology, is scientifically and technically qualified, has active work experience in the area of a specific technology and, is able to provide specialised advices. Furthermore, his/her professional information should be approved by the previous employers.

8. Technology product

Is a product developed as a prototype, and has technical and applied information, and also information related to the advantages of that product, and holds at least one approving licence.

9. Patent

Patent is an officially registered licence, which legally assigns the rights of an idea or invention to a real or corporate body within limited geographical boundaries and time. Patents and licences can be evaluated and priced.

10. Specialised technology forum

Specialised technology forum are conferences organised annually on subjects related to a specific type of technology (such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, oil, gas and petrochemicals, composites, aerospace, and etc) and create opportunities for exchanging ideas on a specific technology topic and evaluating the possibilities for transferring that technology between companies from the 8 developing countries. The forum are to be attended by technology companies from D-8 countries and also a few multinational outstanding companies (outside the D-8 territories, but which are active in the same field of technology and able to get involved in technology transfer) and are to be hold peripherally to the D-8 Leaders or Ministers summits.

11. Technology Brokers

Technology brokers are enterprises working as mediators in the areas of buying, selling and registering patents for technologies and inventions. Technology brokers shape the specialised technology transfer network for eight countries and, are in close interaction with each other and also with the global markets.

12. Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries (TTEN)

Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (TTEN) is an informative and transaction-enabled network to set up between eight developing Muslim countries, comprising of technomart functions, and pursuing the mission of; capacity making and dissemination of information on technology achievements and industrial needs of member countries, organising technology transactions and, creating co-orientation and synergism between member countries.

The objectives of TTEN are described below:

- 12.1. To inter-connect or develop databases for technology products and services, and demands of member countries in a form of an integrated internet-based system, aiming to generate; opportunities, synergism and capacity in the area of technology for D-8 member countries
- 12.2. Planning for commercialisation of technology, ideas and research results for D-8 member countries
- 12.3. To provide the member countries with the opportunity of introducing their technology products and services and establishing connections and cooperation between them
- 12.4. To make the opportunity of attraction of foreign investments and finance in the area of technology and products, and strengthening the commercialisation aptitude of member countries

- 12.5. To attract supports and assistances from international organisations in order to develop and improve technology research in D-8 countries and, also encourage developed countries to come into north-south cooperation with focus on technology
- 12.6. To enable D-8 member countries to enjoy each another technological abilities and powers in terms of commercialisation and transfer of technology
- 12.7. To develop proper grounds for connecting the D-8 technology transfer and exchange network to the regional and global markets
- 12.8. To create the opportunity for integration and synergism between technology companies in the eight developing countries in order to entering into the global competitions
- 12.9. Organising joint technology fairs, meetings and festivals aiming to connect the technology companies in eight member countries

Chapter Two: Infrastructures for Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries (TTEN)

Based on the TTEN mission, which is to create a ground for exchanging the information on technology between member countries and to expedite the process of technology transfer between these countries, the TTEN infrastructure will program and implement in different stages.

All the member countries will connect to this network, observing the conceptual framework of the network and in the most appropriate way suiting their situation. Hence, all the member countries will find the chance to get acknowledged each another's technology products and achievements and also to promote and trade their national technologies.

At the execution phase, the network should be designed and set up appropriately to meet the requirements and suit the special characteristics of technology and its market in each member country. The software infrastructure must be compatible to the cultural aspect of the countries, since exchanging information of any kind requires a common literature, norm and agreed elements by all D-8 countries. On this basis, steps towards coordination and integration of forms and data in databanks are the most important steps that after approval by the D-8 ministers, the TTEN will be gone through.

Furthermore, considering worthy experiences of some of the countries (such as Turkey) in the area of commercialisation and transfer of technology, making use of these kind of experiences in design and execution of the structure of the network will be very important which will carry out in appropriate instance as interaction between experts.

Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries (TTEN) includes the following sectors:

- 1- High Council of Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries

- 2- Secretariat
- 3- Portal and data banks
- 4- Headquarters located in eight member countries as the bases for Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries

1- High Council of Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries

TTEN high council is in charge of the highest level of policy making for every issue related to the technology transfer and exchange network. The council will consist of D-8 ministers' representatives and all the decisions and execution policies of the TTEN will be concluded and communicated by them.

The most important functions of the high council are:

- Policy making considering information exchange in TTEN portal and, to approve and communicate the related regulatory and executive procedures
- Policy making for technology transfer, trading technologies and products, technology evaluation and, legal aspects of related agreements and contracts
- Determining responsibilities and chores for member countries and supervising the implementation of those chores and responsibilities
- Policy making and supervising the portal of the TTEN
- Selecting and appointing the periodical president of the council and, do the annual planning, programming and budgeting

2- Secretariat

The secretariat is in charge of preserve and protecting documents, forms and correspondences of TTEN.

The secretariat will operate under the direct supervision of the high council and is a channel for send and receiving information and documents, statistics, texts, contracts and etc. Also, all the legal and commercial affairs related to the contracts and interactions will accomplish by the secretariat.

The most important functions of the secretariat are:

1. Documentation of the input of TTEN portal related to technology and products demand and supply, contracts and regulations, correspondences and high council meeting minutes.
2. To set up and support the TTEN portal to disseminate information and news
3. To support TTEN databanks through real time reporting and classifying the approved data
4. To organised required instructional courses
5. To organise high council meetings and to follow up the agreements
6. To organise technology transfer meetings and fairs
7. To distribute high council newsletters and publish the regulations between member countries
8. To provide legal and commercial advices on technology projects to the member countries
9. To carry out correspondences and follow up the execution of approved regulations and mutual agreements between TTEN and international organisations or any other country
10. To carry out tasks related to financial services and credits, marketing and public relation

The secretariat of Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries will activate in Iran and, will be located, and operate, in Presidency affiliated centre, Pardis Technology Park.

3- Portal system

Portal is D-8 TTEN software and virtual network system, which consists of databanks and input data from the member countries.

The features of the portal include:

- 1- High security with databank and network supporting mechanisms
- 2- High accuracy and speed and, real time up date
- 3- Provider of various, user-friendly services related to technology
- 4- Member's exclusive section for receiving information and representing services
- 5- SSL pages for money transactions, accounts' credit check and charge up
- 6- At a design appropriate to the Muslim countries' views, symbolizing Islamic unity
- 7- Various parts including; news, newsletter, email inbox, forums and, on-line consultations

4- Headquarters (Regional Offices) in eight countries

Every D-8 country is to appoint an organisation in that country as headquarter to supervise and support the TTEN and, introduce that to the High Council. The headquarters will carry out data entry and reporting, services and accomplish all the assignments communicated in relation to technology transfer according to the instructions advised by the high council.

The most important functions of regional offices are:

1. To develop WebPages exclusive to that country and national language and upload it to the portal system
2. To update technology and product supply and demand databanks and to register the applicants
3. Organising negotiation meetings between technology and products suppliers and applicants in order to transfer technology and/or know-how through concluding related contracts
4. To broadcast information related to the technology achievements of D-8 member countries in news and newsletter section
5. To carry out marketing for the products and services of the applicant companies and enterprises in that country exclusive webpage
6. To report to the high council every six month and to attend the coordination meetings
7. Cooperation and collaboration with the headquarters located in other D-8 countries in organising technology and products' meetings and exhibitions
8. Collaboration in organising annual D-8 technology festivals
9. Supervising the specialised information collector brokers and to embrace and upload those data into the portal system
10. Interacting with banks and financial institutions in order to get loans and credits to support SMEs
11. Collaboration with higher educations' institutes and science and technology parks(STPs) in order to cover their related information
12. Interaction with industry and commerce ministries and bureaus in order to enter the information related to the applicant companies into the portal system

Chapter Three: Execution Stages

To develop a framework for technology transfer and exchange network, the following stages must be fulfilled:

1. Approval of the proposal
2. Launching the secretariat, allocating premises, manpower, software and primary budget
3. Organising high council meeting to assess and approve the executing regulation
4. Introduction of coordinator representatives from each country to the secretariat of Technology Transfer and Exchange Network for D-8 Countries
5. Development of portal system and commencement of entry of data by the headquarters located in the eight countries
6. Fulfilment of the first phase of preparation of databanks and activation of the D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network