**In the name of GOD**

**Welcome message**

I would like to personally welcome each of you; officials of the member countries and our dear foreign and Iranian guests to the first meeting of high council of D8 technology transfer & exchange network. And I wish God the almighty bless this network to be of great benefit and goodness for all the Muslim countries.

**The glorious history of science and technology in the world of Islam**

Islamic teachings of Quran Al-Karim and holy prophet’s tradition which is the best practice of Islam both emphasize knowledge seeking and indicate that how knowledge and wisdom are of great significance to Islam. A glance at our brilliant past reminds us of the uncontested scientific dominance of the Islam world which makes Muslims proud of their past. Although Islamic community now willingly or unwillingly has distanced from that golden age, the existing potentials in the Islamic countries can reduce this gap if they do co-operate decisively.

**Present status of science and technology in the World of Islam especially with regard to knowledge-based approach**

According to statistics published by SESRIC (statistical, economic and social research and training center for Islamic countries) in 2010 , unfortunately Islamic countries only possessed 4% of human resources in R&D while they constitute ¼ of the world’s population. And the average expenditures for research and development was 0.8% GDP and in turn their share in wealth creating in the field of technology has decreased so that from 2 million patents only 1.7% belonged to Islamic countries but more than 73% of that belonged only to four Developed countries. From $ 1.7 trillion High technology exports only 4% belonged to the all Islamic countries. The gap between Islamic countries and the developed countries increases rapidly and this is while the greater portion of the progress in the world of Islam is focused in few countries. The developed countries take benefit from the Islamic countries, but they give nothing in return. The developed world has moved in innovation era whereas the world of Islam is still involved in industrialization.

**The only option for the world of Islam is to focus on technology with knowledge-based economy approach**

Considering high value-added in high tech and the wealth made by this, and having a reservoir named the great market of Muslim countries make concentration on development of technology and increase of interactions between Islamic countries through group synergy as the only way out of the present situation. If we collect our resources and consider cooperation with other Muslim countries as our first priority then a win-win situation would result for Islamic communities. Encouraging both public & private sectors in the member countries to cooperate with their corresponding parties in the other countries and supporting them through knowledge-based approach would help Muslim countries to overcome a large number of their problems.

**Executive and ideal functions of establishing D8 technology transfer & exchange network**

Executive functions of this network which vary in the member countries include: identification of effective factors of each member in developing technological interactions, determining and developing exciting network potentials in the member countries (such as Nano laboratory network in Iran), providing conditions for exchange of views between members, familiarizing with norms and standards in technology areas and resolving the problems and challenges of the member countries. Meanwhile, creating synergy based on systemic attitude can lead to growth and development of human and capital resources in the eight member countries. However, the ideal function of the network relies mostly on the whole Islamic community that can create a dynamic movement in the other Islamic countries through establishing an appropriate pattern for technological collaboration and wealth creation.

**Dynamism of this network depends on facilitating cooperation in the world of Islam and integrated cooperation with similar networks in the world.**

No doubt the success of this network lies in using successful experiences in the world and exploiting existing potentials of the organizations and effective structures especially centers associated to OIC. Harmony and agreement achievable through this network and determining the priorities for cooperation between countries can provide a supportive tool for the relations between the members. Achieving these goals is not an easy one and needs collaboration of all the members and those involved in.

Currently, Islamic countries including D8 countries are not aware of the potentials of the other Islamic countries. The process of science to wealth contains several stages appropriate to conditions and existing structures of each member country which is indicative of the multiplicity of actors in private and public sectors. The network recognizing these actors and introducing them to each other can at first place provide the ground for their interaction with appropriate partners in the other countries and then provide its members with some new ground through contact with other networks available in the international technology transfer.

**Development process in Islamic republic of Iran and Iran’s preparedness to share its achievements and experiences**

I.R Iran from the very beginning has set development as its main priority and its special focus has been technology and its development via different ways such as technology transfer. Like other developing countries, Iran has needed necessary structures and infrastructures for development and transfer of technology which it has created in these years. Training experts, compiling national document for technology development especially high tech, establishing venture capital funds, technology parks, and national networks as well as policy making and providing related legal requirements are some of the activities accomplished in recent years. We should notice the role of international collaboration and mutual cooperation too. All these caused Iran to be of a rather good position among Islamic countries in terms of technology development indices. For instance, in medical biotechnology, Iran currently is capable of producing many specific and expensive medicines, or in the field of nanotechnology ranking eight in the world, Iran has been able to introduce several nanotech products to market. However, Iran has not achieved its desirable position due to some external forces and challenges.

**Cooperation of The Center for Innovation and Technology Cooperation of I.R. Iran Presidency (CITC ) with OIC structures and its preparedness for cooperation with the network**

The Center for Innovation and Technology Cooperation of I.R. Iran Presidency is one of the governmental organization that has been active for more than three decades in the field of international technological interactions and benefiting from its agencies in other countries, it has actively worked in technology transfer, commercializing technology and hi-tech products. This center has also used the potentials of the international organizations and institutes and associated structures of OIC such as IDB, COMSTECH, and SESRIC to promote international cooperation in the field of new technologies. And now, it is highly willing to work with D8 countries through this network.

Activating numerous potentials in this network results in development of technological cooperation and this in turn can better harmonize the activities of member countries in other fields; that is we should pursue the science and technology diplomacy in D8 countries.

Formation of the operational projects, even the small ones, between private or state sectors of the member countries modeling the cooperation can create stimulus for more participation of the member countries, organizations, and beneficiaries in the D8 countries.

I hope specialized meetings can set operational and executive plans for the network and before long we can achieve development and participation of the actors in the field of science and technology in the Islamic countries.