



A quarterly newsletter of the **D-8 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION**



This issue's highlight:

D-8 ORGANIZATION FETES D-8
ENVOYS AND MEDIA PARTNERS

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE
ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM

D-8 CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS MET TO
BOLSTER COOPERATION

D-8 SG ATTENDED THE TEHRAN
INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXHIBITION

AMBASSADOR IMAM PARTICIPATED IN
THE 3rd D-8 CCI ASSEMBLY

D-8 TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL MET IN DHAKA

The D-8 Trade Ministers Council convened its third Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024. Representatives from all D-8 Member States attended.

The meeting, which was held along with the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, was hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce. Its theme was 'Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals'.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Readers,

I am happy to extend my warm wishes to all our esteemed readers as we begin this promising new year, 2024. I hope the past year provided you with a springboard that will propel you forward in your endeavors in 2024.

It is gratifying to note that the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), under my watch, started this year 2024 on a high note with a flurry of activities cutting across our noble organization's sectoral track of cooperation.

To start with, the D-8 Trade Ministers Council (TMC) adopted the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) protocol during the Council's 3rd Session in Dhaka on 5 March 2024. The DSM will allow for the full, unimpeded, and effective implementation of the much-awaited D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA) soonest. In the same vein, the TMC also adopted the paper on Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS), which will also provide guidance for the effective implementation of the organization-wide operationalization of the D-8 PTA.

Furthermore, the TMC also issued the Dhaka Joint Declaration on Trade Cooperation, which enumerated crucial ways forward for trade cooperation among member states of the D-8. Prominent among the stipulations of the Declaration is the agreement, in principle, to expand the D-8 PTA through a proposed aggressive offer list and tariff schedule.

Other D-8 sectoral tracks of cooperation, for which meetings were convened during the first quarter of the year, included meetings to establish the D-8 Tourism City Award and the Experts meeting on Civil Aviation from the D-8 Member States, which took place virtually in February.

The D-8 affiliate bodies are also not left behind, as they began the New Year with a series of promising activities for 2024 and beyond. For instance, the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI) convened the 3rd Session of its General Assembly in February. The ranks of the D-8 Network of Pioneers for Research and Innovation (NPRI) have swelled with the admission of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, as its new member.



Dear Readers,

We at the D-8 Organization have, for the umpteenth time, expressed our position on the ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza since the conflict broke out in October 2023. To further express our deep concern for the suffering and untold hardship caused by this conflict on women and children in Gaza, it is recalled that the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission held in Dhaka from 20-21 October 2023, issued a joint statement calling for a cessation of hostilities and for humanitarian aid to reach the needy.

Furthermore, we welcome the adoption of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2728 of 25 March 2024, demanding an immediate ceasefire in Palestine. We therefore urge the international community to support our noble cause by using their political clout to ensure the effective implementation of the Resolution in ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of the Palestinian people.

On External Relations and engagement with international bodies, we have worked assiduously to strengthen our partnerships with various international organizations in our efforts to expand the D-8 Organization's visibility globally and to achieve the vision we set out to achieve.

As such, we started the year with our participation in the Global Workshop on Policy Experimentation for Digital Solution, jointly hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok in February. The D-8 Secretariat also participated in the first meeting of the Multi-stakeholder on Investment Reform, hosted virtually by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in February.

In January, the D-8 Secretariat hosted the new United Nations Resident Coordinator for Türkiye, Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi. Similarly, the Secretariat received a researcher from Malaysia in February, while the Secretary-General, on the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, actively participated in the annual 3rd Antalya Diplomacy Forum in March.

Furthermore, to expand our reach, we organized a gathering of Ambassadors of the D-8 Member States in Ankara with the partner Media Houses in Türkiye. In January 2024, I also visited Cairo to hold a consultative meeting with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

To conclude, Dear Readers, I invite you to follow our activities continuously through the D-8 Secretariat's social media outlets and provide feedback and input on ways to improve our organization.

Happy reading!

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General

SECTORAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITED CAIRO

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, visited Cairo to hold a consultative meeting with Ambassador Ragui El Etreby, the D-8 Commissioner of Egypt, and his team from 16 - 17 January 2024. Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director for Administrative, Legal, and Internal Issues, and Mr. Punjul S. Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations of the D-8 Secretariat, accompanied the Secretary-General.



While in Cairo, the Secretary-General (SG) discussed a wide range of issues with his host on moving the organization forward, including the impending Egypt's Presidency of the D-8 this year. SG also held separate meetings with Mr. Walid Haggag, Director of the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies, and Dr. Abla Abdel Latif, Executive Director of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MET ISTANBUL GOVERNOR



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Davut Gül, the Honorable Governor of Istanbul, at the Governor's office on 23 January 2024. During the visit, the SG highlighted his organization's achievements and activities to his host.

The Secretary-General further apprised the Governor of the forthcoming 27th Anniversary of the D-8 in June 2024 and the proposed activities to commemorate the event in Istanbul. According to the SG, the activities will comprise two main events: a Diplomatic Reception and a Cultural Expo. He invited the Governor to grace the occasion as the Guest of Honor.

D-8 ORGANIZATION FETES D-8 ENVOYS AND MEDIA PARTNERS, SETS AGENDA FOR 2024



The D-8 Secretariat, in collaboration with the Embassy of Bangladesh in Ankara, Türkiye, organized a New Year Luncheon for the D-8 envoys in Ankara and the representatives of Media Houses in Türkiye in Ankara on 29 January 2024. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, and Ambassador M. Amanul Haq of Bangladesh acted as co-hosts for the Luncheon. The well-attended luncheon aimed to strategize and set the Organization's agenda for the year 2024.



In his address, the D-8 Secretary-General highlighted the significant achievements recorded in the last two years since he assumed duty as the Secretary General of the D-8 Organization. He said that the past two years have been quite eventful, as notable advancements have been made in the areas of sectoral cooperation and external relations. Among the key achievements are the finalization of the protocols for the Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) and the Trade Facilitation Strategy (TFS) of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA). He added that the final endorsement of the D-8 PTA would be made during the forthcoming 3rd D-8 Trade Ministers meeting this year.

Speaking further, the Secretary-General called for active engagement from member states to overcome challenges encountered in the previous year, emphasizing the importance of timely meetings to advance the organization's goals.

The Secretary-General further expressed his satisfaction with the visibility of the organization in the last two years, both within the member states and globally. He stated that the D-8 was now being invited to high-profile conferences and meetings worldwide.



Speaking on the way forward for the Organization, the Secretary-General announced that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt is expected to assume the Chairmanship of the D-8 Organization this year. He also announced a plan by the Secretariat to organize a food and cultural festival in Istanbul in June 2024 to mark the 27th anniversary of the D-8's establishment. He presented other proposed events to be held in member states, such as the ministerial meetings on energy, agriculture, and industry, amongst others.

The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the member states and media partners for their support and cooperation, in the previous year. He urged the media partners to provide more robust and sustained coverage of the D-8 Organization activities in the years ahead.

Earlier, Ambassador M. Amanul Haq, the Bangladeshi Envoy to Ankara, underscored the D-8's remarkable progress, since its founding 26 years ago. He emphasized collaboration for shared prosperity among the organization's member states.



Ambassador Haq also highlighted some of the achievements recorded under Bangladesh's D-8 Presidency since 2021. He mentioned the successful hosting of the 20th D-8 Council of Ministers meeting and the three Sessions of the D-8 Commissions held in 2022 and 2023, thus affirming his country's commitment and dedication to the ideals, goals, and objectives of the D-8 organization.

Ambassador Amanul Haq also underscored Bangladesh's commitment to organizing the Senior Officials Meeting for trade cooperation in Dhaka in February 2024, which will precede the 3rd Session of the Trade Ministers' Council. He expressed confidence in the productivity of upcoming engagements and the potential for D-8 member countries to leverage a united front in international trade negotiations to secure better deals for their economies.



Also speaking, the D-8 Commissioner of Türkiye, Ambassador Esen Altuğ, reiterated Türkiye's staunch commitment to continue to support the D-8 Organization, which stemmed from its establishment 27 years ago. She emphasized the need for unity and cohesiveness among member states of the D-8 to achieve the Organization's shared goals and objectives.

SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVED UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR FOR TÜRKİYE



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, received Dr. Babatunde A. Ahonsi, the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), in Türkiye at the D-8 Secretariat on 27 January 2024. Dr. Ahonsi was on a courtesy call as part of his familiarization tour to the Headquarters of international organizations based in Türkiye following his appointment by the UN Secretary-General as the new UNRC in Türkiye.

The two dignitaries compared notes on the past activities of the D-8 Organization and the UN system. They expressed optimism that the subsisting relationship between their two organizations will be further strengthened to support each other's objectives and shared interests. The meeting also discussed some of the activities that the two organizations plan to organize in 2024 and 2025.

The Secretary-General further informed his guest of other D8 initiatives, such as climate change, strengthening SME development, and energy. He sought the support of the UNRC for these initiatives.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED THE 17TH TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXHIBITION

The 17th Iran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE) 2024 was held in Tehran, Iran, from 12 to 15 February 2024.

Upon the invitation of Seyed Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D8 Secretary General, accompanied by Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director for Administrative, Legal, and Internal Issues, participated in the Opening Ceremony and other related activities of the Exhibition.



The Honourable Ibrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, inaugurated the exhibition on 12 February 2024. Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana, Secretary-General of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), were also present at the inauguration ceremony. The D-8 Secretary-General also met with the Secretaries General of the UNWTO and ACD.

The D-8 SG held several other meetings on the sidelines of the Exhibition, including meetings with Mr. Mohammad-Mehdi Fadakar, the Governor General of Iran's Kerman province, and the Managing Director of Razavi Hospital.

Finally, the Secretary-General interacted extensively with media organizations, including the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Tasnim News Agency of Iran.

D-8 SECRETARIAT MET WITH THE ISLAMIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations, Mr. Biplob Tarafder, Programme Officer, and Ms. Zahra Setareh, Executive Assistant, virtually met with officials of the Islamic Chambers of Commerce and Development (ICCD) on 15 February 2024. The ICCD's team was led by Ms. Aya Mahrous, Acting Director of Events Management.



The meeting was convened to discuss areas of collaboration between the two organizations, following the meeting held between Ambassador Imam and Ms. Aalia Jafar, Director for International Relations of ICCD, at the D-8 Headquarters in Istanbul on 5 December 2023.

D-8 SECRETARIAT ATTENDED THE GLOBAL WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY UNDESA AND UNESCAP IN BANGKOK



The Secretariat, represented by the Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations, Mr. Punjul Nugraha, participated in the “Global Workshop on Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development”, jointly organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 19-20 February 2024.

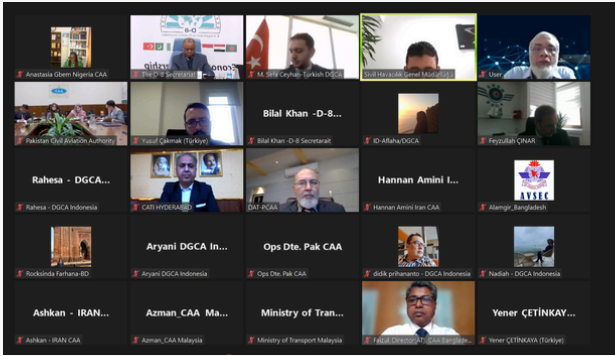
The Secretariat representative actively participated in the two-day event as a panelist. He presented the perspectives of the D-8 on digital transformation in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the participants. The D-8 called on the UN system to expand the program to other D-8 Member States.

The Global Workshop was associated with the 11th Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD). The D-8 attended the event upon the invitation from the UNDESA, signifying the close collaboration between the D-8 and UNDESA.

As part of its activities in Bangkok, the Secretariat also attended the plenary and thematic sessions of the 11th Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD).

The D-8 Delegation took note of the statements of the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, and the Under-Secretary-General of the UN/Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP, H.E. Armida Alisjahbana on the need to focus on innovation, investment, and inclusive policies, in critical areas to ensure a sustainable future for all.

CIVIL AVIATION EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES MET TO BOLSTER COOPERATION



The meeting of the Task Forces of the D-8 Directors-General and Experts Working Groups on Civil Aviation was held virtually on 21 February 2024. The Meeting was hosted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of Türkiye and attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, presented his opening remarks, at the meeting.

The meeting deliberated on issues such as Air Services, Air Navigation and Air Traffic Management, Training, and Capacity-Building Programs, which will play important roles in developing cooperation among the D-8 Member States in the Civil Aviation sector. The meeting agreed to hold the D-8 Directors-General and Experts Working Group on Civil Aviation meeting in Istanbul, in physical format, tentatively, in May 2024.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RECEIVED A RESEARCHER FROM MALAYSIA

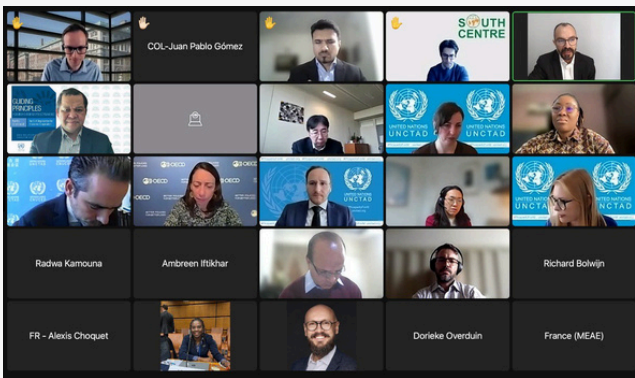
Dr. Noorsidi Aizuddin Mat Noor, the Associate Professor at the Center for Real Estate Studies of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), visited the D-8 Secretariat and met with the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, on 26 February 2024.

During the meeting, Dr. Noor delivered a presentation on “Knowledge Transfer Engagement: Integration of Real Estate and Community Development for the D-8 Organization.”



The meeting also discussed possible ways of collaboration between the D-8 and UTM, in line with the activities of the D-8 International University, D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN), and the D-8 Network of Pioneers, Research and Innovation (D-8 NPRI).

D-8 SECRETARIAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 1ST MEETING OF UNCTAD’S MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR IIA REFORM



The D-8 Secretariat, represented by Mr. Punjul Nugraha, Director for Economy, Implementation, and External Relations, participated in the 1st Meeting of the UNCTAD Multi-Stakeholder Platform on International Investment Agreement (IIA) Reform, organized virtually by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 29 February 2024.

In his presentation, Mr. Punjul made a case for continued collaboration between the D-8 and UNCTAD, which he noted had resulted in, among others, the publication of the Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking in 2019 and the proposed establishment of a Working Group on investment instrument reform.

AMBASSADOR IMAM ATTENDED THE THIRD ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM

Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, attended the opening ceremony of the 3rd Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF 2024) from 1 to 2 March 2024. The President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Hakan Fidan, delivered opening remarks during the official opening session. The D-8 SG participated in the ADF 2024 upon the generous invitation from H.E. Hakan Fidan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye.



Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, participated as a member of a panel that discussed “Understanding the Global South.” Other panelists were H.E. Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, H.E. Maria Laura da Rocha, the Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, and Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the UN SDGs Center for Sustainable Development Columbia.

The D-8 Secretary-General highlighted the D-8's experiences in promoting the interests of the Global South. The D-8 SG further elaborated on the D-8's commitment to promoting collaboration and cooperation to support the D-8's goals, including enhancing participation in decision-making at the international level. The panel was moderated by Nafisa Latic of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) World.

On the margins of the Forum, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam spoke with reporters from Anadolu Agency. He highlighted the importance of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in contributing to formulating measures to address global changes. He also highlighted the D-8's progress over the past couple of years in accelerating economic cooperation for the benefit of the Member States.

The D-8 SG also expressed his organization's support for the people of Palestine and used the opportunity to reiterate the call for the immediate cessation of hostilities while calling on the international community to push for a truce to allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza.



D-8 TRADE MINISTERS COUNCIL MET IN DHAKA, AGREED TO BOLSTER IMPLEMENTATION OF D-8 PTA



The D-8 Trade Ministers Council convened its third Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 March 2024. Representatives from all D-8 Member States attended.

The meeting, which was held along with the 7th Session of the Supervisory Committee of the D-8 PTA, was hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce. Its theme was 'Inclusive Trade for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals'.

The trade ministers agreed to bolster the implementation of the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8PTA) to achieve the much-awaited organization-wide implementation of the trade instruments. When fully implemented, the D-8 PTA is expected to revolutionize intra-trade relations among the member countries.

The State Minister of Bangladesh's Ministry of Commerce, Ahsanul Islam Titu, chaired the session, which adopted an important protocol of the D-8 PTA, the Dispute Settlement Mechanism protocol. The Session also adopted the paper on the D8 PTA's Trade Facilitation Strategy. Those two new instruments are expected to support the D-8 PTA and make it more effective.

The Session also issued the Dhaka Declaration on Trade Cooperation, which enumerated the guidelines for the D-8 Group to bolster the implementation of the D-8 PTA and enhance intra-D8 Trade. The Dhaka Declaration encouraged the D-8 member states to review the existing Offer Lists of the D-8 PTA so that the private sector can find more incentives to trade under the D8 PTA platform. Furthermore, the Group agreed to establish a Working Group to conduct a scoping exercise on the possibilities of an agreement on identifying and removing technical trade barriers.



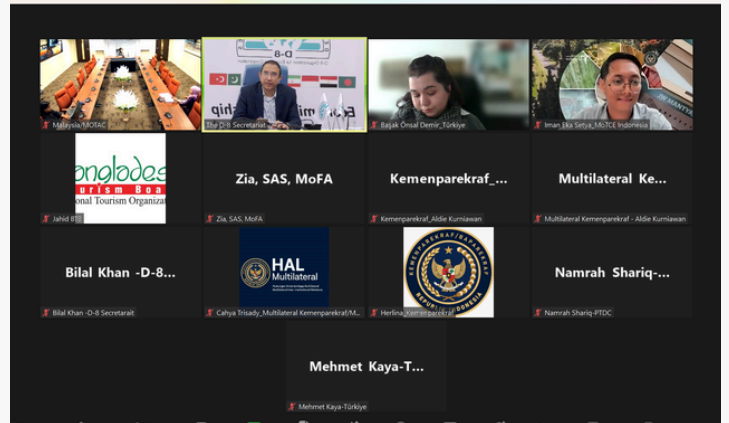
Through the Dhaka Declaration, the Ministers also tasked the D-8 Secretariat to study ways to expand the D-8 PTA. The meeting underscored the issue of training programs for its trade officials. It tasked the Secretariat with the responsibility of conducting needs assessments to prepare capacity-building programs for the Member States' specific needs in trade cooperation.

Commenting on the success of the third session of the D-8 TMC, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary-General, was confident that trade cooperation among the member states will increase further now that the D-8 PTA has been strengthened and equipped by additional protocols. He noted that the recently adopted DSM protocol opens the gateway for the smooth, effective, and organization-wide implementation of the D-8 trade agreement.

VIRTUAL MEETING ON D-8 TOURISM CITY OF THE YEAR AWARD

The inaugural D-8 Tourism Experts Meeting for the "D-8 Tourism City of the Year Award" initiative occurred virtually on March 7, 2024, hosted by the Secretariat.

Representing the D8 SG, Mr. Ahmar Ismail, Director for Administrative, Legal, and Internal Issues at the D-8 Secretariat, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Experts and officials from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Türkiye.



The Meeting deliberated on the Concept Note of the D-8 Tourism City Award initiative, which was developed by the Secretariat. It underscored the need for more discussions to fine-tune the Concept Note and agreed to hold further meetings to ensure the successful implementation of the D-8 Tourism City Award Initiative.

SECRETARY-GENERAL ATTENDED IFTAR PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY MUSIAD



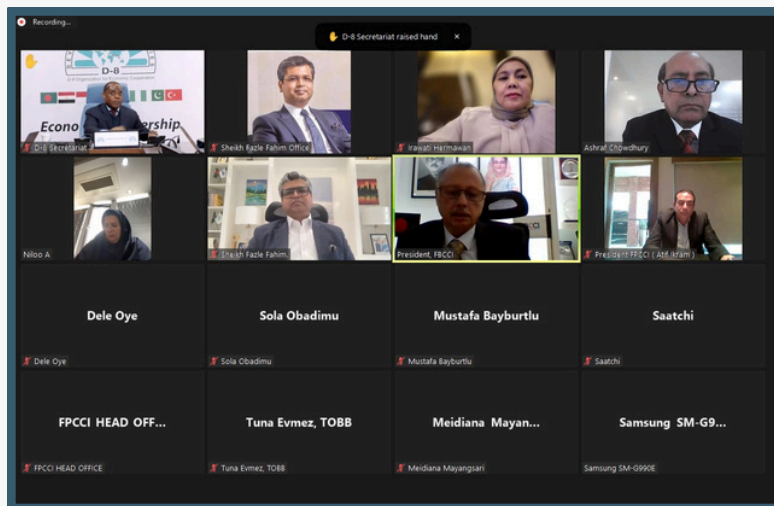
On the invitation of the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD) of Türkiye, the D-8 Secretary-General, Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, attended an Iftar Dinner program organized by MUSIAD at the MUSIAD Headquarters in Istanbul on March 26, 2024. The Iftar program was attended by the President of MUSIAD, Mr. Mahmut Asmalı, members of the MUSIAD Board of Directors, and over 60 Ambassadors and Consuls General accredited to the Republic of Türkiye.

Speaking at the Iftar program, President Mahmut Asmalı lauded Türkiye's recent achievements in trade, which he said are hinged on the country's advancement in infrastructure and skilled workforce.

On his part, the D8 SG thanked MUSIAD for the invitation and expressed satisfaction with the level of implementation of the existing MoU between D8 and MUSIAD while also calling for more collaborative activities between the two organizations.

D-8 AFFILIATE BODIES ACTIVITIES

SECRETARY-GENERAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 3RD D-8 CCI GENERAL ASSEMBLY



On the invitation of the Chair of the D-8 Chambers of Commerce and Industry (D-8 CCI), Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, the Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), attended the 3rd Session of the General Assembly of the D-8 CCI, which the Federation of Bangladesh of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) virtually hosted on 28 February 2024. Director II, the Programme Officer, and Executive Assistant II also attended.

Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, the Chair of the D-8 CCI, chaired the Meeting, which was attended by representatives of Members of the D-8 CCI, namely the FBCCI, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mine, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM), the Nigeria Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA), the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye (TOBB).

In his remarks, the D-8 Secretary-General called on all members of the D-8 CCI to campaign for effective operationalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA), including other D8 Multilateral Trade Agreements such as Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters (D-8 Customs Agreement) to boost the intra D-8 trade.

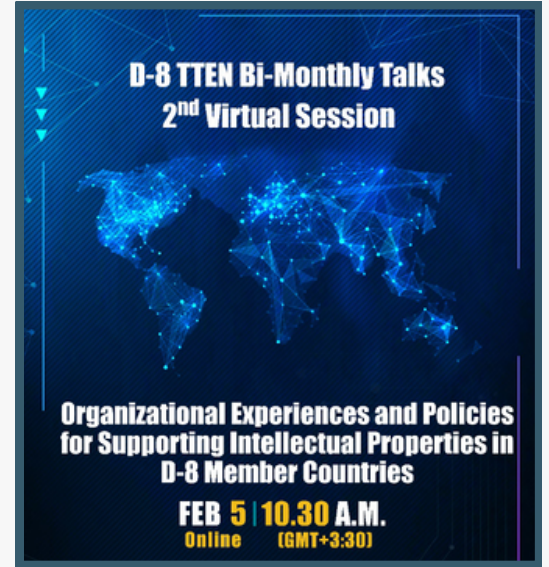
He enjoined the D-8 CCI members to conduct sensitization programs to introduce the D-8 PTA to a broader audience in member countries. The Secretary-General suggested the establishment of a permanent office for the D-8 CCI to improve its work and ensure proper coordination of its activities.

The 3rd D-8 CCI General Assembly's outcome was adopting the D-8 CCI Strategic Roadmap and Work Plans for 2024-2025.

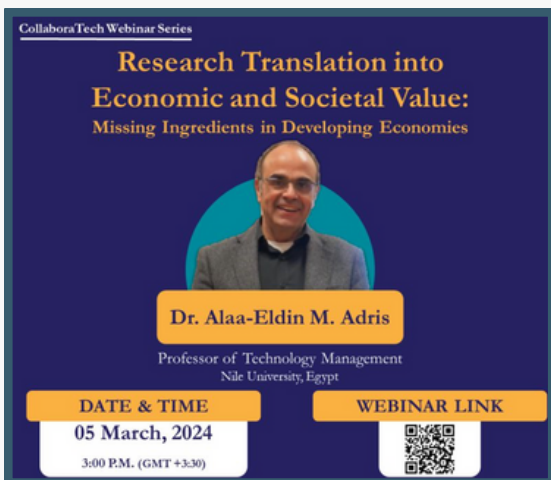
The D-8 CCI also welcomed the proposal tabled by KADIN Indonesia to host the International Food Exposition in Jakarta in 2024. The KADIN will officially announce the program in due course.

BI-MONTHLY ONLINE MEETINGS ON TECHNOLOGY-RELATED TOPICS BY D-8 TTEN

The D-8 TTEN Secretariat based in Tehran, Iran, initiated regular bi-monthly online meetings focusing on technology-related topics to facilitate effective communication and collaboration among member countries. The inaugural meeting was held on November 21, 2023, followed by the second meeting on February 5, 2024, hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh. The meeting centered around the theme: "Organizational Experiences and Policies for Supporting Intellectual Properties in D-8 Member Countries." It was attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye. The informative event marked a significant milestone in bringing together experts from different regions in a virtual space.



COLLABORATECH WEBINARS HELD BY D-8 TTEN



In addition to the bi-monthly meetings, D-8 TTEN has launched a series of webinars called CollaboraTech, where experts from various fields of technology are invited to share their insights. The first session of CollaboraTech took place on March 5, 2024, and featured Dr. Alaa-Eldin M. Adris, a renowned Professor of Technology Management at Nile University in Egypt. Dr. Adris discussed translating research into economic and societal values in developing economies.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AWARD (TTA) UPDATES BY D-8 TTEN

As part of the preparations for the 4th D-8 Technology Transfer Award (D8 -TTA), the first meeting of the D8 TTA Scientific Committee was held in January 2024 to discuss the evaluation criteria for applications. The Committee is tasked with identifying the D8 TTA Award Winner.

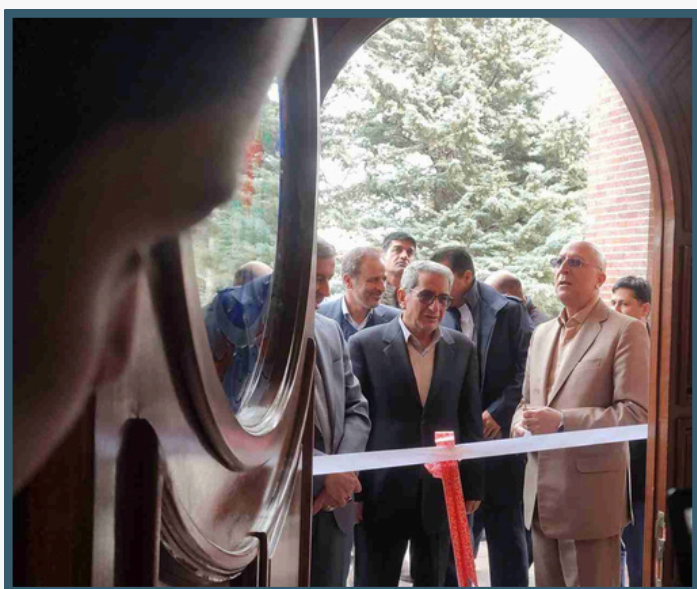
The Steering Committee of the D8 TTA decided to extend the registration deadline for the event to allow more companies to participate in the competition. The award ceremony is scheduled for May 22, 2024, at Gebze Technical University, Türkiye.



PREPARATION OF A REPORT ON THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM OF D-8 MEMBER COUNTRIES BY D-8 TTEN

To foster a deeper understanding and collaboration among member countries, D-8 TTEN has started conducting one-on-one interview sessions with its appointed representatives, and the first of such interviews was held on 28 December 2023. By engaging in these discussions, D-8 TTEN aims to gain valuable insights into each member nation's technology and innovation landscape. The outcome of the interviews is to be published as a report and shared with member countries. This is to enable them to gain a comprehensive understanding of the advancements and opportunities within the D-8 TTEN networks.

UNVEILING THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL HUB: D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S NEW BUILDING INAUGURATION



The inauguration of the Administrative and Educational Building of the D-8 International University in Hamedan, Iran, was held on Thursday, 1 February 2024. The ceremony was attended by important dignitaries, including Prof. Mohammad Ali Zolfigol, Minister of Science, Research and Technology, Dr. Hossein Rezvan, the President of Bu Ali Sina University, officials, and faculty members and staff of Bu Ali Sina University.

In his remarks, Prof. Abbas Afkhami, the Chancellor of D-8 International University, spoke about the recent developments in the university, particularly the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of cooperation with two universities from Iran, six universities from Malaysia, five universities from Bangladesh, five universities from Pakistan and two universities from Indonesia. According to him, it is hoped that these initiatives would lead to the development of international cooperation and the strengthening of educational institutions in these countries.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Zolfigol, the Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran, expressed his gratitude to the Chancellor of D-8 IU, Prof. Afkhami and his team, for their tireless efforts in the face of the various challenges they are confronted with. The Minister said that the D-8 International University has been able to expand its academic capacity by expanding its international scientific cooperation and promoting them in a very wide and unique way.

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SIGNED LETTERS OF INTENT WITH TOP UNIVERSITIES OF PAKISTAN



On 18 January 2024, in the presence of H.E. Prof. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the D-8 International University signed the Letters of Intent with four universities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Universities from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that signed the letters of Intent with D-8 International University are:

- Quaid-i-Azam University
- University of the Punjab
- Allama Iqbal Open University
- University of Education

D-8 INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY BROADENS ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES IN BANGLADESH

In furtherance of deepening educational cooperation in the member states, the D8 International University expanded its collaborations further with Bangladesh Universities. D-8 International University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh, has signed five MoUs with the following universities in Bangladesh.

- Khulna University
- Jashore University of Science and Technology
- Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
- Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University



These momentous occasions marked a significant commitment to achieving excellence in higher education through mutually beneficial partnerships between these esteemed universities. The signing of (MoUs) signifies a dedication to fostering collaboration in various academic endeavors, including joint academic programs, student exchange initiatives, collaborative international projects, and exchanging publications and facilitating the exchange of students and staff between participating institutions.

D-8 International University eagerly anticipates leveraging these agreements to enhance higher education opportunities for all member states within the D-8 organization. By leveraging the collective strengths and resources of the universities involved, these collaborations aimed to drive innovation, promote cultural exchange, and facilitate the development of globally competitive graduates equipped to address the challenges of the modern world.

**THE 3RD MEETING OF D-8 NPRI WILL BE HOSTED BY
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA**

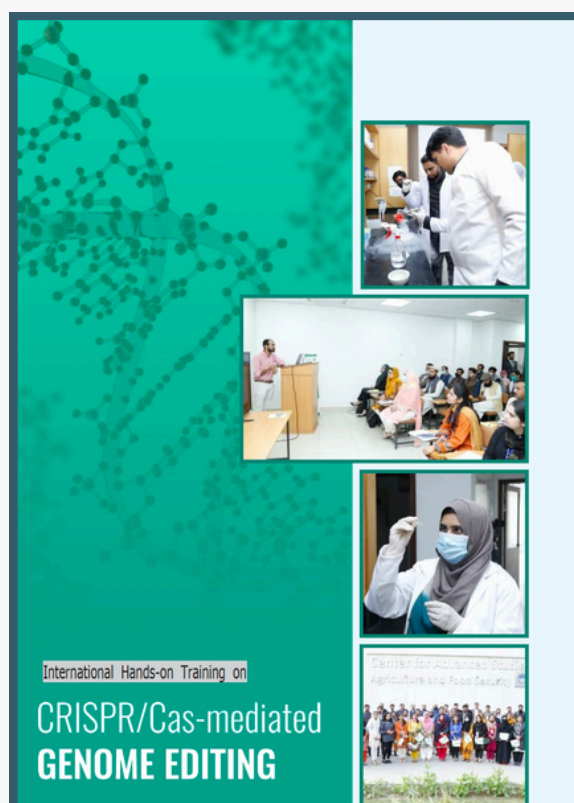
**D-8 Network of Pioneers for
Research and Innovation
(D-8NPRI)**

Upon the request of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria to host the 3rd Meeting of D-8 NPRI, and sequel to the approval granted by the Chair of D-8 NPRI, COMSATS University Islamabad, the 3rd Meeting of the D8 NPRI will be organized by the University of Ilorin in the year 2024.

**D-8 RESEARCH CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
WILL ORGANIZE ONE-WEEK TRAINING PROGRAM ON GENOME EDITING**

In accordance with the Joint Action Plan signed between the D-8 and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security (D-8 RCAFS), in cooperation with the Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security (CAS-AFS) of University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, will organize a one-week International Hands-on Training Program on Genome Editing, which is scheduled from 6-10 May 2024 in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

The primary aim of this training initiative is to enhance the capacity of early-career young researchers in genome editing to realize this technology's vast potential. The program will offer comprehensive hands-on training to guide participants through laboratory experiments. Moreover, it seeks to facilitate interaction and establish enduring collaborations among researchers in Islamic countries.



ACTIVITIES OF D-8 HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME (D-8 HSP) OFFICE



Developing a prototype for phase 2 of the Therapeutic Goods Health Market Study (TGHM):

Phase 1 of TGHM recommended that phase 2 propose a strategic market-led, private-public partnership capacity-building intervention that will revitalize health policy and health market outcomes and foster cooperation and trade within Member Countries.

BoT Members of UZF Set for Inauguration:

The Board of Trustees (BoT) members of Umma Zakat Fund (UZF) has been selected by the D8 HSP, based on recommendations from the religious bodies and partners promoting the UZF project. This process ensured that the BOT members are men and women of proven integrity. The BoT of the UZF is the highest decision-making organ of the body.

The role of the BoT is essentially to serve as an advisory body, with the responsibility to oversee the management team and provide the strategic direction for the Umma Zakat project.

The D-8 HSP has sent letters of congratulations to all members of the BoT of Umma Zakat, while the date for the inauguration has been officially communicated to them.

Umma Zakat Fund is a web-based system that connects the benefactors and the beneficiaries and ensures a seamless share of wealth, in line with Islamic principles.

D-8 HSP Calls for Proposals to develop prototype and Beta release application platform for UZF

The D-8 Health and Social Protection program office, has called for Reference for Proposal (RFP) from reputable ICT companies for the recruitment of developers to build the Umma Zakat (UZF) application platform for the App.

Out of the numerous applications that were received, and after rigorous screening and with the engagement of a developer, 'Propein Labs Technology' was chosen and is expected to submit a designed prototype, for consideration soon.



D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation



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