



**Standing Committee
for Economic and Commercial Cooperation
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

**Proceedings of the 25th Meeting of the
COMCEC Tourism Working Group**

**“Improving the Quality and Sustainability in Heritage
Tourism in OIC Countries”**



**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
October 2025**

**Proceedings of the 25st Meeting of the
COMCEC Tourism Working Group**

“Improving the Quality and Sustainability in Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries OIC”
(September 15th-16th, 2025, Ankara, TÜRKİYE)

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
October 2025

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Table of CONTENTS

Introduction.....	5
1. Opening Session.....	5
2. COMCEC Tourism Outlook	6
3. Overview of the Report	7
4. Selected Case Studies	8
4.1. Egypt	8
4.2. Indonesia	9
4.3. Senegal	9
4.4. Türkiye	10
4.5. Italy.....	10
5. Member Country Presentations	11
5.1. Iran	11
5.2. Burkina Faso.....	12
5.3. Türkiye	12
6. The COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism.....	14
7. Closing Remarks	14
Annex I List of Participants.....	15
Annex II: Agenda of the Meeting.....	20
Annex III: Programme of the Meeting	21

Introduction

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) held its 25th Meeting on September 15th-16th, 2025, with the theme of “Improving the Quality and Sustainability in Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”.

The 25th meeting was attended by 20 Member States. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA).

1. Opening Session

In line with the tradition of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Meeting started with a recitation from the Holy Quran. At the outset, Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ, Director General of the COMCEC made a brief opening speech about the latest developments in heritage tourism.

Mr. KOÇ emphasized the fact that heritage tourism, which emphasizes history, culture, and traditions, appeals to tourists seeking educational and cultural enrichment. It includes both tangible assets (such as historical sites, monuments, and natural parks) and intangible elements (such as traditional music, cuisine, folklore, and festivals). Together, these assets enrich visitor experiences, support cultural understanding, and contribute to local economies.

He mentioned the focus of today's meeting, as to explore ways to enhance the quality and sustainability of heritage tourism and to develop policy recommendations on the identification, development, preservation, and marketing of heritage assets, with the goal of building a more competitive and sustainable tourism industry across member countries.

He underlined the fact that heritage tourism promotes cultural preservation, generates sustainable income, encourages community pride, and fosters more meaningful tourist-host interactions. It is also a major driver of economic growth, especially in developing countries, through its contributions to employment, foreign exchange, and tax revenues.

On the other hand, Mr. KOÇ expressed that the main objective of our discussions in this two-day meeting would be to elaborate on the main findings of the research report conducted for this meeting, identify the challenges faced and formulate policy recommendations for submission to the upcoming COMCEC Ministerial Session. In the meeting, we will also listen presentations on the experiences of Member Countries, various organizations and private sector. The session aims to benefit from the insights and expertise of all participants to shape the future of heritage tourism in OIC Member Countries.

Mr. KOÇ finally outlined that countries' deliberations could contribute to the further enhancement of our cooperation in this area.

Mr. AKTAŞ, gave the floor to Mr. DAVIDS HALONGO, Curator, Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities UGANDA, for chairing the meeting. Welcoming the participants, Mr. HOLONGO briefly informed the attendees on the agenda and program of the meeting.

2. COMCEC Tourism Outlook

In the first session, Prof. GÜREL ÇETİN, Professor of Istanbul Teknik University, Türkiye and Consultant to the COMCEC Tourism Working Group made a presentation about COMCEC Tourism Outlook. In the first part of the presentation, Prof. ÇETİN gave a brief background of the Outlook and stated that the presentation is expected to focus on mainly in these areas;

- The Importance of Tourism for Development
- Tourism Trends
- Overview of International Tourism in the World
- International Tourism in the OIC Member Countries

Prof. ÇETİN provided an overview of the importance of tourism for the development of member countries by referring it as remarkable socio-economic phenomena and related to more than 185 supply-side economic activities, with direct and indirect effects. He expressed that a strong tourism sector contributes in many ways to development and the economy. It makes both direct contributions, by raising the national income and improving the balance of payments, and indirect contributions, via its multiplier effect on other industries and by providing the means for connecting countries, through hard and soft infrastructure attributes that are also critical for a country's general economic competitiveness, international trade and foreign direct investment.

Prof. ÇETİN also gave information about the recent developments in OIC member countries in tourism sector. He stated that Türkiye (4th), Saudi Arabia (11th) and Morocco(17th) were ranked in the top 20 countries in terms of arrivals in the World and while UAE (12th), Türkiye (5th) and Saudi Arabia (13th) were also ranked at top 20 list in terms of receipts in the World in 2024.

He stated that Gulf countries continued their extraordinary growth compared to pre-pandemic year of 2019. Egypt, and Iran are also back in business after the pandemic. OIC members in such as Malaysia and Indonesia have suffered from the impacts of pandemic and extended travel restrictions on their source markets since 2020. They both recorded around 25% growth in 2024 yet still below their 2019 volume. Uzbekistan recorded 50+% increase both in receipts and arrivals. Albania, and Kazakhstan continued their steady but impressive growth.

Prof. ÇETİN also underlined that OIC Member Countries have tourism opportunities such as natural and cultural resources, human resources, authenticity and novelty, price competitiveness and dynamism, and challenges including travel facilitation problems, safety and security related problems, low tourism service quality, insufficient marketing and promotion.

3. Overview of the Report

In the first session, Prof. ÇETİN made a presentation on the general review of the research report with respect to the scope, conceptual framework and methodology of the study.

Prof. ÇETİN mentioned the importance of sustainability and underlined the fact that the first presentation of the thematic report includes conceptual background, methodology and overall findings and recommendations. Presentation introduces the growing role of heritage tourism in OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) countries and outlines strategies for sustainable development. Stressing the per capita revenues from tourism in OIC being lower than the global average the presentation starts with offering higher spending heritage tourists as a solution to this challenge of increasing the value received from tourism in OIC countries. Heritage tourism as a growing segment is now accounting for 36% of global tourism volume. Unlike price sensitive “3S” (sun, sea, sand) tourism market, heritage tourism emphasizes environmental sustainability, cultural authenticity, longer stays, and higher spending.

According to him, heritage tourism and its place in tourism systems is further discussed especially comparing it with sun-lust, beach tourism. The presentation highlights tangible assets (archaeological sites, monuments, museums, sacred sites, landscapes) and intangible heritage (arts, crafts, music, festivals, cuisine) as main resources in heritage tourism. However, various environmental, social and economic challenges facing heritage tourism development include urban development, over-tourism, weak infrastructure, climate change risks, social disruption, commercialization, gentrification and limited funding.

Prof. ÇETİN explained that the research methodology combined secondary data, fieldwork, interviews, focus groups, and case studies. A total of 20 interviews, 130 surveys and 2 focus groups of 8 experts were conducted. Based on the analysis of both of these qualitative and quantitative data, the final roadmap is divided into minimum standards (legal frameworks, heritage conservation, governance, visitor infrastructure, community empowerment) and good practices (destination management, product diversification, sustainable marketing, funding mechanisms, and cross-border cooperation).

Prof. ÇETİN also informed the participants about both findings of the empirical study which were categorized under five themes as; service performance, marketing, managerial and administrative challenges, sustainable balance and future-proofing heritage. A SWOT analysis of OIC destinations identifies both strengths and opportunities—like diverse heritage resources, growing demand for authentic cultural experiences, rising middle-class travel markets, and strong UNESCO presence (231 sites in OIC countries)—and weaknesses and threats, such as degradation, pollution, gentrification, funding, illicit trafficking, youth disengagement, urban, industrial and agricultural pressures, economic leakages, and authenticity loss.

Prof. ÇETİN underscored that, based on the finding’s recommendations were discussed under minimum standards (legal and regulatory frameworks, heritage conservation, governance, community involvement, infrastructure) and good practices (Integrated plans, diversification of heritage tourism products, marketing and branding, self-funding mechanisms, and regional

collaboration). The overarching message is that heritage tourism offers a more sustainable alternative to mass tourism and should be prioritized in OIC through various policies such as destination and site management strategies, legal reforms, community involvement, and innovative funding models.

4. Selected Case Studies

The second presentation of Prof. ÇETİN focused on the thematic report synthesizes findings from case studies in four OIC members (Egypt, Indonesia, Senegal, Türkiye) and one non-OIC benchmark (Italy) to identify challenges, extract success factors and lessons for sustainable heritage tourism. Empirical data were collected from Indonesia and Senegal through field visits whereas Türkiye, Egypt and Italy were identified as desk-based case countries. The following findings were discussed during the presentation for each case country.

4.1. Egypt

Egypt is rich in ancient sites and is also the Nile's cultural landscape. Egypt recovered fully after the pandemic and hosted more than 15 million tourists.

Challenges for sustainable heritage tourism development in Egypt

- Cultural asset protection against illicit trafficking
- Over tourism and environmental damage
- Climate change
- Governance and threats to World Heritage Status

Success factors for sustainable heritage tourism development in Egypt can be listed as;

- The mass tourism and economic dynamics in Egypt
- Governance and preservation of Egypt's archaeological heritage
- Cultural heritage awareness and underwater tourism in Egypt
- Advancing sustainable heritage tourism in Egypt
- Relatively strong land transportation

Recommended practices for Egypt are:

- Preservation of archaeological artefacts
- Inclusive and sustainable tourism in heritage areas
- Visitor management and nudging
- Diversification of heritage products
- Capacity building for human resources
- Integration of digital tools

4.2. Indonesia

Indonesia is home to 10 tangible and 17 intangible UNESCO sites and hosted 14 million visitors in 2024.

Challenges for sustainable heritage tourism development in Indonesia

- Environmental degradation
- Cultural commodification and authenticity loss
- Insufficient infrastructure and capacity
- Institutional fragmentation and limited coordination
- Vulnerability to shocks (pandemics, disasters, and climate change)
- Balancing digital innovation with inclusivity

Success factors for Indonesia can be lined as;

- Bottom up approach to heritage management
- Participatory community-based approaches
- Enhanced funding by earmarked tourism revenues
- Strong integration between tangible and intangible heritage

Recommended practices for Indonesia

- Integrated governance strengthening
- Improve regulation enforcement
- Diversify and innovate funding
- Improve infrastructure and accessibility
- Capacity building, awareness and interest among younger generation

4.3. Senegal

Senegal's heritage was shaped by African, Arab, and European influences. Senegal hosted more than 2 million tourists, with sites like Gorée Island, Saint-Louis, and Niokolo-Koba Park.

Challenges for sustainable heritage tourism development in Senegal

- Environmental: coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, pollution.
- Socio-Cultural; commodification of traditions, community marginalization, diaspora memory dilemmas.
- Economic: over-reliance on flagship sites, weak funding, seasonality, global competition.

Recommended practices for Senegal

- Regulatory framework and institutional cooperation in Senegal
- Heritage preservation and sustainable management

- Community involvement and local benefits
- Improving infrastructure and accessibility
- Responsible promotion and inclusive marketing
- Training and professionalization

4.4. Türkiye

Türkiye holds 53 UNESCO-certified heritage assets and over 150,000 registered heritage resources and hosts 62 million tourists. Türkiye has rich history, diverse geography and developed tourism infra-structure and services.

Challenges for heritage tourism in Türkiye

- Sustainability Challenges
- Environmental Challenges (Natural disasters, climate change, over tourism and pollution)
- Socioeconomic Challenges (Agricultural, industrial and urban development, commodification, gentrification, community participation)
- Visitor Experience (Crowding, information provision)
- Governance (Implementation & Monitoring, bureaucracy, stakeholder involvement & coordination)

Success factors for heritage tourism in Türkiye

- Türkiye's strategic approach in managing sustainable heritage tourism.
- Structures and legislation to preserve and develop sustainable heritage tourism.
- Diversification in heritage tourism.
- Visitor management.
- Funding.
- Community involvement & capacity building.

Recommendations for heritage tourism in Türkiye

- Establish structures for enforcement & implementation.
- Governance coordination & collaboration.
- Creating awareness among stakeholders.
- Visitor services and management.
- Diversify heritage products to minimize impacts.
- Optimize funding.

4.5. Italy

Italy is a global leader with 60 UNESCO sites hosting 129 million tourists. Italy stands out for its rich history, diverse cultural heritage, natural landscapes, and world-class cuisine. With an impressive array of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, historic cities like Rome, Florence, and

Venice, and natural beauty regions like Tuscany and the Amalfi Coast, the country is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations worldwide.

Success factors for sustainable heritage tourism development in Italy

- Preservation & conservation of heritage sites
- Community involvement
- Sustainable tourism policies & governance
- Innovation & digital transformation
- Authentic & diversified experiences
- Education & awareness
- Taxation & funding
- Infra-structure and accessibility

Prof ÇETİN underlined the key cross-cutting lessons for OIC countries as; infrastructure and accessibility, community participation, governance and coordination, sustainable financing, marketing and branding, visitor management and digital innovation to protect heritage and enhance competitiveness of sustainable heritage tourism in OIC countries.

5. Member Country Presentations

5.1. Iran

Mrs. Bitā SADEGHZADEH, Senior Expert from Iran, made a presentation about Iran's heritage tourism. She emphasized that Iran, with its rich and diverse tourism heritage, has steadily strengthened its position as a cultural and heritage-based destination in recent years. This growing interest reflects the country's unique potential to offer authentic experiences to international visitors. In this context, revisiting tourism strategies and placing greater emphasis on sustainability has become a strategic necessity—especially among OIC member countries that share deep cultural and historical ties and can collectively advance sustainable heritage tourism through regional collaboration. Mrs. SADEGHZADEH finally emphasizes Iran's heritage tourism potential as below:

- Iran ranks among the top 10 countries globally with 29 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Recognized for intangible cultural heritage such as Nowruz, traditional music, and crafts.
- Five Iranian cities (Isfahan, Rasht, Bandar Abbas, Sanandaj, Kermanshah) are part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network
- Diverse attractions: deserts, forests, bazaars, Persian gardens
- Strong potential for regional cooperation among OIC member states in promoting sustainable heritage tourism

5.2. Burkina Faso

Mrs. Monique ILBOUDO, distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso made a presentation about their countries experiences in heritage tourism. She underlined that Burkina Faso is a country with a mosaic of exceptional heritage. The country has important heritage sites such as; UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Loropéni Ruins, Iron Metallurgy Sites, Royal Court of Tiébélé, W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.

Burkina Faso has a strategy for quality and sustainability in heritage tourism. This strategy includes community involvement with village camps, local guides, revenue sharing, institutional framework with national strategies, 2021 Tourism Law and UNESCO site management plans, professionalization in training guides, eco-friendly hotels, artisan support and finally respectful tourism with the focus on thematic itineraries and raising awareness among visitors about responsible behaviours.

According to her, Burkina Faso has some challenges in heritage tourism. She underlined them as below:

- Security: Resilience, secure hubs, domestic and regional tourism.
- Financing: Public–private partnerships, innovative financing, partner support.
- Legal securization of heritage: consultations for agreement with local communities.
- Scarcity of basic material for renovation: adaptation measures and sustainable practices inspired by traditional knowledge.

5.3. Türkiye

Mrs. Selin Can YON, Certificate and Operation Assistant Manager and Mr. Ahmet TAN, Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Türkiye; both made a presentation relating on Türkiye's Living Heritage and Pathways to Sustainability.

Distinguished delegates of Türkiye stated that intangible cultural heritage includes living cultural expressions passed down through generations, such as: oral traditions and expressions, performing arts (music, dance, theatre), social practices, rituals, festive events, traditional craftsmanship and knowledge concerning nature and the universe. According to them, Türkiye is one of the active state parties for the Convention with 31 ICH elements inscribed on UNESCO ICH Lists which includes 17 national nominations, 28 elements on the representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity, 14 multinational nominations and 3 elements on the list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding.

Distinguished delegates noted that the threats for sustainability of living heritage can be identified by over commercialisation, decontextualization, and misappropriation. Experience-based tourism, participatory activities, support for local crafts and gastronomy with year-round tourism opportunities are the base of sustainability of living heritage. They underlined the importance of Sustainable Transformation Timeline step by step. This timeline includes different steps such as green star, zero waste, destination assessment, development of Restaurant Criteria. They highlighted that Türkiye became the first and exemplary country to make an agreement with GSTC to prepare a National Sustainable Tourism Program.

Sustainable routes identifying cultural journeys are mentioned by the representatives. They mentioned some of the routes from Türkiye such as Route of Olive Tree, Turkish Tea, St. Nicholas and Aeneas Route (Legendary Journey of the Trojan Hero).

Last but not least, Mrs. Prof. Dr. Özlem KARAKUL, Member of Tangible Cultural Heritage Expertise Committee of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, Selçuk University, made a presentation about “Holistic Conservation, Sustainability and Tourism in Historic Environments”. She underlined that traditional craftsmanship gains a critical role for providing sustainable development in historic environments concerning the inclusive economic development, sustainable cities, sustainable production patterns. Traditional craftsmanship is affected positively or negatively with regard to the different management policies of tourism developed by countries directly affecting the sustainable development of historic environments.

She also highlighted that the accurate management of tourism contributes to the sustainable development of environments increasing the implementation of craft products to afford the increasing demand for tourists on traditional craftsmanship.

According to her, tourism also accelerates the conservation and restoration activities in historic environments providing the continuity of the activities of local building masters using local building materials, techniques and tools and making environments sustainable. The demand of cultural tourists on handmade products produced by traditional techniques and materials, accelerates the production process of the products of local traditional craftsmanship.

6. International Organizations

IRCICA Representative Mr. Dr. Alidost ERTUĞRUL, Head of Department, made a presentation about “Enhancing Cultural Tourism with Sustainable Practices and Preservation”. He underlined that heritage tourism showcases cultural identity, ensures year-round visitors, longer stays, deeper cultural integration, supports intercultural dialogue & destination branding, encourages governments to invest in preservation and helps civil society involvement in this area.

He informed the participants about IRCICA’s contribution on heritage tourism in OIC Countries. IRCICA contributes countries by heritage site restoration, promoting restoration and tourism development of lesser-known heritage locations, by preparing panels and architectural heritage database and finally by catalog hundreds of Islamic heritage sites.

Last but not least, Mr. ERTUĞRUL informed the participants by giving examples of recommendations on heritage tourism.

- Integration heritage preservation with tourism development.
- Active involvement of local communities & religious groups.
- Strengthening international cooperation within OIC.
- Promotion of under-recognized heritage sites globally.
- Development of OIC-focused norms for sacred and religious heritage tourism.

7. The COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism

Mr. Kadir ALTINTOP, Program Coordinator at COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation on utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism (CPF). Mr. ALTINTOP informed the participants about the essentials of the COMCEC Project Funding. Mr. ALTINTOP continued his presentation by highlighting the critical points and timeline for the project submission. He stressed the importance of finding a project idea and informed the participants on how they can find project topics. He also explained the main project types and criteria for being an applicant for a project. He also reminded the participants to read the application documents particularly the Project Preparation and Submission Guidelines as well as supported sectoral themes before designing and submitting their project proposal. After providing information about the projects being implemented in 2024, Mr. ALTINTOP finally briefed the participants about the other two grant programs, namely the COMCEC Al-Quds Program and the COMCEC COVID Response Program.

8. Closing Remarks

The Meeting ended with closing remarks of Mr. DAVIDS HALONGO, Curator, Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda, Chairperson to the meeting and Mr. M. CELALETTIN AKTAŞ, Head of Department at the COMCEC Coordination Office.

In her closing remarks, Mr. HALONGO conveyed his appreciations to all the presenters and participants for the fruitful deliberations made during the meeting. Then, he informed the participants that the policy advices formulated in the 25th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group will be submitted to the COMCEC Ministerial Session to be held in 1-4 November 2025. Afterwards, in his closing remarks, Mr. AKTAŞ expressed his thanks and appreciation to all participants for their contributions to the discussions throughout the meeting. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Annex I List of Participants

25th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group

(15th-16th September 2025, Ankara)

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Ms. MATINA HYKA

Head of Department, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- Mr. ABDELHAMID OUARI

Director General, National Tourism Board of Algeria

- Mr. AMINE AMMARI

Director, Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts Algeria

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- Mr. TELMAN MALIKZADE

Head of Local Projects Division of the Reserves Management Center, State Tourism Agency
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Ms. NAILA SHIKHALIYEVA

Head of Department, State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

BURKINA FASO

- Mr. ILBOUDO MONIQUE

Director General, Ministry of Tourism

- Mr. OUEDRAOGO MAMOUDOU

Focal Point, Ministry of Tourism

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Mr. AHMED RASHAD

Counselor, Embassy of Egypt in Ankara

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Ms. BITA SADEGHZADEH

Senior Expert, Ministry of Tourism

- Ms. ROGHIE FARAHI

Expert, Ministry of Tourism

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- Ms. RIDHAB ALBAYATI

Director, Tourism Board

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

- Mr. GILBERT ZAYO

Head of Department, Ministry of Tourism

- Ms. BERNA IMAD

Expert, Ministry of Tourism - Ministry of Economy and Trade

LIBYA

- Mr. AZDDIN ABDALLAH MOHAMED ELBAKUSH

Director, Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts- Libya

- Mr. MUSAAB BASHIR AHMED MALEK

Director, Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts- Libya

MALAYSIA

- Ms. EE CHIN YONG

Undersecretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

- Mr. LIONEL HARITH SEBASTIAN DARAUP

Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

- H.E. FREDSON BACAR

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy

- Ms. NATIVIDADE JOSE

Multinational Corporation, Ministry of Tourism and Culture

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- Mr. OKEMINI DIKE

Chief Tourism Officer, Federal Ministry of Art Culture Tourism and Creative Economy

STATE OF QATAR

- Mr. MOOZA ALKUWARI

First International Cooperation Researcher, Qatar Tourism

- Ms. AHLAM ABDULLA

Administrative Coordinator - International Cooperation Unit, Qatar Tourism

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. ABDULAZIZ SALEH ALGHORAYYEB

Consultant, Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- Ms. NOZHA CHEIKH

Division Head, Tunisian National Tourist Office (ONTT) - Tunisia

- Ms. ZAKIA MABROUK

Head of Department, Ministry of Tourism

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

- H.E. Prof. Dr. OZLEM KARAKUL

Professor, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

- Ms. BANU BEDEL

Senior Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye

- Mr. FARUK CUBUKCU

Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Ms. ESRA MERT

Expert, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

- Ms. SELIN CAN YON

Certificate and Operation Assistant Manager, Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency

- Ms. MELEK GULERERDEM

Officer, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye

- Mr. BİROL AKMAN

Tourism Council Member, TOBB

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- Mr. DAVIDS HALONGO

Curator, Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities

B. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

RESEARCH CENTER FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

- Mr. ALIDOST ERTUGRUL

Head of Department, IRCICA

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Mr. MUZAMIL EDEMA

Expert

- Ms. FATMA SUMEYYE KARATAY

Statistics Officer,

- Mr. MOHAMED ELGABY

Assistant Expert,

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ

Director General

- Mr. GÜRKAN POLAT

Director

- MEHMET C. AKTAŞ

Director

- Mr. MEHMET ASLAN

Director

- Mr. GUREL CETIN

Prof., Istanbul Univ.

- Ms. AYTEN AKMAN KAÇAR

Senior Expert

Ms. ÖZGÜL YÜKSEL

Head Coordinator

- Mr. AŞKIN ÇETİNKAYA

Expert

- Mr. KADIR ALTINTOP

Expert

- Mr. MERT CAN SELVER

Expert

- Ms. HANDE ÖZDEMİR

Translator

- Ms. HAVVA YILMAZ

Officer

- Mr. SELİM UYAR

Translator

- Mr. MUHARREM TEMLİSU

Secretary

- Ms. YELİZ DURAN

Secretary

Annex II: Agenda of the Meeting



DRAFT AGENDA **THE 25th MEETING OF THE COMCEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

(15-16 September 2025; Ankara)

“Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”

1. Opening Remarks
2. “Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”:
Scope, Conceptual Framework and Methodology
3. Lessons Learnt from the Selected Case Studies
4. Experiences/Perspectives of the Member Countries, International Institutions, and
NGO’s on the Subject
5. COMCEC Project Support Programs
6. Policy Debate Session: Formulation of Policy Recommendations for the 41st
COMCEC Ministerial Session
7. Closing Remarks

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Annex III: Programme of the Meeting



DRAFT PROGRAMME

THE 25th MEETING OF THE COMCEC TOURISM WORKING GROUP
(September 15-16, 2025, Ankara)

“Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”

September 15th, 2025

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|----------------------|--|
| 08.30 - 09.00 | Registration |
| 09.00 - 09.05 | Recitation from the Holy Qur'an |
| 09.05 - 09.15 | Opening Remarks |
| 09.15 - 09.35 | Outlook of Tourism in the OIC Member Countries
<i>- Presentation by Prof. Dr. Gürel ÇETİN
COMCEC Consultant</i> |
| 09.35 - 09.45 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 09.45 - 10.25 | Presentation of the Draft Research Report
<i>- Presentation by Prof. Dr. Gürel ÇETİN
Consultant</i> |
| 10.25 - 10.55 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 10.55 - 11.10 | Coffee Break |
| 11.10- 11.50 | Lessons Learnt from the Selected Case Studies and the Policy Options
<i>- Presentation by Prof. Dr. Gürel ÇETİN
Consultant</i> |
| 11.50 - 12.20 | <i>Discussion</i> |
| 12.20 - 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | Perspectives of the Member Countries
<i>- Burkina Faso
- Iran
- Türkiye</i> |

Discussion

15.00 - 15.20 Coffee Break

15.20 - 16.00 Perspectives of International Organizations

- *Presentation by Alidost ERTUĞRUL, IRCICA*

Discussion

- *Presentation by Prof. Dr. Özlem KARAKUL, UNESCO*

Discussion

16.00 - 16.20 Utilizing the COMCEC Project Support Programs

- *Presentation by Kadir ALTINTOP*

COMCEC Coordination Office

Discussion

September 16th, 2025

10.00 - 12.30 Policy Debate Session: Formulation of Policy Recommendations for the 41st COMCEC Ministerial Session on Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries

There will be a policy debate session to come up with a set of policy recommendations to address improving the quality and sustainability of heritage tourism in the Member Countries.

Discussion

12.30 - 12.40 Closing Remarks and Family Photo

12.40 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00-17.00 Social Program

The Golden Age of Archaeology Exhibition

As part of the Legacy to the Future Project, launched in 2023 by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, the exhibition “The Birth of a Vision – Legacy to the Future Project: The Golden Age of Archaeology” showcases a distinguished selection of artifacts uncovered during excavations conducted within the scope of the project, along with cultural assets recovered from abroad through anti-smuggling efforts and others seized domestically by law enforcement units.