

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

"ISLAM & DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM UMMAH" **TOWARDS SEACO UNDER OIC FRAMEWORK**

BY

SALAHUDDIN KASEM KHAN

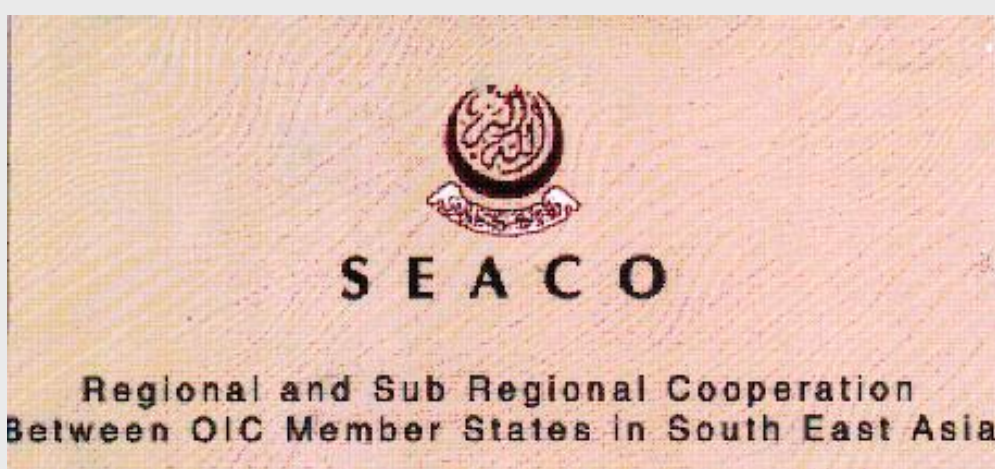
**CHAIRMAN, SEACO TASK FORCE BANGLADESH
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, SEACO FOUNDATION
MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL
WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM (WIEF)**

**ORGANISED BY
JILANI COMPLEX BANGLADESH**

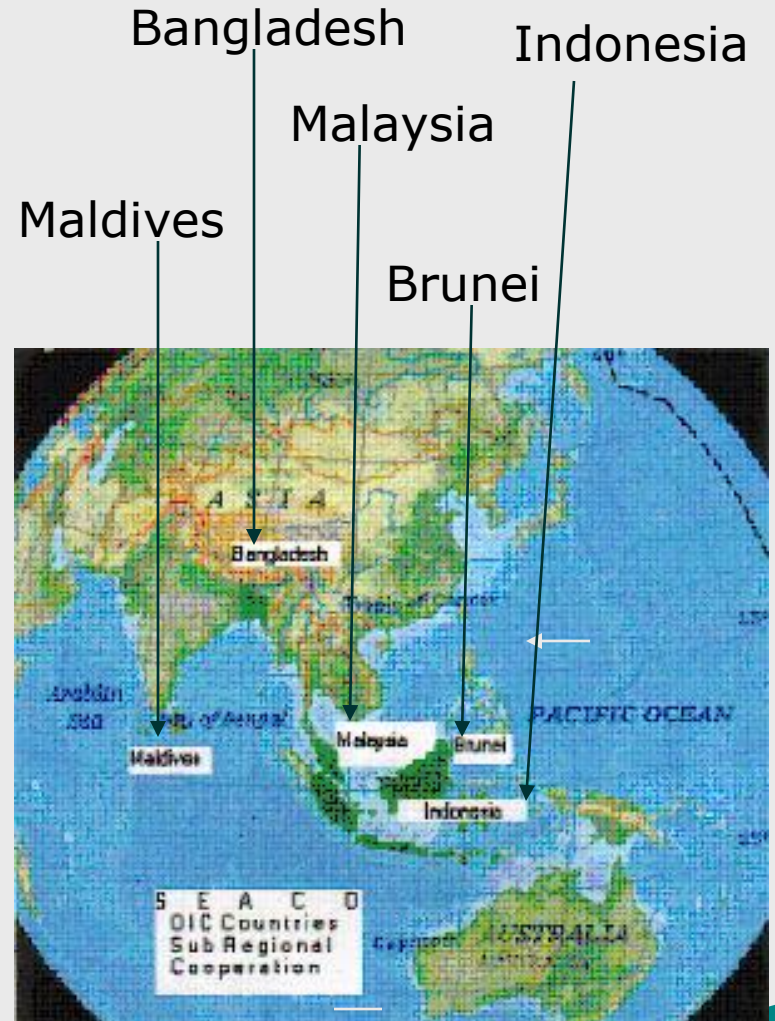
BANGABANDHU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

18TH DECEMBER 2010, DHAKA



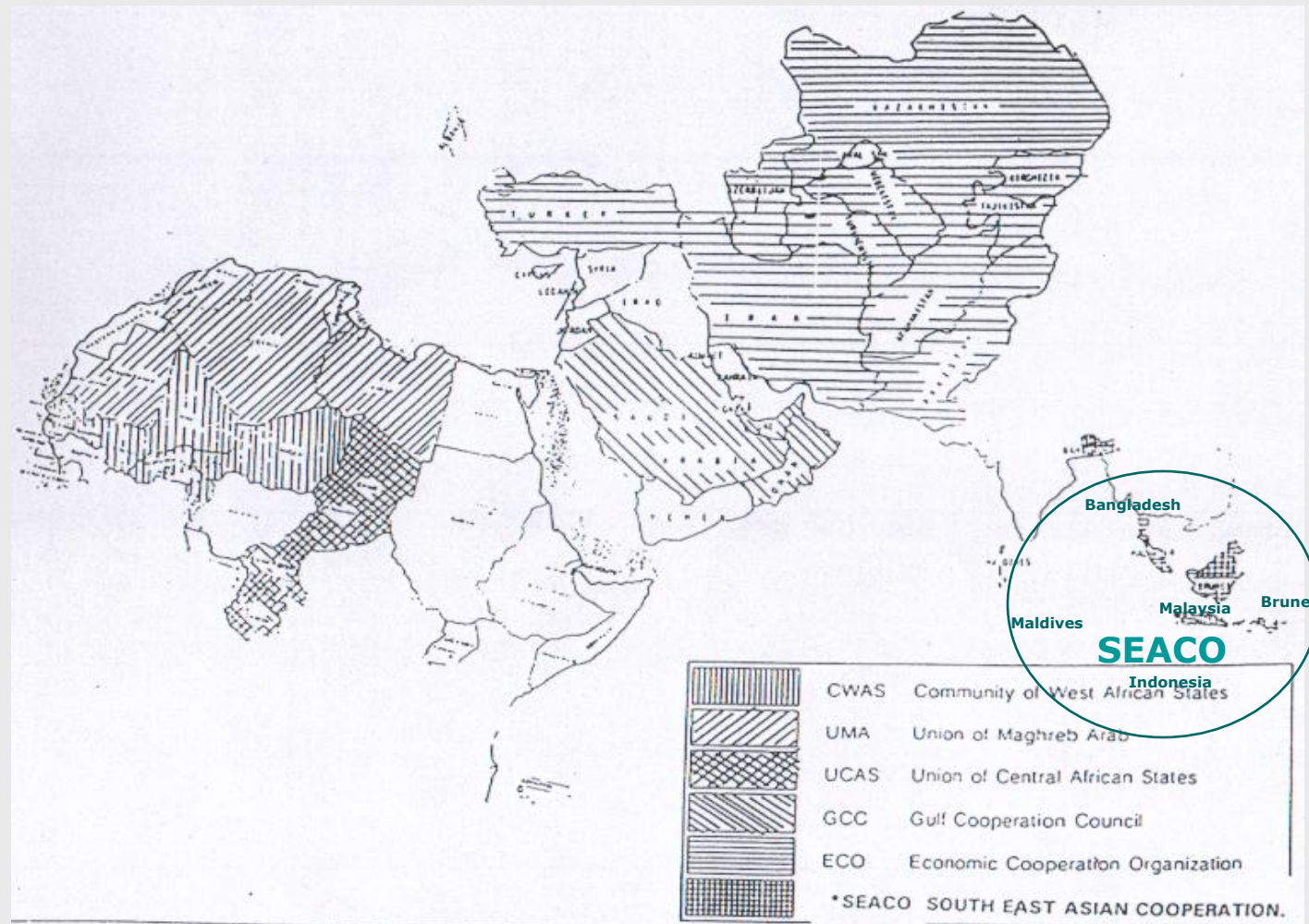


TOWARDS....



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Existing Regional Cooperation Arrangements of OIC Member States



* (PROPOSED AT IDB-INDO SEMINAR, BANDUNG DECEMBER, 1992.)

SEACO (SOUTH EAST ASIAN COOPERATION)



BANGLADESH



BRUNEI



INDONESIA



MALAYSIA



MALDIVES



Area	2.3 million sq. km.
population	423 million
Work Force	194 million
Combined GDP	1.5 trillion (PPP)
Average GDP growth rate	4.6% to 6.5 % per anum
Total Trade	\$ 770 billion

- It was proposed in Bandung in 1992 that SEACO could develop as an economic link between ASEAN and SAARC.

SAARC – ASEAN Economic Indicators

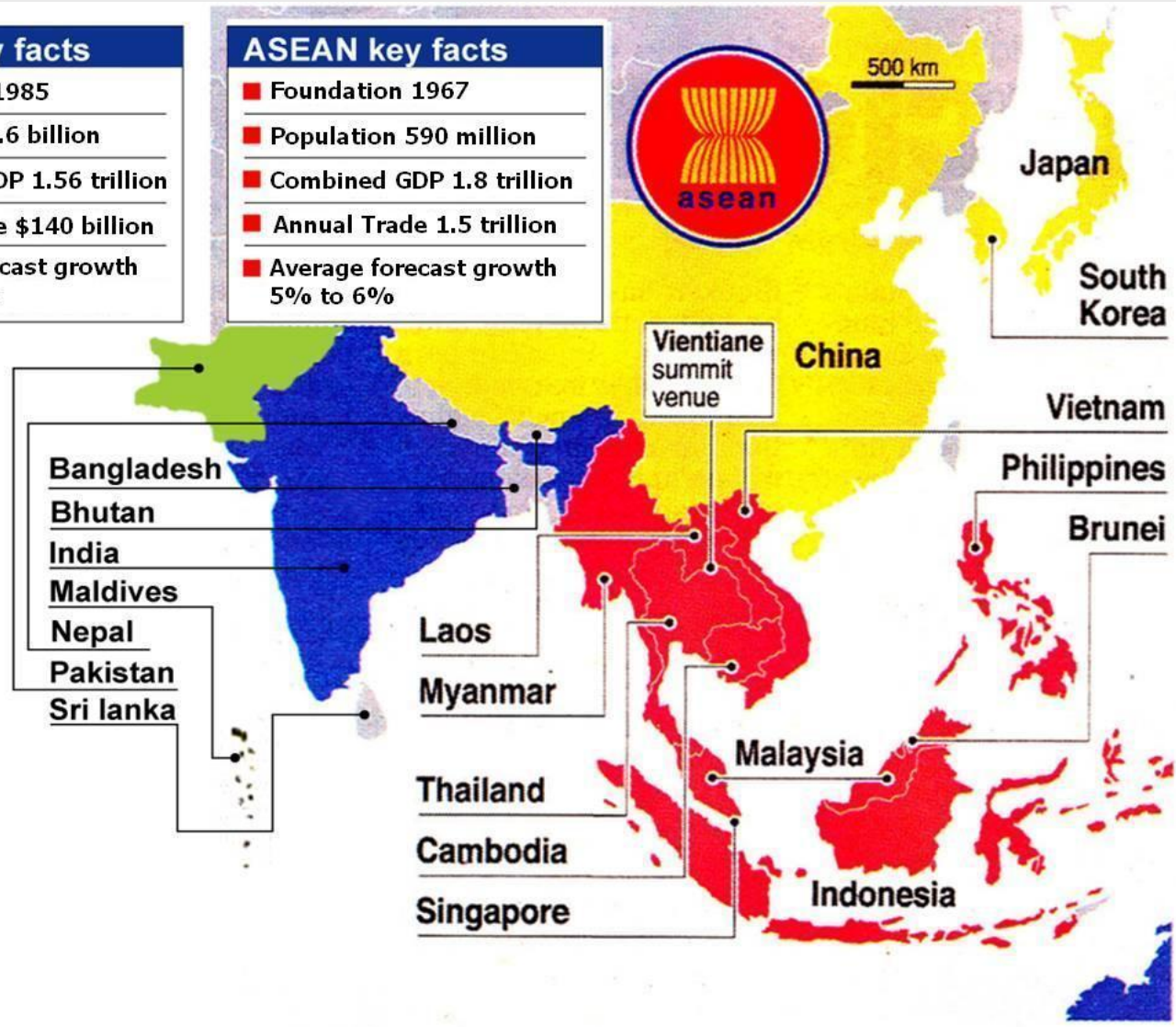


SAARC key facts

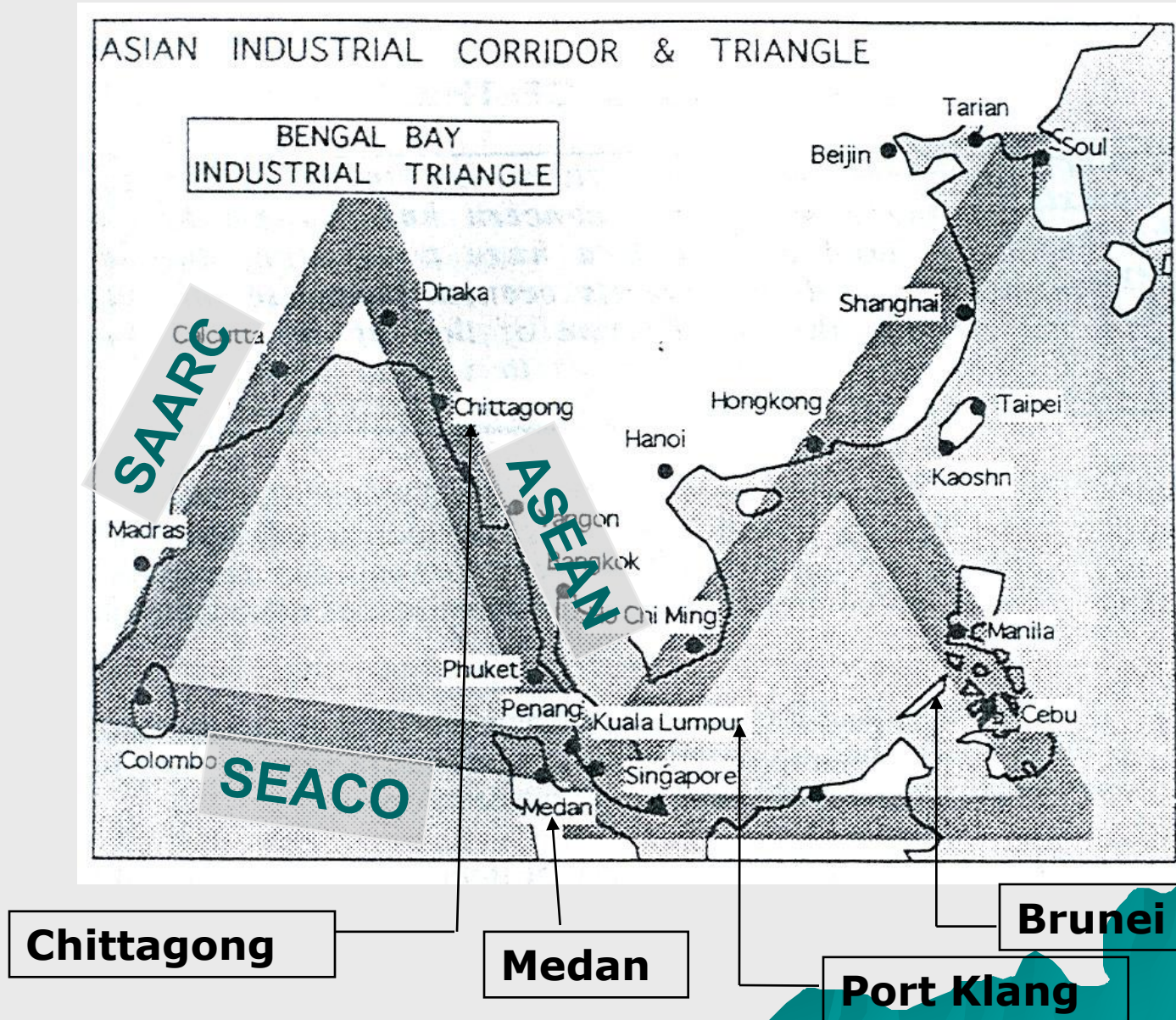
- Foundation 1985
- Population 1.6 billion
- Combined GDP 1.56 trillion
- Annual Trade \$140 billion
- Average forecast growth 5.5% to 6%

ASEAN key facts

- Foundation 1967
- Population 590 million
- Combined GDP 1.8 trillion
- Annual Trade 1.5 trillion
- Average forecast growth 5% to 6%



Asian Industrial Corridors and Triangles



SEACO: Initiatives from 1994-2004

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in a letter on May 12, 1994, to his counterparts the Foreign Ministers of Brunei, Malaysia, Maldives and Indonesia forwarding the SEACO proposal stated:

Academics policy-makers, functionaries of the Chambers leaders of trade, industry and investment networks across this vast area have articulated the idea of forming SEACO.

A resolution on SEACO, moved by Bangladesh Delegation, was endorsed by the INDO-IDB Product Seminar, Bandung 11-18 December 1992

Chaired by Dr B.J Habibie, Government of Indonesia and Co-chaired by President Islamic Development Bank

Recommended by the Eleventh General Assembly of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce Industries and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE), Kuala Lumpur (6-7 December 1993)

and also by the International Seminar on Islamic Common Market (ICM), Dhaka (18-20 December, 1993).

"It will be appreciated if your Excellency will kindly ascertain the reaction of your Government towards holding informal consultation on the idea of forming SEACO and convey the same to us at an early date."

Bangladesh FM letter on SEACO, dated: May 1994



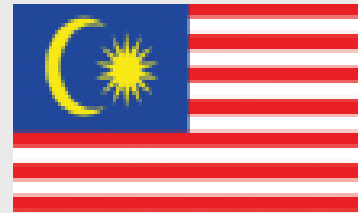
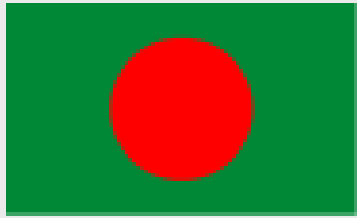


The IDB President's letter dated 10th June,2009

commended the efforts on formation of SEACO and stated:

I also appreciate your proposal for formation of some Regional Economic & Trade Cooperation Arrangements among the 5 OIC Member States, namely Indonesia,Malaysia,Berunei,Bangladesh and Maldives located in the South and southeast Asia, I would like to suggest that such a subject to be initiated by the concerned Member States. If this initiative materializes ,the Islamic Development Bank will be happy to extend its support.

I also would like to take the opportunity to refer to my letter No: 72/10/216/830 dated 15th July,1996 in which I mentioned that "IDB would seriously consider extending technical support to the intended regional meeting when the concerned Member States decide to hold the meeting. IDB looks forward to the creation of SEACO as an important initiative to the promotion of cooperation among Member States and hopes for cooperation with this organization when it is established."



SEACO was in Agenda of the official talks between the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Malaysia, H.E. Sheikh Hasina and H.E Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad in KL in 1996

SEACO was endorsed by the 24th, 28th & 29th ICFM's

"Recalling Resolution No. 1-9-E (IS) adopted by the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Doha;

Also recalling Resolution NO. 1/28-E adopted by the Twenty-eight Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Further recalling Resolution No. 6/24-E of the 24th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, in which Member States were invited to reinforce Sub-Regional and Regional Markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among themselves;"

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the matter:

"1. Stresses the need to promptly take practical steps, foremost of which is to set up joint investment projects among Member States, to achieve economic complementarity between them to ensure economic integration among the OIC Member States with the ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step –by – step basis, and commends the efforts exerted by the Arab Economic and Social Council to create a major Arab free trade zone and encourages the regional organizations in which Member States participate, especially the ECO, SEACO, ECOWAS, CEMAC and CEMAO to continue their efforts in this area."

9th Islamic Summit, 2000 Qatar in its Resolution endorses SEACO under the leadership of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina MP:



“Further recalling Resolution” No. 6/24-E of the 24th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, in which Member States were invited to reinforce Sub-Regional and Regional Markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among themselves.”

“1. Reiterates urgent need to take practical steps to ensure economic integration among the OIC Member States with the ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step basis, among OIC Members States, and commends the efforts exerted by the Arab Economic and Social Council to create a major Arab free trade zone and other similar initiatives namely, the ECO, **SEACO**, ECOWAS, CEMAC and CEMAO”

**Declaration for the
First Bangladesh-Malaysia Business Forum
keynote paper presented by Dr Mahathir Mohammad
Former Prime Minister of Malaysia
Dhaka on 18-19th December 2004**

South East Asia Cooperation (SEACO):

“We call on the Governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia to put on track the resolution of the 9th OIC Summit Conference, 2000, Qatar, encouraging the realization of SEACO under the OIC framework. The private sector stands ready to assist and to provide whatever support required to realize this resolution.”

Third Extra Ordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference Makkah Mukharama (7-8 Dec. 2005)

“ Ten years programme to falling the challenges of the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century”

Economic Cooperation

Call upon the Member States to sign and ratify all existing OIC trade and economic agreements, and to implement the provisions of the relevant OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member States.

Mandate COMCEC to promote measures to expand the Scope of intra OIC trade and to consider the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area between the Member States in order to achieve greater economic integration to raise it to a percentage of 20% of the overall trade volume during the period covered by the plan.

Promote endeavors for institutionalized and enhanced cooperation between OIC and regional and international institutions working in the economic and commercial fields.





Whereas the idea of an Islamic Common Market (ICM) remains the ultimate objectives of the Organization of Islamic Conference – a SEACO regional Free Trade Area, could take shape now given the political will and commitment of the proposed OIC Member States in keeping with the third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Makkah Mukharamah (7-8 December, 2005)

The Conference emphasized the need to make optimal use of the human, natural and economic resources of the Muslim World in order to promote this cooperation, consider the possibilities of establishing a Free Trade Area among the member states.

Therefore, the SEACO Task Force, Dhaka calls on the Governments of Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Maldives to set up an inter-governmental "SEACO Task Force" and to call a Preparatory Meeting of the Trade Ministers and the Private/Public Sectors of this Region, with the participation of the IDB, ICDT, COMCEC and the ICCI to give effect to the SEACO Resolutions of the 24th, 28th, 29th ICFM's and the 9th Islamic Summit, 2002, Doha and the IDB to facilitate the holding of this technical meeting of the inter governmental "SEACO Task Force".

The setting up of SEACO Task Forces in each participating SEACO country with the Government and Private /Public Sector be mandated with the task of drawing up the "SEACO-FTA" Draft Agreement for consideration of the proposed inter-governmental SEACO Task Force within a time bound process.

The SEACO Task Force, Dhaka believes that the regional "SEACO-FTA" approach can ,therefore, be the building block towards the proposed Islamic Free Trade Area (IFTA) and lay the foundation of the future edifice of the Islamic Common Market as envisioned by the Makkah Declaration.

"O Muslims you are the best Middle Nation to serve as a model for Mankind. The Messenger of Allah serves as a Model for you. "

-- Al Quran

Towards an Islamic Common Market

