

Charter of Conference of Directors of ECO Member States' National Libraries

Introduction:

ECO Member States possess a common culture resulting from thousands of years of their historical heritage. This is a culture that scientific and industrial achievements of today's humanity greatly rely on it.

It is precisely this common culture which has the immense capacity to create a deep bondage between the various Member States and by highlighting the existence of these varied cultures; it can provide new opportunities to help develop regional states. Scientific and cultural centers in general and libraries in particular play a special and important role as the regional nations' scientific and cultural memory.

In the passage of history, people of region have managed to preserve their valuable cultural and scientific heritage and transferring it to the next generations.

Owing to the ever-changing national, regional and international developments, it is imperative for the ECO Member States National Libraries to cooperate with one another to exchange information in the field of National Libraries, so as to provide opportunity for the researchers to benefit from the information and heritage available in their resources.

In today's Knowledge Society, this cooperation can provide the basis for the exchange of information, transformation of information to knowledge and speed up the process of development and growth in the Member States. This can also become the basis of forming knowledge-based economy.

Inspired by the objectives of ECO and in order to materialize the above mentioned co-operations, and in compliance with the decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Heads of National Libraries of ECO Member States held in Tehran on 19-20 November 2007, the ECO Member States' National Libraries Conference of Directors will be established as follows:

General Issues & Objectives:

Article 1: Conference of Directors of ECO National Libraries hereafter called "Conference" will operate within the framework of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) and this charter.

Article 2: The main goals of the Conference are to provide interactions and enhancing the exchange of information, knowledge and experience among Member States.

Article 3: From the time of establishment, the tenure of operation of the Union will be unlimited.

Duties and Activities:

Article 4: To achieve the proposed goals, the Conference will undertake the following duties and activities:

- A. Scientific and cultural research in the field of library science and information on a regional and international basis.
- B. Convening scientific and cultural gatherings and exhibitions and exchange of experts for holding on- campus and distance educational courses and workshops on a regional and international basis.
- C. Establishing joint databanks.
- D. Acquisition of library resources through donations and exchanges.
- E. Expansion of existing classifications for optimal organization and preparation of standards.
- F. Cooperation of Member States in organization, preservation, conservation and restoration of the manuscripts and rare resources.
- G. Publishing specialized magazines and books.
- H. Facilitating continuous cooperation among Library Associations of Member States.
- I. Developing information literacy and reading abilities in the region.

Main Organs:

Article 5: The main Organs of the Conference will be as follows:

- General Assembly
- Secretary General
- Professional Committees

Article 6: General Assembly will be held with the participation of the heads of ECO Member States' National Libraries or one of their deputies as authorized representative. The President of ECO Cultural Institute and/or his / her authorized representative will also be a member of the Assembly.

Clause: General assembly will at least be held once every two years. In case it is needed, the extraordinary Meeting of Assembly will be convened by the approval of at least two-thirds of its members.

Article 7: Decisions of the General Assembly will be ratified with the majority votes (half + one) of the present participants.

Article 8: The duties of the General Assembly are as follows:

- A. Defining Conference's strategy and ratifying its rules of procedures and regulations.
- B. Electing President of the General Assembly and Secretary General of the Conference.
- C. Ratifying the annual budget and fixing the income resources.
- D. Ratifying the Annual Executive Program of the Conference.
- E. Amendment of the Charter.
- F. To elect new members and observers
- G. Appointing new committees for the new activities.

Article 9: General assembly will elect the President of Assembly for a two- year term from amongst the Member States' Heads of National Libraries. The President of the General Assembly will be primarily responsible for implementation of policies, decisions and ratifications of the General Assembly.

Article 10: The Secretary General of the Conference will be in charge of the Secretariat and will be elected from amongst prominent scientific and cultural personalities introduced by member states for a 3 year period upon the approval of the general assembly.

Article 11: The responsibility of running the executive affairs of the Conference, and planning and organizing for the implementation of ratifications of the General Assembly and decisions of the assembly President will be borne by the Secretary General.

The Headquarter of the Conference will be in Tehran.

The Conference's Secretariat and running affairs will be executed by a special unit based in National library and Archives Organization of I.R. of Iran.

Article 12: The following committees will be established with the participation of specialists and experts of the Member States:

- A. Committee of ECO Digital Library.
- B. Committee of Preservation.
- C. Committee of Education, Research.
- D. Publications Committee.
- E. Committee of Coordination and Cooperation.
- F. Committee of Manuscripts and Rare Books .
- G. Committee of Resource Allocation.
- H. Legal Committee.

- A. Membership fees.
- B. Member States' contributions.
- C. Taking the liability of the expenditures of Special Activities by Member States.
- D. Donations of individuals and other institutions.

This charter comprised of 13 articles and one clause was ratified on 21 April 2009 in Baku, capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan by Heads of National Libraries of ECO member states or their authorized representatives.

National Library of Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Kerim Tahirov

National Library and Archives Organization of Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr. Ali Akbar Ashari

National Library of Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Orynbasar Issakhov

National Library of Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Jyldyz Bakashova

National Library of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mr. Seyyed ghyour Hussain Sabaswari

National Library of Republic of Tajikistan

Mr. Sharif Toshiev

National Library of Republic of Turkey

Mr. Ferid Acar

National Library of Republic of Turkmenistan

Mrs. Orazgozel Muhamedkuliyeva



National Library of Republic of Uzbekistan

Mrs. Irina Maminova



W. Schüring

cc. H. Schüring

S.

7. June

CC