

OIC THINK THANKS MEET IN CAIRO

The topic of the 4th OIC countries think thank forum is “Economic Integration in the OIC Countries: Possibilities and Threats”.

This year the 4th edition of the OIC Countries Think Thank Forum will be held in Cairo. The first edition of the forum was held between 28-30 January 2010 in Istanbul by initiative of TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies).

The main theme of the fourth edition of the OIC Countries Think Thank Forum will be “Economic Integration in the OIC Countries: Possibilities and Threats”.

INNOVATIVE AND PROACTIVE THINKING IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED

The chairman of TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies) Süleyman Şensoy stated the importance of strengthening of think thank institutionalizing in Islamic countries. Strong think thanks should deepen innovative and proactive reflexes in the changing complex environment of international relations. The changing international relations bring along the increase in significance and responsibilities for think thanks.

To understand the changes and transformations occurring in the Islamic countries, one has to understand in which way the world is developing towards. According to Şensoy “the world has witnessed very rapid changes and developments in the last 10 years. Many strategists agreed upon that these changes and developments are equal to change over the last 100 years. In the changing world system which is being formed by new paradigms and parameters, it is required for Islamic countries to strive towards deepening of their relations based on the principle of ‘risk based proportional dependence’. To become a ‘balance center’ again, the Islamic World based on strength and justice in accordance with its historical mission needs to realize a multidimensional and increased capacity.

As a contribution to the realization and construction of bigger capacity in the Islamic World, this forum has a functional role to improve the communication and consultation between Islamic countries. By sharing the political, socio-cultural, and economic developments, the aim is to create an innovative and proactive environment for creative dialogue between OIC countries. With regard to the mentioned aims, the OIC countries think thank forum has taken the important mission to establish and develop such an environment.

WISEMEN COUNSEL

The wisemen counsel is established as a part of the OIC Countries Think Thank Forum. The number of members in the counsel will increase to 12 with the participation of the representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia. The second meeting of the wisemen counsel will be held on the 4th edition of the OIC Countries Think Thank Forum in Cairo on 25 March 2013 (one day before the start of the forum). The current members of the counsel consist of the following ten names:

- 1.(E) Büyükelçi **Ömür ORHUN**, TASAM and OIC consultant, Turkey
- 2.Prof. Dr. **Zaleha KAMARUDDIN**, Rector of the International Islamic University of Malaysia
- 3.Ambassador Dr. **Mostafa DOLATYAR**, IPIS, Iran
- 4.Senator **Müşahid Hussain SYED**, IPRI, Pakistan
- 5.Ambassador **Humayun KABIR**, BEI, Bangladesh
- 6.Dr. **Yasser ALI**, Chairman of IDSC, Egypt
- 7.Prof. Dr. **Shamseldin Zeinal ABDIN**, Chairman of ACDESS, Sudan
- 8.Dr. **Abdul Aziz SAGER**, Chairman of Gulf Research Center, BAE
- 9.**Elnur ASLANOV**, Head of the Political Analyses Department, Presidency of Republic of Azerbaijan
10. Prof. Dr. **Absattar DERBISALI**, Head of Süleymanov Şarkiyat Institute, Kazakhstan

ISTANBUL AS THE STARTING PLACE FOR THE INIATIVE OF THE FORUM

The first edition of the forum held in Istanbul was host for representatives of think thanks from more than 40 countries. Among them, the Secretary-General of the OIC Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, the chairman of the European Union Harmonization Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Yaşar Yakış, and chairman of TASAM Süleyman Şensoy (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies). The forum with main theme 'Peace Civilization and Cooperation' took place in the Grand Cevahir Hotel and congress center in Istanbul.

The second forum, also organized by TASAM Islamic countries Institute was about public diplomacy. The third edition of the forum organized by TASAM with the cooperation with the Center for Strategic Studies of the Azerbaijan Presidency was held In Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. The third edition of the forum realized in Baku dealt with issues related to changes and transformations in OIC countries.

During the forum in Baku it has been agreed upon that the 4th edition of the forum will be held in 2013 in Cairo. The 4th forum is organized with the cooperation of TASAM and IDCS (information and decision support center) in Cairo.