



**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)  
SECRETARIAT  
(TEHRAN)**

*Report of the*  
**First Meeting of the Heads of  
ECO National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers**

**(Tehran, 3-4 October 2011)**

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The First Meeting of Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations/Centers of ECO Member States was held on 3-4 October 2011 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, hosted by the Iranian National Organization for Civil Registration (NOCR). The meeting was attended by delegates of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran (**host**), Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Turkey as well as the ECO Secretary General along with the relevant staff of the Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as *Annex-I*.

**Agenda Item No. 1**  
**Inauguration of the Meeting**

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran and demonstration of Film giving introduction to the NORC. His Excellency Mr. Nazemi Ardakani, Deputy Interior Minister and Head of NOCR of the Islamic Republic of Iran delivered welcoming remarks. He welcomed the participants in Tehran. He said that a balanced and sustainable development and progress could be made through planning based on precise and accurate statistics particularly in population scope and the relevant changes. He said that the motto of the Meeting is "Modern Civil Registration - Pre-requisite for Security and Development". He further said that owing to one century of activities, benefiting from services of professional experts and having modern facilities and technology, particularly in implementing electric civil status registry, the Civil Status Registration Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with other members, particularly the ECO Member States .

H.E. M. Yahya Maroofi, ECO Secretary General thanked the Government of the Islamic of Iran, particularly National Organization for Civil Registration (NOCR) for hosting and making excellent arrangement for this meeting. He specially thanked the Iranian Interior Minister for his personal support in organizing this event. He also highlighted the developments and achievements made by the Organization in the field of Trade, Transport and Energy. He said that by holding this meeting, we are

initiating a new field of cooperation which is Civil Registration. The initiative would undoubtedly benefit individual Member States and the entire ECO region.

In his statement His Excellency Mr. Ghashghavi, Deputy Foreign Minister said that securing the welfare of our people is only attainable in spirits of real cooperation and interaction. While referring to the potential of the ECO region and the Economic Cooperation Organization itself, he called all the Member States to develop their consular cooperation and remove communication barriers between people. In this regards he proposed the initiatives to be taken by the ECO Member States to cooperate on civil registration including; i) set a unification procedure in issuance of ID documents; b) exchange of demographic information; c) acceptance of inter-regional documents authentication; d) acceptance of marriage registration. He also proposed the visa exemption for the people of the ECO Member States.

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Najjar, Minister for Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran made an inaugural statement. He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation. Keeping in view that the co-existence of economic development and peace and security, he referred to the regular ECO Interior Ministerial Meetings. He said that the "First meeting of Heads of National Civil Registration Organizations of ECO Member States" is another opportunity through which we can better understand the viewpoints of our governments. Highlighting the functions of Civil Registration Organization, he said that it can play a main role in making marcopolicies. He mentioned that upgrading the security features of ID documents will help the Member States to control illegal immigration, smuggling of human, smuggling of immigrants, terrorism, narcotics, unauthorized travels and other relevant organized crimes and solve security challenges of their citizens and citizens of other member countries at their territory.

On the sidelines of the Meeting an exhibition depicting the achievements historical background of the Iranian National Organization of Civil Registration was launched by the Interior Minister.

Copies of the statements made available to the Secretariat are attached as *Annex. II.*

**Agenda Item No. 2**  
*Election of the Chairman*

In accordance with ECO's Rules of Procedure, H.E. Mr. Ardakani, Head of National Organization for Civil Registration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Meeting. In his remarks, he expressed the hope that their deliberations would produce a useful and beneficial outcome for the Member States.

**Agenda Item No. 3**  
*Adoption of the Agenda*

The meeting adopted the following agenda for its proceeding:

1. Inauguration of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Appointment of the Drafting Committee
5. Country Reports/Presentations by Heads of Delegation
6. Exchange of Experiences/Technical Know How and Best Practices on:
  - a. Registration of vital events
  - b. Production and release of Population Statistics and Information
  - c. National Code (ID Number) and Smart Cards
  - d. Promotion of Safety and Security Factors of Issued Documents
  - e. Civil Status Registration and E-Government
7. Educational and Research Cooperations
8. Planning ECO National Registry Authorities Website
9. Any other business
10. Date and Venue of the next meeting
11. Adoption of the Report of the meeting
12. Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting.

**Agenda No 4**  
*Appointment of the Drafting Committee*

An open-ended Drafting Committee for preparation of the draft report of the Meeting was established comprising representatives from the ECO Secretariat and the host authorities.

**Agenda Item No. 5**  
*Statements by the Heads of Delegation*

The Heads of delegation delivered their statements. While briefing the meeting about the historical background of the Civil Registration Authorities, they highlighted the organizational structure, objective, activities, future plans and projects

and best practices applied in Civil Registration Organization of their respective countries. They also discussed the challenges being faced by these Organizations. They expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation among the organizations of the Member States and encouraged exchange of information. Copies of the statements/presentations made available to the Secretariat, are placed as *Annex-III*.

#### **Agenda No. 6**

##### **Exchange of Experiences/Technical Know How and Best Practices on:**

Under this agenda item the Meeting deliberated on the following topics and the participants shared their experiences and best practices in their respective countries. Texts of the presentations made during the deliberations are also attached *Annex-IV*:

#### **a) Registration of vital events**

A presentation was made by the Iranian delegate (Mr. Esmaeli, Director General of Documents Identification of NOCR). In his presentation he explained the country-wide networks of vital events registration as well as notification. He also underlined the sources for vital events information in cities, villages and tribal areas and the tools of vital events announcement. He said that the NOCR is also utilizing the other existing urban and rural sources in addition to its own facilities. The meeting deliberated on the issue in details and participants from other Member States shared their experiences.

#### **b) Production and release of Population Statistics and Information**

A presentation was made by the Iranian delegate (Mr. Mahzoun, Director General of Demographic, Migration and Statistics of NOCR). He said that the production and release of population statistics is the third main mission of the NOCR. He elaborated the five macro goals of the subject. He also explained the future plans and programmes which are under consideration. Specific Network (VPN) presenting personal status registration services was also discussed. The presentation followed by the exchange of experiences by the other participants.

**c) National Code (ID Number) and Smart Cards**

A presentation on the subject was made by the Iranian Representative, Mr. Madanchian, Consultant for Smart Card Project of NOCR. He explained the different stages of the issuance of national ID card, its objectives, features and applications.

**d) Promotion of Safety and Security Factors of Issued Documents**

A presentation was made by the Iranian delegate, Mr. Esmaeli, Director General of Documents Identification of NOCR, on the subject. He highlighted the possibilities of adulteration in the documents and focused on the methods of preventing the adulteration of ID documents. He also elaborated the security features of the ID Booklet for under and above 15 years Old Iranian subjects.

**e) Civil Status Registration and E-Government**

Mr. Madanchian, in a separate presentation discussed the role of NOCR in the E-Government. He explained the history and current situation towards the issuance of National Smart Card and its vital role in the E-Government. He also presented the layout of the smart card. The delegates from Pakistan and Turkey also shared their experiences in this matter.

The Heads of delegation was taken to Matiran Company, which is producing the Identity Documents, to witness the facilities.

**Agenda Item No. 7**  
**Educational and Research Cooperations**

The Iranian delegate Mr. Esmaeli, Director General of Identification, noted the importance of the civil registration and highlighted the need of acquainting the personnel of the Organizations of the Civil Registration with the state-of-the-art technology. He briefly introduced the research and educational centers affiliated to the Iranian NOCR. He also underlined the educational as well as research activities of the Center. He made some proposal including: educational and research cooperation in

different fields, exchange of information and technology, holding common training courses in various levels and doing mutual or multilateral research projects or sharing the existing research results with other Member States. He requested the Member States to explore the possibilities of funding the common educational and research activities. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also proposed to exchange of delegations of trainers and trainees in different fields of Civil Registration among the ECO Member States. Text of presentation is attached at *Annex-V*.

After deliberations it was decided to establish a trilateral working group comprising of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey in collaboration with the ECO Secretariat to coordinate and identify the main headlines and topics for educational and research cooperation among the ECO Member States. The Working Group will also work out on finding the possible financial sources for materializing this proposal.

Meanwhile, the I.R. of Iran expressed its readiness to organize virtual training courses for the experts of the interested Member States.

#### **Agenda Item No.8**

##### **Planning ECO National Registry Authorities Website**

The Iranian delegate Mr. Mahzoun, Director General of Demographic and Migration and Statistics of the NOCR made a presentation on establishment of ECO National Registry Authorities Website. He also demonstrated the layout of the website and explained its different component. There were three proposals raised by Iran, Pakistan and ECO Secretariat regarding the mechanism of establishment of the website. It was agreed that the above Trilateral Working Group in coordination with the ECO Secretariat would consider all the suggestion and possibilities of the establishment of website and its contents and components. Text of presentation is attached at *Annex-VI*.

#### **Agenda No. 9**

##### **Any other business**

No matter was raised under this agenda item.

#### **Agenda No. 10**

##### **Date, Venue and Agenda of the next meeting**

It was decided that the meetings of the Heads of the ECO National Civil Registration Organizations would be held biannually.

The Meeting appreciated the kind offer of the Republic of Turkey to host the next meeting in Turkey in 2013. However, the ECO Secretariat will coordinate for final approval by the Turkish relevant authorities through diplomatic channel. The date and venue of the next meeting will be circulated to the Member States accordingly.

**Agenda No. 11**

**Adoption of the report and recommendations**

The meeting unanimously adopted its report.

**Agenda No. 12**

**Vote of Thanks and Closing of the Meeting**

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the participating delegations, expressing deep appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting. They also expressed their warm appreciation to the Chairman for guiding the deliberations to a successful conclusion.

The meeting also expressed thanks and appreciation to the ECO Secretariat for the preparation of the relevant documents and other valuable services to facilitate the work of the meeting.



## **Recommendations**

The meeting after detailed deliberations agreed on the following recommendations:

- Underlined the importance of (i) on-time registration of vital events (ii) production of Identity Documents (iii) Production of population statistics & information and requested Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to be coordinators of these issues respectively and prepare some proposals for enhancement of cooperation in above areas to be presented to the next meeting of Heads of Civil Registration.
- Using of common statistical year book and datasheet
- Emphasized on the importance of access to the people for delivering the civil registration E-Services.
- Exchange of experience in order to update the address of the people of the Member States
- Exchange of documented experiences in the field of issuance of Smart-Card considering the biometric parameters.
- Conducting of study tours to witness the progress made by the member states in the field of issuing Smart-Card
- Holding of workshops, expert group meetings in the priority areas of Civil Registration
- Nominate the focal points (giving all contact details as address, telephone, mobile, fax and email etc) in the field of Civil Registration for better coordination among the relevant authorities of the Member States. This information may kindly be conveyed to the ECO Secretariat latest by December 2011 for further circulation to the Member States.