



### **Business Owners Union in States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

Based on the decision of the Islamic conference of the Foreign Ministers of States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 23 to 25 Jumada Al-awal 1427 AH corresponding to 19 to 21 June, 2006 AD, as stated in the final statement of the conference the call to establish the "Business Owners Union", Sheikh / Salih Abdullah Kamel , Chairman of business owners union in States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Chairman of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has started the establishment of the " Business Owners Union in the States of Organization of Islamic cooperation" beginning from the second half of 2007. He began firstly by defining the objectives of the Union then meeting the decision makers and executives of Chambers of Commerce to discuss and get into the stage of signing an agreement with Unions of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and then promoting to the memberships of Union in cooperation with other Commerce Chambers, organizations, associations and trading clubs in the Islamic Countries.

In 01/07/2007 AD, Excellency Sheikh / Salih Kamel, Chairman of the Islamic Chamber sent 17 letters to the chairmen of the biggest chambers of commerce in the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to seek support for the starting up of the Union, forming an umbrella for business owners, private sector and trading groupings of Muslims who are abroad the borders of Islamic countries to strengthen the relations and friendship among business owners, encourage investments, develop the joint trade in Islamic Countries to create jobs for the nation's youth, decrease unemployment and increase the GDP.

In 01/08/2007 AD, the Excellency of Sheikh / Salih Abdullah Kamel assigned Mr. Abdulmohsen Hasan Linjawi, the GM of " business owners Union and business youth union In the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" and the assistant Secretary-General of the Islamic Chamber to visit chairmen, secretaries, general managers of the Unions of Chamber of Commerce of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to explain the vision and objectives of the Union and to determine the communication officers in the Unions of the Chambers of commerce and industry to speed up the communication between business owners in Islamic States and the rest of the members of the Unions of chambers and trade associations in the Islamic States to prepare for the signing of the agreement of " the Union of business owners of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation".

In 01/09/2008 AD, 21 unions of Chambers of industrial Commerce have officially joined the union in Muslim countries signing the agreement of "the Union of business owners".

In 04/09/2008 AD, the constituent meeting of "the union of business owners of the States of the organization of Islamic Cooperation" was held in Hilton hotel, Jeddah which was attended by senior business owners from 13 Islamic Countries and the Statute of the Union was approved.

In 18/11/2008 AD, the first meeting of the board members of "the Union of business owners of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" was held at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Qatar.

In 05/01/2009 AD, the second meeting of the board members of "the Union of business owners of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" was held in Cairo and Sheikh/ Nasser Al-Khrafi was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Board.

In 01/02/2010 AD, the management of senior members' services has lunched for projects marketing and promoting the members' agencies and commercial companies in Islamic States. Moreover "24 Hours online services" has activated to speed up continues communication with all members of the Union during their business trips in the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

In 13/05/2010 AD, all the information of "the Union of business owners of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" has been translated to Arabic, English, French and Turkish, to facilitate contact and communication between members of the Union in various Islamic Countries.

In 20/08/2010 AD, the first annual conference of "the Union of business owners and the business youth union of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" was held in Hilton, Jeddah which was attended by His Excellency the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, His Excellency the Chairman of Islamic development bank and Chairmen of the Unions of Chambers of Commerce. Also 1200 business men, business women, young business men and young business women from 30 Islamic States have attended this event. In addition 53 studied business projects in the Islamic Countries were presented.

In 25/11/2010 AD, the third meeting of the board members of "the Union of business owners of the States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" was held in Sheraton hotel, Jeddah, in which, Mr. Abdulmohsen Hasan Linjawi, General Manager of "the Union of business owners and business youth union of States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" has explained the action plan of the Union for the year 2011 AD. Also the Union budget of 2011 was approved by the Board members under chairmanship of Excellency Sheik / Salih Abdullah Kamel.

In 01/01/2011 AD, the project of establishing "the portal of business owners and business youth union of States of the Organization of Islamic States" was started as the largest (portal) In the Islamic States, which works as a website (information bank for all business men, women, young men and young women of the Islamic Countries) that also allows presenting studied projects, business products and services to market through the portal to all members of the Union of Islamic States and to members outside the Islamic States in

order to speed up communication among business owners, encourage and increase the volume of investment and mutual trade in Stated of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

In 01/06/2011 AD, Qatar accepted to host the second conference of " the Union of business owners and business youth owners of States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation" in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Qatar under the patronage of Qatar Prime Minister, Excellency Sheikh / / Hamed bin Jassim bin Jabr Al Thani and in the presence of Ministers of commerce and Chairmen of commerce chambers unions, organizations, associations, commercial clubs, nearly 1.500 young business men and women, business man and business women from 40 Islamic countries.

**Vision of the Union:** to speed up the process of economic integration among Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

**Mission of the Union:** to encourage the trade and investment exchange among business owners, members of the Chambers of Commerce, associations, clubs and business organizations in the Islamic States to promote the volume of investments, increase the trade exchange, develop the volume of tourism, industry and labor. Also to exchange and spread the awareness of science of Islamic economics, interest in studies and research, encourage innovation and invention to meet the economic challenges of States of the Organization of Islamic **Cooperation**.

**Objectives of the Union:**

- To strengthen the acquaintance and communication among business owners of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to encourage the trading exchange.
- To contribute to the economic development of Muslim Countries by promoting business and investment opportunities and agencies of member companies to expand scope of trade and investment exchange among the Member States.
- To encourage the exchange of economic experiences among the Union Members in various Islamic States to develop the volume of mutual trade and increase investment in the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- To facilitated transportation of business owners between countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.