



Message of H. E. The Director General of the Islamic
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

At the opening Ceremony of

5th International Conference on Intellectual Capital Management

11-12 September, 2013

Zanjan, Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Your Excellency

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh

It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to convey to you the greetings of his Excellency, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). It is a source of great satisfaction for ISESCO to address this august assembly of scientists, researchers and experts who gathered to open the "5th International Conference on Intellectual Capital Management in the beautiful and historical city of Zanjan.

The promotion of science and technology is a key to progress towards knowledge-based society and an innovation –driven economy. Today, there is a strong competition between the countries to develop the most competitive and knowledge based economy. For ISESCO member countries to gain competitive advantages, it is necessary to establish capable research capacities and intellectual capital management systems which enable them to keep pace with the leading countries in the world.

This important Conference on intellectual capital management will undoubtedly provides an excellent opportunity for international and national experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the developing

economies like the OIC countries' to bring innovation to competitive edge. This will definitely leads the discussion to Intellectual Property (IP) policy as a crucial tool for stimulating economic growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To thrive and develop, today's developing economies have no choice unless to get smarter. Growth no longer comes from access to cheap labour and raw materials or access to capital: the competitive edge depends on each country's capacity to innovate, especially in the high margin, knowledge intensive businesses which need to be developed in all sectors of the developing economies. We, therefore, need to ensure that IP framework enhances innovation and growth in the member states. Intellectual Property Rights support growth of enterprises by promoting innovation through the offer of a temporary monopoly. However, poorly designed IP rules may prevent new players from getting access to new technology and content. Whereas, a carefully designed IP system can encourage competition in innovation by enabling follow on-innovation. The developing countries should make policies to establish a potent IP management systems based on careful realistic assessment of these costs and benefits as per their socio-economic setup.

There is no doubt that improved productivity is a major driver of long term economic growth. Over the last decade, small and young firms in the developed countries have witnessed fast rate of innovation which enabled faster growth and high job creation by these innovative firms. Therefore, for the future economic growth of the developing countries supporting innovative research and creativity at university as well as knowledge based small firms is prerequisite.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has always devoted, since its establishment 30 years ago, utmost attentions to assist its Member States to achieve their socio-economic development which eventually contribute to the achievement of world peace and security. In order to achieve development and security in broader concepts, the Islamic Organization addressed various educational, scientific and cultural challenges facing the Islamic world under its various medium-term and short-term Action Plans. Achieving excellence in science and technology and developing national strategies and policies for promotion of innovation and invention in particular protection of innovators rights have remained a main focus area under ISESCO policy of sustainable development. The protection of innovators and inventors rights via institutionalization of intellectual property right is one of strong pillars of this policy. This year, ISESCO has embarked to implement a newly designed three-Year Action Plan 2013-2015, which is entailing new approaches and policies for the promotion of science and technology in the member states taking into account the outcomes of researches on various aspects of socio-economic development. Under this plan, several programmes and the activities will address the outstanding related problems of the Member States in relation to intellectual property rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express ISESCO's deep gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in the Islamic Republic of Iran for extending generous support to ISESCO activities in the context of consolidation of common Islamic efforts to the cause of sustainable development of Member

States. I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the honourable organizers of this important Conference for extending kind invitation to ISESCO. And last but not least I wish to thank all participating experts, and distinguished guests who came along to attend this event and its opening session.

May Allah Almighty crown our efforts with success.

Thank you