



In the name of God
ECO Cultural Institute
Headquarters-Tehran

To:
ICANN
Suite 330, 4676 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process

Subject: Letter for support for .ISLAM, .SHIA and .HALAL

This letter is to confirm that the **ECO Cultural Institute (ECI)** fully supports the application for **.ISLAM**, **.SHIA** and **.HALAL** submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti in the New gTLD Program.

As the **President**, I confirm that I have the authority of ECI to be writing to you on this matter.

ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) is affiliated with **The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** and aims at fostering understanding and the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of its members through common projects in the field of the media, literature, art, philosophy, sport and education.

ECI believes that these gTLDs will be used as the internet base for the presence of the Muslim Community and their beliefs in the countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Hojatollah Ayoubi
President
ECO Cultural Institute

Economic Cooperation Organization

The **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** is an intergovernmental organization involving seven Asian and three Eurasian nations, part of the South-central Asian Union. It provides a platform to discuss ways to improve development and promote trade, and investment opportunities. The ECO is an ad hoc organization under the United Nations Charter (Chap. VIII). The common objective is to establish a single market for goods and services, much like the European Union. ECO's secretariat and cultural department are located in Tehran, its economic bureau is in Turkey and its scientific bureau is situated in Pakistan. The organization's population is 416,046,863 and the area is 8,620,697 km². The organization was founded by Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.



Introduction

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States.

ECO is the successor organization of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which remained in existence since 1964 up to 1979.

In 1992, the Organization was expanded to include seven new members, namely: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The date of the Organization's expansion to its present strength, 28th November, is being observed as the ECO Day.



The ECO region is full of bright trading prospects. Despite its young age, ECO has developed into a thriving regional organization. Its international stature is growing. Nevertheless, the organization faces daunting challenges with respect to realization of its objectives and goals. Most importantly, the region is lacking in appropriate infrastructure and institutions which the Organization is seeking to develop, on priority basis, to make full use of the available resources in the region.

Over the past 12 years the member states have been collaborating to accelerate the pace of regional development through their common endeavors. Besides shared cultural and historic affinities, they have been able to use the existing infrastructural and business links to further fortify their resolve to transfer their hopes and aspirations into a tangible reality. ECO has embarked on several projects in priority sectors of its cooperation including energy, trade, transportation, and agriculture and drug control.

Current Membership: Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan

Finance Source: Member contributions.

Language: English.

Key Executive: Secretary General.

Secretariat Staff: International staff of the General Secretariat of ECO includes the Secretary General, 3 deputy secretaries general, 6 directors, 3 assistant directors and other professionals and technical, administrative and support personnel. The total number of staff is over 60.

Regional institutions & Specialized agencies

- ECO Shipping Company
- ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ECO Reinsurance Company[6]
- ECO Trade & Development Bank
- ECO Consultancy & Engineering Company
- ECO Supreme Audit Institutions
- ECO Cultural Institute
- ECO Science Foundation
- ECO Educational Institute
- ECO Drug Control Coordination Unit
- ECO Trade promotion Unit
- ECO Post



ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ECI)



Full Title:	ECO Cultural Institute
Official Acronym:	ECI
Date of Establishment:	1995
Current Membership:	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
Finance Source:	Member's Contributions
Language:	English
Head of the Organization:	President
Institute's Postal Address:	No.207, Bolvar Mirdamad, Tehran (Iran)
Post Code No.	1919614597
P.O. Box Address:	P.O. Box 19395/6414, Tehran
Telephone Number:	(98-21) 2225846/2226398/2221147/222089
Fax Number:	(98-21) 2227635
E-Mail:	info@ecoeci.org
Web:	www.ecoeci.org

Rules & Regulations: The ECO cultural Institute (ECI), Tehran is governed by the approved Rules of Procedures, Staff Regulations & Financial Regulations based on the features contained in the Baic Documents of the Institute i.e., Charter, signed by the eight Member States on 15th March, 1995 at Islamabad, Pakistan.

Background of Establishment: The ECO Cultural Institute, as mentioned in the Preamble of the Charter, has been 'revitalized' after the closure of the former RCD Cultural Institute in 1983 which had been established in June, 1966 with its headquarters at Tehran and branches in Pakistan and Turkey. Following the expansion of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) to ten Member States of the Region having a common cultural heritage, revival of the cultural Institute was visualized in Article II of the Treaty of Izmir with the objective "to consolidate cultural affinities and spiritual and fraternal ties that bind the people of the Member States through social and cultural channels of thought and action" and was confirmed in the Istanbul Declaration of 1993. Subsequently, the Charter of the ECO Cultural Institute was prepared in an Expert Group Meeting held at Tehran in October 1994 and later, approved by the Fifth Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 21-23 January, 1995.

The formal endorsement of the revival of the Cultural Institute under its present name was finally, manifested through the signing of its Charter at the Third ECO summit Meeting held at Islamabad on 14-15 March, 1995 by the Member countries of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, and Turkmenistan. This event demonstrated the common resolve and true desire of the leadership of these countries to strengthen bonds of affinity and spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation aimed at creating conditions for sustained socio-economic welfare of the Member Countries.

Compared to its predecessor, the ECO Cultural Institute, has not only an extended membership but it has also been assigned a wide ranging role for the promotion of cooperation among peoples of the Region in general and mass media, scholars, intellectuals and artists in particular.

Aims and Functions: Having been assigned manifold functions, under Article I of the Charter, the Institute has to function as an initiating, coordinating, financing, and monitoring agency within the framework of ECO for the promotion of the following activities:

Brief Introduction of ECI

Recognizing the importance of ECO cultural heritage and its impact on enrichment and development of cooperation in all aspects in the region, the Member States of ECO decided to revive the former RCD Cultural Institute under the name of ECO Cultural Institute during the third ECO Summit Meeting held in Islamabad in March 1995. The headquarters of the Institute are located in Tehran. A President heads the Institute. The management of the affairs of the Institute vests in an Executive Director who shall be assisted by Cultural Experts in different fields from the nationals of the Member States.

It is the only functional entity amongst the ECO Specialized Agencies. Its Charter is ratified by Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. Revision & updating the Basic Document has been finalized and Institute is governed by the approved Rules of Procedure, Staff & Financial Regulations. Its 2nd Board of Trustees meeting was held in Tehran in January 2000 approved the official Seal and Emblem of the Institute.

It has carried out translation of 42 children storybooks with the cooperation of UNESCO. It has also circulated its "Long Term Plan" for views of the Member States. The plan is likely to take effect from the year 2003.

ECO Culture Institute is fully functional and carrying out its responsibilities. It is time to convene the 3rd meeting of its Board of Trustees to take decision on some important pending matters like the election of its President.

Further information about the ECI activities can be obtained from Website: www.ecieco.org