

Address by His Excellency Ali Reza Sheikh Attar,
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and
Head of Iranian delegation to the Committee of Senior Officials
at the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC
Tehran, 21st 22nd February 2006

Dear Colleagues,

At the outset I would like to congratulate Your Excellency for assuming Chairmanship of our meeting. Hereby, I once again announce my country's full support and commitment to IOR-ARC.

We believe the potentials of Member States are considerable and complementary. Therefore our co-operation needs to be serious and the impediments and obstacles of our Association should be recognized in pathological manner. Although one of the main hurdles for our co-operation is lack of financial support, which should be removed by governments of member countries, in the meantime the direct financial support may be incorporated by other forms of support, namely technical and scientific one.

Supporting Secretariat by sending seconded colleagues should be encouraged as Iran and South Africa announced their readiness to send seconded staff to the Secretariat.

Iran also proposed new areas for co-operation in the field of IT, petrochemical and LNG, as well as convening workshops on different subjects such as standardization.