CHAPTER VII
FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

7.1. Introduction

Asia is the greatest continent in the world. With almost half the world-population and with high capacity of economic potentials, it is in the middle of basic changes and new political-economic polarizations in the 21st century.

Modern changes in international politics, security and business, etc. which had started after the Cold War have created great changes in this continent.

After the 20th century AD, the sequence of changes in Asia experienced important alterations which were apparently visible in regionalization, formation of organizations and economic, political and security blocks like ECO, Asian Economic Cooperation Foundation (AECF), ASEAN, SAARC, Shanghai, etc.

Asia has the highest rate of population growth in the world. The role of human resources in the formation of global changes along with economic developments has increased geopolitical influence of Asia a great deal.

Despite these capacities and capabilities, the Asian continent has had no considerable experience in formation of integration and in laying the basis for the appearance of successful unions throughout the continent.

Although the union of ASEAN could to some extent be regarded as a successful. ECO is also one of these organizations formed in 1985 with the aim of developing regional activities and with emphasis on economic issues. During many years and after joining of many members and despite its high potentials, it has not had remarkable achievements and it mainly remained in its formal level rather than practical level.

This research is trying to show that the main problem of ECO is not lack of economic, cultural and natural potentials, but lack of political will and organizational foundations in order to make this organization dynamic in different fields including tourism.
Because of political instability or impracticality of economic system or their bureaucracy, most member countries of ECO do not have the capability of planning or accomplishing the approved plans between the members. Still members of ECO do not believe that flourishing of ECO has important roles in their economic and political development.

7.2. Findings of the Study

As it was mentioned before, ECO region has high potentials that could be the key elements in the development of the region. But the question is: are having vast territory, large population, mineral resources, and historical and cultural potentials enough for the development of a region? In order to answer this question, we stated three hypotheses which were discussed in chapters 4, 5 and 6. We will discuss the findings of research based on these three chapters.

A: Political Structure

➢ Lack of Political Centrality

The main characteristic of this type of government is that the range of orders issued by the central government does not cover the whole country; therefore, governors and governor generals in every part of the country count themselves as authorities over people and behave as they wish. Mainly, in this type of government, rights and destinies of people are not important. All efforts of these rulers are to keep the center satisfied with them by sending taxes and gifts.

➢ Ethnic dependences and Social Instability

Since the supporters of the rulers in these systems are the tribes under their authority, always stability of these tribes depends on sacrifice of the tribes. Negative effects of these types of governing systems, which were common in most ECO countries in the past, are usually in two forms. Firstly, their tribal life style and their constant emigration did not need complicated structures and organizations. The natural outcome of this life style was non-development and lack of social evolution in different fields.

Another factor which became an obstacle for development of these societies was lack of long-term political stability. It is because stability of these governments
depended on military power of the tribe and capability of the tribal chief. As long as these two elements were present, the government was stable. As soon as weakness appeared in these qualities, other tribes would enter the field of rivalry.

Since the beginning of rivalry till the new tribe’s dominance, history of the region was years of chaos and instability.

If political stability, concentration of power and also maintenance of power were the necessities for evolution and development of each society, ECO region had fundamental deficiencies in these aspects.

➢ Divinity and Sacredness of Government

One of the outstanding features of such a government is legitimacy and permissibility of its orders. In these societies, few people have the courage to stand up against the order of the government. On the other hand, such a government, by making alterations in religious principles, regarded itself as having the right of interference and intrusion in the properties and destinies of its people.

➢ Lack of Social Security and Individual Rights

One of the main features of dictatorial system is lack of social security and individual rights in the society. In this type of system, since the government does not have public support, it eliminates those holding key positions and viziers very easily on the excuse of some trivial mistake on their part. This happens because the rulers are afraid of the authority wielded by a powerful Vazier and ministers which may unseat them.

Negative aspects of this element appeared in the society in two forms. The first problem was corruption among government officials, because they were aware of instability in their positions. They looked at governmental positions as opportunities to make their own fortunes rather than thinking about reformations in society and long-term planning for development of the country.

On the other side, professional and knowledgeable individuals were reluctant to hold governmental positions, because of their independent views, they could not remain long in these types of systems. Therefore, the government cadres were deprived of having such professional and expert individuals.
Situation of Ownership and Feudalism

As it was mentioned, frequent change of governments was one of the features of systems which relied on tribes. Naturally in such systems, properties and valuable lands also shifted from hand to hand because the new rulers would take and give them to their relatives, etc. There was no chance for individuals to invest in fundamental fields; hence, long-term economic and developmental plans were not accomplished. Even after a while due to stagnant situation of capitals, the possibility of their growth also disappeared.

Lack of Pluralism

In the discussions of development and regional integration pluralism is stated as one of the main factors. In a society which has accepted pluralism as a principle there is the possibility of participation between people and groups and people easily and eagerly take part in different political, economic and cultural fields. It is itself one of the means of development in one region but because of the autocratic system of ECO countries, development of pluralism faces limitations.

Weakness in Bureaucracy

In the process of economic and political development and growth of every society, official system of that society plays an important role. In the concentrated and closed official systems which are characteristic features of autocratic systems individualism becomes dominant i.e. individual wisdom becomes superior to plural wisdom. In such societies individual becomes the decision-maker, therefore, individual interests become prior to plural interests.

Official systems in most ECO countries are facing the problems that originate from non-development which itself turns into a problem in the process of development.

Organized Mafia

Mafia means a group of three or more persons which is organized with the aim of committing crime or violation in order to gain direct or indirect economic interest.
Mafia means business and gaining fortune through illegal ways. Since in autocratic societies, gaining fortune and healthy economic activities are facing basic problems, either the rich people take their capitals out and invest in foreign countries or they enter the activities upon which government has little control. Some others also by cooperation with centers of power form mafia bands.

This element drives away lawful economic activities and rises against foreign investment as well.

- **Economy of Shadow**
  This is another reason for non-development in a society. It includes economic activities which are not under the control of government and are not reflected in formal statistics. Because they are out of the tax system and therefore deprive the society from certain incomes. This is also another characteristic of political systems in ECO region. In this type of system, instead of being directed in lawful channels like investment in development of tourism, capitals move towards illegal economy.

- **Corruption and Rent-seeking**
  It refers to illegal activities which aim at formation of personal fortunes which is generally considered as utilization of governmental position in making personal interest.

  This element reduces ability of the government in legal investment. Another harmful outcome is prevention of foreign investment from being accomplished.

  Taking all this into considerations, long-term results of corruption and rent-seeking are causes of deep political and economic instability and deficiency in the formation of fundamental structures of development in different fields including tourism.

- **Expenses and Interests under Mafia System**
  Existing in the mafia system could be mentioned as ordinary in the routine lives of people who are living in non-efficient societies and economies. It is harmful to productive economic performance, unity and legitimacy of the government and its
organizations. Mafia capitalism prevents legitimate capitalism from growing and legal job-producers face problems in competition with them and get driven out of competition because of them.

B. Cultural Stretcher

Section one. Religion

➢ Influential Ideological Aspects

As it was mentioned, religiosity is one of the characteristics of most societies in ECO region. In such governments, prejudice and sanctity become popular and non-religious ideologies find no space to develop. In such societies, systems fight against reformist ideologies. Rationalism is condemned because it is against commitment; governments that rely on this are for obedient people. Therefore, in such societies, the light of science flickers away and fighting against rationalism becomes fundamental.

➢ Influential Scientific Aspects

After the Prophet of Islam passed away, through zeal of Islamic rulers for authority and superiority, gradually Islamic values were forgotten. The rulers made religion as a means and resorted to all kinds of tricks to achieve their goals. Schismatic and discriminative attitudes became dominant in Islamic governments. Direct result of this policy was war and conflict between racial Islamic groups. Each one of these groups followed their own understanding of religion and as a result, different sects came to exist in the world of Islam.

➢ Eastern Kingdoms in Territories of Islam

Policy of creating schism in Islamic caliphate very soon had its influence in different parts of the world of Islam. Kingdoms of different areas also in order to be considered by the caliphate were after winning his satisfaction. Since then, war and plunder became the base of these local governments. Caliphates also who were afraid of formation of a single powerful kingdom used to add fuel to the fire of conflicts. By studying the history of ECO region, it could easily be observed that this region has always been engaged in war, conflicts and massacre and plundering.
These wars destroyed foundations of Islamic society and wasted resources of people, resources which could be applied for development of these societies in all aspects.

**Fake of Hadith**

The result of schismatic policies of caliphates was formation of different sects in Islam. In order to legitimate themselves, these sects started Fake Hadithes. These Hadiths were usually in their own interest and against other sects. Formation of these Hadiths has always resulted in war and conflicts between groups of Muslims and has increased hostility and conflicts. Today, conflicts because of this issue have become reasons for lack of integration between countries in the world of Islam and naturally in ECO region.

**Sect Customs**

Along with Fake of Hadith, different sects founded special customs which were in accordance with their regional and ethnic conditions. The reason for formation of these customs also was to magnify sufferings of one’s own sect. Such customs gradually became competitions among the sects so much so that they became reasons for conflicts between religious groups.

Nowadays, there are so many religious customs in ECO region that could attract religious tourist of member countries of the union. But unfortunately these customs have turned into reasons for differences and conflicts among the people of the region.

**Section tow Nationalism**

**Settled Tribes in ECO**

Today, many ethnic groups have settled in ECO including Turk, Fars, Kurd, Arab, Hindu, Uzbek, Turkmen, Kirgiz, etc. and each one of them has their own beliefs, faiths and myths. Nationalism in this region is at present under the influence of such variety.
Outstanding Points of Nationalism in ECO Region

Ending of WWI and dissolution of Soviet Union and also ending of Cold War were the outstanding features which led to the development of nationalistic ideology in ECO region.

Initially, Turkish nationalism and Farsi nationalism developed, even in Afghanistan. Then after the Cold War and independence of Central Asian countries and Caucasia, nationalism was formed in this region. Development of nationalistic ideologies in this region became sensitive and radical because most countries of ECO region previously did not have the experience of governing; therefore, they came to glorify their historical and cultural heritages. At present, considering the existence of different ethnic groups in the region, this issue has turned into a problem.

Nationalistic Ideologies

As it was mentioned, radical and dangerous nationalistic ideologies were formed in the region including Pan-Turkism which is infavour of is after unity of all Turkish speakers in ECO region and also Pan-Iranism which seeks unity of Iran with Farsi speaking countries of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. These issues along with radical nationalistic ideologies of other countries altogether have led to the formation and intensification of regional conflicts.

C. External Elements

Section one. Political and Economic Capacities of Echo Region

Crude Oil: ECO is one of the richest regions in the world which has many capacities, opportunities and backgrounds for cooperation in many fields related to oil resources. This factor draws a bright prospect in future for cooperation among members. Production of crude oil in ECO region is almost 7.4% of the world crude oil production. It is the factor which has led to sensitivity and naturally interference of powers in issues of the region.

Natural Gas

Like crude oil, natural gas also is another valuable source of energy which has an interesting perspective in ECO region. Production of natural gas in the region is 9 trillion f³ which is 9.2% of the total production in the world.
Strategic Situation

ECO region has included three sensitive and strategically important points of the present world:

a. Central Asia
b. Parts of Caucasia
c. Parts of Middle East

These three points have significant values in geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic aspects of the region. The desire of great powers of the world is that they could manipulate the direction of changes in this region according to their own benefits. That is why they are always interfering in issues related to this region.

The Routes of Transferring Gas to Global Markets

Containing 7.4% oil resources and 9.2% gas resources necessitates the existence of sustainable routes to global markets. Therefore, industrial powers of the world which are dependent upon energy have always closely observed changes in this region in order to secure the routes of these vital resources.

Controlling Radical Movements in the Region

Prevention of growing radical Islamic groups and terrorism in the region like the case of Al-Qaida is another reason for the presence of great powers in the region. In order to maintain their own interests and to secure their relationships with other countries, these governments prevent the formation of such radical groups through their active presence in ECO which is a fertile ground for the development of such movements.

Section two. Perspectives of Foreign Players

Russia

Since coming to power of this government in the history of the world, its surroundings have found great importance in its foreign policies, and the politicians of Russia have always paid specific attention to this region. On the other hand, they also prevented the formation of a strong government in the region. From the 18th and 19th centuries, rivalry with England to the beginning of Cold War and even now, this country’s competitions with the presence of the U.S in the region, all declare ECO region’s importance for this country. Additionally, huge resources of the region are also the keys for development of Russia.
-China

ECO region is in many aspects important for China. Considering its economic growth, this country needs reliable sources of energy. Therefore, stability in the region is very important for the development of China. Sharing borders in China’s Muslim-settled areas with counties of Middle Asia which is passing its test of nationalism could be dangerous because it leads to penetration of these ideologies to its neighboring areas including China. ECO region could also be a good consumption market for Chinese products. In addition to that, following the same policies with Russia in the global field and necessity of standing against the U.S. have made China sensitive about ECO region.

- United States of America

The beginning point of U.S presence in the region was after WWI, and since then until now this presence has been increasing rapidly. By the beginning of Cold War, this presence found wider dimensions. Nowadays interests of the U.S in the region include more comprehensive ranges of political, economic and cultural issues.

- India

The role of this country in the course of history has been bilateral. Once, this country itself was the reason for the presence of powers in the region like competition of England and France to penetrate the Subcontinent of India.

But today, India itself is seeking to benefit from the great resources of ECO region. Therefore, this country is for coordinating its policies with others for taking advantages and achieving its political-economic interests. Negligence in this regard, with the presence of Pakistan in the region could have negative outcomes for India.

In addition with its own attractions, India has been able to absorb into itself some part of scientific and natural tourism.
Fig. 7.1 (A) : HISTORICAL OBSTACLES OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN ECO REGION

EXTERNAL EFFECT

ECONOMICAL
- EXPORTS
  - To attract eco capital
- Raw Material Access
- To support of soft revolution
- To back-up region crisis

POLITICAL
- To support of soft revolution
- To back-up region crisis

CULTURAL HISTORICAL OBSTACLES

NATIONALISM
- Folk Bias
- Weakness of cultural common

RELIGIONISM
- Practical Aspect
- Appearance Sect religious
- Religious Government
- Sect Customs
- Fake Hadit (axiom)
- Radical Islamic
- Religion Conflict
Fig. 7.1 (B) HISTORICAL OBSTACLES OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN ECO REGION

**Political Historical Obstacles**

- Feudal Government
  - Lake of Political Centrality
  - Lack of Political Centrality
  - Weakness of Government
  - Weakness in Bureaucracy
- Despotic Government
  - Lack of Pluralism
  - Divinity of Government
  - Weakness of ownership
  - Lack of Social Security
  - Lack of Parties
  - Royal Government
  - Monopolization
  - Social Corruption
  - Expenses & interests under Mafia system
  - Economy of Shadow
  - Organized Mafia
  - Rent Seeking
7.3. Conclusion

What are the elements of development in tourism?

Generally, these elements could be looked for in the three branches of political, economic and cultural elements.

From the political perspective, security is the most important principle of development in a society. Existence of strong tensions, regional conflicts, controversies over borders due to existence of same ethnic groups on the two sides, unclear borderlines, unqualified governing boards, etc. are examples that signify insecurity. Countries of ECO region in the chart of categorizing these elements have very weak levels.

Lack of a powerful and acceptable political center for all ethnic and religious groups, and dependence of the governing system on a specific ethnic group are among the most important elements which prevent legitimacy of the government in all aspects and all regions of the country. Ethnic groups on the margins are always good potentials for rebellion. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, etc. are the countries in which most part of the governments’ power has been engaged in dealing with ethnic and regional conflicts.

Under the influence of this insecurity, we see tourists being taken hostages. Tourists who travel to these regions and taken hostages are freed on the unjust demands being met or sometimes they are killed.

Freedom and democracy are other aspects of political structure. In free societies, individuals have active roles in their own citizenship affairs and help accomplish the main plans of the government. But since the governments of ECO region are mostly autocratic (although they call themselves democratic), people in these societies find them alienated since they cannot have information about current issues of the country. In this region, pluralism is facing a major problem.

Divinity and weakness in pluralism are the main features of such governments. These features are in opposition with democracy and freedom which are the most important means of development and improvement in a country or a society in all its aspects.
A good sense of neighborhood and having no conflicts on borders are among other political elements that could help development of tourism. Unfortunately in this regard also, ECO countries are facing basic problems. The created borders by European powers as well as settlement of one ethnic group on both sides of the borders, etc. are all suggestive of conflicts on borders in the region. The best example for these conflicts is the borderline of Durand between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also unequal division of borders in Middle Asia is creating and will create serious problems.

Such conflicts have made governments of the region suspicious of citizens who come from the opposite country as tourists; therefore, they are not very much interested to facilitate tourist attraction.

Suspicion of Iranian government about Kurds of Turkey and Turks of Azerbaijan and vice versa, Afghans about Pakistanis, etc. all show lack of trust in governments regarding other nations.

The influence of foreign elements could also be politically significant. Support of strong governments for dissatisfied groups and political figures in order to influence and weaken the central governments have always consumed a great deal of energy and potentials of these governments. Support of Taliban and its formation, support of soft revolutions in the Middle Asia and Caucasus, Support of separatist groups like Kurds and Balouches in Iran, existence of military bases in the Middle Asia, etc. are samples of other countries’ efforts to influence the developing process of ECO countries in the region. This issue has itself turned into one of the great reasons of insecurity in ECO region.

The economic element and production of capital are other basic and important factors in the development of tourism. From this aspect also countries of ECO region are historically facing fundamental problems. As it was mentioned in chapter 4, in the governments of ECO, elements such as job security, governmental positions, personal property, the way of capitalism, etc. have always been subject to alterations and insecurity. Instability of governments which is a typical feature of ethnic societies has economically influenced the process of development in these societies in two aspects.
First, governmental positions and jobs in such societies were not in accordance with qualification of the employees, and the rulers used to appoint their relatives and trusted individuals to such positions. Since these individuals thought of these positions as good opportunities for collection of personal properties and were also aware of their short-term careers in these positions, they tried to plunder wealth of people and the country as much as they could. This made them think very little about long-term plans for the development of the country. Because issues such as development of tourism need long-term planning and their benefits might appear many decades later, no one used to invest in these fields.

Second, through permanent change of the governments in ECO region, mainly there was no permanent ownership because by coming to power of the new ruler, all capitals were confiscated and of people were alienated from their lands and workshops, etc. Therefore, the principle of property and ownership which are the main essences of development in every society were seriously affected.

Perhaps, we could say that finding of treasure in ECO region is one of the reasons for insecurity of capitals, because owners of such fortunes used to bury them due to fear of confiscation. In case of security, such treasures could be the keys for development of the region. This fact nowadays could be observed as a phenomenon called escape of property from ECO region. At present most large parts of capital in countries of ECO are invested in foreign countries. For example, capitals of Iranians are invested in the Arab countries of Persian Gulf and capitals of individuals from other countries in Europe.

Formation of economic mafia and rent-seeking which are the direct outcomes of corruption and instability of governments, are other features of countries in ECO region.

Since in such systems individuals find access to affluent interests more easily and without paying taxes and without accountability and even corrupted members of government also cooperate with them, there remains no scope for fundamental investments which demand a lot of time and expenses. On the other hand, this factor is also contrary to foreign investment and does not let foreign investors enter the system.
Another important factor which must be mentioned in relation to economy is the influence of foreign elements. In societies like the ones in ECO, majority of the governmental capitals are directed towards non-essential sectors. Powerful governments of the world, through their interference in these regions and creation of a scare, try to sell their military equipment in these countries. In this way they both bring benefits to their factories and create job opportunities within their own countries. They also attract capitals of these countries, capitals which could be used for the development of these countries in fields such as tourism.

Through studying that history of ECO region, appropriate examples could be found as proofs for this claim.

Competitions of Russia, England and France in the past to sign economic and military contracts in Asian countries especially in ECO, Cold War and division of the world into two blocks are the important events in which ECO region had specific positions.

Formation of the government of Israel in the region has led to the creation of military competition in Middle East and ECO.

Another factor is magnifying the issue of nuclear capability in Iran in order to threaten the neighboring countries and encourage them to buy advanced military weapons.

According to international census, the U.S, Russia, England, France and China are the greatest sellers of military weapons in the world and the majority of their products are sold in Middle East and ECO, and in this way they plunder a huge part of wealth of the nations in the region.

Cultural Field

In the cultural aspect, the negative roles of religion and nationalism in ECO region are the more intensive aspects. Instead, these two elements could have turned into very strong elements of tourist development in ECO region. With no clear rules or regulations in Islam for State affairs, rulers, after the death of the Prophet abused or
interpreted religion for their own benefit. This way there were several interpretations which led to the formation of different sects.

Sects which in order to prove their righteousness had to counterfeit Hadith and fight with other groups. History of the world of Islam and ECO region which is the eastern part of the Islamic world has witnessed countless wars among Muslim sects, wars which put the fire of hostility between Muslims in flames.

Gradually, local and regional rituals also became religious and became principles of religious groups. These customs also led to enmities and hostilities.

In this way, increase of these conflicts and hostilities made commonalities of religious groups fade away. These common features could have led to development of religious tourism in ECO region which specifically has high potentials in this field.

Another influence of this religious radicalism could be traced in contradiction with other religions. Perhaps, the best example for this claim is destruction of Buddha’s statues in Bamiyan of Afghanistan by the radical group of Taliban.

Another factor which along with religion could harm development of tourism in the region was formation of extremist nationalistic ideologies.

In this respect, countries of ECO are divided into two categories. One group includes countries which have long backgrounds of government and another group includes countries in which the background of government does not exceed a few decades.

Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan are in the first group. And other countries of ECO region go under the second category.

Growth of Pan-Turkism and Pan-Iranism in the countries of Turkey and Iran is nowadays considered to be a negative factor in the development of regional integration. Because the government of Turkey is seeking for the presence and unity of Turks in the Middle Asia and Caucasus which is basically different from policies of
other governments in the region. Turkish speaking governments also are sensitive about unity of Persian speakers in ECO region.

Development of nationalism in the republics of the Middle Asia and Caucasia which were formed through dissolution of Russia was a factor that has increased the range of regional conflicts.

Countries of Middle Asia and Caucasia which are called after the great ethnic groups of these countries did not have separate political identities called government-country prior to this date. Therefore, after their formation and in order to express their existence, they began to project their identity. Hence, through extreme emphasis on nationalism and highlighting of some aspects of their own culture which are resented by other nations for example, regarding holiness to Genghis Khan and Timor Lane, or considering famous characters of the region like Seyed Jamal-ed-Din Asad Abadi, Khwarazmi, Roudaki,… as belonging to their own ethnic group -whereas they belong to all nations- they increased hostility and hatred between nations of the region.

By starting a positive policy in this regard they could bring about development of cultural tourism which has a very high potential in the region.

According to the conducted studies throughout this research, the targeted hypotheses of research will be proved in this way. Political-historical and historical-cultural structures of countries in the region and also presence of foreign elements i.e. the great and powerful countries of the world have negative influences on the development of tourism in ECO region.
Table 7.1: Number of incoming tourists (th.)

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<td>4.5</td>
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Note: NA: Not Available

Source: Macro-Economic Overview of ECO Countries 2002-2003, directorate of Economic research and statistics CO secretariat, Tehran, Iran.

Of course, Turkey in this respect is an exception among members of ECO. Because firstly, compared to other members of ECO, Turkey is geographically placed almost in the margins; therefore, it is to some extent away from the tensions of the region. Additionally, through following basic policies in different fields such as economic, cultural, political aspects and also efforts to join EU, Turkey has been trying to integrate its policies with those of EU and the U.S. In this respect, Turkey has reduced the influence of foreign element to its minimum.
7.4. Suggestions

1. Reinforcement of ECO organization including its secretariat and other sections and increasing its board of experts in order to make the meetings more useful, and necessity of compiling precise, professional and interesting instructions for the member countries

2. In relation to cultural and social issues, members should enjoy equal distribution; that is why, efforts of anyone of the members in development of their own cultural influence separately and without paying attention to concerns of others will lead to disruption in the progress of development in the region

3. Formation of arrangements which in long-term could help establishment of law in the region

4. Respecting religious beliefs of others and religious freedom

5. Increasing historical development and knowledge of the people in the region through schools, universities and media

6. Determination of understanding as a basis in diplomatic affairs
7. Paving the way for activities of private sector by removing the necessity of visa and heavy customs tariffs
8. Reinforcing the network of relations in the region
9. Introducing capacities of the countries in the region to tourist market at regional and international levels
10. Efforts and planning for the formation of public awareness in a better way for attraction of national and international tourists
11. Reviving the ethnic and local styles of holding local, national and cultural customs in the region
12. Cultural cooperation, exchange of students and teachers, granting scholarship among the members
13. Holding sports events of ECO
14. Specifying one day in each one of the countries for the introduction of different cultural aspects and tourist attraction of the country
15. Approval and execution of agreements and regional plans in ECO have to pass long processes. Therefore, more modern and rapid solutions are to be employed.