

## **SRI LANKA ACCEPTS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE G-15**

Sri Lanka has accepted the Chairmanship of the Group of Fifteen, after being invited by her predecessor, the Islamic Republic of Iran, to take over the helm at a critical time in the global economic and financial environment. Sri Lanka's offer to take over the Chairmanship was formally conveyed by Mr. Alireza Moaiyeri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran to the UNO, Geneva, who extended the appreciation of his government to Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka in Geneva, for the welcome offer to serve as the next Chair of the G-15.

Sri Lanka joined the G-15 following the Ninth G-15 Summit held in Jamaica in 1999 and has, ever since, been active in the work of the Group at all levels. As Chair of the G-15, Sri Lanka will continue to strengthen this forum of developing countries, both as a vehicle for South-South cooperation as well as to become a logical dialogue partner of the G-8 to promote and address the concerns and challenges of the South in their development goals.

Source: Adapted from the web page of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva, [www.lankamission.org](http://www.lankamission.org), 27 July 2009.

## **NIGERIA, BRAZIL STRENGTHEN MUTUAL TIES**

Mutual ties between Nigeria and Brazil, were considerably strengthened during the three-day official visit of the President Of Nigeria, H. E. Umaru Musa Yar'Adua to the South American country during the last week of July 2009. Several members of his cabinet and top government functionaries accompanied the Nigerian President on the visit, which was in response to an invitation from his Brazilian counterpart, H.E. Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva. Four bilateral agreements in the areas of biotechnology, sports, energy cooperation and an Instrument on legal cooperation were signed between the two G-15 countries. During the visit, the Nigerian President also addressed the League of African Ambassadors and the Nigerian Community in Brazil. Mr. Yar'Adua also presided over a special meeting with officials of the Brazilian Electricity Supply Company and the country's Minister of Mines and Energy, Mr Edison Lobao as well as the Brazilian Ambassador to Nigeria, Ana Candida Perez.

The visit afforded the two G-15 Heads of State the opportunity to hold important discussions and exchange views and ideas on developmental issues and regional integration. A statement from the Brazilian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Mr. Yar'Adua's visit was an affirmation of the cordial relations existing between Nigeria and Brazil.

Source: This Day, 1 August 2009

## **VENEZUELA, INDONESIA CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES**

Venezuela and Indonesia are celebrating 50 years of friendly ties in 2009. The two G-15 countries had established diplomatic relations on 10 October 1959. Indonesia opened its embassy in Caracas in 1977 and Venezuela reciprocated in 1981. According to a Venezuelan embassy spokesperson in Jakarta, the embassy plans to celebrate the occasion with a series of public events, including a photo exhibition on the works of Rodrigo Benavides, a famous Venezuelan photographer, and food festivals of Venezuelan cuisine in Bali and Jakarta.

Economic relations between the two countries were also on the rise. Based on Indonesian trade statistics, bilateral trade surged to US\$92.27 million in 2008, an increase of 11.76 percent from the \$82.55 million recorded in 2007. It stood at just \$24.93 million in 2003. Venezuela imports textiles, rubber, fiber, wood products, electrical and sports equipment from Indonesia. The trade balance is heavily in favour of Indonesia, with \$79.19 million in Indonesian exports to Venezuela.

Source: The Jakarta Post, 5 July 2009

## **NIGERIA, ALGERIA SIGN OIL PIPELINE DEAL**

In an important development, Petroleum and Energy ministers from Nigeria, Niger and Algeria have signed an agreement to build a \$10 billion pipeline to transport Nigerian gas across the Sahara to the Mediterranean and European markets. Petroleum and Energy ministers Rilwan Lukman of Nigeria, Chakib Khalib of Algeria and Mohammed Abdullahi of Niger signed the agreement in July 2009 in Abuja. The head of Nigeria's state oil company, Mohammed Barkindo, said the agreement "gives this project the official stamp of approval from the three governments, directing the national oil companies of these three countries to begin in earnest the definitional phase of this project."

Nigeria has proven gas reserves of about 183 trillion cubic feet, making it the seventh largest producer in the world, but a large chunk of it is wasted through daily flaring by oil producers. Even though no date was announced for the start of construction, the first delivery of gas is scheduled for 2015.

Source: France 24, 3 July 2009

## **INDIA, KENYA SIGN AGREEMENT ON SMALL, MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), an Indian state-owned body has signed an agreement on mutual cooperation with Kenya Industrial Estates (KIE) Ltd, a Government of Kenya state corporation in May 2009 at Nairobi, for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in both countries. As part of this Agreement, NSIC would assist KIE in carrying out industrial potential surveys and feasibility studies to identify thrust areas and opportunities for the development of small enterprises in Kenya on mutual agreed terms. NSIC would also assist KIE in the setting up of Business Incubator Centres for demonstration and training on technologies for startup entrepreneurs of Kenya. NSIC in collaboration with KIE, would also facilitate technology transfer from India in specific industrial sectors. KIE would facilitate and assist NSIC in holding machinery & equipment expositions in Kenya to promote Indian technologies.

Both NSIC and KIE would facilitate the exchange of business missions to help initiate technology transfer and sustainable business alliances between enterprises in India and Kenya. Further, they would also assist each other in holding virtual exhibitions at their respective websites regarding products & services offered by SMEs in both countries. The development of sustainable business alliances and technology transfer is seen to be of mutual benefit to both G-15 countries.

Source: Press Information Bureau, India, 21 July 2009.