

INDIA TO BUILD HARBOUR, HOSPITAL IN SRI LANKA

An Agreement was signed on 21 July 2011, between India and Sri Lanka to reconstruct a harbour damaged during the civil disturbances in the latter country. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of India by High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha and on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka by Mrs. Sujatha Cooray, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports and Highways. The ceremony was also attended by the Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Ports and Highways, Mr. Rohitha Abeygunawardena and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Dr. Priyath B. Wickrama. The Kankesanthurai Harbour project will be aided by a mix of grant funding and concessional credit from the Government of India. The Government of India has already committed approximately \$20 million for initial preparatory work.

Earlier on 4th July 2011, the foundation stone laying ceremony of a 150-bed hospital at Dickoya near Hatton in the Central Province was held. Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Sri Lanka's Minister of Health along with the High Commissioner of India laid the foundation for the construction of the hospital at the project site. The hospital will be built under grant assistance of the Government of India at an estimated cost of SLR 1200 million. Work on the project has already commenced and the hospital is expected to be commissioned in early 2013.

Source: Press Release of Indian High Commission in Colombo, 6 July 2011 and 22 July 2011

MALAYSIA, INDIA IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between Malaysia and India came into effect on 1 July 2011. Trade between the two G-15 countries which reached \$10 billion in 2011-11 is expected to rise to \$15 b by 2015 as a result. Under the Agreement, India has obtained market access from Malaysia in products like basmati rice, mangos, eggs, motorcycles and cotton garments. The CECA also provides for the easier movement of business people in commercially meaningful sectors including accountancy, architecture, urban planning, engineering services, medical, dental and nursing services, ICT and management consultancy services. The Agreement further facilitates cross-border investments between the two countries.

Source: www.bilaterals.org, 1 July 2011

NIGERIA, BRAZIL BOOST COOPERATION IN OIL SECTOR

In an agreement signed in July 2011 between the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Brazilian oil giant Petrobras, the two G-15 countries have begun an exchange programme that aims at boosting local content in the Nigerian oil industry. The agreement is based on the PROMINP programme that was successfully

implemented by Peterobras in 2003 and increased the local content in Brazil's oil industry from 57% to 74% in 2010. The Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Ernest Nwapa, stated in Rio de Janeiro that his body would pay special attention to developing a robust local supply chain to promote local manufacture of parts and components and also after-sales support.

Source: Leadership (Abuja), 12 July 2011

MEXICO-CHILE ECONOMIC RELATIONS STRENGTHENED

Bilateral relations between Mexico and Chile were reinforced by Chilean President Sebastián Piñera's state visit to Mexico from 7-10 July 2011. During the visit, several initiatives were identified that will promote the exchange of experiences and promote regional economic strength. One of the issues agreed upon involves the start of negotiations for an Accord of Mutual Recognition of Academic Certificates, Degrees and/or Qualifications. Other major agreements include an Accord on Cooperation to Attend National Communities Abroad and the Agreement on the Protection and Restoration of Cultural Assets subject to protection. This last instrument makes it easier for both governments to combat the illegal trafficking of heritage goods that constitute their respective cultural assets.

Source: Presidency de la Republica Mexicanos, 14 July 2011

ARGENTINA, CHILE AGREE TO JOINTLY PROMOTE TOURISM IN DISTANT MARKETS

Argentina and Chile have reached an understanding to join efforts in promoting tourism in distant overseas markets. The document was signed in July 2011 by Chile's Deputy Secretary for Tourism, Jacqueline Plass and the Argentine Tourism Minister, Enrique Meyer at the Argentina embassy in Santiago, Chile. Under the agreement, joint efforts will be undertaken to promote Chile and Argentina as tourist destinations in markets such as Australia, South Africa, China, Singapore, Israel, Japan, Turkey and the Middle-East. The agreement also contemplates joint participation in tourism fairs, and familiarization visits for the press and the public.

Source: MercoPress, 5 July 2011