

BRAZIL, INDIA DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil H.E. Lula da Silva, paid a state visit to India from 3-5 June, 2007 at the invitation of the President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. President Lula was accompanied by a high-level official and business delegation.

The leaders of both countries underlined the importance of providing their strategic partnership with a solid economic underpinning. In that context they expressed satisfaction at the launching of the CEO Forum which is composed of senior representatives of industry on both sides and the trade target of US\$10 billion by 2010. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the development of cooperation in the area of science & technology and also welcomed the decision to cooperate in space sector applications. Both parties also noted the progress reached in the partnership between Petrobras and Indian companies to explore, produce and trade oil, gas and derivatives in Brazil, India and elsewhere. President Lula reiterated the commitment of his Government to intensifying exchange of information with India on Brazil's biofuels program.

Seven bilateral agreements were signed during the visit including an Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters; Agreement on Audio Visual Co-production; Implementing Arrangement regarding Cooperation in Augmentation of Brazilian Earth Station for Receiving and Processing data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites; Academic Exchange Programme; MOU on India-Brazil CEOs Forum; Agreement between ONGC, OVL and Petrobras; and MOU between the National Council for Applied Economic Research and Brazil's Institute of Applied Economic Research.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. 6 June 2007

ZIMBABWE, EGYPT CONFER ON AFRICA

The President of Zimbabwe Mr. Robert Mugabe arrived in Cairo on 16 June 2007 for a discussion with his Egyptian counterpart President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders held a session of talks in the Presidential Palace to tackle some African issues to be dealt with in the African Summit next year in Ghana. The talks also dealt with some issues of joint interest and regional causes, as well as the bilateral relations between Egypt and Zimbabwe and means of boosting them in various fields.

Source: Egypt State Information Service, 17 June 2007

PERU TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH BRAZIL

President Alan Garcia of Peru has made a call to business communities from Peru and Brazil to strengthen their commercial activities and economic ties so that both countries could aim at entering various Asian markets.

Inaugurating the Peru-Brazil Business Forum on 4 June 2007, President Garcia emphasized Brazil's important role in such a possible organization by highlighting its enormous investment capabilities. He referred to the mega Inter-Oceanic Highway project that will connect South America's Atlantic coast (Brazil) and Pacific Coast (Peru), stating that "We now have the opportunity to tap into those vast investment supplies by land, and Brazil has the chance to partner up with a country that can provide stability in future endeavors,"

Source: www.livinginPeru.com, 5 June 2007

IRAN, ALGERIA DISCUSS MUTUAL TIES

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki held talks with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem in Algiers on 1 June 2007. The Iranian minister expressed Iran's support for development plans in Algeria and stressed the importance of bolstering economic cooperation. Mr Mottaki arrived in Algiers in response to an invitation by his Algerian counterpart Mohamed Bedjaoui at the head of a political and economic delegation. The visit was aimed at bolstering economic and political relations and discussing issues of mutual interest as well as key international developments.

Source: IRNA , 2 June 2007

KENYA IN OIL DEAL WITH VENEZUELA

The Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Raphael Tuju stated in Caracas that his Government would start purchasing crude oil from Venezuela at concessionary rates in an oil deal lasting for six years, to be renewed automatically for a similar period. The Venezuelan government will also assist Kenya in oil exploration in specific areas that are believed to have oil deposits. He was leading a Kenyan delegation comprising Energy minister, Mr. Kiraitu Murungi, Sports, Culture and Social Services Minister, Mr Maina Kamanda, Energy Permanent Secretary Mr. Patrick Nyoike, the head of the American Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Chepsogol and technical staff from various ministries.

Besides oil, other areas of cooperation that were agreed upon include the agricultural, social, cultural, environmental, educational, health and tourism sectors.

SOURCE: allAfrica.com, 25 June 2007

INDONESIA, INDIA WIDEN MUTUAL COOPERATION

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda and the Minister of External Affairs of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee met in Jakarta on 18 June 2007 at the meeting of the Third Joint Commission between Indonesia and India. Besides reviewing progress of previous agreements of mutual cooperation, the meeting identified new fields of cooperation, such as Special Economic Zone cooperation, development of alternative energy sources, the conclusion of a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) in Criminal Matters and Extradition Treaty, cooperation in health and pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, mining, biotechnology and women's empowerment.

The meeting discussed the strengthening of cooperation in information technology, nuclear technology, biotechnology, tele-education, tele-health, and strengthening cooperation in space technology, especially after the successful establishment of the Second Telemetry Tracking and Command Centre in Biak by ISRO and the recent piggy back launch of the LAPAN TUBSAT Micro Satellite by India in January 2007.

The Indian delegation expressed appreciation at the extension of Visa on Arrival facilities to Indian nationals by Indonesia while the Indonesian side welcomed the Indian Prime Minister's offer to assist in the restoration work at the famous Prambanan Temple Complex through the Archaeological Survey of India. A Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Setting Up of a Vocational Training Center for the Construction Sector in Aceh was also signed by the Minister of Public Works of Indonesia Mr. Djoko Kirmanto and the Minister of External Affairs of India.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, 18 June 2007

CHILE, SRI LANKA TO EXPAND TRADE

Chile and Sri Lanka are planning to expand trade ties, the Chilean representative in Colombo said in a press release. The two countries announced on 22 June 2007, a widening of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in April on bilateral trade relations to facilitate bi-lateral agricultural trade and cooperation.

Chile is Sri Lanka's leading trading partner in that region. Total trade between the two countries reached US\$ 40 million in 2006. Last year, Sri Lankan exports to Chile amounted to US\$ 16 million, 75 per cent of which constituted tea. Chile is one of the highest per capita consumers of tea in the world.

Chile is keen to enhance its trade ties with Sri Lanka, and being the largest exporter of fresh fruit in the Southern hemisphere, the Latin American nation views Colombo as a potential market for its Mediterranean climate fruits.

Source: the Sunday Times, 24 June 2007

MALAYSIA-INDONESIA INVESTMENT AND FINANCE SUMMIT HELD

Attended by 700 captains of industry, the Malaysia-Indonesia Investment and Finance Summit was held in Jakarta on 18 June 2007. The Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi called upon Malaysia and Indonesia to strengthen their collaboration to further develop Islamic finance and the halal market for the benefit of the international community. He hoped the investment and finance summit, organized by the Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority (LOFSA) would take a lead in exploring new growth areas and investment opportunities in various forms, including joint ventures with equity considerations, strategic alliances or technological collaborations.

Mr. Effendi, together with Indonesian Minister for Economic Coordination Dr Boediono and accompanied by LOFSA chairperson Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, who is also Bank Negara Malaysia governor, later witnessed the signing of two memoranda of understanding, including one between Malaysian government-owned trustee company Amanah Raya Bhd and PT Gapura Prima to establish a real estate investment trust (REIT) through a joint venture company.

Source: BERNAMA, June 18, 2007