

VENEZUELA, BRAZIL SIGN 10 AGREEMENTS

10 bilateral economic agreements were signed during the one-day state visit of Venezuela's President H. E. Hugo Chavez to Brazil on 6 June 2011, where he met with his counterpart H. E. President Dilma Rousseff. The agreements include several financing deals between Venezuela's giant oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and the Brazilian Bank of Social Development (BNDES). PDVSA and Brazil's leading oil firm Petrobras also reached an agreement on the completion of Abreue Lima refinery, under construction at Suape Industrial Port Complex in the Brazilian state of Pernambuco.

The agreements also include the financing of a shipyard in Venezuela for Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) member states of Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The 637 million dollars required for the ALBA shipyard, which is to be built in the north-eastern state of Sucre, will be provided by Brazil's Economic and Social Development National Bank, and Brazilian companies will take part in the construction of the work.

Venezuela is said to be considering the purchase of 34 Embraer aircraft from Brazil. President Rousseff, on her part, said that Brazilian companies remain committed to the development of infrastructure projects in Venezuela. The projects include construction of hydroelectric plants, highways and subway systems, shipbuilding facilities, as well as the production of steel and petrochemicals.

Source: Press TV, 7 June 2011

KENYA SEEKS MALAYSIAN ADVICE ON ICT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Kenya is keen to learn from Malaysia on how the country developed its information and communications technology and infrastructure sectors, as it planned to emulate the experiences to diversify its economy. This was stated by Kenyan Vice President H. E. Kalonzo Musyoka who was present in Putra Jaya, Malaysia when the Langkawi International Dialogue 2011 was inaugurated by the Malaysian Prime Minister H. E. Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on 19 June 2011. Kenya is Malaysia's fifth largest trading partner after South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria and Mauritius on the African continent, and is also keen to spur more business, trade and investment collaboration between the business communities of the G-15 countries.

Kenya exports soda ash, tea, marine products, tobacco, lime and cement to Malaysia and in turn imports electronic goods, textiles, natural gas and fats.

Source: BERNAMA, 19 June 2011

ALGERIA, CHILE AGREE TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Algeria and Chile have agreed to strengthen their cooperation by developing contacts and meetings in the political, cultural, and economic and trade areas. This was agreed during consultations held in Santiago, Chile between the Algerian General Director for Americas,

Mr. Sabri Boukadoum and the Chilean Director-General of bilateral relations, Mr. Rodrigo Gaete, on 6 June 2011. The two G-15 countries agreed to finalize the necessary legal documents for this cooperation.

Source: Algeria News, 7 June 2011

IRAN AUTO FIRM PLANS TO ENTER NIGERIAN MARKET

In a bid to strengthen ties with the African region, the Iranian car company, Iran Khodro Group (IKCO), said it plans to begin exporting cars to the Nigerian market. Mr. Peyman Ghorbani, IKCO Africa and Europe Area Director, said this while receiving Nigerian journalists on a tour to the IKCO manufacturing and assembling plant at Tehran, Iran on 15 June 2011.

IKCO currently has production facilities in Senegal, Egypt and Mali, with an annual production of 15,000 units of cars in Senegal. Mr. Ghorbani said that the company is already negotiating with Nigeria, considering the fact that the country is important to Africa's growing economy.

Source: Daily Trust Nigeria, 17 June 2011

BRAZIL, CHILE DEEPEN TECHNOLOGICAL LINKAGES

The Brazilian and Chilean Governments have signed an agreement under which Brazil commits itself to training Chilean professionals, teachers, technicians and students technically in all issues involved in the digital TV implementation of the country. The agreement was signed in the first week of June 2011 between the Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Ministry of Communications, Mr. Cezar Alvarez and the Chilean sub secretary of Telecommunications, Mr. Jorge Atton.

Meanwhile, a Brazilian firm, MPX Energia, announced that it plans to develop a 200 mega watt solar energy facility in Chile as part of its growing renewable portfolio. The project is estimated to cost some US\$ 400 million.

Source: Renewable Energy South America, 2 June 2011
