

VENEZUELA, ARGENTINA SIGN SEVERAL ACCORDS

Source: Venezuelanalysis.com, 30 March 2011

The President of Venezuela, H. E. Hugo Chávez met with his Argentine counterpart, H. E. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner on 29 March 2011 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The two G-15 leaders signed a total of 12 co-operation agreements during the visit. The agreements focus on cooperation between the two countries in food and agriculture, energy, tourism, industry, health, commerce, and shipping sectors.

Among the accords is an agreement under which Argentina is to build 18 cargo ships at a cost of 84 million U.S. dollars for Venezuela's state-owned oil company (PDVSA) affiliate, FluviALBA. Venezuela also plans to import 16,900 cars from Argentina by the end of 2011, along with some 609 tons of meat, dairy, cereal and other food products. In exchange, Venezuela will continue exporting oil and its derivatives to Argentina and continue purchasing Argentine sovereign bonds.

IRAN, KENYA TO STRENGTHEN TRADE

Source: Siyasat, Tehran, 7 March 2011

Iranian President H. E. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and visiting Kenyan Prime Minister H. E. Raila Odinga pledged to deepen trade relations between the two countries in a meeting in Tehran on 6 March 2011. The Kenyan premier arrived in Tehran for a two-day visit at the invitation of the Iranian government along with a delegation comprised of Cabinet Ministers and Kenyan businessmen.

During the visit, Mr Odinga and the Governor of the southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan, Mr. Jafar Hejazi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand bilateral trade relations. The MoU included an agreement to expand trade relations and cooperation between Imam Khomeini Port in Khuzestan province and Kenya's Port of Mombasa, and to strengthen tourism, cultural and educational cooperation. Iran and Kenya have also begun the joint construction of the Middle East's largest grain terminal in Imam Khomeini Port.

Iran is among the leading importers of Kenyan tea, while the Islamic Republic exports industrial oils, carpets and chemicals to Kenya.

BRAZIL, SRI LANKA TO EXPAND TIES

Source: Reuters, 7 March 2011

The expansion of technical, political and trade cooperation between Brazil and Sri Lanka was on the agenda of Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota who undertook a three-day visit to Sri Lanka in the first week of March 2011. The visit was the first by a foreign minister from Brazil to the Indian Ocean nation in 50 years of diplomatic ties. Mr Patriota met Sri Lanka's President H. E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris and business leaders during his trip.

The main sectors identified for economic cooperation were tourism, infrastructure projects and aircraft. Other possible areas of cooperation include tropical agriculture, biofuels and wider trade. The two G-15 nations also signed a memorandum of political cooperation to facilitate discussions on climate change, poverty reduction, peace, security and trade.

NIGERIA, INDIA SIGN PHARMACEUTICAL AGREEMENT

Source: IANS, 17 March 2011

India and Nigeria pledged to further strengthen economic ties so that they are commensurate with their 'excellent' political ties. This was agreed in a meeting between visiting Nigerian Foreign Minister, Odein Ajumogobia, and India's External Affairs Minister, S. M. Krishna, in New Delhi on 17 March 2011. A bilateral agreement was signed during the visit in the field of pharmaceuticals between India's Department of Pharmaceuticals and Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. The agreement will help the promotion of mutual trade in good quality drugs, drug testing and analysis and detection and prevention of supply of adulterated and fake drugs.

During his visit, the Nigerian Foreign Minister met India's Prime Minister H. E. Manmohan Singh, and other members of the Indian cabinet. He also delivered a speech on 'India and Nigeria: the Largest Democracies in the World and Africa, as Agents of Inter-regional Cooperation for Global Peace and Development'.

BRAZIL, INDIA CONSOLIDATE RELATIONSHIP

Source: Press release of the Foreign Ministry of Brazil, 12 March 2011

At the invitation of Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India, the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Mr. Antonio Patriota visited New Delhi on 8th March 2011. A bilateral Air Services Agreement between the two G-15 countries was signed during the visit. The two Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade & investment have grown significantly in

recent years. Bilateral trade at \$ 7.8 billion in 2010 registered a growth rate of 25% over the previous year and, at this rate, both sides hoped to achieve the trade target of \$ 10 billion in the near future. Among other sectors identified for bilateral cooperation included science and technology, defence, agricultural research, energy security, civil nuclear cooperation, space research, education and sports and culture.
