

## **NIGERIA, INDIA SIGN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PACTS**

Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited Nigeria during 14-16 October 2007 where he had detailed talks with the Nigerian President, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. The two G-15 countries agreed to set up a strategic partnership that would cover bilateral political, economic, trade, security, cultural, education, science and technology and international issues. The visit culminated in the signing of a number of bilateral agreements including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Indian Foreign Service Institute and the Nigerian Foreign Service Academy; MOU between the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs; a Protocol for Foreign Office Consultations; and an MOU on defence co-operation.

Stressing the need to enhance air and maritime connectivity between the two countries, the two leaders agreed to finalize a new Civil Aviation Agreement within six months and to undertake further steps to improve maritime links. They further agreed to exchange experiences and programmes with respect to poverty alleviation that could be of great benefit to both countries and to other countries in Africa.

India and Nigeria have had long-standing co-operation in defence matters. Both sides agreed to further strengthen such co-operation and expand its ambit. In this context, India agreed to set up two IT laboratories in the Defence Academy of Nigeria. Both countries also confirmed that their governments would continue to encourage further co-operation between their companies in the oil and gas sectors.

Source: [www.guardiannewsngr.com](http://www.guardiannewsngr.com), 16 October 2007

## **INDONESIA, SRI LANKA ENHANCE BILATERAL COOPERATION**

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama, signed two MOUs with Indonesian Foreign Minister, Mr. Hassan Wirajuda on the sidelines of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York. The two MOUs were on the establishment of a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation and combating international terrorism.

In a press release, the Sri Lankan foreign ministry said that the MOU on the establishment of a Joint Commission for bilateral cooperation would strengthen existing relations in all aspects.

Before the signing of the MOUs, the two Foreign Ministers held bilateral discussions where a number of matters of regional and international interest were taken up such as cooperation between the two countries to tackle regional problems, in particular natural disasters. Both countries had suffered serious losses during the tsunami that struck the region in December 2004. There was also a discussion on increasing direct flights between Colombo and Jakarta.

Source: <http://www.slmfa.gov.lk/>, 2 October 2007

## **IRAN, EGYPT TO ESTABLISH TIES IN THE MEDICAL, HEALTH SECTOR**

Iran and Egypt have agreed to establish a Joint Center for the communication and dissemination of medical and health information. The agreement was signed in Cairo between Iran's Health Minister, Kamran Baqeri-Lankarani and the Egyptian Minister of Health and Population, Hatem al-Gabali on 21 October 2007.

The Iranian Health Minister stated that his country was willing to exchange its medical expertise with Egypt. His Egyptian counterpart announced his country's willingness to exchange its expertise in the pharmaceutical sector with Iran.

Source: IRNA, 22 Oct 2007

## **ALGERIA EXTENDS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR ZIMBABWEAN STUDENTS**

The Algerian government has extended its scholarship scheme for students of Zimbabwe by sanctioning 65 scholarships that will enable students from Zimbabwe to study in different Algerian universities. Appreciating the Algerian assistance under the exchange programme that began three years ago, the Zimbabwean Minister for Higher and Tertiary Education, Comrade Cde Stan Mudenge, stated that the scholarship programme was helping to develop and strengthen technical and cultural cooperation between Algeria and Zimbabwe.

The students will study medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science, engineering, architecture, agronomy, and mathematics and computer science.

Source: The Herald (Harare), 12 October 2007

## **INDIA, EGYPT TO COOPERATE IN HEALTH CARE SECTOR**

India and Egypt are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on transfer of technology in the field of health care. Both sides will work jointly in the field of combating infection, health reform sector and transfer of vaccine technology.

A delegation led by Egyptian Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Hatem El Gabali met Indian Minister of Health Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss in New Delhi on 24 October 2007 and discussed the possibilities of mutual cooperation in the health care and pharmaceutical sectors. In a statement, the Egyptian Health Minister said that India has a very strong research and application mechanism and that Egypt was interested in learning about its experience in transfer of technology from research laboratories to production companies. On its part, Egypt had made great progress in the area of family planning, population control and eradication of polio and was willing to share its experiences with India.

Source: Press Trust of India (PTI) 25, October 2007