



World SME Update

(A Global Update On SME News, Events, Policies & Programs)

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AFGHANISTAN



Producers and Craftsmen demands from Afghan Government for further co-operation and development on domestic production

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the National Center for Policy Research jointly inaugurated a roundtable on "encouraging and developing domestic productions in the light of provincial enterprises agenda" which was set at Inter-Continental Hotel, wherein members of parliament, senior governmental officials, scholars, representatives of civil societies, private sector representatives and different media had taken part.

The participants believe that adoption of productivity and industry growth activities as well as investments and stimulation of public to use the domestic productions would have a fundamental keys expedition toward economic growth in the country. For further promotion, development and encouragement of domestic products, they asked the government to extend its further cooperation than every other time.

Related issues were discussed as well as supports to motivate the development of domestic production with artisans and manufacturers at the roundtable were accordingly announced by the participants. Recommendations of Provincial Businesses Agendas through commercial institutions coalition was prepared by ACCI. A great number of blocking challenges toward manufacturers, industrialists, businessmen and entrepreneurs is identified and specific recommendations to overcome the obstacles on trade, domestic industry and real economic growth have been proposed. More than 1,700 businessmen, entrepreneurs and manufacturers from Nangarhar, Balkh, Kandahar and Herat have suggested their specified recommendations and have presented their information in drafting process of Provincial Businesses Agenda.

It is noteworthy, that the brief report on opinions and recommendations of participants would lately be provided to relevant governmental institutions, departments, private sector, civil society organizations, donor agencies, business associations and Medias. In addition, ACCI, CIPE institution and the National Center for Policy Research based at Kabul University would continue their activities with the relevant government departments and members of Parliament to monitor the implementation of recommendations and to expedite initiation process of a productive environment for development of business and domestic production growth according to the provincial suggestion agenda of enterprises in Afghanistan.

ARGENTINA



Mr. Prat-Gay signed a 50 million dollars for science and technology with CABEI

Minister of Finance and Public Finance, Mr. Alfonso Prat-Gay, led a meeting this afternoon with the President of BCIE, Mr. Nick Rischbieth Glöe, where they signed the contract for operations by \$ 65 million for the Programme of Capacity Building and Research development (PROFOCAID). The Bank will provide \$ 50 million, while the remaining 15 million will be provided by the National Treasury.

This is the first awarded to Argentina in the history of the credit institution which, in 2015, amended its Articles of Agreement to open the credit to non-Central American countries loan.

The PROFOCAID is aimed at promoting strategic research and development of the Argentine National Innovation System, focused on the incorporation of knowledge and technologies to improve competitiveness and productivity of small and medium enterprises.

This program will run throughout the national territory and in relation to the countries of the region. It will include, among other activities, training of human resources both in Argentina and Central America.

Moreover, the Credit Committee Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) approved in September this year a loan for Integral Habitat Program which aims to provide infrastructure for 6,500 households in marginal urban areas in the north of the country. This project is part of the Belgrano Plan and has a total cost of 75 million dollars, of which 60 will be contributed by the Central Bank.

It is also scheduled for November this year approved \$ 30 million for the project management health outcomes for the care of elderly population in Argentina, run by the National Institute of Social Services for Pensioners (INSSJP). This program will strengthen the management INSSJP in the care of the elderly, especially those affections from chronic diseases, reaching more than 4.3 million members and nearly nine thousand providers with agreement.

On the other hand, during the meeting the officials talked about the agreements for 2017, which would total \$ 90 million, aimed at expanding access to early childhood education (30 million) and strengthen the infrastructure of deposits vaccines and medicines to the general population (60 million).

At the meeting, held at the Palacio de Hacienda, they were also attended by the BCIE: the head of the Office of Legal Affairs, Mr. Julio Martinez Eduardo Bichara, and the director for Argentina, Mr. Victor Fabiano. In addition, they attended by Undersecretary of International Financial Relations, Mr. Felix Martin Soto, and

Secretary of Scientific Technological Articulation Mr. Agustín Campero, the Ministry of Science and Technology.

CABEI Headquartered in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, aims to promote the integration and development of its partner countries. In this regard, investments agreed point to historically neglected sectors that are today a priority in the management of the National Government.

AUSTRALIA



Australia-New Zealand Single Economic Market Ministerial Meeting

Australian and New Zealand ministers met in Sydney on October 28, 2016 to advance work on reinvigorating the Single Economic Market (SEM) agenda building on the success of the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) Trade Agreement. Ministers welcomed the extensive nature of our economic integration, noting the value of instruments such as the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement being implemented with comprehensive coverage. The meeting underscored the special nature of the bond between Australia and New Zealand, including the strength of an economic relationship comprising A\$24 billion in two-way trade in 2015 and A\$138 billion invested in one another's countries.

The SEM meeting, co-convened by Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Mr. Steven Ciobo MP and New Zealand Minister of Trade, Hon Mr. Todd McClay, included, for Australia, the Treasurer, the Hon Mr. Scott Morrison MP, the Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the Hon Mr. Angus Taylor MP and the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Mr. Alex Hawke MP, and for New Zealand, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon Mr. Bill English, the Minister for Economic Development and of Science and Innovation, Hon Mr. Steven Joyce, the Minister of Customs, Hon Mr. Nicky Wagner, and the Minister of Commerce, Hon Mr. Paul Goldsmith.

Ministers endorsed the importance of reinvigoration of the SEM agenda, mandated by Australian and New Zealand Leaders in February 2016, as a vital means of promoting mutual growth, competitiveness and prosperity. With the aim of a seamless trans-Tasman marketplace, Ministers discussed ways to facilitate trans-Tasman business and to strengthen connectivity between Australia, New Zealand and third markets.

Signature of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) linking Australia's Trusted Trader (ATT) and New Zealand's Secure Exports Scheme will provide a practical boost to trans-Tasman trade. The launch of the trans-Tasman Joint Infrastructure Pipeline will deepen both of our infrastructure procurement markets. Ministers welcomed progress towards a bilateral Science and Innovation Agreement, which will integrate Australia's and New Zealand's innovation agendas, help share cutting-edge ideas and forge economies based on innovative human capital.

Ministers were also briefed by the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) on a number of private-sector plans for enhancing the trans-Tasman business environment. The meeting undertook to consider proposals to inform a forward work-plan and future Closer Economic Relations and SEM meetings. Ministers took the opportunity to thank outgoing Australian ANZLF co-chair Mr. Rod McGeogh AO for his commitment to strengthening the trans-Tasman relationship and welcomed Ann Sherry AO as his replacement.

Ministers agreed to establish regular bilateral senior officials' discussions to oversee the reinvigoration of the SEM agenda. They agreed on a road map to guide progress and tasked officials jointly to identify further seamless border initiatives and activities that could be considered by Prime Ministers at the 2017 Australia-New Zealand Leaders' meeting.

BELGIUM



Belgian companies, NGOs and public sector sign the Belgian SDG Charter

To promote and to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals together. That is the ambition of more than 80 Belgian companies, civil society organizations and representatives of the public sector that are signing the Belgian SDG Charter for International Development, today (October 18, 2016) in Brussels. The Belgian SDG Charter is driven by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Mr. Alexander De Croo, who wants to bridge the gap between international development, the private sector and civil society. The Shift, the Belgian meeting point for sustainability, will manage the process.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were approved last year by the United Nations. They are very ambitious: to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, to protect our planet and to encourage human development. The SDG's explicitly recognise the important role of the private sector in the field of international development for the first time.

Mr. Alexander De Croo: *"The Belgian SDG Charter wants to increase awareness of the ambitious sustainable development agenda in the Belgian private sector. This is essential, as governments, NGOs and civil society cannot fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals on their own. We need the private sector. Today more than 50 companies are signing the charter, which is an important signal."*

Shared commitment: The Belgian SDG Charter for International Development outlines the commitment of the Belgian private sector, civil society and the public sector on the basis of the 5 P's of Sustainable Development: People, Planet, Profit, Peace and Partnerships. *"Now is the time to go from words to action. Companies that embrace sustainable development are better companies. And an international development policy without cooperation with the private sector can never be sustainable. Let the signature*

of this Belgian SDG Charter be the launch of a fruitful cooperation," said Mr. Alexander De Croo.

Collaboration around five core themes: The Belgian SDG Charter is further opened to wider signature starting today (click here for a list of the current signatories). Concrete initiatives will be established between government, private sector and civil society organizations on the basis of the Belgian SDG Charter in the following months and years, focusing on five specific themes: (1) health, (2) renewable energy, (3) digitalization, (4) agriculture and nutrition and (5) sustainable enterprise.

The aim is that Belgian companies, development actors from the civil society and the public sector ultimately mutually reinforce one another in favor of sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development in our country but also in partner countries of the Belgian development policy. The Belgian sustainability network "The Shift" will manage the entire process.

Praise from the World Bank: The new Belgian SDG Charter is supported by more than 80 Belgian companies, civil society partners and the public sector, as well as by World Bank President Mr. Jim Kim, who praised the Belgian initiative in a video message. *"We must promote inclusive economic growth, and invest more in people. Partnerships such as the Belgian SDG Charter play an important role in bringing everyone in our society together around a common goal. It ensures that our plans and ambitions will be fulfilled. I thank you for the commitment."*

Bridging the gap between international development and the private sector is one of the focuses of Minister Mr. De Croo. Earlier this year capital from BIO (Belgian Investment Company for Developing countries) has already been opened to private investors who are looking for efficiency and also attach importance to the social and environmental impacts of their investments. Our country supports the private sector in the Belgian partner countries through BIO.

Minister Mr. De Croo also awards the 2016 Trophy of Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs today, during an evening that focuses on partnerships and the power of collaboration. The 2016 Trophy is the ultimate reward for an entrepreneur from the North that promotes entrepreneurship in the South in a sustainable way.

BULGARIA



Việt Nam to support Bulgarian business

Việt Nam will support effective implementation of Bulgarian firms' long-term projects in the country, Prime Minister Mr. Nguyễn Xuân Phúc said yesterday (October 17, 2016).

Receiving Bulgarian Economic Minister Bozidar Lucarsky in Hà Nội, Phúc expressed his wish that the two countries enhance economic and investment co-operation, as also boost commercial exchanges.

While bilateral co-operation in economy and trade developed in recent years, it failed to meet expectations, Mr. Phúc said. Two-way trade turnover between Việt Nam and Bulgaria reached US\$102.5 million in 2015.

The Bulgarian minister agreed that economic co-operation between Việt Nam and Bulgaria did not match the potential. Addressing this was a main reason for his visit to Việt Nam, he said.

He said he wished that Bulgaria would become a gateway for Vietnamese products to enter the European market and that Việt Nam returns the favour for Bulgarian products to enter Southeast Asia.

He informed Phúc of the results of talks he held with Minister of Industry and Trade Trần Tuấn Anh. The two sides have identified many orientations to boost co-operation in the coming time.

Earlier yesterday, the Bulgarian Minister was received by National Assembly Vice Chairman Phùng Quốc Hiển. Hiển hoped the Minister's visit would be followed by deals on goods, services and investments, boosting both economies and strengthening bilateral co-operation.

On Monday, many entrepreneurs from both countries participated in a Việt Nam-Bulgarian business forum. – VNS

COLUMBIA



Report shows growth in British Columbia's small business sector

There's nothing small about the continued growth of B.C.'s small business sector as outlined in the Small Business Profile 2016: A profile of small business in British Columbia.

The 2016 Small Business Profile includes updated key economic indicators such as job growth (including self-employment) and exports, trends by industry, regional breakdowns and cross-jurisdictional comparisons to report out on the health of the sector throughout the province.

The report outlines how small businesses continue to make up a sizeable part of B.C.'s gross domestic product (GDP). At 35% of GDP, B.C. was well ahead of the Canadian national average of 32%, and ahead of B.C.'s level of 34% in 2014.

Additional B.C. small business sector highlights from the 2016 profile include:

- Small businesses continue to employ over one million British Columbians, which is 55% of all private sector jobs in B.C. and 45% of all employment in B.C.; both figures are an increase compared to the 2015 profile.
- The accommodation and food services industry was the largest provider of new small business jobs with over 11,000 jobs created from 2010 until 2015.

- Small businesses exports from B.C. total approximately \$12.9 billion – over 36% of B.C.'s total exports with 53% of exports destined for the U.S.A.
- Small businesses per capita in B.C. continue to rank first in in Canada with 83 small businesses per 1,000 people, far above the national average of 70.3.
- There were 9,905 high tech businesses with employees in British Columbia in 2015, of those 96% were small businesses.

New to the 2016 report is a comparison of average earnings by province showing the difference in wages between small and large companies. The report shows B.C.'s small business workers have the smallest wage gaps in the country, compared to large business workers.

Also unique to the 2016 edition is a new section showing what makes B.C. an enticing place to start a small business such as quality of life and competitive tax rates, both of which rank B.C. favorably compared to other provinces. While five regions throughout the province recorded growth in the number of small businesses between 2014 and 2015, this new section will also help the Province identify regions where small business growth is not as strong and may require targeted supports.

The 2016 Small Business Profile is an indispensable report that supports the BC Jobs Plan and #BCTech Strategy with important data which highlights that these economic initiatives are working.

Mr. Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch said *"The B.C. Small Business Profile is one of the key tools we use to monitor the health of this important sector and ensure our programs and policies are doing all they can to support B.C.'s entrepreneurs. The report shows that the sector remains strong and confirms that we are on the right track to achieve our goal of being the smallest business-friendly jurisdiction in North America."*

Quick Facts:

- The Small Business Profile is created by BC Stats and has been published annually in October since 1997.
- Small businesses make up 98% of all business in B.C. and employ over one million people. 51% are self-employed with no employees.
- Small businesses provide 55% of all private-sector jobs in British Columbia, the second highest rate in the country.
- There were approximately 388,500 small businesses operating in B.C. in 2015 – 313,500 have fewer than five employees.
- Approximately 38% of small business owners in B.C. are women, above the Canadian average of 37%, an increase compared to last year's report.

DENMARK



Denmark opens new innovation centre in Israel today

Denmark opens a new innovation centre in Tel Aviv today. The centre will strengthen Danish innovation, research, growth, and employment.

"I am pleased that today we are opening the seventh Danish innovation centre", says Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Kristian Jensen who continues: "Israel is among the OECD countries that invest the most in research and development. And it is internationally recognised for its active and vibrant start-up environment. There are many opportunities for Danish companies and research and educational institutions to enter into partnerships, exchange knowledge and create innovation with some of the very best research and innovation environments in Israel."

In conjunction with the opening of the new innovation centre, the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science is launching an action plan to strengthen knowledge collaboration with Israel. The action plan contains 12 concrete initiatives. The new innovation centre will play a key role in implementing the action plan.

"Israel offers strong research and innovation environments particularly within the fields of health and green energy. The Danish innovation centre will improve the opportunities for Danish companies and researchers to collaborate even closer with these attractive environments for the benefit of Danish research, innovation and growth," says Danish Minister for Higher Education and Science Mr. Ulla Tørnæs.

The official opening of the centre will take place on Danish soil – at Eigtveds Pakhus in Copenhagen. Invited guests from research and educational environments, as well as the business community, will get a taste of the innovation potential in Israel. The two ministers, as well as a number of Danish and Israeli speakers will offer their views on how strategic international research-, innovation-, and education partnerships can help increase growth and development in Denmark.

About the Danish innovation centres - Innovation Centre Denmark

Innovation Centre Denmark is a collaboration between the Ministry of Higher Education and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to the centre in Tel Aviv, Denmark has innovation centres in Shanghai, Silicon Valley, Munich, Sao Paulo, New Delhi and Seoul. The innovation centres are tasked with providing local assistance to Danish companies, and research and education institutions looking to access foreign knowledge, networks, technology, capital, and markets.

In 2015, an external evaluation of the innovation centres found that 50 percent of users would not have achieved the same results without the assistance of the centres. The innovation centres work closely with Invest in Denmark and help to promote Danish research and innovation environments with the aim of attracting foreign investments to Denmark.

EGYPT



Trade Minister Discusses Industrial Licensing Implementation Measures with World Bank

Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Tarek Kabil announced the establishment of a new major center, within the Industrial Development Agency, to be in charge of issuing industrial licenses according to the regulations of the new Industrial Licensing Law- which to be passed soon by the Parliament. Subsidiary offices will be set up in all the IDA branches across the country and linked electronically with the main center. A main center will be established within the IDA to issue industrial licenses, Mr. Kabil said.

The statement came during Mr. Kabil's meeting with the World Bank officials to explore the Ministry's efforts to improve the industrial sector infrastructure and its vision to implement future plans of industrial development.

The Ministry, he said, has already started formulating the implementing rules and regulation of the new law, to be ready to go into effect by the time the bill has been passed into a law. *"The new law will revolutionize the industrial sector and attract more investments in it; especially as it will allow the issuance of industrial licenses within a time limit of just a few weeks,"* Mr. Kabil added. According to the World Bank's latest report, investors previously needed around 634 days to obtain such licenses.

Mr. Naggy bin-Hussein, the World Bank's regional director for MENA, who attended the meeting, confirmed the Bank's keenness to support Egypt in developing its industrial licensing system, which will in turn affect its industrial sector positively.

INDONESIA



Minister of Industry Supports Apple Build Innovation Center in Indonesia

Minister of Industry Mr. Airlangga Hartanto support investment plans of Apple in building innovation center in Indonesia. Step multinational technology companies from the United States is expected to spur the level of local components and the number of application developers in the country.

"They've committed themselves to developing innovation centers. Their efforts have also had something to do with Apple's product plans to enter Indonesia. So there will be the development of software and Domestic Component Level (DCL)," he said in Jakarta, Tuesday (October 25, 2016).

Apple innovation center will be built in three locations in Indonesia that aims to continue to create the latest digital technology, including the development of applications that can be used on devices they produce. *"It's a positive thing because the*

development will involve three locations research and development (R & D) in Indonesia," he said.

Airlangga rate, such as Apple attempts see a sizeable market potential in Indonesia. "Moreover, we are the greatest country with the largest population in ASEAN," he said. the natural period of five years, Total mobile telecom subscribers in Indonesia increased sebesarem at times, from 63 million to 211 million subscribers. In fact, the estimated number of mobile phones in circulation in Indonesia at this time as many as 300 million units or greater than the number of Indonesia's population of around 250 million.

In addition, according to Mr. Airlangga, the construction of these centers is a positive response Apple related issuance of the Ministerial Decree 65 2016 on Provisions and Procedures DCL Value Calculation Products Cell Phones, Mobile (Handheld), and Computer Tablet.

Kemenperin (The Ministry) noted, in 2014, the import of mobile phones in Indonesia reached 57.7 million units, handheld computers (handheld) to reach 59 thousand units and tablet computers reached 5.7 million units. Whereas in 2015, the importation of these products has decreased since replaced by the result of assembling products in the country, where the importation of mobile phones amounted to 33 million units, handheld computers (handheld) amounted to 18 thousand units and tablet computers of 4 million units.

When this has been established by 17 domestic manufacturers who are able to assemble mobile phones, handheld computers (handheld) and tablet computers, among others PT. Satnusa Persada, PT. Aries Indo Global, PT. Proud Technology Indonesia, PT. Haier Electrical Appliances, PT. Always Happy Together, and PT. Hartono Istana Teknologi.

Furthermore, PT. Samsung Electronics Indonesia, PT. Stage Electric Citrabuana, PT. Sinar Bintang Nusantara, PT. Sentras Technology Solutions, PT. Maju Express Indonesia, PT. Tridharma Kencana, PT. Toshiba Indonesia, PT. Adireksa Mandiri, PT. Adi Pratama Indonesia, PT. VS Technology and PT. Vivo Mobile Indonesia.

IRELAND



Irish SMEs to avail of lower corporate tax through Knowledge Development Box - Minister Ms. Mitchell O'Connor

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O'Connor, is set to enable Irish SMEs involved in research and development activities, avail of the Knowledge Development Box taxation scheme.

The scheme, which sees profits from Irish inventions resulting from R&D activities in Ireland taxed at 6.25%, is to be made available to SMEs through a certification process overseen by the Patents Office.

Minister Ms. Mitchell O'Connor was given Cabinet approval for the publication of a Bill entitled Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Bill 2016 to allow small and medium sized companies to avail of the Knowledge Development Box. Under the new scheme, the Patents Office will be the body certifying applications for inventions under the new certification scheme to check that they meet the criteria of being novel, useful and non-obvious.

The Bill, which is hoped, will be passed before the end of the year, will open up the opportunity for companies across a broad spectrum to pay lower taxes on profits from Irish-based research and development activities. This includes companies in incubation units right through to high-potential start-ups in all industry sectors once they are generating income resulting from research and development activities.

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Minister, Ms. Mary Mitchell O'Connor, says the scheme should serve to significantly boost Irish innovation and investment in research and development. *"The aim of this is to boost and encourage Irish-based innovation. Developing new innovative products is high risk and can often take time to develop. This scheme will allow a company or a start-up re-invest in their business as they will be able to retain a greater proportion of their earnings. This is something that can specifically drive innovation in the Irish SME sector"*.

"Furthermore, I see this scheme as assisting those companies that wish to scale-up. We have many terrific companies developing innovative products but are sometimes bought out before they develop their full potential. This scheme will assist companies achieve scale. Innovation is at the heart of our economic recovery and growth and when this legislation is enacted we will have in place a Knowledge Development Box to suit the needs of all enterprises, large and small," said Minister Ms. Mitchell O'Connor.

JAMAICA



Agro-Park To Be Established In Portland

Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Reginald Budhan (right) views FHIA banana plants on display at the College of Agriculture, Science and Education's (CASE) booth, along with (from left) Councillor Wayne McKenzie, Mayor of Port Antonio; Dr. Derrick Deslandes, President of CASE; and Dr. Jerome Thomas, Food and Agriculture Organization Representative for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize. The occasion was the national ceremony and exhibition organised by the Ministry in celebration of World Food Day, which was held on October 14, 2016 in Portland.

Plans are far advanced for the establishment of Portland's first agro-park at Spring Garden. The announcement was made by Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Reginald Budhan, at the World Food Day National Ceremony and Exhibition held at the College of Agriculture, Science and Education, Passley Gardens, Portland on October 14, 2016.

Mr Budhan said the new agro-park would focus on the production of bananas, plantains, sweet potato and peppers for the local and export markets.

Celebrated this year under the theme: 'Climate is changing; food and agriculture must too', World Food Day is held annually in over 150 countries. It is aimed at promoting awareness of those who suffer from hunger and the need to put in place strategies that will ensure food security.

Noting that climate change poses a threat to Jamaica achieving food security, with about 25% of the negative economic impacts from climate-related disasters in developing countries being borne by the crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sector, Mr Budhan outlined several initiatives being undertaken by the Government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to increase the sector's climate resilience.

Among these initiatives are the provision of 2,700 small grants to small farmers to assist in the production of approximately 1,000 hectares of crops and generating over \$1.2B of farm income, as well as the installation of 14 water harvesting, small-scale irrigation and productivity schemes.

In addition, seven irrigation and productivity schemes are to come on stream shortly. *"Sustained agricultural growth can only be achieved if there is significant transformation of the sector to include wide-scale expansion of irrigation,"* Mr Budhan said. This, he continued, should include a more coordinated and structured approach to the sector to include value addition. He said the Government was pursuing the expansion of irrigation systems, especially on the southern belt, with the expansion of the agro-parks, and the associated value-chain development.

Other initiatives aimed at implementing best practices and promotion of climate-smart agriculture outlined by the permanent secretary, included provision of 100 small grants to small farmers to establish land husbandry infrastructure on their farm holdings to help prevent soil erosion, and training in climate-smart agricultural best practices, using the farmer-field-School methodology.

In an effort to support year-round production, over 240 small famers have also received support with small-scale on-farm drip irrigation systems

KENYA



Kenya Association of Manufacturers Signs MoU to Scout for New Markets

Kenya Association of Manufacturers has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a regional trade agency to promote trade and investment for expansion of markets for local goods. The manufacturers lobby group signed the MoU with USAID-funded East Africa Trade And Investment Hub to aid in the efforts to support policy reform activities and expansion of trading avenues especially under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

"AGOA offers great opportunities for our local businesses especially the SMEs. It is essential we build their capacity to enable them leverage this partnership to realise financial sustainability for their businesses," said KAM chief executive Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga.

"Beyond this we are also looking to diversify our exports through this partnership and increase competitiveness of various agricultural value chains."

Following the MoU signing, KAM will be organising and hosting trade delegations, policy and investment promotion activities that will attract investment in the mutual priority sectors which include textile and garment, leather and leather products, agro processing, horticulture, ICT and cotton.

MALASIYA



Government Set New Bilateral Trade Target With Indonesia At US\$25 Billion By 2020

The government has set a new bilateral trade target of US\$25 billion (US\$1=RM4.18) with Indonesia to be achieved by 2020 from US\$16 billion recorded in 2015. International Trade and Industry Minister Mr. Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the target was revised slightly lower from the earlier target of US\$30 billion due to the current weak global economic environment.

"We have to be realistic. With the current global economic uncertainty, it is quite impossible to reach US\$30 billion by 2020. If we keep the previous target, the country needs to grow at a pace of about 20 per cent per annum until 2020,". He told reporters after holding bilateral talks with his Indonesian counterpart Mr. Enggartiasto Lukita held here today (October 20, 2016) in conjunction with the one-day Matrade-KADIN Indonesia Business Forum.

The forum was organised by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and the Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Last year, Malaysia's total trade with Indonesia rose 1.0 per cent to RM60.2 billion.

Malaysian exports to Indonesia consisted largely of petroleum, chemical products, machinery and parts, electric and electronic products which amounted to RM29.1 billion. Imports from Indonesia comprised palm oil and palm-based products, petroleum products and chemicals products worth RM31 billion.

PAKISTAN



SMEDA Launches Benchmarking Service For SMEs

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), has launched Benchmarking services for manufacturing-SMEs in the country. According to SMEDA sources, these services would be provided by SMEDA as an extension of the

Suppliers Patterns Exchange (SPX), a project jointly run by UNIDO and SMEDA in Pakistan.

A Deputy General Manager SMEDA Mr. Ahmad Mansoor Chaudhry, speaking as In charge of the service, told that the SPX benchmarking tool is designed to assist small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in understanding their competitive position. The Tool is powered by two globally renowned benchmarking engines, Winning Moves and PROBE network LLP, providing access to literally tens of thousands of company records from all around the world, he said adding that the methodology is arguably the most advanced and the Tools are the most sophisticated of their kind, offering unparalleled benchmarking capabilities that will support businesses in their performance improvement.

He further informed that a Trainer from Winning Moves UK was engaged to train SMEDA employees on SPX benchmarking tools. A weeklong 1 training was conducted on a class room pattern during last week along with practical of a live bench-marking of three SME's. He told that SMEDA employees, who attended training, would be providing the service through all regional offices of SMEDA with immediate effect.

It is notable that SMEDA has recently made UNIDO SPX network operational in Pakistan to help local enterprises to successfully meet the challenges of globalization and take advantage of emerging industrial sub-contracting, outsourcing and supply chain opportunities. Under SPX Pakistan, apart from Profiling of SME' in Manufacturing sector in Pakistan, which will make SPX to be a more valuable project for local SMEs

PHILIPPINES



Philippines Completes Ratification Of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

The Philippines has successfully completed the ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and has deposited its Instrument of Acceptance to the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the Philippine Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland on October 27, 2016.

Adopted at the WTO's 2013 Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, the TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods. It also includes measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues. Provisions on technical assistance and capacity building are also included to help countries implement the Agreement.

The TFA is the first multilateral trade agreement to be concluded since the establishment of the WTO in 1995. Once it enters into force, the Agreement is expected to reduce total trade costs by more than 14 percent for low-income

countries, more than 15 percent for lower-middle countries, and more than 13 percent for upper middle-income countries by streamlining the flow of trade across borders.

The commitments of developing and least-developed countries in the Agreement are linked directly to their capacity to implement the TFA. On 31 July 2014, the Philippines submitted its Category A notification to the WTO indicating which provisions of the TFA it intends to implement upon entry into force of the Agreement. As a developing country, the Philippines can choose which commitments to prioritize, and the implementation can be on a staggered basis.

“The Philippines finds great value on the implementation of the TFA – not just for the big businesses – but also for local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the prospects of lowering trade costs and streamlining border procedures, which will enable them to participate more actively in international trade,” said Trade and Industry Undersecretary Mr. Ceferino Rodolfo.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez added that the TFA will also boost the country’s economic growth by supporting its integration into the global economy.

According to the World Trade Report released on 26 October 2015, implementation of the WTO TFA has the potential to increase global merchandise exports by up to \$1 trillion per annum. The Report also found that developing countries will benefit significantly from the TFA, capturing more than half of the available gains.

The Philippines is the 95th WTO member to accept the TFA which will enter into force once two-thirds (110 out of 164 Members) of the WTO's membership accepts the Agreement.

WASME ICSME 2016
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TANZANIA

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World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) is a global non-profit organization headquartered at Noida, India that has been spearheading the cause and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) world over since its inception in 1980. Over three decades, WASME has emerged as one of the most representative, effective and leading international organizations, working towards the promotion of SMEs worldwide through policy advocacy, information dissemination, conferences, seminars, events, trainings, publication, network linkages and many **more**.

WASME enjoys consultative status with concerned agencies in UN system such as **ECOSOC, UNCTAD, ITC, WIPO, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNCITRAL, UNESCAP and ILO**, several intergovernmental and international organizations like **WCO, OECD, ICSB, APEC, APCTT, etc.**

WASME's fortnightly SME e-Bulletin "**WORLD SME UPDATE**" aims to keep abreast its readers with latest information on various developments taking place in SME sector around the globe. If you have any news/ information on the issues related to Government policies & programs and latest developments in the SME sector i.e. technology and innovations, success stories, case studies, research and methods, planning and programmes, training and developments, finance and management, and marketing that you would like to share with the world SME community, please do send those to us at.

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