



JUNE 6, 2007

International Trade

Egypt's trade with Arab states increases by 195%

Egyptian Ministry of Commerce reports that trade between Arab states and Egypt has increased by 195%. In 2000, trade between Egypt and other Arab states amounted to \$2 billion and in 2006 the goods and services trade grew to \$6.2 billion.

The Egyptian Ministry of Commerce also stated that five Arab states that are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Syria and the United Arab Emirates contributed to the 71.5% of the trade exchange.

Saudi Arabia traded goods totaled 28.3%, therefore ranked the highest of all the contributing countries.

SABIC focuses on Asian development

Prince Saud Bin Abdullah Bin Thenayan Al-Saud, chairman of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), met with Indonesian Vice President, Dr. Mohammed Jusuf Kala, to discuss business development.

Recently SABIC opened an office in Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City. The expansion was part of the petrochemical company's plan to develop distribution hubs on the Asian continent. The SPA reports that SABIC has 11 offices in 8 countries across the Asia-Pacific region and there are plans to expand further.

Distribution of non-oil product exports increases

The Ministry of Planning reports that The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait topped the list of Saudi non-oil product distribution. Statistics reported by SPA, showed that Saudi Arabia exported over \$2 billion in commodities during the month of February, 2007.

The UAE reported importing non-oil Saudi products amounting to \$332,000, Kuwait imported products totaling \$1.14 million. Saudi non-oil products range from petrochemicals, plastics, minerals and re-exported merchandise. Saudi Arabia exports mainly to Japan, U.S. and Germany.

Environmental

Saudi Arabia participates in World Environment Day

The Secretary General of the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD), Prince Bandar bin Saud bin Mohammad Al-Saud, emphasized that global warming is a feasible reality to support The World Environment Day 2007- entitled "Melting Ice- A Hot Topic".

The NCWCD Chief said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is joining international efforts by establishing and protecting wildlife areas. Prince Bandar called for serious and effective cooperation between governmental bodies in both the private and public sectors to protect ecosystems.

Humanitarian Aid

Saudi aid organization launches new housing project in Lebanon

Prince Naif bins Abdulaziz, Supervisor of the Saudi Popular Campaign for Relief of the Lebanese People, in partnership with UNICEF, are working on development projects throughout Lebanon.

A \$1 million grant is to be used to accelerate the development project which includes building water reservoirs and replacing water supply networks. Additional projects include building a medical center in Al-Taybah village in Southern Lebanon.

The Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Charity Foundation donates housing

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz has allocated housing units donated by the Sultan bin Abdulaziz charity. The specially designed houses are for citizens of the Alghat Region who have special needs. The foundation reports that the project of Sultan bin Abdulaziz Charity Foundation is 85% completed and consists of 71 units costing \$5.3 million.

The Alghat region housing project is part of a comprehensive housing plan that covers 6 Saudi regions including: Asir, Tabuk, Najran, Hail, Makkah and Riyadh. The project estimated total cost will exceed \$45 million.