

PRESS RELEASE

PROCEEDINGS OF PAKISTAN-TAJIKISTAN BUSINESS FORUM AT DUSHANBE

Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla, Minister of State/ Chairman Board of Investment of Pakistan led a delegation comprising 40 businessmen/investors to Dushanbe for Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum held from 18-20 July 2010. The MoS/Chairman called on Tajik President H. E. Mr. Emomali Rakhmon and Tajik Prime Minister H. E. Mr. Oqil Oqilov. He also held meetings with the Minister for Trade & Economic Development H. E. Mr. Hamraliev Farrukh Makhmudovich, Chairman of the State Committee on Youth, Sports and Tourism and H. E. Mr. Maliksho Ne'matov and his counterpart H.E. Mr. Davlatali Saedov, Chairman State Committee on State Investment.

Tajik President H. E. Mr. Emomali Rakhmon fondly recalled the visit of Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan to Tajikistan last year and mentioned that they met in Tashkent last year and will be meeting next month in Sochi, Russia. He gave a detailed briefing on the hydropower potential of Tajikistan, road and rail links and issues related to it. He highly appreciated Pakistan's role and contribution for the peace and stability in the region. Tajik President H. E. Mr. Emomali Rakhmon also directed his aides present during the meeting to speed up the process of establishing a regular air link between Dushanbe and Islamabad.

Prime Minister Oqilov recalling his interaction with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani in China on the occasion of Heads of Government meeting of the SCO said that there were a number of agreements that existed between Pakistan and Tajikistan and there was a dire need to

implement those agreements. He expressed his appreciation and satisfaction on the business delegation of Pakistan.

Addressing the forum, Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla, Minister of State/ Chairman Board of Investment said that our cordial relations could be further strengthened in the shape of increased trade and investment. He highly praised the amplification in bilateral trade over the past few years but remarked that it was far below the real potential. He expressed desire to make the business forum between the two brotherly countries a regular and a frequent feature on alternate basis.

The Chairman of State Committee for Investment in Tajikistan Mr. Saeedov welcoming the delegation of Pakistan stated that the forum will provide indepth knowledge about the business possibilities in Tajikistan. He sought Pakistani investment in various fields, particularly energy, pharmaceutical, textile and manufacturing. The statements of both the Chairmen were followed by presentations of the businessmen and B2B meetings.

Furthermore, Pakistan is already supporting Tajikistan Government through its investment in different sectors like cement, pharmaceutical, hospital tools and equipment, minerals, oil exploration, textile, food processing . The delegates of Pakistan also met with the Tajik businessmen to explore more investment opportunities and over viewing the current trade relations and outcomes between the two countries.

Tajikistan Government has also sought technical and institutional support of Government of Pakistan in the field of education. They appreciated that Pakistani educational institutions are producing capable,

knowledgeable and skilled students who are playing remarkable role in the progress of Pakistan.

The business forum provided an excellent opportunity to the businessmen of Pakistan and Tajikistan not only to interact with each other but also apprise themselves of the economic potential of each other in various fields, and avail of the opportunities of investment in both the friendly and brotherly Muslim countries.
