أكد رئيس غرفة تجارة وصناعة الكويت، محمد الصقر، استعداد الغرفة لتقديم كافة خدماتها لسفارة تايلند في الكويت، والتعاون معها من أجل تعزيز التبادل التجاري بين الكويت وتايلند، وللتناغم على كل من القضايا الاستثمارية المشتركة، وأشار الصقر خلال استقباله السفير التايلندي لدى الكويت، روج تامونغكول، إلى "العلاقات الكويتية - التايلندية المتميزة على جميع الصعد السياسية والاقتصادية المشتركة"، Hitching to "سبل تطوير أوجه التعاون بين البلدين الصديقين.

وشدد الصقر على "أهمية دور القطاع الخاص في مجالات التنمية الاقتصادية، والتعزيز من التعاون المشترك، من خلال استقطاب المشاريع الاستثمارية، وعقد شراكات ناجحة بين الجانبين الكويتي والتايلندي".

من جانبه، أعرب السفير تامونغكول عن أمله بأن تعقد الشركات الكويتية شراكات استراتيجية مع نظيراتها في تايلند، لفتح آفاق اقتصادية جديدة، خاصة في مجال السياحة العلاجية في تايلند، التي تحظى بإقبال كويتي كبير، متفرعا إنشاء المستشفيات والمراكز الصحية، بما يطابق المعايير الدولية ويستطيب المرضى من كل دول العالم.

المصدر (صحيفة الراي الكويتية، بتحرير)

Al-Sager Discusses Prospects for Economic Cooperation Between Kuwait & Thailand

The head of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Al-Sager, affirmed the chamber’s readiness to provide all its services to the Thai embassy in Kuwait, and to cooperate with it in order to enhance trade exchange between Kuwait and Thailand, and to closely get acquainted with the investment opportunities available in various fields, the most important of which are health care, food and real estate.

During his meeting with the Thai ambassador to Kuwait, Rooge Thammongkol, Al-Sager referred to "the distinguished Kuwaiti-Thai relations at all joint political and economic levels," denoting to "ways to develop aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Al-Sager stressed "the importance of the role of the private sector in the areas of economic development, and the promotion of joint cooperation, through attracting investment projects and concluding successful partnerships between the Kuwait and Thai sides."

For his part, Ambassador Thammongkol expressed his hope that Kuwaiti companies would establish strategic partnerships with their counterparts in Thailand, to open new economic horizons, especially in the field of medical tourism in Thailand, which enjoys a great Kuwaiti demand, suggesting the establishment of hospitals and health facilities, in line with international standards and attracting patients from all countries of the world.

Source (Al-Rai Newspaper-Kuwait, Edited)
Jordan Approves the 2021 Budget, with a Growth Forecast of 2.5%  

The Jordanian Minister of Finance, Mohamad Al Ississ, revealed that "government spending in Jordan's draft budget for 2021 amounts to 9.9 billion dinars (14 billion dollars), which paves the way for a recovery in growth to 2.5 percent, after the Coronavirus pandemic caused the worst economic downturn for decades." Al Ississ explained that "the cabinet approved a budget that would accelerate the reforms supported by the International Monetary Fund to help the country recover in a sustainable manner," stressing that "next year's budget includes major financial reforms, among which is the continuous and a strong campaign to combat tax evasion that has reaped hundreds of millions of Dinars of public finance this year." He also considered that "despite the unprecedented challenges, the financial balance remains a priority," explaining that "the government will not resort to imposing new taxes, but a commitment to increase public sector wages that have been postponed this year will pay government spending, which salaries and pensions consumes the largest part of it."  

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)

The Egyptian Balance of Payments Achieves Financial Flows of $5.4 Billion  

The Central Bank of Egypt revealed that the capital and financial account of the Egyptian balance of payments had achieved a net inflow of about $5.4 billion, despite the Coronavirus crisis, which was strongly reflected on the behavior and movements of capital around the world, and this led to huge financial flows out from the global financial markets. According to the Central Bank, the achieved influx helped alleviate the overall deficit in the balance of payments to be limited to about $8.6 billion, and it also contributed to building foreign exchange reserves in excess of international standards in containing this deficit.  

Source (Al Khaleej Newspaper-UAE, Edited)
Deposits of Qatari Banks Declined by 0.5%

The data issued by the Qatari Central Bank showed that bank deposits decreased by 0.5 percent at the end of October compared to last September, to reach about 875.7 billion riyals, but they are 6.1 percent higher than their level a year ago (825.3 billion riyals). The data revealed a decrease in public sector deposits by about 10.2 billion riyals, to reach by the end of October to 256 billion riyals compared to 266.2 billion riyals last September, and it was 1.3% less than a year ago of 259.5 billion riyals in October 2019. On the other hand, private sector deposits witnessed in October a slight decrease compared to September at the level of 392.6 billion, and was 7 percent higher than its level in October 2019 of 366.9 billion riyals.

To that, the non-resident deposits increased in October by 6.5 billion riyals compared to last September (227.2 billion riyals), and they were 14.3 percent higher compared to their level of 198.8 billion riyals a year ago in October 2019. The data showed an increase in the total credit facilities granted by banks during October at about 18.6 billion riyals to 1123.8 billion riyals, from 1105.2 billion riyals last September, which was 12 percent higher compared to its level of 1003.3 billion riyals a year ago in October 2019.

Source (Al-Raya Newspaper-Qatar, Edited)
The Union of Arab Chambers participated in the fourth dialogue webinar on tracking food security in the Arab region in the post-Covid-19 phase, which was held on November 23, 2020, through “video conference”, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the West Asia and North Africa Institute (WANA), as part of the Sustainable Development Dialogue Series in the Arab Region.

The panel discussed re-imagining food security in the Arab region in the post-Covid-19 phase, and the main findings of the Arab Report for Sustainable Development 2020 and the progress made towards sustainable development goals in the Arab region were presented, with a focus on the second goal (zero hunger) and the role of technology in promoting sustainability, ensuring a green recovery from this crisis, building resilience to withstand future crises, and strengthening regional cooperation to deal with dependence on food imports.

The participants to the webinar stated that two-thirds of the people who suffer from hunger live in countries affected by conflicts, as these countries (Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Yemen) have witnessed the complete destruction of the production infrastructure, the severe abandonment of food value chains, and the frequent abandonment of agricultural lands, due to damage or population displacement.

According to the participants, the whole world is suffering from a large-scale human crisis, which has new negative repercussions, as the Coronavirus came at a time when food systems in the Arab region were burdensome, and food security was a threat in many Arab countries, as they spent $110 billion annually on food imports. As a result of this pandemic, levels of undernourishment have increased for a large segment of the Arab community, in addition to an increase in the food insecurity index, which affects 16 million people.

Through the concluding recommendations, the participants called for the need to adopt overlapping systems for formulating long-term policies related to food security, by linking the issue of food security with water, energy, agriculture and the sustainable use of resources. In addition to the importance of using technology in food security, and investing in science and technology, as linking science to politics has become an urgent necessity. The participants also highlighted the importance of collecting information, converting it into data and standards, and presenting it in a simple and understandable way to help decision-makers concerned with making and modifying policies.