أشار رئيس غرفة تجارة وصناعة الكويت محمد الصقر، إلى "عمق العلاقة الأخوية التي تربط الكويت وسلطنة عمان"، لافتاً إلى "ضرورة بذل المزيد من الجهود لتقوية وتعزيز العلاقات الاقتصادية المشتركة، في ظل جائحة كورونا التي تفرض على المجتمع الدولي انعطافات جذرية في كثير من الأسس والمفاهيم والسياسات".

جاء ذلك خلال ترؤس الصقر للجانب الكويتي في لقاء افتراضي حول "الاستثمار في الثروة الزراعية والسمكية في سلطنة عمان"، بحضور رئيس غرفة تجارة وصناعة عمان المهندس رضا آل صالح، ومشاركة النائب الثاني لرئيس غرفة الكويت فهد الجوعان، ومديرها العام رباح الرباح، وكيل وزارة الثروة الزراعية والسمكية وموارد المياه لزراعة عمان الدكتور أحمد الجبري، وسفير عمان لدى الكويت صالح الخروصي، وعدد من ممثلي الجهات الحكومية والخاصة من السلطنة.

وأوضح الصقر أن تحديات الأمن الغذائي يجب أن ترتفع إلى أعلى درجات الأولويات، ومن هنا تأتي أهمية هذا اللقاء الذي يركز على الثروة الزراعية والحيوانية والسمكية كونها القاعدة الأساسية للأمن الغذائي، ولما تتمتع به السلطة من قوة في هذا القطاع وإلحاح الكويت له، ما يدل على اتساع مجالات التعاون بين البلدين على هذا الصعيد.

وانتقد الصقر ما حققه مجتمع الأعمال العماني من تطور ونجاحات، من خلال استغلال موقع السلطنة الاستراتيجي، وإقامة مشاريع ضخمة لتطوير البنية التحتية وتشييد مناطق اقتصادية في مجال الزراعة والثروة السمكية والمياه للزراعة في عمان.

المصدر (صحيفة الراي الكويتية، بتصرّف)

Mohammed Al-Sager: Food Security Challenges Require Raising Priorities

The Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Al-Sager, referred to the “deep fraternal relationship that binds Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman,” pointing to “the need to make more efforts to strengthen and support the joint economic relations, in light of the Corona pandemic, which imposes on the international community radical turns in many foundations, concepts and policies.

This came during Al-Sager’s presidency of the Kuwaiti side in a virtual meeting on “Investment in Agricultural and Fisheries Wealth in the Sultanate of Oman”, in the presence of Eng. Readh Juma Mohammed Ali Saleh, the Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the participation of the Second Vice President of the Kuwait Chamber, Fahd Al-Joaan, and its GM, Rabab Al-Rabbah, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agricultural and Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources for Agriculture in Oman, Dr. Ahmed Al-Bakri, Oman’s Ambassador to Kuwait Saleh bin Amer Al Kharousi, and a number of representatives of government and private agencies from the Sultanate.

Al-Sager explained that "the challenges of food security must rise to the highest levels of priorities, hence the importance of this meeting, which focuses on agricultural, livestock and fisheries wealth as it is the basic origin for food security, and the abundance of the Sultanate in this sector and Kuwait's need for it, which indicates the expansion of areas of cooperation between the two countries in this regard.

Al-Sager praised the development and successes achieved by the Omani business community, by exploiting the Sultanate's strategic location and establishing huge projects to develop infrastructure and build economic zones.
Decline of Revenues & Rise of Government Spending in Qatar During 2020

The data released by the Planning and Statistics Authority in Qatar showed that government revenues amounted to about 171 billion riyals during 2020, while government spending amounted to about 182 billion riyals.

According to the data, the value of government revenues rose in the fourth quarter of last year to 39.4 billion riyals, compared to about 38.9 billion riyals during the same period of the previous year, while the value of government spending in the fourth quarter of last year amounted to about 46.5 billion riyals. The data indicated an increase in commercial banks deposits to 660 billion riyals at the end of last year, compared to about 640 billion riyals during the previous year. Loans granted by banks also increased to 1053 billion riyals by the end of 2020, recording an increase of 90 billion riyals, or 10% compared to 2019.

The trade balance of goods, which represents the difference between total exports and total imports, achieved a surplus of 24.7 billion riyals during the fourth quarter of 2020, a decrease of 13.7 billion riyals or 35.7 percent compared to the same quarter of the previous year 2019. Source (Al-Rayyaa Newspaper-Qatar, Edited)

The World Bank Expects Jordan's GDP to Grow by 1.4%

The World Bank expected Jordan's economy will witness a gradual recovery from the Corona pandemic, as real GDP would grow by 1.4 percent in 2021. According to the Bank's semi-annual report for Spring 2021, this expected growth rate shows a modest recovery due to the limited impact of the base, and the presence of a number of the population that will remain without access to the anti-retroviral vaccine by the end of 2021 due to issues related to vaccine procurement, delivery, and vaccination programs. Noting that in the short to medium term, recovery will remain contingent on the speed of the vaccination process, not only at the local level, but also abroad, given Jordan's strong links in trade, travel and investment with the outside world.

According to the World Bank, in the medium term, it is necessary to implement a broad series of growth-enhancing reforms in order to significantly strengthen the business and investment environment, enhance innovation and competitiveness, and improve productivity in order to support a strong growth recovery and create much-needed sustainable jobs. These reforms are important in the context of reducing debt fragility in the midst of rising macroeconomic imbalances. The report revealed that the pandemic has led to an increase in extreme poverty rates and widening income inequality in Jordan, revealing that the reconstruction will require giving the poorest and most disadvantaged groups opportunities to recover what they lost and build resilience in the face of future shocks. Source (Ad-Dustour Newspaper-Jordan, Edited)