أشار أمين عام اتحاد الغرف العربية، الدكتور خالد حنفي، إلى "إمكانية زيادة التجارة بين البلدان العربية والبرازيل، عبر جعل مصر مركزًا للأسواق الأفريقية والآسيوية"، لافتا إلى الأنشطة التي يمكن أن تفيد المناطق الاقتصادية في مصر والدول العربية من أجل تطوير العلاقات الاقتصادية مع البرازيل التي تعدّ شريكا اقتصاديا هاما للعالم العربي.

كلام حنفي جاء خلال كلمة ألقاها في الندوة الالكترونية، التي نظّفها اتحاد الغرف العربية وغرفة التجارة العربية البرازيلية، حول واقع اللوجستيات والنقل بين البرازيل والدول العربية، والتي هدفت إلى مناقشة الفرص والعقبات ودور الطريق البحري عبر قناة السويس.

وأكد حنفي على "أهمية وجود تحالف استراتيجي بين البرازيل والبلدان العربية، من أجل تعزيز التعاون في مجال الصناعة إضافة إلى قطاعات الزراعة والطعام، وكذلك التكنولوجيا وسمك الحديدة وغيرها من الأعمال المحتملة".

وأشار إلى أن التجارة بين البرازيل والعرب لم تصل بعد إلى ذروتها، وهناك إمكانية لرفع حجم التعاون والتبادل التجاري بين الجانبين، ولكن السؤال: كيف يمكن تسريع ذلك؟ وكيف يمكن تحسين التكامل بين الطرفين؟

وأكد حنفي أن "المشروع التكنولوجي يمكن أن يساعد في ذلك، ويسهم في بناء ثقة أكبر في العلاقة، مشيرة إلى أن المبادرات التي تسعى من أجل تطوير التجارة بين المنطقة الاقتصادية لقناة السويس يمكن أن يقلل الوقت والتكاليف.

ومن جانبه أشار رئيس الغرف التجارية العربية – البرازيلية، أوسكار الشحفي إلى أهمية قناة السويس بالنسبة للتجارة العالمية، لافتا إلى أنه "لقد أتت قناة السويس عام 1869 ولا تزال واعدة من طرق التجارة البحرية الرئيسية في العالم تطيراً لموقعهم الرئيسي بين إفريقيا وأسيا وأوروبا وأيضا لأهميتها بالنسبة للتجارة بين الأمركتين الاستراتيجية بين البرازيل والبلدان العربية.

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النشرة اليومية للاتحاد العربي

07 تموز (يوليو) 2021
Khaled Hanafy: A Strategic Alliance Between Brazil and the Arab Countries

The Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Chambers, Dr. Khaled Hanafy, referred to the “possibility of increasing trade between Arab countries and Brazil, by making Egypt a center for African and Asian markets,” pointing out the activities that can benefit the economic zones in Egypt and the Arab countries in order to develop economic relations with Brazil, which is an important economic partner for the Arab world.

Hanafy’s words came during a speech he delivered at the electronic symposium, organized by the Union of Arab Chambers and the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, on the reality of logistics and transport between Brazil and the Arab countries, which aimed to discuss opportunities, obstacles, and the role of the maritime route through the Suez Canal.

Hanafy stressed the “importance of a strategic alliance between Brazil and the Arab countries, in order to enhance cooperation in the field of industry, in addition to the sectors of agriculture and food, as well as technology, railways and other potential businesses.”

He pointed out that trade between Brazil and the Arabs has not yet reached its peak, and there is a possibility to raise the volume of cooperation and trade exchange between the two sides, but the question is: How can this be accelerated? How can the integration between the two parties be improved?

Hanafy said that technology transfer can help in this and contribute to building greater trust in the relationship, noting that operations that benefit from free trade zones such as the Suez Canal Economic Zone can reduce time and costs.

For his part, President of the Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, Osmar Al-Shahfi, pointed out the importance of the Suez Canal for global trade, pointing out that “since the canal was opened in 1869, it is still one of the main maritime trade routes in the world due to its main location between Africa, Asia and Europe and also its importance for trade between the Americas and the rest of the world. Al-Shahfi said that the Suez Canal Free Zone represents for the Brazilians a major gateway to markets and an opportunity for companies to explore the Arab market and the global Islamic market. Considering that the Suez Canal’s strategic geographical location, in addition to the policies to attract foreign investments and the trade agreements signed between Egypt and other countries, are competitive advantages that can benefit Brazilian companies in the process of becoming global.

In turn, the advisor of the General Authority for the Economic Zone of the Suez Canal, Mohamed Abdel Aziz, said that the zone grants 0 percent of customs duties and a five-year residency to foreign investors in Egypt, among other advantages. Noting that by using economic zones, Brazilian companies will have shorter supply chains, preferential access to more markets, greater penetration into existing markets and more integration with global trade.

As for the Vice-President of the Investment Promotion Corporation in Lebanon (IDAL), Alaa Himyeh, he stressed that “the main challenge lies in the high cost of maritime transport between Brazil and the Arab countries,” stressing “the importance of finding strategic partners to increase trade between the Arab and Brazilian sides.”

The Assistant Executive Secretary of the Brazilian Ministry of Infrastructure, Felipe Fernandez Queiroz, explained that 21 percent of all reefer container loads leaving Brazil pass through the Suez Canal. Pointing to the DP World Santos terminal in Santos (DP World Santos) as an outstanding example of Arab investment in Brazil.

Source (Union of Arab Chambers)

Foreign Investments in Tunisia Fell by 28.8%

The Tunisian Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (a government agency) revealed that foreign investments in Tunisia declined by no less than 28.8% during the year 2020, compared to the results recorded during 2019.

According to the agency, foreign investments amounted to 1.8 billion Tunisian dinars (about $652 million), which is a weak percentage compared to previous years. Tunisia recorded a decline in incoming foreign investments from $845 million in 2019, to $652 million during the past year, affected by the fluctuation of economic performance as a whole as a result of the pandemic, which caused a sharp drop in the level of external demand and a decline in various economic activities.

Regarding the attractiveness of the economic sectors to foreign investment, the manufacturing sector in Tunisia still accounts for the most foreign direct investment with 54 percent, followed by the energy sector with 33 percent. While the rate of decline in the services sector amounted to 44%, and it is closely related to the tourism sector, whose outcome was very weak; This made the share of services in the total FDI inflows to Tunisia not more than 9 percent during the past year.

Source (Al-Sharq al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)
Increase in Deposits of the Jordanian Banking System

The annual report issued by the Deposit Insurance Corporation showed that the deposits of depositors with the banking system in the Jordanian dinar have reached 76.7 percent, of which the percentage of deposits subject to the provisions of the institution’s law constitutes 96.8 percent. While the percentage of depositors with the banking system whose deposits are fully guaranteed within the guarantee ceiling of fifty thousand dinars constituted 97.6 percent of the total number of depositors with the banking system whose deposits are subject to the provisions of the law.

According to the report, the assets of the Deposit Insurance Corporation increased by 79.1 million dinars from its level in 2019, where those assets amounted to 932.1 million dinars, and the Corporation’s investment portfolio in public debt instruments constituted about 98.2% of them, achieving returns of 45.3 million dinars and a growth of 5.7% about the past year. The report also showed the financial solvency of the institution through reserve adequacy indicators, which amounted to 928.9 million dinars at the end of the year 2020, covering 11.52 percent of the guarantee policy. While the financial statements and the final accounts of the Deposit Guarantee Fund with Islamic banks at the end of the year 2020, showed that the reserves had reached 25.8 million dinars.

Source (Al-Dustour Jordanian Newspaper, Edited)