



الغرفة الهندية العربية للتجارة والصناعة

INDO-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

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Monthly Economic and Commercial Report , Kuwait

1. Executive Summary

Money supply, an indicator of future inflation, grew more than 20% in October and November 2007, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait. The average inflation, in the first nine months, hit a record of 7.3%. The annual inflation rose to 6.2% in September (latest published). This was contributed by housing (12.5%), education & health (12.3%), drinks & tobacco (9.6%), transport (7.3%), clothing (5.1%), food products (4.8%) and other products & services (2.5%). The unemployment rate decreased to 4.12 % in 2006 from 5.46% in 2005.

It may also be mentioned that dollar has consistently declined vis-à-vis Kuwaiti Dinar which has appreciated by 5.91% vis-à-vis dollar since May 19, 2007, a day before it was de-pegged from dollar.

A proposal for the outright purchase, writing off or revising of payment terms, of all consumer and installment loans of the citizens by the State, was presented before the National Assembly. These loans have been extended by commercial and Islamic banks and financial institutions. The proposal was discussed in the Special session of National Assembly on December 4, 2007. Earlier, the Central Bank of Kuwait had warned that the plan would cost KD 4 billion (US Dollars 14.56 billion) or more in case of further default. It further noted that out of 450,000 loans, only around 10,000 had defaulted on repayments. The bill was referred to the financial and economic affairs committee of the National Assembly who rejected all the draft bills on the grounds that this would adversely effect the economy, there is no real problem and that the plan violates the constitution and Islamic Sharia law and its acceptance would set a wrong precedence. The committee returned the proposal back to the National Assembly for further consideration. Meanwhile, the Cabinet has decided to set-up a KD 300 million fund towards this purpose.

Kuwaiti stock market continued its upward trend in the fourth week of December 2007. The 'Global' General Index ended at 377.86 points, reporting an yearly growth of 24.75% for 2007. The market capitalization reached KD 57.45 billion registering a growth of 4.03% as compared to the previous month. Kuwait Stock Exchange Price Index closed at 12,558.9 points, reporting a monthly gain of 4.2% in the month of December 2007.

The Government of the State of Kuwait has decided to privatize the postal sector. The sector would be handed over to the private companies on the condition that half of the employees will be retained after privatization. The other half would be re-deployed at the Ministry of Transport.

The government is considering a KD 50 (US\$ 182) increase in the monthly wages of government employees. More than ninety percent Kuwaiti workforce is employed in the government sector.

The government has revised the estimated budget surplus for 2007-08 to around KD 6.3 billion (US\$ 22.93 billion), in view of huge oil revenues and lower expenditure. Expenses and commitments stood at KD 8.4 billion well below the initial estimates of KD 12.1 billion, in the first eight months of the financial year. Oil revenues rose to KD 10.9 billion, up from the initial estimates of KD 9.4 billion.

2. Major investments within and outside the country / related agreements signed / other economic developments

Aviation

Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) is planning to increase its fleet to 100 airplanes from the 18 airplanes, as at present, by 2017. The Company has ordered 66 aircrafts from Airbus and Boeing for an estimated cost of US\$ 7 billion and plans to order 16 more in the next 3 months. The Company has also signed an agreement to lease 3 Airbus 320-200s to Kuwait National Airways, a new private passenger airline that plans to begin operations in January 2008.

The financial and economic affairs committee of the National Assembly has approved a government plan to privatize Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC). While 20% share of the airlines will be retained by the government, 40% will be sold to strategic investors and the rest 40% to the citizens in a public subscription. The assets would be assessed by a leading specialized firm before KAC is privatized in maximum two years, as recommended by the committee.

Telecom

Zain, a local mobile company is to raise around US\$ 4.4 billion by selling its shares at 850 fils per share through rights issue for funding its expansion in Africa and Middle East. This is part of its aggressive growth strategy in Asia and Africa and to counter tough competition at home from Saudi Telecom Co. (STC) which has won a license to operate Kuwait's third mobile company. Zain has also bought Iraqna, an Iraqi mobile company for US\$1.2 billion from a subsidiary of Orascom Telecom, an Egyptian telecom company. Zain operates in 22 countries in Africa and the Middle East with a subscriber base of 43 million at present.

Banking, Finance and Investment

The Governing body of Noor Financial Investment Company decided to increase the company's capital from KD 50 million to KD 75 million, an increase of 50%. The Company would issue shares of initial price of 100 fils plus a premium of 300 fils per share to the existing shareholders. Noor is a Kuwaiti investment company engaged in investment and financial activities in Kuwait, the Middle East, Asia and other emerging markets.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the launch of a new investment fund under the name "Tijari Islamic Money Market Fund" which will operate in accordance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia. The Fund opened for a three week initial offering period on December 9 and closed on December 31, 2007.

Al Madina Finance and Investment Company has bought 65% stake in Smart Telecom Company of Congo for US\$ 62 million. The company is registered with Central Bank of Kuwait with a paid up capital of KD 15,000,000.

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has raised US\$ 1.49 billion by selling 20% shares to the existing shareholders to help finance the acquisition of 20% shares of Al Watany Bank of Egypt and 40% of Istanbul-based Turkish Bank. The Bank had earned a profit of US\$ 876 million in 2006 and has a market capitalization of US\$ 14.7 billion at the end of 2006. It expects its net profits to grow by 16% to about US\$ 1.1 billion in the year 2007. The Bank has the most extensive regional and international network including branches at New York, London, Paris, Geneva, Lebanon, Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, Singapore, China, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Port

KGL International Ports (KGLIP), a member of Damietta International Port Company Limited (DIPCO), has announced a megaproject of a new modern container terminal (port) at Damietta in Egypt. KGLIP is a major shareholder in the project and as a major shareholder managing the project. The total cost of the project would be between US\$ 650 to US\$ 680 million. The company has signed with United Arab Shipping and its GCC subsidiary, China Shipping Company and IRISIL, an Iranian Shipping Company for the usage of the new terminal.

Logistics and Warehousing

Agility, logistics provider in the Middle-East, has extended its operations in Jordan, with a new 1000 sq. mts. warehousing facility, at Queen Alia International Airport, Amman, Jordan.

India's investment interests/ related events

The parliament of the State of Kuwait has passed a law slashing tax on the net profits of foreign companies from 55% to a flat rate of 15%. The tax would not be applicable on profits earned through trading in Stock market and on stockists. It also exempts profits made by Kuwaiti merchants through sale of merchandise that is purchased and transported privately. This is in line with the state's policy of transforming the Gulf state into a regional financial hub. The law will be effective once approved by the Amir.

Global Investment House has made investment in Mumbai. The fund has acquired a 10,377 sqm. land site in Belapur, Navi Mumbai with the objective of developing it into a first class international business hotel. The fund has made this investment through a joint venture with PVP Ventures Private Ltd., an infrastructure company of South India. The total cost of the project is estimated to be US\$ 70 million.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Vice-Chairman and CEO Sa'ad Al-Shuwaib visited India on December 5-6 to explore opportunities/investments in the Indian refinery and petrochemical sectors. He called on Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora on December 6 besides holding talks with the Chairman of Reliance Industries Corporation. During his visit to Mumbai he held talks with the Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited. Kuwait supplies about 250,000 bpd of crude to India.

All shareholding and closed shareholding companies will have to pay a new tax called 'Zakat' from the beginning of 2008. The tax that need to be paid by companies would be one percent of the net profits.

Major trading agreements proposed/ finalized. Impact of these on trade :

A double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTTA) between the Government of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait was notified by the Government of India and has come into force on October 17, 2007. The provisions of the said Agreement shall be given effect to in the Union of India and in the State of Kuwait with effect from the 1st day of April, 2008.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprising Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, announced the formation of a common market, in the annual meeting of the Heads of the State of the respective GCC countries. The common market would come into effect in the beginning of 2008.

Kuwait Fund for Economic Development (KFAED) is extending a loan of US\$ 20.4 million to Kenya. The loan will be utilized for financing of a Kenyan project for improvement of irrigation facilities and settlement facilities in southeastern Kenya.

KFAED has also agreed to extend KD four million loan to Bangladesh repayable in 24 months with a grace period of four years and a 2% annual interest. Since 1975, Kuwait has lent US\$ 419.15 million to fund 17 development projects in Bangladesh mainly in the sectors of energy, land transport and agriculture.

Kuwait also extended a loan of US\$ 10.6 million to Sierra Leone for construction of a road project.

Kuwait has signed a convention with Luxembourg on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital.

Dow Chemical Company (Kuwait-based) and Petrochemical Industries (PIC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) have planned to form a 50-50 joint venture with a capital of US\$ 11 billion. The Company, to be headquartered in US, will manufacture and market petrochemicals.

5. Correspondence on 3 trade enquiries from India and 15 trade enquiries from Kuwait, as per details, at Annexure 'A' were received and processed by this Mission. No commercial complaint either from India or Kuwait was received during the month.
6. Kuwait's trade exchange with major countries may be seen at Annexure 'B'.
7. Kuwait's principal items of imports and exports may be seen at Annexure 'C'.
8. Kuwait's five major items of imports and exports with India may be seen at Annexure 'D'.
9. A list of useful websites is at Annexure 'E'.
10. Details of forthcoming trade exhibitions, to be held in 2008, in Kuwait are at Annexure-F.

Trade enquiries from Kuwait

Sr.No.	Address	Product
1	Mr. Sayed Abdul Wahab A.M.Al Refai, Al Hashmia General Trading & Real Estate Co., Kuwait	Barley Seed
2	M/s Kuwait Dana Catering Co., Kuwait	Scrap
3	Mr. Joel Rebello, Business Development Manager, Kuwait Support Services Co., Kuwait	Scrap
4	Ms. Marwa Khairy, Executive Manager, Al Jabriya Exhibition, Kuwait	Kuwait Health Exhibition
5	Mr. Sabeeh Ahmad Amin, MD, Sabah Company, Kuwait	Jute Bags
6	M/s Hussain & Malik Trading & Cont Co., Kuwait	Blankets
7	Mr. Omar Abu Hayya, Executive Manager, Oil & Gas Sector, Combined Group Contracting Co., Kuwait	Pre fabrication workshops
8	Mr. Abdulla Al Nasim, Kuwait	Silk
9	Mr. Shoug Abu Shaibah, Nabat Agricultural Contracting Co., Kuwait	Date Palms Tissue Culture
10	Mr. Sera D'silva, Coordinator, Arab Combined Intl Trading Co., Kuwait	Polycarbonate sheets
11	Mr. Manzoor Ali, Sales Manager, Technological Solutions, Kuwait	How to start business in IT field in India
12	Rajeev Kasewa, Global Gulf Consultants WLL, P.O.Box: 4022, Hawalli, Kuwait, Email: rajeev.kasewa@globalgulfconsultants.com	Management consultants in India
13	Mr. Attila Velipasaogu, Contracts Manager, Al Sager Company Gen. Trad. & Cont. WLL, Kuwait	Civil Construction (Hospitals) Contractors
14	Mr. Vasan, Kuwait Email: s_p_vasan@hotmail.com	Food products
15	M. Syed Akram, Purchasing Officer, Quality net, Kuwait Email: akrams@gnetstaff.com	Woollen clothes

Trade Exchange with Major Countries

(All figures in US\$ thousands)

S.No.	Country	Total trade 2003	Total trade 2004	Percentage variation
1	USA	1,123,683	1,435,179	27.7
2	Germany	1,355,563	1,426,280	5.2
3	Saudi Arabia	964,496	1,181,882	22.5
4	China	704,237	912,345	29.6
5	Japan	1,080,092	795,009	(-) 26.4
6	UAE	560,566	742,473	32.5
7	Italy	569,385	680,913	19.6
8	India	504,914	628,677	24.5
9	UK	496,808	514,413	3.5
10	France	318,456	383,531	20.4

i) Trade Between India and Kuwait

	April 2005 – March 2006	April 2006 - March 2007	Percentage in Growth
India's Export to Kuwait	Rs. 227,428.27 lakhs	Rs. 302,818.46 lakhs	(+)33.15%
India's Import from Kuwait	Rs. 204,276.26 lakhs	Rs. 2,967,744.00 lakhs	(+)1352%*
Total Trade	Rs. 431,704.53 lakhs	Rs. 3,270,562.46 lakhs	

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

* - The sharp increase in trade figures in 2006-07 is due to the inclusion of figures of Petroleum & its products (POL) which were not included in the previous financial years. POL imports accounted for Rs. 25,57,078 lakhs in the year 2006-07.

ii) Principal imports and exports with other countries – based on figures for 2004a) **EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO KUWAIT** US\$ (Million)

1. Germany	1,415
2. United States of America	1,328
3. Saudi Arabia	979
4. China	837
5. Japan	791

b) **IMPORTING COUNTRIES FROM KUWAIT**

1. Saudi Arabia	202
2. Iraq	192
3. UAE	187
4. Indonesia	170
5. Pakistan	129

India's trade with Kuwait

Top five items of imports from Kuwait

Sl.No	Commodity	2005-06 Value in Rs. lakhs	2006-07 Value in Rs. lakhs
1.	Metalifiers Ores & metal scrap	31492.45	41903.90
2.	Organic Chemicals	28429.28	38704.83
3.	Fertilizers	2032.74	8003.47
4.	Sulphur & unrostd Iron pyrts	7997.61	5437.76
5.	Inorganic chemicals	10533.79	4009.46

Source : DGCI & S

Top five items of exports to Kuwait

		2005-06	2006-07
Sl. No	Commodity	Value in Rs. lakhs	Value in Rs. lakhs
1	Rice-basmati	23792.74	30547.94
2	Meat & its preparations	21800.62	27144.29
3	Machinery & instruments	19396.79	26845.02
4	Manufactures of metals	13890.48	20601.82
5	Non-ferrous metals	4530.46	14624.11

Source: DGCI & S

Top five items of imports for the year 2003 and 2004

		2003	2004
S. No.	Commodity	Value in 1000 US\$	Value in 1000 US\$
1.	Passenger Cars (Saloon)	948,907	794,282
2.	Other Tractors	172,682	297,462
3.	Tourist Cars	354,126	289,865
4.	Jeeps	353,685	215,591
5.	Human Medicaments	154,815	190,500

Source: M/o Planning, Kuwait

Top five items of exports for the year 2003 and 2004

		2003	2004
S. No.	Commodity	Value in 1000 US\$	Value in 1000 US\$
1.	Ethylene Polymers	625,686	760,454
2.	Urea	104,832	136,371
3.	Propylene Polymers & other Olefins	62,812	84,576
4.	Passenger cars (saloon)	87,698	38,450
5.	Other non-woven mattresses etc. and of glass fibres	28,590	37,960

Source: M/o Planning, Kuwait

List of useful websites on Kuwait**Official**

- www.kuwait.kw : Official website of the State of Kuwait
www.mof.gov.kw : Ministry of Finance
www.moo.gov.kw : Ministry of Energy
www.moci.gov.kw : Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Local Trade Bodies

- www.kcci.org.kw : Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry
www.kpc.com.kw : Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries

Banks and financial institutions

- www.cbk.gov.kw : Central Bank of Kuwait
www.nbk.com : National Bank of Kuwait
www.cbk.com : Commercial Bank of Kuwait
www.kia.gov.kw : Kuwait Investment Authority

Media

- www.kuna.net.kw : Kuwait News Agency
www.kuwaittimes.net : 'Kuwait Times'.
www.kuwaitssamachar.com : for news about Kuwait, India and Indian expatriates in

Kuwait

- www.arabtimesonline.com : 'Arab Times'

About Kuwait

- www.arab.net.kuwait : for research on Kuwait etc.
www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs : Kuwait country analysis brief
www.kif.net : Kuwait International Fair Company (KIFCO)

General information

- www.ekwt.com : Kuwait information guide
www.kuwait-info.com/index.asp : Kuwait information office

Kuwait International Fair organizes fairs and exhibition in Kuwait. The calendar of events for the year 2008 is reproduced below:

Event	Date	Venue
1st Quarter		
Info & Connect 2008	2 - 8 Feb. 2008	Hall 4
Spring Consumer Festival	20 - 29 Feb. 2008	Hall 5+6+7
Kuwait Int'l Modern House Exhibition	23 - 29 Feb 2008	Hall 8
EDUCARE 2008	10 - 13 March 2008	Hall 8
Electro 2008	22 - 28 March 2008	Hall 8
Kuwait Int'l Perfumes & Cosmetics Exhibition	26 March - 4 April 2008	Hall 5+6
2nd Quarter		
Kuwait Int'l Property Show	14 - 18 April 2008	Hall 8
Sixth Gold & Jewellery Exhibition	23 - 29 April 2008	Hall 8
Travel World Expo (TWE) 2008	14 - 17 May 2008	Hall 8
Summer Carnival	25 June - 4 July 2008	Hall 6
3rd Quarter		
Qaftan Fair	9 - 15 August 2008	Hall 7
School Stationery & Clothing Exh.	20 - 29 August 2008	Hall 8
Kuwait Household Exhibition	27 Aug. - 5 Sept. 2008	Hall 7
Kuwait Int'l Food Exhibition	27 Aug. - 5 Sept. 2008	Hall 5+6
Ramadan & Eid Exhibition	22 Sept. - 1 Oct. 2008	Hall 4
4th Quarter		
Autumn Consumer Festival	22 - 31 Oct. 2008	Hall 5+6+7
Achievement Exhibition	8 - 12 Nov. 2008	Hall 8
Kuwait Int'l 33rd Arabic Books Exhibition	18 - 28 Nov. 2008	Hall 5+6+7
Building & Construction Exhibition	22 - 28 Nov. 2008	Hall 8
Specialized Watches Exhibition	22 - 31 Dec. 2008	Hall 8
Autumn Perfumes Exhibition	22 - 31 Dec. 2008	Hall 5+6

PS- All the exhibitions/fairs would be held at Kuwait International Fair Grounds, Mishref.

(Source: Embassy of India, Kuwait)

Economic and Commercial Report
(Exchange Rate: US\$1=Yemeni Riyal 198.51)

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1. Total GDP in US\$ and its growth during the most recent quarter and previous year

<u>GDP in Million US\$</u>		<u>Growth (%)</u>
2005	2006	
16,155	18,917	17.1%

2. Rate of Inflation (Consumer Prices)

2005: 12.20%
2006: 11.80%
2007: 14.80%

3. Total trade in US\$ and its growth during the most recent quarter and the previous year (overall) along with trade balance

	<u>TRADE IN \$ M</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total Trade	10106	11885
Trade Balance	720	1376
Growth during 2005 & 2006:	17.6%	

4. Total trade in US\$ and its growth to 10 major countries

	<u>TRADE IN \$ M</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
	7954	9490
Growth during 2005 & 2006:	19.3%	

5. Total trade in US\$ and its growth with India by top 10 commodities

	<u>TRADE IN \$ M</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
	957	1665
Growth during 2005 & 2006:	72.1 %	

6. Total trade in US\$ and its growth in trade services (5 major categories) *

	<u>TOTAL TRADE IN \$ M</u>	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
	617	943

Growth during 2004 & 2005: 52.83 %

* Latest figures for growth in trade services not available

7. Major investments within and outside the country – a descriptive paragraph

In addition to public sector investments, the private sector has also been actively involved in the economic development of the country through its participation in the expansion of industrial, agricultural, fisheries and services sector activities. The Government works on creating conditions conducive for successful private sector investment. The Commercial Private Sector was the pioneer in organizing itself through a number of independent Chambers of Commerce and then formed a Federation of Chambers of Commerce. With private sector's active participation in the economic & commercial activities of the country, it's GDP has substantively gone up. The country hardly has any investment outside. The Government also undertakes the implementation of a financial sector reform in a bid to develop relevant proper working mechanisms.

8. India's investment interests

Yemen, a developing country, is passing through the fast developing mode and in the process, is dependent on all kinds of help and assistance from the foreign shores for its imports of infrastructure and various goods & items. India's interests and investments can be widely spectrumed right from the

investments in activities like Construction, Oil, Gas & Minerals, IT Sector, Banking, Health Care & Pharmaceuticals, Telecommunications, Education, Medium & Small Industries, Manufacturing, Shipping, Fertilizers, providing Services in several fields including setting up of joint ventures in SEZ etc.etc.

9. Major trading agreements proposed/finalized. Impact of these on trade

During the recently concluded visit of Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, Shri Murali Deora from February 2-4,2007, the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Yemen's Minister for Oil and Minerals signed a protocol for formation of specialized Common Technical Commission to submit proposals concerning the opportunities of investment in Oil Industry in the two Countries, Exchange of Experience and special information on methods and ways for attracting oil investments. The two sides also agreed on qualifying and training the Indian and Yemeni cadres in oil and mineral fields through organizing special courses at their training Centres. It was also agreed that the two sides should attend symposiums, seminars and workshops to be organized in the fields of Oil and Gas in the two countries.

10. The principal five export destinations

India, China, Thailand, UK, USA (for the year 2006)

11. The principal five import sources

UAE, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, China, Kuwait (for the year 2006) (India is at No. 7)

12. The principal five export commodities

- Petroleum oil and oil obtained from bituminous minerals (crude)
- Fuel oil (mazot)
- Kerosene
- Naphthalene
- Frozen fish

13. The principal five import items

- Gas oils (solar or diesel oil)
- Fuel oil (mazot)
- Seamless iron/steel pipeline used for oil or gas pipelines
- Durum wheat
- Raw cane sugar (in solid form)

14. India's rank in each of the categories above including market share if it figures in the top five

- India's share of Yemen's export of crude oil for the year 2006: US\$ 1,581,413,460 (28.25%)
- India's share of Yemen's import of raw cane sugar (in solid form) for the year 2006: US\$ 5,250,154 (5.27%)

15. The top five items of export from India to Yemen

- Portland cement (excluding white)
- Husked (brown) rice
- Medicaments put up for retail sale
- Other hydraulic cements
- Milk and cream in solid form of > 1.5% fat, sweetened

16. The top five items of export from Yemen to India

Petroleum oil and oil obtained from bituminous minerals (crude)
Tanned or crust skins of sheep, without wool on, whether or not split, in wet state
Whole hides and skins of a weight per skin not exceeding 8 kg when simply dried, 10 kg when dry salted, or 16 kg when fresh
Frozen fish
Whole hides and skins of a weight exceeding 16 kg

17. India figures in the above category

India figures at number 1 in the above category, being the first top importing country of crude oil.

18 .Any other factor impacting on trade and economic relations (both –ve & +ve)

1. Trade fairs and buyer-seller meets of important commodities which can be exported to Yemen should be organized in the important cities of the country.
2. Trade disputes where the Indian exporters have created problems should be disposed of on priority basis.
3. Yemen being a poor developing country, its official delegates be extended free travel/lodging/boarding facilities during their visits to any of the exhibitions/trade fairs organized in India to get a better mileage from such gestures.
4. Inter-governmental business talks should be held on a regular/frequent intervals.

19. An Executive Summary of the Economic and Commercial Report.**Internal**

1. Minister of Oil Khalid Bahah announced that the deadline for receiving the expression of interest for the 4th international bidding round has been extended until January 5, 2008. 23 International Oil companies have submitted expressions of interest in several fields. This round bids off eleven off-shore oil fields; several of those fields have proven oil reserves.

2. Both local and foreign companies have voiced their desire to invest in Al-Mahrah governorate's minerals sector. Sadaq Tajaddin, director of the governorate's Oil and Minerals Office, reports that the corresponding Yemeni ministry has inked agreements with foreign firms to share in oil production in the governorate's oil blocks under the 2008 Investment Plan.

3. A two-day workshop on wastewater management was held in Taiz with the participation of 100 specialists from Taiz and Ibb universities. Taiz Deputy Governor Abdulqader Al-Hatim stressed the importance of increasing public awareness regarding rationing water usage via all available media outlets, in addition to mosque imams, in order to come up with practical recommendations and distribute them to citizens in other Yemeni governorates to implement in their real-life situations.

4. In the Fourth National Conference for Population Policy, held under the theme, "Toward further implementation of a population policy," participants stressed the necessity of providing family planning and reproductive health services in all health care centers. Some of the papers reviewed warned against the risk of increased population growth. Over 250 persons, including specialists, scholars, representatives of appropriate parties, civil society organizations, and regional and international organizations attended the conference.

The conference also aimed at analyzing and assessing the population status quo and its impact on development efforts over the last years. It also discussed the available mechanisms to combat population challenges, filling the gap between the policies, strategies and population plans and applications.

5. A recent report on poverty assessment in Yemen said poverty rate dropped from 40 percent in 1998 to 35 percent in 2006. Titled 'Yemen Poverty Assessment', the report was prepared by the government of Yemen, World Bank, and UN Development Program (UNDP). This report was based on a household budget survey conducted from April 2005 to March 2006.

6. Following favorable responses from gulf-based investors with respects to reforms in the Yemeni business and investment environment, the Government of Yemen is currently adopting an additional range of measures and policies to attract more investments into the country. Real Estate and tourism sectors are expected to have the lion share of the influx of investments, and correspondingly, formulate legislation to allow not only foreign establishments to purchase real estate, but also allowing people as well. This legislation followed allowing non-Yemenis to venture into small businesses and sectors which were previously limited to Yemenis, such as food trading, retailing, and community services. The focus on attracting gulf-based investments is derived from the belief in regional integration in the Arabian peninsular, as the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries are Yemen's largest trading partner, and have been witnessing an economic boom derived, in part, by the sky rocketing Oil returns, thereby decreasing the cost of capital. This belief in regional integration is mutual, as the GCC countries have pledged over US\$ 2.7 billion in the 2006 donors conference, in order to improve the infrastructure and the business enabling reforms. Apart from the pledges, several investors have expressed interest in investing heavily in Yemen, with amounts exceeding US\$ 70 billion over ten years. According to the latest data issued by the General Authority for Investment, the period of April-September 2007 witnessed above-average growth in the flow of foreign investments, increasing by 5.75% over the same period of 2006.

7. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Yemen Office made an official handover of equipment to the General Authority for Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWSP) in a handover ceremony that was held at GARWSP HQ. It is worth mentioning that JICA is the implementing agency for the technical assistance of the Official Development Aid of Japan (ODA). It has been extending its technical assistance to Yemen since 1978 to contribute tot the socio-economic development of Yemen. This assistance is now focused on Basic Education, Public Health, Rural Water Supply and Vocational Training, which became a priority area of JICA's assistance after H. E. President Saleh's visit to Japan in 2005.

8. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) carried out a 3-day workshop (from December 15-17) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) and t he regional Center on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for Near East (CARANE). The objective of the workshop was to improve olive production and harvest, and covered the theoretical and practical aspects of olive production and maintenance of olive plantations. USAID/Yemen organized the workshop in response to Yemen farmers' request to learn more about maximizing their olive crops. According to the participants, several olive producing plantations have been unable to properly handle their olive production, which requires specific attention and unique care.

9. Minister of Telecommunications Kamal Al-Jabri stated that the telecommunications industry is completely liberalized and is governed by market competition, he also added that the legal framework has been reformed inline with WTO guidance. He also indicated that the telecommunications sector will benefit from the WTO and other international treaties especially in terms of introducing the latest information technologies to Yemen.

10. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has obligated a 100 million Riyals to be invested in increasing the production and distributing of genetically modified seeds of wheat. This decision was taken in the light of the increase of 70-77 percent in yield of genetically modified wheat, as evident from a pilot experiment undertaken in Hadhramout governorate. This move aims at improving Yemen's food security and reducing wheat imports.

11. Director of the Fisheries Office in Hodeidah governorate stated that the fisheries quality control labs and the distribution of 183 small and medium fishing boats will have a significant impact in improving the quantity and quality of fisheries produced by the governorate. The establishment of the lab and the boat give-away cost over 159 million Riyals, and will benefit over 600 fishermen directly.
12. The Number of students enrolling in vocational training centers in Yemen during the Academic year 2007/2008 has increased to 24,126 students, compared to 22,166 in the last academic year, distributed over 65 institutions. The ministry of vocational training attributes the increase to the awareness of pupils of the importance of vocational training skills, which allows for direct employment in the job market.
13. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) called on donors to provide an urgent \$ 3.3 million in funds so that over the next four months, it can feed nearly 80,000 Yemenis who have been displaced by intermittent conflict in Sa'adah. WFP Yemen Country Director Mohamed El-Kouhene said improved security in the Sa'adah governorate in recent months has allowed the agency to start assisting many more people across the region. Before then, the violence had confined operation largely to Sa'ada city. According to a statement, the Food agency will continue to provide assistance to those who cannot meet their daily needs, while the Yemeni Government will keep supporting the operation by providing security and logistics assistance. The WFP has provided around \$400 million of food assistance to Yemen since 1967, when the country was divided between the North and South.

Bilateral

An Indian Textile Exhibition-cum-Buyer-Seller Meet was organised by the Synthetic & Rayon Textile Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC), in association with this Mission, at the prestigious Sana'a Expo Centre, Sana'a, on 11th and 12th December, 2007. All necessary groundwork for giving wide publicity to the Event and also to disseminate information about the exhibits on display in the Exhibition was made by the Mission well in advance. Chambers of Commerce of various Governorates, Federation of Chambers of Commerce, textile manufacturers, established textile merchants, importers and agents in Yemen was contacted by the Mission, which was completely involved in coordinating and finalizing all the arrangements regarding publicity, organizing business meetings, coordinating with the local government for obtaining necessary permissions etc. Services of a local event management company were also hired by SRTEPC for printing and publishing brochures, leaflets, etc. about the Exhibition.

All the participants numbering 25 and representing 17 companies were invited to the Embassy for a Briefing Session on their arrival in Sana'a. Extensive information on Yemen in the form of CDs was also given for their quick perusal.

The event, first ever Exhibition of Indian Textiles held in Sana'a, was inaugurated on 11th December, 2007, by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Eng. Iqbal Bahadar. In addition to the Minister and his officials, the inauguration ceremony was attended by local business community, Ambassadors and members of diplomatic corps, media and general public. A dinner reception was organized in the evening of 11th December for the owners of big business houses of Yemen to interact with the Indian exporters which proved to be very successful. The Deputy Trade Minister along with invitees from the leading business houses, individual businessmen and select Indians and Yemenis were also present at the reception. It is learnt from SRTEPC officials that business deals worth Rs. 1.5 to 2 crores were finalized during the event.

Other Countries

1. Minister of Transport Khalid Al-Wazeer has indicated that negotiations are on-going with Dubai Ports to establish a joint venture company to manage the port of Aden. Adding that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two parties regarding the establishment of the joint company, where both partners would own 50 percent of the company's shares.

2. Yemen's Ambassador to Moscow Dr. Mohammed Al-Helali has stated that negotiations are on-going with Russian businessmen to invest in strategic infrastructure projects in Yemen, including the establishment of the coastal railway system. He added that a delegation of Russian businessmen will visit Sana'a during December to discuss the details of these strategic investments.
3. Chairman of the Yemen Gulf Bank Mohammed Al-Zubairi has stated that the Kuwaiti Commercial Bank and the IFC will invest upto US\$ 30 million to buy 80 percent of the shares of the Yemen Gulf Bank. He added that the Kuwaiti bank will be the majority shareholder, and that the paid-up capital of the bank will increase from 1.25 billion Riyals to 6 billion Riyals.
4. Yemen's debts to Saudi Fund has increased to US\$ 318 million by September 2007, compared to US\$ 309 million in December 2006. Yemen's overall external debt increased to US\$ 5.74 billion in September 2007, compared to US\$ 5.47 billion in December 2006.
5. Information Minister Hassan Al-Lawzi held talks with experts from the German Radio Academy regarding mutual cooperation next year between the academy and the Mass Media Training and Qualifying Institute here in Yemen. The meeting discussed the academy's plans for digital radio production and its 2008 plan to train a group of Yemeni journalists and technical staff in public and alternate programming, as well as qualifying trainers in this domain, in addition to establishing mini-departments for digitally-produced radio broadcasts.
6. Youth and Sports Minister Hamoud Obad met with the head of the French Cultural Center in Sana'a concerning bilateral relations between Yemen and France in youth and sports and how to enhance such relations. Obad asserted his ministry's eagerness to activate all cooperation aspects under the framework of youth cooperation in the Yemeni-French project, welcoming a meeting of the higher youth committee to establish such project's executive program for the upcoming period.
7. Mohammed Al-Wadhan, deputy chair of the Free Zone General Authority, discussed with Emirati Ambassador to Sana'a Ali Al-Ghoani the possibility of erecting power stations in Aden Free Zone. Al-Wadhan reviewed with the ambassador the zone's investment facilities and features in various fields, including air cargo and industry.
8. Yemen and Germany have signed four bilateral cooperation agreements totaling 73 million Euros (US\$ 107 million), through which Germany will fund development programs in Water, Education, Health and Sustainable Economic Development. The programs will be implemented through the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), the German Development Bank (KfW), the German Development Service (DED), among other German agencies working in Yemen.
9. Al Qudra International, the international investment arm of Al Qudra Holding, has recently signed an agreement with the General Investment Authority in Yemen, to develop the Abraaj Sana'a (Sana'a Towers) project in Sana'a city. Abraaj Sana'a comprises residential and commercial towers, a shopping centre, a luxurious hotel, as well as villas, diplomatic club, and a variety of services and innovative facilities with the highest standards of security and safety.
10. France's Total oil company has acquired a 40 percent stake in two onshore exploration blocks operated by China's Sinopec, namely block 69 in Mareb governorate and block 71 in Al-Masilah basin, Hadhramout governorate.

11. Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi met with a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and discussed with it a number of cooperation issues. The two parts dealt with discussing the economic growth and the economic policies the country is implementing in the framework applying decisions of the Third Five Year Plan. The meeting also dealt with discussing related issues on the offered support by the IMF for Yemen in fields of investment with relation to reframing the general budget of the government as well as other related aspects.

12. A Letter of Intention is to be signed to include German as a subject at 25 Yemeni secondary schools from 2008 till 2010. With the future conclusion of a formal agreement, German would be taught from secondary level onwards at Sana'a, Aden and at secondary schools of other cities, enabling Yemeni students to benefit from the newly opened German-Arabian Universities in Egypt, Jordan and Oman.

13. World Bank consultant Ismail M. Sharif recently announced that the Bank would conduct a five-nation study, which includes Yemen, about possibly directly funding local communities for development projects without going through central governmental offices, or the districts' local councils. The study is being conducted in Ethiopia, India, Afghanistan and Vietnam, apart from Yemen. Sharif also pointed out that "the World Bank previously funded projects via central governmental offices in their respective countries, but it found that a large proportion of those funds don't adequately go to those deserving them, instead being used for administrative expenses." Sharif's comments came during his Dec. 14 visit to Al-Shatari Cooperative and Agricultural Society based in Al-Hutah in Lahj governorate, where he met with the society's leaders and several of its contributors with a view to preparing the required study to transfer funds from the center directly to the districts.

14. The World Bank office in Yemen has announced that on December 6, the executive directors of the International Development Association approved a \$ 500.93 million International Reform Development Policy Grant for Yemen. The policy-based operation's main objective is to support the Yemeni government's reform efforts to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. The grant's two main pillars are supporting non-oil growth by reforming the investment climate and strengthening governance via improved public finance management and civil service reform. The grant will be disbursed in two equal payments, the first of which will be distributed upon signing the agreement.

15. Mr. Jean-Pierre Barbier, Director of the Mediterranean & Middle-East Department arrived in Sana'a for the opening of the AFD (*Agence Française Development*) and to sign an establishment agreement in Yemen. The French Ambassador said that the AFD is an international agency involved in many activities throughout the world. So far, the agency has accepted funding an electricity project for rural areas. May be in the future, the agency will be involved in the production of wind and solar power, as well as other projects involving tourism and protecting Yemen's heritage.

(Source: Embassy of India, Sana'a)

Trade Enquiries from Saudi Arabia

S.No.	Name & Address of the firm	Tel/Fax/E-mail No.	Particulars Queries
01.	Eng. Omer Al Younes, Designing & Engineering Manager, Al Toukhi Company PO Box : 497, Riyadh 11411	Tel: 00966-14633660 Fax: 00966-1-4631150 E-mail: techpp@altoukhi.com	Seeking list of Indian companies on overhead transmission lines.
02.	Mr. Abdulrahman A. Al Kharashi, Riyadh	Tel: 00966-1-4250298 Fax: 00966-1-4250298	Interested in importing spices, lentils and edible nuts
03.	Mr. William M. Costales, Support Manager, Arabian Network Project Co. Ltd. PO Box: 9413, Riyadh 11413	Tel: 00966-1-4656759/4627428 Fax: 00966-1-4658860 E-mail: William@anet-co.com	Seeking list of construction companies contractors
04.	Mr. Adel Yousef Eastern Coast Polystyrene, Dammam	Tel: 00966-3-6631616 Fax: 00966-3-8175624/6631616	Seeking list of Indian companies on software programming
05.	Mr. Saed Bin Hamid Mashal, General Manager, M/s. Metal Family PO Box: 40751 Al Madinah Al Babawia	Tel: 00966-4-8500085 Fax: 00966-4-8500185	Seeking list of Indian companies on architectural, contracting metal works Co's and list of manufacturers of elevators and stainless steel
06.	Mr Mohammed Yassin, Procurement Manager, Saudi Serpo Co. Ltd. PO Box: 42871, Riyadh 11551	Tel: 00966-1- 4983835/4984603/4984347 Fax: 00966-1-4981095	Seeking list of Indian companies on Mining & Chemical Industries
07.	Me. Mohammed Mahmood, Purchasing Manager, Al Jawad Printing & Packaging Centre, PO Box: 287, Hoful 31982	Tel: 00966-3-5876180/5876180 Fax: 00966-3-5870343/5870343	Interested in importing plastic handles.
08.	Mr. Hazem Nasr. M/s. Sales El Mohimeed Group for Investment PO Box: 500, Riyadh 11351	Tel: 00966-1-2750088/2758181 Fax: 00966-1-2757781	Interested in importing sugar.
09.	Mr. Ahmed Bin Mohammed M/s. Saleh Al Askar Est. PO Box: 1057, Dammam 31431	Tel: 00966-3-8275925/8273041 Fax: 00966-3-8273383	Interested in importing foodstuffs
10.	Mr. Philip Fabian, Dammam	E-mail: Pcd-dam@saite.com.sa	Seeking information on baggage rules.
11.	Mr. Ali Mubarak, Billion Commercial Services PO Box: 64406 Riyadh 11536	Tel: 00966-1-2054558 Fax: 00966-1-2054508 E-mail: info@billionmarketing.com	Interested in importing cement

12.	Engg. Radwam Al Astal Executive Manager, M/s. Faz International PO Box: 265280, Riyadh 11363	Tel: 00966-1-2042887/2044641 Fax: 00966-1-2041784 E-mail: faz@fazintl.com / ralastal@yahoo.com	Seeking contact address of M/s Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
13.	Mr. Mohammed Yousef Al Masri, Greenland Trading Est., Riyadh	Tel: 00966-1-4655454 Fax: 00966-1-4658618 E-mail: info@greenland.com.sa	Interested in importing educational Equipment
14.	Mr. Richard Rodrigues, Business Dev. Manager, Al Harthi Trading Est. PO Box: 36897, Riyadh 11429	Tel: 00966-1-4160922 Fax: 00966-1-4160692 E-mail: alharthi208@hotmail.com	Interested in importing Kashmiri Silk Carpet
15.	Mr. Faisal Mohammed Al Harbi, Faisal Bin Waqeeth & Sons Group PO Box: 8941 Makkah al Mukarramah	Tel: 00966-2-5466565 E-mail: alharbifaisal@hotmail.com	Interested in importing veterinary Medicines, meat processing and packaging machinery etc.
16.	Dr. Omer AlSaggaff, M/s. O.Asaggaf Factory for Pharmaceuticals Laboratories and Medical Production PO Box: 32482 Jeddah 2128	Tel: 00966-2-6817905 Fax: 00966-2-6878925 E-mail: asaggaf@icc.net.sa	Seeking information on pharmaceutical industries
17.	Mr. Mohammed Al Arifi Co. Riyadh	E-mail: mohammed_alarifi@hotmail.com	Seeking e-mail id of M/s. Autolek, New Delhi
18.	Mr. Sayed Rizwan Manager, Improv. Tech Trading Est., PO Box: 3945, Al Khobar 31952	Tel: 00966-3-8944876 Fax: 00966-3-8944878 E-mail: ittc@saudia.com	Interested to import water bottling machines and plants
19.	Mr. Ahmed Skait, Purchasing Engineer, Materials Supply Dept. Saudi Cement Co. PO Box: 306 Dammam 31411	Tel: 00966-3-8344500 Fax: 00966-3-8345460/8343091	Seeking credential of an Indian company.
20.	Mr. Ibrahim A. Madini, Managing Director, M/s. Ayman Ibrahim A. Madini Est. PO Box: 2549, Jeddah 21461	Tel: 00966-2-6524732/6525990 Fax: 00966-2-6524742 E-mail: madini@tn.net.sa	Interested in importing safety shoes for Industrial use.
21.	Mr. Turki Aldhuhayan Riyadh	00966-1-4763311/0554477612 Fax: 00966-1-4766877	Seeking list of brokerage house
22.	Mr. Salem al Harbi, Kan Kan Est. for Commercial Services PO Box: 104088, Riyadh 11626	E-mail: kkefhh@yahoo.com	Commerical and marketing agents

23.	Sayed Shakir Jamal, Business Development Coordinator, M/s. Afkar Al Taqniah, PO Box: 301331 Riyadh 11372	Tel: 00966-1-2177366 Fax: 00966-1-2177966 E-mail: shakir@tekidea.com Web: www.tekidea.com	Interested to open brach office for software development in India – seeking procedures
24.	Mr. Talal Al-Taiyeb Tamir & Tamara Est.	Tel: 00966-504675896	Readymade Garments Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.
25.	Mr. Hussein Hamed Fayez, M/s. Zuhari Fayez Partnership Consultants. PO Box: 54360 Jeddah-21514	Tel: 00966-2-6061818 Fax: 00966-2-6066151 E-mail: hfafez@zfp.com Web: www.zfp.com	Petrochemicals Telecom and Contructions. Seeking list of Indian Companies.
26.	Mr. Abbas Lukman, ATRACO Arabian Trading Corporation PO Box: 24526, Jeddah-21456	Tel: 00966-2-6476116 Fax: 00966-2-6490774 E-mail: zoebst@awalnet.net.sa	Ladeaies Garments. Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.
27.	Mohd Awadh Naser Goider M/s. Mohd Goider Est.	Tel: 00966-509333659	Cosmetics. Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.
28.	M/s. Al-Nadiri Est. PO Box: 588, Jeddah 24121	Tel: 00966-2-6441811 Fax: 00966-2-6437689	Leadies Garments Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.
29.	M/s. Mohd Reda Trading Est. PO Box: 219, Jeddah	Tel: 00966-2-6483522/504617928 Fax: 00966-2-6478379	Interested to import rice
30.	M/s. Abdul Salam Abdul Razzaq Est.	Tel: 00966-2-6454568 Fax: 00966-2-6421001	Textiles, Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field
31.	M/s. Mohd A. Al-Asbaly Est. PO Box:2330, Jeddah 21451	Tel: 00966-2-6933557 Fax: 00966-2-6933563 E-mail: info@alabali.com Web: www.alabali.com	Interested in Importing Spare parts.
32.	Mr. Mohd Ahmad Al-Amri M/s. Sawar Jewelry	Tel: 00966-2-643340/0504674915	Gems & Jewelry Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.
33.	Mr. Salaar Mohd Iqbal M/s. AL-Sagaa Tradig Agencies PO Box: 18481, Jeddah.	Tel: 00966-2-6422779/0507944828 Fax: 00966-2-6426274	Foodstuffs Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field
34.	Mr. Basheer Bin Modh Al-Masumi M/s. Al-Darut-Talimah PO Box: 1344, Makkah	Tel: 00966-2-5275362/0504507551 Fax: 00966-2-5275362 E-mail: bashir_masumi@yahoo.com Web: www.bashirmm.com	Printing & Publishing Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field
35.	Mrs. Maimuna Ahman AL-Dabbaque	Tel: 00966-2-6204382/0503641681	Readymade Garments Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field
36.	Mr. Chander M/s. Wadeem Al-Ghamdi Trading Est.. PO Box: 130051, Jeddah-21372	Tel: 00966-2- 6432510/0506463298/0502785684/05 02565932/0561408795 Fax: 00966-2-6433224 E-mail: chander@awalnet.net.sa	Readymade Garments Interested to Import readymade garments

37.	Mr. K. Rasheed M/s. Saudi Bazar PO Box: 11209 Jeddah-21453	Tel: 00966-2-6534200/6534060 Fax: 00966-2-6510428	Interested in Importing Cosmetics, Skin Care Cream
38.	Mr. Iqbal Mohd M/s. Arab Technology	Tel: 00966-2-6022404 Fax: 00966-2-6022404/00966-501656320 E-mail: arabtech@rediff.com	Interested in Importing Electrical Items.
29.	Mr. Syed Habeebuddin M/s. Saja Pharmaceuticals PO Box: 42600 Jeddah-21551	Tel: 00966-2-6080514/00966507589739 Fax: 00966-26379997	Pharmaceuticals. Seeking list of Indian Companies in the field.

(<http://dgft.delhi.nic.in/zjdgftcal/TENOV-05.html>)

News

A new Passport office inaugurated in Raipur

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the new Passport office in Raipur. This new passport new Passport office was inaugurated on December 14, 2007.

A public function was held in Raipur to inaugurate the new Passport office. Reports inform that Minister of State for External Affairs Esrar Ahamed was also present at the new Passport Office at Raipur would go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Chhattisgarh. The new Passport office is expected to remove the hardships faced by the public in the area and they would not have the need to go to Bhopal for passport services.

The Raipur Passport Office will be equipped with the latest IT technology to issue receipt to the applicant on submission of the application, which will facilitate tracking of the status of the application on the internet.

Projects for latest IT solutions

The External Affairs Minister announced that his Ministry has already initiated the Passport Seva Project for introducing better and latest IT solutions, simplifying procedures and reducing paper work to the barest minimum with a view to maximizing the comfort levels of passport applicants and achieving the best international standards.

The project which is expected to be implemented in a time frame of 19 months will result in the issue of passports within 3 days and in cases which require police verification, within 3 days after the completion of the verification process. Tatkal passports are expected to be issued the same day. The proposal is to have 68 Passport Facilitation Centres all over the country where the non-sovereign functions, involved in the passport issuance process will be performed by the service provider to be selected through an open bidding process. Police verification will be expedited through electronic linkage of the Passport Facilitation Centres with the police authorities in State Capitals.

Biometric Passport

The Ministry of External Affairs has also initiated steps to issue e-passports or biometric passports. These passports, in the official and diplomatic categories, will be issued by the middle of 2008 and subsequently in the ordinary passport category.

Emigrant to Libya have to carry Arabic translation of passport**Requirement of carrying of Arabic translation of passport detail attested by Libyan bureau in Delhi by visitor to Libya**

It has been reported by the Embassy of India, Tripoli (Libya) that there is a new development in Libya where incoming passengers with valid visas have been denied entry on the ground that they were not carrying Arabic translation of passport details. This is being applied to all countries and therefore, is not an India specific measure. Though the matter is being pursued with the authorities concerned, in the mean time, the Embassy has informed to suitably advise visitors to Libya to have Arabic translation of passport details attested by Libyan Bureau in Delhi.

A media report informs that the Embassy of India, Tripoli has further informed that all the details in the photo page of the passport such as name, date of birth, passport number, place of issue, date of issue and date of expiry have to translated into Arabic and signed by the Consular Officer Concerned in India before embarking on a trip to Libya

(Source: imprint-Magazine)