

Syria Moves to Get Closer Trade Relation with Brazil

Contributed by Marina Sarruf
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The Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (CCAB) and the Syrian Federation of Chambers of Commerce are going to work together to bring closer the sectors of transports, agriculture, industry and investments in the two countries. A first meeting to establish the details of the partnerships is to be held today in Damascus.

The interest came up after the Monday, September 5, meeting between the CCAB directors Sami Roumieh and Behcara Ibrahim, with the Syrian Minister of Economy, Amir Lutfi, in the Arab country.

According to Roumieh, the Minister showed great interest in working with Brazil. "He believes the economy of the two countries is similar and that it is possible to increase trade between Brazil and Syria," he stated.

Another subject discussed at the meeting was holding the Week of Brazil in Syria. "The event will not only be directed to trade, but also to our culture," said Roumieh. According to him, the opening of the Syrian market is growing and the government is speeding up the privatizations in many sectors.

The CCAB directors are in Syria due to the Damascus International Fair, which counts on the presence of nine Brazilian companies. The trade fair started last Saturday, September 3, and follows on to the 12th of September.

The companies are part of the stand organized by the Arab Chamber. Tomorrow a business meeting will take place, parallel to the fair, between the entrepreneurs of the two countries.

The meeting was organized by the Syrian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and will count on the participation of the entity's president, Rateb Chalah, the Brazilian ambassador in Syria, Eduardo Roxo and a representative of the Ministry of Economy of the Arab country.

"In this meeting we will have a family meeting to define a work agenda in the sectors mentioned by the Minister," stated Roumieh.

Business at the Fair

This Tuesday, September 6, Frankleen Rocha, exports manager at Franchel, cosmetics manufacturer from the state of Goiás, in the Midwest of Brazil, who is at the CCAB stand at the fair, visited a Syrian group, manufacturer of chemical products for medicines and cosmetics interested in forming a joint venture with the Brazilian company. "I think business is going to flow. They even spoke of coming to Brazil to see our factory," stated Rocha.

The Franchel manager went to the fair with the objective of finding a Syrian company interested in importing their raw material and manufacturing the cosmetics in the Arab country. "We have already taken a pleasant step. It was what we wanted," said Rocha.

According to him, as well as the Syrian entrepreneurs, Franchel was also sought for by importers from Jordan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Libya. "Their interest is for our line of natural products, made from babassu and cupuassu, for example. They are different products," he stated.

As well as Franchel, the Brazilian stand counts on the sweets factories Doces Cossari and Fábrica de Doces São Rafael, phytotherapy products manufacturer Bionatus, leather articles factory Ambar Leather, soft drinks maker Refrigerantes Poty, cosmetics company Franchel, ironworks and hydraulic equipments company Soprano, and organic tea producers Clarim.

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