

**1st Meeting of the Brazil-Singapore Joint Committee
on Promoting Trade and Investment
11 November 2009, Singapore**

Co-Chair's Joint Statement

The inaugural Meeting of the Brazil-Singapore Joint Committee on Promoting Trade and Investment between the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of Brazil (MDIC) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore (MTI) was held today in Singapore, based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Brazil last November, during the visit to Brazil by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The Brazilian delegation was led by Mr. Welber Barral, Secretary of Foreign Trade of MDIC and included representatives from MDIC, Chamber of Foreign Trade (CAMEX), Ministry of External Relations (MRE), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil), and Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA).

The Singapore delegation was led by Mr. S. Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Education, and included representatives from MTI, Ministry of Finance (MOF), Agency of Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore), Health Sciences Authority (HSA), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), SPRING Singapore, Economic Development Board (EDB) and Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade and Negotiations (TFCTN).

Both sides welcomed the substantial increase in trade and investment between the two countries in the last few years. Despite the slowdown in bilateral trade in 2009 as a result of the global financial crisis, both sides recognised the huge potential in trade and investment between the two countries and acknowledged the importance of the Joint Committee in promoting bilateral economic relations.

In setting out the objectives of the Joint Committee, the Ministers agreed that it would serve as the over-arching structure to oversee, guide and facilitate economic cooperation between Brazil and Singapore. This would be done through strengthening cooperation among official institutions to create a conducive framework for the promotion of bilateral trade and investment; identifying priority areas of cooperation and reviewing work plans and recommendations on economic cooperation.

Both sides reaffirmed the benefits of improving the trade and investment environment to encourage greater bilateral business flows. In this regard, Singapore emphasised the importance of putting in place the necessary

Government-to-Government frameworks such as a bilateral Investment Guarantee Agreement (IGA) and Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) to create a conducive business environment.

The meeting welcomed the recent opening of EDB's first overseas centre in Latin America in São Paulo, Brazil, in October 2009, and noted the potential for Brazilian companies to set up their Asian base in Singapore. MDIC and APEX have identified the Brazil State Development Bank (BNDES), Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations as points of contact to help EDB establish a network of contacts in Brazil.

Both sides also discussed the importance of SME cooperation. To further discussions in this area, the Department of SME under MDIC will work with SPRING Singapore.

The meeting had a frank exchange of views on the trends and opportunities in both countries. Arising from this discussion, several priority areas of collaboration were identified for further cooperation. These include: Infrastructure, Trade, Agribusiness, Biotechnology/Biomedical Sciences, Metrology and Economic Research. Both sides expressed their commitment to implement the following initiatives in a timely manner.

1. Infrastructure

With Brazil's emphasis on infrastructure investment through the PAC (Growth Acceleration Programme), the meeting agreed there was synergy in collaborating in: (a) urban solutions; (b) oil and gas; and (c) e-Government and Info-communication Technology (ICT) services.

In this regard, APEX and IE SINGAPORE co-organised two seminars on "Infrastructure Opportunities in Brazil's Infrastructure Sector" and "Opportunities in Brazil's Electronics Sector" on 10 November 2009 to highlight opportunities to Singapore-based companies.

To help Singapore companies operate in Brazil, MDIC appointed the Brazilian Investment Information Network (RENAI) as the point of contact for regular sharing of investment information on the latest regulations and fiscal incentives at the local Federal and State levels.

IE Singapore will also work with MDIC and APEX to identify Brazilian states with interest in urban redevelopment and to link them up with master-developers looking for urban solutions matching Singapore companies' capabilities. Thus far, IE Singapore has identified the cities of Santos and Itaborai as having the most potential. IE Singapore plans to mount a mission in the first quarter of next year to Brazil and MDIC will facilitate meetings with the interested states and municipalities.

In the oil and gas sector, IE Singapore, in partnership with APEX, will be holding a joint roundtable with Singapore shipyard players, Brazilian engineering firms and Petrobras. The roundtable will facilitate business matching between companies from both sides to promote greater business partnership for the pre-salt requirements of Brazil. These meetings will take place in conjunction with the Offshore Technology Conference held in Houston in May 2010 and IE Singapore's oil and gas mission to Rio de Janeiro in September 2010.

MDIC will also identify Brazilian states that could be ready with e-Government implementation as pilot projects for the sharing of experience in this area. APEX would also identify Brazilian companies for match-making with Singapore companies. For this purpose, IE Singapore will mount an e-Government business mission to Brazil in April 2010 and an ICT business mission in October 2010.

2. Trade

Singapore welcomed Brazilian exporters and aggregators to use Singapore as a regional trading hub for the distribution and re-export of their products to the region, especially in the sectors of natural resources and food. APEX would be leading business missions to Singapore to further explore this possibility. Notably, IE Singapore welcomed the opportunity to work with MAPA and its agricultural bodies and companies to facilitate study trips and business matching with Singapore companies. IE Singapore also invited APEX to consider favorably the setting-up of a Business Centre for Asia in Singapore to further promote bilateral trade.

3. Agribusiness

Both sides agreed to work together to increase bilateral trade in agricultural products. AVA had good links with MAPA and looked forward to continued exchange of information on other non-meat food products. AVA will be sending over Singapore's Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) requirements for dairy, honey and fruit products by end November 2009. Both sides will also be looking to promote food products in each other's countries and Brazil confirmed its interest to take part in Food and Hotel Asia 2010 in Singapore. Both sides will also work together to establish regionalisation arrangements, especially for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Foot and Mouth Disease, to minimise trade disruption due to disease outbreak.

4. Biotechnology/Biomedical Sciences

In the area of biotechnology, the Brazilian delegation expressed its interest in organising a mission to Singapore in the first semester of 2010, encompassing public and private representatives of the sector.

Both sides agreed to explore collaboration in infectious disease research, drug development, biopharmaceuticals and vaccine development. As a first step, both sides will hold joint workshops with focused themes to serve as a starting point for scientists from both nations to engage in discussions and interactions. A*STAR expressed the intent to hold the first joint symposium in Singapore in the second half of 2010 or early 2011.

A Biomedical Sciences/Biotech Joint Committee represented by the Biomedical Research Council, A*STAR and MDIC/Secretariat of Industrial Technology would be set up to oversee the cooperation.

5. Metrology

HSA and INMETRO agreed to explore research collaboration in Food and Pharmaceutical areas of Chemical Metrology. HSA and INMETRO will each identify one project of common interest by December 2009 and explore the possibility of signing an MOU by June 2010.

6. Economic research

IPEA and the TFCTN have held initial discussions to start research collaboration. Both sides identified WTO Services, Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Climate Change and Trade as potential areas for collaboration. TFCTN also offered the possibility of Brazilian officials taking part in some of its training programmes.

Going forward, Singapore surfaced its interest to collaborate with Brazil on biofuel R&D while Brazil identified Trade Facilitation as a new area for further discussion and proposed to organise a technical mission to Singapore in first quarter 2010.

Both sides agreed to work towards holding the next Joint Committee meeting in Brazil in 2010.

**Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Federative
Republic of Brazil
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Republic of Singapore
11 November 2009**