

### **Aktuelle Hinweise IRAN:**

#### **Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee meets in Tehran**

Turkish Minister of Development, Cevdet Yilmaz, led a delegation of a hundred Turkish businessmen to Tehran to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee. At the three-day event, which started on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, both sides discussed cooperation in the fields of transportation, customs trade, industry, energy, agriculture, environment as well as joint investment and set the target of expanding bilateral trade to USD 30bn per year. In January 2014, both countries had signed a preferential trade agreement, designed to pave the way for a hike in their bilateral trade.

#### **Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian joins German IFAT Trade Fair**

Hamid Chitchian, Iranian Minister of Energy, attended the opening ceremony of the IFAT Trade Fair 2014 on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Munich. During a conference at the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management, Chitchian is expected to point out opportunities of German-Iranian cooperation and meet German officials and representatives of the private sector.

#### **Iran ready to foster trade with Germany**

Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, Valiollah Afkhamirad, pointed out Iran's readiness to expand trade with Germany to USD 7bn annually during a meeting with a German business delegation on April 28<sup>th</sup> in Tehran. In 2013, the trade volume between Germany and Iran reached only USD 2.7bn. Afkhamirad said the aim of the current Iranian policy is to remove tensions in international relations and increase foreign trade.

#### **Iran and UAE to establish joint business council**

Iran and the United Arab Emirates have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a joint business council with the aim of expanding economic cooperation between the two countries. The MoU was signed at the end of the Second Iran-UAE High Joint Economic Committee meeting in Abu Dhabi with the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

#### **Iranian Minister of Defense visits China**

A high-ranking Iranian delegation headed by Minister of Defense, Hossein Dehqan, arrived in China on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The delegation visited the Tiangong Space Station and several military centers. Chinese Minister of Defense Chang Wanquan stated during a meeting with the delegation that China views Iran as a strategic partner and was ready for close defense cooperation between the two countries in the future. At the same occasion, Dehqan called for enhancing bilateral ties, especially in the military, defense and security sectors.

#### **Rouhani: political will for all-out expansion of commerce and trade with Russia**

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stressed the good political and economic relations between Iran and Russia during a meeting with Russian Minister of Energy, Alexander Novak. He further stated that the bilateral ties between the two countries benefited the entire region. Novak underlined the Russian president's unique attention to the enhancing of relations with Iran and the following of the Bishkek accord. Rouhani added that both countries had the will for "all-out expansion" of commerce and trade.

#### **600 foreign companies to participate in Tehran Oil and Gas Show**

Akbar Nematollahi, Director for Public Relations of the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum, announced the attendance of 600 foreign companies from 32 countries in Iran's 19<sup>th</sup> International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition. The exhibition, which is among the most important trade fairs for the sector worldwide, takes place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May. Last year, 195 companies from 15 states participated in the event.

#### **Nicaraguan Foreign Minister shows interest in presence of Iranian investors in Nicaragua**

In a meeting with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Samuel Santos Lopez on 29<sup>th</sup> April in Tehran, Iranian President Rouhani urged the expansion of relations between the two countries. He pointed out that Nicaragua and Iran enjoy substantial common grounds, providing a base for expansion of bilateral relations. He called on Nicaraguan officials to pave the way for the presence of Iran's private sector companies and investors. Lopez, for his part, showed deep interest in the presence of Iranian companies and investors in Nicaragua.

#### **Austrian Federal President Fischer as "Icebreaker"**

Heinz Fischer, the President of Austria, plans to visit Iran. He would be the first Western Head of State to do so in years. Traditionally, Austria maintained close ties with Iran even in times of controversy. Just recently, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, expressed Austria's willingness to expand mutual cooperation with Iran, especially in academic and economic areas. Already in February, the Austrian Chamber of Commerce held a meeting on Iran to discuss prospects of cooperation.