

China-Kuwait trade ties flourish

More than 600 Kuwaiti buyers to attend Chinese trade fair next month: Official

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Total bilateral trade between China and Kuwait has reached a historical high in 2022, amounting to \$31.48 billion, Economic and Commercial Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait Cheng Yongru said Wednesday at the promotion conference of the 133rd Canton Fair, scheduled to be held on April 15.

Total trade has jumped by 42.3 percent year-on-year, he said. China exported goods amounting to \$4.97 billion to Kuwait and imported goods amounting to \$26.51 billion from Kuwait, where both imports and exports achieved growth. So far, China is Kuwait's largest trading partner and Kuwait is an important source of crude oil imports to China.

He added that China exported 524 buses and 35,500 passenger cars to Kuwait - double the volume of cars exported in the previous year. According to the information of the Kuwait Public Transport Company, the company has cooperated with Chinese automakers since 2006 and has imported about 1,100 traditional energy buses from China, accounting for more than 95 percent of the Kuwait bus market share.

"In January of 2023, the electric bus made in China was successfully put into the Kuwait market, becoming the first electric bus officially operated in Kuwait. We are confident that enterprises of the two countries will have cooperation in more new fields in the future," he said.

He indicated that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait in 1971, the two countries have always developed friendly relations, noting: "In 2018, the two countries established a strategic partnership. Political mutual trust has continued to be consolidated and economic and trade relations have developed steadily. At present, China-Kuwait economic and trade relations are showing vigorous development."

Yongru stressed that China mainly imports crude oil and petrochemical products from Kuwait, and its exports to Kuwait are traditionally dominated by

supporting equipment for oil exploration. But in recent years, China's exports have gradually expanded to construction machinery, automobiles, telecommunication products and large oil tankers.

"To showcase new products and meet new trading partners requires an international and trustworthy platform; the Canton Fair is such a platform. Since its establishment in 1957, the Canton Fair has been playing an important role in promoting the development of trade between China and Kuwait," he affirmed.

Chu Shijia, Secretary-General of the Canton Fair said: "When it comes to Canton Fair, many Kuwaiti friends are not familiar with it, and our regular buyers are among the guests here today. The Canton Fair is an important channel for China's foreign trade and a window of China's opening up."

Shijia, who is also Director General of China Foreign Trade Centre, said each session welcomes nearly 200,000 international buyers from 229 countries and regions, and has been renowned as "China's No. 1 Fair". It plays a key role in promoting the economic and trade exchanges between China and the rest of the world.

"The 133rd Canton Fair will fully resume its physical exhibition after three years of COVID prevention and control, setting off on a new journey in the new era. The fair will present a brand-new image to the world as it will include its venue expansion for the first time. The accumulated exhibition area will increase from 1.18 million to 1.5 million square meters. The exhibition scale will also reach a new high. Over 30,000 exhibitors will participate, including more than 5,000 high-quality exhibitors, including manufacturing enterprises, and national high-tech enterprises, etc," he pointed out.

He revealed that national delegations from Turkey, South Korea, India, Malaysia and others will also participate, which will strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with global industrial and commercial organizations.

Shijia said that during each session of Canton



Cheng Yongru, Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.



Chu Shijia, Secretary-General of the Canton Fair, Director General of China Foreign Trade Centre.



KUWAIT: Attendees listen to a keynote speech at the event.

Fair, more than 600 Kuwaiti buyers are attending the fair, adding: "As of now, it has established partnerships with 177 industrial and commercial organ-

izations in 98 countries and regions around the world, including the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, influential in the Gulf region."

FM heads Kuwaiti delegation to Arab League meeting



CAIRO: Arab foreign ministers engage in discussions at the 159th ministerial session of the Arab League Council. — KUNA

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday headed the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 159th ministerial session of the Arab League Council in Cairo. During

the meeting, the ministers discussed several topics related to Arab security and joint coordination over regional and international issues, mainly the Palestinian issue and its latest developments. — KUNA

CBK commits to empowering women in banking sector

KUWAIT: On the occasion of International Women's Day celebrated annually on March 8, and as part of the efforts to empower women and enable them to carry out their vital role in development, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) affirmed its commitment to empowering women at all levels in line with the "New Kuwait 2035" vision and the fifth goal of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically gender equality and women empowerment.

In a special report issued by CBK marking International Women's Day, CBK highlighted its endeavors, since inception, to direct local banks towards strengthening women's role by keeping pace with the latest global practices and international agreements that uphold women's status in the banking sector.

In 2015, CBK issued the Customer Protection Guide, the first principle of which stresses on

gender equality among all customers. With regard to implementation of CBK's instructions that directed banks to increase women's presence in all units and on all levels of the banking sector, data shows that women make up 35 percent of local banks' staff.

Moreover, statistical data, as of December 2022, indicate that women occupy 26 percent of senior positions in the banking sector in Kuwait. The report indicated that CBK is one of the leading institutions in the State of Kuwait in the field of women's empowerment and provides them with an enabling work environment and opportunities for advancement and invests in their future.

This is demonstrated by the proportion of women in the CBK's senior management that grew to 41 percent of senior positions. In addition, the number of female staff reached 545, which accounts for 58 percent of CBK workforce.

CBK reaffirms its efforts to continuously empower women in the banking sector by directing banks and supervised entities towards empowering women, granting opportunities to national cadres and supporting women to perform their roles, serve the country from all positions and actively contribute to the development process.

151,992 residency violators in Kuwait: CSB

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Kuwait has a population of 4,385,717 of whom 1,488,716 are Kuwaitis or 34 percent of the total population, said Central Statistics Bureau on Tuesday in its final report of the 2021 census project for Kuwait.

The statistics showed that the number of non-Kuwaitis in Kuwait reached 2,897,001, while the number of Kuwaitis under the age of thirty reached 904,688, equivalent to 60.7 percent of the population. The report pointed out that the number of Kuwaiti females reached 759,578, while the number of Kuwaiti males reached 729,638. Non-Kuwaitis were divided between 1,941,628 males and 955,393 females.

The statistics also showed that the number of violators of the residence law reached 151,992. The country issued 44,879 visas while the number of visa violators reached 26,985.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Mazin Al-Nahedh said, in his speech during a press conference held by the Central Statistics Bureau to announce the report, said the project is significant because of its critical role in planning, as there is no development without statistics. The census project was carried out with the cooperation of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI).

Nahedh said that the general census provides important basic data and information on the demographics, social and economic characteristics of the population, housing and establishments. These are important tools for preparing programs, development plans and drawing policies in the areas of population, housing, healthcare, education, the workforce and others, he said.

He added that the positive effects of the census vary between the data it provides and the indicators that can be extracted. It represents a strong source that supports decision-makers and planners in various fields such as improving living standards and equitable distribution of services.



Mazin Al-Nahedh. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Mansour Al-Methen

Nahedh pointed out that the statistical project in Kuwait faced many challenges, most notably following the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent restrictions and shutdown the state resorted to in checking the spread of the pandemic in compliance with the health requirements and precautionary measures.

The project was completed in joint cooperation with the Central Administration for Statistics and the Public Authority for Civil Information by investing



Monya Al-Qabandi

the resources owned by the two authorities. Nahedh stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between users and producers of statistical data and information to support development in all its economic, social and environmental dimensions at the national, regional and international levels.

Deputy Director General of Civil Information Mansour Al-Methen reviewed the foundations adopted by civil information in its work and a comprehensive information base for both population and buildings in the 2021 census registration, referring to the adoption of field plurality and registration by linking them automatically, which reduces human and financial efforts.

Acting Director General of the Central Administration for Statistics and Head of the Statistical Work Affairs Sector Monya Al-Qabandi said that the administration directs its efforts to provide accurate statistical data and information in a timely manner to all beneficiaries in accordance with international standards with the aim of supporting planning, development and decision-making through partnership with all relevant parties.



KUWAIT: Attendees listen to the Central Statistics Bureau's report on Tuesday.

Transformer blast injures 4 in Salmiya

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water said that an explosion erupted at a main electrical transformer in Salmiya during periodical maintenance, resulting in a fire that left four people injured. The blast resulted in partial power outage around the area. The ministry's emergency and the Kuwait Fire Force's teams rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze. Those injured were admitted to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital for treatment. The Ministry said the facility is being checked to unveil the reasons behind the blast, stressing that services went back to normal later in the day. — KUNA

