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Press Release

Pakistan to see D-8 as Vibrant and Result Oriented Forum

The D-8 has a great potential to bring about quantum jump in Intra D-8 trade and development in member countries by complementing each other in various sectors and by learning and sharing each others best practices and strengths

This was stated by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi while talking to the Malaysian electronic and print Media soon after his arrival in Kuala Lumpur today, to attend D-8 Council of Ministers.

During his hour long interview with the New Straits Times, the second highly circulated English News papers of Malaysia, the Radio Television Malaysia(RTM), TV-3, Bernama News Agency, Bernama TV, the Foreign Minister said that the D-8 countries have a great potential for trade and investment and to cooperate with each other in multiple fields such as agriculture, energy, tourism, human and rural development.

He said Pakistan is committed to the objectives of D-8 to increase economic integration and strengthen economies of the member countries. Pakistan greatly appreciates any initiative that may enhance cooperation among the D-8 countries, he added.

He said that there is, however a need, to make the D-8 more effective relevant and vibrant organization capable of transforming the vision of D-8 into reality.

He urged the public and private sectors of D-8 countries to come forward with innovative business approaches, modern technology and harmonized trade policies to boost intra-trade momentum in the Group which in turn will enlarge the size of economies of D-8 countries as well as alleviate poverty from our region.

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said, "Pakistan has already a number of bilateral agreements with D-8 member countries. We are also in the process of negotiating bilateral and regional trading arrangements with D-8 countries".

While talking about Malaysia Pakistan Relations, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan look forward to translate the tremendous goodwill between Pakistan and Malaysia into increased engagement in economic, trade and developmental-linkages and joint-ventures.

He said that there is huge scope and potential for joint-ventures and investments, specially in areas such as Islamic-finance, halal-industries, energy, housing and infrastructure-development, telecommunications and media as well as education, health, agriculture and human resource development.

The Foreign Minister said that Malaysia and Pakistan have achieved a bilateral FTA which is the first among OIC member countries. He hoped that business-leader on both sides will utilize the benefits, flowing out of the FTA, to achieve manifold increase in our trade, investment and economic cooperation.

He specifically highlighted the scope of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia in Halal Food Sector.

He said that Pakistan's huge land mass and huge population of animal stocks couples with Malaysia expertise in technology and marketing can enable both the countries to capture major share of global halal food market worth of billion of dollars.

Mr. Qureshi said that a strong business delegation concerning the Halal food sector is accompanying including President, Ecommerce gateway Karachi, CEO, K&N Group Karachi, CEO, Zenith Associates, Karachi, CEO, Al Shaheer Corporation, Karachi, Chairman, Shezan Ltd, Lahore, Chairman Shan Food Industries & Chairman, Mitchells Pakistan. The business delegation will hold separate meeting with the relevant Malaysian entities and official organization to discuss the joint strategy to substantially increase the bilateral cooperation in the Halal food and chalk out a joint strategy to capture Global Halal Market, he added.

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