

The Latest on Korea's Investment Environment



Samsung Engineering wins USD 473 million plant order in UAE

Samsung Engineering Co., the construction unit of South Korea's largest conglomerate, announced that it has won a USD 473 million order to build a power and water generation plant in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Samsung Engineering received the order from ADNOC Refining in Abu Dhabi and aims to complete work by 2023 at the Ruwais Industrial Complex, 240 kilometers west of Abu Dhabi City. According to a company statement, the plant will provide additional power and fresh water to the complex.

Samsung Engineering, which has already delivered six projects in the Ruwais complex, said it seeks to win more construction projects in the UAE as the country moves to boost its economy by investing in its plant infrastructure.

S. Korea to make decision on joining CPTPP in 2018

According to Seoul's trade ministry, South Korea will decide whether to join a new Pacific trade pact within this year after looking into its impact on the national economy and consulting with member states.

Last year, U.S. President Donald Trump opted out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the 11 remaining states signed a revamped deal entitled the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The agreement aimed at cutting tariffs on goods will enter into force after it is fully ratified by six of the 11 members, including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

These countries represent 13.5 percent of global GDP, a total of USD 10 trillion.

Furthermore, in the first half of this year, Seoul will have talks on forging a trade pact with Mercosur, South America's leading trading bloc composed of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The bloc's combined market covers more than 290 million people and accounts for USD 2.7 trillion, amounting to more than three-quarters of economic activity on the southern continent.

S. Korea and UAE agree to enhance cooperation in 4 key areas

During the sixth round of economic cooperation meetings between South Korea's Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon and his United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart Sultan Saeed Nasser Al Mansoori, the two countries agreed to cooperate closely in energy, infrastructure, the medical sector and the fourth industrial revolution.

The nations have been holding minister-level economic meetings to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in the energy, infrastructure and intellectual property sectors.

According to South Korea's finance ministry, the partners agreed to further boost cooperation for oil field and renewable energy development, build up collaborative research on the fourth industrial revolution and exchange human resources. Additionally, they decided to share knowledge to foster smaller firms and startups in each of the areas, and further strengthen cooperation in the medical sector.

The resource-rich UAE was the second-biggest overseas construction market for South Korea in 2015 and its fifth-largest supplier of crude oil.

Did You Know?



Source: Pulse by Maeil Business News Korea

According to the Ministry of SMEs and Startups, the number of newly established businesses rose 24.5 percent on year in January to surpass a 10,000 threshold for the first time.

Data showed that a total of 10,041 corporations were newly set up in January 2018 in the manufacturing, service, wholesale and retail business, construction and real estate sectors.

What's Trending



Hyundai Heavy Industries to use robots in shipbuilding process

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. has announced that it will be using robots to build ships for the first time in the industry to improve efficiency and cut costs.

In its shipyard located in Ulsan, about 414 kilometers southeast from Seoul, the company recently completed a year of testing a robotic system that automatically shapes a vessel's 3-D curved surface.

According to the company, the unmanned system is based on the Internet of Things and automation technologies, and is equipped with a high-frequency inductive heating system and a multi-joint arm.

Through this system, productivity will be increased by three times in comparison to man-made work and improve the quality of the end product. It is expected that the robot will save company costs anywhere from KRW 100 billion to KRW 200 billion for the next 10 to 20 years depending on its lifespan.

The company is the world's largest shipbuilder and leads the industry in robotic adoption for efficiency, work safety and cost reduction. Robots can substitute for skilled labor in welding, blasting, painting, heavy lifting and other tasks. Hyundai plans to continue adding more sophisticated technologies including artificial intelligence in the future.

Hyundai Heavy Industries builds ships for commercial and military purposes. It manufactures oil tankers, cargo and passenger vessels, and warships.

Hyundai Heavy also produces heavy industrial machineries, wind turbines, solar panels, electrical components for engines and power trains, and industrial vehicles, such as cranes and bulldozers.

Hyundai Heavy has designed and built robots and robotic systems for their automotive group for over 15 years and specializes in industrial welding robots.