Invest Korea News

KOREA-CHINA FTA TO IMPROVE BILATERAL CORPORATE COOPERATION

Lee Young-Kwan, CEO of Toray Advanced Materials Korea Inc., a Japanese company that has invested in the Saemangeum Industrial Complex, last month pledged Toray’s support for the expansion of investment in the Saemangeum area.

“If we establish a polyphenylene sulfide (PPS) resin plant in Gunsan, it will contribute to expanding the investment of Japanese companies in the Saemangeum area. We will be ever more open to cooperation,” said Lee, meeting with North Jeolla Province Governor Song Ha-jin on February 4.

“We expect the success of Toray to encourage other foreign companies to invest in the region. Therefore, we will be proactive in cooperating with the company to complete the construction of the plant as planned,” said Song.

Japan’s Toray Group, which plans to invest KRW 300 billion (USD 274 million) in the Saemangeum area by 2018, began construction of a PPS resin plant in Gunsan last May and will start pilot production in September.

PPS refers to a super-engineering plastic. More than 70 percent of the production from the Gunsan plant will be exported to China and Southeast Asia.

Government & Policy

MOTIE MINISTER PROMOTES KOREA AS GLOBAL BUSINESS HUB

Minister Yoon Sang-jick of the Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy last month hosted a breakfast meeting with the leaders of foreign-invested companies and foreign business associations in Korea.

Guests included Rochus Bergmann, president and CEO of Siemens Energy Solutions, and Amy Jackson, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. They attended the event to learn about Korea’s foreign investment policies.

Yoon promoted Korea as a global business hub. He emphasized that the country’s large global network of FTAs, including the Korea-China FTA, which is expected to go into effect this year, will mean attractive opportunities for foreign companies seeking a global market.

Korea News

KOREA AND CHINA INITIAL FTA

Korea and China last month initiated their free trade agreement (FTA), about three months after the conclusion of negotiations on the pact.

The agreement is now in English and will be translated into Korean and Chinese before it is signed, which is slated to be this year.

Since the conclusion of negotiations, the pact has received some new elements. These include the fact that more than 300 products from the Kaesong Industrial Complex will benefit from import tariff reductions or eliminations, and a new standstill clause that will prevent new customs duties from being adopted.

The agreement is forecast to help the annual bilateral trade volume between Korea and China exceed USD 300 billion.

With the Korea-China FTA, Korea’s trade territory will cover 73.5 percent of the global economy.

INCHEON INTL. AIRPORT WORLD’S BEST FOR 10TH STRAIGHT YEAR

Incheon International Airport was last month named the world’s best airport for the 10th straight year by the Airports Council International. It won the annual Airport Service Quality Award for a record 10 times, scoring 4.97 points out of 5.00.

The airport was also named the best in the Asia-Pacific region and ranked at the top in the “over 40 million” category, which refers to airports that service at least 40 million travelers a year.

Foreign Company News

TORAY ADVANCED MATERIALS KOREA INC. TO SUPPORT INVESTMENT EXPANSION IN SAEMANGEUM

The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), of which Invest Korea is a part, received a Chinese economic delegation of 20 business leaders last month. KOTRA CEO Jaehong Kim met with the group, which was led by Chairman Jiang Zengwei of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

Kim spoke about how the Korea-China free trade agreement will improve cooperation between Korean and Chinese companies in such sectors as services, culture and finance. He also addressed the diplomatic ties between Korea and China and increase in bilateral trade and investment.

The CCPIT is China’s leading trade and investment promotion organization.