



WTO TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ACCESSIONS PROGRAMME

SECOND GLOBAL SEMINAR ON WTO ACCESSIONS SAUDI ARABIA 10-YEAR WTO ACCESSION SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SESSION ACCESSIONS BOOK LAUNCH BY WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ROBERTO AZEVEDO

Statement by Eng. AbdulMajeed Al-Maymoon VP, Industrial Clusters Enabling Specialist

Saudi Arabia Special Anniversary Session: 10 Years of WTO Membership: Looking back and Looking Ahead

Geneva, Tuesday, 29 September 2015, 11:50 – 12:00, Room D

Your Excellency Chairman of the session, thanks for the introduction.

Excellencies

Ladies & Gentlemen

In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful

1. The Kingdom over the last years witnessed a good growth in different sectors which was the result of different Policies and Program Kingdom has put in place to make the Saudi Economy more attractive to trade and Investments.
2. Today and after 10 years of joining the WTO, I would like to share with you some of the major achievements made by Kingdom to fulfill its obligation to the main agreement of the WTO
3. Kingdom past 10 years activities are paving the way for the future opportunities in trade and investment in different sectors, as we will present in the short film later.
4. In the field of tariff, Kingdom currently apply duties at around 5%, Kingdome customs procedures applicable to import, export and transport is based on standards set out by international organizations. Kingdom is an active member of the World Customs Organization since 1973 and one of the Contracting Parties to the Harmonized System Convention since January 1, 1991 and is as a member of the GCC Customs Union. Also, the rules of origin is in line with the WTO Agreement.
5. In the area of tax reforms, Kingdom has signed more than 20 tax treaty. These treaties are in line with global trends and according to the rules established by the relevant organizations.
6. In the area of anti-dumping, a new Dep. at Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been established to provide support to local producers in trade remedies issues for both export and import. And here, It is worth pointing out that the number of cases presented in this regard among the WTO members reached more than 4,600 cases in the period of 1995-2014, kingdom's share was 31 of which 19 has been canceled and the remaining was resolved in favor for the Kingdome. This gives a good impression about the compatibility of Kingdom's trade policies with WTO rules.



7. In the area of protection of intellectual property rights, the Kingdom has already put in place the required laws for copyright and IP protection and formed the required organization.
8. By doing so, we believe that Kingdom is now more integrated in the World Trading system and is becoming a land of opportunities for different sectors.
9. Please allow me to show the "land of opportunities" film which shall take you in a quick journey to Saudi.
