

Press release of SIOK from Jakarta visit

Delegation of the Slovak Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (SIOK) consisting of Mr. Milan Compel - President, Mr. Tomas Ziak – Vice President and Ms. Zuzana Suskova – Executive Secretary visited Indonesia from 18th till 25th October 2008 for 23rd Trade Expo 2008 Exhibition and hold official meetings. The purpose of the meetings was to inform representatives of Indonesian government, semi-government and private entities that there is a new challenge and attempt to promote Slovak Indonesian relations in general and Slovak Indonesian Economic ties in particular. That, based on long time relations between founders of SIOK with Indonesians, but mainly with Indonesian diplomats in Slovakia, have decided to form Slovak Indonesian Chamber of Commerce as non-profit organization which should gather those merchants, traders, businessmen and prominent representatives from business community of both countries which are ready to support increase and intensification of Slovak - Indonesian economic ties, and people which would like to see these ties rehabilitated to the level of 2 – 3 decades ago.

Mr. Compel briefly introduced goals, purpose, structure of SIOK and significance of its location in Bratislava, in the middle of 4 Central European capitals (Vienna - south, Prague - west, Budapest - east and Warsaw-north), with intensive international transport connecting “European Union’s Open Space” with East Europe, Baltic states, Ukraine and Russia, gives SIOK regional influence and importance. As it was also mentioned at the meetings of SIOK, in long time run, should be a very representative and exclusive office covering wide range of activities including culture, education, library, restaurant etc., to give a strong feeling of the power of this institution. To fulfill this target, SIOK plans to organize 2 – 3 potential business missions to visit Indonesia in 2009 which ought to be formed from selected professional fields such as agricultural, machinery, furniture, automotive, energy, oil and gas, finance and banking, general trade, medicine, cosmetic, textile, security etc. and expects significant support as from Slovak as Indonesian involved entities.

Meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs led by the Director General, Head of Policy Analysis and Development Agency Mrs. Artauli R.M. Panggabean Tobing had an extra ordinary importance and was linked with the seminar held by Mrs. Tobing in Bratislava/Slovakia in March 2008. Mrs. Tobing highly appreciated effort, time and resources spent for SIOK’ establishment and underlined importance in continuation in personal and cultural contacts between two entities and two peoples. She highlighted importance in visiting Trade Expo 2008 Exhibition to gather information and contacts with potential business partners and information for future members of SIOK. Important information was related to the development of

individual regions of Indonesia except Jakarta. This project will select or specify sectors needed to be developed in each region and this could create one, but very realistic approach to the mutual cooperation. Plan will be sent to SIOK when it is ready and business matching missions from Slovakia can be formed accordingly and SIOK will reciprocally send its Plan for 2009 to Mrs. Tobing. In addition, Indonesian side will try to organize extra business mission to Slovakia consisting of General Directors of different companies. Appreciated is the readiness of the Ministry in initiating and development contacts and business with fish especially sea fish products.

Finally Mr. Compel passed the Certificate of Honorable Member of the Slovak Indonesian Chamber of Commerce to Mrs. Tobing and they both confirmed readiness to stay in contact in the future.

Meeting at Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) was attended by Mr. Budi Saroso, Mr. Witjaksana Soegarda, Mr. Nur Yasin, Mr. Admiral Makky, Mr. Abdillah and Mr. Faturrachman Djamaluddin. Mr. Soegards introduced KADIN, its structure and operation. Representatives of KADIN appreciated establishment of Slovak Indonesian Chamber of Commerce as a potential partner to be specialized only to Indonesia. Mr. Nur Yasin informed SIOK delegation about present commercial situation and cooperation between Slovakia and Indonesia including certain cases of unfair practices between companies of both countries. In this regard he has offered assistance to avoid such practices in the future. Important was information about the business mission to Slovakia in March 2009 which should consist of professionals of selected fields. Mr. Ziak confirmed readiness of SIOK to concentrate its effort to certain sectors to be able to achieve success as soon as possible as important milestone in SIOK performance.

Finally it is considered that KADIN remains as one of the most important partner of SIOK's activities in the future.

Ministry of Trade, General Director for International Trade Mrs. Diah Maulida, MA: Mrs. Diah Maulida emphasized importance of SIOK's establishment and expressed readiness in cooperation with SIOK. She also determined necessity to develop new and none traditional markets in effort to diversify Indonesian traditional commercial ties in coming future. As Mrs. Diah mentioned, new members of European Union including Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic etc. with growing economic potential are considered as important destinations in this project. Regardless the fact that activity of SIOK is not directly under responsibility of Mrs. Diah Maulida, she promised to inform competent Director for Trade Cooperation and Her Excellency Minister of Trade. She also specified fields of most potential business exchange and estimated obstacles to be considered and overcome.

Finally Mr. Compel highly appreciated opportunity to meet Mrs. Diah Maulida, her readiness to assist SIOK and Slovak companies in case of problems with registration in Indonesia and expressed wish to continue with meetings in Slovakia or in Indonesia.

The Highest National Council of the Union of Indonesian Farmers (ZIF), the Chairman Prabowo Subianto: The discussion with Mr. Aulia Bonanza, the Chairman of the Committee of the Forest Management of ZIF proceeded the meeting with Mr. Prabowo. Mr. Bonanza informed the representatives of SIOK about the preparations of Mr. Prabowo for the Presidential Elections. Thereafter Mr. Compel informed Mr. Prabowo about the „Chamber“ establishment and its purpose, about the goals of the trip of SIOK representatives to Indonesia and plans for the next year. Mr. Prabowo expressed the support to the idea of bilateral economic relations intensification and willingness to meet with the representatives of Slovakia in the field of agriculture in case of their visit to Indonesia. He highlighted the wide potential of cooperation mainly in the field of rural development together with the need of complex infrastructure construction, drinking water supplies, agriculture mechanization etc.

Meeting at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries led by the Director for International Marketing Mr. Saut P. Hutagalung M.Sc and attended by additional 11 representatives of the Ministry. Mr. Saut on very professional level and in details described the structure of the Ministry, its administration, net and the high level of laboratories deployed all over the country as compulsory condition to comply with quality control requirements of American, Japanese and EU market. Mr. Compel, seeing readiness of the Ministry and professional approach to the potential customers expressed the serious interest for the cooperation whether based on “face to face” base or by matching companies which are already in this business. The form will be the subject of further evaluation, Central European market readiness, feasibility and mutual consultations with competent Indonesian authorities. In addition Mr. Compel informed the esteemed partner about the SIOK’s readiness to find most suitable and the easiest way to promote Indonesian fish export companies at the exhibitions organized in Slovakia such as GASTRO, DANUBIUS GASTRO, GASTRO COBA and SALIMA in the Czech Republic or even in entire region.

It was also mentioned that in decision to develop new, no traditional markets to diversify Indonesian traditional commercial ties with America and Japan, new members of European Union including Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic etc. with growing economic potential, are considered as important destinations in this project and establishment of SIOK came as an original and well timed decision.

Thanks to Mr. Saut P. Hutagalung, Mr. Nazori Djazuli and Mr. Yulianto the meeting at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries exceeds previous expectations of SIOK delegation and created a good base to further meetings and cooperation.

Finally Mr. Compel highly appreciated opportunity to meet Mr. Saut P. Hutagalung and his readiness to assist SIOK and Slovak potential companies in case of their interest to import Indonesian fish products and to hold further meetings in Slovakia or in Indonesia.

Besides the mentioned meetings SIOK representatives met many companies from the field of power engineering, oil and gas exploration, production and distribution, furniture and decorations, pharmaceutical production, cosmetics, chemicals, paper industry, various types of foodstuff, including palm oil derivates, textile industry and fashion complements and representatives of bank sector. It was positively declared that Indonesia has a huge potential to offer to the members of SIOK from all above mentioned fields. Very unique position in the world belongs to Indonesia in the production of hand made high value-added products which are available in the Central European region still in limited quantity and assortment. Great opportunities for mutual cooperation for Slovak and International companies based in Slovakia are offered also by rapidly developing Indonesian industry with sophisticated technologies and products. Unlimited opportunities offer participation in the projects concentrated to the development of Indonesian provinces. Extra attention should be also paid to the potential of Indonesian manpower which consists of all classes of workers, blue colors including highly educated professionals.

All obtained information, catalogues, brochures, proposals etc. will be evaluated and will create the data-base available to the SIOK's members.

It was highly appreciated that every meeting, discussion or negotiation, was held in friendly and productive atmosphere which created good opportunity to support SIOK in its effort to break existing barriers in the mind of potential members.

Among especially inspiring held meetings the meeting with Mr. Lutfi Rauf was. Mr. Rauf the former Ambassador of Indonesia to Slovakia is still reminded by Slovak politicians, aristocrats, prominent business community, cultural community and students as the most prominent diplomat who has ever been posted to Slovakia. At present he performs the important position in Indonesian state administration. Also he was awarded the „Certificate of Honorary Chamber's Member“ of SIOK for his assistance and cooperation during his mission to Slovakia.