



:It was raised in the conference to examine business and investment opportunities in Isfahan and Syria

### **Syrian market is different from all Arab countries**

In the conference "Investigation of business and investment opportunities in Isfahan and Syria", held in Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), it was stated that the Syrian market is different from all Arab countries and the economic activists of our country should consider this point, doing business with Syria

Amir Keshani, president of ICCMA stated that the economic relations between Iran and Syria should reach a favorable level.

While emphasizing on planning to send business delegations from Isfahan to Syria, he added: "I hope Isfahan economic activists will make the best of the opportunity of the presence of the Syrian business delegation in Iran.

Keshani expressed hope that a common desk between Isfahan and Damascus or Isfahan and Aleppo will be established soon.

Mohammadreza Gol-Ahmad, member of the board of representatives of ICCMA, while pointing out the need of Syrians to buy industrial machinery from our country, he announced that the Syrian trade delegation has desire to reach an agreement with Isfahan economic activists engaged in handicrafts, stone and ceramic fields to export those products to Syria.

Also, Mozghan Izadi, member of the board of representative of ICCMA, referring to the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Syrian side in the field of handicrafts, added: "I hope that with the increase of flights commuting between Syria and Isfahan, we will witness the boom in tourism industry between the two nations".

She further said: "A number of the Isfahan members of the Chamber of Commerce engaged in construction field where Syria can benefit from this potential in the process of rebuilding the country.

Mohamed Abou El-Hoda El-Lahham, President of the federation of syrian chambers of commerces, also stated that the Syrian people will never forget Iran's cooperation with this country in fighting against terrorists, and said: Isfahan has a very privileged position in Iran and we are ready to develop business relations between Isfahan and Syria.

In addition, Fahad Darwish, the head of the Syria-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce, called Isfahan the hub of economy and commerce of Iran. Proposing an industrial sisterhood relations between the cities of Isfahan and Aleppo, he added: "We will not forget the sacrifice of Iran's martyrs, especially the martyred General Qassem Soleimani, and Syria and Iran should also join hands in the economic field and confront the colonialists' economic war against them.

Pointing to the holding of various meetings with the presence of representatives of both sides in the Joint Chamber of Commerce and meeting up with economic activists, he continued: "The agreement signed in 2011 between Iran and Syria should be materialized. Also, a joint bank will soon be established in Syria, and good agreements have been made regarding the insurance of export goods.

Negotiations are also underway with Iraq so that Iranian goods can be exported to Syria by land through Iraq.

Stating that 38 Syrian factories are ready to rebuild and update machinery, Darvish stated: "In addition to religious tourism we need to strengthen the recreational and health tourism between Iran and Syria.

Hassan Shemshadi, Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce Secretary General, also pointed to Syria's move to become a semi-industrial country and stated: "The country's exports grew a lot in 2010 and 2011, and economic issues were one of the reasons why this country was targeted.

Emphasizing that the Syrian market is different from all the Arab countries, that are mostly consumers, he added: "If an exporter has made successful in a country like Iraq, it does not mean he would be successful in Syria too, and the differences should be taken into account in trade with Syria, and in this case, Syria can be an intermediary for the export of Iranian goods to Europe and the Arab Union. Also, many factories in this country have been destroyed from 10 to 100 percent, and our country can take advantage of this opportunity to export machinery, technical and engineering services, raw materials, and update production lines.

Saeed Ebrahimi, director of international affairs of ICCIMA, stated that bilateral trade between Iran and Syria has never had a stable trend, pointed out the opportunities and obstacles of cooperation between the two countries.

He considered creating a platform for the presence of economic actors, establishing joint financial and banking institutions, introducing

reliable exchanges, clearing goods, establishing credit lines and increasing the ceiling of the export guarantee fund as the solutions proposed by the Isfahan Chamber for the development of trade relations with Syria.

B2B meetings was held at the end of this conference.