

Pakistan, Norway should enhance bilateral trade

The Ambassador of Norway, Robert Kvile, has said that Norway and Pakistan should take measures to further increase bilateral trade in various sectors and explore possibilities of joint ventures. Norway is ready to take all steps to expand its trade and economic relations with Pakistan. The Norwegian Ambassador was talking to the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry here on Friday. The LCCI Senior Vice President Ijaz A. Mumtaz, former presidents Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Mian Shafqat Ali, Mian Muzaffar Ali, Executive Committee members Mian Tariq Misbah, and Dr. Shahid Raza were also present. The Ambassador said that there is a need to make more concerted and sector-specific efforts to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries and the chambers of commerce could do a lot in this regard. He said that there are wide scopes of cooperation and opportunities between Pakistan and Norway in various sectors and he would be ready to play vital role to this regard. He also urged the LCCI President to arrange a potential business delegation to Norway so that Pakistani businessmen could have first hand knowledge about available opportunities there. Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry said that Norway is very close to us as it is a home to a large Pakistani community, which is contributing to the Norwegian economy in different ways. He said that the presence of Telenor Cellular service has further extended contacts between the people of two countries. He said that there is a great potential exists for bilateral trade and economic cooperation. He said that Pakistan and Norway could strengthen people-to-people relationship, bilateral trade and investment, and ties between our public institutions only through exchange of delegations and single country exhibitions. Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry said that our two-way trade reveals that both Norway and Pakistan have to raise their level of economic cooperation. The current level of trade between the two countries is at the minimal level and has not made any headway over the last some years. He said that exports from Pakistan's side include textile yarn & fabrics, articles of apparel/cloth, sports goods, leather & leather products, surgical instruments. He said on the other hand pharmaceutical products, inorganic chemicals, plastic in primary form, paper & paper board, pulp & waste paper, telecommunication equipments, iron & steel dominate Pakistan's imports from Norway. The LCCI President said that this information encourages us to find the demand patterns, which could be exploited by Pakistan and Norway to their mutual advantage. He said Foodstuff remains one of the major import items of Norwegian economy. Pakistan can exploit this potential. Pakistan's products such as textiles, leather, surgical & sports goods can be compared to the "best out of the best" at any international level. He said that Norwegian importers could meet their demand for such products from Pakistan. On the other hand, Norway can further boost its exports of pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper products, chemicals, telecommunication equipment etc. to Pakistan. He urged upon the business communities of the two countries to keep on exploring the opportunities of mutual interest. He said that business houses and diplomatic missions could always join hands to yield tangible results.