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Report on Projects & Project Management in Jordan

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Jordan and Canada Sign a Free Trade Agreement

Considered the first of its kind with an Arab state, Canada has just entered a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Jordan. The agreement, which was signed on the 28th of June, should take effect by end of this year and allow Jordanian products to enter the Canadian market custom and tariff free. In return, Canadian products will be subject to reduced tariffs and customs as they enter the Jordanian market.

According to Jordan Times newspaper sources, referring to the Canadian embassy figures in Amman, the current bilateral trade between the two countries stands at ninety two million Canadian dollars based on 2008 figures.

The agreement is expected boost bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in several fields including renewable and nuclear energy, water resources, as well as economic and technological development.

The agreement comes as a culmination of earlier efforts by His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of Jordan in strengthening trade and business ties with Canada which he started as early as 2007. In a meeting with the Canadian International Trade Minister Stockwell Day, after the signing of the agreement, His Majesty the King expressed his appreciation for Canada's continuous support to Jordan development programs, especially in the field of education, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

“This FTA is a model agreement that other countries would like to have. The deal opens doors for products from both countries,” said The Canadian Minister according to same sources. The agreement is expected to open new markets for Jordan industrial products and encourages Canadian companies to invest in new manufacturing facilities in Jordan. This will bring mutual benefits to both countries especially during the current global economic crisis. The garment, agricultural, food and pharmaceuticals industries are among the candidates to potentially benefit from the new agreement.

These efforts come as part of the Jordan government strategy to support sustainable development towards higher growth rates, reducing poverty and unemployment. It also aligns with the government efforts in the areas of environmental protection and energy.

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Ammar W. Mango, PMP, CSSBB, is principal consultant for Method Corporation, a project management consulting, product and services company based in Amman, Jordan. He is also an International Correspondent for PMForum and *PM World Today* in Jordan. With over seventeen years of global experience in Project Management & Leadership consulting and training, he is considered an international expert on the subjects and enjoys a superb reputation as an inspirational trainer and consultant. He holds a bachelor's degree from Jordan University and a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering and Management from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. He has been certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute (PMI) since 1991, and as a Six Sigma Black Belt by the American Society for Quality. He served as Vice President, Education, PMI Great Lakes Chapter in 1993, and is the founder and currently an active member of the PMI Jordanian Chapter. Additional information can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Ammar can be contacted at amango@methodcorp.com.