

PRESS RELEASE

15th January 2015

Malta Chamber welcomes two high level international delegations in one day

The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry welcomed two high level international delegations yesterday on Tuesday. The events are part of the Malta Chamber's drive to improve international business relations and exposing members to key opportunities.

Mr Abdulrazak Ali Issa, CEO of Bank Muscat visits the Malta Chamber

A high level delegation from the Sultanate of Oman visited the Exchange Buildings for talks held during the morning. The delegation, headed by the CEO of Bank Muscat Mr Abdulrazak Ali Issa, was welcomed by the Deputy President of the Malta Chamber, Mr Anton Borg and the Chairman of the Middle East Business Council, Mr Tonio Casapinta. Mr Casapinta visited Oman and had initiated bilateral discussions with the Omani Chamber in 2014.

Discussions focused on the development of relations between the two countries especially following the agreement to establish an Omani-Malta Business Council last September 2014. Areas of interest from the Omani side such as Financial Services, Healthcare, FDI, logistics and maritime services featured prominently in the discussions with the Malta side explaining the advantages of using Malta for co-operation in such sectors when targeting the region.

The meeting also discussed plans for a Maltese delegation to Oman. Members of the Middle East Business Council were also present and introduced themselves to their counterparts in the Omani delegation.

Mr Stephen Wong, Regional Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council addresses members

In the afternoon, the Malta Chamber hosted a seminar during which a keynote address was given by Mr Stephen Wong, Regional Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). Titled "Is Hong Kong still the gateway to China?", the seminar had the aim to highlight trade and investment opportunities in Hong Kong, as well as present Hong Kong as a business location and premier gateway to the mainland China.

Mr Wong's address centred around the similarities that existed between Malta and Hong Kong and Hong Kong's differences with China of which it has been a special administrative region since 1997. He explained how these differences and similarities could translate into benefits for Maltese entrepreneurs who wished to tap into the lucrative business opportunities that exist between Malta and China if approached via Hong Kong. Here he referred specifically to Hong Kong's liberal yet secure approach to business which is characterised by freedom from duties, exchange control, travel visa and internet censorship restrictions.

Mr Wong is an experienced highly sought-after speaker. He is the highest HKTDC representative in Europe, and is responsible for overseeing the Council's activities in over 30 European countries with a total of 11 HKTDC offices.

The seminar was also addressed by the Deputy President Mr Anton Borg and the Director General Mr Kevin J. Borg. The events were organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malta Enterprise.