

Foreign Economic Relation Office: Task and Functions

The Article (1) of the Act of establishment of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance approved in 1974/July/15 declare that "the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is establish to regulate the Economic policy of the country, concur the administration of financial affairs with financial policy and implement Economic cooperation and common investment with the other countries."

In this respect the International Deputy was created to fulfill the aforesaid objectives. After disintegration of the International Deputy in 1997, its functions were delegated to the Organization for Investment and Technical Assistance of Iran and they were assigned to the Foreign Economic Relation Office subsequently.

The first and the most important function of the said office are to conduct the Joint Economic Commissions. It is worth mentioning that before the revolution all the matters related to economic relations including the Joint Economic Commissions with other countries was delegated to the International Deputy of the Ministry of Economic affairs and Finance but since the Revolution with considering the political priority in foreign relations this task has been transferred to Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Then due to huge volume of activities related to the Commissions and with regard to the capacity of different Ministries in our country this duty was relegated to the related Ministries.

In the light of above The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance (Organization for Investment & Technical Assistance, Foreign Economic Relation Office) was assign to organize some of the Commissions. In this respect this Ministry organized more than 17 Joint Economic Commissions during the years 1995 to 2006.

Because of evolution in international relations in 2006 and the changes in the attitude of I.R. Iran in its foreign policies and strategies, Africa and Asia enjoy a special situation in developing the economic relations in comparison with the other continent.

Due to the remarkable achievements of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in organizing the Commissions and with considering the sincere efforts of Foreign Economic Relation Office in implementing the Agreements which were inked with other countries, in 2006 the responsibility of organizing Joint Economic Commissions with South African countries and India which were the most powerful and important countries in their region was transferred to Ministry of Economic affairs and Finance in addition to the previous countries like Germany, Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Hungary. Up to now for the recent added countries 5 commissions have been organized.

The second key task of subject office is adjusting the Agreements and Bilateral and Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the countries which are in our country priority to expand the economic foreign relationship. Meanwhile it is responsible for putting into effect the three key Agreement entitled "Foreign Investment Promotion and Bilateral Protection", "Avoiding of Double Taxation" and " Custom cooperation" to strengthen the extension of the existing relations.

The third important task which is delegated to this office is the reception of the economic missions of different countries or launching the Economic mission to other countries.

According to the current figures since Revolution over 40 economic missions were invited to our country through this office that consequently has expanded our country foreign economic relations.

Gathering economic data about the countries, processing this data, transferring the achieved information to the institutes which appealed for, investigating and recognizing the capacities of different countries in order to establish the economic relation with them, cooperation with the other Ministries in organizing Joint Economic Commissions, make necessary arrangements regarding the negotiations of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and also Deputy Minister and President of this organization with the high ranking economic officials of the other countries should be named as the other responsibilities of this office.

The Foreign Economic Relation Office is divided into two deputies who worked together for the three groups Named "Asia and Oceania", "Center and north Europe" and "East Europe, America and Africa".