



TTMA meets with Embassy of the People's Republic of China

(Port-of-Spain, Wednesday 08, June, 2022)– President, Ms. Tricia Coosal and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mahindra Ramdeen of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) met with His Excellency Ambassador Fang Qiu and Counsellor Lichun Zhou of the People's Republic of China on Friday 3rd June, 2022 to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Ms. Coosal stated, "TTMA's meeting with His Excellency was very engaging and all involved were very accommodating and open to the possibilities of future partnerships between TTMA and the Embassy."

This visit with H.E. Fang Qiu had its genesis when Ambassador Fang, together with the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, visited two members of TTMA family, Angostura and Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company Limited, on the 4th of May 2022. At those visits the discussion started on the possibilities for further expansion of Trinidad and Tobago speciality products into China and expansion of investment possibilities from Chinese firms into the non-energy sector in T&T.

Ms. Coosal added, "In the past, TTMA has partnered with the Chinese Embassy for training as well as institutional and capacity building of T&T's nationals, including the TTMA's Secretariat. At the meeting it was noted that this arrangement would again be facilitated in the not too distant future, with opportunities being made available to both state and private sector entities." Further, Ms. Coosal, highlighting the collaboration between both entities indicated, "TTMA has previously hosted Chinese delegations at our Trade and Investment Convention and this year is proving to be no different. Presently, we already have one Chinese exhibitor signing up for participation at TIC 2022, which will be taking place during the period August 25th -27th at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya."

Detailing some specific areas of discussion at the meeting, Ms. Coosal added, "Synergies between the Manufacturing Sectors of China and Trinidad and Tobago offer unique opportunities for investment and trade in the areas of agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, health and beauty, textile and PPE production, printing and packaging and construction". She further added "Healthy discussions were also engaged in the area of importing low cost electric vehicles from China, which coincides with the Government's policy of finding workable solutions for the increasing cost of petroleum. This provision would assist T&T greatly with efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and move to an eco-friendlier economy."

It was noted that the Chinese Government continues to view T&T as a priority country within the region for partnering and collaboration, especially under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative, and TTMA as a conduit to grow opportunities for the non-energy sectors in both countries. In this regard, the President of the TTMA was asked to participate in a Belt and Road seminar, being put on by the Embassy, which will be held in T&T, late June 2022.

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