

Chile and China begin negotiations to extend FTA to cover services and investments

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“Having a chapter for services with China is very relevant for Chile, considering our intention to become a platform for goods and services destined for third markets and a bridge between Asian markets and South America,” commented DIRECON (the Foreign Ministry International Trade Relations agency) Director Carlos Furche today as the second round of negotiations began in Santiago for a chapter on services and investments in the existing Chile-China free trade agreement.

At the ceremony to open the session, Furche pointed out the bilateral trade between the two countries had grown by 65% in the five months since the accord went into effect. He also highlighted the importance of trading services in global economic development. Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Chile Liu Yu Qin stated that Chile is currently China’s third-largest trading partner in Latin America. “As trade volume increases, the structure of bilateral trade improves; there are more products with value added and technology that enters the markets of both countries,” she said, emphasizing the fact that China imported US\$ 21 million worth of Chilean wine and that this amount had wide room to grow. Ambassador Liu added that with this negotiation, “we hope to eliminate existing obstacles to greater flow and exchange of people, technology and capital to benefit both countries. We can combine the interests of both parties and reach the agreements necessary.” The first round of these negotiations took place this past January in Beijing, at which time both Chile and China exchanged a large quantity of information about the mechanisms and legislation linked to the service and investment sectors of their respective economies. The Chilean delegation is made up of representatives from the Finance, Economy and Foreign Ministries, among others.