

## **The Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Dominican Republic launched the first round of FTA negotiations**

Abstract :

In order to further strengthen the economic ties between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Dominican Republic, both countries have agreed to launch negotiation on the bilateral free trade agreement. The first round of negotiation was held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic in late October.

The ROC delegation was led by Dr. Hou Ho-Shong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs, while the Dominican Republic delegation was headed by Ambassador Julio Ortega Tous, Executive Secretary for the National Commission for Trade Negotiations of the Dominican Republic.

The negotiation was divided into four negotiating groups: market access, institutional provisions, investment and services, cooperation in trade related issues. With the spirit of cooperation, both parties have made tremendous progress through 4-day intensive meetings and consultations. Officials from both countries held a number of sessions to discuss the draft chapters and examined the issues and elements. Significant progress was achieved in understanding each other's trade regimes and identifying areas of common interests.

In line with common objectives, the second round of negotiations is tentatively scheduled around March 2007.

Source: Taiwan Bureau of Foreign Trade