



ICDT INSIGHTS

From the Islamic Center for Development of Trade

www.icdt-cidc.org

April 2025

Number 11



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Briefs - Agenda

□ NEWS ANALYSIS

AZERBAIJAN TURNS TO RENEWABLES TO PREPARE FOR A POST-OIL FUTURE

Azerbaijan is accelerating the development of renewable energy projects totaling over 2.4 GW. This strategic shift aims to diversify its energy mix, anticipate global market shifts, and reinforce its commitment to international climate goals.



Like many middle-income countries in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, Azerbaijan is preparing to reach a crucial milestone in its evolution: the decoupling of economic growth from carbon emissions. According to a recent World Bank report, this transformation, which was

mainly the attraction of high-income countries, now represents a real prospect for countries such as Azerbaijan.

Indeed attracting investors to the energy sector of Azerbaijan, increasing the efficiency of renewable energy, and the share of alternative

energy sources in the energy sector became important issues in the country's economic development strategy.

In this regard, several agreements have been signed between Azerbaijan's Ministry of Energy and various Chinese

companies to develop renewable energy and battery storage projects in Azerbaijan, with a cumulative capacity of around 2.4 GW. In particular, Azerbaijan has signed a collaboration agreement with China Datang Overseas Investment and PowerChina Resources to implement a 2 GW offshore wind project in Azerbaijan's Caspian Sea region.

In addition, SOCAR Green and Azerbaijan's Ministry of Energy have signed a pact with China Datang Overseas Investment to implement a 100 MW floating

solar power plant project, combined with a 30 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) on Lake Boyukshor, near Baku.

The contracts also include an investment agreement on the 100 MW Gobustan Solar project between Azerbaijan and Universal Solar Azerbaijan, a subsidiary of the Chinese company Universal Energy, as well as an agreement with PowerChina Resources on the development and implementation of a 160 MW solar power plant.

Azerbaijan is stepping up its efforts to promote renewable energies in order to gradually reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, while remaining a key player in the sector. This approach is driven by two dynamics: the need to anticipate changes in global energy markets, and the desire to contribute to international environmental commitments. Baku intends to diversify its economy and strengthen its position on the sustainable energy scene.

Source: Trend News Agency, Enerdata.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE BETS ON THE BLUE ECONOMY TO DRIVE GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS, AND RESILIENCE

With strong economic fundamentals and a commitment to sustainable development, Côte d'Ivoire is positioning the Blue Economy as a pillar of its future growth. Backed by international partners, the country's new investment plan aims to strengthen fisheries value chains, boost food security, enhance coastal competitiveness, and build greater economic resilience in the face of global shocks.

Because of its remarkable economic resiliency and dedication to change, the nation has emerged as a key player in the region's progress and stability.

Côte d'Ivoire's economy has done well over the last ten years. Inflation has been around 2.2%, GDP growth has averaged 6.4%, and the proportion of people living below the federal poverty line has decreased. Despite the significant shocks that have shook the world in recent years, the nation has managed to preserve macroeconomic stability.

One of the main areas for growth and employment creation in Côte d'Ivoire has been highlighted as the "Blue Economy." In order to achieve this, the government has created a National Investment Plan for the Blue Economy with assistance from the FAO and presented it to its primary



financing partners.

Among other things, this plan focuses on the promotion of fisheries value chains, integrated coastal zone management (territorial planning) through the development of commercial aquaculture, sustainable fishing, the development of haliopoles and maritime safety and security.

The African Development Bank, through its Board of Directors, is also promoting the

development of this new segment by approving a loan of 24.63 million euros to strengthen the development of value chains in fisheries and aquaculture.

The project will be implemented in three main areas of Côte d'Ivoire: the seafront, including the towns of Abidjan, Jacqueville and Assinie in the south of the country, and the departments of San Pedro, Tabou, Grand Béréby and Sassandra in the south-west.

At least 700,000 people will benefit directly or indirectly from the program, which will be implemented over a five-year period (2025 - 2029). In fact, by creating high-value, innovative companies and promoting exports, the blue

economy boosts the competitiveness of coastal countries. Through the sustainable growth of aquaculture and fisheries, it directly supports food security. It improves economic resilience to shocks from the outside world and climate

change by diversifying revenue streams and decreasing reliance on established industries.

Source: Agence Ivoirienne de Presse, FAO

MALAYSIA AND UAE SIGN CEPA: A NEW ERA OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND ISLAMIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



With potential advantages for Malaysia's trade and investment as well as the UAE's diversification, the agreement is a part of an economic partnership that is quickly growing.

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed between Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It includes support for micro, small, and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs), digital trade, investment facilitation, trade in goods and services, and wider economic cooperation.

Since Malaysia ratified the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2022, this CEPA is the country's first cross-border economic pact. The UAE is indeed Malaysia's second largest trading partner in the West Asian region.

Bilateral non-oil trade topped US\$4.9 billion in 2023, and trade volumes increased further in 2024, up 7% year over year in the first half alone.

Including a special chapter on the Islamic economy—the first of its type for Malaysia—is one of the CEPA's novel and distinctive features. It is anticipated that this clause will improve bilateral collaboration in digital innovation, particularly the quickly expanding field of Islamic fintech, halal certification, and

Islamic finance.

The CEPA is also being used by Malaysia to advertise its higher education offerings. In 2021, there will be about 700 Emirati students enrolled in Malaysian universities, mostly in postgraduate courses in law, business, finance, and management.

Another key industry aiming for expansion under the improved bilateral ties is tourism. In an effort to increase inbound tourism, Malaysia has been actively interacting with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), particularly the United Arab Emirates.

Source: fulcrum Insitute



Utalii Africa Tourism Expo 2025

19 – 21 June 2025 | Kampala, Republic of Uganda



SAVE THE DATE

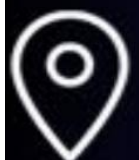
ICDT INVEST DAY IN COMORES

INVEST IN THE ARCHIPELAGO OF
OPPORTUNITIES



DATE

26 – 29
AUGUST 2025



LOCATION

Moroni



SAUDI ARABIA STRENGTHENS REGIONAL TRADE LEADERSHIP THROUGH ARAB FREE TRADE ZONE

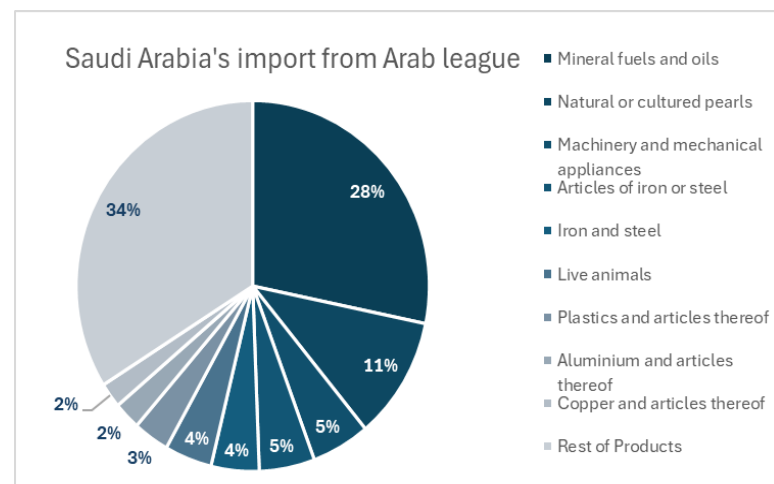
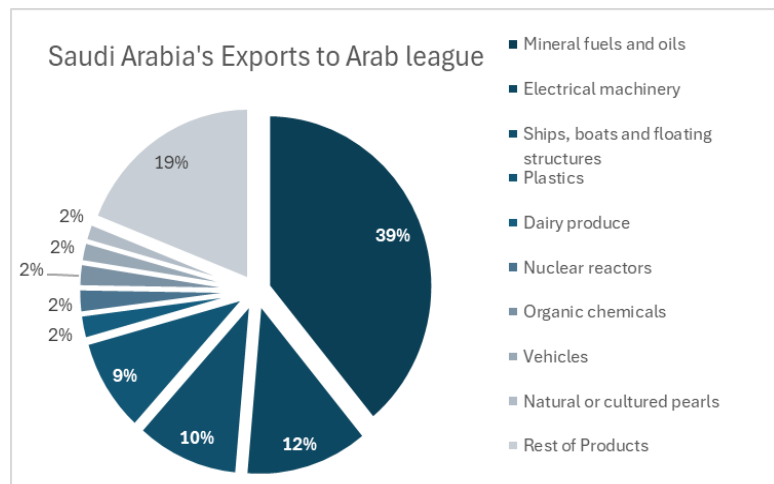
Saudi Arabia's trade with Arab League countries rose to \$23.39 billion in late 2024, driven by non-oil exports and regional cooperation.

Saudi Arabia's trade with the nations of the Arab League, including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), reached \$23.39 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024, representing 17.2% of the Kingdom's total global trade of \$136.15 billion.

This trade volume shows an annual growth rate of 6.2%, exceeding by more than \$1.33 billion the figure of \$22.06 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2023.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, the United Arab Emirates established itself as the leading Arab destination for Saudi Arabia's exports, which passed the \$6.27 billion mark. Bahrain came in at \$2.24 billion, Egypt at \$2.22 billion, Oman at \$1.18 billion and Jordan at \$0.79 billion.

Thanks to its bold Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia will surpass economic expectations and position itself as a major global power. With its strategic location connecting three continents, it is a crossroads for trade and investment, supported by progressive economic policies and forward-looking infrastructure.



The Kingdom's significant growth from diversification initiatives, non-oil exports and strategic alliances play a key role in setting new records.

Saudi Arabia's economic connection with regional markets has been strengthened via the Arab Free Trade Zone, which has also increased non-oil exports and drawn in new investment. It has improved the competitiveness of Saudi goods, encouraged economic diversification, and reinforced the Kingdom's standing as a major commercial hub in the

Arab world by lowering tariffs and trade obstacles.

Moreover, developing value chains within the Arab Free Trade Zone is essential to boost intra-regional trade and economic resilience. Saudi Arabia, with its strong industrial base and added value capabilities, is well positioned to lead this effort, driving regional integration, enhancing competitiveness, and creating new growth opportunities across the Arab world.

Source : ITC, Economy Middle East

BRIEFS

➤ **Korea, Malaysia set to hold 8th round of negotiations on bilateral FTA**

On 8th April 2025, Malaysia and Korea were set to hold their eighth round of negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) to broaden their trade portfolio and enhance cooperation according the statement of the South Korea's Industry Ministry.

The two sides plan to focus on making progress in negotiations across 10 sectors, including goods, services, investment and economic cooperation.

Korea already has an FTA with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), but it is seeking to forge separate free trade deals with individual members, including Malaysia.

Source: [Korea JoongAng Daily](#)

➤ **South Korea, Morocco seek early start of negotiations for economic partnership agreement**

On April 8th, 2025, the top trade officials of South Korea and Morocco discussed ways to launch negotiations for a bilateral economic partnership agreement (EPA) in the near future as part of efforts to boost the countries' cooperation in trade and investment according the South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The countries agreed to push for an EPA during the Korea-Africa Summit, held last year, to strengthen their collaboration on supply chains, digital industry and a broader range of other trade issues.

Prior to signing the EPA, the two countries can also strike a trade and investment promotion framework to swiftly promote cooperation

Source: [Yonhap](#)

➤ **Bolat: Turkey seeks comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Syria**

On April 18th, 2025, The Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat expressed his country's desire to negotiate a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Syria to increase trade and joint investments, improve infrastructure and energy to transport, land and maritime routes according the Anadolu Agency.

Source: [Sana](#)

➤ **Nigeria signs on AfCFTA tariffs**

On 15th April, 2025, Nigeria has gazetted its Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions (PSTCs) under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), marking a major milestone in the country's commitment to regional integration and trade facilitation across Africa.

The move enhances regulatory transparency and provides businesses with clear guidelines on import duty concessions.

The gazettement signals Nigeria's readiness to implement the AfCFTA Agreement fully.

Source: [The Nation](#)

➤ **Bangladesh eyes CEPA with UAE**

On April 22nd, 2025, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are set to hold the first round of negotiation on the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) soon, aiming to boost bilateral trade, which will help the country navigate the economic challenges in post-LDC period.

Source: [The Financial Express](#)



- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
 - Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
 - Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign
-
- Promoting commercial information.
 - Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
 - Assisting businesses and economic operators.
-
- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
 - Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized
-
- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
 - Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.
-
- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
 - Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
 - Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information
-
- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
 - Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
 - Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
 - Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment
-
- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
 - Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
 - Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.
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- Organizing seminars and training programs.
 - Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.
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- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
 - Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

agenda



- **13TH CHINA ROUND TABLE ON WTO ACCESSIONS,**
12-14 May 2025 • Muscat, Oman
- **41ST FOLLOW UP COMMITTEE OF COMCEC,**
13-14 May 2025 • Ankara, Türkiye
- **OIC TOURISM FAIR / AFRICA TOURISM EXPO,**
19-21 June 2025 • Kampala, Uganda
- **51ST SESSION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
20-21 June 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **ICDT INVEST DAYS - MORONI**
26-29 August 2025 • Moroni, Comoros
- **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye
- **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
02-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali
- **14TH EXHIBITION OF AGRIBUSINESS INDUSTRIES OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES**
11-13 December 2025, • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- **9TH ACMOI**
10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



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