

in all fields". He said that the UAE is witnessing the highest levels of development in the properties, tourism and service fields.

He added: through the dialogue with the businessmen; among which are the Canadians; the Contractors' Association is looking forward to opening cooperation horizons and partnership relations between the UAE and Canadian businessmen". He expected that the Canadian delegation shall obtain contracts to access the UAE and the area in the construction, tourism and contracting fields. Senam Shahani said: "the UAE-Canadian commercial relationships witnessed distinguished development in the past few months especially after launching direct flights from Abu Dhabi and Dubai to Toronto by the Ittihad and Emirates airways; the flights are three per week and can be increased during the coming few months.

Gheith Mohd. Gheith the talked about the anticipated cooperation horizons and previewed the specialized fields of GINCO Construction that achieved about 190 different buildings all over the UAE with the cost of about 2 billion USD.

The Head of the Canadian delegation expressed his extreme happiness to meet the members of the Contractors' Association in the UAE that he appreciates and respects.

The two sides previewed the joint activities being accomplished by the construction companies in the two countries, the Canadian investors and contractors expressed their wish to enhance the joint cooperation and open



the investment and experience exchange horizons; they welcomed the partnership in the building and constructional rise being witnessed in the UAE, the Vice of Dr. Belhasa promised to develop the partnership, cooperation and coordination relationships between the two sides; he congratulated the Canadian technicians in the UAE for their wonderful efforts; devotion and great performance.

The members of the visiting delegation introduced themselves got acquainted to the Association's members; they also discussed the possible joint cooperation fields.

35% Growth in the Commercial Exchange between the UAE and Canada during the past year

The commercial exchange between the UAE and Canada jumped to 35% to exceed 1 billion USD (3.68 billion AED) during the past year.

Senam Shahani; the Commercial Commissioner in the Canadian Consulate in Dubai said after the

meeting that the UAE holds the first position in the Middle East and North Africa in the field of commercial cooperation and Canadian exports, moreover 120 Canadian companies are working in the UAE in the field of industry, petroleum, gas, education, banking and others.

She said that the direct airlines connecting the UAE and Canada contributed in enhancing the commercial and tourism exchange process and pushed the development ratios up to more than 35% as she indicated that the Canadian exports on 2007 have increased to 30% which enhanced the commercial exchange that has gone above 1 billion Canadian Dollars.

Senam said that the Canadian delegation included representatives from 10 companies working in the fields of constructions, equipments, transport, tourism and financial services, the delegation will also visit many of the projects and governmental departments aiming to exploring the best investment opportunities in the UAE.