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The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Canberra presents its compliments to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Joint Standing committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Trade Sub-Committee, and would like to express its appreciation to the Committee initiative through holding meetings with representatives from diplomatic missions of Middle East and North Africa countries in Australia in order to strengthen the relationships on different levels between Australia and these countries.

In reference to the questions suggested by the Committee about how to enhance and improve cooperation in trade and economy fields between Australia and Kuwait, The Embassy is pleased to attach herewith answers and views to some of the suggested questions, and would like to inform that answers of a technical nature will be provided once a concise information received from the concerned Authorities in Kuwait.

- **Question: Does the absence of a double taxation treaty between Australia and MENA nations loom as a significant issue to overcome to attract investment and what other obstacles are there?**

**Answer:** Attracting investments requires an encouraging environment and a system that guarantees to protect investors rights, mentioning that one of the most encouraging factors for attracting investments is the presence of treaties that facilitates investments and businesses such as avoiding double taxation and Promoting and reciprocal protection of investments, noting that this is important for Gulf investors in Australia and for Australian investors in the Gulf countries. In this regard, the Government of Kuwait wishes to discuss signing an agreement with Australia on avoiding double taxation, and promoting and reciprocal protection of investments in order to attract more investments and improve trade and economy cooperation between our two countries.



- **Question: if Australian federal government ministers made more frequent visits to MENA nations and hosted more trade and investment missions in the region and also to Australia - does that help much with attracting more business, investment and students to Australia?**

**Answer:** exchanging formal visits between officials and decision makers from our countries and Australia is of a high importance and is welcomed from our side in order to create more sustainable opportunities for communication and mutual research in fields that are of a great matter for both sides.

- **Question: how does the Australian visa system for tourists, students, business people and cultural exchanges from the middle east compare to those of the united states, United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, and does it impact on visitor numbers and those wanting to study or do business in Australia?**

**Answer:** providing facilitations to visa processing or introducing "visa on arrival" will definitely make a significant difference in increasing numbers of students and tourists. Noting here that Australian citizens don't need to apply for Kuwaiti visa prior departure and can get it upon arrival at the airport in Kuwait, adding that Kuwaiti citizens are exempted from obtaining an entry visas to some countries in the Pacific like New Zealand which was a great reason behind the increase of Kuwaiti visitors numbers to New Zealand. Our Government is currently running negotiations with the European Schengen Zone Group and with the United Kingdom for exempting Kuwaitis from obtaining entry visas.

The Kuwaiti Government warmly welcomes if Australia is considering the application of "visa on arrival" facility for Kuwaiti citizens in accordance with the Principle of reciprocity, which will have a positive impact on the tourism in Australia and will put it on the top list of the travel destination for tourists, students and business people from Kuwait.

*Embassy of  
The State of Kuwait  
Canberra*



سفارة دولة الكويت  
كانبيرا

- **Question:** If Australia thought of as a leading tourism destination in the Middle East and do any of you have ideas on how Australian tourism marketing campaigns could be improved or better targeted?

**Answer:** the State of Kuwait welcomes any exhibitions or campaigns for promoting Australian tourism in Kuwait with the Coordination of the Concerned Authorities.

Finally, in regard to the questions about shipping documents legalization and costs, the Embassy of the State of Kuwait legalize shipping documents upon receiving and generally only takes one day to finalize legalization without any delay. Legalizing procedures are subject to laws and regulation of the State of Kuwait and are constantly under review in order to simplify the process and reduce the required time. As for the Legalization costs, they are fixed and unified for all Diplomatic missions of the State of Kuwait around the world.

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Joint Standing committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Trade Sub-Committee the assurances of its highest consideration.

Canberra 24/2/2015

