

HEALTHCARE CO-OPERATION

The signed MoU between the Department of Health and the Syrian Ministry of Health



On 6 August 2008 and on behalf of the Department of Health in the UK, Simon Collis, the British Ambassador signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for healthcare co-operation with the Syrian Ministry of Health.

Co-operation will mainly focus on a range of priority areas: Organisational Structure of the Ministry of Health, post graduate medical education for doctors, training and education for nurses/managers and quality assurance/accreditation of hospitals in Syria.

Each area will be subject to the laws and regulations for each country and gaining necessary consent from relevant bodies i.e. Home Office, General Medical Council and relevant Royal Colleges. The Participants will exchange information about legislation, regulations, agreements, arrangements and other instruments regulating activity in the field of health care, as appropriate, subject to any obligations of confidentiality.

A work programme containing specific details of the Syrian proposals for support and collaboration has also been prepared.

The healthcare sector in Syria, both private and public, is expected to continue to provide business opportunities for UK companies for the coming 5

years at least in the areas of equipment supply, consultancy, hospital design, training etc.

The State Planning Commission has applied for EIB loan to co-finance equipment and supplies for the following new hospitals:

Twelve (60-bed) hospitals,
Two (80-bed) hospitals,
Two (30-bed) hospitals,
One (500-bed) hospital,
One (240-bed) hospital,
One (160-bed) hospital,
Centre for Health Research,
Two Cancer Centres and for
Homs Grand Hospital.



The hospitals will be located in different cities of the country. The Ministry expects a positive reply from the EIB.

The Syrian private sector is also heavily investing in healthcare projects, some of them with Gulf investors. There are plans for 3 medical cities in the Damascus countryside and one near Homs, which is funded By Sheikh Bin Zayed of the UAE. UK consultants were sought for at least two of those projects.

Our Trade & Investment Section at the British Embassy in

Damascus is working very closely with the Ministry of Health and the Syrian private sector. We have played a very important role between UK Universities and the Ministry of Health, especially when the electronic communications let them down. We have introduced a number of them to the Ministry of Health to provide nursing programmes and develop a carrier structure for Syrian nurses for some of the nursing schools and universities.

The level of co-operation between the Ministry of Health, the DoH and the British Embassy will see further development, with the implementation of the MoU and the Syrian side's increased confidence in the UK healthcare system.

A Sector In Market Summary (SIMS) on Healthcare in Syria is available on the UKTI website www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk.

UK companies are advised to register, where a wealth of information and business opportunities on the LifeScience and other sectors will be brought to their attention from all parts of the world.

UK companies and universities interested in exploring business opportunities in the healthcare sector in Syria are advised to contact Ms Fadwa Soud, LEI Trade & Investment Officer at the British Embassy in Damascus, who leads on this sector.

Contact details are:
Tel: 00963 11 3391533 (direct)
Mobile: 00963 944 284833
Email: fadwa.soud@fco.gov.uk.