

DR1 News  
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## **Promoting business with India**

India's new ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Deepak Bhojwani has offered his wholehearted support for renewed efforts to promote more business between India and the Dominican Republic. He urged activating the Indian Chamber of Commerce in the DR so that it may serve as a liaison between Dominican and Indian businesspeople and the governments of both countries.

In a meeting sponsored by Fernando Gonzalez Nicolas, president of the Commonwealth Roundtable at the National Business Council (CONEP), Bhojwani stressed that a better understanding and demystifying of both countries is needed in order to open roads for more active relations.

Bhojwani commented that major progress has been made with the visit of Indian Foreign Minister Shashi Tharoor in January this year, and the scheduled visit of President Leonel Fernandez to India in February 2011, a joint initiative by the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in India under ambassador Hans Dannenberg.

The Indian Embassy and the Commonwealth Roundtable are organizing a Doing Business in India workshop on 19 January to encourage businesspeople to accompany President Fernandez to India. The venue for the workshop will be announced closer to the date.

Trade with India is currently worth US\$60 million, most Indian imports. Bhojwani offered his embassy's assistance for encouraging more mixed businesses, and for re-launching the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Bhojwani announced the Center for Excellence in Information Technology at the CyberPark for training Dominicans in ITC, availability of scholarships for courses in India, and programs in India for matching business owners.

During the meeting held at the National Business Council, sectors including pharmaceuticals, IT, mining, textiles and free zone parks were encouraged to participate in the January workshop.

Bhojwani is optimistic that in the not too distant future the Indian government could make funds available to open an embassy in the Dominican Republic.

Ambassador Bhojwani is based in Havana, Cuba. He presented credentials in November 2010. He is a career diplomat, and a graduate in commerce. Prior to being appointed ambassador to Cuba, Haiti and the DR, he was ambassador for India in Colombia and Costa Rica.

Ambassador Bhojwani can be contacted at [amb@indembassyhavana.cu](mailto:amb@indembassyhavana.cu), Fernando Gonzalez can be reached at [fgonzalez@cccdr.com](mailto:fgonzalez@cccdr.com) for information on the workshop. And Hans Dannenberg, ambassador of the Dominican Republic in India, can be reached at [hdannenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:hdannenberg@hotmail.com)

See <http://tharoor.in/press/press-release-shashi-tharoor-in-dominican-republic/> for information on the visit of the former minister of foreign relations of India.

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