

## Overseas Market Information



### Panama

Secretariat of Energy, Panama plans to construct one new thermal plant of 60 megawatts and one 6 megawatts diesel plant [to be located in Howard] to enable it to meet the electricity demand during the summer of 2008. On April 16, 2007, the electricity demand reached the record figure of 1024 megawatts per day. According to the National Center of Electrical Transmission Company, the installed electricity generation capacity, at present, is 1411 megawatts per day, 6.5% more than of what was at the end of 2006 [1324 megawatts per day].

Panamanian Technological Industry Company [subsidiary of the European Treco Group] has proposed to develop eight wind energy projects in Panama. The plans for two projects have already been designed while the rest six are in the study-phase. Each project will cost between US\$ 150 million to US\$ 200 million. The Toabre [Cocle] project will produce 250 megawatts and the Mendoza project will produce 200 megawatts by the year 2009/2010.

### Panama Canal Expansion

Panamanian company Constructora Urbana S.A. [CUSA] won the first contract for dry excavation of the channel to connect the Guillard Cut and the new locks of the Pacific at a cost of US\$ 41.094 million. CUSA won the contract among the competition from 10 companies and consortiums that had made proposals for the tender issued on 6th July. The work requires excavation, removal and disposal of 7.4 million cubic meters of material at Paraiso hill [west of Canal]; to clean 146 hectares of land contaminated by explosives in this sector of the Pacific [deposited by US Army in Panama]; to construct a 3.4 km road in Bornquen [located west of the Pedro Miguel Locks]; and to prepare sites for placing six towers of electrical transmission lines of 230 Kilowatts between Panama and La Chorrera [which are to be relocated to give way to the enlargement project]. In total, the Canal enlargement project [worth US\$ 5,250 million] includes eight tenders; two dredging contracts, five contracts of dry excavation and a contract for design and construction of new locks in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The second tender is expected to be issued between September-October 2007.

*(Source : Embassy of India, Panama)*

### Lebanon

Saudi based Al-Tuwairqi Group is planning to build an US\$ 80 million factory in Lebanon, producing steel reinforcing bars in collaboration with a local partner. The facility would employ around 350 people and produce about 500000 tons a year of the bars which are used for strengthening concrete frequently applied in construction. Al- Tuwairqi Group is still in the process of acquiring the land and is not expected to start production before 2009. The firm wants to build the plant primarily to sell bars to the local market. The last steel factory closed down a few years ago. Lebanon imports most of its bar steel from Egypt and Ukraine. A ton of bars sells for about US\$ 850; locally Al-Tuwairqi intended annual capacity of 500000 tons could be marketed at a much lower price.

*(Source : Embassy of India, Beirut)*