

MR. Taoufik Baccar, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) and Mr. Afif Chelbi, Minister of Industry, Energy and Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (PME) presided over on Saturday 28 March 2009 in Sousse, works of the regional seminar on investment and financing to projects.

Some 66 new projects were adopted for a global cost of 28.5 million dinars. These projects would bring about some 835 jobs.

Mr. Baccar indicated on this occasion that the regional development strategy is a global principle that involves all the regions, giving priority to needy areas and targeting complementarity between all the regions of the country.

He underlined the importance given to investment as a development and employment catalyst in the regions and stressed the need to favour high added-value projects and promising sectors and to take advantage from possibilities offered in the region of Sousse.

The Governor went over adopted measures as of the outbreak of the international financial crisis, which helped reduce its impact on the financial sector, pointing out that the contribution of the monetary sector to the economy in 2008 grew by 13.9%.

Apart from the seminar, Mr. Baccar and Mr. Chelbi visited two companies at Kalaa Kebira. The first is specialized in manufacturing para-medical equipments and the second in manufacturing medicines. They also visited a business centre in Sousse.

Interventions on development indicators in the Governorate of Sousse, the economic initiative, mechanisms of intervention by the Bank to finance small and medium-sized businesses (BFPME) and the Tunisian Solidarity Bank (BTS) were also on the agenda.