

Mr. Taoufik BACCAR, Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) met on Wednesday 23 December 2009 in Tunis with Mr. Issam Youssef Jinahi, chairman of the executive board of the company of the project of Tunis financial port, currently in a visit to Tunisia.

Mr. Jinahi stated that the meetings he held with the Tunisian managers and the Governor of the BCT dealt with review of implementation of Tunis financial port project.

He went over the different steps involved in achievement of this project recalling that a team made up of relevant parties ie. Beit Ettamwill Al Khaliji, the BCT and the financial group "Pricewaterhouse Coopers" was formed two years ago to work out a coherent plan for the creation of a modern financial centre.

He recalled that the Head of the State put, in June 2009, the first stone of the project, stressing the progress achieved so far and affirming that it is to move forward significantly in 2010.

Mr. Jinahi noted that the meeting dealt also with the programme to present the project during international events in Europe, The United States and South East Asia as well as international financial institutions operating in the offshore financial and banking area.

He declared that the final plan of project with the cost varying between 4 and 5 billion dollars will be announced in 2010.

He underlined the constant interest of the Head of the State in this project, which helped to get access to new investments and advanced technologies and therefore to give more importance to the national financial area, an approach that was outlined in 2009-2014 presidential programme.

Mr. Jinahi referred in this context to BCT support to this project, stressing the Bank's added value in setting up a developed financial industry, reflecting thus Tunisia's position as an "investment and transparency site".

He explained that cooperation between the Tunisian monetary authorities and the international institutions represents a factor of confidence with respect to investment in Tunisia and contributes to reduction of risk despite the prudence that marks foreign investment worldwide in such a difficult economic situation.

The meeting was held in the presence of Mr. Foued Daghfous, main councillor of the President of the Republic and chairman of the commission of major projects.