

PRESS RELEASE

**Banks: ABI, 3.3 billion euros for companies in Singapore and Malaysia**

*Mr. Santececca said: "Internationalization and supporting companies are a priority for Italian banks and pivotal to their businesses"*

3.3 billion euros to fund exports and investments in Singapore and Malaysia. This is the funding made available by the Italian banking sector to companies wishing to operate in this area, which is a bridge to South-East Asia, Asia and India. This figure was presented today by Domenico Santececca, manager of ABI, during the economic mission organized with Confindustria, (confederation of Italian industry), and ICE (foreign trade institute), led by Adolfo Urso, the Italian Vice Minister for Economic Development.

"Supporting internationalization and businesses – said Mr. Santececca – is a priority for Italian banks. Even in the current global environment, the Italian banking sector is proving to be sound and stable. Italian banks continue to support the national economy and to do their 'jobs' properly by supporting households and companies, both in Italy and the strategic markets, such as Singapore and Malaysia".

**Line of credit for companies operating in Singapore and Malaysia**

Of the credit lines made available by Italian banks – approximately 3.3 billion euros – 2.3 billion euros has been allocated to fund exports and investments in Singapore, of which 1.3 billion (55% of the total) has already been used.

On the other hand, 940 million euros has been made available by the Italian banking sector to support business projects in the Malaysian market, of which 496 million euros (53%) has already been used to fund new businesses.

65% of the funding with respect to Singapore and 43% of that with respect to Malaysia is allocated for short-term transactions, while 35% and 57%, respectively, for medium and long-term transactions.

**Italian banks in the area**

Italian entrepreneurs who choose to start up a business and make productive investments in South-East Asia, and especially in Singapore and Malaysia, may, apart from using the abovementioned lines of credit, also rely on the Italian banking sector's support.

Specifically, three Italian banking groups operate in Singapore: Intesa Sanpaolo and Unicredit Group have two branches and UGF Banca has a representative office in the area.

BNL, Cariparma and Friuladria, on the other hand, support Italian companies operating in the local market through their parent companies (BNP Paribas and Crédit Agricole-Calyon), while UBI Banca Group has, through one of its subsidiaries, a financial company in the area.

For what regards Malaysia, Italian banks support entrepreneurs who wish to operate in this market through their representative offices, which are also responsible for neighboring countries, through their foreign parent companies (BNL, Cariparma and Friuladria) as well as collaboration agreements which have been signed with Malaysian intermediaries or foreign banking groups operating in the local market.

**The banking delegation**

Six major banking groups, representing approximately 70% of banks in the sector, (Intesa Sanpaolo, Unicredit, Monte dei Paschi, BNL-BNP Paribas, Banco Popolare, and UBI Banca) participated in the economic mission.

Singapore, 15 June 2009