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On Chilean Trade With Central America

by Deborah Tyroler

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On March 24, in Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Claudio Vasquez, director of Chile's recently opened trade office for Central America, told reporters that Santiago is committed to expanding trade with the region. He said Chilean exports to Central America last year totaled US\$40 million. According to Vasquez, the Central American market with 28 million inhabitants and US\$7.2 billion worth of imports per year is a promising one for Chilean exporters. At present, Chile accounts for only 0.4% of total Central American imports. A third of regional imports originate from the US. Vasquez said the most promising areas for Central American exports to Chile are fruit, coffee, cotton, shrimp, lobster, and crafts. Potential Chilean exports to Central America include manufactures, sweets, fruit juice, medicines, agro-chemicals, vehicle spare parts and construction materials. (Basic data from Agencia Centroamericana de Noticias-Spanish news service EFE, 03/24/92)

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