



Doha Bank CEO R Seetharaman speaks at The International Arab Banking Summit in London on Tuesday.

'FTA can boost GCC-UK bilateral trade'

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

DOHA

A free-trade agreement (FTA) between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the United Kingdom (UK) will boost bilateral trade between the two economic blocks, Doha Bank Group CEO R Seetharaman has said.

Speaking at the International Arab Banking Summit

in London on Tuesday, he said the bilateral trade between the UK and GCC reached £30 billion in 2015.

"The British government would be keen to expand its trade, commercial and investment ties with the Gulf States and will find willing partners in the region," he said.

"The road ahead for a free-trade agreement (FTA) seems to be open between both the

blocs, particularly as the GCC already has similar agreements with many countries and blocs," he added.

"The fast-growing Gulf markets are seen as an important outlet for British exports. This gives UK exports a competitive edge and achieving remarkable gains though its imports from the GCC such as petroleum, petrochemical and aluminum products," he said.