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Pakistan Eyes Expanded Trade Ties With Oman

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Pakistan is pursuing stronger economic cooperation with Oman, targeting key growth sectors including information technology, energy, and healthcare. President Asif Ali Zardari recently emphasized the potential for enhanced bilateral trade during high-level discussions, signaling Islamabad's strategic push to diversify its Gulf partnerships. This move

aligns with Pakistan's broader effort to attract foreign investment and secure new export markets amid economic challenges.

The proposed collaboration focuses on five priority areas: IT services, construction, healthcare infrastructure, food security, and energy projects. Oman's strategic location and stable economy make it an ideal partner for Pakistan seeking to expand its regional footprint. Notably, the Gulf nation has emerged as a significant importer of Pakistani manpower, with nearly 300,000 expatriates currently employed there, providing a strong foundation for deeper economic ties.



Market analysts highlight particular potential in IT cooperation, where Pakistan's growing tech talent pool could complement Oman's digital transformation initiatives. Energy sector collaboration also presents mutual benefits, with Pakistan seeking investment in power infrastructure while Oman looks to expand its refining capacity. However, experts caution that realizing this potential requires Pakistan to address persistent bureaucratic hurdles and improve its business climate to attract Omani investors.

As Pakistan navigates economic headwinds, strengthening ties with Oman offers a pragmatic pathway to stimulate growth. While the vision for enhanced cooperation is clear, its success will depend on Islamabad's ability to translate diplomatic overtures into concrete business opportunities. With both nations positioned to benefit, this developing partnership could mark a turning point in Pakistan's economic engagement with the Gulf – if backed by actionable policies and private sector participation. The coming months will reveal whether these ambitions materialize into measurable progress.