



The morning rolled on and IBW was up bright and early for their Riyadh Chamber of Commerce invitation. Whilst expectations were high, the quality of turnout from Saudi businesses more than outshined the quantity.

Speaking to the media and the Saudi business community Lee Jennings, International Business Wales' Vice President for the Middle East, said: "The advantages of doing business in Wales such as tariff-free access to UK and EU markets, financial incentives for capital investment, a highly skilled work force and excellent research and development facilities are eminent, as nearly 500 international companies including 180 US, over 50 Japanese and more than 200 organisations from the EU have located there."

"Being based in Wales provides the optimal launch pad for businesses to grow on the national and international stages; in the past 25 years almost 1,500 companies have invested a total of US\$26 billion into Wales; over 40% of this spending was reinvestment," he added.

After a hectic final few days in Riyadh, the delegation flew off to Bahrain. However, we're hoping to see more than a few back in both Riyadh and Jeddah soon to continue developing the strong links and bonds between the Welsh and the Saudis. However, with the companies on the delegation reporting that they've already sewn up, or in negotiations to finalize, just under US\$8.5 million worth of agreements, it shouldn't be long before we see a much stronger Welsh presence in Saudi Arabia, the heart of the Gulf.

The companies participating in the trade mission were;

Alpha Omega – Education & Training
 Contact - Thamer Hassan Albahrani
 Website: www.alphaomegacollege.co.uk

Encapsulated Wildflower Seeds R & D Ltd –
 Agriculture & Farming
 Contact - Sharon Eva Haydney
 Website: www.encapsulatedseeds.com

GL Jones Playgrounds Ltd - Leisure
 Contact - Hefin Lloyd Jones
 Website: www.gljones-playgrounds.co.uk

Hobbs Valve Limited – Oil & Gas
 Contact - Rhys Jones
 Website: www.hobbsvalve.co.uk

J C Plant – Industrial & Construction
 Contact - John Lewis

Richard Collins Associates Ltd - Education
 Contact - Richard Anthony Collins
 Website: www.rcollinsassoc.co.uk

Teddington Engineered Solutions Ltd –
 Oil & Gas
 Contact - Jason Anthony Thomas
 Website: www.tes.uk.com

Unimaq Ltd – Machinery Manufacturers
 Contact - Roman Lozano
 Website: www.unimaq.co.uk