

## PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN VISITS RIYADH



### Visit to King Saud University

But this visit was not all about contacts between the two governments. On 2 November, the Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited King Saud University. He was met by the President of the University, Dr Abdullah al Othman who highlighted some of the research projects and professorial links which have made King Saud University internationally recognised. The Prime Minister then had the opportunity to hear more about King Saud University's plans for future development such as its proposed technology park. Mr Brown witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Magdi Yacoub Institute and King Saud University. The world-renowned heart surgeon himself was in the Kingdom for the signing and the Prime Minister introduced his old friend Sir Magdi as "one of the greatest men alive today."

The second half of the visit to King Saud University saw the Prime Minister meeting female and male students who were interested in the United Kingdom and the opportunities to work and study there. The Prime Minister concluded the visit by witnessing an exhibition of the flourishing educational links between the UK and Saudi Arabia.

The Prime Minister's visit to King Saud University came at a time of growing educational links between the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. This year 12,000 Saudi students will study in the UK on Saudi government scholarships. Many British students also attend Saudi universities and the links go further through the educational system. There is increased co-operation as well between schools and Technical and Vocational Colleges.

