



The City business delegation is also looking forward to sharing experience in areas such as law, accountancy, banking, regulation, infrastructure finance and skills and training to our mutual advantage. The domestic programme of Saudi-isation has created a huge demand for advice and expertise in establishing professional training qualifications, particularly in business and finance. London offers world-class opportunities in terms of education and skills and we hope not only to welcome more young Saudis at leading higher education establishments in Britain, but also to spread the word to UK training bodies of the opportunities offered by working with the Kingdom's talented young people.

Despite the recent turmoil, London remains a key gateway to international markets and the UK continues to be the most open of all major economies, with few restrictions

on ownership or transfer of real estate and corporate shareholdings. Many Saudi families own property, run businesses or work in London and come and go without fuss. In doing so they employ the services of private bankers, wealth managers and lawyers and this further cements the relationship between us. Indeed, we think of them as Londoners.

Bilateral trade between the UK and Saudi Arabia is strong. The Kingdom is the UK's largest trade and investment partner in the Middle East and the UK is the second-largest foreign investor in the country. We hope that this relationship will continue to grow and that even in these turbulent times Saudi Arabia and its nationals will continue to look to the U.K. as a place to do business just as we look to Saudi Arabia, and as we both benefit from the expansion of contacts between 'the Two Kingdoms'.

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