



# The Duke of York

The UK's Special Representative for International Trade and Investment

His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, The Duke of York, made a 3-day visit to the Kingdom in March of this year. He was accompanied on his trip by his Assistant & Private Secretary Mr. Robin Ord-Smith, and Equerry Captain Duncan Bailey. Prince Andrew came to the Kingdom as the UK's Special representative for International Trade & Investment, a position he adopted in 2001 following 22 years service in the Royal Navy. The purpose of the visit was to promote the UK as an attractive inward investment destination, and create a more positive environment for UK businesses investing in Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness arrived at King Khalid International Airport on Saturday 14 March. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sir William Patey, and Deputy Minister of Commerce HE Abdullah A. Al Hamoudi met him at the terminal. The Duke's first call was on HE Amr Al Dabbagh, the Governor of SAGIA. The meeting began with a presentation about the Economic Cities and discussions about the future of Saudi Arabia's development and bilateral trade. The Duke of York

also took the opportunity to invite HE Amr Dabbagh to the UK this summer in conjunction with a major Two Kingdom's investment conference.

The SAGIA meeting was followed by a lunch at the Ambassador's Residence in the company of senior British Businessmen. Prince Andrew had a chance to discuss the business environment in Saudi Arabia and discuss issues faced by businessmen working in the region. The Duke was reportedly impressed at the performance of the Saudi economy in the light of the global financial crisis. Later in the afternoon, taking advantage of the pleasant weather, the Duke of York had an informal chat with British Embassy staff in the Residence Gardens.

The next meeting of the day was with HE Abdullah bin Ahmed Zainal Alireza, Minister of Commerce & Industry, and Prince Andrew's official host in the Kingdom. The hour-long meeting involved discussions about improving bilateral trade between the two countries, the Global Recession, and the visa application process for UK

