

SAUDI SCHOOLS PRAISED AT CONNECTING CLASSROOMS CONFERENCE



Saudi schools were praised for their enthusiasm and commitment to building successful international school partnerships with their counterparts in the UK at the International Connecting Classrooms Conference in Kuwait from March 31 to April 1.

Nine teachers and principals from schools participating in the Connecting Classrooms programme represented Saudi Arabia at the conference. The Saudis shared their experiences and best practices with 150 other delegates. "It was a great opportunity to share our work and experiences with other schools from the region and the UK. We are now into our second year of the project and have felt the impact of the programme on our school, teachers and students. We have now been given the chance to share this impact with others at this conference," said Dr. Leila Issa from Najd Private Schools in Riyadh.

Kingdom Schools, Najd Schools, Olaya Schools, and Advanced Learning Schools from Riyadh, Dhahran Ahliya Schools from Dammam, and Dar Al-Rowad Schools from Jeddah received awards from Patrick Brazier, the British Council Middle

East Regional Director. Receiving his certificate, Dr. Khaled Al-Gabreen, Olaya Schools General Supervisor, said: "I am honoured that my school has received this certificate of achievement. I know that my colleagues at the school will also feel the same as they worked with enthusiasm on the Connecting Classrooms project. This award will encourage them to work even harder."

During the country group discussion, the Saudi group identified several important areas for focus in schools. They included cultural and religious understanding, awareness of global issues, communication skills, motivation, English skills, critical thinking and risk-taking.

Language and cultural identity, science and invention, and global issues were also explored as possible areas for future collaborative projects by school partnerships.

The Saudi participants agreed that it was important to continue working on the Connecting Classrooms programme, as it would support young learners into becoming truly global citizens.