



FROM THE CHAIR

The year now draws to a close and the past months since the last issue of RGBB News have been a time of crisis for business worldwide. The strength of the Saudi economy will mean that the impact of the global recession will, hopefully, be not so great for those of us here in the Kingdom.

At the end of August I had the honour of representing all three Saudi British Business associations – the BBA, the BBG and the RGBB at the Fifth Annual Middle East Association seminar “Opportunity Arabia”. This was an exceedingly well attended seminar and reflected the continuing interest the United Kingdom has in doing business in Saudi Arabia. The recent visit, in early November, by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown, accompanied by a high level business delegation, served to emphasise the commitment of British industry and trade to Saudi Arabia – by far the U.K.’s largest market in the Middle East.

Further to enabling access to British business and British business people the information on the RGBB website has been updated and by the end of the year the website will provide limited details of the membership.

The RGBB has been busy and in addition to its primary aim of promoting British business, is actively engaged with the British community. In furtherance of this engagement the Board has approved supporting, with donations, a number of deserving causes - the British International School (B.I.S.) with their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (International Award Scheme) and also the British Military Mission and their fund raising for Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League. Support has also been given to the Riyadh Choral Society and the British Embassy Wadi Club.

In April the RGBB was able to support the B.I.S. Robotics Club teams and I congratulate them on their success. The RGBB is more than happy to continue its support of the B.I.S. and especially with regard to its involvement with the International Award Scheme. On 18 October, in the new school hall, I was delighted to be able to present a cheque of SR7,500 to the B.I.S. I must though declare a personal interest having had the good fortune to successfully take part in the scheme whilst at school – some thirty years ago! Since its beginning in 1956 the scheme now has the widest reach of any UK youth charity, with



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The RGBB 2008-2009 Executive Committee

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