



## Special Interest Group News

The BBG's 13 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continued to flourish. "All of them were represented at the Intergulf Conference, where they made a major contribution to discussions, and a lasting impression on the DTI (Michael Blandford) and Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (Jim Sillars)," said Bailey, who then gave a round up of the achievements of the SIGs during 1997-98.

The Consultants' SIG exploded the myth of the 'superior North American consultant'. The group will address two problems in the coming year; registration and re-licensing, and how best to promote British consultants to the UAE government.

The Trading and General Services SIG, Bailey said, "has cultivated the interest shown by the DTI, to the extent that Department personnel now schedule their UAE visits to coincide with the monthly meeting." This SIG was also responsible for the material used in the BBG website.

"Requests for the product testing service are received regularly, encouragingly through Business Links, with whom we are building a strong relationship. This service is providing a valuable resource for the would-be small UK exporter" said Bailey.

The BBG's policy on education "has been completely transformed" by the Education and Training SIG, he said, "Under the chairmanship of firstly John Fulcher and then Graham McCulloch of the British Council, influence has been brought to bear on government institutions.

"Examples include support for a seminar on dyslexia which helped to change the policy of the ministry of Health towards this disorder; sponsorship of a careers advisory service for UAE Nationals; and promotion of the adoption of NVQs as the UAE standard.

"Most significant has been the Group's support for the Raleigh International project, which encouraged several of our members to sponsor more than 30 young Nationals on forthcoming expeditions. The BBG, too, is to sponsor one National during the coming year," said Bailey.

The youngest SIG, Medical and Healthcare, is establishing links with both the Ministry of Health, and addressing the demand for high-quality British pharmaceutical products and professional healthcare.

"It has been asked to provide feedback to the Dubai-UK Trade and Economic Committee (DUKTEC) working partly on healthcare issues in the UAE," said Bailey. "DUKTEC continues to flourish and there are further exciting initiatives, including the making of the a video to promote Dubai UK trade relations plus a proposed tour of the UK which has the full support of the British Government.

## Construction News



For the bumper "Festive Season" edition I have stepped back to let two members of the Construction Group take center stage with articles reflecting their particular field of expertise.

Brian Suggett writes on air pollution, his closer friends would suggest that wind would have been a far more appropriate title!

David Langdown has contributed his thoughts on waste and water, it's a messy job but someone has to get rid of it.

I will make only one comment on the local scene, how do the people building the concrete rig on Olaya know they will find oil underneath?



*As of 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the Faisaliah building has reached the thirteenth floor.*

