

We are pleased to announce that Brian Suggitt has agreed to take over the role of Chairman of the Construction SIG, his contact details appear elsewhere in the magazine. We are sorry to have to bid farewell to David Langdown who is leaving the Kingdom in March 2000 after more than 16 years in Riyadh. Thank-you David for all your contributions to the group since its inception.

Following the unanimous approval given at the last Embassy briefing, we are proceeding with the project to include Members Office contact details on the RGBB.com site. This is also being done by the groups in Eastern & Western province, further enhancing the

As we approach the end of the year there is an air of uncertainty regarding the Y2K issue. A good deal of press has been seen in the past weeks on the readiness of the Kingdom to meet this challenge. I think it is fair to say that the banks and large organizations have done a great deal of work to make themselves as compliant as they can be. However I believe that there are many that have done little to safeguard their businesses and systems to ensure compliancy.

I must admit that I am worried that there will be some major problems as we bring in the new millenium. There are of course two major religious events that coincide this year with Christmas and Ramadan; a period when many are away from their work. Electricity will be the "Achilles heel" but there has been little reported except to say that all is well but it is the utility on which the whole of the modern society relies. Many of my Saudi friends are less pessimistic, believing that the whole problem has been over exaggerated and whilst there may well be some problems life will continue without major problems. I hope they are right and I am wrong but should you be staying in Kingdom over the period I suggest that you stock up on food and water!

opportunities for Kingdom-wide networking. Mick Brown and the COMMIT SIG have taken over responsibility for the maintenance of the site and you will be seeing a number of new links and features appearing in the coming months. Our sincere thanks go to Ian & Susan Maddison for all their hard work in setting up the site.

We are currently investigating the possibility of publishing a membership directory, containing a brief company profile and a picture of the individual members, to assist in putting names to faces. Feedback from the membership would be appreciated.

Zylab Presentation

On Tuesday the 5th October 99 we had our first meeting after the summer break when a presentation was given by Paul Brown, an Account Manager from Holland. I have added a couple of paragraphs below for those who didn't manage to make it to the presentation which gives an overview of the software package and its capabilities. This was followed by a supper provided by the Hyatt. Over thirty members and wives attended and judging by the questions afterwards found the presentation useful on how to store all this paper electronically and then being able to find it again.

I plan to hold meetings monthly in the new year and if there are any suggestions for a topic or someone is willing to give a talk please get back to me and I will help with the arrangements. As always you can get in contact with me at my email address mick@abugshan.com.

Between writing the Autumn report and going to press, I will be attending the Telecomm 99 exhibition in Geneva and GiTEX in Dubai. I will report back in the next edition.

BDSC UPDATE

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COMMIT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

AUTUMN REPORT

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Zylab's UK Office