

## CHARITY GALA DINNER FOR TURKISH EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS



"On August 17th 1999, a terrible earthquake of 7.4 magnitude struck eight major towns in the northwest of Turkey. Over 70,000 buildings were destroyed, over 80,000 made uninhabitable. Over 16,000 people were killed in their sleep and over 600,000 were left homeless."

That piece of news made millions around the world catch their breath and thank God that they lived far away from such devastation. Prayers were said for the victims and their families and the international aid machines started to grind.

That wasn't enough though for RGBB member Andrew Houghton and his wife Cery. They had lived in the area previously, made friends there and had fond memories of the area and the people.

As General Manager of Riyadh's Marriott Hotel, Andrew was able to call upon his fellow Hoteliers to pull together in an unprecedented manner in an effort to do something directly for the survivors. Management from the Al Khozama, Holiday Inn, The Hyatt Regency, The Inter-Continental, The Marriott, The Riyadh Palace, The Sheraton and The Sahara Hotels joined forces to stage a fund raising evening at The Turkish Ambassadors residence on the 19th October, an event attended by over 400 guests.

Utilising their extensive connections through every level of Riyadh society, the Hotels attracted major contributions from companies including Al Rabie Saudi Dairy, Arabian Hala(Avis), British Aerospace, British Airways, Emirates Airlines, Hoshanco Graphic Arts, KLM, Lufthansa, Orient Lines, The Saudi British Bank, Turkish Airlines and YBA Kanoo. Each of the Hotels donated free accommodation at venues around the world and locally hundreds of individuals gave their time and expertise to organise a really tremendous evening.

A combination of staff from all the hotels took good care of the guests and some excellent entertainment was provided by Carmen Felichi & Joe Duggen, Eddie McCafferty & The After Hours Band and Elizabeth's Most Excellent Music Show. The Master of Ceremonies, David Lawton arrived courtesy of Orient Lines.

As I write, another quake has struck the region, this mornings count registered only the number dead. Over SR 200,000 has so far been donated and the pot still grows. Will this have been a one off event?



Captions  
from Top to bottom

1,  
Andrew & Cery  
Houghton checking  
the raffle numbers.

2,  
His Excellency  
Mr Ahmet Banguoglu  
Ambassador of Turkey  
with  
Robert & Alison Clay

3, Left  
Cloes & Annagreta  
Spong with other  
guests on the Chaine  
des Rotisseurs table.

4, Right  
Luke & Alison Bowen  
putting on the style.

5, Left  
General Managers  
from the sponsoring  
Hotels

6, Right  
Gunter Grigoleit from  
the Inter-Continental  
with David Lawton

7,  
Chefs from the  
Inter-Continental &  
the Al Khozama Hotel