

Nigel Turner, chief executive of bmi, the second largest airline operating out of London's Heathrow airport, visited Saudi Arabia in January to celebrate bmi's doubling of its services between Riyadh and London from three to six flights per week.

Introduced at the briefing by Andrew (no relation) Turner, DHM at the British Embassy, Nigel acknowledged the company's pride in the success of bmi's Middle East network, in particular the Riyadh - London route. "Since we began serving Saudi Arabia in 2005 and in particular over the last year, despite the difficult economic conditions, we have seen a steady increase in the demand for business travel between Riyadh and London" said Turner. "By doubling our service to six per week, we are meeting our customers' demands for a more flexible schedule, allowing for shorter, more convenient journeys and less time away from the office, making travel planning easier and better for business" he continued.

"The Middle East has proven to be a very successful market for bmi, and in light of this, we are doing everything we can to enhance our network and services. I am confident that the enhancement to our service from Riyadh will be a success and will be a further testament to the growing business and tourism relationships between Saudi Arabia and the UK."

bmi currently operates more direct services from Middle East destinations than any other airline and in many cases, they are the only British airline to serve these routes. Since 2005 this has certainly been the case in Saudi Arabia. bmi is also unique in that it is the only British airline to serve all three Saudi gateways, Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam, providing business and leisure travellers convenient direct flights with no connections into London.

"bmi is committed to Saudi Arabia and the greater Middle East and acknowledges its position as the World's fastest growing aviation market. In 2009, we are adding 40% more seats across the region and despite difficult economic times, we foresee an increase in demand to utilize this increase" Turner said

bmi operates from its home of over 40 years London Heathrow's Terminal 1. There are many benefits to travellers flying to and through Heathrow with bmi. Not only is the terminal quieter and more relaxed with 8 million fewer passengers since commencement of operations from Terminal 5, but the recent arrival of bmi's Star Alliance partners United and Air New Zealand, means that bmi passengers can now connect quicker and easier to flights to the United States without the need to leave the terminal and to Canada from T3 with Air Canada.



Special Briefing



For business class passengers and Diamond Club passengers, the dedicated bmi Arrivals Lounge offers dining, newspapers and shower facilities, ensuring that travelers are ready to start their day fresh and relaxed.

bmi flight BD 774 departs Riyadh at 01:50, arriving in London at 05:50 every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

bmi flight BD 776 departs Riyadh at 01:50, arriving in London at 05:55 every Tuesday, Thursday. On Sunday, BD 776 departs Riyadh at 02:20, arriving in London at 06:25

The return flight, BD 775 departs London at 10:30, arriving in Riyadh at 19:50, every Tuesday, Thursday Sunday. The same flight departs London at 11:35, arriving 20:55 every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

These flights as well as those to and from Jeddah and Dammam and any other bmi flight can be booked through all travel agents, at bmi sales and reservations offices or online at www.flybmi.com

After a lively Q&A session, Nigel announced, much to the delight of all, that bmi would shortly be offering a chauffer service at both Heathrow and Riyadh airports for business class passengers living within a radius of the terminals.

