



PRESIDENT OF SAUDI ARAMCO IN UK

Mr Abdullah Jum'ah paid an official visit to the UK in October as a guest of the British government. He was accompanied by senior colleagues. The programme focussed on supply chain management, education and training, and cutting edge SMEs. We are now following up with Saudi Aramco in all those areas.

TRADE MISSIONS

October was another busy month on the commercial front despite the aftermath of 11 September. We hosted a trade mission led by Lawrie Walker of the Middle East Association. A mission of Saudi officials and businessmen in the water sector visited the UK for the International Water and Effluent Exhibition (IWEX). This mission was a major success and brought substantial orders for UK companies. We are expecting a follow-on British Water trade mission to the Kingdom in mid-April. A mission of Saudi businessmen in the tourism and leisure sector also visited the UK in October for Leisure Industry Week. This also brought significant new opportunities for British companies. We also took a mission of Saudi businessmen from the healthcare sector to Dubai in late January to attend Arab Health at which more than 85 UK companies exhibited their products and services.

The Saudi-European Trade Investment & Financial Services Mission visited the Kingdom led by Sir Alan Munro visited the Kingdom from 19-23 January. A number of major British companies were on it. Their programme included calls on HRH Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Governor of Riyadh; H.E. Hamad Saudi Al Sayari, Governor, SAMA; H.E. Eng Ali Al Naimi, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources; H.E. Osama Jaafa Faqih, Minister of Commerce and HRH Prince Abdul Majid bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah.



SAUDI-BRITISH JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Saudi-British Joint Business Council met in Riyadh on 20 October. The presence of a senior group of British businessmen sent a strong signal of our continuing commitment to the market while many others were staying away.

E-COMMERCE

Robert Hudson, Export Promoter and Dr Simon Moores, Adviser to the Government's Office of the E-Envoy visited the Kingdom in January to undertake a short study on potential opportunities for UK companies in the e-commerce and e-government sectors. We hope to attract a significant UK presence at GITEX in Riyadh from 21-25 April. We are also arranging senior British participation in the parallel government sponsored conference.

SAUDI BRITISH TRADE DIRECTORY

The 2002 edition of the Saudi British Trade Directory is now available on the Internet at www.sbtbd.co.uk. I hope that you will be able to find the time to have a look. It identifies local sources of British supplied goods and services in Saudi Arabia. It also serves as a platform for British companies not formally represented in the Kingdom to indicate their desire to do business here. Hard copies of the directory are available from the RGBB Secretary or the Commercial Section of the Embassy if you need them.

CHANGES TO UK LAW ON CORRUPTION OVERSEAS

On 14 February 2002 new legislation will come into effect in the UK regarding corruption overseas. It explicitly provides that UK law applies to the bribing of foreign public officials, including MPs, Ministers and judges and "agents", whether public or private, as well as those who work in the UK public sector or for UK "principals". A bribe is defined as an undue reward of any kind designed to influence an individual in the exercise of his duty.

More importantly, a UK national, or a company or other entity incorporated under UK law can now be prosecuted in the UK for bribery even if no part of the offence took place in the UK. Previously, in order to establish UK jurisdiction, some part of the corrupt transaction needed to take place within the UK (e.g. the decision, the transaction, or the arrangements). The new law means that UK-registered companies and individuals are now breaking UK law if they bribe someone overseas.



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