



This years InterGulf was held in Dubai on the 13th & 14th January 2004. Luke Bowen attended on behalf of the RGBB. Five principal speakers addressed the conference



prior to representatives from each of the BBG's bringing the conference up-to-date on the situation in their own territory.

The speakers included Richard Makepeace, HM Ambassador Abu Dhabi who expressed appreciation of the important role played by the business groups in promoting British business within the region.

Sir Stephen Brown, C E Trade & Investment, who recently attended the RGBB Briefing in Riyadh , spoke about a number of topics including the relationship between UKTI and the business groups where an important key is the local business communities' willingness to share experience and knowledge

Peter Clack, a Senior Adviser Vocational Partner from the British Council spoke about many of the experiences in replacing expatriates with a local work force and Malcolm Pickering from the Sharjah Institute of Technology addressed the conference on a number of vocational training issues.

David Lock from the British University in Dubai(BUiD) described how the University has been founded giving details of the launch and future plans.

Peter Ellwood, Regional Director of the British Council in Abu Dhabi summarised the main points emanating from the conference relating to knowledge transfer

In a later session the question was posed as to whether all the groups have the same objectives. It was agreed that main objective

of all the groups was to help British companies but the definition of how this is achieved varies, due partly to the political and economic circumstances. Groups are sanctioned or officially recognised in varying ways by the different governments and are either tolerated or encouraged.

At future InterGulf meetings, attendees were asked to consider whether business groups would welcome sector or technical presentations to larger membership? Muscat will look at possibility for next meeting.

Some of the Commercial Officers attending would have been interested in hearing the business group presentations, perhaps next meeting could be restructured so commercial officers meet on first day, joint meeting to take place on day two, however it was decided that the InterGulf joint meeting should be one day only.

Other attendees asked that more notice of the main theme be provided, and if viable, the business groups should hold a half yearly meeting regarding the topic, possibly conducted by video conferencing.

Regional representatives from the BBG's included:

Abu Dhabi

Robert Schwartz  
bbgauh@emirates.net.ae

Bahrain

David Galbraith  
bbbforum@batelco.com.bh

Dubai

Jennifer Bibbings  
trish@britbiz-uae.com

Dubai

Nick Dutt  
nick@airmiles.co.ae

Dubai

Jo Maher  
Jo.maher@ae.britishcouncil.org

Saudi Arabia Eastern Province

Colin Clarke  
colin@kanoosa.com

Saudi Arabia Eastern Province

Brian Willey  
brianwilley@rezayat.com.sa

Saudi Arabia Jeddah

Nasir Pasha  
npasha@baj.com.sa

Saudi Arabia Riyadh

Luke Bowen  
luke@arabianc.com

Kuwait

Graham Hawkins  
business@bbf.org.kw

Oman

Chris Green  
qgmhemt@omantel.net.om

Oman

Maggie Jeans  
jeans@omantel.net.om

Oman

Douglas Aitkenhead  
Douglas@ociped.com

Qatar

Bob Muir  
qbbf@qatar.net.qa

Representatives from UK Trade & Investment included:

Abu Dhabi

John Gardner  
John.Gardner@fco.gov.uk

Bahrain

Isabel Mulvaney  
Isabel.mulvaney@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Simon Collis, HMCG  
simon.collis@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Lee Jennings  
Lee.Jennings@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Paul Smith  
Paul.Smith@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Rashid.Khawaja  
Rashid.Khawaja@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Francine Torbett  
Francine.Torbett@fco.gov.uk

Dubai

Mohammed Al Bastaki  
Mohammed.ABastaki@fco.gov.uk

Iraq

Mustaq Birader  
Mustaq.Birader@fco.gov.uk

Kuwait

Bernie Wilson  
Bernie.Wilson@fco.gov.uk

Oman

Malcolm Ives  
Malcolm.ives@fco.gov.uk

Qatar (Doha)

Eric Matthey  
Eric.matthey@fco.gov.uk

KSA - Al Khobar

Mike Hurley  
Mike.hurley@fco.gov.uk

Tehran

Graeme Thomas  
Graeme.Thomas@fco.gov.uk

UK

Fergus Harradence  
Fergus.harradence@fco.gov.uk