



his experiences while studying in the UK. In response to a wide range of questions from the audience, the Prince elaborated on the ways in which Saudi individuals, families and businesses responding to the challenges of living in a rapidly evolving society in the modern-day world.

At the end of his talk the Prince was presented by SABB with a gift commemorating the event. The evening was rounded off in style with a sumptuous buffet supper sponsored by SABB together with a wide and welcome range of refreshments provided by the Embassy.

Background

Born in 1951, Prince Abdullah received his education in Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom where he studied engineering. Prince Abdullah started his professional career with the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu soon after its creation in 1975. His early work as an engineer included technical and managerial positions, responsibility for the coordination of various studies for the two industrial cities, and later for the industrial safety sector. In 1985, he was entrusted with duties of Acting Secretary General of the Royal Commission until 1987 when he was appointed Secretary General. In 1991, he became Chief Executive Officer of the organization and chairman of its Board of Directors.

In April 2000, the Saudi government introduced sweeping reforms to its foreign investment policies, which included the creation of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority, with the mandate to promote investment in the Kingdom, both foreign and domestic; Prince Abdullah was appointed Board Chairman and Governor of this new organization with the rank of Minister. He left at the end of his four-year term in 2004, and has been engaged in variety of business ventures since then.

Throughout his career, even as a senior government official, Prince Abdullah was keenly interested in environmental matters and the production of organically grown plants. While at the Royal Commission he fostered a responsible environmental culture in the industrial and residential zones. As a result, the Royal Commission was awarded the prestigious Sasakawa Prize by the Japanese government, the only institution of its kind to have ever received it. He became personally involved in efforts to reduce carbon dioxide pollution through the fixation of atmospheric carbon into halophyte plantations along the Saudi seacoast. He was responsible for a massive clean-up effort of oil slicks after the first Gulf War.

More recently he has launched an organic products retailing organization, and is developing a fully organic vegetable and fruit farm that will be a model for other such enterprises in the Kingdom.

