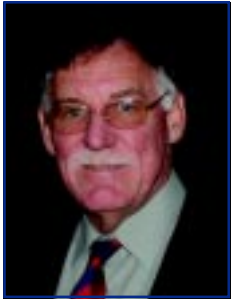


Notes from the Eastern Chair



Geoff Fennah MBE
Chairman, British Business Association
Eastern Province

The first half of 2007 is now behind us and we are all looking forward to our hard earned summer breaks. It has been a hectic period with Eastern Province so focused on major project activities that seem to outstrip the intensity of the boom days of the 1970 / 1980's. Long may it last!!

It has also been a busy period for the BBA as we continued to review our activities and systems. This effort resulted in the launch, during March, of our first website. Visit us at www.bbaep.com where you will find information on upcoming events as well as other useful information. The website is currently viewed as a starting point and will be continuously developed to incorporate more useful information for both our members and the business community, in general.

Our successful program of business dinners continued with an interesting update on the South Rub Al-Kali (SRAK) project by CEO, Patrick Allman-Ward in March and a detailed insight into the mechanics and trends of the Saudi economy presented by Mohammed Ramady, Associate Professor, Finance and Economics, KFUPM, in May.

In March, EP had the honour of welcoming HRH Prince Andrew, The Duke of York to the province on a trade visit. During late April, the British Trade Office (BTO) introduced a very successful new initiative by hosting a Saudi British Week in Al-Khobar. This involved a balance of business and social events attended by several trade missions from UK as well as members of the local British and Saudi business communities. BBA were pleased to contribute to the events and especially to sponsor the Garden Party for British Wives. Congratulations to Terry Evans and her staff at the BTO for a very successful and well-organized event, which must surely be repeated.

Below:
HRH Duke of York
chatting with guests
at a reception in
March 2007

The Queens Birthday Party, held during British Week, also provided an early opportunity to welcome the new British Ambassador, William Patey, back to the Kingdom after a ten-year absence, having spent time in London, Khartoum and Baghdad.



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The social scene has also been busy with the regular quizzes being well attended. BBA also made a contribution to the success of the annual BAE Beach Day. The annual Summer Ball was held on 7 June at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Bahrain with a good time being had by all and it was especially pleasing to see representatives from RGBB and Bahrain BBF in attendance again.

Don't forget our open invitation to members of other British Business Groups to attend our functions, either business or social, as you will always be welcome. Any enquiries relating to our events should be communicated to bbakhobar@atheer.net.sa or via our new website as referenced above. Enjoy the holiday season.

