

# TRAINING THE TRAINERS



10 June 2008 marked the completion of a one year 'training the trainers' project between the International Programme of the UK Charity Commission and the Saudi Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).

At an event held at the MoSA training school, Deputy Minister Dr Awadh Al-Raddadi presented the participants with graduation certificates. Dr Al-Raddadi also presented a plaque to the Embassy in recognition of the cooperation between the two organisations.

Over the last 5 years, the number of charities in the Kingdom has doubled. There are currently well over 400 registered with the MoSA. Like the Charity Commission in the UK, MoSA helps to regulate the charity sector and ensure that administrative and financial procedures are followed and that organisations are well managed.

Given the rapid expansion of the charity sector throughout the Kingdom, MoSA approached the Embassy in 2006 to ask if we could provide some capacity building assistance. Given the excellent

contribution that Saudi charities make to society we were very keen to help and fortunately we were able to obtain funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth for a project. We also managed to secure the services of Didi Alayli from the International Programme at the Charity Commission. Didi, who is an expert in her field, also has considerable experience of the region.

Working alongside MoSA's Dr Abdel Aziz Al Hadlaq and his team, Didi was able to devise a training programme that met the needs of the Ministry and ensured that their staff would be able to better able to support and regulate charities in the Kingdom. The training covered a number of modules that focused on different areas – assessing trainees' needs, training design, use of visual aids, monitoring and evaluation .

The participants, both men and women drawn from MoSA's national network of offices, were highly motivated. This ensured that the training progressed quickly. Although this project has come to an end it is hoped that we will have opportunities for future cooperation in the not too distant future.



With the establishment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 1960, social awareness campaigns were conducted to encourage a volunteer movement at a national level. The first charities date from this time, and focused on the collection of money from the richer sections of the population to fund support for the poor and needy. Over time, the Saudi charitable sector has developed and diversified, with many now offering programmes for targeted groups, including disabled children and women headed households.