



KING FAHD

*The Years
of
Devotion*

CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

27 OCT 1996

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KING FAHD



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of
Devotion*

1996

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*Onward towards the glory and the heights
Give thanks to the Creator of Heaven
And raise the green flag
Carrying the glowing light
Say again "God is great" ... O my Homeland
May you remain the Pride of the Muslims
Long live the King, the Flag and the Country.*

The Royal Saudi National Anthem



The Late King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud
Founder of the Modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



King and Prime Minister and The Custodian
of the Two Holy Mosques:
King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud



Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and
Commander of the National Guard:
HRH Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud



Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence
and Aviation and Inspector-General:
HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud



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Message from His Excellency the Ambassador

For half a century, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, has devoted his efforts to the interests of the Saudi people, has been a tireless supporter of Islam, and has worked for justice and peace throughout the world.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made great advances in all fields during these times and has completed five important Development Plans. All Saudi citizens have benefited from the wealth generated by oil revenues and our welfare system is one of the most generous in the world. During the 1990/95 Plan, 18 per cent of total government spending was allocated to education. This vital sector has always been of concern to King Fahd, who was our country's first Education Minister. Less fortunate nations have benefited from Saudi Arabia's philanthropy, because the Kingdom is a major donor of foreign aid.

Under the direct supervision of King Fahd, impressive expansion and development projects have been carried out at Makkah and Madinah. Each year, some two million Muslims visit the Holy Places to perform the pilgrimage (*Hajj*).

King Fahd's stature as a statesman was confirmed during the Gulf War when victory was achieved, thanks to Saudi Arabia's heavy investment in a national defence infrastructure. The Taif Accords in October 1989 resulted in a framework of reforms to assist the Lebanon, and the Saudi monarch has constantly supported the peoples of Palestine, Afghanistan and Bosnia.

This booklet highlights Saudi progress including the evolution of the governmental system. King Fahd, Crown Prince Abdullah and the Saudi government have proved equal to the tasks they have undertaken. We feel very proud to be part of the nation's evolution.



Dr Ghazi A. Algosabi

Ambassador of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques to the United Kingdom and Eire

Introduction by the Information Attaché



Dr. Fouad Farsi: Minister of Information



HRH Prince Turki Ibn Sultan: Deputy Minister



Dr. Mohammed A. Sobaihi: Information Attaché

At home, the Saudi Ministry of Information assists in the intellectual and cultural development of the country's citizens, whilst safeguarding Islamic values and conforming to the *Sharia*. However, the Ministry has a wider, international role, and attempts to present an accurate picture of the Kingdom to other nations via nine centres for foreign information, including our own in London.

Since taking up my appointment as attaché in 1989, it has struck me how little I need to search for material concerning developments in my country. The public and private sectors produce intelligent, high quality displays of their achievements and talented Saudis travel the world to explain our traditions, culture and creativity.

One of the first permanent displays at Cavendish House was an excellent representation of the remarkable transformations at the industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu. Since then we have organised a number of important exhibitions and seminars at the London Centre. For example, a few years ago 50 Saudi artists came to London to show their work. We use outside galleries as well as the excellent facilities of Cavendish Square to showcase our national talent.

Over the past 10 years, the Saudi Information Centre has published several booklets on the Kingdom. These include *The Two Holy Mosques*, which provides a historical perspective on the accomplishments at the Holy Places and tells of the magnificent achievements at Makkah and Madinah during recent years by The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz. In 1992, we produced a booklet to mark the 10th anniversary of King Fahd's accession to the throne. The need for this new publication is apparent when one considers the major advances made, and the difficulties confronted and overcome, by King Fahd and his government during the years following this anniversary.

'King Fahd: The Years of Devotion' attempts to provide an accurate description of our country and its modern history. It also includes an invaluable directory of government, including the

Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council), and profiles the achievements of King Fahd since 1945. This booklet then offers an in-depth look at the accomplishments of the completed Development Plans, the first of which was introduced in 1970.

The progress made during the recent past has been truly remarkable and reflects positively on all those involved. As ever, we give thanks to our leader, King Fahd, and his loyal Crown Prince Abdullah and pray for Allah's protection and blessings upon them. We also thank the Ministers whose work was completed last year for their contributions to national progress. Our thoughts are with the members of the new Cabinet as they seek ways of building upon earlier successes.

Personally, I would like to thank all my colleagues in the various departments of the Ministry of Information for encouraging me to develop an effective information programme in the United Kingdom. The Minister, His Excellency Dr Fouad Farsi, has given me constant support and HRH Prince Turki Ibn Sultan, who is responsible for foreign information and all overseas Centres, has always been ready to offer advice and encouragement.

The Saudi Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Eire, His Excellency Dr Ghazi A. Alghosaibi, who has served the Kingdom so well, has always found time to extend support to the London Information Centre. Our lecture evenings that he has hosted at Cavendish House have been highly successful and bring together important figures from the Arab and Western communities in London. We have welcomed a number of Saudi guest speakers who have taken part in the great development march of King Fahd.

Ambassador Alghosaibi's achievements in London have been numerous and are very well known, but I would just like to say that he has always sought to ensure that a true picture of the Kingdom is available to the people of this country. One of the Ambassador's constant concerns has been to correct misunderstandings concerning our religion, political system and way of life. This booklet is offered in the same spirit and I hope you find it both interesting and informative.



Jeddah, Old Town.

Photo: Geoff Adams



"It is our sacred duty to extend a hand not only to our brothers but to the whole human race in its hour of need. We hope to fulfil this obligation without looking for gain or praise"

King Fahd



INTERNATIONAL STANDING

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a founding member of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). It is also a member of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and many other organisations.

Saudi Arabia is among the world's top foreign aid donors. "We have . . . never failed to promote the welfare of our people, as well as that of our Arab and Muslim brothers. We have readi-

ly shared with them the fruits and riches of this country, extending our aid all over the world," King Fahd said in 1991.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comprises almost four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula, and is situated in the south-western part of Asia. The eastern part of Saudi Arabia is a plateau that begins with the great Nafud desert in the north, continues along the Arabian Gulf, and culminates in the world's largest sand desert, the Rub Al-Khali (Empty Quarter), in the south.

To the west of this plateau is the Central Province, the heartland of the peninsula, which is known for its spectacular escarpments and gravel and sand deserts. The capital city of Riyadh is located here. A chain of mountains in western Saudi Arabia runs parallel to the Red Sea. The Western region along the Red Sea contains the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, the port city of Jeddah and the summer capital of Taif.



CLIMATE

From June to August, the mid-day temperature in the desert can soar to over 40 degrees C. Humidity in the coastal regions may approach 100 per cent at times. In contrast, weather in other areas of the country may be mild throughout the year. Winter temperatures in the northern and central regions may drop to below freezing. Rainfall ranges from none at all for up to 10 years in the Rub Al-Khali, to 20 inches a year in the mountains of Asir Province.



CALENDAR

The Islamic calendar is based on the beginning of the Islamic era and dates from the year of the *Hijrah*, the emigration of the Prophet Mohammed from Makkah to Madinah. *Hijrah* years are lunar: one month is the cycle between two new moons. The weekend in Saudi Arabia is Thursday and Friday.

The 12 months of the Islamic lunar year are: *Muharram, Safar, Rabia Al-Awal, Rabia Al-Akher, Jamad Al-Awal, Jamad Al-Akher, Rajab, Sha'aban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Zul Qidah, Zul Hijjah.*



Photo: Peter Davidson





Guide to Saudi Arabia



- 1. Riyadh** – Capital
 - 2. Makkah** – Holiest city of Islam, towards which Muslims pray
 - 3. Madinah** – Holy City and burial place of the Prophet Mohammed
 - 4. Jeddah** – Port city and entry point for pilgrims
 - 5. Jubail** – New industrial city
 - 6. Yanbu** – New oil/natural gas liquids shipping terminal and industrial city
 - 7. Dhahran** – Oil industry centre and metropolitan area
 - 8. Al-Khobar** – Commercial centre
 - 9. Dammam** – Port city and commercial centre
 - 10. Taif** – Summer capital and mountain resort city
 - 11. Hail** – Important trading centre
- Ras Tanura** – Oil shipping terminal and refinery centre
- Hofuf** – Principal city of the Al-Hasa Oasis
- Abqaiq** – Oil production and processing centre



Photos: Peter Davidson



BUSINESS HOURS

Government offices are open Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm; private businesses usually from 8:00 am to 12 noon and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm; general banking hours are from 8:00 am until 12 noon and from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm; and markets and shops are open from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm.



HOLIDAYS

There are two official holidays in the Islamic calendar, during which all government offices, private businesses and educational institutions are closed. The first holiday is *Eid Al-Fitr*, the feast of the breaking of the fast, which begins on the 25th day of the month of *Ramadan* and lasts through the 5th day of the following month. *Eid Al-Adha*, the culmination of the *Hajj*, begins on the fifth of the month of *Zul Hijjah* and continues to the 15th. During this time, millions of Muslims from all over the world visit Makkah to perform the pilgrimage.



TIME

Saudi Arabia is on Greenwich Mean Time plus three hours (GMT+3).



CURRENCY

Saudi coins are called *halalahs*. Coinage denominations are 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 *halalahs*, with 100 *halalahs* equal to one *riyal*. Bank notes, printed in Arabic on one side and English on the

reverse, are in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500 *riyals*.

One pound Sterling is equivalent to 5.56 Saudi *riyals* (May 1996). One U.S. dollar is equivalent to 3.75 Saudi *riyals*.



POPULATION

The following figures were released in September 1992 by the Directorate of Census at the Ministry of Finance & National Economy:

Population	16,929,294
Saudi Nationals	72.7 %
Males	6,211,213 (50.4%)
Females	6,093,622 (49.6%)
TOTAL	12,304,835 (Saudiis)
Non-Saudis	27.3 %
Males	3,255,328 (70.4%)
Females	1,369,131 (29.6%)
TOTAL	4,624,459 (non-Saudiis)



Birth of Islam



Madinah.



Birth of Islam



"Spending on the Holy Places will continue in accordance with their status in our hearts as Saudis and in the hearts of Muslims throughout the world. We do not seek any praise or reward other than from Allah."

King Fahd



The spiritual centre of the Islamic world is the holy city of Makkah in western Saudi Arabia. In the 6th century A.D., Makkah was one of Arabia's thriving commercial centres, and it was destined to play the most important role in the birth of Islam. Around the year 610, The Prophet Mohammed (Peace be Upon Him) received a message from God (in Arabic, *Allah*) through the Angel Gabriel.

As more revelations enjoined him to proclaim the oneness of God universally, the Prophet Mohammed's following grew. In 622, learning of an assassination plot against him, the Prophet led his followers to the town of Yathrib, which is now known simply as Madinah. This was the *Hijrah*, or migration, which marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

Within the next few years, several battles took place between the followers of the Prophet Mohammed and the pagans of Makkah. By 625, Madinah was entirely in the hands of the Muslims. The Prophet Mohammed unified the tribes so successfully that by 628 he and his followers re-entered Makkah without bloodshed.

Less than 100 years from the advent of Islam, the Islamic Empire extended from Spain to areas of India and China. Islam made no distinction based on race, class or background, and the Muslim world was considered a single world-wide community, the *ummah*.

Islamic rule thrived well into the 17th century, and while Europe was passing through the Middle Ages, the Islamic civilisation made tremendous scientific, medical, literary and artistic advances that have had a lasting impact on the world.



Madinah.



Makkah.



Modern History and King Abdulaziz, the Founder



In the early 18th century, Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab, the son of a religious judge, called on Muslims to return to the original form of Islam. Initially persecuted, he later found protection in the town of Diriyah, which was ruled by Mohammed Ibn Saud, a member of the prominent Al-Saud family. The partnership between these two men eventually led to the foundation of Saudi Arabia.

By the early 1800s, the Al-Saud family ruled much of the Arabian Peninsula. This rise to power alarmed the Ottoman Empire, which sent forth its armies to contain the influence of the Al-Saud. The Ottomans ultimately captured Diriyah, thus ending the first phase of the Al-Saud reign in 1818.

By 1824, the Al-Saud had regained political control of central Arabia and once again ruled the region from their new capital of Riyadh, located close to Diriyah. A period of unrest and tribal warfare began in 1865 and resulted in the Al-Rashid family, with Ottoman support, extending its power over the Saudi state. The Al-Saud, under the leadership of Abdul Rahman, were forced into exile in 1891. They lived on the borders of the Empty Quarter before settling in Kuwait.

Twenty-one-year-old Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud left Kuwait in 1901, determined to recapture all of the territory once held by his forefathers and to extend his protection over the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. In a daring battle he recaptured Riyadh in 1902. This event marks the beginning of the formation of the modern state of Saudi Arabia. After establishing Riyadh as his headquarters, Abdulaziz proceeded over the following decades to unite the different regions into one nation.

On September 23 1932, the country was named the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an Islamic state, with Arabic designated as the national language and the Holy Quran as its constitution.

The stability and prosperity that has reigned in Saudi Arabia for some 64 years are due in large part to the legacy of its legendary founder. King Abdulaziz was a remarkable leader of imagination

and vision who launched Saudi Arabia on the road to its rightful place on the world stage. Although he never left the Arab world, he astounded visitors with his shrewd mastery of world affairs and proved to be a highly-sophisticated statesman. Self-disciplined and moderate, intelligent and courageous, his considerable abilities were reinforced by his deep devotion to God.

During his rule, King Abdulaziz laid the foundations for the modernisation of his country. He began to build the infrastructure, first establishing roads and basic communications systems, and later introducing modern technology and improving education, health care and agriculture. He died in 1953.



Photo: Geoff Adams



The Minister of Information, His Excellency Dr. Fouad Farsi, has described the Saudi National Day as a symbol for one of the most important events of the 20th century and as a starting point for the greatest political and social change the region has ever witnessed. The founding of the modern Kingdom was the culmination of a heroic 30-year struggle, achieved by King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud and a few brave followers in an arid land characterised by a difficult climate.

"When we recall the past," said Dr. Farsi, "we realise the great sacrifices made by our fathers and grandfathers . . . King Abdulaziz was anxious to bring up his sons in the light of the teachings of Islam . . . He taught them to become God-fearing men and to shoulder their responsibility towards their country . . . Nothing can be accomplished without wise and far sighted leadership. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz has said that "our country enjoys security and stability in an unprecedented manner and has earned the respect of others . . . and its relations with others are based on principles of mutual respect."



The National Day, London



The Sons of the Founder

Saud, the eldest son of Abdulaziz, acceded to the throne upon his father's death in 1953. He instituted the Council of Ministers and established the Ministries of Health, Education and Commerce. A large number of schools and the Kingdom's first institute of higher education, King Saud University, were opened in Riyadh in 1957. In 1962, Saudi Arabia sponsored an international Islamic conference, which fostered the World Muslim League, headquartered in Makkah.

Faisal Ibn Abdulaziz became king in 1964. King Faisal's governance at home was marked by a respect for tradition combined with innovation. While his father, King Abdulaziz, had shaped the Kingdom, Faisal built and consolidated the country. His vast experience in foreign affairs, which started at an early age, allowed him to devote great effort to this area during his reign. To deepen links between Islamic nations, he travelled widely throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. He took firm control of the country's fiscal policy and in 1970 initiated the first of the highly successful five-year Development Plans that have resulted in Saudi Arabia's rapid development.



Left to right, The late King Saud, King Khalid and King Faisal.

King Faisal was a central force behind the establishment of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah in 1971, which is composed of Islamic countries and is dedicated to promoting Islamic unity and co-operation. King Faisal was named *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1975 and was one of the world's most-respected leaders, as well as one of its most powerful men.

King Khalid Ibn Abdulaziz succeeded King Faisal in 1975. Under his leadership, Saudi Arabia continued its development at a remarkable pace. King Khalid launched the Kingdom's monumental Second and Third Development Plans in 1975 and 1980, under which the country's major infrastructure was established.

The standard of living increased substantially and the Kingdom achieved political and economic prominence both regionally and internationally. Under King Khalid's leadership, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) was formed in 1981. The GCC links Saudi Arabia with neighbouring Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates for economic and security co-operation and co-ordination.

The Sons of the Founder



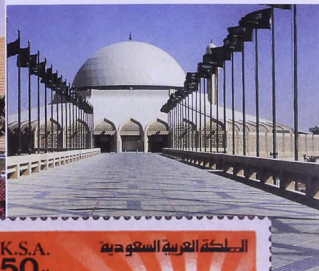
King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Medical Centre.



King Saud University.



King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh.



Guest Palace, Jeddah.



G.C.C. meeting.





The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd



The Kingdom's current leader, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, succeeded King Khalid in 1982. He has directed Saudi Arabia's continued development and the diversification of its economic base away from reliance on oil. As the Kingdom's first Minister of Education during King Saud's reign, he helped to plan and implement a far-ranging programme to improve the quality of education and make it available to all Saudi citizens.

In 1962, as Prince Fahd, he became Minister of the Interior and, in 1967, Second Deputy Prime Minister. Prince Fahd was invested as Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister in 1975. Thus, he was an active participant in Saudi Arabia's progress and growth that began in earnest with the introduction of the first five-year Development Plan. Among Crown Prince Fahd's many achievements in the realm of foreign affairs was his 1981 proposal to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict known as the Fahd Plan and adopted by the League of Arab States as the Fez Initiative.

King Fahd's reign has been marked by his great concern for the Saudi people. He has declared: "I will be father to the young,

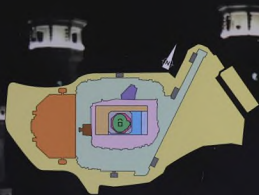
brother to the elderly, I am but one of you: whatever troubles you, troubles me; whatever pleases you, pleases me." In his desire to ensure the continued development and security of the nation into the 21st century, King Fahd has introduced a series of measures aimed at revitalising and streamlining the existing political and administrative system.

King Fahd's dedication to his nation is surpassed only by his commitment to Islam. As The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah, the holiest sites in Islam, King Fahd has personally supervised a series of projects to facilitate the Haj for more than two million pilgrims from around the world who visit the holy sites each year. "This is a great responsibility which we are honoured to bear and we must always be equal to the task," he said in a recent statement on the occasion of *Eid Al-Adha*, the culmination of the Haj.

In 1985, King Fahd launched a major project to expand the two holy mosques and the facilities in Makkah and Madinah in an effort to allow a larger number of Muslims to make the



Expansion of Makkah, through the Ages



Year	Extension	Sq. m
Area of the Mosque at the time of Quraysh		2,030
17-688	Uthman Ibn al-Khattab	610
26-646	Uthman Ibn Aifan	1,710
65-684	Abdullah Ibn al-Zubair	3,340
88-91/707-10	al-Walid Ibn Al-Malik	2,805
137-40/754-7	Abu Jafar al-Mansur	5,320
160-164/777-80	al-Mahdi	15,020
284-897	al-Mutadid	1,320
306-918	al-Muqtadir	950
	The First Saudi extension	125,900
	Extension of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz	
	Phase 1: Development of roofing for the First Saudi expansion and provision of escalators	42,000
	Phase 2: Expansion and beautification of the Haram	76,000
	Phase 3: Development of grounds surrounding the Haram	65,800
	Total extension of King Fahd	203,800
	Total area after the expansion	356,000

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd



Expansion of Madinah, through the Ages



Year	Extension	Sq. m
1-7/622-628/9	Area constructed during the time of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him)	2,475
17/638	Umar Ibn al-Khattab	1,100
29-30/648-50	Uthman Ibn Affan	496
88-91/707-10	Abul Hasan Ali-Malik	2,369
161-165/777-81	al-Mahdi	2,450
681/1476-7	Sultan Qayt Bay	120
1265-77/1848-60	Sultan Abd al-Majid I	1,293
1372/1952	The First Saudi extension	6,024
	Extension of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz	82,000

pilgrimage in comfort and safety. Recently completed, the project has almost doubled the size of the Holy Mosque in Makkah and has increased the size of the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah tenfold. King Fahd has also donated funds for the restoration in Jerusalem of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site of Islam, and for the Dome of the Rock and Omar Ibn Al-Khattab mosques.



GLOBAL DIPLOMAT

In his investiture speech in 1982, King Fahd emphasised that his reign would be marked by great concern not only for the citizens of his dynamic nation, but also for the peoples of the world. "We are active fellow-countrymen in the wider international sphere within the framework of the United Nations, its agencies and its committees," he said. "We are committed to the charter, we reinforce its endeavours . . . Our acts have reflected, and will continue to reflect, our sense of belonging to the world community."

King Fahd has been an active and effective player on the global diplomatic scene. He has not hesitated to use his diplomatic and mediation skills in times of crisis, especially when the interests of Muslims and Arabs are at stake. He has actively supported efforts to seek a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Addressing the Non-Aligned Movement, King Fahd said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lends its full support to the efforts exerted to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and realise a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question that would establish justice and restore the legitimate rights and lay down a permanent basis for peace, security and stability."



King Fahd with President Monem.



King Fahd with Prime Minister Major.



The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd



Opening of the Afghanistan Embassy.



King Fahd with M. Chirac.



Tour of Inspection.

To achieve a resolution of the Palestinian question, Saudi Arabia attended the Madrid peace conference in 1991 and the Moscow peace talks in early 1992, gatherings that brought Palestinian and Israeli leaders to the negotiating table. The Kingdom welcomed the signing of a declaration of principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in Washington on September 13, 1993.

Saudi Arabia also attended the international donors' conference hosted by the U.S. later that year. As part of its efforts to facilitate the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement, Saudi Arabia donated £67 million Sterling to be used for health care, social services and utility projects to improve living conditions for Palestinians.

"We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia look forward to achieving security and stability everywhere in the world," King Fahd said early in 1994. "When it comes to achieving this objective in our own region and for the benefit of our brothers, we have all the more reason to be of help." Indeed, King Fahd has demonstrated his desire to resolve crises on numerous occasions.

Serving on the Supreme Tripartite Committee of the League of Arab States, he helped to broker an agreement ending 14 years of bloody civil war in Lebanon that had resulted in countless deaths and caused instability in the Middle East region. In 1989, he hosted a meeting of Lebanese leaders in Taif, Saudi Arabia, which resulted in the signing of the Taif national reconciliation accord.

King Fahd was an ardent supporter of the Afghan *Mujahideen* in their struggle to liberate their country from occupation forces of the former Soviet Union and, later, a Soviet-backed communist regime. With the liberation of the country, he worked actively to help Afghans rebuild their nation. When

factional fighting broke out in Afghanistan, King Fahd sought to mediate a settlement, encouraging the various parties to set aside their differences for the good of the Afghan people and the Muslim world.

With the assistance of the Prime Minister of Pakistan at that time, he brokered a national reconciliation agreement that was signed in Makkah on March 12, 1993. The breakdown of this accord has led King Fahd to further action, calling on various Afghan leaders to help resolve the crisis.

King Fahd played a major role in forming Arab, Muslim and international support for the effort to liberate Kuwait during the 1990-91 Arabian Gulf crisis. In the weeks before the Iraqi invasion on August 2, 1990, King Fahd sought to mediate in the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq. King Fahd helped put together a coalition of Arab, Islamic and other countries to implement UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

Addressing King Fahd during a visit to Kuwait shortly after coalition forces freed the country in February 1991, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said King Fahd's "wise and immediate decision" to help liberate Kuwait was instrumental in rallying international efforts to achieve this objective.

The Saudi monarch was one of the first leaders to realise the severity of the Serbian threat to Bosnian civilians and the consequences of Serbian ethnic cleansing. "We have made great and continuous endeavours on all levels, through all possible channels and by all available means, to put an end to the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina," King Fahd said recently. Shortly after Serbian forces began their campaign, King Fahd met with leaders of Bosnia-Herzegovina to co-ordinate efforts

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd



to put an end to the aggression. He has met regularly with the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, to co-ordinate diplomatic and relief efforts.

While seeking to bring about a United Nations-sponsored solution to the fighting, and to restore security and stability to Bosnia-Herzegovina, King Fahd has directed a massive Saudi campaign to help ease the suffering of civilians in the war-shattered country.

In May 1992, he donated emergency relief funds and established in Saudi Arabia the Supreme Committee for the Collection of Donations for the Muslims of Bosnia. A steady stream of planes and ships have carried Saudi emergency supplies to Bosnia, while Saudi hospitals have treated hundreds of Bosnian civilians. Also, thousands of Saudi pilgrims have made the *Haj* as guests of King Fahd.

King Fahd has also been active in supporting negotiated settlements for other crises in the Gulf region and the Arab and Islamic worlds. His standing and experience combine to make him a prominent leader within the Arab and Islamic worlds to whom many have turned for help and assistance.

Among the world's leading statesmen, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz embodies the noble past and dynamic future of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Under his wise and insightful leadership, Saudi Arabia has accepted the challenge of modernisation without forfeiting its Islamic heritage.

As the King has noted, "We shall never sacrifice our values and religion for any materialistic gains. Our aspirations are in response to the aims of our people. With this concept we can face all our difficulties firmly and decisively. We are not only working for today, but looking toward the future."



King Fahd with President Hosni Mubarak.



King Fahd with the Emir of Bahrain.



King Fahd with President Assad.



Visiting the troops.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd

Born: 1923 in Riyadh; son of King Abdulaziz Al-Saud, founder of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Education: Religious studies and formal education in Riyadh at one of the country's first educational institutions

1945 - Member of Saudi delegation to the signing of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco

1953 - Appointed first Minister of Education; represented Saudi Arabia at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London.

1959 - Led the Saudi delegation to the 32nd session of the League of Arab States in Casablanca, Morocco.

1960 - Led Saudi delegation to the 33rd session of the League of Arab States in Lebanon.

1962 - Appointed Minister of Interior.

1965 - Represented Saudi Arabia at Cairo meeting of Arab heads of state.

1967 - Assumed position of Second Deputy Prime Minister; met with French President Charles de Gaulle in Paris.

1970 - Led Saudi delegation in talks with British leaders to discuss future of the Arabian Gulf; witnessed launching of first Five-Year Development Plan.

1974 - First official visit to Washington, D.C.; established Saudi Arabian-U.S. Joint Commission on Economic Co-operation.

1975 - Became Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister.

1978 - Headed Saudi delegation to Arab summit in Baghdad.

1981 - Proposed innovative Eight-Point Peace Plan to resolve Arab-Israeli conflict; represented Kingdom at North-South

Conference in Cancun, Mexico.

1982 - Proclaimed fifth King of Saudi Arabia on June 13, succeeding King Khalid; League of Arab States unanimously adopted Eight-Point Peace Plan.

1985 - Announced fourth Five-Year Development Plan.

1986 - Inaugurated King Fahd Causeway between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.



1987 - Hosted eighth summit of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in Riyadh; state visits to Britain and France.

1988 - Signed Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; initiated diplomatic efforts to end Iraq-Iran War; attended extraordinary League of Arab States summit in Algeria.

1989 - Hosted Lebanese leaders in Taif, Saudi Arabia, for signing of national reconciliation accord; state visit to Egypt; attended League of Arab States summit in Morocco.

1990 - Signed border demarcation accord with Oman; sent one

million copies of the Holy Quran, the first shipment of the holy book to the Soviet Union, for distribution among Muslims; condemned Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and helped put together a coalition of forces to end the aggression.

1992 - Sent Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal to attend Moscow Middle East peace talks; announced new bylaws for Basic System of Government, Provincial System and *Majlis Al-Shoura* (Consultative Council); condemned Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina; met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic; called for international action to halt the aggression and directed the effort to end the fighting and to ease the suffering of civilians; hosted extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1993 - Hosted meeting of Afghan leaders in Makkah for signing of national reconciliation accord; sent Saudi forces to serve as part of United Nations peacekeeping contingent in Somalia; opened *Majlis Al-Shoura*; introduced new bylaws for Council of Ministers; hosted 14th GCC summit in Riyadh; donated £67 million Sterling for social services and utility projects in Gaza Strip and West Bank; approved a new Higher Education Council and universities system.

1994 - Completed expansion projects of Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah; called for resolution of Yemen crisis through dialogue; donated funds for restoration of Islam's third holiest shrine and two other mosques in Jerusalem.

1995 - Announced sixth Five-Year Development Plan.

1996 - Assigned Crown Prince Abdullah to Saudi, Syrian, Egyptian meeting in Damascus and the Arab Summit in Cairo.

It is clear that the years of King Fahd have been years of devotion to our country, its best interests and development. And the years of devotion continue. May God bless and protect The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd.



HRH Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, arrived in Muscat, Oman, on December 5 1995 at the head of the Kingdom's delegation to the 16th summit conference of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) on behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.

On arrival, Prince Abdullah thanked Sultan Qaboos, his government and people, for hosting the summit, which was convened amid highly vulnerable circumstances facing the Arab world in the light of the latest political changes at regional, Arab, Islamic and international levels. He went on to express his delight at the opportunity of meeting with his brothers, the leaders of the other GCC states.

He re-affirmed the GCC's resolve to press ahead with its efforts to reinforce its growth process, with the aim of realising greater security stability and prosperity for its member states and their peoples, saying: "On behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, I hope that our meeting engenders positive results that can serve our countries and our peoples."

Prince Abdullah, referring to the fact that since its formation in 1981 the GCC was recognised as an outstanding entity in contemporary Arab history that had successfully embodied in itself the true aspirations of the Arab conscience for generations to come and for many centuries ahead, stated: "It is no secret that the establishment of the GCC represents a practical response to popular demand and fulfilment of a regional necessity stipulated by contemporary conditions. It is quite clear that the GCC countries are facing a common security situation as these countries have become a target of enemies."

He added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd, felt that there was no other way to confront such challenges, except through combining these countries' human, economic, political and military capabilities and developing an integrated force with sufficient weight and influence to face up to conspiracies and malicious aggression, the mission of which was to weaken and disturb the security, peace and stability of its peoples.

HRH Prince Abdullah stated: "If common interest, the requirements of security and stability, and the abundance of favourable development conditions were behind the pressing need for the establishment of the GCC, there are also other circumstances that make the creation of the Council an outstanding act and help in the realisation of numerous important achievements including faithful and responsible leadership . . . Among other elements that contribute to the success of the GCC are the factors of kinship and harmony, geographical features in common, common religion and language, historical and cultural links, and a common fate and aspirations in addition to similarity of ruling systems, economic bases, and shared values and traditions."

HRH Prince Abdullah has been Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister since June 1982 and has commanded the National Guard since 1962. He was born in Riyadh in 1924 and received formal education from religious scholars and intellectuals. Throughout his life as a public figure, the Crown Prince has been a major force in domestic and foreign policy.





HRH Prince Sultan at UN's 50th Anniversary



"We are a country which is not aggressive towards anyone, but self defence is a legitimate right."

King Fahd



HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector-General, arrived in New York on October 20 1995 as head of the Kingdom's delegation attending the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations. He delivered the following speech on behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud:



Mr. President, Heads of Delegations, Respected Members:

It is with pleasure that I congratulate you, Mr. President, on behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on your election to the presidency of the current session of the General Assembly which corresponds with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and carries special significance. Your election is an expression of appreciation for you and your country. I also wish to note the efforts of His Excellency, the Secretary-General, in the service of peace.

As I journeyed to New York to participate in this historic occasion, I reflected upon personal memories and general impressions. Fifty years ago, the late King Faisal, then the Foreign Minister of my country, accompanied by King Fahd, embarked upon a similar journey to the United States with instructions from the late King Abdulaziz, the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, to participate in the establishment of this organisation which arose out of tragic events.

My country had just emerged from its own experience in establishing the foundations of peace and security over most of the Arabian Peninsula. After King Abdulaziz succeeded in reuniting the Kingdom in accordance with the noble Islamic *Shariah*, which calls for justice, equality and brotherhood among people, he participated in the establishment of an inter-

national organisation which strives for the same principles on a universal level.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represents the heart of the Muslim world, from whose soil the Islamic faith emerged; a faith which places peace at the forefront of its virtuous principles and rejects violence and terrorism. As a result, King Fahd continues to expend all efforts to enable the Kingdom to fulfil its mission towards peace.

The Kingdom has completed an ambitious development programme with positive contributions to the creation of a better world. A good example is my country's balanced oil policy, and its foreign aid programme . . .

My country continues to believe in the importance of working towards realising the objectives of this organisation. The resolutions which the Security Council passed after the brutal Iraqi aggression against Kuwait had the most positive effect, and renewed confidence in the important role of the United Nations in supporting countries whose sovereignty is threatened. Kuwait was able to restore its right of existence and sovereignty.

I wish to note that the Kingdom attaches great importance to the safety and territorial integrity of Iraq. However, it holds the Iraqi regime responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people, and believes that the only way to alleviate this suffering is for the Iraqi regime to fully implement all Security Council Resolutions, including the release of all prisoners of war.

The international efforts in this regard had a positive impact in advancing the Middle East peace process, which was launched at the Madrid Conference. While the peace process has not yet reached its final goal, the opportunity still remains to advance it, in particular the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, provided there is adherence to its basis, namely, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425, with regard to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and UN Security Council Resolution 252 regarding Jerusalem-*al-Quds*

HRH Prince Sultan at UN's 50th Anniversary



al-Shareef, which occupies a special place in the heart of every Muslim. In order for the desired peace to be based on trust, all weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated from the entire Middle East region.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is subject to Serb aggression which requires firmness in confronting it. The aggressor has refused to respond to all international pleas, while the Bosnians are denied the ability to acquire the means to defend themselves. The international response, under the leadership of the United States and NATO, was the right response, in spite of its delay.

This tragedy highlights the importance of the United Nations not becoming a strictly humanitarian organisation, but resuming its role of securing peace on the basis of justice and equality. Our organisation should not merely manage conflicts, but prevent them. Delays in responding to events cause the United Nations to waste its resources on failures rather than successes, and on death rather than life.

The United Nations' productivity over the past 50 years, and the constructive role it has played in mobilising international co-operation, gives us the determination to support it in fulfilling its mission, particularly today, as it finds itself at a crossroads which will determine its future. If the measurement of its success lies in its effectiveness in serving the cause of international peace and security, it is necessary to note the importance of abiding by its charter, and enforcing the resolutions of international legality.

It is the hope of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques that our celebration today represents a turning point in the performance of our organisation to enable it to achieve its goals, so that all people of the world can enjoy security and continued progress.

May God Almighty help us attain the objectives we strive for. As the Almighty reveals in the Holy Quran:

"Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, But help ye not one another in sin and rancour."

Thank you, and may God's peace and blessings be upon you.



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a member of the United Nations (UN) since its foundation at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. It has always been a strong supporter of the UN, its international bodies and its various programmes to preserve security and peace world-wide. Saudi Arabia gives financial support to a number of UN funds and assists in technical co-operation programmes. For example, the Kingdom's aid to the World Food Programme totals some £267 million Sterling, and since 1976, Saudi Arabia has contributed annually the equivalent of £135,000 Sterling to the International Red Cross Committee.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the first country in the world in its extension of financial aid on the basis of per capita income. The percentage of annual Gross National Product stipulated by the UN for donor countries is 0.7. Saudi Arabia greatly exceeded this target, however, providing total aid contributions to 72 countries amounting to some 5.5 per cent of its GNP in the 20 years to 1995. In cash terms, the financial assistance over this period totalled £47 billion Sterling. The Saudi Development Fund (SDF), the primary body for extending developmental aid, provided loans to help finance hundreds of projects in 61 countries during the same period.

HRH Prince Sultan has been Second Deputy Prime Minister since June 1982 and Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General since 1962. He was born in Riyadh in 1928 and educated at the Royal Court. In 1953, he became Minister of Agriculture, and in 1955 he assumed responsibility for the Ministry of Communications and oversaw the establishment of Saudi Arabia's first railway system.





The Development Plans 1970-2000



Photo: Geoff Adams

Glaxo Wellcome's state-of-the-art pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Jeddah is the first project to be completed under the Al Yamamah economic offset programme.

Saudi Arabia's economic system is based on free and private enterprise. Saudi citizens have the opportunity to initiate and participate in economic activities and reap the rewards of their enterprise and hard work. Respect for private property, freedom to engage in the economic field of an individual's choice and encouragement of private investment in the development of the nation are principles upheld by Islam and observed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Opportunities for economic growth have increased steadily since the era of King Abdulaziz. At that time, prospects for growth and development seemed limited. There were no airports and the only seaports dealt primarily with pilgrimage travel. Transportation between cities separated by miles of barren desert was on rough unpaved roads. Agriculture was limited and industry was almost non-existent. The annual pilgrimage of Muslims to the Holy Cities of Makkah and Madinah represented a primary source of revenue.

Undaunted by these obstacles, the visionary King Abdulaziz began to make plans for the laying down of the country's infrastructure. The founder addressed the most fundamental concerns: education, health, transportation, agriculture and industry.

Having invested approximately £700 billion Sterling in developing its social and economic structure, Saudi Arabia has undergone a remarkable transformation over the relatively short time span of six decades. Where it once was forced to import all of the manufactured products it consumed, Saudi Arabia now has a vast industrial base and its factories supply a large portion of the needs of the country's domestic markets.

Fishing villages on the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf have been transformed into bustling centres of industry, producing and exporting everything from petrochemicals to electronics to



"Our vision of the future has many mainsprings. It is not based upon petroleum alone. It starts from preparing the Saudi citizen to take on future responsibilities equipped with experience, scientific knowledge and personal initiative..."

King Fahd



over 70 countries. One of the fastest developing countries in the world, Saudi Arabia is the most dynamic economic power in the Arab world and ranks 20th globally in terms of foreign trade volume.

By the 1960s, Saudi Arabia had made major advances in many areas. Roads were established, a modern educational system introduced, health care improved, agriculture expanded and factories built. Although the economy was largely reliant on oil revenues, Saudi leaders resolved to bring about basic improvements in the country's economic structure. The objective was to diversify the economy away from oil into other fields.



Yanbu - Industrial Site Petromine Refineries.

The Development Plans 1970-2000



Achievement of such an economic transformation required deliberate planning and careful implementation of a development programme with clearly defined objectives. The quest for economic development and growth began in earnest with the introduction of the First Development Plan in 1970. The first phase of this process was to establish an infrastructure that could support a modern economic base and develop the human resources necessary to help bring about the planned economic transformation. Following this, the focus could shift to economic diversification, including expansion of the industrial, agricultural and other sectors, which is now well-advanced.

The establishment of the physical infrastructure was accomplished in stages during the first three development plans. As the infrastructure was taking shape, the government launched a major effort to expand the industrial base. This was done along two separate, but parallel, courses. One aimed at the expansion of the country's oil industry and the other at establishing a modern, non-oil industrial sector.

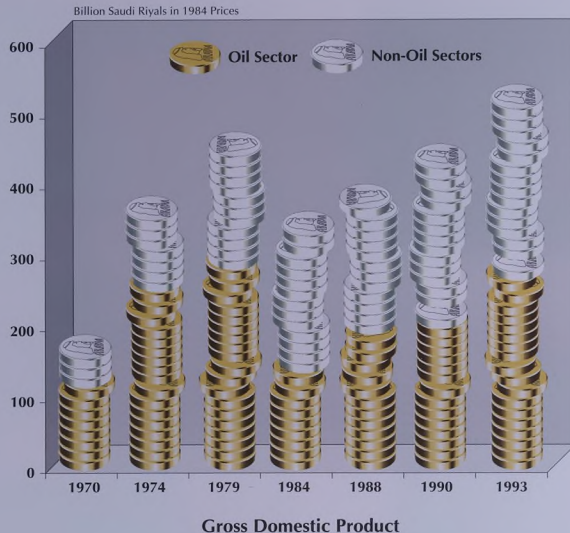
In addition to optimising revenues from Saudi oil production consistent with the need for balanced growth, the modern oil industry plays an equally important role in the development of the non-oil industrial sector by providing raw materials and feed stock.

By 1985, with most of the physical infrastructure in place, attention shifted to diversifying economic sources. "Our economic policy is based on lessening our dependence on the export of crude oil as the sole source of income to the state," emphasised The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.

Both the Fourth Development Plan (1985-90) and the Fifth Development Plan (1990-95) emphasised strengthening the growing private sector and increasing the efficiency of the industrial sector.

Throughout the course of the development plans, Saudi Arabia's steady but dramatic industrial and economic transformation has been accomplished through the careful guidance and active support of the government. To judge the success of

this effort, one need only consider that between 1970 and 1993, Saudi Arabia's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measured at constant prices increased three-fold and the non-oil sector's share of GDP increased to 67 per cent.





The Development Plans 1970-2000



The consequences of the Gulf War pose serious challenges to the Saudi economy at the start of the Sixth Plan Period (1995-2000). Higher than planned oil revenues, arising from the Kingdom's increased OPEC quota, provided only partial cover for the financing needs of the war and its aftermath. Expenditures exceeded revenues in the first three years of the Fifth Plan period, thereby creating a financial burden on the state budget.

The budgetary situation was further aggravated by a decline in crude oil prices in 1993 to a level more than 30 per cent below the OPEC target price, but recent increases in oil prices have improved the situation. A dedicated effort has been made to consolidate the budget, with sizeable expenditure reductions having been made in the later years of the Fifth Plan.

The Sixth Development Plan gives priority to the resumption of moderately rapid but steady economic growth and achievement of internal and external balances through the progressive elimination of both the budget deficit and the current account deficit. These priorities will be pursued through the continued structural diversification of the Kingdom's economy, in order to create more employment opportunities for Saudi nationals, and the development of practical policies for privatisation and alternative methods of financing some government services.

The Sixth Development Plan also attributes to the private sector an important role in mobilising its resources for the development of the national economy. The main themes of the Sixth Plan are to increase the rate at which non-Saudis are being replaced by Saudi nationals ('*Saudiisation*'), the opening up of more opportunities for private sector investment and the achievement of greater economic efficiency in the government and private sectors.

SIXTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN GROWTH TARGETS

More specifically, the macro-economic objectives of the Sixth Plan include the following:

- Real average annual growth of 3.9 per cent in the non-oil sectors' contribution to GDP, compared to the 3.2 per cent growth rate targeted in the Fifth Plan period.
 - Total investment growing in real terms at an average annual rate of 8.5 per cent and amounting to more than 18 per cent of GDP.
 - Growth in non-oil merchandise exports at an average annual rate of 12 per cent in current prices.
 - An increase in the government's domestic non-oil revenue.
 - The progressive elimination of both the budget deficit and the balance of payments deficit on current account.
 - A balanced government budget by the end of the Plan period and the rationalisation of government expenditure.
- The steady expansion of the economy throughout the Sixth Plan will be supported by a broad range of fiscal, regulatory and institutional measures to which a positive response from the private sector is anticipated. These measures will include:
- A pronounced shift in the government budget from consumption to investment expenditure.
 - Providing opportunities for private sector investment through the gradual and selective use of alternative financing options and privatisation initiatives.
 - The mobilisation of the private sector's financial assets by broadening the domestic capital market.
 - Reducing the number of low-skilled workers and increasing the capability of the Saudi labour force in order to realise productivity improvements.



Photo: Geoff Adams

The Development Plans 1970-2000



OIL AND NON-OIL SECTOR GROWTH TARGETS

The Kingdom's national economy is targeted to grow at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent (in 1990 constant prices) during the Sixth Plan period, resuming its previous moderate and sustainable growth path after the rapid growth experienced during the first two years of the Fifth Plan. The average annual growth rate of the GDP during the Fifth Plan (in 1990 constant prices) was 4.1 per cent, owing to the major expansion in oil production at the beginning of the Plan period.

The non-oil sectors of the economy are expected to grow at an average annual rate of 3.9 per cent. This will have strong positive implications on the achievement of the economic diversification objective and also imply the creation of employment opportunities for the rapidly growing population.

The oil GDP is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent, based on the expected developments in the world oil markets where the most recent forecasts indicate an increase of oil demand and prices. This will improve the conditions for achievement of the Sixth Plan growth targets.



THE SPECIALISED CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

The provision of long-term credit on easy terms is one of the main instruments of support to the private sector and its contribution to national economic diversification. This policy of financial support has been implemented through five specialised credit institutions. During the Sixth Development Plan, more than SR 24.1 billion (£4.34 billion Sterling) will be distributed as detailed on the right.

Sectors	Value Added (SR Billion)		Average Annual Growth (%)
	1994	1999/2000	
Producing Sectors	93.2	114.5	4.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	26.4	30.8	3.1
Other Mining, Quarrying	2.3	3.5	9.0
Manufacturing	31.1	39.5	4.9
– Petroleum Refining	13.5	16.4	3.9
– Petrochemicals	3.0	4.5	8.3
– Other Manufacturing	14.6	18.6	4.9
Electricity, Gas, Water	0.9	1.2	5.5
Construction	32.5	39.5	4.0
Service Sectors	89.8	111.2	4.4
Trade, Restaurants, Hotels	27.8	37.6	6.2
Transport, Communication	25.0	28.9	2.9
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	25.2	30.7	4.1
– Real Estate	6.9	8.1	3.3
– Other	18.3	22.6	4.3
Community, Social & Personal Services	11.8	14.0	3.4
Government Services	66.4	75.8	2.7
Non-Oil Sectors	249.4	301.5	3.9
Crude Oil & Natural Gas	129.3	156.1	3.8
Other Items	2.1	1.0	
Gross Domestic Product	380.8	458.6	3.8

GDP by Sector in the Sixth Plan (at constant 1990 prices)

	SR Millions
Saudi Agricultural Bank	3,500
Saudi Industrial Development Fund	5,300
Saudi Real Estate Development Fund	12,984
Saudi Credit Bank	1,534
Other Credit Programmes	783
Total Loans	24,101

Loans by the specialised credit agencies during the Sixth Development Plan





Our Natural Resources



Al-Qassim Water Tower.

WATER

Water has always been a scarce and extremely valuable resource in Saudi Arabia. Urban life, industry and, above all, agriculture consume far more water than traditional life in the deserts and towns ever required, and the country has utilised its water resources in diverse ways to support its development. As a result of agricultural, urban and industrial growth, the country's water demand has been increasing steadily over the past two decades, reaching 18.2 million cubic meters per year in 1994. Irrigation consumes the largest amount of water in the Kingdom.

Beginning in 1985, Saudi Arabia focused on ways to economise and regulate the use of water through the National Water Plan. This provides for conservation, greater co-ordination between agriculture and water policies, intensive use of reclaimed waste and surface water, and better co-ordination of supply and distribution.

Deep under the surface of Saudi Arabia, extensive reservoirs of water are stored in the rock. These aquifers, or water-bearing layers of sedimentary rock, are the country's major water source. The government has drilled many deep wells throughout much of the desert to supply the Bedouins and numerous agricultural wells in the more fertile valleys.

Another major source of water is desalination. Saudi Arabia is now the world's largest producer of desalinated water. Every day, the country's 33 desalination facilities produce 1.9 million cubic meters of fresh water from the sea. They provide drinking water to major urban and industrial centres through a network of 2,326 miles of water pipes, meeting 70 per cent of Saudi Arabia's drinking water needs. Construction has started

on four new plants that will add another one million cubic meters per day to existing capacity.

To collect precious surface water during seasonal floods, the Kingdom has built 183 dams with a total holding capacity of 450 million cubic meters. Other dams with a holding capacity of 325 million cubic meters are currently under construction. The larger dams, such as those in the Wadi Jizan, Wadi Fatima, Wadi Bisha and Najran, supply irrigation water for thousands of acres of cultivated land. The Wadi Bisha dam, the second largest in the Middle East, supplies water for both agricultural and urban use.

Another expanding source of water is treated urban waste water. It is estimated that by the year 2000, approximately 40 per cent of the water used for domestic purposes in urban areas could be recycled. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water has constructed a recycling plant in Riyadh. Another facility operates in Jeddah and several other plants are under construction.

The main targets are the reduction in total water consumption from 18.2 billion cubic meters in 1995 to 17.5 billion cubic meters by the year 2000 and a 2.6 per cent average annual rate of decline in the use of non-renewable ground water during the same period. These targets are to be met by reducing the rate of water consumption in agriculture at an average annual rate of 2.2 per cent and achieving balanced consumption rates for other purposes.





ENERGY

More than a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves lie beneath the sands and offshore waters of Saudi Arabia. The discovery of these reserves and the building of the necessary facilities to make possible their use over the past half century have made Saudi Arabia the largest exporter of oil and natural gas liquids in the world. The existence of such vast hydrocarbon deposits within its territory has bestowed on Saudi Arabia a unique role. In response, the Kingdom has adopted an energy policy based on a commitment to maintain stability in world markets.

The country has also focused on developing its other energy and mineral resources. Natural gas that was once flared off is now collected and utilised. The Kingdom has become a producer of refined oil products and petrochemicals, such as fuel, diesel oil, kerosene and gasoline. With recent discoveries of precious metals and other deposits, Saudi Arabia expects to become a major exporter of minerals in coming decades. These newly-identified resources, along with programmes to diversify the country's energy sources, are being developed to build a stronger and more resilient economy.



OIL

In 1933, King Abdulaziz granted the now-historic right to the Standard Oil Company of California (SOCAL) to prospect for oil in the Kingdom. In 1938, after more than four years of searching, geologists discovered commercially-exploitable quantities of oil at Dammam Oil Well Number 7. The next year, the King himself opened the valve to allow oil to flow into the first tanker at Ras Tanura. In 1944, the oil company was renamed the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco).

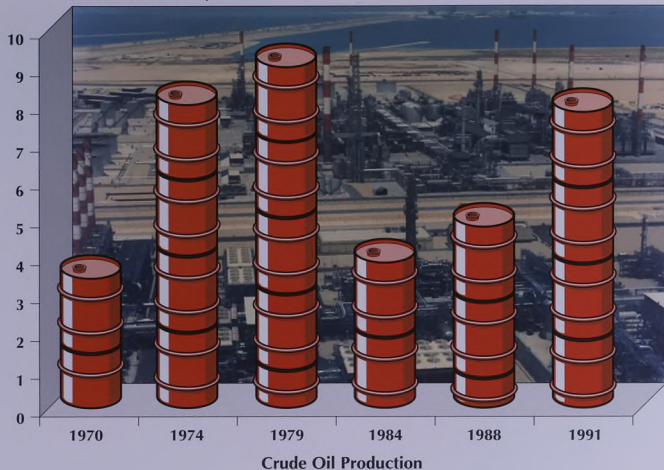
By 1949, Aramco was producing 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day, up from 20,000 before 1944. Crude oil production increased by an average of 19 per cent a year from 1945 through 1974 - reaching 8.2 million barrels a day that year.

Over the years, the Saudi government assumed an increasingly important role in the oil industry. In 1962, the General Petroleum and Minerals Organisation (PETROMIN) was estab-

lished to develop Saudi Arabia's oil and mineral resources. The government assumed full ownership of Aramco in 1980, renaming it Saudi Aramco and the first Saudi president of the company was appointed in 1984.

Today, Saudi Arabia's proven oil reserves are estimated at 260.1 billion barrels. Most of the Kingdom's known oil reserves are located in the Eastern Province, including the

Million US barrels/day





Our Natural Resources



King Fahd

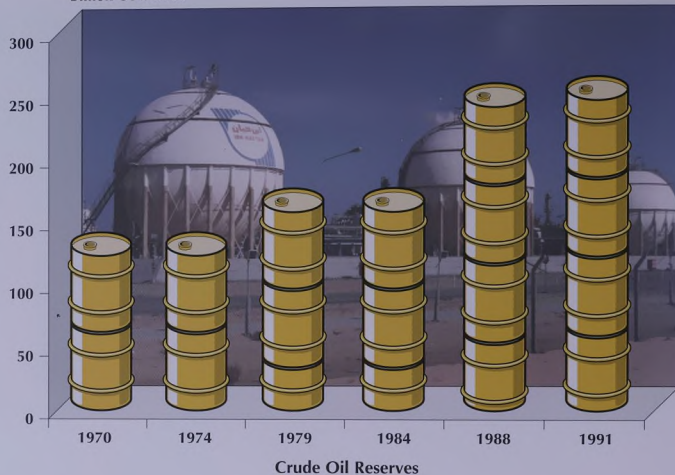
Chairman of the Higher Council for
Petroleum and Minerals



largest onshore field in Ghawar and the largest offshore field, Safaniya, in the Arabian Gulf. However, the introduction of improved recovery technologies, such as horizontal drilling, and discoveries in other regions of the country may substantially increase the Kingdom's proven oil reserves. In the early 1990s, Saudi Aramco undertook exploration of parts of the country where a search for oil had never before been undertaken. In central Saudi Arabia, the company discovered major deposits of natural gas and oil, including sweet, low-sulphur grades of crude.

The level of Saudi Arabia's oil production varies according to the state of the world oil market and the quotas of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). As a founding and principal member of OPEC, Saudi Arabia has assumed a leading role in guiding the organisation as a constructive force for co-operation in energy issues. OPEC was set

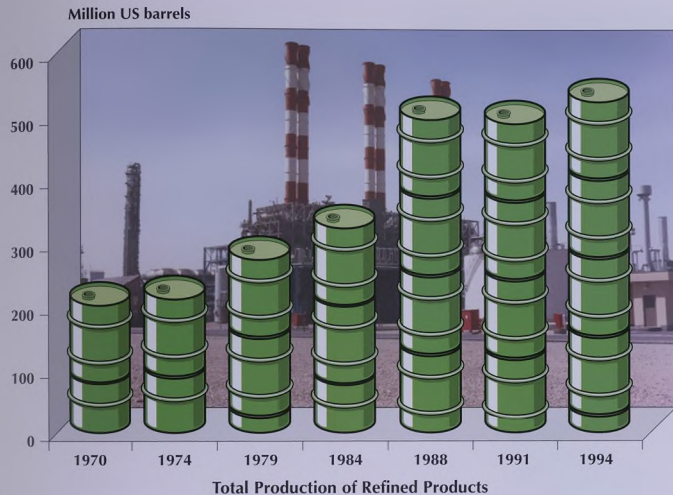
Billion US barrels



Crude Oil Reserves

up in 1960 to unify petroleum policies among its members throughout the world and to ensure stability in international oil markets by eliminating unnecessary and harmful fluctuation in oil prices. OPEC strives to protect the interests of its members and is dedicated to maintaining an economical and reliable supply of petroleum to consuming countries. Another goal of OPEC is to provide a fair return on capital for investors in the petroleum industry.

As OPEC's largest producer, Saudi Arabia realises the importance of a stable global economy and has, therefore, acted as the organisation's principal moderating force. Over the years, the Kingdom has helped to prevent market crises that promised to harm both oil producer and consumers. As an example, during the Gulf Crisis of 1990-91, global markets were deprived of approximately four million barrels per day of crude oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait. Saudi Arabia immediately responded by



increasing production, thereby averting what could have been a disastrous shortfall in world supplies.

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mr. Ali Al-Naimi, speaking in Riyadh in October 1995, stated that the Kingdom's oil policy focuses on maintaining secure supplies to consumers while stabilising global oil markets, noting that Saudi Arabia's cumulative production exceeds 71 billion bar-

rels to date. Minister Al-Naimi went on to say:

"Saudi Arabia's vast oil reserves, equivalent to 26 per cent of the world's total, have facilitated the build-up of sizeable production capacity, currently equivalent to 10 million barrels a day (mbd). As a result, Saudi Arabia has become the world's largest oil exporter during the last 20 years, as well as the largest oil producer since 1993. Saudi Arabia, in the process of

utilising and exporting oil at such high levels, has undoubtedly gained substantial economic benefits, which are crucial to its economic and social development. These benefits are highlighted by the sizeable contribution of the oil sector to the Saudi GNP (Gross National Product), a share currently standing at about 37 per cent. In earlier years, the share of the oil sector in the Saudi GNP ranged between 65 and 75 per cent. The current achievements in industry, agriculture, transportation, communications, trade and other services, bear witness to the rapid pace of development in this country."

Affirming that Saudi Arabia is still a developing country in spite of its wealth of hydrocarbon resources, Minister Al-Naimi stated that consumer countries gain a higher share per barrel from the ultimate value of the oil than the Kingdom does, saying: "During the current decade, consumer countries have on average obtained a share of 70 per cent from the value of the oil barrel, which sharply contrasted with our share of 30 per cent. In 1994, the share of consumer countries has increased to about 83 per cent, of which 64 per cent is accruing to governments and the remaining 19 per cent accruing to the oil industry.

"Our share had consequently deteriorated to about 17 per cent. This sharp disparity in benefits came about as a result of a 95 per cent rise in sales taxes imposed by the industrialised countries on oil consumption since 1985. In the same period, crude oil prices have declined by about 45 per cent. We shall continue our efforts to conduct meaningful dialogues with industrialised countries with a view towards persuading them to reverse their taxation policies and adopt economic policies which are more compatible with the new world trends."

In the 1960s, Saudi Arabia began to build refineries for domestic and export production. Prior to that, the Kingdom had to send its crude oil to foreign refineries for processing and import



Our Natural Resources



Photo: Geoff Adams

Photo: Geoff Adams



Photo: Peter Davidson



refined products for its own use. The country rapidly expanded its refining capacity under the development plans in the 1970s. Today, there are nine refineries, ranked among the world's most technologically advanced. Production capacity of petroleum products at these refineries has now risen to more than 1.8 million barrels per day. These products include gasoline, fuel and diesel oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), jet fuel, kerosene, asphalt and other commodities.

Saudi Arabia's oil policy also emphasises expanding its downstream operations abroad. As a first step, Saudi Aramco and Texaco Inc. established a joint-venture company, Star Enterprise, to refine and market petroleum products in the U.S. It also owns and operates three refineries with a combined capacity of over 600,000 barrels per day. Saudi Aramco entered into a second joint venture operation with Ssang Yong Company of South Korea for the refining and marketing of petroleum products in South Korea and South-east Asia. Under the agreement, Saudi Aramco became joint owner of two refineries with a capacity of 260,000 barrels per day and part owner of other refining, marketing and distribution facilities. In January 1994, Saudi Aramco purchased 40 per cent of Petron, the largest refiner and distributor of petroleum products in the Philippines.

The expansion of Saudi oil refineries and joint venture agreements for the refining and distribution of petroleum products abroad are part of the Kingdom's strategy to diversify and expand its oil industry.





GAS

Saudi Arabia has vast reserves of natural gas, including dissolved, associated and non-associated gases. Most of the natural gas produced is associated gas - light hydrocarbon gases such as ethane and propane produced in association with crude oil. Until the 1970s, most of this gas was flared off. The Master Gas System, constructed and operated by Saudi Aramco, now enables Saudi Arabia to use approximately two-thirds of the gas associated with onshore oil production. The remaining one-third is re-injected into oil fields, thereby eliminating flaring. The system consists of a network of plants for gas-oil separation, processing and fractionation, linked by a computer-controlled pipeline system totalling 7,266 miles.

The Kingdom is also well on its way to developing its recoverable gas reserves, now assessed at 190.1 trillion cubic feet. Recent exploration has uncovered gas fields in the central and north-western parts of the country that could substantially increase the size of Saudi gas reserves. These reserves are a plentiful natural resource whose utilisation does not depend upon crude oil production. Their use further diversifies the national economy by feeding industrial facilities that utilise gas as a source of energy or as a feed stock to produce petrochemical products. Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) operates 14 factories in Jubail, Yanbu and Dammam that process gas from Saudi fields to produce petrochemicals, steel and other products.



MINERALS & MINING

As early as 1,000 B.C., the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula extracted gold, silver and copper from the mine called *Mahad Al-Dhahab* (Cradle of Gold), located about 180 miles north-east of Jeddah. Once the greatest gold mine in all of the Middle East and Africa, it is now being worked again as the most advanced project in Saudi Arabia's effort to diversify its sources of income by establishing a mining industry. In 1993, the ore extracted from *Mahad Al-Dhahab* (a 100 per cent Petromin project) reached 189,353 tons, which exceeded design capacity by almost 50 per cent.

Net gold production, all of which is sold to SAMA, amounted to almost 670,000 ounces during the previous five years. Several other gold mines have been explored and substantial reserves identified. Modern mineral exploration, in fact, has unearthed not only gold, silver, and copper, but also tin, tungsten, nickel, chrome, zinc, lead, phosphates, iron ore, uranium, bauxite, potassium ore and even table salt. The Kingdom is probing the mineral-rich sediments on the Red Sea floor for commercial exploitation, and operating a pilot plant to process these at Yanbu.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is playing a major role in developing Saudi Arabia's mineral resources and establishing related industries. Discoveries of metallic and non-metallic minerals suggest that these natural resources will contribute significantly to the Kingdom's continued development in the near future.

Value added in the precious metals sector is expected to grow by up to 40 per cent over the Sixth Plan period. The mining sector is expected to grow faster than any other sector in the Sixth Plan period, with value added growing at an average annual rate of nine per cent.



Mahad Al-Dhahab mine.



Part of the Master Gas System.



The Producing Sectors

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made great progress over the past two decades in realising the long-held objective of achieving self-sufficiency in food production. Saudi Arabia's agricultural development is now considered one of the major accomplishments of modern agriculture in the Middle East. The country's leaders have always encouraged the growth of the agricultural sector, not only for its role in food security, but also for its contribution to diversifying the economy away from oil.

Today, the agricultural sector employs a significant number of people and utilises the latest techniques to produce a variety of goods, stocking shelves in stores in Saudi Arabia and exporting excess supplies to countries across the globe. Agriculture's share of the Kingdom's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) climbed from just 1.3 per cent in 1970 to more than 10.9 per cent of non-oil GDP in 1995 - and it continues to grow at a steady pace.

This agricultural success is all the more impressive considering the geography of the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia is a large country without permanent rivers, and less than two per cent of its land surface is under cultivation. Overall, only an average of about four inches of rain falls annually in the country - one of the lowest rates in the world.

At the same time, the Arabian Peninsula has always harboured fertile regions. The farmers of the Asir region in the south-west have long practised rain-fed agriculture, raising maize, wheat, barley and an array of vegetables and fruit in their terraced fields. Verdant palm oases, such as Al-Qatif and Al-Hasa in the Eastern Province, have always enlivened the brown of the desert. In Hail and Al-Qasim provinces, long stretches of arable farmland yield grains and vegetables and are dotted today with chicken and dairy farms.



Photo: Peter Davidson

Photo: Peter Davidson



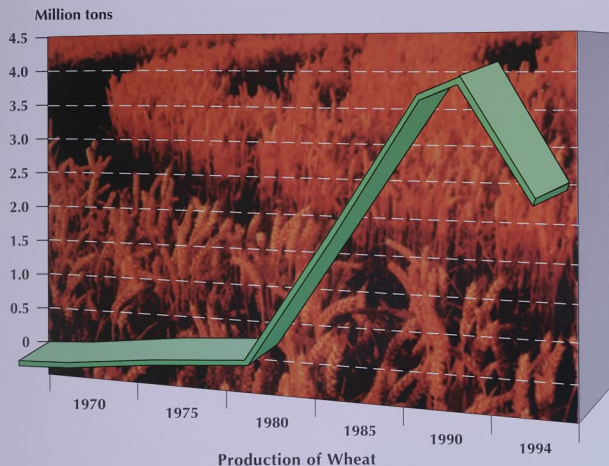
"With the help of God, we have been able to utilise our manpower, mineral and material resources so well that the land is now green and water has gushed out in plenty.

We have had bumper crops with the surplus going to brother and friend, as a gift to the former and an export to the latter."

King Fahd



Water, of course, is the key to agriculture in Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom has successfully implemented a multifaceted programme to provide the vast supplies of water necessary to achieve the spectacular growth of the agricultural sector. The 1970s marked the beginning of serious agricultural development in the Kingdom. The government launched an extensive programme to promote modern farming technology; to establish rural roads, irrigation networks and storage and export facilities; and to encourage agricultural research and training institutions. The result has been a phenomenal growth in the production of all basic foods from 1.79 million tons in 1970 to 2.39 million tons in 1981 and 8.24 million tons in 1994.



Saudi agricultural production was valued at £3.4 billion Sterling in the same year. The increased food production brought about a proportional decline in imports. Between 1981 and 1991, Saudi food imports declined by 43 per cent. Saudi Arabia now exports wheat, dates, dairy products, eggs, fish, poultry, vegetables and flowers to markets around the world. Such exports reached £360 million Sterling in 1992.

Intensive dairy, meat, poultry and egg farming were all introduced early in the programme, and by 1985, local farms were

satisfying domestic demand for many products previously imported. Production of poultry and red meat rose from 151,000 tons in 1981 to approximately 453,000 tons in 1994. Egg production rose from 71,000 tons in 1981 to more than 126,000 tons in 1994, meeting all local demand. The Kingdom now has some of the most modern and largest dairy farms in the Middle East. Milk production rose from 311,000 tons in 1981 to 587,000 tons in 1994 at a remarkably productive annual rate of 1,800 gallons per cow, one of the highest in the world.

While fish production through traditional off-shore fishing has increased steadily in recent years to more than 51,000 tons in 1994, the Kingdom is exploring ways of further increasing its catch and to encourage greater private investment. One of the new areas in which the private sector is investing with government support is aqua-culture. The number of fish farms, either in pens in the sea or in tanks onshore, has been increasing steadily. Most are located along Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast.

The Kingdom's most dramatic agricultural accomplishment, noted world-wide, has been its rapid transformation from importer to exporter of wheat. In 1978, the country built its first grain silos. By 1984, it had become self-sufficient in wheat. Shortly thereafter, Saudi Arabia began exporting wheat. Production rose from 26,000 tons in 1970 to 416,000 tons in 1981. In 1992, production was estimated at 4.2 million tons. In the major producing areas of Tabuk, Hail and Al-Qasim, average yields more than quadrupled to 3.6 tons per acre.

	Production in 1994 000 tons	Annual Average Growth Rates in the Sixth Plan (%)
Red Meat	195	4.0
White Meat	295	6.0
Eggs	134	5.0
Milk (fresh)	604	4.0
Vegetables	2500	6.0
Fruits	1088	5.0
Fish	62	10.0



The Producing Sectors



Saudi Arabia has exported wheat to 30 countries, including China, the former Soviet Union, nations of the European Union, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and various Arab and Islamic countries. Between 1986 and 1992, Saudi Arabia exported approximately 12 million tons of wheat.

The Kingdom has also stepped up fruit and vegetable production by improving both agricultural techniques and the roads that link farmers with urban consumers. Saudi Arabia is a major exporter of fruits and vegetables to its neighbours. Among its most productive crops are watermelon, grapes, citrus fruits, onions, squash and tomatoes. At Jizan, in the country's well-watered south-west, the Al-Hikmah Research Station is producing tropical fruits including pineapples, paw-paws, bananas, mangoes and guavas.

This agricultural transformation has altered the country's traditional diet, supplying a diversity of local foods unimaginable just a generation ago. Dates are no longer the vital staple for Saudi Arabians that they were in the past, although they still constitute an important supplementary food. Saudi Arabia has approximately nine million, or one-tenth, of the world's productive date palms. Date production grew to more than 568,000 tons in 1994.

Much of this is used as international humanitarian aid. Several factories, including one in Al-Hasa, are dedicated entirely to the production of dates for foreign aid and send tens of thousands of tons of dates each year to relieve famine and food shortages in Arab, Islamic and other nations. A large portion of Saudi Arabia's wheat production is also provided as assistance to needy countries. At least 16 countries have directly benefited from Saudi Arabia's food aid offered through the United Nations World Food programme. The Kingdom is second only to the U.S. in contributions to the programme.

The progress made by the Saudi Arabian agricultural sector in recent years has been largely due to an array of government programmes, including the provision of soft, interest-free loans and technical and support services. The agriculture sector has

also benefited from low-cost water, fuel and electricity, and duty-free imports of raw materials and machinery. Foreign joint-venture partners of Saudi individuals or companies are exempt from paying taxes for a period of up to 10 years.

The primary agency responsible for implementing agricultural policy is the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, which constructs and maintains irrigation and drainage networks, and provides research and extension assistance to farmers. Another supporting agency is the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, which disburses subsidies and grants interest-free loans.

Through the end of 1994, the bank had provided SR 28.1 billion (over £5 billion) in such loans and grants to farmers and private sector companies to promote agricultural production. The Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organisation was established in 1972 to purchase and store wheat, construct flour mills and produce animal feed to support the nationwide growth of agriculture. Between 1980 and 1992, the amount of domestic grain the organisation purchased increased from 1.34 million tons to 3.86 million tons. Flour milling capacity rose from 270 tons per day in 1970 to 5,250 tons per day in 1994.

To encourage private investment in the agricultural sector, Saudi Arabia has allocated substantial financial resources for improving roads linking producing areas with consumer markets. The land distribution and reclamation programme, which was introduced in 1968, aims at distributing fallow land free of charge, mostly in small plots, as a means of increasing the area under cultivation and encouraging crop and livestock production. The beneficiaries are required to develop a minimum of a quarter of the land surface within two to five years. Upon compliance, the full ownership of the land is transferred to the farmer.

The guaranteed price on wheat reduced from SR 3.5 (63p) per kg in the early 1980s to SR 1.5 (27p) per kg in 1995. At the same time, quotas have been imposed upon farms limiting the amount of cereal that could be sold at the support price. However, to encourage an increase in the production of bar-



ley (for animal feed), the government announced a procurement price of SR1 (18p) per kg in 1987. As a result, and in accordance with the current and likely future needs of the country, wheat production has fallen by half during the past four years, whereas barley production should exceed two million tons in 1995 (versus only 7,000 tons 10 years ago) .

The government continues to assist new farmers in implementing capital-intensive projects with special emphasis on diversification and greater efficiency. To raise farm productivity, the government also funds and supports research projects aimed at producing new food crops to increase harvest and develop plant strains with greater resistance to pests. These programmes are conducted in co-operation between local farmers and scientists at agricultural research facilities at Saudi Arabian universities and colleges.

The Sixth Plan aims at achieving an annual average real growth rate in value-added by the agricultural sector of 3.1 per cent. Accordingly, agriculture's share of non-oil GDP is expected to be about 9.9 per cent by the end of the plan period. The targeted growth rates for the production of basic food items are higher than the expected rate of population growth for the same period.

Wheat production is expected to decline during the Sixth Development Plan in order not to exceed local consumption at the beginning of the second year of the Sixth Plan. Efforts will be concentrated on the production of high value crops requiring less water, but utilising capital intensive techniques that will raise labour productivity in the agricultural sector.



Photo: Peter Davidson



The Producing Sectors

INDUSTRY

The Kingdom's policy for ensuring the growth of the non-oil industrial sector focuses on establishing industries that use the country's abundant and inexpensive supplies of petroleum products, petrochemicals and minerals. Petrochemical and other oil-based industries have been concentrated at new industrial cities. These plants use natural gas and natural gas liquids that were previously flared, as well as refined products from the oil industry to manufacture products that in turn feed non-oil industries. Concentration on industrial plants in specific areas also facilitates the provision of vital support services, such as water, power and transportation.

Eight industrial cities have been built, with the two principal ones at Jubail on the Arabian Gulf and Yanbu on the Red Sea. Others are scattered across the Kingdom. These sites were chosen for their proximity to sources of raw materials and ease of access to major domestic and international consumer markets. All have been built with emphasis on environmental and wildlife conservation.

Jubail is the largest industrial city. It accommodates more than 30,000 workers and has 15 major plants and other industrial facilities, as well as a dedicated desalination plant, a vocational training institute and a college. Yanbu is a major industrial site with a modern port from which products manufactured locally and in other areas of the Kingdom are exported. There are three major refineries, a petrochemical complex and many manufacturing and support enterprises.

The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) plays a central role in encouraging private sector participation in the nation's economic growth. Established in 1976 by the government as a share holding company with an initial capital of



Yanbu Industrial City.



Jubail Industrial City.



"These accomplishments at Jubail and Yanbu are important to me for two reasons. Firstly, I am proud that I was personally able to follow the cities' development step by step. Secondly, the monumental industrial success at Jubail and Yanbu was accompanied by a similar social success - namely, young Saudis have evolved into talented leaders."

King Fahd

£1.78 billion Sterling, SABIC quickly became the backbone of Saudi Arabia's successful industrialisation. By 1994, SABIC had 15 major plants operating in the industrial cities of Jubail, Yanbu and Jeddah, and a 16th under construction, with an annual production of 13 million tons of chemicals, plastics, industrial gases, steel and other metals.

Some of these products are sold on domestic and international markets. Others are used as feed stock by secondary and support industries to produce consumer goods. These industries, all owned and operated by the private sector, produce a variety of consumer and industrial goods. SABIC earned a record net profit in excess of £1 billion Sterling in 1995.



The government plays an essential role in industrial and economic development. The Ministry of Planning assists in formulating the five-year development plans that set long-term economic goals. The Ministry of Finance and National Economy supervises implementation of the nation's economic policies. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, the nation's central bank, oversees the country's fiscal policy. The specialised credit institutions provide economic opportunities to many Saudis who were previously unable to compete in the marketplace.

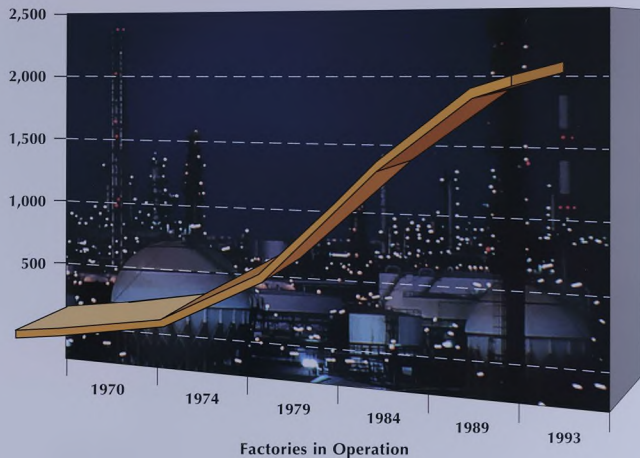
In 1974, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) was the first government agency set up to provide interest-free soft loans to enable Saudi businessmen to establish industrial plants. By 1995, the fund had lent a total of SR 55.6 billion (£10 billion Sterling). These loans can be used to finance up to 50 per cent of the capital for a new factory.

Since it was founded, the Saudi Agricultural Bank has provided SR 28.1 billion (over £5 billion Sterling) worth of loans for agricultural projects, farm machinery and production requirements.

Launched in 1971, the Public Investment Fund offers credit to public and semi-public corporations. By 1995, loan commitments equalled approximately SR 55 billion (£10 billion Sterling).

Private entrepreneurs also have access to government information systems specifically created to help local manufacturers target the best market for their products. Government agencies provide free consulting and support services and publish lists of investment opportunities for the production of goods in demand in Saudi Arabia.

Government tenders also give priority to locally manufactured products and to Saudi companies. Saudi industries are also

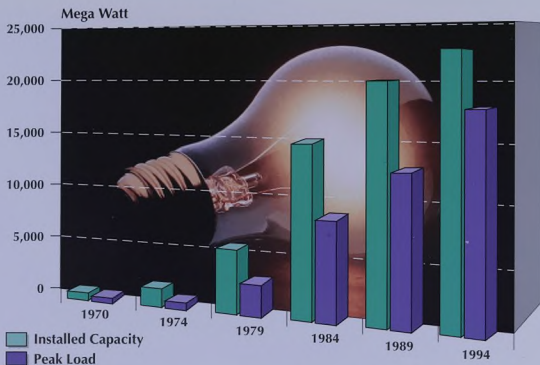


exempted from paying customs duties on the import of machinery and supplies used in the production of goods domestically. To facilitate the transfer of technology and expand the operations of the private sector, the government also provides various incentives to foreign companies that enter into joint ventures with Saudi firms.

During the period 1970-1995, the number of manufacturing industries in both government and private sectors continued to grow remarkably - from 199 factories employing 14,000 work-

ers to 2,234 factories employing 196,000 workers. Capital investment increased more than 54 times during the same period, rising from SR 2.8 billion (£0.5 billion Sterling) to SR 151.2 billion (£27.2 billion Sterling).

The industrial sector as a whole is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 4.9 per cent during the Sixth Plan, with petrochemical industries growing at an average annual rate of 8.3 per cent, oil refining at 3.9 per cent and other manufacturing at 4.9 per cent.



Electricity Installed Capacity & Peak Load



Photo: Peter Davidson

ELECTRICITY

The five-year development plans have targeted the electrification of the country as a top priority. The plans emphasise improving the efficiency, planning and conservation of electric power, and co-ordinating the electricity sector policy, particularly on pricing of electricity, with that for other sources of energy.

The Fifth Development Plan (1990-95) allocated £2.4 billion Sterling for electricity, which was utilised to boost the country's power generation capacity. Between 1970 and 1994, this amount increased from 344 to 21,901 megawatts. The Saudi Consolidated Electric Company (SCECO), has helped to establish generating facilities, transmission and distribution systems and substations throughout the country. A long-term goal is to increase the capacity of steam stations and desalination plants to enable them to generate half of the electricity output.

With the rapid growth in population and industrialisation, domestic electricity consumption has climbed steadily. In addition to establishing generation facilities, Saudi Arabia has built a massive electricity distribution network of 16,000 km of transmission lines, 89,000 km of distribution lines and 91,000 km of service connections. The power network has been extended to 6,500 cities, towns and villages across the country.

Total electricity consumption is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 6.4 per cent (from 79 Billion Kwh in 1994 to 108 Billion Kwh by the end of the century). Total consumption per residential customer is expected to increase by two per cent each year and peak load will increase by 6.2 per cent each year to 23,310 megawatts.





The Producing Sectors

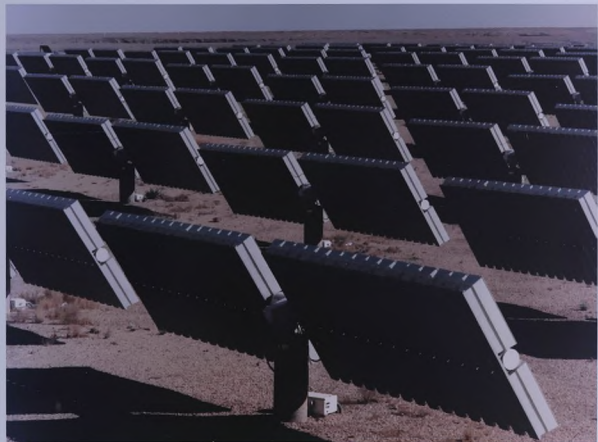
SOLAR ENERGY

In keeping with its long-standing objective of exploring major renewable sources of energy, Saudi Arabia has undertaken extensive research on solar energy. The Kingdom receives some of the most intense sunlight in the world: 105 trillion kilowatt hours a day, which is the equivalent of 10 billion barrels of crude oil in energy terms. Solar energy is also an appropriate energy source for use in remote locations. As an example, it is used to power emergency telephones and signs along vast stretches of desert roads.

As a major part of the Kingdom's solar energy programme, the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology is carrying out a programme of research, development and training. One of its major accomplishments has been a photovoltaic electric power system for several villages. With a capacity of 350 kilowatts, this is the world's largest solar-powered electricity generating system. Other programmes focus on utilising solar energy for water desalination, agriculture, and the generation of hydrogen. Projected applications for solar energy include using it to power water pumps, refrigerators, air conditioners, heaters and communications equipment, as well as to run pipeline anti-corrosion units in remote areas.

The Sixth Development Plan emphasises the need to develop the Kingdom's mineral resources and to improve economic efficiency to produce services, utilities and products. It also aims to reduce production costs of public services and utilities, such as electricity, and supports investment in projects for new technologies, such as solar energy. Another strategic principle is to develop economically promising natural resources, such

as minerals and undersea deposits. Increasing the country's production of refined petroleum products and petrochemicals is another priority. The plan also encourages production of gas by the Saudi private sector or through joint-venture enterprises with companies abroad.





The Private Sector



Photo: Geoff Adams

Glaxo Wellcome's Jeddah factory.

The combination of loans, incentives, subsidies and information, and the government emphasis on strengthening the role of the private sector, especially during the course of the Fifth Development Plan (1990-95), have clearly had the desired result. Over the past 20 years, the private sector's GDP contribution has risen from 21 per cent to around 45 per cent. The private sector currently accounts for some 72 per cent of the Kingdom's non-oil GDP. Also, the country has seen a decrease in imports, directly proportional to an increase in domestic production.



OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SIXTH PLAN

The government aims to guide the deployment of private resources rather than making industrial investments directly itself, except in a small number of cases where the investment needs are very large and the risks high.

In the future, a greater private sector role in the petroleum industry may be possible. It is also anticipated that conditions during the Plan years will make the progressive privatisation of SABIC possible. Initiatives to privatise some government-owned industrial companies will be one of the major features of the Sixth Plan period.

Government agencies will continue to perform their role of attracting more private sector investment into manufacturing. The SIDF will continue to extend loans to industrial projects and Saudi Consulting House will provide investors and businessmen with comprehensive advice and research. The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu will also acquaint potential investors, both domestic and foreign, with opportunities in both cities.

The private sector is expected to invest in new industries that utilise modern technology and generate high levels of value-added, in addition to expanding its investments in import substitution and export-oriented industries.

	Total Sixth Plan	Private Sector	Public Sector
Producing Sectors	181.0	88.9	92.1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	14.6	10.0	4.6
Other Mining, Quarrying	4.1	2.2	1.9
Manufacturing	64.7	31.8	32.9
– Petroleum Refining	4.2	2.1	2.1
– Petrochemicals	22.2	2.8	19.4
– Other Manufacturing	38.3	26.9	11.4
Electricity, Gas, Water	83.1	31.5	51.6
Construction	14.5	13.4	1.1
Service Sectors	92.0	76.8	15.2
Trade, Restaurants, Hotels	24.6	24.4	0.2
Transport, Communication	32.9	21.9	11.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	26.2	23.3	2.9
– Real Estate	10.3	8.2	2.1
– Financial & Business Serv.	15.9	15.1	0.8
Community, Social & Personal Services	8.3	7.2	1.1
Government Services	103.4	0.0	103.4
Residential Housing	64.1	47.0	17.1
Non-Oil Sectors	440.5	212.7	227.8
Crude Oil & Natural Gas	31.5	0.0	31.5
Total Investment	472.0	212.7	259.3

Estimates of Sixth Plan Investment Planning Requirements By Sector and Source (SR billions at current prices).

Public Sector: Government agencies, specialised funds and public companies.



SABIC Office.

BANKING

Commercial banking has undergone tremendous growth during the course of the country's development. Total assets of the banking system increased from less than SR 2.5 billion in 1971 to SR 323.9 billion (some £60 billion Sterling) at the end of the third quarter of 1995, while the number of branches of the 12 commercial banks grew from 65 to more than 1,160. The rapid expansion of deposits has allowed the banking system to take on a leading role in marshalling Saudi financial resources to fund the expanding activities of the private sector. Since 1990, some Saudi banks have as much as tripled their domestic loan portfolios. Loans to the private sector amounted to SR 108.6 billion (around £20 billion Sterling) in 1994.

The strong financial position of the commercial banks will enable them to increase their contribution to the implementation of the Sixth Plan's objectives.

TRADE

Saudi Arabia is the 20th largest exporter and the 20th largest import market in the world. Exports, which have increased tenfold during the last two decades to SR 157.8 billion (£30 billion Sterling) in 1994/5, now represent all economic sectors. Statistics indicate that industrial exports since 1984 have increased sevenfold for manufactured and metal products, twofold for plastics and chemicals, 21-fold for textiles and sevenfold for processed foods.

The trade sector is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 6.2 per cent and its share of non-oil GDP should reach 11 per cent by the end of the Sixth Plan. The main services of the Ministry of Commerce are expected to grow at the following

annual rates: registration of establishments and companies (four per cent), commercial agencies (nine per cent), trade marks (four per cent), professional offices (five per cent), hotels (two per cent), sample testing services in quality control laboratories (16.8 per cent), and the issue of certificates of origin for manufacturing industries (12 per cent).



Photo: Peter Davidson



Photo: Geoff Adams





Human Resources Development



"I was honoured to serve my dear country in the Ministry of Education and enjoyed the support of some of the most capable assistants amongst our Saudi brothers. And I feel that our efforts have been most fruitful."

King Fahd



When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded, education was not accessible to everyone and limited to individualised instruction at religious schools in mosques in urban areas. These schools taught Islamic law and basic literacy skills. Saudi Arabia now has a nationwide educational system that provides free training from pre-school through university to all citizens. While the study of Islam remains at its core, the modern Saudi educational system provides quality instruction in diverse fields of modern and traditional arts and sciences.

Formal primary education began in Saudi Arabia in the 1930s. By 1945, King Abdulaziz had initiated an extensive pro-

gramme to establish schools in the Kingdom. Six years later, in 1951, the country had 226 schools with 29,887 students. In 1954, the Ministry of Education was established, headed by the then Prince Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz as the first Minister of Education. The first university, now known as King Saud University, was founded in Riyadh in 1957.

Today, Saudi Arabia's nationwide educational system comprises seven universities, 94 colleges and more than 22,000 schools. Open to every citizen, the system provides students with free education, books and health services. A measure of the government's substantial commitment to this sector is the allocation of approximately 18 per cent of expenditure, or SR 153 billion (£28 billion Sterling), to education and human resources under the Fifth Development Plan. The Education sector received an allocation of SR 27.6 billion (£5 billion Sterling) in the 1996 budget (an increase of 2.6 per cent over the previous year), reflecting the emphasis on human resource development in the Sixth Plan.



GENERAL EDUCATION

General education in the Kingdom consists of kindergarten, six years of primary school and three years each of intermediate and high school. The Ministry of Education sets overall standards for the country's educational system and also oversees special education for the handicapped. The General Presidency for Girls' Education administers girls' schools and colleges, supervises kindergartens and nursery schools, and sponsors literacy programmes for females. The first school for girls in the Kingdom was built in 1964, and education is now available for girls throughout the country. Of the 3.9 million students enrolled in Saudi schools in 1995, more than 49 per cent were female.

Students can attend either high schools offering programmes in both the arts and sciences, or vocational schools. In 1995, there were 815,000 students in intermediate schools and 447,000 students in high schools. Students' progress through high schools is determined by comprehensive examinations conducted twice a year and supervised by the Ministry of Education.

The dramatic quantitative growth of the educational system since the introduction of the First Development Plan in 1970 has been more than matched by an improvement in the quality of education. One measure of this emphasis is that while the number of students in the educational system increased sevenfold between 1970 and 1995, the number of full-time teachers grew almost twelvefold.

The Kingdom's ratio of 15.1 students to every teacher is one of the lowest in the world. The government, however, continues to work to improve educational standards. This has been achieved by raising the quality of teacher training programmes, improving standards for evaluation of students, and increasing the use of educational technology, principally by





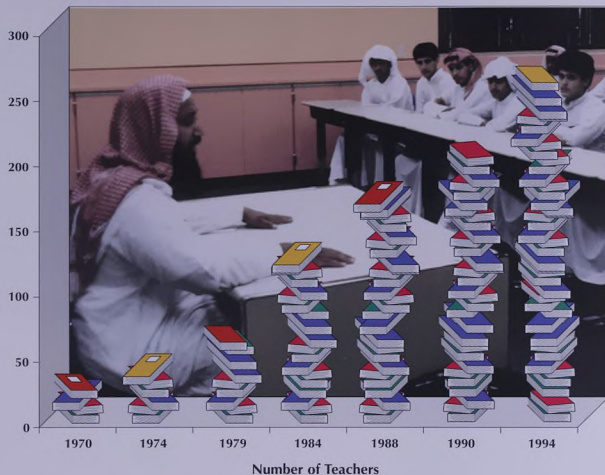
introducing computer science at the secondary level. The administration of the educational system has also been enhanced partly by delegating more authority to the regional boards.

As part of its efforts to make education available to Saudi students residing abroad, the Kingdom has established three educational institutions in the United Kingdom (The King Fahd Academy), Germany and the U.S. Students at these schools receive instruction in Islam and the Arabic language, in addition to the regular curriculum.

	6th Development Plan	
	Boys	Girls
Elementary	974,000	1,111,000
Intermediate	694,000	708,000
Secondary	418,000	447,000
Teacher Colleges	31,000	59,000

New entrants in General Education during the Sixth Plan

Thousands



HIGHER EDUCATION

Saudi students can now obtain degrees in almost any field within the country and, only if necessary, pursue specialisations abroad. Today, there are more than 170,000 students at Saudi universities and colleges, a dramatic improvement over the 7,000 students enrolled in 1970. Of that number, more than 83,000 are female students studying at five of the univer-

sities - King Saud, King Abdulaziz, King Faisal, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud and Umm Al-Qura - that accept both male and female students, and also at 14 colleges set up exclusively for women. More than 10,200 teachers are employed at Saudi universities and colleges.

The oldest university in the country is King Saud University in Riyadh. When it opened in 1957, there were only nine instructors teaching 21 students. The university now accommodates

24,400 students in its faculties of art, science, commerce, engineering, agriculture, medicine, dentistry, nursing, education, computer science and information science. It offers doctorate programmes in many fields and is noted for its schools of engineering and medicine.

The Islamic University at Madinah, founded in 1961, serves as a centre for Islamic studies and for teaching Islamic culture. It



Human Resources Development



King Saud University.



also offers programmes in Arabic literature and the arts and the sciences. More than 8,000 students have graduated from the university, including non-Saudis from 105 countries. Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University in Riyadh and Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah offer programmes in the various arts and sciences, including engineering, architecture, science and technology and education. Both are highly regarded for their Islamic law, history and Arabic literature. Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University has branches in the U.S., Japan, Indonesia, Mauritania, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates, offering programmes in Islamic and Arabic studies.

The King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, founded in Dhahran in 1963, enrolls approximately 5,000 students. Considered to be on a par with the best in the world, it offers programmes in the modern sciences, including engineering, mathematical sciences, finance, economics and management and marketing. Its research institute conducts studies in a variety of fields, notably in petroleum technology and environmental issues.

King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah was founded in 1967 by a group of Saudi businessmen who understood the importance of education in national development. The university developed so rapidly that in 1971, the founders petitioned the government to assume responsibility for its operation. Since then it has expanded considerably and now has more than 23,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programmes in various fields of study.

King Faisal University, with two campuses in Dammam and Hofuf, offers a range of programmes, including medicine, administrative science and architecture and urban planning. Founded in 1975, the university is famous for its outstanding agricultural and veterinary sciences programmes. It has edu-

cational and experimental farms in Hofuf and conducts advanced research in agriculture and animal husbandry.

One of the institutions that has been instrumental in the development of higher education in Saudi Arabia is the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. Dedicated to research in various fields, including education, it helps to formulate the national policy for the development of science and technology, conducts applied scientific research and assists the private sector in research and development.

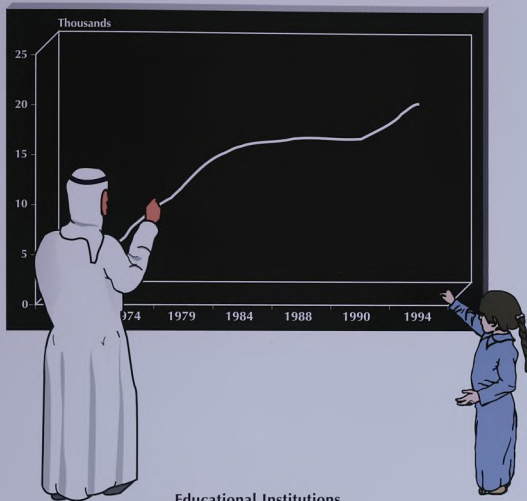
	6th Development Plan	
	Boys	Girls
Elementary	974,000	1,111,000
Intermediate	694,000	708,000
Secondary	418,000	447,000
Teacher Colleges	31,000	59,000

Higher Education New Entrants and Graduates at Bachelor Level

TRAINING

The Kingdom has identified technical and administrative training as an essential sector of education to support the country's economic and social development. The number of students enrolled in vocational training rose from 578 in 1970 to 9,578 in 1995. Graduates of training programmes in health care, agriculture, teaching and other areas are steadily filling positions at industrial, agricultural and social institutions throughout the country.

The General Organisation for Technical Education and



Educational Institutions

Vocational Training, along with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, operates most of the Kingdom's vocational training centres and higher institutes of technical education. The Ministry of Education operates vocational and secondary schools, and several other government agencies run institutes or training centres in their particular specialties.

The Royal Technical Institute at Riyadh, the best equipped in the Middle East, and the Hofuf Technical Training School emphasise machine tooling, metal working, electro-mechanics and auto-mechanics. The General Organisation for Technical Education and Vocational Training in Riyadh also offers young Saudis the opportunity to learn skills that are in high demand. Hundreds of young Saudis every year partici-

pate in training programmes in a variety of fields, from electronics to maintenance of industrial machinery. Other vocational and technical schools have also been established in Jeddah, Madinah, Abha, Taif, Unaizah and Dammam.

Another important institution, designed to address the country's shortage of administrative personnel, is the Institute for Public Administration, established in Riyadh in 1961 as a semi-independent public agency. The institute provides basic as well as in-service training for civil servants, carries out research, and assists government agencies in administration, communication and computer sciences. Today, it has branches in Dammam and Jeddah, and a special branch in Riyadh for training women. Currently, it enrolls over 15,000 students in courses in administration, law, accounting, computer science, maintenance, personnel management, secretarial skills and management planning.



King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.



Human Resources Development



The educational system of Saudi Arabia seeks to bestow the legacy of Islam and the wisdom of the past upon new generations, while training them to meet the challenges of the future. King Fahd has always expressed Saudi Arabia's commitment to provide the country's youth with opportunities to develop their capabilities.

Whether their interests are technical, scientific, or artistic, students today have the chance to pursue knowledge in a wide variety of fields, in the most modern educational institutions.

To build upon the advances Saudi Arabia has made in the field of education and human resource development, the Sixth Development Plan calls for greater efforts to improve the quality of general and higher education and vocational training. It also focuses on enabling Saudi schools, universities and training facilities to better meet the future needs of the country's increasingly sophisticated economy by offering quality education in advanced fields of specialisation.



SPECIAL & ADULT EDUCATION

The Special Education Department of the Ministry of Education operates schools for the blind, deaf and the physically and mentally handicapped. Currently, more than 1,000 teachers and support staff provide training for approximately 4,550 students at more than 30 such schools. Several institutes for handicapped children have been established and more are under construction. Other institutes care for older handicapped people. The special schools are part of the Kingdom's effort to encourage every individual to reach his or her full potential.

Another important sector of Saudi Arabia's educational programme is adult education. With its commitment to making education available to all and eradicating illiteracy, the Kingdom has established 2,343 adult education centres. In isolated rural areas, the government conducts intensive three-month adult education courses during the summer.

	6th Development Plan	
	New Entrants	Graduates
Technical Education	106,285	55,274
Vocational Training	69,804	45,785
IPA Programmes	81,250	-
Other Govt. agencies & private sector	83,900	-





The Imam Mohammed bin Saud Islamic University, Riyadh.



Social Development



King Fahd's commitment to health care is described as a role model for many countries of the region.

UNICEF has singled out Saudi Arabia for its constant support to this programme.



HEALTH

One of the first initiatives of King Abdulaziz was to improve the health care facilities for citizens and the pilgrims who come to Saudi Arabia to visit the Islamic holy sites. Another milestone in this same tradition was the government's decision to furnish free medical treatment. To achieve this goal, each administrative region in the Kingdom set up its own medical facilities and within a relatively short time, once-endemic diseases, such as malaria and smallpox, were virtually eradicated, the infant mortality rate was drastically reduced, and life expectancy rose sharply.

Beginning with the first Five-Year Development Plan in 1970, the Saudi health care system underwent a dramatic quantitative and qualitative improvement. Even as the modern network of health care and social services was expanded across the entire country, technology was continually updated to incorporate the latest medical advances. Today, Saudi Arabians have access to a network of thousands of hospitals and clinics across the country and are no longer obliged to travel abroad to obtain specialised medical treatment. Sophisticated surgical procedures, such as open heart surgery and organ transplants, are routinely performed in various Saudi hospitals to the highest international standards.

To meet all the health needs of Saudi citizens, from preventive care to advanced surgery, the Kingdom has implemented a two-tier health service plan. The first tier is a network of primary health care centres and clinics established throughout the country. The number of such facilities that provide preventive, pre-natal, emergency and basic health services rose from 591 in 1970 to 3,254 in 1995. These centres are supplemented by a fleet of mobile clinics that routinely visit the more remote villages, dispensing vaccines and performing basic medical services.

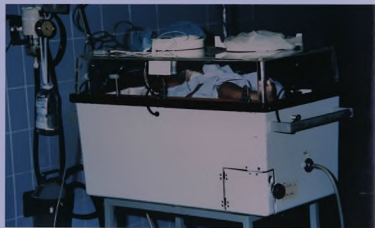
By reaching people throughout the country, these centres and clinics have contributed greatly to the improvement of health standards in the general public. They have been instrumental in reducing the infant mortality rate in the Kingdom from 68 per 1,000 births in 1980 to less than 30 per 1,000 now. More than 94 per cent of Saudi children are immunised against common diseases, and plans are underway to raise that figure to 100 per cent.

These centres and clinics are backed by a network of advanced hospitals and specialised treatment facilities. Strategically placed in major urban areas throughout the coun-

try to be accessible to all, they constitute the second tier of the Saudi health plan. In 1970, there were 74 hospitals with 9,039 beds in Saudi Arabia. By the beginning of 1995, those numbers had grown to 279 and 41,923 respectively. With a population of 16.9 million, Saudi Arabia's ratio of hospital beds to population is among the most generous in the world.

The Ministry of Health bears primary responsibility for the Kingdom's health care programme. It operates 65 per cent of the country's hospitals and 53 per cent of its health care clinics and centres. Of the remaining hospitals and clinics, the majority are operated by the private sector. The functions of these facilities and the training of their staff are supervised and supported by the Ministry of Health. Other government agencies, such as the Ministries of Education and Defence, the National Guard and the Public Security Administration, have their own hospitals and clinics.

The Kingdom's commitment to raising the quality of health service provided to its citizens is reflected in the fact that while the number of hospitals and primary health care clinics and centres rose fivefold between 1970 and the beginning of 1995,





the number of physicians employed at these facilities rose 25-fold to 29,227. The nursing and technical staff grew 19-fold to 61,627 and 32,167 respectively.

The qualitative improvement in Saudi health care is also evident by the number of specialised hospitals now operating in the Kingdom. Two decades ago, most hospitals only offered general services. By 1993, of the 170 hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health, 16 specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology, seven in treating respiratory ailments, 16 in psychiatric care, two in eye diseases, one in contagious diseases and six were convalescent facilities.

Riyadh has become the Kingdom's capital for specialised health care, a trend that began when the King Faisal Specialist Hospital became the first facility in the country to pioneer specialised treatment at home. Today, the facility is a leading hospital in the Middle East and a premier research centre in the region.

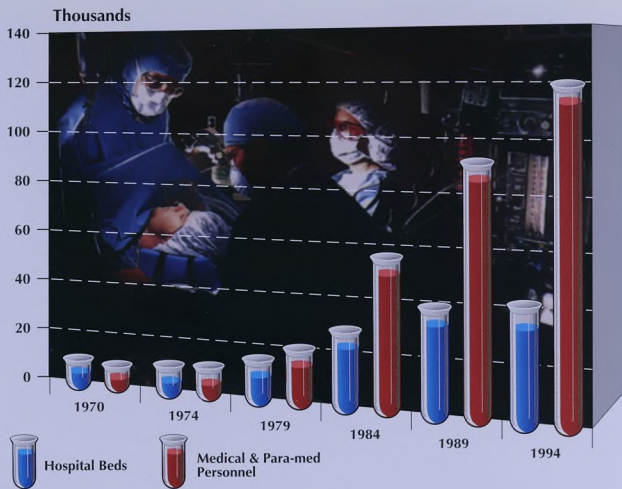
The SR1,960 million (£360 million) Sterling King Fahd Medical City is one of the largest medical facilities in the Middle East. The complex consists of five hospitals, including general, children's and psychiatric centres, among other facilities, offering a total of 1,484 beds. It also has extensive out-patient facilities and provides housing for approximately 3,000 employees.

The Kingdom has one of the world's largest and best-equipped eye hospitals, the King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital. Established in 1983, it treated 590,000 out-patients and admitted more than 60,000 in-patients by 1993. A total of 84,000 surgical operations, including cornea transplants and laser procedures, was performed during its first decade. An integrated medical city occupying a square mile of land in north-west Riyadh, the hospital has 50 fully-equipped examination rooms, 12 state-of-the-art operating theatres and 263 beds. The facility

employs more than 1,500 physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff. In 1988, the hospital established a programme to train ophthalmologists.

In 1993, a third Saudi hospital specialising in open heart surgery and other sophisticated heart operations was opened in Makkah. Built with funds donated by The Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques, King Fahd, the Al-Noor Specialist Hospital's Heart Centre was established with the technical support of the King Fahd Hospital Heart Centre (KFHHC) in Jeddah, the Saudi Heart Foundation and the Ministry of Health. The specialists at the new facilities were trained at the KFHHC and the King Abdulaziz College of Medicine. Since its establishment in 1982, the KFHHC has performed more than 6,000 open heart



All Health Facilities in the Kingdom



Social Development



surgeries. Teams of surgeons from the centre also performed 750 open heart procedures in less developed nations and helped set up heart centres in Albania and Chad in 1994.

In addition to major hospitals, medical colleges and universities also conduct basic health research. Many institutes have made striking advances with potential benefits that reach well beyond Saudi Arabia. The research centre at King Saud University's School of Pharmacology, for example, has developed new drugs, notably one for diabetes. The government subsidises medications, which are readily available to patients and cost less than in most countries. It also encourages Saudi companies to manufacture pharmaceuticals and supports their efforts.

King Abdulaziz University is also a centre for advanced medical research, and King Saud University's College of Science is using radioactive biotopes to determine the effect of antibiotics on bodily functions. At King Khalid University Hospital, scientists are testing whether indigenous medicinal plants could help in treating cancer.

These and other Saudi universities play a vital role in training the physicians, nurses and staff needed to run the country's vast health care system. In 1993, 6,248 Saudi students were studying at medical colleges in the Kingdom and a further 6,022 were pursuing studies in nursing and medical technology.

Dentistry is another growing field in the Kingdom. At the beginning of 1993, there were 1,150 dental clinics and 11 specialised dental hospitals. An additional 150 mobile dental clinics were used to service residents of remote villages.

An important role in health care is played by the Saudi Red Crescent Society in providing first aid and emergency medical

services. The society operates 141 medical centres and branches throughout the country, and has four mobile clinics and more than 500 ambulances and medical evacuation helicopters. It also plays a special part in caring for the millions of Muslim pilgrims during the annual *Haj* or pilgrimage to the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah. The society operates 120 health care stations staffed by approximately 1,400 doctors, nurses and technicians as well as hundreds of support personnel, for the pilgrims.

The Saudi Red Crescent Society also responds to natural disasters abroad, with personnel and volunteers sent to various parts of the world. The society has operated field hospitals and food distribution centres in Somalia where famine victims received medical care and food donated by Saudi Arabia.

The treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally and physically handicapped is a priority of the Saudi health and social services system. Over the past two decades, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs have established a network of rehabilitation centres for the handicapped.

These facilities fall into two categories. The first offers services for medical, physical and mental treatment and rehabilitation of patients, and is operated or supervised by the Ministry of Health. There are currently 18 such centres. The second group of centres focuses on the social rehabilitation of the handicapped and is run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. There are presently 14 centres throughout the country that teach social, educational and vocational skills to the mentally and physically impaired. The aim is to help them to enter society as independent, productive individuals. There are also 24 special education institutes for the blind and the deaf in Saudi Arabia and three centres for handicapped children.





The most important Sixth Plan targets include the following:

- Maintaining the current penetration of hospital beds to 2.4 beds per 1,000 persons.
- Reducing the morbidity rate of infectious diseases per 100,000 population through immunisation to 0.01 cases per 100,000 for diphtheria, 0.4 for whooping cough, 40 for measles and eight for tuberculosis (TB), and eliminating tetanus and polio myelitis.
- Reducing the frequency of diarrhoea in children to two per child.
- Reducing the morbidity rate of endemic diseases per 100,000 population to 200 cases of malaria in high rate areas, below 100 cases in medium rate areas, and maintaining other areas free of malaria, and to 500 cases of bilharzia.
- Increasing the immunisation coverage to 97 per cent for each of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio myelitis, 95 per cent for hepatitis, and maintaining the 99 per cent rate for immunisation against TB .
- Decreasing the incidence of new-born children weighing less than 2,500 grams to two per cent, and increasing the percentage of children under five years old whose weights are commensurate with their ages to 98 per cent.
- Raising the percentage of pregnant mothers who are provided with health care professionals to 97 per cent and increasing the delivery rate by health professionals to 95 per cent.
- Increasing the immunisation coverage of pregnant mothers against tetanus to 85 per cent .



Photo: Cecif Adams



King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital, Riyadh.



Social Development

HOUSING

Another aspect of Saudi Arabia's social services is the provision of housing for the country's young and fast-growing population. The government has been active in financing construction and in building the infrastructure to enable housing development. Substantial housing has been built for low-income Saudis, public employees and students. During the Fifth Development Plan (1990-95), the government allocated approximately £1 billion Sterling to public housing across the country.

A particularly important government policy has been to provide interest-free, easy-term loans for home construction. For this purpose, the Real Estate Development Fund was established in 1975 to provide financing to individuals and private companies. From its inception through the beginning of 1995, it granted SR 109.6 billion (some £20 billion) in loans that financed 545,820 housing units.

One of the greatest benefits of Saudi Arabia's modern development is its ability to fulfil the Islamic obligation of caring for its citizens. Today, the Kingdom provides its citizens with high quality medical services and housing, cares for the multitudes of pilgrims who visit the holy cities, and ensures the safety and well-being of workers and their families.

The Sixth Development Plan (1995-2000) builds on the accomplishments of the past. It calls for greater efforts to further improve the quality of social welfare and health care services available to all Saudi citizens, expand national programmes for the rehabilitation and welfare of the handicapped, and immunise all children against infectious diseases.

The demand for new housing in the Sixth Plan period is estimated at between 500,000 and 600,000 units, of which some

100,000 will be replacement units (around three per cent of the total existing housing stock). Around 57,710 housing units will be constructed through REDF loans at a total cost of SR 12.98 billion (£2.4 billion Sterling) and the private sector will finance the remaining demand.



Photo: Peter Davidson



Jeddah: Old and New.



Yanbu family residential area.



Development at the Jeddah Corniche.



"We all know the difficulties and hardships that faced our forefathers. The individual could not reach Makkah without great difficulty. These modern roads have helped reduce significantly the percentage of road accidents in the Kingdom."

King Fahd



For thousands of years, pilgrims and Bedouins have been travelling the ancient trade and caravan routes of the Arabian Peninsula. Traversing the length and breadth of this huge land mass, however, entailed great expenditure of time and risks to life and property. Passage through the vast deserts was possible only during the cooler hours of the day and less harsh seasons of the year. But the times when crossing the peninsula demanded a month or more of arduous travel have now faded into history. Today, thanks to a modern network of inter-city roads, towns at far ends of the Kingdom are only hours apart. In addition, all parts of the country are now linked by highly advanced telecommunication and postal systems integrated with global networks.

The swift movement of both people and freight has been particularly vital to modernise such a large and sparsely-populated country. During the course of the first four development plans, special emphasis was placed on the overall improvement of the Kingdom's transportation infrastructure. Saudi Arabia now possesses one of the finest national transportation networks and most sophisticated communication systems in the world. The great distances between cities and the rugged terrain of much of the country make these achievements all the more remarkable. Transport and communication links have helped Saudi Arabia bring prosperity to its remotest regions.

With far-reaching vision, Saudi Arabian leaders, starting with King Abdulaziz, have understood the critical importance of roads, railroads, air travel and telecommunications for building a modern nation. A testament to the progressive approach of the nation's leadership, the infrastructure they established continues to reinforce national unity, while providing a base for future economic and national development.

The transport and communication networks installed in the past 20 years have encouraged Saudi Arabia's modern development and enabled it to assume a significant and growing role in world economic and political affairs. As the Kingdom's population increases and the pace of life becomes ever more rapid, the country will continue to harness the benefits of the communications revolution to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

The Sixth Development Plan concentrates on improving the efficiency and quality of communication and transportation services in Saudi Arabia. In addition, the plan intends to improve economic performance by reducing production costs and utilising advanced technology. By implementing the objectives of the plan, Saudi Arabia will have national communication and transportation networks capable of meeting the nation's social and economic needs into the next century.



Highway to Madinah.



Transportation & Communications

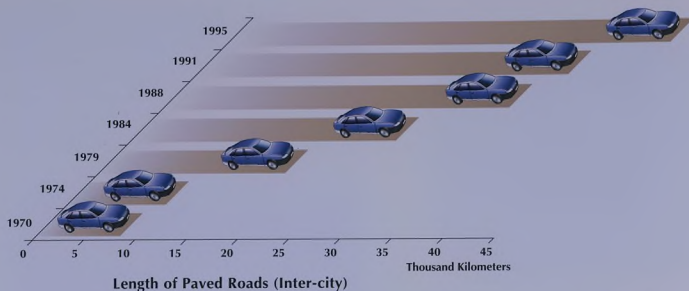
During the Sixth Plan, efforts will be made to improve the quality of the postal service by reducing the time for mail processing. Coverage will also be expanded. Furthermore, the telecommunications network (particularly long distance) will be expanded and modernised through the widespread introduction of digital services. New services will be introduced alongside the very latest technology. Investment funds will be raised from private financial institutions and opportunities for increasing joint venture and revenue sharing arrangements will be examined. Local, national and international telephone charges will be reviewed and modified to reflect cost structures. The development of Saudi human resources will be given a high priority.



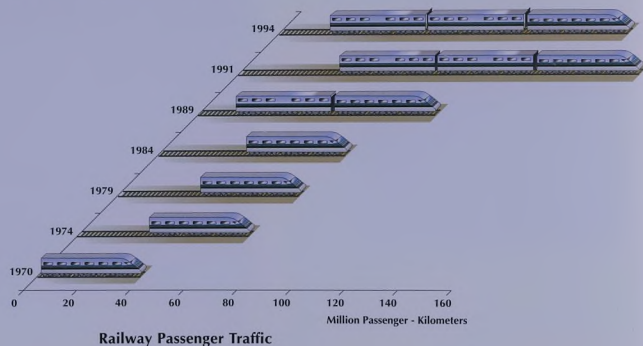
ROADS & RAILWAYS

Beginning with the First Development Plan (1970-75), the country established its comprehensive road network in less than two decades, at a cost of more than SR136 billion (£25 billion Sterling). Today, the Kingdom is served by 43,200 km of primary road and 96,000 km of secondary roads, which facilitate civilian travel as well as commerce throughout the country. An example is the six-lane expressway that links the productive agricultural region of Al-Qasim with Riyadh and the rest of the country. This road, which has 47 bridges, took four years to build.

Overall, the highway system is a monument to modern road-building techniques. Particularly spectacular are the highways, with impressively engineered tunnels and bridges, through the arduous mountain terrain of the Asir region in the southern part of the country. One road in the hilly Abha region was the first in the world with a highway tunnel illuminated by solar photovoltaic technology.



Length of Paved Roads (Inter-city)



Railway Passenger Traffic

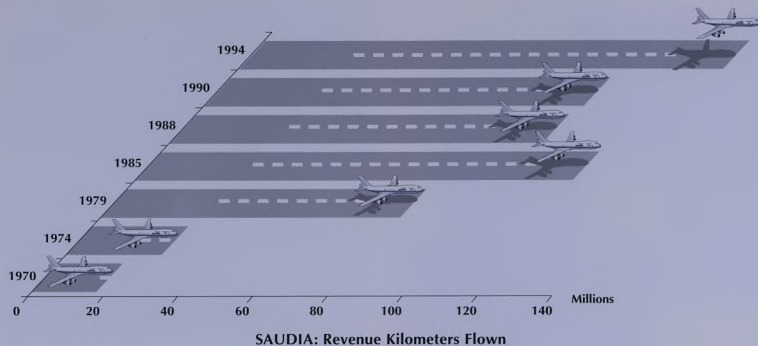


The King Fahd Causeway is a showpiece of the Arabian Gulf. It is the second longest in the world, 15.5 miles long, and has connected Saudi Arabia to the state of Bahrain since 1986. This engineering masterpiece, spanning long stretches of sea and reclaimed land, cost SR4,370 million (£800 million Sterling). Its five bridges rest on 536 concrete pylons, with seven embankments constructed in the Gulf's shallower waters. One embankment is actually a sizeable artificial island, complete with customs and immigration facilities, a mosque and restaurant. The causeway has not only streamlined the transport of goods and people, but also strengthened the cultural and social bonds between the two nations.

With the highway system now largely in place, the government's emphasis has shifted from construction to more efficient operation and maintenance. However, one road project under consideration is a causeway to link Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The 9.24-mile causeway between the Saudi coast and the Sinai peninsula, along Tiran Island, would connect the eastern and western flanks of the Arab world.

In the 1940s, King Abdulaziz encouraged the building of a railway from Riyadh through the desert to the port of Dammam. Operated by the Saudi Government Railway Organisation (SRO), the line was finished in 1951. One of SRO's major tasks is to transport cargo from Dammam, a modern port on the Arabian Gulf, to Riyadh.

The Riyadh-Dammam line, which has station stops at Hofuf and Abqaiq, is now being extended to Jubail industrial city, the site of major industrial facilities. Eventually, the railway network will reach Makkah, Jeddah and Madinah.



SAUDIA: Revenue Kilometers Flown

AIR TRAVEL

During its development into a modern nation, Saudi Arabia has relied heavily upon air transport to surmount its vast distances. The Kingdom established its national airline, Saudi Arabian Airlines, in 1945 with a modest fleet of three DC-3s. As the company grew into a world-class airline, it also played a critical role in the Kingdom's development.

Today, Saudi Arabian Airlines is the 25th largest airline in the world and the largest in the Middle East. Its domestic flights serve cities throughout the Kingdom daily, and its international flights serve many destinations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. The number of passengers carried annually by Saudi Arabian Airlines has increased steadily in recent years, reaching 12.5 million in 1994.

The Kingdom has three international and 22 regional and local airports. The *Haj* Terminal at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah was built exclusively to accommodate some of the two million Muslim pilgrims who perform the annual pilgrimage. Saudi Arabia has also expanded other air transport facilities to handle the burgeoning pilgrim traffic, for example, the Madinah airport, with an additional runway, and larger passenger and *Haj* terminals. The King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh is one of the most modern in the Middle East. An industrial park has been established next to the airport for the production of high technology, specialised parts for the aviation industry.





Photos: Peter Davidson



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Saudi Public Transport Company (SAPTCO) is responsible for operating the country's inter-city and intra-city bus service. Established in 1979, SAPTCO runs a fleet of 2,135 buses in large urban centres such as Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Madinah and Makkah, between cities and towns across the country, and also on international routes. By the end of 1995, SAPTCO had carried over one billion passengers on its buses.

One of the company's principal tasks is to ensure that the millions of Muslims who come to perform the *Haj*, the annual pilgrimage to the holy sites in Saudi Arabia, can travel in safety and comfort. To fulfil this responsibility, the company operates special services during the pilgrimage season with as many as 1,000 buses used to carry pilgrims to and from Makkah. During the annual *Haj* season, the company carries some 5.5 million passengers within the city of Makkah alone. SAPTCO's other services include school transportation and non-postal package delivery.



MARINE TRANSPORT

Saudi Arabia has taken advantage of its extensive coastline for the nation's industrial development. The Kingdom has enlarged and modernised its 21 ports considerably in recent years, particularly the five major ones located at Jeddah, Dammam, Yanbu, Jizan and Jubail. The Central Ports Authority operates all the Kingdom's ports, supplying equipment, building piers and maintaining facilities.

The main focus has been to expand and improve existing ports and to make cargo handling more efficient. Presently, 179

berths at the nation's ports offer prompt service with the most advanced cargo handling equipment. Each berth now handles a greater amount of cargo than in the past. In 1994, the ports moved more than 86.8 million tons of cargo. The Islamic Port of Jeddah, one of the principal ports in the Middle East, handles more than half of the Kingdom's sea traffic. The 58 wharves each accommodate 1,270 tons of goods daily. New port facilities have also been built at Yanbu industrial city on the Red Sea, both to ease the load at Jeddah and to handle petrochemical exports. At the same time, ports for fishing boats and small freighters have also been constructed or upgraded.



SIXTH PLAN TARGETS

Sixth Plan targets are for the achievement or maintenance of operational self-sufficiency for each of the main commercial and industrial ports. In addition:

- The national airline, Saudi Arabian Airlines, will aim at operational self-sufficiency and manpower productivity levels equal to international levels.
- The railway is expected to increase the utilisation of passenger trains by decreasing the shuttle trip times from two days to one day.
- SAPTCO is expected to maintain positive financial results throughout the Sixth Plan.
- The private sector will be encouraged to undertake the tasks of boosting the efficient development of this sector and to shoulder increasing responsibility for its integrated management, operation and maintenance activities.





TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In keeping with his determination to build a modern state, King Abdulaziz had wireless telegraph stations set up in Makkah, Taif, Jeddah and Riyadh in the early 1930s. When the world communications revolution began, the Saudi government launched ambitious projects to modernise the country's telecommunication system and since then has spent more than SR87 billion (£16 billion Sterling) in that endeavour.

Saudi Arabia's telecommunication sector continues to grow at a remarkable rate, with the expansion of both facilities and services. The country's telephone system is already one of the world's most modern and efficient, and new microwave links with Arab countries have been opened to strengthen regional communication. The Kingdom boosted its telephone exchange capacity to more than 1.78 million lines in 1995, a dramatic rise from the 76,600 lines in place in 1970.

An ambitious plan to increase the telephone network by one million lines by the year 2000 will bring state-of-the-art technology to more than 1,000 additional towns and villages. Domestic microwave service between smaller towns supplements the 9,300 mile, 550-station microwave system. The Kingdom's seven standard earth stations link up with the Intelsat Satellite System, allowing subscribers to dial 185 countries directly.

By 1993, Saudi Arabia also had more than 6,000 satellite circuits and 3,100 miles of coaxial cables. Submarine cables complement Saudi Arabia's wire and satellite network to make the country an international hub for communications. Saudi Arabia also utilises the latest innovations in telecommunications, such as cellular telephones and pagers, that promise to serve the country's continuing progress.

Some especially exciting innovations in telecommunications in recent years have helped to strengthen Saudi Arabia's international links. In early 1985 the Kingdom, along with other members of the League of Arab States, launched Arabsat, the Arab world's first communication satellite, with its major ground station in Riyadh. Arabsat transmits to 7.5 million households in the country. On June 17 1985, Saudi Arabian Payload Specialist, Prince Sultan Ibn Salman, became the first Arab and the first Muslim to travel to space, aboard the space shuttle Discovery. During the mission, Prince Sultan helped launch the second Arabsat communication satellite.

Another landmark achievement came in 1987, when the Kingdom inaugurated the King Fahd Telecommunications City at a cost of more than SR245 million (£45 million Sterling). It is the largest facility of its kind in the Middle East, and the seventh earth station in the country for satellite transmission and reception.



King Fahd City for Science and Technology.



POSTAL SERVICE

The Saudi postal service has also participated in the growth of the communication sector. The main postal complexes at Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh employ modern sorting equipment, and the General Directorate for Posts has established 11 regional offices throughout the country to co-ordinate and improve the efficiency of postal operations. Express and electronic postal delivery reaches many cities and towns in the Kingdom along with a number of foreign countries.





UCN
ملتقى الرياض للمحافظة
 Riyadh Conservation Forum
 Riyadh - Saudi Arabia
 1-4 October 1995
 الرياض - المملكة العربية السعودية
 1-4 أكتوبر 1995
 NCWCD



Photo: Peter Davidson

During the Fifth Development Plan period, the five former planning regions were replaced as spatial references for planning by the 13 regions, which differ from each other by a host of geographical, demographic and economic factors. The new regions have their own administration and councils, which are essential prerequisites for the system of planning in the Kingdom.

The Kingdom's development planning approach is based on comprehensive planning of all sectors of the national economy and of each administrative region. With the issuance of the System of Provinces, the institutional foundations have now been laid for co-ordinated regional and sectoral planning within the region itself, so that an equitable and efficient distribution of investments and public services can be achieved.

The main concern of regional planning will continue to focus on resolving the issues that face each region, on identifying development strategies, on the optimal exploitation of comparative advantages, on reconciling the disparities between regions, and on satisfying the living needs of the population settlements in these regions. The private sector will play a vital role in supporting regional development.



THE ENVIRONMENT

Saudi Arabia's record of successful growth has not been achieved at the expense of environmental problems. The recognition and understanding of environmental issues and their significance for development emerged 16 years ago when the government established the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA). In 1990, the Ministerial Committee on the Environment (MCE) was formed to set environmental strategies and policies at national level.

In support of this environmental work, the National Commission for Wildlife Development (NCWCD) was established in 1985 to manage a group of protected areas and implement programmes relating to the Kingdom's wildlife.

Within the framework of integrating development and environmental objectives, all agencies endeavour to achieve the following general and long-term objectives:

- To conserve and develop the environment, and protect it from pollution.
- To upgrade and enhance the quality of life and the well-being of citizens, and to ensure a pollution-free environment with pure air, clean water and healthy food.
- To achieve balanced and sustainable development by conserving natural resources, while reducing pollution and the over-use of such resources.
- To conserve, protect and develop the Kingdom's wildlife and preserve the bio-diversity that forms an integral part of its natural resources, within a framework for achieving balance between environmental and economic considerations, in addition to preserving rare and endangered botanical and zoological species.





"As a team, you are going to carry out a certain task, but as Saudi citizens, you should reflect the ideal example set by the Islamic faith. Every human being is keen to leave a fortune to his children. But the greatest asset is the adherence to the Islamic faith."

King Fahd



As part of its commitment to develop the nation's human resources, Saudi Arabia has placed special emphasis on encouraging and making sports accessible to all as a healthy leisure-time activity. Although this policy provides for the preservation of traditional sports, it focuses on modern popular sports such as soccer, volleyball and basketball with a view to encouraging active participation by as large a number of Saudis, particularly youth, as possible.

To realise this objective, Saudi Arabia has constructed magnificent modern sports complexes in which to hold sporting events, setting the stage for spectacular international and local competitions. Stadiums, sports clubs and neighbourhood

recreational facilities have been established in large and small towns alike for use by all. Modern sports have captured the interest of Saudi Arabia's youth, who now have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, while traditional sporting events continue to enrich the lives of Saudi Arabians. Sports, old and new, will be enjoyed by generations to come - thanks in large measure to the investments and efforts carried out today.



TRADITIONAL SPORTS

For thousands of years, the people of the Arabian Peninsula have enjoyed sporting activities. Ancient accounts tell of long-distance horse and camel races, while falconry and hunting with dogs were traditional sports. The swift Saluki hound, named after an ancient city in southern Arabia, is considered by most historians to be the world's oldest domesticated dog. The breed has long been a prominent symbol of hunting prowess and was often depicted in the ancient arts and crafts of the Middle East.

Falconry is a traditional sport with a long history in Saudi Arabia. In this fast-paced and exciting sport, man and animal work together in precise co-ordination. Because much of the falcon's traditional prey is now endangered, falconry has been limited and is carefully regulated.

Horse and camel racing are other traditional sports that are even more popular today than they were in the past. The famous Arabian horse has a bloodline that dates back thousands of years. Beautiful, intelligent and loyal, the Arabian horse is one of the world's most sought-after breeds. Modern

racetracks in Saudi Arabia resemble similar facilities throughout the world, although betting is prohibited.

Camel racing was a traditional desert sport of Bedouin tribes. Great in scale and spectacle, the race involved thousands of animals speeding across the open desert. Today, the desert racing rules have been modified for modern racetracks, and camel races are held every Monday during the winter months at Riyadh Stadium. The annual King's Camel Race, instituted in 1974, has quickly become one of the world's most important camel races. Between 20,000 and 30,000 spectators usually attend the races, which are held on a 13.6 mile track. More than 2,000 camels and their riders compete in the annual camel races during the national heritage and culture festival at Jenadriyah.





King Fahd International Stadium, Riyadh.



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The introduction of a national education system in the 1950s was the first step in the development of modern sports in Saudi Arabia. An integral part of the education system, sports spread throughout the country as new schools were built in large cities and small towns alike.

The development of sports acquired momentum with the introduction of the First Development Plan in 1970. At the time, a decision was made to establish a nationwide network of sports facilities that could be enjoyed and used by all. The plan called for the construction of sports and athletic facilities, the establishment of recreational programmes, and the creation of clubs for the Kingdom's youth.

A further step in encouraging public participation in sporting activities was taken in 1974 with the establishment of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare (GPYW). Its mandate is to make sporting, recreational and cultural facilities and events accessible to young Saudis throughout the country and to get as many people interested and involved in these activities as possible. The presidency's activities complement those of the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for maintaining physical education programmes within the school system, and the Ministry of Higher Education, which oversees sports programmes at Saudi Arabia's universities and colleges. All schools, colleges and universities emphasise sports as an integral part of their curriculum.

Outside the country's educational system, the GPYW is the primary provider of sports facilities and programmes. With almost unlimited moral and material support from Saudi leaders, the GPYW has over the past two decades put into place a formidable sports structure and programme that covers the entire country.

Based on studies on population density and needs in various parts of the Kingdom, the GPYW initiated a three-tier programme. The first provides for the establishment of huge sports complexes, called Sports Cities, in major population centres. There are presently 15 of these gigantic facilities scattered throughout Saudi Arabia and more are being built. Each has a multipurpose stadium with a seating capacity of between 10,000 and 60,000, a 5,000-seat indoor stadium, Olympic-size swimming pools, indoor and outdoor courts and playgrounds, cafeterias, halls for conferences, and clinics for sports medicine.

The second tier of the GPYW's sports programme concentrates on establishing smaller neighbourhood sports facilities and playgrounds in large urban centres where young Saudis can play basketball, volleyball and other sports near their homes. In addition to parks and open spaces, these centres also have buildings where indoor recreational activities can be arranged.

The third tier focuses on making sports facilities available in smaller population centres by establishing sports clubs in all cities and towns. Although not as large as the sports cities, these clubs meet the needs of residents of towns and villages. Differing in size according to the number of residents of the town, the clubs offer a range of facilities for different sports, including soccer fields, indoor and outdoor courts, swimming pools, playgrounds, recreational areas and accommodations for youth camps.

Sports training programmes in a diverse range of fields from archery to soccer are available to Saudis of every age at the country's sports facilities, large and small. Though open to all, they are intended to introduce young Saudis to various sporting activities and offer training at different levels.



In addition to building sports facilities, the GPYW has also introduced programmes to encourage their use by the general public. To achieve that objective, it has introduced a programme of annual events at local and national level at all its facilities. These include competitions in local leagues, 'Sports for All' gatherings and 'Folk Games Days'.

GPYW sports clubs organise neighbourhood and local sporting events throughout the year. The more accomplished athletes are sent by these clubs to participate in more than 200 annual district and national sports events organised by the GPYW. Athletes who excel at these events are enrolled in special training camps for serious local and national competition. Twenty youth sports camps throughout the country host thousands of young Saudis every year. Equipped with modern sleeping, dining, sports and recreational facilities, they offer sports training in an atmosphere that emphasises Saudi Arabia's heritage.

The best young athletes emerging from these programmes are then selected for intensive training to represent Saudi Arabia in international events. The Kingdom's 18 sports federations, which are supervised by the GPYW, organise leagues and tournaments for these athletes to sharpen their skills. Additionally, athletes and teams attend more than 40 sporting events outside the country each year and participate in major international sporting events inside the Kingdom.

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Saudi Arabia's extensive sports programme has brought about not only a quantitative growth of sports, but also a dramatic qualitative improvement. The performance of Saudi athletes has improved steadily in the three decades since the Kingdom

first became an official participant in the Olympic Games. In recent years, Saudi athletes have successfully represented the Kingdom in an increasing number of regional and international competitions. In 1982, for instance, the Saudi team won the fourth Arabian Cycling Championship hosted by the United Arab Emirates. In 1983, Saudi athletes won the Arabian Championships in handball, volleyball and table-tennis.

The Saudi soccer team upset several well-respected opponents to qualify for its first appearance in the finals of the 1984 Olympic soccer competition in Los Angeles. Also in 1984, the Saudi soccer team won the Asian Games Gold Cup. In 1988, Saudi Arabia successfully defended its Asian championship title. In 1989, Saudi Arabia hosted the fifth World Youth Soccer Cup Championship. The Saudi team stunned the soccer world by winning the championship.

Saudi Arabia also received a special commendation from IFA, the international soccer federation, for the outstanding manner in which it organised and hosted the championship. In 1993, the Saudi team topped the Asian Division to represent the continent at the 1994 World Cup finals in the U.S.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Saudis now enjoy a network of hundreds of parks, camp sites, picnic grounds and other facilities where families can relax and enjoy nature. In addition to the parks established in cities and towns across the country, Saudi Arabia has a network of national parks and preserves for the protection of the country's unique wildlife and ecosystems, as well as for the enjoyment of the public. There are now 10 national parks and marine sanctuaries in Saudi Arabia. Plans are also under consideration for the establishment of 56 terrestrial and 47 marine preserves.





Youth Welfare Facilities in Jeddah.



The Jeddah Corniche.



Asir National Park.

The crown jewel of the Kingdom's national parks system is the 1.1 million acre Asir National Park in the south-west region. Reaching from the Red Sea up into the cliffs along the great Rift, the park is a cool, green paradise featuring valleys and scenic mountain splendour. Hiking, camping, hill climbing and various other outdoor recreational activities can be enjoyed within the park and beyond. The largest preserve in Saudi Arabia is the Al-Khunfah in the north-west. Visitors can enjoy the park's spectacular views and observe wildlife, including gazelles and oryx, in its natural habitat. Camping is a popular pastime among Saudis, not only in these parks but also in the open desert.

Urban parks also provide city dwellers with beauty and relaxation. The graceful 50-mile corniche along the coastline of Jeddah, along with a similar one in Dammam on the Arabian

Gulf, offers opportunities for picnicking, swimming, fishing and other water sports. Residents of the capital city of Riyadh, which means 'garden city', can stroll through some 50 public parks. Hundreds of other public parks and recreational areas have been established in other cities and towns.



WATER SPORTS

Some of the world's most beautiful living coral reefs are located beneath the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. A paradise for scuba divers and snorkellers, these coastal areas offer endless hours of underwater exploration. Windsurfing, sailing and water-skiing are also popular pastimes in these waters. Also, some of the world's best deep-sea fishing can be found in the Red Sea. The coastal sports cities in Jeddah and Al-Khobar and other clubs offer opportunities for a variety of water sports and recreational activities.

By investing in sports facilities, organising clubs and sports programmes and sending its athletes to regional and international competitions, the government of Saudi Arabia seeks to encourage public participation in sports and recreational activities as part of a healthy lifestyle. The participation of hundreds of thousands of Saudis of all ages in cycling races, marathons, soccer tournaments and other sporting events testifies to the success of the government programme.

Under the Sixth Development Plan (1995-2000), more sports facilities and programmes will be established throughout the Kingdom. Special emphasis will be placed on the continuing improvement of the quality of sports and physical education offered to Saudi youth.





For thousands of years, the people of the Arabian Peninsula have been at the geographic, commercial and cultural crossroads of the world. As early as 3,000 B.C., the people of the western region of the peninsula were part of a far-reaching commercial network extending to south Asia, the Mediterranean and Egypt. The discovery some 1,900 years ago of the clockwise pattern of trade winds known as the monsoon, from the Arabic '*mawsim*', meaning reason, increased the importance of the peninsula.

Trade flourished, with merchants of the peninsula acting as the vital link between India and the Far East on the one side and Byzantium and the Mediterranean states on the other. Interaction with other cultures of east and west over the centuries enriched the ancient traditions and culture of the people of the peninsula.

The introduction of Islam to the Arabian heartland in the seventh century A.D. further strengthened the region's cultural heritage. Within a century, Islam spread west to the Atlantic Ocean and as far east as the Indian subcontinent and China. With Makkah as its core, the Islamic world witnessed a flowering of culture, the sciences and the arts unparalleled in human history. Every year for the past 14 centuries, Muslim pilgrims from around the world have travelled to Islam's holiest sites in Makkah and Madinah, helping further enrich the culture of the people of the peninsula.

With the formation of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932, King Abdulaziz directed his efforts to preserving and perpetuating Arab traditions and culture. His legendary dedication to this cause was emulated by his sons and successors

at a crucial time when the nation was entering an era of rapid economic development.

That Saudi Arabia has successfully preserved and strengthened its cultural heritage, while achieving the spectacular development and modernisation of the past two decades, is testimony to the resilience of Saudi culture and the nation's determination to cherish and protect it. Today, amid the bustle of 20th century life in modern Saudi society, contemporary Saudi writers look to the past for inspiration. Popular musicians incorporate ancient rhythms and instruments into their modern music and painters capture traditional scenes.

The accelerating pace of development in the 1970s, however, led Saudi leaders to take additional steps to preserve the nation's cultural and artistic heritage. In 1974 the General Presidency of Youth Welfare was established. One of its main functions is to strengthen an understanding and respect for the nation's culture and arts among the youth. In 1974, the Department of Museums and Antiquities was formed in the Ministry of Education. Today, in addition to the National Museum in Riyadh there are 11 museums throughout the Kingdom. Thousands of Saudis, particularly the younger generation, visit these museums daily to become better acquainted with their heritage.



Mard Fort, Domat Al-Jandal.



Rock carvings in the Desert.



JENADRIYAH HERITAGE & CULTURE FESTIVAL

In 1985, the first Saudi National Heritage and Culture Festival was held in Jenadriyah near Riyadh. The annual event, organised by the National Guard under the patronage of the King, epitomises Saudi Arabia's commitment to preserving and exploring its cultural heritage. For two weeks out of the year, the festival provides over one million Saudis with a glimpse into the past. A traditional camel race opens the festival, which encompasses almost every aspect of Saudi Arabia's culture and heritage. Artisans, such as potters, woodworkers and weavers, demonstrate their traditional crafts in small shops with typical palm-frond-roofed porches.



During the course of the festival, folklore troupes perform the Ardha and other national dances, while singers from around the Kingdom perform traditional songs and music. Literary figures from across the country participate in poetry competitions between contemporary poets reciting historic verses. A permanent heritage village has now been erected at Jenadriyah.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Historic preservation is an essential element of Saudi Arabian culture. Today the Kingdom's archaeological heritage is safeguarded by the Department of Museums and Antiquities, which has excavated, catalogued and preserved prehistoric and historic sites. Important archaeological work is also carried out by the Department of Archaeology at King Saud University in Riyadh.

Diriyah, the ancestral home of the Al-Saud family and the first capital of the Saudi state, was a major restoration project undertaken by the Kingdom's archaeologists. Other projects include the ancient sites at Fau, Madain Saleh, Al-Ula, Tayma, Duma and along the Darb Zuhaydah, the pilgrimage road to Makkah.

As the birthplace of Islam, special emphasis is placed on preserving the Kingdom's Islamic archaeological heritage. In addition to the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, a large number of mosques around the Kingdom, such as those built by the first caliphs after the death of the Prophet Mohammed, have been meticulously restored.

The recent restoration of the old Qasr Al-Hokm area in Riyadh is indicative of the Kingdom's commitment to preserve and cherish its cultural heritage for the benefit of its citizens. Similar restoration work of the old city quarters has been undertaken in Jeddah, Hail and other cities around the Kingdom.



Madain Salih, one of the archaeological sites in the Kingdom.



Cultural Heritage



FOLK MUSIC & DANCE

A living part of the country's ancient heritage, Saudi Arabia's music and traditional dance echo the timeless melodies of chanting Bedouin poets and singing swordsmen. Folklore music varies from region to region. The national dance of Saudi Arabia, the men's sword dance known as *Ardha*, has its roots in the Central Province. It is an ancient tradition that combines singers, dancers and a poet or narrator. Men carrying swords stand shoulder to shoulder and, from their midst, a poet begins to sing verses or a short melodic line while drummers beat out the rhythm. In the Western Province, the *al-sihha* folk music combines poetry and songs of Arab Andalusia in medieval Spain. A traditional dance and song known as the *al-mizmar* is also performed in Makkah, Madinah and Jeddah. This features the music of the *al-mizmar*, a woodwind instrument similar to the oboe.

Since the early 1980s the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and the Arts has been studying and recording folk music and dance traditions in the Kingdom. The producers of a popular television show, 'Folk Arts', have also travelled around the country interviewing local musicians and recording the music and dance of every tribe and village.

Today, there are over 50 folklore dance and music groups in the Kingdom. Popular contemporary Saudi singers value the classical music traditions that have influenced their work and are skilled at incorporating ancient rhythms and instruments, such as the *tar* and the *oud*, into their modern music.





TRADITIONAL DRESS & JEWELLERY

Saudi Arabia's dress is one of its strongest ties to the past and reflects the challenging environment, faith and value of its people. The practicality of loose, flowing garments in a hot wind-swept climate was reinforced by the Islamic ideals of propriety in dress and conduct.

Today, as in antiquity, men wear a 'thawb', a simple, ankle length shirt of wool or cotton. Traditional head wear includes a 'ghutra', a large diagonally-folded cotton square worn over a 'kufiyah' (skull cap) and held in place by an 'igal', a double-coiled cord circlet. A flowing floor-length outer cloak, known as a 'bisht', is generally made of wool or camel hair in black, beige, brown or cream tones.

The woman's traditional dress displays regional and tribal motifs and is embellished with coins, sequins, metallic thread or brilliantly coloured fabric appliques. The classic head-dress is a 'shayla'- a scarf of black gauzy fabric wrapped around the head and secured by a variety of head circlets, hats or jewellery. An 'abaya', a black outer cloak, is customarily worn over the dress in public.

Fine embroidery of clothes and the weaving of elaborately-designed textiles have also been long practised in the peninsula. Designs used in tent coverings, saddlebags and carpets vary from region to region.

Jewellery has been an essential element of Arabian dress for thousands of years. Typically made of silver or silver alloy, traditional bracelets, rings, necklaces and head ornaments are characterised by their impressive size, bold designs and hand-crafted appearance. The jewellery is often embellished with semi-precious stones, corals, beads and coins.





Photo: Peter Davidson



CALLIGRAPHY

Arabic calligraphy dates back approximately 1,400 years to the first century of Islam. Historically, the primary subject matter for calligraphy has been the Holy Quran. Characterised as the quintessential Islamic art form, calligraphy is a revered art in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi museums collect and display rare manuscripts, and other organisations commission works of calligraphy, provide training in the art form, and hold competitions to foster a new generation of young artists. Today, calligraphy is a dominant theme in metal work, ceramics, glass, textiles, painting and sculpture throughout Saudi Arabia. Inscriptions can be found adorning the interior walls of mosques, as well as public and private office buildings and homes.



ARCHITECTURE

As part of the Kingdom's interest in preservation, contemporary Saudi architects are increasingly using traditional Islamic concepts in building designs. Historically, building designs and materials were dictated by the climate, geography and resources of the various regions. Adobe was a mainstay of traditional builders in Riyadh, the Central and parts of the Eastern Province, due to its malleability, availability and insulation qualities. In western Saudi Arabia, stone and red brick are common construction materials. In Jeddah, coral taken from the Red Sea reefs is used.

Today, Saudi architects have been instrumental in preserving the Kingdom's architectural integrity, as well as in revitalising traditional building designs. Utilising elements of traditional architecture in the design of new structures strengthens the link between the country's architectural past and its innovative future.

Researchers at various universities, such as the King Faisal University, analyse and draft suggestions for the architectural development of various regions throughout the Kingdom, based on studies of traditional architecture. King Saud University and the King Khalid International Airport are two striking examples of just how well traditional Islamic design and modern structure can be combined.

The efforts of the government and local organisations have resulted in the preservation of Saudi Arabia's rich heritage and a greater appreciation among young Saudis that promises to ensure that the Kingdom's cultural and artistic treasures will be cherished by future generations.



Photo: Geoff Adams



Photo: Geoff Adams



Photo: Geoff Adams

Directory of Government



**King and Prime Minister and The Custodian
of the Two Holy Mosques:
King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud.**

Riyadh, Royal Court
Tel: 488-2222
Jeddah - Tel: 665-4233
Taif - Tel: 736-5200
Makkah - Tel: 823-4111
Madinah - Tel: 857-2500



**Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and
Commander of the National Guard:
HRH Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud.**

Riyadh: Royal Court
Tel: 491-5400
National Guard
PO Box 9799
Riyadh 11423.
Tel: 491-2400
Fax: 491-282



**Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence
and Aviation and Inspector-General:
HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud.**

Riyadh:
Tel: 402-4600/4277
Ministry of Defence and Aviation
Airport Road
Riyadh 11165.
Tel: 478-5900/477-7313
Fax: 401-1336
Jeddah Tel: 665-2400

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



The Council of Ministers was established by King Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Saud in 1953. It consists of the King who is the Prime Minister, the Crown Prince who is Deputy Prime Minister, the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers. Under the bylaws announced by The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud, in September 1993, the Council is responsible for drafting and overseeing the implementation of the internal, external, financial, economic, educational and defence policies, and general affairs of the state. The Council meets weekly and is presided over by the King or one of his deputies.



Minister of Housing and Public Works:
HRH Prince Met'eb Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Born: 1931

Education: Studied religion, economics and politics.

Positions Held: Governor of Makkah; Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs; Deputy Minister of Defence and Aviation; Minister of Housing and Public Works since 1975.

Ministry of Public Works & Housing, Washem Street, Riyadh 11151.

Tel: 402-2268/402-2036; Fax: Public works 402-2723, Housing 406-7376; Jeddah Tel: 665-1323.



Minister of Interior:
HRH Prince Naif Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Born: 1934

Education: Studied religion, diplomacy and security affairs.

Positions Held: Governor of Riyadh, 1953-54; Deputy Minister of the Interior; Minister of State for Internal Affairs, 1970; President, Supreme Council for Information; Minister of the Interior since 1975.

Ministry of the Interior, PO Box 2933, Riyadh 11134.

Tel: 401-1944; Fax: 403-1185; Jeddah Tel.: 687-2322.



Minister of Foreign Affairs:
HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Born: 1942

Education: B.A. Economics, Princeton University, 1964.

Positions Held: Deputy Governor of Petromin, 1970-71; Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, 1971; Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1975.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124.

Tel: 406-7777/441-6836; Fax: 403-0159; Jeddah Tel: 669-0900



Minister of Agriculture and Water:
Dr. Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Mu'amar

Born: 1950

Education: B.A. Economics, International American University, California, U.S., 1976; M.B.A. Administration Development and Organisation, International American University, California, U.S., 1978; M.A. Social Sciences, University of California-Irvine, 1981; Ph.D. Social Sciences, University of California-Irvine, 1983.

Positions Held: Director, Department of Research and Studies, General Secretariat of Labour Force, 1983; Consultant, Office of the Minister of Agriculture, 1988; Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water, 1988; Minister of Agriculture and Water since 1995.

Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Airport Road, Riyadh 11195.

Tel: 401-6666; Fax: 403-1415; Jeddah Tel.: 687-6022

Directory of Government



Minister of Commerce: Osama Ibn Jafar Ibn Ibrahim Faqih

Born: 1943

Education: B.A. Accounting and Business Administration, Riyadh University, 1969; M.B.A., University of Arizona, U.S., 1973.

Positions Held: Lecturer, Faculty of Business Administration, Riyadh, 1969-75; Director, Department of Credits and Finance, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, 1975; Assistant Deputy for International Development Co-operation at the Ministry of Finance, 1981; Deputy for International Economic Co-operation at the Ministry of Finance, 1983; Chairman, Board of Directors and General Director of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, 1989; Chairman, Board of Directors and CEO of the Arab Trade Fund, 1989; Chairman, Islamic Development Bank, 1994; Minister of Commerce since 1995.

Ministry of Commerce, PO Box 1774, Airport Road, Riyadh 11162.
Tel: 401-2220/401-4708; Fax: 403-8421; Jeddah Tel: 687-3400.



Minister of Communications: Dr. Nasir Ibn Mohammed Al-Salloum

Born: 1938

Education: B.Sc. Civil Engineering, Cairo University, 1964; M.Sc. Civil Engineering, University of Arizona, U.S., 1968; Ph.D. Civil Engineering, University of Arizona, U.S., 1973.

Positions Held: Engineer, Ministry of Communications, 1964; Director, Research Department, Assistant Director-General, Technical Department, Director-General, Projects Department, 1973; Assistant Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, 1974; Deputy Minister since 1976; Minister of Communications since 1995.

Ministry of Communications, Airport Road, Riyadh 11178.

Tel: 404-2928/404-3000; Fax: 403-1401; Jeddah Tel: 665-1511.



Minister of Education: Dr. Mohammed Ibn Ahmed Al-Rasheed

Born: 1944

Education: Ph.D. Higher Education Management, University of Oklahoma, U.S., 1972; M.Sc. Personnel Management, University of Indiana, U.S., 1969; B.A. Arabic Language, Al-Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University, 1964.

Positions Held: Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, King Saud University, 1964-65; Assistant Professor, 1972-79; Associate Professor, 1979-89; Associate Dean, Faculty of Education, 1974-76; Dean, Faculty of Education, King Saud University, 1976-79; General Director, Arab Education Office, Gulf Co-operation Council, 1979-88; Founder of the Gulf University, Bahrain, 1979-88; Minister of Education since 1995.

Ministry of Education, Airport Road, Riyadh 11148.

Tel: 404-2888/404-2952; Fax: 401-2365; Jeddah Tel: 643-4682



Minister of Finance and National Economy: Dr. Ibrahim Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Abdullah Al-Assaf

Born: 1949

Education: BA in Economics and Political Science, King Saud University, Riyadh; MA in Economics, Denver University, Colorado, U.S.; Ph.D. in Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.

Positions held: Lecturer in Principles of Economics, 1971-1982, then associate Professor of Economics and Head of the Department of Administrative Sciences, 1982-1986, at King Abdulaziz Military College, Riyadh; guest lecturer at the College of Command and Staff, 1982-1983; part-time advisor to the Saudi Development Fund, 1982-1986; alternate Saudi executive director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 1986-

1989; Saudi Executive Director on the Executive Board of the World Bank Group, 1989-1995; Vice-Governor of the Saudi Monetary Agency, June to October 1995; Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers, October 1995 to January 1996; Minister of Finance and National Economy since January 1996.

Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Airport Road, Riyadh 11177.

Tel: 405-0000/405-0080; Fax: 405-9202



Minister of Health: Dr. Osama Ibn Abdul Majeed Shobokshi

Born: 1943

Education: Ph.D. Internal Medicine, Germany, 1976; Fellow of the Royal Irish College of Surgeons, 1993.

Positions Held: Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, King Abdulaziz University, Vice-President of the Faculty of Medicine, University Hospital Affairs, 1979; Dean, Faculty of Medicine, King Abdulaziz University, 1984-90; President, King Abdulaziz University, 1993; Minister of Health since 1995.

Ministry of Health, Airport Road, Riyadh 11176.

Tel: 401-2220/401-2392; Fax: 402-9876



Minister of Higher Education: Dr. Khalid Al-Angary

Born: 1952

Education: Ph.D. Geography, University of Florida, 1981.

Positions Held: Assistant Professor, King Saud University, 1981-83; Deputy Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, 1983-84; Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, 1990; Minister of Higher Education since 1991.

Ministry of Higher Education, King Faisal Hospital Street, Riyadh 11153.

Tel: 464-4444; Fax: 441-9004; Jeddah Tel:: 687-0272.



Minister of Industry and Electricity: Dr. Hashim Ibn Abdullah Ibn Hashim Al-Yamani

Education: Ph.D. Physics, Harvard University, 1974.

Positions Held: Professor, Physics Department, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Chairman, Physics Department; Vice-President, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology; Director, Department of Energy Resources, Research Institute, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals; Minister of Industry and Electricity since 1995.

Ministry of Industry & Electricity, PO Box 5729, Omar Ibn Al-Khatab Road, North of Railway Station, Riyadh 11127.

Tel: 477-2722/477-6666; Fax: 477-5451.



**Minister of Information:
Dr. Fouad Ibn Abdul Salaam Ibn Mohammed Farsi**

Born: 1946

Education: M.A. Political Science, Portland University, U.S., 1971; Ph.D. Political Science, Duke University, U.S., 1976.

Positions Held: Assistant Professor, King Saud University, 1976; Assistant Deputy Minister of Industry, 1977; Deputy Minister of Industry, 1979; Deputy Minister of Information, 1980; Minister of Information since 1995.

Ministry of Information, Naseriya Street, Riyadh 11161.

Tel: 401-4440/401-3440; Fax: 402-3570; Jeddah Tel: 644-5222



Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance: Dr. Abdullah Ibn Abdulmohsen Al-Turki

Born: 1940

Education: B.A. Islamic Law, Shariah College, Riyadh, 1963; M.A. Higher Institute for Justice, Riyadh, 1969; Ph.D. Fundamentals of Islamic Jurisprudence, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, 1973.

Positions Held: Dean of the Arabic Language College, Riyadh, 1968-75; Vice-President, then President, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, Riyadh, 1976-93; Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance since 1993.

Ministry of Islamic, Endowments, Dawat(Call) and Guidance Affairs (established July 1993), Riyadh 11232

Tel: 473-0401.



**Minister of Justice:
Dr. Abdullah Ibn Mohammed Ibn Ibrahim Al-Ashaik**

Born: 1949

Education: B.A. Shariah College, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1975; M.A. Al-Azhar University, Cairo, 1980; Ph.D. Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1987.

Positions Held: Dean, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1975; Assistant Professor, 1988; Minister of Justice since 1992.

Ministry of Justice, University Street, Riyadh 11137.

Tel: 405-7777/405-5399; Jeddah Tel: 665-0857.



**Minister of Labour and Social Affairs:
Musaid Ibn Mohammed Al-Sanani**

Born: 1946

Education: B.A. Accounting and Business Administration, King Saud University; M.B.A. Accounting, University of Arizona, U.S., 1974.

Positions Held: with the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI), 1970; Deputy Governor of GOSI, 1980; Governor of GOSI, 1982; Minister of Labour and Social Affairs since 1995.

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Omar Ibn Al-Khatab Street, Riyadh 11157

Tel: 477-1480/478-7166; Fax: 477-7336;
Jeddah Tel: 642-4626

Directory of Government



**Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs:
Dr. Mohammed Ibn Ibrahim Al-Jarallah**

Born: 1944

Education: Ph.D. Civil Engineering, Michigan State University, U.S., 1978; M.Sc. Civil Engineering, Stanford University, U.S., 1974; B.Sc. Civil Engineering, Riyadh University, 1972.

Positions Held: Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Engineering, King Saud University; Director of Projects, Faculty of Engineering, King Saud University; Staff member, Faculty of Engineering, King Saud University; General Manager, Saudi Real Estate Fund; Member of the Board of Directors, Saudi Development Fund; Member of the Saudi-British Joint Committee; Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs since 1995.

Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11136.

Tel: 441-5434; Jeddah Tel: 667-4387.



**Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources:
Ali Ibn Ibrahim Al-Naimi**

Born: 1935

Education: B.Sc. Geology, LeHigh University, U.S.; M.Sc. Geology, Stanford University, U.S.

Positions Held: Joined ARAMCO in 1947; Supervisor, Production Department, Abqaiq, 1969; Assistant Director, then Director of Production, Northern Province, 1972-75; Vice-President, Production Affairs, 1975; Vice-President, Petroleum Affairs, 1978; Member, Board of Directors, 1980; Executive Vice-President, Oil and Gas Affairs, 1981; President, Saudi Aramco, 1983; Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources since 1995.

Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, PO Box 757, Airport Road, Riyadh 11189.

Tel: 478-1661/478-1133; Fax: 479-3596; Jeddah Tel: 643-3133.



**Minister of Pilgrimage:
Dr. Mahmoud Ibn Mohammed Safar**

Born: 1939

Education: B.A. Civil Engineering, Cairo University, 1964; M.A. Civil Engineering, Stanford University; Ph.D. Civil Engineering, University of North Carolina, 1972; Post-graduate degree, Stanford University, 1980.

Positions Held: Dean of Student Affairs, King Saud University, Riyadh, 1973; Secretary General, Council of Higher Education; Deputy Minister of Higher Education, 1974; President of the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, 1984-88; Professor of Civil Engineering, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, 1984-93; Minister of Pilgrimage since 1993.

Ministry of Pilgrimage, Omar Ibn Al-Khatab Street, Riyadh 11183.

Tel: 402-2200/402-2212; Fax: 402-2555; Jeddah Tel: 667-3944



**Minister of Planning:
Dr. Abdul Wahab Ibn Abdul Salam Attar**

Born: 1940

Education: B.A. Economics, Cairo University, 1962; M.A., Ph.D. Economics, University of Southern California, 1969.

Positions Held: Assistant Director in the Planning Department of the Supreme Planning Board, 1969; Deputy Minister for Social Affairs in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 1971-80; Governor of the General Organisation of Technical Education and Vocational Training, 1980-88; President, Council of Technical Colleges, 1988-91; Minister of Planning since 1991.

Ministry of Planning, PO Box 1358, University Street, Riyadh 11183.

Tel: : 402-3562/401-3333; Jeddah Tel: 665-1366.



**Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones:
Dr. Ali Ibn Talal Al-Jahani**

Born: 1945

Education: Ph.D. Economics, University of California, 1977; M.Sc. Mathematical Economics, U.S., 1973; B.Sc. Business Administration, U.S., 1970.

Positions Held: Economic Researcher, Ministry of Planning; Assistant Analyst to the Director of Budget, Bank of America, Saudi Arabia; Lecturer, Princeton University, U.S.; Assistant Professor, King Fahd University, 1978; Dean, Department of Industrial Management, King Fahd University, 1980; Secretary General, The Public Corporation For Military Industries, 1986; Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones since 1995.

Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, Intercontinental Road, Riyadh 11112

Tel: 463-7225; Fax: 405-2310; Jeddah Tel: 665-1323.



Ministers of State:

Dr. Abdulaziz Ibn Abdullah Al-Khuweiter

Dr. Mohammed Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh

Dr. Muttlab Ibn Abdullah Al-Nafisa

Dr. Abdulaziz Ibn Ibrahim Al-Manie

Dr. Musaid Ibn Mohammed Al-Eiban

Dr. Madani Ibn Abdul Gader Alagi



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Central Department of Statistics

Off Airport Road, Behind the Ministry of Finance Bldg, Riyadh 11187.
Tel: 405-9638/401-4528
Fax: 405-9493

Collects and publishes miscellaneous statistics.

Civil Defence

Airport Road, Riyadh 11174.
Tel: 479-2828/478-3372
Fax: 478-0846/477-6579

Protection, relief services and fire-fighting.

Civil Service Commission

Washem Street, PO Box 18367, Riyadh 11114.
Tel: 402-6900/402-6934
Fax: 403-4998

Staffing policies throughout the public services. Staff recruitment and training programmes.

Customs Department

PO Box 3483, Riyadh 11471.
Tel: 401-3334
Fax: 404-3412/404-3400

Administers custom inspections and collection of duties.

Directorate General for Mineral Resources

PO Box 2880, Jeddah .
Tel: 631-0355/631-0357
Mineral exploration and concessions.

Directorate General of Zakat and Income Tax

Off Airport Road, Behind Ministry of Finance Bldg., Riyadh 11187.
Tel: 401-0182/404-1537
Fax: 404-1495
Part of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. Tax collection.

General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI)

PO Box 2963, Riyadh 11461.
Tel: 478-5721/477-7735
Fax: 477-9958

Administers the national social insurance programme.

General Electricity Corp. (Electrico)

PO Box 1185, Riyadh 11431.
Tel: 477-2772
Fax: 477-5322

Electricity planning, consolidated power companies.

General Ports Authority

PO Box 5162, Riyadh 11422.
Tel: 476-0600/476-0930

Port development, port stevedoring, regulations and documents.

Jeddah Seaport (Jeddah Islamic Port)

Jeddah 21188.
Tel: 643-2552

Port development, port stevedoring, regulations and documents.

Dammam Seaport

PO Box 28062, (King Abdulaziz Seaport), Dammam 31188.
Tel: 833-2500
Fax: 857-9223

Port development, port stevedoring, regulations and documents.

General Presidency for Girls' Education

Television Street, Riyadh 11192.
Tel: 402-9877/403-2500
Fax: 403-9570

Responsible for all aspects of female education from primary level through higher education.

Grain Silos & Flour Mills Organisation

PO Box 3402, Riyadh 11471.
Tel: 404-3334/404-4736
Fax: 463-1943

Silos, flour mills and wheat importing.

Grievances Court (Diwan Al-Mazalem)

Morabba-Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11138.
Tel: 402-1724/402-4398
Fax: 403-4296

Commercial disputes and grievances, tax disputes and contractual affairs relating to foreigners and their investments within Saudi Arabia.

Institute of Public Administration (IPA)

PO Box 205, Riyadh 11411.
Tel: 476-1600
Fax: 479-2136

Revises and implements educational, pre-service and in-service training programmes for Saudi civil servants.

International Airports Projects

PO Box 6326, Jeddah 21442.
Tel: 685-4200

Approves work on new international airports.

Islamic Development Bank

PO Box 5925
Jeddah 21432.
Tel: 636-0011/636-0054
Fax: 637-1334

Funds economic development projects in Islamic countries.

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology

PO Box 6068, Riyadh 11442.
Tel: 478-8000
Fax: 488-13756

Research and development, solar energy projects, patents.

King Faisal Foundation

King Fahd Road, PO Box 352, Riyadh 11411.
Tel: 465-2255
Fax: 465-6524

Non-profit organisation. Annually awards international prizes in science, literature, medicine, etc.

Meteorology & Environmental Protection Agency

PO Box 1358, Jeddah 21431.
Tel: 651-8887/671-1994

Meteorology and environmental protection.

Directory of Government

National Guard

PO Box 9799, Riyadh 11423
Tel: 491-2400
Fax: 491-2824
Internal security.

Presidency of Civil Aviation

Off Palestine Road East, PO Box 887,
Jeddah 21421.
Tel: 667-9000/667-3664
Overflights and airports.

The Real Estate Development Fund

PO Box 5591, Riyadh 11433.
Tel: 477-5120/403-3817
Fax: 479-0148
Provides loans to individuals and organisations for private or commercial real estate projects.

Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu

PO Box 5864, Riyadh 11432.
Tel: 479-4444
Fax: 477-5404
Construction and administration of the industrial complexes and infrastructure at Jubail and Yanbu.

Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC)

PO Box 5968, Riyadh 11432.
Tel: 463-0503/463-0501
Fax: 463-1952; 465-0852
Desalination complex.

Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank

Omar Ibn Al-Khataab Street, PO Box 1811,
Riyadh 11126.
Tel: 402-3911/402-3934
Fax: 402-2359
Provides funds for the purchase of agricultural equipment, seeds and animals.
Provides loans to Saudi farmers.

Saudi Arabian Airlines

Airport Road, PO Box 620, Jeddah 21421.
Tel: 684-2000/686-0000
National airline.

Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA)

PO Box 2992, Riyadh 11461.
Tel: 478-7400
Fax: 441-1384
Central bank.

Saudi Arabian Standards Organisation (SASO)

PO Box 3437, Riyadh 11471.
Tel: 479-3332
Fax: 479-3063
Development and distribution of product and equipment standards.

Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC)

PO Box 5101, Riyadh 11422.
Tel: 401-2033/401-2361
Fax: 401-2045/401-3831
Joint ventures in heavy industries, primarily at Jubail and Yanbu.

Saudi Consulting House

PO Box 1267, Riyadh 11431.
Tel: 448-4588/448-4688
Fax: 448-1234
Conducts market research and industrial feasibility studies. Prepares and publishes data on industrial development.

Saudi Fund for Development

PO Box 5711, Riyadh 11432.
Tel: 477-4069/477-4071
Fax: 464-7450
Development projects and loans to foreign countries.

Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF)

PO Box 4143, Riyadh 11491.
Tel: 477-4002
Fax: 479-0165
Provides loans to Saudi or Saudi/foreign joint industrial ventures.

Saudi Government Railroad Organisation

Dhahran Airport Street, PO Box 92,
Dammam 31411.
Tel: 871-2222
Runs the Dammam-Riyadh railway.

Saudi Red Crescent Association

Al-Dhabab Road, Riyadh 11129.
Tel: 406-9072/406-5092
Fax: 405-1566
Emergency health care.

Youth Welfare Organisation

PO Box 965, Riyadh 11421.
Tel: 401-4576
Fax: 401-0376
Sports complexes, cultural and folklore clubs and boy scouts.





King Fahd

Chairman of the Higher Committee
for Administrative Reform.



THE BASIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The Basic System of Government identifies the nature of the state, its goals and responsibilities, as well as the relationship between the ruler and citizens. It defines the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an Arab and Islamic sovereign state; its religion is Islam and its constitution is the Holy Quran and the *Sunnah*.

The King, who also acts as prime minister, ensures the appli-

cation of the *Shariah*, the state's general policy and supervises the protection and defence of the nation. The Crown Prince is appointed by the King. Members of the Council of Ministers assist the King in the performance of his duties.

The new bylaws introduced for the system in 1992 further explain that the purpose of the state is to ensure the security and rights of all citizens and residents. It emphasises the importance of the family as the nucleus of Saudi society. The

family plays a vital role by teaching its members to adhere to Islamic values.

In defining the relationship between the ruler and the people, the system emphasises the equality of all Saudi citizens. All are equal before God and in their concern for the well-being, security, dignity and progress of their nation. All citizens are also equal before the law.



Directory of Government

ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT



*"While taking into account the public interest and development in all spheres,
I, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Saud,
the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
order the following:"*



Firstly:

Issuance of the Basic System as in the attached formula.

Secondly:

Work will continue by all ongoing regulations, instructions and resolutions when this system is implemented until amendment takes place.

Thirdly:

This system will be published in the official gazette.

In the name of Allah, the most merciful and beneficent.

CHAPTER ONE: THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an Arab and Islamic sov-

erign state, its religion is Islam, and its constitution the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah. Its language is Arabic and Riyadh its capital.

Article 2:

The festivals of the state are Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha and its calendar is the Hijri calendar.

Article 3:

The flag of the state is as follows:

A - Its colour is green

B - Its width is equal to a third of its length.

C - It will carry "La Ilah Illah Allah Mohammad Rasoul Allah" (There is but one God and Mohammad is His Messenger).

Article 4:

The emblem of the state is two intersected swords and a palm tree.

The system determines the national anthem and its medals.

CHAPTER TWO

Article 5:

a) The system of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a Monarchy.

b) Its rule is confined to the sons of the Kingdom's founder, Abdulaziz Ibn Abdulrahman Al-Faisal Al-Saud, and grandsons. The most suitable of these is enthroned to rule under the guidance of the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah.

c) The King chooses his Crown Prince and relieves him of his duties by Royal Order.

d) The Crown Prince is to devote his time to his duties as Crown Prince and to the duties delegated to him by the King.

e) When the King dies, the Crown Prince succeeds him until enthronement.

Article 6:

The citizens will take allegiance before the Monarch in line with the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah.

Article 7:

The rule in the Kingdom depends on the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah.

Article 8:

The rule in the Kingdom is based on justice, consultation and equality in accordance with the Islamic Shariah.

CHAPTER THREE: THE CONSTITUENTS OF SAUDI SOCIETY:

Article 9:

The family is the nucleus of Saudi society and its members will be brought up on the basis of the Islamic creed and obedience to Almighty God, the Prophet and rulers and have respect of the system, love of the homeland and pride in its history.

Article 10:

The state is keen on enhancing relations among members of the family, preserving Arab and Islamic values and taking care of all members, enabling them to develop their skills.

Article 11:

Saudi society is based on dependence on Almighty God and co-operation.

Article 12:

The state is keen on enhancing national unity and preventing all kinds of sedition.

Article 13:

State education aims to implant the Islamic creed in new generations, developing their skills to enable them to contribute to the building of their society.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

Article 14:

All the wealth under the ground, or on its surface, or in the territorial waters, or in the land and maritime domains, as well as all resources of this wealth, is owned by the state as will be shown by the system.

The system defines means for the exploitation of the wealth, its protection and development in a manner that serves the interests of the state, its security and economy.

Article 15:

There will be no concessions or investment of the resources of the country, except those allowed according to the system.

Article 16:

The state will protect the public funds and citizens and residents are to safeguard them.

Article 17:

Ownership, capital and labour are basic constituents of the Kingdom's economic and social system.

Article 18:

The state allows the freedom of personal property, which will not be expropriated except in the public interest and after fair compensation.

Article 19:

Confiscation of public property is prohibited. Confiscation is only according to judicial verdict.

Article 20:

Taxes and fees are levied only on the basis of justice and only when the need arises. They are not levied, amended or cancelled except in accordance with the system.

Article 21:

Zakat (alms) shall be collected and spent according to the Shariah teachings.

Article 22:

Economic and social development is carried out in the light of a scientific and just plan.

CHAPTER FIVE: DUTIES AND RIGHTS

Article 23:

The state protects the Islamic creed and carries out its

Shariah and undertakes its duty towards the Islamic call.

Article 24:

The state services the Two Holy Mosques and ensures the security and safety of their visitors, enabling them to perform their rituals in comfort and ease.

Article 25:

The state is keen on realisation of the hopes of the Arab and Muslim nation in solidarity and unity and at the same time enhances its relations with friendly states.

Article 26:

The state protects the rights of the people in line with the Islamic Shariah.

Article 27:

The state ensures the rights of the citizens and their families, in case of emergency, disease, disability and old age, supports the social insurance system and encourages establishments and individuals to contribute to charitable works.

Article 28:

The state helps all able people to obtain work and enacts laws to protect the worker and the employer.

Article 29:

The state takes care of science, arts and culture and encourages scientific research, preserves Arab and Islamic heritage and contributes to the Arab, Islamic and human civilisation.

Article 30:

The state makes education available and adheres to the principle of illiteracy eradication.

Article 31:

The states takes care of public health and makes healthcare available.

Article 32:

The state works for the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, and for the prevention of pollution.

Article 33:

The state establishes the armed forces and enables them to take up their responsibility for the defence of the Islamic creed, the Two Holy Mosques, society and the homeland.

Article 34:

Defence of the Islamic creed, society and the homeland are the responsibility of all. The system clarifies the rules of military service.

Article 35:

The system clarifies the rules of Saudi Arabian nationality.

Article 36:

The state ensures the security of all citizens and residents. No-one has the right to restrict, arrest or imprison anyone, except under the rules of the system.

Article 37:

No-one is allowed to enter private homes without the permission of their owners, and no-one has the right to probe private homes except in accordance with the system.

Article 38:

Penalties will be personal, with no crime or penalty except in accordance with the Shariah or the regulations, and no penalty except in accordance with the regulations.

Article 39:

The information and publication media should express themselves in a courteous manner and abide by the regulations of the state and contribute to the education of the nation and support its unity. All acts that lead to sedition and disunity or undermine the state's security and public relations or insult the dignity and rights of the people will be prohibited. The regulations will clarify this.

Article 40:

No-one has the right to confiscate, delay or interfere with cables, postal items or telephone calls and other means of telecommunications, except according to the regulations set by the system.

Directory of Government

Article 41:

The residents of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will adhere to its regulations and should respect the values of Saudi society, its traditions and feelings.

Article 42:

The state gives political asylum if the public interest necessitates, and regulations and international agreements will clarify the procedures pertaining to the extradition of criminals.

Article 43:

The council of the King and the council of the Crown Prince are open to all citizens and everyone has the right to clarify his problem.

CHAPTER SIX: THE STATE'S AUTHORITIES

Article 44:

The authorities of the state comprise the Judicial authority, the Executive authority and the Organisational authority.

All these authorities co-operate in discharging their responsibilities. The King is the point of reference of all these authorities.

Article 45:

The source of Ifta in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the Holy Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah and the system clarifies the hierarchy of the senior Ulema and the administration of the scientific researches and Ifta and their responsibilities.

Article 46:

The Judicial authority is an independent organ and no-one has authority over Judges, other than the authority of the Islamic Shariah.

Article 47:

All people, whether citizens or residents in the Kingdom, have the right to litigation on an equal basis. The system will clarify the required procedures.

Article 48:

The system of Judges is applied on all cases presented before

the Shariah rules according to the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah and the regulations set by the ruler, provided that they do not contradict the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

Article 49:

In the light of what has been stipulated in article 53 of this system, the courts will arbitrate in all disputes and crimes.

Article 50:

The King, or whomsoever he may deputise, will be responsible for the implementation of the Judicial rules.

Article 51:

The system will determine the formation of the Supreme Judicial Council and its prerogative as well as the organisation and prerogatives of various courts.

Article 52:

Judges will be appointed and relieved of their duties by Royal Decree, according to a proposal by the Supreme Judicial Council and according to the system's regulations.

Article 53:

The system will determine the organisation and prerogatives of the Board of Grievances.

Article 54:

The system will determine the organisation and prerogatives of the Department of Investigations and Public Prosecution.

Article 55:

The King will rule the nation, according to the rulings of Islam, and supervise the application of Shariah (Islamic laws), the state's general policy and the protection and defence of the country.

Article 56:

The King acts as Prime Minister and is assisted in the performance of his duties by members of the Council of Ministers, according to the rulings of this and other systems. The system of the Council of Ministers will determine the authorities of the council, in connection with internal and external affairs, the organisation of government authorities and the co-ordination of their work. It will also determine the qual-

ities that are required of ministers, the authorities invested in them, the method of questioning them and all their affairs. The system and prerogatives of the Council of Ministers will be modified according to this system.

Article 57:

a) The King will appoint Deputy Prime Ministers and Cabinet Ministers and relieve them of their duties by Royal Decree.

b) The Deputy Prime Ministers and Cabinet Ministers are responsible before the King for the application of the Islamic Shariah, systems and the state's general policy.

c) The King has the right to dissolve the Council of Ministers and restructure it.

Article 58:

The King will appoint Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials of the excellent grade, and relieve them of their duties by Royal Decree and according to the rulings of the system.

Ministers and heads of independent authorities are responsible to the Prime Minister for their Ministries or authorities.

Article 59:

The system will determine the rules of the civil service, including salaries, rewards, compensation, privileges and retirement pensions.

Article 60:

The King is the Supreme Commander of all the armed forces and appoints officers or terminates their service according to the system.

Article 61:

The King has the right to declare a state of emergency, general mobilisation and war. The system will determine relevant rulings.

Article 62:

If a danger threatens the safety of the Kingdom, the unity of its lands or impedes the state institutions' performance of their duties, the King has the right to take the necessary speedy measures to face this danger. If the King decides that these measures should be continuous, he will implement the

necessary regulations to this end.

Article 63:

The King will receive heads of states, appoint his representatives in other countries and accept accreditation of the representatives of other countries in the Kingdom.

Article 64:

The King will award medals according to the relevant clauses of the system.

Article 65:

The King has the right to delegate prerogatives to the Crown Prince by Royal Decree.

Article 66:

In case of his travelling abroad, the King issues a Royal Decree to deputise the Crown prince to run the affairs of the state and look after the interests of the people as stated in the Royal Decree.

Article 67:

The organisational authority will draw up systems and regulations to protect state interests or eliminate corruption in the affairs of the state, according to the rulings of the Islamic Shariah, and exercise its functions according to this system and the systems of the Council of Ministers and Shura.

Article 68:

The system of the Shura Council will determine the method of its formation, the exercise of its powers and the selection of its members.

The King has the right to dissolve the Shura Council and restructure it.

Article 69:

The King has the right to call the Council of Ministers and Shura for a joint meeting and invite whoever he wishes to attend this meeting and discuss whatever issues he raises.

Article 70:

Systems, treaties, international agreements and privileges will be issued and modified by Royal Decree.

Article 71:

Systems will be published in the official gazette and deemed effective as of the date of their publication, unless another date is specified.

CHAPTER SEVEN: FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Article 72:

The system will determine the rulings of the state revenues and their delivery to the State Treasury.

Article 73:

No obligation should be made to pay funds from the State Treasury except in accordance with the provisions of the budget. Should the provisions of the budget not be sufficient for paying such funds, a Royal Decree must be issued for their payment.

Article 74:

The assets of the state should not be sold, rented or dealt with except in accordance with the system.

Article 75:

The systems will determine the rulings of monetary agencies, banks, standards, measures and weights.

Article 76:

The system will determine the state's fiscal year. The budget will be issued by a Royal Decree and will include an estimate of the year's revenues and expenditures at least one month before the beginning of the fiscal year. Should emergency reasons arise and prevent its issuance before the beginning of the new fiscal year, the budget of the previous fiscal year will be followed until a new one has been issued.

Article 77:

The concerned authority will prepare the state's final accounts for the ending fiscal year and submit it to the Prime Minister.

Article 78:

The budgets and final accounts of corporate bodies will be

subject to the rulings of the state budget and its final account.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONTROL AUTHORITIES

Article 79:

All revenues, expenditures and fixed and mobile assets of the state will be controlled to ensure that they are well-utilised. An annual report on this control will be submitted to the Prime Minister.

The system will determine the relevant control authority and its specialisations.

Article 80:

Government authorities will be controlled to ensure their good performance and the application of systems. Financial and administrative violations will be investigated and an annual report on them submitted to the Prime Minister.

The system will determine the relevant authority and its specialisations.

CHAPTER NINE: GENERAL RULINGS

Article 81:

The implementation of this system does not violate treaties and agreements for which the Kingdom is committed in respect of other countries, international organisations and institutions.

Article 82:

Noting that the seventh article of this system should not be violated, none of the rulings of this system should, in any way, be obstructed, unless it is a temporary measure during a time of war and as shown in the system.

Article 83:

No amendment of this system should be made except in the same manner of its issuance.



Directory of Government

THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (MAJLIS AL-SHOURA)



"As to the Shura system, it is based on Islam both in name and content. The new system provides for modernisation and development of the earlier one."

King Fahd



The primary function of *Majlis Al-Shoura* is to advise the King on issues of importance to the nation. The concept of consultation with learned and experienced citizens is one that has long been practised by Saudi leaders and has its roots in Islam. The late King Abdulaziz, who established the first Consultative Council in the mid-1920s, explained: "We have to follow what is stated in the Holy Quran and the *Sunnah* in implementation of Allah's orders to consult others in the affairs of the moment."

In order to give the Council a more formalised and efficient mechanism, King Fahd restructured the system in 1992. The Council now consists of a chairman and 60 members appointed by the King for a four-year renewable term. Its members represent the spectrum of Saudi society. King Fahd personally inaugurated the first session of the new Council on December 29, 1993.

Responsibilities of the Council include discussing regulations, domestic and international issues, and all other matters of public interest. It can request the participation of government officials at key meetings and apply for access to government documents. Reports and recommendations made by the Council are submitted directly to the King.

One of the Council's first actions was to form eight specialised committees. Members were divided along the various committees based on their experience. These committees are:

- Educational, Cultural and Information Affairs
- Health and Social Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Security Affairs
- Organisation and Administration
- Islamic Affairs
- Economic and Financial Affairs
- Services and Public Utilities

Mohammed Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Othman Ibn Jubair Chairman of the Consultative Council



DoB: 1929

PoB: Majma'ah

EDUCATION

Degree of Islamic Law, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah.

EXPERIENCE

Judge, Makkah Court; Prosecutor, Board of Grievances; Member of the Court of Appeal, Riyadh; Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Commission; Chairman of the Permanent Commission of the

Supreme Legal Council; Chairman of the Board of Grievances; Minister of State and Member of the Council of Ministers; Acting Minister of Justice; Minister of Justice, Acting Chairman of the Supreme Legal Council and Acting Chairman of the Board of Grievances.

PUBLICATIONS

Studies on the Scientific Methodology for Comparative Studies on the Codification Project. A series of radio and TV interviews; specialised research and lectures presented to the Committee of Senior Scholars, Islamic Legal Councils and U.S. universities.

CONFERENCES

Participated in numerous conferences and seminars held in Riyadh, Paris, the Vatican and the U.S., and at the International Council of Churches in Geneva and the European Council in Strasbourg.

MEMBERSHIP

Committee of Senior Scholars; Chairman of the Constitutive Conference of the League of Islamic Jurisprudence at the Organisation the Islamic Conference (OIC); Jurisprudence Council of the League of Muslim World; the Higher Council of Information; Board of Directors of the Islamic Call Magazine; Board of Directors of King Faisal Foundation; the Higher Consultative Committee of the Social Security Fund.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Abdullah Ibn Omar Ibn Mohammed Ibn Nasif Vice-Chairman of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1929

PoB: Jeddah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Geology, Leeds University, England, 1971; B.Sc. Riyadh University, 1964.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Riyadh University, 1964; Assistant Professor, King Saud University, 1971; Assistant Professor and Chairman of the Department of Geology, King Abdulaziz University, 1972; Secretary General of King Abdulaziz University, 1973-76; Vice-President,

King Abdulaziz University, 1976-82; Associate Professor, King Abdulaziz University, 1979; President, King Abdulaziz University, 1980-84; Professor, King Abdulaziz University, 1983; Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Conference 1983-94.

PUBLICATIONS

Several publications on geological sciences, Islam and communism and the role of faith and Islamic principles in teaching natural and applied sciences.

CONFERENCES

Participated and chaired academic and Islamic conferences in the Kingdom, Arab and Islamic world.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Hammoud Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Badr

Secretary General of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1939

PoB: Al-Zulfa

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Public Relations, Michigan State University, U.S., 1972; M.A. Education Management, Michigan State University, U.S., 1972; B.A. Journalism, Cairo University, Egypt, 1963.

EXPERIENCE

General Director of Foreign Relations and Conferences, Ministry of Labour, 1963; General Director of Research, Statistics and Studies, Ministry of Labour, 1972; Dean of Admission and Registration, Riyadh University, 1976; Vice-President, Riyadh University, 1976-88; Professor, Departments of Information and Education, King Saud University, 1988-1994; Editor-in-Chief of 'Gulf Magazine', 1961 and 'Al-Yamamah', 1963-64.

PUBLICATIONS

Published articles in Saudi, Arab and international periodicals on the Saudi press, public relations and information policies in the Gulf States. Published two books: 'The Principles and Applications of Public Relations', Riyadh, 1991; and 'This is Islam', Riyadh, 1993.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on training, information and education held in Arab countries, Europe and the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP

The Higher Committee for Civil Service Missions; the Higher Committee for Developed Schools Evaluation; the Advisory Committee for Girls' Schools; the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education; Chairman of the Board, Markh Club; Chairman of the Board, the Saudi Federation of Gymnastics; Chairman of the Board, the Saudi Association for Educational and Psychological Sciences; the Board of the Saudi Charitable Association for Handicapped Children; Board of Trustees of King Fahd National Library.

MEDALS & DECORATIONS

King Fahd Medal of Achievement, Second Class; Medal, the Republic of France.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ibrahim Ibn Qadhi Ibn Mohammed Al-Qadhi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1930

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

B.A. Literature, Cairo University, Egypt, 1964.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher, Ministry of Education, 1951; Head of the Office of the General Director of Education until 1956, Cultural Office, Cairo, Egypt until 1964; Director of Missions, Ministry of Education until 1966; Cultural Counsellor in Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Iraq and Kuwait; Assistant General Director of Administration, Ministry of Education; Cultural Counsellor, Germany, Lebanon and Syria; Deputy Information Minister since 1976.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ibrahim Ibn Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Al-Faris

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1925

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

Signals Military School, Taif, 1948. Graduated with distinction in English, School of Languages, 1960; and School of Signals. Diploma with distinction in signals, U.S.

EXPERIENCE

Signals Officer, 1948; Signals Division Commander, 1955; Signals Division Commander in Chief, 1961; Director of Officer Personnel Administration, 1969; Military Attaché, U.S., 1971; Director of the Arab Intelligence Agency, 1972; Military Commander of the Eastern Province, 1974; Director of Logistics and Supplies, 1978; Major General, 1978; General Director of Military Plants.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Accompanied HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation and the Inspector General, in visits to the Arab Gulf States and to the U.S.; headed military delegations to Arab and European countries.

MEDALS & DECORATIONS

King Abdulaziz Medal, Second Class, 1976; The Republic of China Medal, Rank of Lieutenant-General, 1975.

MEMBERSHIP

Higher Committee of Officers; Representative of the Ministry of Defence to the Higher Committee formulating the General System of Officers.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ibrahim Abdul Fattah Ibrahim Jlidan

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1927

PoB: Madinah

EDUCATION

Completion of third year of Foreign Missions Preparation, 1943.

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director of Health Administration, Madinah, 1943-47; Secretary of the Supervisory Construction Committee of the King Abdulaziz Hospital, Madinah; Director of Madinah Airport, 1947-62; General Director of Air Transportation, 1962-63; Chairman of

Directory of Government

the Board of Directors of al-Madinah Construction and Trade Co. since 1962.

MEMBERSHIP

Charitable Society for Social Services, Madinah; Chairman of the Charitable Fund in Madinah; Chairman of the Board of Directors, Madinah International Charitable Foundation, Pakistan.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ahmad Ibn Hamad Nasir Al-Yahia **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1941

PoB: Majma'ah

EDUCATION

M.A. Labour Relations, U.S., 1972; Diploma in Labour Planning, Scandinavia, 1967; B.A., King Saud University, 1966; Diploma in Productivity, Germany, 1962.

EXPERIENCE

Employee of a Saudi Bank; Employee of a Cement Company; Director of Administrative Affairs, Vocational Education, Ministry of Education, 1988-92; General Director, Main Labour Office, Eastern Province, 1973-81; Deputy Minister for Labour Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 1981-93.

PUBLICATIONS

Studies in labour relations and labour force; published articles and research studies in specialised periodicals on labour and labourers.

CONFERENCES

Represented the Kingdom and headed its delegations to labour conferences in the Arab world, Asian and European countries. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Labour Organisation for several years; Head of government teams at the International Labour Conference in Switzerland for several years.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors of the Administration of Social Security; Board of Directors of the Administration of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and German.

Ahmad Ibn Ali Ibn Ahmad Sir Al-Mubarak **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1948

PoB: Al-Mansuriyyah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Islamic Law, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, 1977; M.A. in Science of Hadith, Al-Azhar University, 1974; M.A. Islamic Law, the Higher Institute of Law, 1972; B.A., Imam University, Riyadh, 1968.

EXPERIENCE

Legal Assistant, Ministry of Justice; Lecturer, Faculty of Islamic Law, Imam University, Riyadh; Assistant Professor, Imam University; Associate Professor, Imam University, Professor, Imam University; Vice-Chairman, Department of Jurisprudence, Imam University; Chairman, Department of Jurisprudence, Imam University.

PUBLICATIONS

Published books on Islamic law, jurisprudence and comparative law.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conference and seminars held at Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University in the Kingdom.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Osama Ibn Abdullah Ibn Abdul Ghani Khayyat **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1955

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Islamic Law, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah, 1987; M.A. Islamic Law, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah, 1981; B.A. Islamic Law, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah, 1976.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Faculty of Islamic Law, Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah, 1978-81; Assistant Professor, Department of Quran and Sunna, Faculty of Call and Fundamentals of Religion; Chairman,

Department of Quran and Sunna, Faculty of Call and Fundamentals of Religion, 1988; Teacher at the Holy Mosque, The General Presidency of the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, 1989.

PUBLICATIONS

Published books and works on Hadith and Islamic doctrine.

CONFERENCES

Participated in seminars and conferences organised by the General Secretariat for Islamic Awareness in the Hajj.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Bakri Salih Ibn Abu Bakr Shatta **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1934

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

M.A. in Public Administration, USC, U.S., 1967; B.A. in Commerce and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt, 1958.

EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Trade, 1958; General Director of the Government's Central Department of Purchases, Ministry of Finance, 1972; General Director of Housing, Ministry of Housing, 1976; Assistant Deputy Ministry for Housing Affairs, Ministry of Housing; founded the International Centre for Information and Administrative Consultation, Jeddah, 1982; in charge of promoting trade and co-operation among Muslim countries at the Islamic Development Fund in Jeddah 1988; General Commission, Saudi Exhibit at Expo-70 Japan.

PUBLICATIONS

Research work on Saudi commercial trademarks.

CONFERENCES

Participated in meetings of the Boards of Governors of the Islamic Development Fund in Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt; in trade conferences in Indonesia, Syria and Tunisia; and in trade conferences of the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Trade and Finance programme.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors of the Real Estate Development Fund; the Saudi-Maghrebi Committee for Joint Co-operation; the Saudi-Korean Committee for Joint Co-operation.

MEDALS & DECORATIONS

Japanese Imperial Medal; honoured with supervision of the production of the Saudi-made covering of the Ka'aba of the Holy Mosque in Makkah.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Jamil Ibn Abdullah Al-Gishi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1938

PoB: Tarout

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Industrial Engineering, Pittsburgh University, U.S., 1974; M.Sc. Industrial Engineering, Pittsburgh University, U.S., 1967; B.Sc. Industrial Engineering, Pittsburgh University, U.S., 1966.

EXPERIENCE

Engineer, Centre for Research and Industrial Development, 1975; General Director of the Department of Assessment and Monitoring, Saudi Development Fund, 1975; General Director of the Jubail Project, Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, 1976; Vice-Governor, the General Commission of Electricity, 1980, CEO, the Arab Investment Company, 1985; Founder and President, Al-Gishi for Industrial Investments, 1990.

PUBLICATIONS

Published a book and several articles on administrative, social and technical fields.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences and seminars in the Kingdom, Gulf and Arab countries in the fields of development, management and industry.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Jamil Mohammed Ali Al-Maiman

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1939

PoB: Taif

EDUCATION

Advanced Studies at the Police Academy, Cairo, Egypt, 1975.

EXPERIENCE

King Faisal's Special Security Guards; Head of the Departments of Interrogation and Civil Rights and police stations in Makkah; Assistant-Commissioner of the police force in Al-Ahsa; Commissioner, Dammam; Director of Intelligence, Madinah; Director, Department of Criminal Investigation, Public Security; General Director, Narcotics Department; Commander of Haj Security Forces; Consultant and Lecturer at King Fahd Security College. Lectured in several security institutes.

PUBLICATIONS

Published books on criminal investigation.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences in the U.S., Europe and Arab countries on combating crime and drugs.

MEMBERSHIP

Security Committee of Ministry of Information Buildings; Saudi-Jordanian Security Committee.

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

Medal of Military Recognition, First Class; King Faisal Medal, Third Class; King Abdulaziz Medal, Third Class.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Hamad Ibn Mohammed Ibn Saad Al-Faryan

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1937

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Islamic Legal Studies, the Higher Legal Institute; M.A. Islamic

Legal Studies, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt; B.A., Faculty of Sharia Sciences, Imam University.

EXPERIENCE

Inspector, Ministry of Justice, 1958; Chief Justice, Dawadmi city, Ministry of Justice, 1962; Department Head, Ministry of Justice, 1963, Judge at the Higher Court, 1965; Director of the Office of Chief Justice, 1968; General Director, Ministry of Justice, 1970; Assistant Deputy Minister for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Justice, 1974; Deputy Minister for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Justice, 1976; Associate Professor, the Higher Legal Institute for seven years.

PUBLICATIONS

Research and articles on Islamic administration and penal codes.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences and seminars in Arab countries on legal, religious and administrative issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Founding member of Al-Jazirah Company for press, print and publications; the Committee for Trade Conflicts Resolution; several philanthropic committees.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Khalid Ibn Mohammed Algosabi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1933

PoB: Al Ahsa

EDUCATION

M.A. Economics, USC, U.S.; B.A. Economics, AUB, Lebanon.

EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Agriculture and Water; Director of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Water; Director of Budget, Ministry of Agriculture and Water; General Director of Projects, Ministry of Agriculture and Water; General Director of the Railways; Deputy-Governor, Saudi Arab Monetary Fund.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors of the General Directorate for Railways; Board of

Directory of Government

Directors of the Saudi Arab Monetary Fund; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Development Fund; Board of Directors of the International Saudi Bank; Board of Directors of the Gulf International Bank; Board of Directors of Riyadh Bank; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Investment Company; Board of Directors of the Electric Company of the Western Province; Board of Directors of the Directorate of Social Security.

CONFERENCES

Represented the Saudi Monetary Fund to IMF and World Bank meetings.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Rida Mohammed Saeed Obaid

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1936

PoB: Madinah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Chemistry, England, 1962; M.Sc. Chemistry, England, 1960; M.Sc. Chemistry, Cairo, Egypt, 1958.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Faculty of Science, King Saud University; Vice-Chairman, Faculty of Science, King Saud University; Assistant Professor, King Saud University; Professor of Biochemistry and Physics, King Saud University; Director of the National Centre for Science and Technology, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology; President, King Abdulaziz University.

PUBLICATIONS

Secondary school and university level academic chemistry books.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences of presidents of Gulf universities.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Zahir Ibn Awwad Ibn Mohammed Al-Almai

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1935

PoB: Tihama

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Quranic Sciences and Interpretation, Egypt, 1973; M.A. Quranic Sciences and Interpretation, Egypt, 1969; B.A. Islamic Law, Imam University, Riyadh, 1966.

EXPERIENCE

Soldier, Jizan; Teacher, the Scientific Institute, Abha; Director, Najran Scientific Institute; Teacher, Faculty of Islamic Law, Riyadh; Dean of Library Affairs, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, Riyadh; Professor, Post-Graduate Studies, Faculty of Fundamentals of Religion, Riyadh; Dean, Faculty of Islamic Law and Fundamentals of Religion, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, Southern Branch.

PUBLICATIONS

Published books and articles on Quranic interpretations, Islamic issues, youth and Arabic literature.

CONFERENCES

Participated in literary conferences and university delegations seminars in Arab and Islamic countries.

MEMBERSHIP

Supreme Advisory Committee of the International League of Muslim Youth; International League of Islamic Literature; Board of Directors of the Charitable Association in Asir; Board of Directors of the Literary Club in Abha.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Zuhair Ahmad Al-Sibai

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1939

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Health Planning, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.,

1969; M.Sc. International Health, U.S., 1967; MD Surgery, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, 1962.

EXPERIENCE

Director of Planning, Programmes and Budget, Ministry of Health, Riyadh; Faculty member, Medical School, King Saud University; Dean of the Medical School, Abha; Dean of Post-graduate Medical Studies, Ministry of Defence and Aviation; Professor, Family Medicine, King Faisal University, Dammam; Visiting Professor at universities in the U.S., Iraq and Sudan; Consultant to the WHO and Islamic Relief Organisation.

PUBLICATIONS

Published 52 scientific research works and 15 books.

CONFERENCES

Participated in more than 40 medical and scientific conferences.

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

Medal of Achievement, First Class, 1981.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and German.

Zuhair Hamed Hassan Fayez

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1945

PoB: Jeddah

EDUCATION

M.A. Architecture, Colorado University, U.S., 1971; B.Sc. Architecture, Colorado University, U.S., 1970.

EXPERIENCE

Director of Architectural Design, Hertz, Fay, Weissger Architects, Colorado; Architectural Designer, Massouh Architectural Firm, Colorado; President, Zuhair Fayez Architectural Firm.

PUBLICATIONS

Published a book on the traditional influences on modern Saudi architecture.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on architectural design in Arab coun-

tries, Europe and U.S.

MEMBERSHIP

Member of several specialised associations.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ziyad Ibn Abdul Rahman Ibn Ahmed Al-Sudairi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1954

PoB: Sakaka

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Law, Virginia, U.S., 1979; B.A. Political Science, Arizona, U.S.; B.A. Economics and International Relations, 1976, U.S.

EXPERIENCE

Intern, Sherman & Sterling, New York, Legal Advisor, Interior Ministry; private law firm; President, Badran Projects Co.; General Director, Abdul Rahman Al-Sudairi Charitable Society.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Said Ibn Mohammed Al-Malis

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1940

PoB: Baha

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Teaching English, 1979, U.S.; M.A. Linguistics, U.S., 1977; B.A. English, Faculty of Education, Saudi Arabia.

EXPERIENCE

English Teacher at secondary schools, Saudi Arabia; Assistant Professor, Centre of Sciences and Mathematics, Riyadh; General Director, Ministry of Education; Acting General Director for Secondary Education; General Director for Private Education;

Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education; Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education; Associate Professor, Institute for Public Administration, King Saud University and King Fahd Security Academy; Member of Board of Directors of GCC Centre of Educational Research.

PUBLICATIONS

Research work on education, secondary schools and illiteracy.

CONFERENCES

Headed Kingdom's delegations to regional and international conferences on education; member of several committees on education and Development Plans preparations.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Solaiman Abdul-Rahman Abdullah Al-Saleh

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1940

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

B.A. Economics and International Relations, U.S.

EXPERIENCE

Director, Riyadh Television; Under-Secretary, Riyadh City Council; Owner, Halla-Avis Co.; Owner, Grand Banquet Hall, Riyadh; Owner, Water Sealant Co., Jubail; Board of Directors of several Saudi banks and private companies; Vice-Chairman of Board of Directors of the United Commercial Insurance Co.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Saleh Zein Al Abedeen Al-Shibi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1946

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Islamic Jurisprudence, Sharia College, 1982; M.A. Islamic Doctrine, Sharia College, 1969; B.A. Islamic Doctrine, Sharia College, 1974.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Sharia College, Makkah; Assistant Professor, Umm al-Qura University, Makkah; Professor, Faculty of Fundamentals of Religion; Sexton of the Holy Ka'aba.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Saleh Ibn Saud Ibn Suliman Ibn Ali Al-Ali

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1938

PoB: Hail

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Islamic Jurisprudence, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1985; M.A. Islamic Jurisprudence, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1976; B.A. Religious Sciences, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1965.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Scientific Institutes; Acting Director, Riyadh Scientific Institute; Director, Riyadh Scientific Institute; Professor, Faculty of Sahria; Dean for Student Affairs, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University; Director, Higher Institute for Islamic Call.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and articles on Islamic jurisprudence; Sunna; and legal studies.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences, special committees on education curriculum; Islamic studies.

MEMBERSHIP

Higher Council for Girls' Colleges; Board of Directors, Centre for Islamic Research & Studies, King Faisal Foundation; Higher Council and Board of Directors, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Directory of Government

Saleh Ibn Abdul Rahman Al-Mazrou **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1926

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

B.A., Sharia College, Imam University, Riyadh.

EXPERIENCE

Director, Personnel and Financial Affairs, Islamic University, Madinah; Director, Division of Civil Rights, Interior Ministry, Riyadh.

MEMBERSHIP

Fact-finding mission studying conditions of Muslims in Latin America; international symposium for Muslim youth in North America; participated in Islamic University Conference, India; drugs conference held at Islamic University, Madinah; member, Supreme Council For Girls' Colleges.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Saleh Ibn Abdullah Ibn Mohammed Ibn Hameed **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1949

PoB: Buraida

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Fundamentals of Jurisprudence, Makkah, 1982; M.A. Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence, Makkah, 1976; B.A. Sharia, Makkah, 1972.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Faculty of Sharia, Umm al-Qura University; Assistant Professor, Umm al-Qura University; Professor, Faculty of Sharia, Umm al-Qura University; Chairman, Islamic Economics Department, Umm al-Qura University; Dean, Faculty of Sharia; Vice-General President of the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques; Director, Centre of Higher Studies, Ummal-Qura University; Scholar at the Holy Mosque.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and articles on Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic social issues, and education.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on Islamic jurisprudence in Arab and Western countries.

MEMBERSHIP

Muslim World League; Islamic International Relief Organisation.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Saleh Ibn Abdullah Al-Malik **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1940

PoB: Al-Russ

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Urban Sociology, Michigan University, 1973; M.A. Demography, Michigan University, 1970; M.A. Sociology, U.S., 1968; B.A. Geography, King Saud University, 1961; B.A. Sharia, Imam University, Riyadh, 1968.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Umm al-Qura University, 1964; Assistant Professor, Michigan University, 1972; Assistant Professor, King Saud University, 1973; Secretary-General, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1974; Deputy Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, 1976.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on the principles of criminology, the ecology of Riyadh, social services for women and the handicapped, and social activities in the Gulf.

CONFERENCES

Participated and chaired conference on sociology, municipal affairs, and urban planning.

MEMBERSHIP

Higher Council of King Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and French.

Abdul Rahman Ahmad Al-Gafary **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1940

PoB: Al-Hasa

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy and Business Administration, U.S., 1979; M.A. Education Management, U.S., 1973; B.A. Geology, U.S., 1968.

EXPERIENCE

Secretary General, Gulf Organisation for Industrial Investment, Qatar; Dean, School of Industrial Management, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals; Associate Professor, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals; Lecturer, School of Business Administration, Oklahoma University; Director, M.B.A. studies programme, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals.

PUBLICATIONS

Published articles on problems of delegation; administrative analysis.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on administration in the Gulf region and on industrial and human resources management.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdul Rahman Ibn Mohammed Al Tayib Al-Ansary **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1935

PoB: Madinah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History of the Arabian Peninsula, England; M.A. Arabic Language, Cairo University, 1960.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Faculty of Literature, Riyadh University, 1960; Professor, King Saud University, 1966; Vice-Dean, 1969; Dean, 1971; Chairman, History Department, 1974; Director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and articles on archaeological sites in Saudi Arabia, architecture, antiquities, Arab civilisation in Saudi Arabia, and caravan routes in Arabia.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on archaeology, antiquities and history.

MEMBERSHIP

UNESCO International Commission for the writing of the history of humanity; ALESCO International Commission for the writing of the history of the Arab nation.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdul Rahman Saleh Al-Shbeily

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1944

PoB: Unaizah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Information, U.S., 1971; M.A. Information, U.S., 1968; B.A. Social Sciences, King Saud University, 1965; B.A. Arabic Language, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University, 1963.

EXPERIENCE

Director General, Saudi Television, Riyadh, 1971; Professor of Information, King Saud University, 1973; Deputy Minister, Ministry of Higher Education; Secretary-General, Higher Council for Universities.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on information, use of video in Saudi Arabia and information history in Saudi Arabia.

CONFERENCES

Participated in regional, Arab and Islamic conferences on information and education.

MEDALS & DECORATIONS

Medals from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and French.

Abdul Rahman Abdullah Aba Al-Khalil

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1927

PoB: Unaizah

EDUCATION

B.A. Arabic and Oriental Languages, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, 1952.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher, Ministry of Education, 1953; Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1954; Director General, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, 1959; Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, 1961; Saudi Ambassador to Egypt, 1976-1978; General Director, Al-Madinah Press Co., 1978-81.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdulaziz Ibn Ibrahim Al-Fayez

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1951

PoB: Dammam

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, Massachusetts University, U.S., 1982; M.A. Political Science, Pittsburgh University, U.S., 1976; B.A. Economics, Riyadh University, 1972.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Political Science Department, Riyadh University, 1972; Instructor, King Abdulaziz Military Academy, 1972; Assistant Professor, Political Science, King Saud University, 1983; Consultant, Office of the Deputy Minister, Information Ministry, 1985; Chairman, Political Science Department, King Saud University, 1986; Supervisor, Office of the Deputy Minister, Information Ministry, 1991.

PUBLICATIONS

Translated a book on the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

CONFERENCES

Participated in intellectual, cultural, youth conferences in Arab, Islamic and Asian countries.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Saleh Al-Naeim

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1928

PoB: Unaizah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Law, Cairo University, 1974; M.A. Law, Cairo University, 1967; B.A. Law, Cairo University, 1964.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher, Ministry of Education; Lecturer, Faculty of Commerce, 1967; Assistant Professor, School of Administrative Sciences, 1974; Head, Customs Committee, Riyadh; Vice-Chairman, Experts Committee, Council of Ministers, 1980; Advisor, Committee of Experts, 1992.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on principles of Islamic jurisprudence, administration, and taxation system in Islam.

CONFERENCES

Conferences of Muslim Social Scientists, U.S., and of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Directory of Government

Abdulaziz Ibn Mohammed Abu-Malha **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1938

PoB: Bilad Shahrhan

EDUCATION

M.A. Business Administration, West Michigan University, 1974;
B.A. History, King Saud University, 1969.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher, Ministry of Education; Assistant Director, Personnel Department, Higher Council for Planning, Riyadh; Assistant Director, Land Department; Assistant Director, Inspection Department, Director, Planning and Programmes, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs; Deputy Ministry for Municipal Affairs, Riyadh.

CONFERENCES

Arab cities conference, Amman, Jordan; municipalities conferences, Saudi Arabia.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdulaziz Ibn Abdul Mohsen Al-Asheikh **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1937

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

M.A. Military Science, Pakistan, 1965.

EXPERIENCE

Army Officer; Commander, King Abdulaziz Military Academy; Director of Military Intelligence and Armed Forces Security, Commander, North-Western Province; Deputy-Commander, Ground Forces and Deputy Commander of the Joint Forces and Fields of Operation during the Gulf War; Director of the Joint Forces and of Iraqi Refugees Affairs.

CONFERENCES

Symposium on Islamic World, England; conference of Arab experts on refugees.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdul Qader Hamza Kushk **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1938

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Urban Planning, Ein-Shams University, Egypt, 1992; M.A. Planning and Architecture, Utah University, 1968; B.A. Architecture, Cairo University, 1962.

EXPERIENCE

Architectural Engineer, Interior Ministry; Director, Technical Office, Interior Ministry; Deputy, Central Administration; Interior Ministry; Secretary General, Makkah, 1981; Secretary General, Organisation of Arab capitals and Islamic cities.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences on water, desalination and water recycling in Arab and Western countries.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdullah Ibn Hamad Al-Qerawy **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1933

PoB: Unaizah

EDUCATION

B.A. Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Alexandria, Egypt, 1961.

EXPERIENCE

Director, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Assistant Director,

Personnel Affairs, Director, Vocational Training Centre, Riyadh; Assistant Director for Administrative Affairs, King Saud University; Senior Administrator, then Assistant Deputy for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Electricity.

PUBLICATIONS

Has contributed articles for 30 years to Saudi journals and magazines.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors, Al-Jazirah Publications Corporation; Social Security; the Saudi Charitable Association for Handicapped Children.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Al-Munifi **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1939

PoB: Shaqra

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Law, University of Virginia, U.S., 1973; M.A. Law, University of Virginia, U.S., 1969; B.A. Law, Cairo University, Egypt, 1958.

EXPERIENCE

Counsellor, Council of Ministers; Vice-Chairman, Experts Committee; Lecturer, Institute of Public Administration; Adviser, Interior Ministry; Adviser, Desalination Commission; President, private law firm.

PUBLICATIONS

Research work on constitutional theory and international law.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conference on maritime law and in Arab League conferences.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdullah Ibn Abdul Mohsen Ibn Sultan Al-Sultan Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1943

PoB: Sakaka

EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Relations, North Carolina State University, 1980; M.A. Public Administration, North Carolina State University, 1973; B.A. Political Science/Police Administration, California State University, 1970; specialised training, King Fahd Police Academy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970.

EXPERIENCE

Lieutenant Colonel, King Fahd Security Academy, Interior Ministry; 1970-1983; Director, Borders Affairs; Interior Ministry, 1984-89 and 1992-93; Director, Co-ordination and Monitoring, Interior Ministry.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and research work on security in the Red Sea and on national security.

CONFERENCES

Participated in Arab and international conferences on armed forces and national development, economic security for Mediterranean countries and security in the Red Sea.

MEMBERSHIP

Joint Saudi-Jordanian Security Committee; Joint Saudi-Yemeni Committee of Experts; the Permanent Joint Saudi-Kuwaiti Committee.

MEDALS & DECORATIONS

Military Recognition, 1993; Achievement, Third Class, 1992.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdul Latif Hamad Mohammed Al-Jabr Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1937

PoB: Al-Hasa

EDUCATION

Primary Stage.

EXPERIENCE

Co-founder, Al-Jabr Trading Company; Board of Directors of several public and commercial companies and charitable associations.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ali Ibn Ibrahim Al-Namlah Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1952

PoB: Al-Bukairia

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Informatics, U.S., 1983; M.A. Library Science, Florida State University, 1979; B.A. Arabic Language, Saudi Arabia, 1974.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Faculty of Arabic Language; Advisor, Office of President of Imam University; Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences; Assistant Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Researcher, Arabic and Islamic Institute, Frankfurt, Germany; Director of Academic Affairs, Cultural Office, Saudi Embassy, Washington, DC; General Director, the Executive Office of the General Commission for Donations to Afghanistan.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on old translation centres in Islamic countries; orientalism; Arabic Literature; the Afghan resistance; and other Islamic issues.

CONFERENCES

Participated in conferences at King Faisal Centre for Islamic Studies and Research and on Oriental Studies in Germany.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Ali Ibn Abdullah Al-Jaffali Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1916

PoB: Makkah

EXPERIENCE

Co-founder of the first Electricity Company in the Kingdom in 1946;

Vice-President and Delegate Member of the Saudi Electricity Company, 1956; Vice-President of the Saudi National Electricity Company (Jeddah), 1959; Chairman of the Board of Directors and Delegate Member of the Saudi National Electricity Company (Jeddah), 1970; Member of the Board of Directors, Saudi Airlines,

1980; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ibrahim Al-Jaffali & Brothers Company.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Omrans Ibn Mohammed Al-Omrans Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1933

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

B.A. Arabic and Literature, Al-Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University, 1957.

EXPERIENCE

Business Manager, Regulations Committee, General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers; Director of the Central Labour Office, Eastern Province; General Director, Riyadh Electricity Co.; Assistant General Manager, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs; General Manager for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Public Works; Editor-in-Chief, Al-Riyadh Daily Newspaper; General Manager, Department of Water and Sewage, Riyadh; founding member, Riyadh Literature Club; founding member, Al-Yamamah Media Corporation; member, the Supreme Authority for the Development of Riyadh City.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on regional poetry and two books on local literature

CONFERENCES

Participated in many symposiums and conferences dealing with administrative, public services and local government issues.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Falih Ibn Zaid Al-Falih

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1939

PoB: Al-Khabraa

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Internal Medicine, Germany, 1976.

EXPERIENCE

Deputy Head of the Internal Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, King Saud University; Director for Administrative Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, King Saud University; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Supervisor of University Hospitals, King Saud University; Vice-President, King Saud University.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and German.

Fahd Alarabi Al-Harithi

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1945

PoB: Al-Mirefiq

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Arts and Social Sciences, Sorbonne University, France, 1980; B.Sc. in Arts, Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Makkah, Saudi Arabia, 1965.

EXPERIENCE

Editor-in-Chief, 'Al-Yamama' magazine; Teaching staff member, King Saud University; Member of the Supreme Committee for Programmes Evaluation, Ministry of Information; Member of the Red Crescent Board of Directors, Association of Saudi Red Crescent; Member of the Board of Directors of several charitable organisations; Consultant with UNICEF.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on Islamic history, culture, poetry, media, and politics.

CONFERENCES

Participated in several regional and local conferences.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, English and French.

Faisal Ibn Ahmed Zedan

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1938

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Electrical Engineering, U.S., 1984; M.Sc. Electronic Engineering, Netherlands, 1965; B.Sc. Electrical Engineering, Egypt, 1962.

EXPERIENCE

Deputy Minister for Telephone Affairs, Ministry of PTT, Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Arab Corporation for Space Communications; Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Engineering, King Saud University; Member of several international space and communications agencies.

CONFERENCES

Participated in several regional and international conferences on space communications and technology.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Kamal Ibn Siraguldin Margalani

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1936

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Graduate of the Police Academy, Cairo, Egypt.

EXPERIENCE

Criminal Investigator, Internal Security Department; Senior Lecturer, Police Academy; Director, Police Academy; General Manager, Faculty Of Internal Security Forces; General Manager, Civil Defence; Assistant Director, Ministry of Interior; Director of

Operations, Internal Security Department; Assistant Director for Civil Defence, Internal Security Department; Assistant to the Director for Administration, Internal Security Department; served in several positions with a number of regional and international Islamic institutions; attended several specialised conferences.

PUBLICATIONS

Published two books on the basics of criminal investigation and on the duties of the internal security forces.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ahmed Yousif Zenil Ali Rida

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1943

PoB: Jeddah

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Civil Engineering, Cornell University, U.S., 1969; B.Sc. Civil Engineering, Cornell University, U.S.

EXPERIENCE

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Zenil Industrial Co. Ltd., Saudi Arabia; Chairman of the Board of Directors, I.M.I Saudi Arab Co. Ltd., Saudi Arabia; Member of the Board of Directors, HUBCO Power Plant, Pakistan; Member of Board of Directors, Al-Fikr Schools, Saudi Arabia.

CONFERENCES

Participated in a conference entitled 'Construction and Financing of Global Electric Power Plants in the 90's'.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ibn Abdulaziz Ibn Fahd Ibn Muamar

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1955

PoB: Taif

EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Relations, Oxford University, U.K., 1989; M.Sc. Social Sciences, University of California, U.S., 1982; B.Sc. Social Sciences, University of California, U.S., 1980.

EXPERIENCE

Researcher of International Studies, SABIC Co., Saudi Arabia; Teaching Assistant, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals.

PUBLICATIONS

The international aspects of oil and industrial policies of the Kingdom from 1970 to 1987; several research papers in international relations.

CONFERENCES

Participated in a number of conferences on energy and socio-economic issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Several development committees, Faculty of Industrial Management.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Al-Hameed

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1935

PoB: Abha

EDUCATION

Diplomas, Organisational Management, Lebanon and Egypt; High School Certificate, Saudi Arabia.

EXPERIENCE

Reporter, Asir Region; Administrator, Ministry of Education, 1954; Assistant Director for Education, Ministry of Education; Director of Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Health, 1959; Director of Rural Affairs, Asir Region, 1983; Consultant, Asir Region; President of Abha Literature Club; Secretary General of Abha Cultural Prize.

PUBLICATIONS

Several works on literature.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Al-Salem

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1935

PoB: Riyadh

EDUCATION

University Degree in Islamic Law, Makkah, 1955.

EXPERIENCE

Legal Prosecutor, Board of Grievances; Vice-President, Commission of Control and Investigation; Assistant Secretary General, Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

LANGUAGES: Arabic.

Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Al-Sharif

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1940

PoB: Al-Mifiger

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Public Administration and Finance, University of Southern California, U.S., 1975; B.Sc. in Arts, Riyadh University.

EXPERIENCE

Auditor, Board of General Auditing, 1959; Director General for Inspection, Board of General Auditing, 1975; General Director of the Board, Board of General Auditing, 1977; Assistant to the Board Vice-President, Board of General Auditing, 1980; Deputy Minister for Financial Affairs, Ministry of Finance, 1982.

PUBLICATIONS

'Financial Supervision in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia', 1985; 'Public Accounting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia', 1988; several research papers.

CONFERENCES

Conference of the International Organisation for Accounting and

Inspection Institutions, Peru, Philippines, Washington; Conference of the Arab Institutions for Financial Inspection, Tunis, Riyadh, Cairo and Khartoum; Conference of the International Union for Financial Inspection and Auditing, Canada, Spain, U.S. and Britain; participated in several symposiums on administration and management, Saudi Arabia.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors, Public Co-operation for Social Insurance; Board of Directors, Public Co-operation for Ports; Board of Directors, Agricultural Bank; Board of Directors, National Company for Agriculture Development; Board of Directors, Saudi Company for Collective Transportation; Board of Directors, Saudi Commission for Legal Accountants; Board of Directors, Saudi Egyptian Company for Construction.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdullah Ibn Mohammed Ibn Salih Al-Ghaliq

Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1941

PoB: Buraidah

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Arabic Language, King Saud University, 1963.

EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Arts, King Saud University; Assistant Director, Office of the Minister of Agriculture, 1964; Director of Projects Management, Ministry of Agriculture, 1972; Director General for Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, 1975; Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, 1977; Deputy Minister for Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, 1990.

CONFERENCES

Several regional symposiums and conferences on water desalination, preservation and relevant issues.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Directory of Government

Mansour Ibrahim Al-Hazmi **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1935

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Contemporary Arabic Literature, U.K., 1966; B.Sc. Arabic Language, Egypt, 1958.

EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Arts, King Saud University, 1959; Lecturer, Arabic Language Department, Faculty of Arts, King Saud University, 1948; Dean, Faculty of Arts, King Saud University, 1973; Chair, Department of Arabic Language, King Saud University, 1976; Dean, Centre of Girls' University Studies, King Saud University, 1980.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and articles on literature, poetry and modern Saudi arts.

CONFERENCES

Participated in numerous conferences on literature, poetry and arts held in Saudi Arabia, Arab, European and Asian countries.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mansour Mohammed Hassan Al-Nuzha **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1945

PoB: Madinah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Internal Medicine and Heart, 1980, U.K.; M.Sc. Internal Medicine, 1977, U.K.; B.Sc. Medicine and Surgery, 1973, Pakistan.

EXPERIENCE

Director, Centre for High Medical Studies, 1981; Assistant to the Dean of Medicine for Administrative Affairs, 1984; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Supervisor of University Hospitals, 1988.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Nizar Obeid Madani **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1941

PoB: Madinah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Relations, U.S., 1977; M.A. International Relations, U.S., 1971; B.A. Political Science, Egypt, 1964.

EXPERIENCE

Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia, 1964; Diplomat, Saudi Embassy in Washington, 1967; Director of Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia, 1977; Deputy Director, Office of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1986; Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1986.

PUBLICATIONS

Contributed several articles to the publications of the Diplomatic Institute, Saudi Arabia.

CONFERENCES

Foreign Ministers Summit, Organisation of Islamic Conference; Foreign Ministers Summit, Arab League; Conferences of the Ministerial Council, Gulf Co-operation Council; annual sessions of the General Assembly, United Nations; joint meetings of the Gulf states and the European Union; Non-Alignment Summit, New Delhi; special conference on the ban of chemical weapons; the International Conference of Human Rights in Vienna.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Hashim Abu Hashim **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1940

PoB: Jizan

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Libraries and Information, University of Cairo, Egypt, 1983; M.Sc. Libraries and Information, King Abdulaziz University, 1979; B.Sc. Libraries and Information, King Abdulaziz University, 1976.

EXPERIENCE

Customs Department, Jizan, 1954; Al-Madinah Media Corporation, 1965; Customs Department, Jeddah, 1966; Editor-in-Chief, 'Okaz Daily', 1980; staff member, University of King Abdulaziz, 1993.

PUBLICATIONS

Books on Saudi media, media and industrial security, child development and the Saudi role in the Gulf.

MEMBERSHIP

Media Committee; Saudi Committee for the Welfare of the Handicapped; National Committee for Fighting Drug Abuse; Olympic Committee; League of Modern Art; honorary member of Egypt Writers' Society.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Rashid Ibn Rajih Al-Sharif **Member of the Consultative Council**

DoB: 1944

PoB: Taif

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Arabic Grammar, Cambridge University, England, 1972; B.A. Islamic Sharia, Faculty of Sharia, Makkah, 1965.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Professor and then Dean of the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Makkah, 1973; General Supervisor, King Abdulaziz University, Makkah Branch, 1975 and 1980; Vice-President, King Abdulaziz University, Makkah, 1980; President, Umm al-Qura University, Makkah, 1991-95.

MEMBERSHIP

Educational councils and higher councils of several universities.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Al-Ajlan
Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1938

PoB: Huraimila'

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sharia, Cairo University, 1981; M.A. Sharia, Faculty of Sharia, Riyadh; B.A. Sharia, Faculty of Sharia, Riyadh, 1962.

EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Riyadh Scientific Institute; Professor, Faculty of Sharia, Riyadh; Vice-President, President, and Head of the Scientific Council, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University, 1995-96.

PUBLICATIONS

Books and research on Islamic Sharia and its rules.

LANGUAGES

Arabic.

Abdullah Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah Al-Tasan
Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1950

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

B.Sc. Civil Engineering, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, 1974.

EXPERIENCE

Engineer for urban planning, then Director of Projects, Department of Planning, later Director, Public Utilities Administration, Western Province, 1975; Deputy General Director, Water and Sanitation Agency, Western Province, 1978; Assistant Deputy for Technical Affairs, General Secretariat of the City of Riyadh, 1981; General Director for Rural and Municipal Affairs, Western Province and Qaseem, 1984; Deputy Secretary General for Municipal Affairs, Makkah, 1994.

MEMBERSHIP

Association of Desalination Sciences of the Gulf States.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Abdullah Ibn Tahir Al-Dabbagh
Member of the Consultative Council

EDUCATION

M.A. International Relations, John Hopkins University; B.A. International Relations, Colorado University.

EXPERIENCE

Director of Public Relations; Director of Exhibit and International Fair Administration, Ministry of Commerce; Deputy General Commissioner, Osaka International Exhibit; Acting Director of the Foreign Trade Department; Commercial Attaché, U.K.; Commercial Attaché, U.S.; General Director, Nasah Mineral Water Co.; Secretary General, Saudi Chamber for Trade and Industry since 1992.

MEMBERSHIP

Board of Directors of the Centre for Export Development; the National Company for Industrial Services; Saudi Cables; the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu; President of the Arab-American Chamber of Commerce, 1990.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ibn Ali Hibshi
Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1932

PoB: Makkah

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Teacher Training, London University, 1975.

EXPERIENCE

Teacher, Secondary Schools; Ministry of Education; Professor, Faculty of Sharia, Makkah; Secretary General, King Abdulaziz University, 1968-72, and in 1977; Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, King Abdulaziz University, 1979; Member of Makkah Province Council, 1983; Consultant, Office of the Minister of Pilgrimage; Editor-in-Chief, 'Al-Tadamun Al-Islami' magazine.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.

Mohammed Ibn Ibrahim Al-Mousa
Member of the Consultative Council

DoB: 1950

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Comparative Jurisprudence, Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud Islamic University, 1976.

EXPERIENCE

President of Al-Zulfa Municipality.

LANGUAGES

Arabic and English.



ARTICLES OF THE SHURA (Consultative Council)

Royal Decree no. A/91.

Referring to the system of the Consultative Council (*Majlis Al-Shura*) issued under the Royal Decree in 1347 AH, we order the following:

Firstly:

Issue of the council's system with the enclosed formula.

Secondly:

This system will replace the system of the Shura Council of 1347 AH and the affairs of this council will be regulated by a Royal Decree.

Thirdly:

All regulations, instructions and resolutions valid until the implementation of this system will continue until they are accordingly amended.

Fourthly:

This system will be implemented within a period of six months from the date of its issue.

Directory of Government

Fifthly:

This system will be published in the official gazette.

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful: the system of Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council):

Article 1:

In accordance with the words Almighty God: "It is part of the mercy of God that thou dost deal gently with them, wert thou severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee. So pass over their faults, and ask for God's forgiveness for them, and consult them in affairs of moment, then when thou art resolved put thy trust in God, and God's saying: "Those who hearken to their Lord and establish regular prayer, who conduct their affairs in mutual consultation, who spend out of what we bestow on them for sustenance".

And in line with the tradition of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him), in consulting his companions and persuading the nation to do the same.

The consultative council has been set up to undertake proper tasks in compliance with this system and the basic system of ruling in adherence to the book of God and the tradition of his messenger, preserving the bonds of brotherhood, co-operation and righteousness.

Article 2:

The council is based on holding fast to the rope which God stretches out - in other words, strict adherence to the sources of Islamic legislation. Council members should devote themselves to serve the common interest and preserve the unity of the people, the entity of the state and the interests of the nation.

Article 3:

The council will consist of a speaker, and 60 well-educated and qualified members selected by the King. The rights and

duties of the members and their affairs will be identified by Royal Decree.

Article 4:

A member of the council should be:

- a) A Saudi national in terms of origin and by birth.
- b) Well-qualified and of good reputation.
- c) No younger than 30 years of age.

Article 5:

A member of the council has the right to apply for exemption to the speaker and in turn the speaker should submit the matter to the King.

Article 6:

If a member of the council neglects his duties, investigation should be made and he should be judged in accordance with the rules and procedures to be issued by Royal Decree.

Article 7:

If, for any reason, a seat of a member of the council falls vacant, the King will name a replacement by a Royal Decree.

Article 8:

A member of the council should not exploit membership to serve his own interests.

Article 9:

Membership of the council should not be joined with any other private or public undertaking unless the King sees a need for it.

Article 10:

The Speaker of the council may appoint his deputy and the secretary general of the council. Their resignations, salaries, rights and duties and various affairs will be determined by

Royal Decree.

Article 11:

The Speaker, members and the secretary general of the council should take the following oath before undertaking their work in the council:

"I swear by Almighty Allah, that I shall be faithful to my religion, then to my King and country, and never uncover a secret of the state, and shall preserve the interests of state, its regulations and perform my duties with truth, honesty, justice and faithfulness".

Article 12:

The city of Riyadh will be the headquarters of the consultative council, but the council may hold meeting at any other place inside the Kingdom if approved by the King.

Article 13:

The term of the Shura Council will be four years (Hijri calendar) as of the date set in the Royal Decree on the formation of the council. The new council should be formed at least two months ahead of the expiry date of the preceding one. If the term finished before the formation of a new council, the old one should perform its duties until a new one is formed. When a new council is formed, at least half the members of the council should be new members.

Article 14:

The King or whomsoever he delegates to serve on the council, should deliver an annual royal speech before the council on the domestic and foreign policies of the state.

Article 15:

The council will express opinions on the general policy of the state, which are referred to it by the Council of Ministers. In particular, it may do the following:

- a) Discuss the general plan of economic and social development.

b) Study international laws, charters, treaties and agreements, and concessions and make appropriate suggestions regarding them.

c) Interpret laws.

d) Discuss annual reports by Ministries and other government bodies, and make appropriate suggestions regarding them.

Article 16:

The council's meeting will not be considered in order without the attendance of at least two-thirds of its members, including the chairman or whoever deputises for him. Decisions will not be in order unless they are approved by a majority in the council.

Article 17:

Resolutions of the council should be submitted to the Prime Minister, who will refer them to the Councils of Ministers for discussion and, if viewpoints of the two councils are identical, a royal approval will be issued. If the viewpoints differ, however, the King will undertake a proper decision.

Article 18:

Regulations, conventions, international agreements, and privileges will be only issued and amended by Royal Decree after being reviewed by the council.

Article 19:

The council will assign specialised committees of its members. It also has the right to form specialised committees of its members to discuss items on its agenda.

Article 20:

The council's affiliated committees may seek the help of whoever it deems suitable from non-members after the approval of the speaker of the council.

Article 21:

A General Commission should be set up for the council

comprising the speaker, his deputy and heads of specialised committees of the council.

Article 22:

The Speaker of the council should submit to the Prime Minister an application if any official is required to attend the council's sessions, provided that the council is discussing concerned matters and the official has the right of discussion but not the right of voting.

Article 23:

Every group of 10 members of the council, has the right to propose a new system, or amendment of an implemented one and to submit the matter to the speaker of the council who, in turn, should raise the proposal to the King.

Article 24:

The speaker of the council must submit an application to the Prime Minister for governmental documents and statements that the council sees necessary to facilitate its functions.

Article 25:

The council's speaker should submit an annual report to the King on the council's activities in line with its internal regulations.

Article 26:

Civil service regulations are applied to the personnel of the council's bodies unless internal regulations stipulate otherwise.

Article 27:

The council will have a special budget ratified by the King to be spent within regulation and rules issued by Royal Decree.

Article 28:

Organisation of financial affairs of the council, financial control and final accounts will be made in line with special

rules to be identified by a Royal Decree.

Article 29:

The internal regulations of the council should organise the duties of its speaker and his deputy, the council's secretary general, the bodies of the council, management of the sessions, work process, functions of committees; method of voting; discussion regulations, and answer rules besides all matters that would provide control and perfection inside the council so that it can exercise its duties in the best interests of the Kingdom and its people. Such regulations will be issued by a Royal Decree.

Article 30:

Amendment of this system will not be made except in the method it has been issued.



Directory of Government

THE PROVINCIAL SYSTEM

To further raise the efficiency of administration and to promote the continued development of the county's provinces and their extensive social services programmes, King Fahd promulgated new bylaws for the Provincial System. The new measure, he stated in a royal decree, is designed to "enhance the efficiency of administration and development in the regions of the Kingdom . . . preserve security and order and guarantee the rights of citizens and their freedom in the framework of *Shariah*."

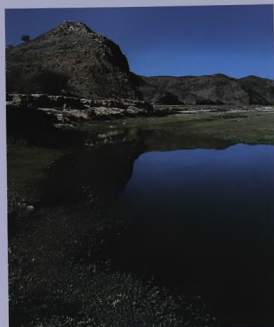
The bylaws divide the country into 13 provinces and define their administrative structure, the manner in which they should be administered, and the responsibilities of the governors and regional officers. In 1993, King Fahd named 210 members to the Provincial Councils of the country's 13 provinces. The Councils deliberate on the needs of their respective province, work on the development budget, scrutinise future development plans, and monitor ongoing projects.

"We are confident that the system, with the grace of God, will be beneficial in the achievement of the well-being, progress and prosperity of the Saudi citizen, his country and his Islamic and Arab nation. The Saudi citizen is the main pillar of the development and progress of his country, and we shall spare no effort to achieve his happiness and welfare." - The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz.

The Governor and Vice-Governor of each province act as chairman and vice-chairman of their Provincial Council. Each Council is composed of a minimum of 10 private cit-

izens who are experienced in their respective fields. Each Council has specialised committees to deal with various issues of interest to the province. Reports issued by the Provincial Councils are submitted to the Minister of the Interior and passed on to the appropriate government ministries and agencies for consideration. The provincial system divides the Kingdom into 13 provinces and names the capital of each. They are:

- Riyadh Province-Riyadh
- Makkah Province-Makkah
- Madinah Province-Madinah
- Al-Qasim-Buraidah
- Eastern Province-Dammam
- Asir Province-Abha
- Tabuk Province-Tabuk
- Hail Province-Hail
- Northern Border Province-Ar'ar
- Jizan Province-Jizan
- Najran Province-Najran
- Baha Province-Baha
- Jouf Province-Sakaka



Asir.



Jizan.

ARTICLES OF THE PROVINCIAL SYSTEM

In line with the requirements of the public interest, and the desire to achieve the state's goals pertaining to the upgrading of the performance of the government organs in the various regions, and to develop them in a manner appropriate to the development achieved by the state, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, has announced the Provincial System according to the attached draft.

The system will be put into effect within one year of its publication.

The system will be published in the official gazette.

Article 1:

This system aims at upgrading the level of administrative work and development in all parts of the Kingdom. It also aims at the preservation of security and order, and the rights of citizens and their freedom within the framework of the Islamic Shariah.

Article 2:

The Kingdom's regions and the headquarters of each governorate will be approved by Royal Decree upon the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

Article 3:

Each province will be made up of a number of governorates, districts and centres. This division will take into consideration the population, geography, security, environment and transportation means of each region. The organisation of the province will be upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior according to a Royal Decree. The districts and centres will be organised according to a resolution to be issued by the Minister of Interior and upon the proposal to be made by the governor of the province.

Article 4:

Each province will have a governor with the rank of minister and a deputy at an excellent grade to assist the governor in the discharge of his duties and act for him during his absence. Governors and their deputies will be appointed and relieved by a Royal Decree upon the recommendation

of the Minister of Interior.

Article 5:

The governor of the province will answer to the Minister of Interior.

Article 6:

The governor and his deputy will be sworn in before the King before they assume their duties.

Article 7:

Each governor will administer his province according to the state's general policy, the provisions of this system and other rules and regulations. He will be responsible for the following:

- a) Preservation of security, order and stability and the necessary measures in this connection according to rules and regulations.
- b) Implementation of the Judicial rules after their final endorsement.
- c) Protection of the rights of individuals and their freedom from any act that will affect these rights, except within the limits stipulated in the laws and regulations.
- d) Work to develop the province in social, economic and urban terms.
- e) Work to develop the public services in the province and promote their efficiency.
- f) Management of the provinces, districts and centres and supervision of the works of governors of provinces, directors of districts and heads of centres to ensure that they can carry out their duties in an adequate manner.
- g) Preservation of the state's wealth and property and prevention of any trespassing.
- h) Supervision of government departments and their personnel in the region to make sure of good performance of their duties with total honesty and diligence. Consideration will be given to the fact that the employees of the ministries and departments in the region are answerable to their min-

istries and departments.

l) Direct contact with ministers and heads of departments for discussing affairs of the region with them with the aim of promoting the performance of the departments.

j) Present annual reports to the Minister of Interior on the efficiency of the public utilities in the region and other affairs of the region, according to the implementing rules of this system.

Article 8:

An annual meeting will be held for province governors, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Interior, to discuss issues pertaining to the provinces. The Minister of the Interior will submit a report on the meeting to the Prime Minister.

Article 9:

The governor of each province will hold a meeting for rulers of governorates and directors of districts at least twice a year to discuss the affairs of the province. The governor will submit a report on the outcome to the Minister of the Interior.

Article 10:

- a) One or more deputy governors will be appointed for each province, at an administrative grade not less than the 14th grade, with cabinet resolutions, according to the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.
- b) Each governorate will have a governor, whose administrative grade will not be less than the 14th grade. He will be appointed by the Prime Minister's order and according to the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior. Each governorate will have a deputy governor, whose administrative grade will not be less than the 12th. He will be appointed by an Interior Minister's decision and according to the recommendation of the province's governor.
- c) Each district will have a director, whose administrative grade should not be less than the 8th. He will be appointed by the Minister of Interior according to the recommendation of the province governor.
- d) Each centre will have a chairman, whose administrative grade should not be less than the 5th. He will be appointed

Directory of Government

by the province governor according to the recommendation of a governorate ruler.

Article 11:

Province governors, governorate governors, district directors and centre chairmen will preside at their place of work and should not leave it without permission from their superiors.

Article 12:

Governorate governors, district directors and centre chairmen will perform their duties within the administrative framework of their assignments and the limits of authorities invested in them.

Article 13:

Governorate governors should run their governorate within the framework of the specialisations outlined in the seventh article with the exception of provisions (f), (l) and (j) of this article. They will control the work of district directors and centre chairmen affiliated to them and ensure their efficiency. They will submit regular reports to the province governor on the performance of public services and other governorate affairs, according to the executive regulations of this system.

Article 14:

Every Ministry or government authority serving the province must appoint a chairman of its branches in the province with an administrative grade not less than the 12th. He will be directly linked with the Central Authority and should coordinate his work with the province governor.

Article 15:

Each province will have a provincial council at the province headquarters.

Article 16:

The provincial council will comprise:

- a) The province governor as a chairman of the council.
- b) The vice-governor of the province as deputy chairman of the council.
- c) The deputy governor of the province and governors of the governorates.

d) The heads of government authorities named by the Prime Minister in the province, according to the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

e) At least 10 well-qualified and experienced citizens will be appointed by the Prime Minister, according to the recommendation of the province governor and pursuant to the approval of the Minister of the Interior. Their membership will last for four years and will be renewable.

Article 17:

Members of the Council must be Saudi-born and raised in the Kingdom, known for their efficiency and righteousness, not younger than 30 years and living in the province.

Article 18:

A member may submit written proposals to the province council's chairman, provided that it is related to the council's affairs. The chairman will include every proposal in the council's agenda to be studied.

Article 19:

A provincial council member should not attend the discussions of the council or its committees if the issue is related to a personal interest of his, the interest of someone the member can not testify for, or if he is a guardian or a deputy of someone who has a personal interest.

Article 20:

If an appointed member wishes to resign, he should submit a request to this effect to the Minister of the Interior through the province governor. The resignation will not be considered effective unless the Prime Minister approves it according to the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

Article 21:

In circumstances not mentioned in this system, an appointed member cannot be dismissed before the end of his term except by order of the Prime Minister, according to the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior.

Article 22:

If a member's seat becomes vacant for any reason, another member should be appointed within three months. The term of office of the new member will be the remaining period of

his predecessor's appointed term.

Article 23:

The provincial council will study all elements aiming at upgrading services in the province and perform the following duties:

- a) Determining the needs of the province, making suggestions and including them in the State Development Plan.
- b) Determining useful projects according to their priorities and proposing their approval in the annual state budget.
- c) Studying the organisational plans of the province's cities and villages and following up their implementation after approving them.
- d) Following up the implementation of clauses of the development plan and budget as related to the province.

Article 24:

The provincial council will propose any useful work for the citizens of the province and encourage citizens' participation. It will also submit a report on it to the Minister of the Interior.

Article 25:

The provincial council will be prevented from probing any issue removed from its prerogatives named in this system. Its resolutions on such issues would be null and void and the minister of the Interior will issue a decision to this effect.

Article 26:

The provincial council will hold an ordinary session every three months at the invitation of its chairman. The chairman may call an extraordinary meeting if the need arises.

The council session will include the sitting or sittings held according to one call. It cannot be terminated before addressing all issues on the agenda.

Article 27:

Attending the meetings of the provincial council will be considered a duty for the members mentioned in items (c) and (d) of Article 16 of this system. They should attend in person or send their deputies in case of their absence.

As for members mentioned in item (e), the absence of a

member for two successive sessions without acceptable reason will obligate relieving him of his duties. In such a case, this member should not be re-appointed for at least two years after he has been relieved of his duties.

Article 28:

The meetings of the provincial council will not be considered effective unless at least two-thirds of the members attend. Resolutions will be issued by an absolute majority of votes. Should both sides get the same number of votes, the chairman has the casting vote.

Article 29:

The provincial council may appoint a special committee, when needed, to study any specialised issue. It may also use experienced specialised personnel for this purpose and call others to attend the meetings and participate in discussions without voting.

Article 30:

The Minister of the Interior may call the provincial council to meet under his chairmanship in any place he sees fit and he may chair any meeting that he attends.

Article 31:

The provincial council may not meet except by the call of its chairman, his deputy or by an order of the Minister of the Interior.

Article 32:

The council chairman must submit a copy of the resolutions to the Minister of the Interior.

Article 33:

The provincial council chairman should inform Ministries and government authorities of resolutions relating to them.

Article 34:

Ministries and government authorities should take into account the resolutions of the provincial council mentioned in items (a) and (b) of Article 23 of this system. If the Ministry or authority decides not to implement the resolution of the council, and if the council is not convinced by the reasons given by the Ministry or authority, the issue should be

brought to the attention of the Minister of the Interior, who will submit it to the Prime Minister.

Article 35:

Every Ministry or authority that has services in the province should inform the provincial council of the projects approved for the province in the budget or development plan, as soon as they are issued.

Article 36:

Each Minister or head of authority may take the opinion of the provincial council on any issue pertaining to its specialisation in the province. The council should give its opinion on it.

Article 37:

The Council of Ministers will determine, according to a proposal by the Minister of the Interior, the rewards of the council chairman and members. The expenses of transport and accommodation should be taken into account.

Article 38:

The council cannot be dissolved except by a Prime Minister's order, according to the recommendations of the Minister of the Interior. In that case, new members should be appointed within three months. During that period, members mention in items (c) and (d) of Article 16 of this system will perform the duties of the council under the chairmanship of the provincial governor.

Article 39:

The provincial council will have a secretariat in the province headquarters to prepare the council's agenda, call meetings in their due time, record the minutes of the meetings, take the votes, prepare the minutes, issue resolutions, take the necessary measures to organise the sittings and take down the council's resolutions.

Article 40:

The Minister of the Interior shall issue the necessary regulations to implement this system.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL STRUCTURE

Saudi Arabia has an extensive legal structure. The judicial system is based on the *Shariah*. In 1928, King Abdulaziz decreed the organisation of the court system and the procedures to be followed. Subsequent decrees in 1936 and 1952 for the Civil Procedures Rules, in 1955 for the establishment of the Board of Grievances, and in 1970 for the formation of the Ministry of Justice, enabled the judicial system to deal better with the country's needs as it continued to develop. Today, the Ministry of Justice administers the *Shariah* legal system through the *Shariah* Courts. At the trial level are the General Courts, or Courts of the First Instance. Decisions by these courts can be appealed to the appellate and, finally, the High *Shariah* Court.

The next level is the Appeals Court. Disputes arising from codified regulations are handled by the Board of Grievances or by special courts. Examples are the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' Supreme Committee for the Settlement of Labour Disputes and the Ministry of Commerce's Commercial Disputes Settlement Committee.

The decisions of these courts can be appealed to the office of the King or the Crown Prince, which turn the appeal over to the legal office of the Council of Ministers. A decision by the Council of Ministers, signed by the King, is final. The revitalisation of Saudi Arabia's political system reflects the nation's adaptability to modern development without compromising its religious and cultural values.



Riyadh Court of Justice.





Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

15 Curzon Street

London W1.

Main switchboard - Tel: 0171 917 3000

Consular Section - Tel: 0171 917 3456

Press Office - Tel: 0171 917 3089 Fax: 0171 917 3088

THE AMBASSADOR

The Ambassador of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques to the United Kingdom and Eire is His Excellency Dr Ghazi A. Algosaibi, who was born in Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia, in 1940. He gained his Bachelor of Arts in Law from Cairo University; his Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of Southern California; and his Doctorate of Philosophy in International Relations from the University of London.

As the Head of the Political Science Department and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at King Saud University in Riyadh, Dr Algosaibi also acted as an adviser in various government departments.

In 1974, Dr Algosaibi was appointed Director of the Saudi Railways, in 1975 Minister of Industry & Electricity, in 1982 Minister of Health, and in 1984 Ambassador to Bahrain. He was appointed Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Eire in 1994.

Dr Algosaibi has published many works of poetry and prose. His first novel was released in English in July 1996 under the title '*An Apartment Called Freedom*'.



CREWE HOUSE: HOME OF THE SAUDI EMBASSY

The discovery that Crewe house was for sale was a matter of good fortune for Saudi Arabia. The London Embassy's previous

quarters in Belgrave Square, although well-situated, were cramped and inadequate. Crewe House was a magnificent building in itself. Until the 1930's it had been one of the best

Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



- and perhaps the most splendid - of the family stately homes in Mayfair. But when it was sold in 1933 to Thomas Tilling Ltd. additional adjacent buildings at the side and back were added and converted into apartments and office space. This is vital to the needs of our Embassy.

Thomas Tilling made only minor alterations to the facade on Curzon Street. Members of the Mayfair Residents' Association were apprehensive that we might make radical new changes to the building's character. This was never our intention. Proud to be the owners of one of London's great historic buildings, we were determined that any changes in the course of adapting and refurbishing the building would not only be in complete harmony with its surroundings, but restore the facade and forecourt of the old Crewe House to their former glory.

Dr Ghazi A. Algosaihi

The life of the house has taken on a completely different character, far removed from the somewhat dreary nature of the office routine of the years since it ceased to be a family home. It is perhaps not too fanciful to think that its new persona has what one might call the spirit of an extended family - that of the people of Saudi Arabia.

Nobody knows quite how many Saudi Arabians there are in Britain, as it is very much a floating population. There are few permanent residents. However, several thousand Saudis own houses or flats in Britain, mostly in London, and come for frequent visits especially in the summer, and every year many others rent places. Apart from them there are, at any one time, about one thousand students scattered around the country engaged in full-time higher education.

To all these people the Embassy offers a feeling of home. On every Wednesday evening between 6 and 8 pm (except in Ramadan when it is 10 to 12 midnight) the Ambassador holds a *majlis* or assembly in the splendid marble hall with its familiar architecture and its decorations, based on the inscriptions in the Holy Mosque at Makkah. The holding of a regular *majlis* is a very ancient Arabian tradition. The King in Saudi Arabia and all his provincial governors hold them each week, to which anyone may come to present a petition or make a complaint.

The Ambassador is most punctilious about his *majlis*, never accepting any invitation that would conflict with it, nor cancelling it if he is feeling unwell. It is mainly intended for Saudis who are visiting London, though anyone (male) is welcome.

Religion naturally plays an important part in the everyday life of the Embassy. Five times a day the call to prayer is broadcast to every room, sometimes made live by one of the Embassy staff who, as it happens, is an Egyptian, and sometimes with a

recording of one of the outstanding *muezzins* of Makkah.

Although the security arrangements have to be stringent and possibly startling to naive visitors, there is an agreeably informal atmosphere, with people stopping for little chats and a friendly cup of tea, which those who work there say they appreciate.

After so long and varied a history, Crewe House has become one of the most spacious and impressive embassy buildings in London - a proud presence in Mayfair for one of Britain's principal Middle East allies.

Quentin Crewe

(Extracts from 'Crewe House: A short history' by Quentin Crewe. Published by Stacey International - London)





Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



National Guard Building, Riyadh.



THE SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD OFFICE

18 Seymour St.,
London W1 (next to The Churchill Hotel.)
Tel: 0171 486 1224
Fax: 0171 486 1223

The Saudi National Guard Office in London was established in 1979, since when members of the National Guard and their families have received medical treatment in United Kingdom on a regular basis. Since the establishment of the Saudi National Guard Hospitals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, National Guard visitors are mainly officers and civilians joining British military academies and universities for research and higher education. Scholarships are provided by the Saudi National Guard for officers and lecturers to pursue the highest level of specialised studies in Britain. King Khalid Military Academy has sent officers and lecturers on a continuous basis.

The National Guard Office in London is solely responsible for the circulation of 'National Guard' magazine and 'King Khalid Military Academy' magazine, both of which are distributed to all Guard members present in the United Kingdom. The Office provides periodicals, publications and other cultural and educational pamphlets for exhibitions and other events.

The education and training department holds extensive information about military academies, training centres, universities and higher educational establishments in the United Kingdom. Scholars are advised to contact the Office before they apply to universities. The education department also provides a list of schools and institutes of English that are considered to be of a high standard.

Our public relations department provides personal help and advice in many areas starting from the point of arrival in the United Kingdom. Transportation, accommodation and hotel bookings can be arranged if sufficient notice is given.

We also have a list of landlords and hotels and our experience in this field has provided us with many reputable contacts. In the case of guests arriving for specific duties, interpreters are provided.

The National Guard Office welcomes all Saudi National Guard members visiting the United Kingdom and is happy to offer help and advice. The Office is open from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm.

The Saudi Arabian National Guard is an immense civil establishment and a renewed military power. The Bureau of *Jihad and Mujahideen* was established by the late King Abdulaziz to honour and safeguard the future of his comrades who fought with him in the long battle that led to the unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This organisation was the nucleus of the Saudi National Guard as we know it today. In 1955, it was decreed that the Bureau should develop into the Saudi National Guard.

HRH Prince Abdullah's vision of the Guard was as an organisation with two aspects: the civil and the military. The National Guard is one of the major elements of Saudi progress that has covered every sector under the leadership of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, and the Crown Prince, HRH Prince Abdullah.

Perhaps one of the most obvious achievements is the King Khalid Military Academy, commanded by HRH Prince Muteb Ibn Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz. The Academy has been graduat-



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

ing officers for the past 13 years to the very highest standard. It is equipped with the most advanced technological facilities.

CIVIL AFFAIRS

The civilian and military development works are carried out simultaneously within the framework of the true faith and Islamic values. Amongst the civil activities of the National Guard are programmes for religious affairs and moral orientation, medical services, housing, culture, educational and sporting activities, in addition to a programme of scholarships, information, publications and public relations.

The 'National Guard' magazine and 'King Khalid Military Academy' magazine are examples of the cultural programmes that run side by side with military services, as part and parcel of the National Guard tradition. The National Guard plays an important role during the Haj season, and takes part in other social activities concerned with the environment as well as cultural conferences, festivals and awareness campaigns. The National Guard Medical Department runs three large hospitals of an international standard, namely the King Khalid Hospital in Jeddah, the King Fahd Hospital in Riyadh, and a third hospital in the Eastern province as well as a large number of clinics and medical centres.

JENADRIYA

An annual cultural and heritage festival, *Jenadriya*, is organised by the National Guard. It is a forum bringing together Arabic and Muslim thinkers and writers for the exchange of ideas and to participate in conferences, debates and seminars.



DEFENCE OFFICE

22 Holland Park

London W11.

Tel: 0171 221 7575

The Defence Office oversees:

- Representatives from Saudi Arabian Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence.
- Military co-operation and relations between Saudi Arabia and the U.K.
- The affairs of Saudi students and staff on scholarship, training programmes, and visits.
- Liaison with under/post graduate institutions and universities.

Welfare and medical care for Saudi Defence Ministry staff and scholars in the United Kingdom. Official visits are organised and all facilities provided. There is close liaison with British circles on bilateral military programmes, agreements, lectures, seminars, field activities, shows, exhibitions, and strategic studies.





Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

SAUDI ARABIAN CULTURAL BUREAU

29 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8QB.
Tel: 0171 245 9944
Fax: 0171 245 9895

FUNCTION

The Bureau caters for the special needs of the significant number of Saudi students who complete their higher education in the United Kingdom and their accompanying families. It also supervises the activities of the Saudi Clubs in the United Kingdom and encourages cultural and social activities to enhance ties between students and their country.

SAUDI CLUBS

The office supervises 'Attalib' (Student) magazine, which is issued by the Saudi Clubs, and provides facilities for student meetings. Among the many student groups, the *Urban Society* organises meetings to discuss construction and building methods in the Kingdom, focusing on the role of students in assisting urban progress.

The role of the Bureau and its ties with Saudi students are clearly demonstrated in the assistance it extends to the children of Saudis who are studying in the United Kingdom. At any one time, approximately 300 children, at various stages of education, accompany their student parents. The Bureau supports these young people to the best of its ability.

THESES

The Bureau library contains M.A. and Ph.D. theses by Saudi students. All GCC students may use such publications in sup-

port of their studies. During an average week, four or five theses are loaned to students. Reading and photocopying facilities are also available.

LECTURE PROGRAMMES

The Cultural Attaché meets Saudi students at their clubs and has delivered lectures on Arab literature (in Cardiff), Arab civilisation (Manchester), Arab civilisation through the ages (Reading), and the relationship between student and supervisor (Swansea).

The Attaché has also delivered a number of lectures at the Bureau to students and Embassy representatives and contacts. These covered the importance of the students' role in service to Saudi Arabia and the key role of Saudi schools in the United Kingdom.

The Attaché meets with students wherever they may be studying in Britain, for example, Manchester, Swansea, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Liverpool, Exeter and Leicester.

VISITS

Bureau staff visit schools and universities, in order to evaluate their facilities and ensure good relations, and also libraries, especially the British Library and the Foreign Office Library, to become acquainted with specialist publications. The Bureau has provided many manuscripts to Saudi universities.

DISTRIBUTION

In addition to these core activities, the Bureau is active in distributing the following throughout the United Kingdom:

- Some 4,000 copies of the Holy Quran to more than 80

Islamic institutes and mosques. Over 1,000 copies have been given to Muslims visiting the Bureau for Friday prayers, with 600 gold-plated editions provided to Muslim organisations.

- Other Islamic books, especially material received from the Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University and other Islamic bodies in Saudi Arabia, to Islamic centres and mosques.
- 'Construction & Building' magazine to architectural schools and research centres and 'Medical' magazine, published by King Faisal Specialist Hospital, to medical schools and research centres.
- Maps, tapes, postcards, pamphlets and publications concerning the Holy Places of Makkah and Madinah, and the Kingdom as a whole, to schools and libraries.

INFORMATION

Many United Kingdom and other nationals visit the Bureau to obtain information about the Kingdom and the way of life of our people. Additionally, information is provided to individuals who are about to visit the country to take up employment, or for pilgrimage. Around 75 - 100 people visit the Bureau each month and some 100 - 120 telephone callers are provided with the appropriate information.

FRIDAY PRAYERS

Each Friday, some 100 worshippers attend prayers at the Bureau. Many request pamphlets and copies of the Holy Quran as well as newspapers and magazines. These publications (including the 'Cultural', 'The Arab' and 'Al Yamama' magazines and 'Al-Riyadh' newspaper) are distributed each week.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES

The Bureau receives many invitations to participate in and provide information for exhibitions and conferences throughout the United Kingdom. The extent of any participation is decided upon by the Ministry in Saudi Arabia and the Bureau is pleased to make available all kinds of material to exhibition organisers.

THE 'CULTURAL MAGAZINE'

The Office publishes the 'Cultural Magazine', which is regarded as an innovative force in terms of editorial, layout and production. The magazine deals with student activities, includes interviews with scholars, and provides a platform for students and their supervisors. It also includes information on the latest developments in science and research projects in the United Kingdom and keeps students informed on news from Saudi Arabia.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In collaboration with similar cultural offices in other GCC states, the Bureau holds regular meetings to develop and implement a common cultural plan. These meetings aim to harmonise cultural development and national progress. They are also important in maintaining ties with Gulf students who are studying abroad. The Bureau discusses problems facing our students at British institutions and has set up a unified policy for dealing with universities.

SERVICES TO SAUDI ESTABLISHMENTS

The Bureau receives many Saudis who visit the United Kingdom to recruit staff for work in Saudi Arabia, providing all facilities for the duration of their stay. Meetings and interviews

take place at the Bureau. The following establishments have made use of Cultural Office facilities: Saudi universities, the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), the Saudi Monetary Agency (SAMA) and Saudi schools.

THE BOOK FAIR

Earlier this year, and in collaboration with the Saudi Embassy in London, the Cultural Office hosted the Saudi Book Fair. This important event was opened by the Saudi Ambassador, HE Dr Ghazi A. Algoasbi. The fair, which included hundreds of titles and covered various branches of knowledge, was arranged under the auspices of the Presidency of Youth Welfare.



The Cultural Magazine.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

THE SAUDI COMMERCIAL OFFICE

30 Charles Street
London
W1X 7PM
Tel: 0171 917 3441/2
Fax: 0171 917 3161



Ambassador Algosaiibi with former Minister Al Zamil.



Commercial Attaché Al-Sheddi with Saudi delegation.

The Office, part of the Saudi Embassy, provides companies, organisations and individuals with trade, economic and statistical data, and advises on sources of detailed market information in Saudi Arabia.

In addition, it provides guidance on regulations covering industrial investment, shipment of goods, import tariffs, standards and other aspects of business such as trademarks, foreign capital investment, etc. The Office has built up a comprehensive computer base that incorporates specific product and service listings and market information.

General trading and industrial listings of Saudi Arabian companies/manufacturers are available and the Office can also provide background information on the priorities of Saudi Arabia's economic development and general business climate.

The Office can direct individuals seeking employment in Saudi Arabia on how to go about recruitment. During the implementation of a project, it can help in making contact with Chambers of Commerce and other important organisations in Saudi Arabia. Companies in dispute can also be assisted in settling their differences amicably by referral to the appropriate Chambers of Commerce.

Companies interested in importing Saudi Arabian manufactured products, whether for the industrial commercial or consumer market, are encouraged to contact the Commercial Office for access to detailed lists of Saudi factories. The range of Saudi products available for export is constantly increasing and includes petrochemicals, foodstuffs, building materials, agricultural produce, plastics, chemicals and engineered products.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH UNIT

127 Sloane Street
London SW1 9BA.
Tel: 0171 730 8657
Fax: 0171 823 9416

Unit staff are primarily concerned with providing the Saudi Foreign Ministry with information on, and analysis of, important economic and political developments in the United Kingdom, the European Union and wider world. It produces a wide variety of reports, including:

- Profiles of countries, providing an overview of their political and economic situations and drawing conclusions about future prospects.
- Weekly summaries of major economic and political developments, describing their causes, discussing their implications and formulating predictions.
- Detailed theory-based reports on topics, such as the implications of recent GATT agreements and the links between trade and the environment.
- Summaries and analysis of conferences and discussions attended by the researchers.

The Unit has a small reference library, which can be used by the public by appointment, and staff will do their best to help with telephone enquiries and written requests for information. All work produced by the Unit is in both Arabic and English.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

SAUDI HEALTH OFFICE

119 Harley Street,
London W1N 1DH.
Tel: 0171 935 9931
Fax: 0171 486 6275

The Saudi Health Office was established in 1974. Harley Street was specifically chosen as a location, being in the heart of one of Europe's leading medical centres.

The main objective of the Saudi Health Office is to provide treatment and service for Saudi nationals suffering from complicated and severe disorders. Cases are referred by various medical committees in Saudi Arabia. Through top specialists and leading medical centres in the United Kingdom, the office can arrange the provision of medical advice on possible treatments and outcomes. It collates all the relevant information and passes it on to medical committees.

On approval of the relevant committee, the Office starts the initial procedure by arranging an appointment with a specialist, hospital or medical centre. The Office liaises with the Saudi patient and attendant on arrival, assisting them in finding appropriate accommodation. The Office caters for any medical complication, such as providing an ambulance and medical assistance on arrival.

The Office monitors the patient's medical needs from the beginning until the end of treatment. During this period the office pays an allowance to patients and attendants according to the government guidelines. At the end of their treatment, patients and attendants are provided with airline tickets and appropriate transportation to the airport. In addition to the

above, the office also provides the same high standard of service to patients and their attendants, being referred through the Royal Saudi Embassy.

The office also offers advice and arranges appointments for Saudi citizens and Arab nationals seeking medical help in the United Kingdom.

As part of the continuous development of Saudi government medical standards to the highest in the world, the office has a recruitment section to employ high quality specialists to work in hospitals in Saudi Arabia.

The office acts as a link between medical establishments in Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. This allows the exchange of up-to-date information and informs the British medical establishment about the excellent medical knowledge and facilities now in place in Saudi Arabia. This sector has been given top priority by our government.





Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



Information Centre activities throughout the United Kingdom.

THE SAUDI INFORMATION CENTRE

18 Cavendish Square
London W1M 0AQ.
Tel: 0171 629 8803
Fax: 0171 629 0374

The Information Centre provides a window on the world of Saudi Arabia for all interested parties in the United Kingdom. Members of staff are happy to welcome visitors and answer their questions. The Centre offers a telephone enquiry service and responds to written requests for information.

Cavendish House is the main free distribution point in the United Kingdom for a wide range of publications concerning Saudi Arabia. English and Arabic language newspapers are delivered to readers on a daily basis. Well-produced and informative pamphlets, booklets, audio- and video-tapes and posters are also made available at Cavendish House. Many of the printed works on offer are written and produced by Information Centre staff.

Specific programmes are designed to meet the needs of the British academic world, business, the media, Parliament and special interest groups. Saudi Information Centre personnel respond to briefing requests and address groups of visitors at the Centre and elsewhere - often attending conferences and symposia.

The Centre houses a reference library and fully-equipped lecture theatre with modern audio-visual aids. A projection room allows the screening of documentaries to reflect various aspects of the cultural renaissance of the Kingdom and give examples of the progress made by Saudi Arabia in so many fields.

Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



The Centre publishes *'The Weekly Newsletter'*, which has a wide readership throughout the United Kingdom and Eire. Quarterly reports and special features are also produced at the Centre and souvenir booklets are issued to mark the visits to the United Kingdom by members of the Saudi Royal Family.

Members of staff produce material and offer full support in the production of Saudi supplements in the United Kingdom and international press. The Centre provides ad hoc guidance to the media on issues of concern to Saudi Arabia, including its development, achievements, the economy and defence.

There are a number of permanent exhibits of Saudi art, culture and industry at Cavendish House. Temporary exhibitions at the Centre, galleries and other locations throughout the country cover various areas of specialist interest.

Regular lecture evenings are held at Cavendish House, hosted by our Ambassador.

Since taking up his appointment as Deputy Minister of Information in January 1996, HRH Prince Turki Ibn Sultan has brought dynamic leadership to the nine Saudi Information Centres around the world. He spares no effort to ensure that the accomplishments of government, the private sector and the Saudi people are communicated effectively through each Centre. He has also developed strong contacts with the foreign press and other international media.

HRH Prince Turki constantly encourages the London Centre in its mission to provide an accurate picture of the Kingdom to the people of the United Kingdom and Eire. He has worked closely with the Minister, His Excellency Dr Fouad Farsi, and

achieved a great deal in support of King Fahd's vision of greater understanding between the nations.

HRH Prince Turki Ibn Sultan was born in Riyadh in 1959. He completed his graduate studies in 1980/81, majoring in infor-



HRH Prince Turki Ibn Sultan.



Dr. Fouad Farsi



Saudi Art Exhibition in London.

mation studies. His postgraduate work at Syracuse University in the U.S. led to a Masters Degree in International Information and a student award. He then joined the CBC television network as a trainee. Taking up government service as supervisor of the Foreign Information and Press Departments at the Ministry of Information, HRH Prince Turki was promoted to the position of adviser, foreign information in 1986. In 1990, he was appointed Under-Secretary for Studies and Planning.



Saudi Stamp Exhibition in London.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



THE KING FAHD ACADEMY

Broomyard Avenue

London W3 7HD.

Tel: 0181 743 0131

The initiative for the foundation of the Academy came from The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, and includes four self-sufficient lower and upper schools for boys and girls. The Academy's objective is both simple and comprehensive: to provide schooling of the highest standard - equally acceptable to the Saudi and British educational authorities - especially for the children of Saudi diplomats and students as well as other Arab and Muslim children in London.

The Academy has been constituted as an educational trust, with funding at source from Saudi Arabia. Its Council of Management has the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Algaosibi, as its Chairman.

Dr Ali Al-Ghamdi was recently appointed Dean of the Academy. A distinguished scholar, he obtained his Ph.D. in Britain and was Dean of the Faculty of Art and Humanities at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. Prior to this appointment, Dr Al-Ghamdi was Director of the London-based Islamic Cultural Centre, where he rendered great services to the Muslim community in Britain. He was admired by all members of the community during the 14 years he spent in this important role.





Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom

SABIC GLOBAL LIMITED (SAUDI BASIC INDUSTRIES CORPORATION)

Kensington Centre
66 Hammersmith Road
London W14 8YT.
Tel: 0171 371 4488
Fax: 0171 371 3039

The SABIC Global Limited (formerly SABIC Europe Limited) office in London was opened in 1989 not only to supply customers in the United Kingdom, but also to develop a strong marketing network throughout Europe. This European network has enabled SABIC to truly understand the needs of customers and the environment in which they operate. Carefully managed, profitable business relationships have been established and a continued improvement in the quality of SABIC's services ensure reliability and customer satisfaction.

As a result, SABIC has successfully consolidated its position in both the plastics and chemical markets. In 1993, offices in Essen, Germany, and Milan, Italy, were opened to service the growing demand in those European areas. In 1994, a subsidiary company was also opened in Paris, France, and in 1996 a subsidiary company was formed in Barcelona, Spain.

SABIC has distribution facilities in England at Gainsborough and Ramsey; at Livorno in Italy; Rotterdam in the Netherlands; Meer in Belgium; and four locations - Oyannax, Marseilles, Lavera and Chalon - in France. These networks are located to ensure easy access for incoming products, ample storage capacity and rapid delivery to customers.

It has always been the Company's policy to encourage consultation and the exchange of information with its customers about market trends, product development and technology, creating a climate of mutual trust and understanding. A vital and growing feature of recent years has been the provision of technical support for the companies with which SABIC deals. The expertise of a technical services manager, based in London and the Research and Development Complex in Riyadh, provides the resources to support the specific requirements of customers.

SABIC's wide range of plastics, produced through advanced innovative technologies, as well as chemical products with a high degree of purity and consistently high quality, have for years been specified successfully through Europe by a large number of leading companies. The company's aim has been to expand the range of product grades and provide strong support to promote their best use. The majority of SABIC products conform to the strict production requirements of ISO 9002, the international standards qualification.

SABIC is committed to meeting customer requirements. The company aims to anticipate demand, enabling its customers to have an edge over their competitors. SABIC's expansion programme for sales, marketing and distribution networks ensures that the company continues to meet the ever changing needs of a dynamic market.



SABIC Global Office.



SABIC R&D Complex.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



SPA Director Hattab Alanezi (centre).



SPA HQ in Riyadh.

THE SAUDI PRESS AGENCY

London Bureau
18 Cavendish Square
London W1
Tel: 0171 495 0418
Fax: 0171493 7258

The London Bureau of the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) is a regional office which co-ordinates the work of the agency's correspondents and reporters in Eastern and Western Europe. London also provides SPA in Riyadh with timely and accurate information on events and developments in the United Kingdom.

London Office correspondents report on British government policies, with particular emphasis on matters concerning Saudi Arabia, the Arab Gulf, the Middle East, and the Arab and Islamic world in general.

The proceedings of international conferences in the United Kingdom - for example on the oil and petrochemical industries, and the Middle East peace process - are covered by the London correspondents of SPA.

SPA London works in accordance with the State's rules and regulations for the enlightenment of the Saudi people, the consolidation of national unity, and the protection of national security and other interests. London, as well as the Agency as a whole, performs the dual role of providing the Kingdom with the latest news from the outside world, and conveying,

to the United Kingdom and other countries, news about various aspects of life and national development in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Press Agency, through its London Office, provides clients in the United Kingdom with reports in English and Arabic.



Saudi Arabian Offices in the United Kingdom



SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES

U.K. Ticket Offices:

171 Regent Street
London W1R 7FB.
Pall Mall Court
12 Marsden Street
Manchester M2 4PD.

Visa Section:

Saudi Embassy

Ticket Desk:

Terminal 3 Departures, Heathrow Airport

Passenger Reservations:

London: 0181 995 7777
Manchester: 0161 833 9575

Cargo Reservations:

London: 0181 897 2921
Manchester: 0161 833 1072

Manager: United Kingdom & Ire:

London: 0181 995 7755

Administration/Sales/Finance:

London: 0181 995 7755
Manchester: 0161 833 9575

London is an important destination for any airline and the United Kingdom represents a significant market.

Over the past 20 years, Saudi Arabian Airlines has demonstrated the value and importance of successful operations to an important destination like London and has taken every opportunity to improve the scope and quality of service to both individual and commercial clients alike.

In the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabian Airlines boasts an impeccable sales and service operation backed by a professional team plus one of the finest catering units at Heathrow.

Saudi Arabian Airlines today stands at the threshold of a truly remarkable new era filled with promise, challenge and greater achievement. The airline is beginning to enjoy the benefits of a new leadership and all that entails.

Saudi Arabian Airlines is now the leading airline of the Middle East and one of the largest and most respected in the world, with a fleet of 113 aircraft, 25 domestic and 52 international destinations. Flights from London serve Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran, with Boeing 747-300 extended upper deck aircraft in First, Horizon (Business) and Guest (Economy) class configurations.

SERVICES

In addition to the normal booking and ticketing service, our reservations and ticketing offices can also offer advance seat selection, special dietary meals and special assistance for disabled, blind or medically unfit customers, to make their journey more comfortable. Special fares are offered to youths, students, the blind and disabled, and for *Haj* and *Umrah* passengers. Boarding passes can be obtained the day before departure at the Regent Street office.

NEW AIRLINE LIVERY

The first Saudi Arabian Airlines' aircraft to be seen in the new livery (pictured) arrived at London's Heathrow airport from

Jeddah on Saturday July 20th 1996. The aircraft, a B747-300, is one of 20 B747s in the fleet.

Over a 10-day period, this aircraft – and an Airbus A300-600 – made a goodwill tour of Saudi Arabian Airlines' key international destinations throughout the world.

The new livery – part of the national carrier's renewed corporate identity programme – has royal blue as a theme and revitalises the airline's brand image, reflecting Saudi Arabian Airline's future direction.

The livery is symbolic of the airline's "new start" in readiness for the 21st century, increased market competitiveness and commercialisation. Saudi Arabian Airlines has merged the two ideas of modernity and tradition. Modernity represents the commitment to state-of-the-art equipment, facilities and processes. Tradition represents the ancient culture of Saudi hospitality, its devotion to Islam, and the values of respect, fairness and wisdom.





Saudi Arabian Missions in Continental Europe

AUSTRIA

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
PO Box 126
Formanekgasse 38
A-1190
Vienna.
Tel: 362316
Fax: 362560

BELGIUM

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
45, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt
1050 Brussels.
Tel: 6495725
Fax: 6472492

DENMARK

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Lille strandveg 27
2900 Helrup, Copenhagen
Tel: 31621200
Fax: 31626009

FRANCE

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
5 Avenue Hoche
75008
Paris.
Tel: 47660206
Fax: 44402576

GERMANY

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Godesberger Allee 40-42
5300 Bonn 2.
Tel: 810900
Fax: 372068

GREECE

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Athens - Paleo Psycho
71 Marathonodromou
154-52.
Tel: 6716911
Fax: 6479833

ITALY

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
9 Via G.B. Pergolesi
Rome.
Tel: 8558161
Fax: 8558658

THE NETHERLANDS

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Alexanderstraat 19
2514 JM
The Hague.
Tel: 3614391
Fax: 3630348

RUSSIA

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
3rd, Neopalimovsky Per
4- Moscow.
Tel: 2453970
Fax: 2469471

SPAIN

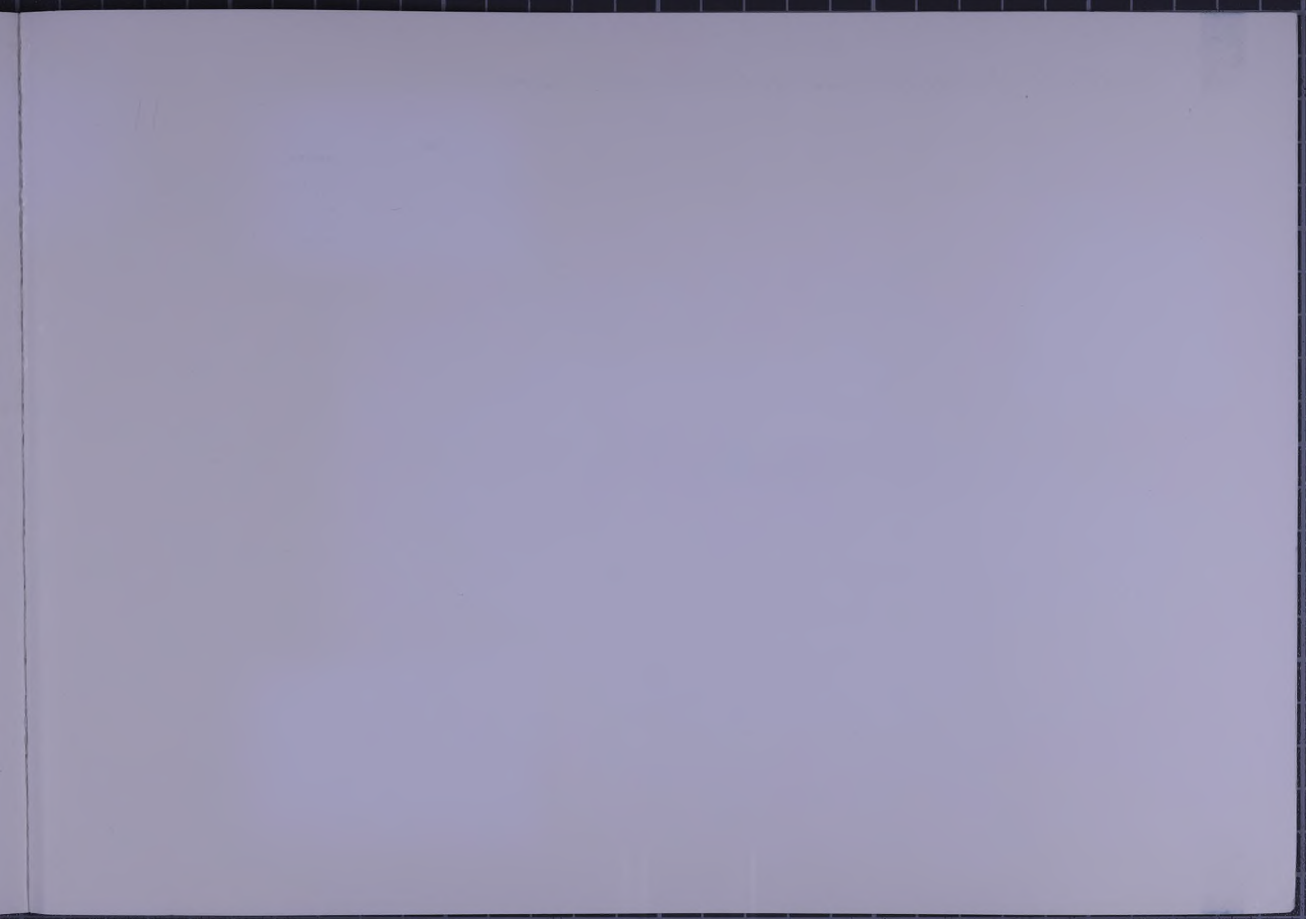
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Paseo de la Habana, 163
Madrid.
Tel: 3451250
Fax: 3450576

SWEDEN

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
PO Box 26073
Skoldungagatan 5
S - 100 41 Stockholm.
Tel: 238800

SWITZERLAND

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
12 Kramburgstrasse
3006 Berne.
Tel: 3521555
Fax: 3514581







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KING FAHD



*The Years
of
Devotion*