



SBJBC Biannual Meeting, Riyadh, 21 November 2018: Summary

1. Dr Abdulaziz Jazzar (acting Saudi Co-Chair) welcomed participants on behalf of Eng Nasser Al-Mutawa. Jennie Gubbins (acting UK Co-Chair) passed on Baroness Symons greetings. She noted that the UK side was represented by both members and non-members who had participated in SBJBC's Technology & Smart Cities Delegation.

Private Sector Groups

2. Abdulkarim Yaqoub briefed on the co-chaired Private Sector Groups established following the Crown Prince's UK Visit. They were separate to SBJBC activity although all the Saudi Co-Chairs are SBJBC members. The Saudi lead was currently with SAGIA, and the UK lead was with the Department for International Trade (DIT). The Council of Saudi Chambers (CSC) had proposed that the Groups come under the CSC's umbrella, which should facilitate better coordination with government and private sector stakeholders.
3. Dr Abdulaziz Jazzar noted that progress on the Private Sector Groups had been delayed due partly to preoccupations with Brexit. The planned meeting of Co-Chairs during the Future Investment Initiative Forum had not taken place but would be rescheduled. The challenge was to come up with specific proposals that could benefit from PIF support.
4. Aya Maatouk (British Embassy) noted that the UK's healthcare envoy (Sir Mike Richards) had postponed his visit and planned to focus on the primary care sector. She added that DIT sector priorities included PPP & privatisation, digital sector and education/training.
5. John Davie noted that SBJBC had engaged with some of the UK Co-Chairs, including Sir Gerry Grimstone (PPP and Corporatisation). The National Centre for Privatisation (NCP) was planning a UK visit in the first quarter of 2019, and SBJBC could help with this.

SAGIA Dialogue on Business Environment Reform

6. Pam Jackson reported on SBJBC's 5th monthly meeting with SAGIA which had just taken place. While welcome progress had been made in response to issues raised by members following the survey coordinated by SBJBC & PwC, the issue of working visas remained problematical and more attention was needed on investment licensing issues for SMEs.

Technology & Smart Cities Delegation Visit

7. Chris Innes-Hopkins reported back on SBJBC's technology delegation visit to Jeddah and Riyadh, including useful meetings with Jeddah Chamber, KAUST, MCIT, SME Authority and a well attended SBJBC reception supported by SABB at the British Embassy. He thanked Dr Jazzar and Dr Emad Aljadaly for their support and participation.
8. Akin Adamson (Ricardo Energy & Environment) said he had been hugely impressed by the visit and the exposure to Saudi innovation capacity. The visit's organisation was first rate and had helped with relationship building with key Saudi entities. He had also learnt from UK counterparts in the delegation.

9. Abdulaziz Alajlan noted the need for specific projects to build on the Crown Prince's UK visit. Chris Innes-Hopkins said that SBJBC UK had submitted a proposal to DIT for a 'proof of concept study' to establish a Saudi/UK Tech-Hub, building on the success of the SME Partnership Forum and Technology Mission. We hope to have news on this shortly.

Presentation of SBJBC's new website

10. Oliver Grogono demonstrated key features of SBJBC's new website which we expected to launch very shortly. Dr Abdulazziz Jazzar welcomed this and urged Saudi members to supply the necessary profiles. He also suggested the website be used to disseminate information about the Private Sector Groups, and to attract Saudi and UK sponsorship. Abdulaziz Alajlan said that links should be provided to key organisations such as SAGIA and Vision 2030. Aya Maatouk suggested that specific opportunities for partnerships could be advertised on the website.

Plans for forthcoming events

11. Jennie Gubbins said that SBJBC UK planned to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of its incorporation in mid-April 2019, and suggested that the next biannual meeting in London be timed to coincide with this. This was approved and Chris Innes-Hopkins agreed to follow up with specific dates (now proposed for 9/10 April 2019). Abdulkarim Yaqoub thought this would fit well since the mandate of the current Saudi SBJBC Board would expire later that month.
12. Chris Innes-Hopkins said that the Energy Industries Council had proposed holding an EIC Connect Event with Saudi Aramco in Eastern-Province in February/March 2019. SBJBC was keen to support. Dr Abdulazziz Jazzar welcomed this and noted that he was on the board of Aramco's Wa'ed Ventures which might host an extra day for companies to explore technology transfer opportunities.
13. It was also noted that the Department for International Trade were keen to support a UK presence at the Internet of Things (IoT) Exhibition in Riyadh on 13-15 February 2019, and that this could be a useful follow up to SBJBC's Technology Mission.

SBJBC UK

3 December 2018