

Saudi Arabia in Focus



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From the Ambassador

More than 150 speakers representing more than 140 different institutions and partnerships with 17 global institutions concluded the Future Investment Initiative forum with highlighting the role of investment in stimulating growth opportunities, enhancing innovation and addressing challenges. The agenda of FII program included more than 40 sessions, open debates and workshops. As well as side forums focused on three pillars: investment in transformation, technology as a source of opportunity, and development of human capabilities. The initiative witnessed the signing of 25 agreements and memorandums of understanding with a total value of more than \$ 60 billion which confirm the high confidence in the Saudi economy.

Ambassador

Abdulrahman S. Alahmed



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman: Middle East can be the 'New Europe'



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, second right, and Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, second left, attend the Future Investment Initiative conference. 23 October 2018

The crown prince told a packed audience at the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh that he would like to see the economic transformation of the region happen within his lifetime.

He said his "war" was restoring the Middle East to its past glory. "I believe the new Europe is the Middle East," Prince Mohammed said. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in five years will be completely different."

The crown prince is driving Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan for economic and social reforms. "If we succeed in the coming five years, other countries will join us," he said. "Even Qatar, despite our differences with it, has a strong economy and it will be completely different in five years."

The crown prince said Saudi Arabia had already taken "very big steps" to develop its own economy.

"The numbers speak for themselves," he said. "Our non-oil revenues have almost tripled."

Prince Mohammed said the Kingdom would continue with its ambitious Vision 2030 reform plan, predicting the economy will grow by 2.5 percent this year and that growth would improve next year.

He cited Saudi Arabia's efforts to transform its oil-dependent economy, build more infrastructure, and fight terror. "All our projects are going ahead, reform is going ahead, our war on extremism is going ahead, our war on terrorism is going ahead ... our efforts won't stop no matter how they try to constrain us," he said.

Higher crude prices and an expansion of the non-oil economy helped Saudi Arabia's economy grow in the second quarter at its fastest pace for over a year, according to official data.



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King Salman Sets Stage for \$3bn Projects in Tabuk Province



King Salman met the Amaala project team, led by Nicholas Naples, in Tabuk and watched a visual presentation on plans for the luxury tourist development.

The Amaala project is one of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initiatives to achieve his economic and development objectives. The tourist destination on the Kingdom's Red Sea coast aims to create a new concept in luxury tourism focusing on recovery, health and treatment. King Salman praised the project's objectives to contribute to promoting economic diversification, creating investment opportunities for the private sector, and developing the tourism sector in Saudi Arabia while preserving the cultural and environmental heritage.

The king also received the people of Tabuk province and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a number of development projects in the region in a ceremony attended by the crown prince. The Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage owns 11 of the projects worth SR98 million; the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs owns 69 projects worth SR757 million; the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture owns 21 projects worth SR1.5 billion; the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources owns two projects for the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities worth

SR46 million and three projects for the electricity department worth SR5 billion; the Ministry of Housing owns two projects worth SR408 million; the Ministry of Education owns 11 projects, six of which are educational projects and five for the University of Tabuk, worth SR1.6 billion; the Ministry of Transport owns 16 projects worth SR1.6 billion; and the General Authority of Ports owns 18 projects at a total value of SR876 million.

Amaala Project Highlight:

- Amaala will generate an expected 22,000 jobs in hospitality and tourism, leisure and retail, in addition to the opportunities created in construction and ancillary industries.
- Amaala is anchored around three pillars: Wellness, healthy living and sports; art and culture; and sea, sun and lifestyle. Each of these elements is being developed to world-class standards to attract visitors from around the world.
- The development will cover an area of more than 3,800 sq km and will target more than 2,500, hotel keys and 700 residential villas apartments and estate homes, plus over 200 high-end retail establishments with an eclectic mix of galleries, ateliers, artisan workshops and bespoke retail shops supported by a wide range of international and local signature dining venues.



Saudi Participation in the International Defense Conference against Ballistic Missiles at NATO Headquarters



H.E. Chief of General Staff, Major General Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, and H.E. Abdulrahman AL AHMED, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Belgium and Luxembourg, participated in the International Defense Conference against Ballistic Missiles at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, at the invitation of the director of the Missile Defense Agency at the US Department of Defense.

H.E. Mr Al-Ruwaili delivered the Kingdom's speech and participated in a paper entitled "Ballistic Missiles outside the sovereignty of states and the world order". He focused on the possession of the houthi militias ballistic missiles through Iranian support. The damage caused by the targeting of civilians in Saudi cities was documented.

On the other hand, the Chief of the General Staff thanked Lieutenant General Samuel Graves, Director of the Missile Defense Agency in the US Department of Defense, for this invitation and all the participating countries that are all concerned with the danger of the houthi militias' possessing ballistic missiles, as it will affect the stability and the security in the region.



Minister of State in Brussels

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Nizar Ben Obeid Madani attended the 15th high-level seminar organized by Friends of Europe Center during the period 10-11 October 2018 at the Belgian Foreign Ministry in Brussels.

Representatives of a number of countries, international organizations, officials, think tanks attended the seminar.

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Mr Abdul Rahman bin Sulaiman Al-Ahmad accompanied Dr. Nizar during the seminar.





Saudi Arabia's U-19 team Won Asian Cup 2018

Saudi Arabia's Young Falcons pulled off a remarkable win against South Korea in the Asian Cup final, with talisman Turki Al-Amman leading the line to land the Kingdom its third title at U-19 level. The trophy, which has returned to Riyadh for the first time since 1992, is not the only prize that has come back to Saudi Arabia. The team has also earned a ticket to Poland next year to participate in the U20 World Cup and will do so as champions of the world's biggest continent.



On 9 November 2018 Three Saudi representatives (First secretary Sultan Alkhalifah – from KSA embassy in Brussels, Col Faisal Alajmi, and LtCol Ibrahim Alhasoon from Ministry of Interior) celebrated their graduation from the 20th NATO Regional Cooperation Course at the NATO Defense College. The NRCC is the Alliance's major educational Outreach activity with partner countries in the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and the broader Middle East. NRCC-20 was attended by 36 participants (24 military, 12 civilians), from 15 different countries.

