



American Business Group of Jeddah

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**Thank you to the ABJ
2010 /2011**

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1st Vice President
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U.S. Commercial Service Liaison

Jamilyn Al Daraji
ABJ Office Manager,
Newsletter, Directory
Social Events

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is now upon us and by the time most of you read this you will probably be on your vacations. What a year we had! With our membership well over 200 and more applications coming in, we continue to have a robust presence in the Jeddah community and beyond. Our guest speaker line-up for this past year was again representative of the various business entities that impact not only Saudi Arabia but also the entire Gulf region. Some of those highlighted speakers included: Mr. Mohamed Desin from Ernst & Young, Dr. Said A-Shaikh, Chief Economist from NCB Bank, Dr. Khaled Almaeena, Editor-in-Chief, Arab News, Dr. Basmah Omair, from the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Hussein Shobokshi, from Shobokshi Development and Trading. Our quarterly Roundtable luncheons with our corporate sponsor and the US Consul General were also well attended and continue to provide insights and current discussions on the Jeddah Business Community. I want to thank all of our corporate sponsors for their support of ABJ. We continue of course to have a busy social calendar and our Black & White Gala and Summer Bash were great successes. Our annual participation in the Sports challenge with the British Business Group (BBG) was again exciting and competitive with ABJ retaining the trophy for this year once again! (yeah!). The ABJ/BBG Survivors Ball was a fun filled evening all around. We look forward to your support of this event again next year. It is a wonderful way to build camaraderie with our brethren from across the pond. At our last Networker for the year we said goodbye to Ted Topolse, Bud Casper, and Veronica Scarborough. All three of these individuals have been truly instrumental in moving our organization forward and enhancing our foothold within the community. They will all be sorely missed. Just a reminder that the ABJ Office will be closed on June 29th and will reopen on September 10th. Finally a heartfelt thanks to Ms. Jamilyn Al Daraji our ABJ office manager for all of her hard work and dedication in helping to maintain our organization as a viable part of the Jeddah community. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

ABJ Black & White Gala
Thank you to our Main Sponsor
Dallah Albaraka Holding Co. - Trane



Grand Prize Sponsor
Qatar Airways

A special thanks to all our prize sponsors
and everyone who helped to make the
ABJ Black and White Gala a success!

Crowne Plaza,
Jeddah Hilton,
Park Hyatt Jeddah,

AMERICAN BUSINESS GROUP OF JEDDAH (ABJ)

ABJ CORPORATE SPONSORS 2011

The ABJ Executive Committee would like to extend a special "thank you" to our Corporate Sponsors for their generosity and continuing support.

DIAMOND

Nesma Holding Company Limited
Abudawood & Partners for Industry Co. Ltd.
Raytheon Middle East Systems
SAS Systems Engineering
The Law Firm of Majed Garoub
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Ernst & Young
Al Salem Johnson Controls JV

PLATINUM

Beverage Services Inc. (Pepsico Int'l)

GOLD

InterContinental Hotel-Jeddah
International Building Systems Co.
Fast Advertising

SILVER

Exquisites
IT Security Training & Solutions
Vision For Development & HR solutions

If your company is interested in becoming a Corporate sponsor please contact the ABJ Office for details.

ABJ DISCOUNT CARD SPONSORS

ABJ's Executive Committee would like to thank the below listed companies for offering valuable discounts to our ABJ members. Please try to patronize these fine companies as often as possible to show your appreciation. Valid ABJ ID card must be presented for discount.

- **Chili's Restaurants**
- **Crowne Plaza Jeddah Hotel**
- **Dahlan Management Consultants**
- **EnviroSafe International**
- **Exquisites**
- **First Impression**
- **GEMSCo-Global Education Management Services**
- **Inter-Continental Jeddah**
- **Jeddah Hilton & Qasr Al Sharq**
- **Jeddah Veterinary Clinic**
- **Nesma Chocolate**
- **On The Border Restaurants**
- **The Crowne Plaza**
- **UPS**
- **V-KOOL**

We have plenty of room for more discount sponsors. If you know of a company that is interested, please contact the ABJ Office Manager as soon as possible for details. *Please note: Discounts subject to change without notice*



ABJ Forum

The official Newsletter of the
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* ATTENTION ABJ MEMBERS *

Please be sure that the ABJ Office has your correct email address, phone numbers, and mailing address. For security purposes, the majority of ABJ announcements and information will be sent to you via email and not by facsimile. Also, always remember to bring your ABJ Membership Card with you to any ABJ events to ensure you have no difficulties entering our events. Thank you for your cooperation.



March Corporate Sponsors Roundtable Luncheon. Anees Moumina, Tom Duffy, Mohammed Abudawood, Hovig Kukjian, Jim Lindley, Hisham Khayat, Mazen Hawarneh, Humam Jabban, Ramzi Ali, Mark English, Dr. Charles Boebel, Andrew Flashberg.

March Networker



Apr. GM: Angelus Christopher and Speaker Dr. Khaled Almaena Editor-in-Chief, Arab News



May Corporate Sponsor Roundtable Luncheon

Dr. Basmah M. Omair - CEO of the Khadijah Bint Khouwailid Businesswomens Center Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry



May Networker:

ABJ Bids farewell to

Executive Board Member and ABJ Treasurer Ted Topolse.

Honorary Board Member Veronica Scarborough.

Bud Kasper our Horseshoe captain and long time member of ABJ.

A special thanks to all of you and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors .



June Breakfast Meeting: Speaker Hussein Shobokshi



ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Would it help your business interests to have greater exposure in the local community and across Saudi Arabia? Reach every ABJ member with your message. We also send our Newsletter to the American Business Group of Riyadh and the American Business Association of the Eastern Province so even more business people in Saudi Arabia will get your message. Interested? call the ABJ Office.

Useful tips and information from the U.S. Consulate Jeddah



Welcome to the U.S. Commercial Service in Saudi Arabia!

The U.S. Commercial Service in Saudi Arabia under the direction of the U.S. Department of Commerce is dedicated to strengthening commercial ties between Saudi Arabia and the United States. It provides a range of services and programs to assist U.S. companies interested in doing business in Saudi Arabia and exporting to Saudi Arabia. We are part of a global network of 1,800 trade professionals at 250 offices in the United States and around the world ready to support exporters and importers of U.S. goods and services. Our staff assists American companies interested in entering the Saudi market, doing business in Saudi Arabia, and exporting to Saudi Arabia, while also working with Saudi businesses to find the products, technologies, services, and partners they need from the United States.

Services Available for Saudi Companies

Following are various services available through the U.S. Commercial Service offices in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dhahran:

International Buyer Program: If you are a Saudi company seeking U.S. partners, our International Buyer Program-supported trade shows are excellent opportunities to identify and meet with motivated U.S. exporters who are exhibiting at the events. Join our U.S. Commercial Service Saudi Arabia-organized buyer delegations and receive assistance with registration and show logistics. We regularly send out information flyers on these trade shows, as well as maintaining a comprehensive list on our website: www.buyusa.gov/saudiarabia.

Import Counseling: Commercial Service regularly counsels Saudi Businessmen to import American products and find U.S. joint venture partners.

Trade Lead Program: Commercial Service is always ready to send your request for U.S. products or services to U.S. firms in your area of interests through our trade lead programs. For more information, please visit our website: www.buyusa.gov/saudiarabia

For more information, please contact us!
Commercial Service Jeddah
American Consulate General
P. O. Box 149
Jeddah 21411, Saudi Arabia
Phone: +966-2 667-0080
Fax: +966-2 664-4148
E-mail: Office.Jeddah@trade.gov

Hours & Contact Information

American Citizen Services

Public Hours: Saturday/Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday,
1:00–3:00pm

Closed US and Saudi Holidays

Tel: (966)(2)667-0080

Fax: (966)(2)669-3098/3078

ACS E-mail Inquiries:

JeddahACS@state.gov

Travel Tips

As we begin the summer travel season, we'd like to offer the following suggestions to help make your trip a pleasant one.

Passports: Check those expiration dates now and allow time for passport processing! Don't wait until you are packing your suitcases to look! Remember that children's passports expire after five years, while adult passports expire after ten years. Child and parents must appear in person to renew a child's passport. See our website <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/service/passports2.html> for specific details. Expedited processing time is approximately two weeks.

Before you travel, learn the entry requirements of the foreign country to which you are traveling and other country-specific information at http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html.
<http://Travel.State.gov>: The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs has improved its website <http://travel.state.gov> for the general public to offer more user-friendly and valuable information on travel, passports, visas, children's and family issues, law and policy. It's worth taking a few minutes to check out! And, don't forget to register (or update your registration information) at the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

U.S. Visa Waiver and U.S. Visas: For those foreign nationals who are citizens of countries in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, there is an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) requirement. The ESTA registration is done online and is free of charge. To find out if your non-U.S. Citizen family members, or friends are eligible to travel visa free to the U.S. please consult http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html. For those other citizens requiring a U.S. visa, all applicants in Saudi Arabia must make an appointment on line for an interview at <https://ksa.us-visaservices.com>. Jeddah offers limited visa appointments, and some travelers may need to apply for their visas in Riyadh. Visa processing may take several weeks so all visa applicants apply well in advance of the proposed US trip to avoid delays and disappointments! All applicants must complete the visa application form DS160 on line. For more information about the visa application process visit our website at: <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/visas/non-immigrant-visas/appointments.html>.

ABJ SUMMER BASH – THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Qatar Airways - Tony G's – Rossopomodoro - Munch Bakery

Jeddah Hilton. Park Hyatt Jeddah. Crowne Plaza Jeddah. Intercontinental Jeddah

And to everyone who helped to make this event a success!



We bid farewell to GYSGT Jessie G. Sandoval-Det. Commander Jeddah Saudi Arabia. ABJ Thanks you for all your support and from our community here in Jeddah. We wish you well!

ABJ



Member's Sports info

ABJ / BBG 2011 SPORTS CHALLENGE

ABJ Sports Season 2010/2011

Well, the year has crept by and we have had another successful season of sports. Participation, competition, and the usual "debates" with the BBG. The results indicate an overall TIE - this is the second year, in a row, that we have tied. Prior to that in 2009, we won and the previous year, in 2008, the BBG won. The good news of course is that they have not won for the last 3 years and once again, we get to retain the Trophy. Next year, let's continue to extend this streak.

This year, we had eight strong, competitive teams, each led by one or more Captains. Both, Captains and their respective teams, worked hard to slog through months of practices sessions as well as more recently, the competitions. It has certainly been competitive and yes it has at times, been frustration too but at the end of the day, we have walked away friends, regardless of the outcome. That is what the ABJ/BBG sports is all about and that is what we strive to accomplish each year.

Though both teams work hard to win, when the final whistle blows, an overall tie is not a bad thing. On the field we are formidable opponents but always with the utmost respect for each other. Next year however, it would be good to win and re-establish our lead.

A lot of hard work went in and at the end of the day, it all came together. For that I would like to thank our 13 captains who were involved throughout the process. It is the captains who have to sweat it out more than anyone else. It is the captains that put in the effort to get practices going and frankly, all they get in return is personal satisfaction-sometimes not even that!. At times, they also get criticism from their teams who often question who gets to play, when, how, what, where, and why and so on...

For the record, this season's results are

We won in the Tennis, Volleyball and Bowling events. Tied in Table Tennis and Horseshoes and lost in the Golf, Darts and Pool/Billiards.

A very big Thank You to the Captains: Mo Mellotti and Jack Walsh (Tennis), Regina Pizarro and Ric Boyzuck (Bowling), Bud Kasper (Horseshoes), Nassif Aoun (Table Tennis), Bob and Sheila Ruleford (Darts), Mazen Hawarneh and Ribhi Hussaini (Volleyball), Hazem Abussaud and Jamilyn AlDaraji (Pool/Billiards), and Bob Bennett (Golf). Another critical success factor is the continuous support we received from our ABJ Chairman, Mark English.

A very special thank you to Jack Walsh, Liz Crossley and Paul Hay. Jack and Liz after years of participation and captaincy, are leaving the Kingdom. Thank you Jack - your humor, both on and off the court, will be greatly missed. Thank you Liz, for your continuous support for our teams, and for keeping Jack happy. Another loss to our community is Paul Hay, who coached the volleyball team with military discipline-the results of which led to a major turnaround with the volleyball team now on a 3-year winning streak.

For those of you who managed to make it to the Survivor's Ball, it was great seeing you there and I know you had a great time!

It will be a good 3 months before our next sports season commences in September. That's a good opportunity to get in lots of (preferably off-couch) practice, wherever you may find yourself.

Thank you and looking forward to another successful season next year!

Ramzi Ali

A big thank you to Ramzi Ali -ABJ Sports Coordinator and Co-coordinator Mazen Hawarneh - Great Job!

