



ARAB  
BRITISH  
ECONOMIC  
SUMMIT 2019  
القمة الاقتصادية العربية البريطانية ٢٠١٩



ARABBRITISH  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2019



# ARAB BRITISH ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2019

*“A SHARED VISION”*

EVENT  
PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Department for  
International Trade



British  
Chambers of  
Commerce

<b>08:00am – 08:50am</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:00am – 09:50am</b>	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
<b>09:50am – 10:40am</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Infrastructure investment and sustainable development</b></p> <p>Both the UK and the Arab region face enormous difficulty in planning, building and maintaining a modern infrastructure. The session will look at what can be done to help ease these challenges in order to attract inward investment in this sector. Infrastructure can play a vital role in promoting sustainable economic development in the Arab World. Opportunities for cooperation and investment will be at the forefront of the discussion.</p>
<b>10:40am – 11:10am</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11:10am – 12:00pm</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Renewable vs non-renewable energy</b></p> <p>The Arab countries are starting to realise the full potential of renewable sources of energy for powering their major industries and for domestic consumption. The session will consider what still needs to be done to enable industries currently dependent on traditional carbon-based energy sources to switch to renewables. The investment opportunities in the sector will also be a prime focus of attention.</p>
<b>12:00pm – 12:50pm</b>	<p><b>Session 3: MENA: A hub for global markets</b></p> <p>The MENA region has emerged as an important strategic 'hub' for facilitating trade between the UK, Europe and the new global markets such as Asia. Speakers will focus on the key sectors that can especially benefit from the MENA hub and the factors that make it most attractive to investors. Existing investment opportunities will be pinpointed as the region expands as a hub for inter-regional trade.</p>
<b>12:50pm – 01:50pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>01:50pm – 02:40pm</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Agriculture and water security</b></p> <p>As the Arab region and the rest of the globe continue to experience a high rate of population growth, their agricultural sectors and water supply face considerable challenges. The session will consider to what extent the Arab world will rely on imports to meet local demand for food produce and highlight the investment and partnership opportunities as the region acts to develop sustainable agriculture.</p>

**02:40pm – 03:30pm**

### **Session 5: Youth employment and entrepreneurship**

Youth are a major demographic group across the globe and, particularly, in the Arab World. While there are already a number of opportunities for youth out there, much needs to be done in order to mobilise this economically marginalized group, so as to allow them to reach their full potential in the labour market and reduce the skills mismatch.

There are many areas in which investment can have a hugely positive effect; education, training, business mentoring, and provision of seed finance for start-ups, for example. Yet, even more opportunities are now arising with the increasingly widespread use of Artificial Intelligence/Big Data/Analytics and the need for soft and digital skills, which provide potential career paths for youth who are considered to be 'tech natives'.

**03:30pm – 04:00pm**

*Coffee Break*

**04:00pm – 04:50pm**

### **Session 6: Banking and finance: fintech and blockchain**

The session will explore how traditional banking in the UK and the Arab world can adapt to the disruptive impact of fintech on the financial industry. It will further consider whether the UK and Arab region possess the suitable infrastructure to enable a major fintech industry to flourish. Finally, speakers will address the potential opportunities for investment in the UK and Arab fintech industries.

**04:50pm – 05:00pm**

**Closing Remarks**



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