Competitiveness

Second Quarter 2022 Newsletter by the National Competitiveness Center.



Saudi Arabia Advances

8

Positions in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022

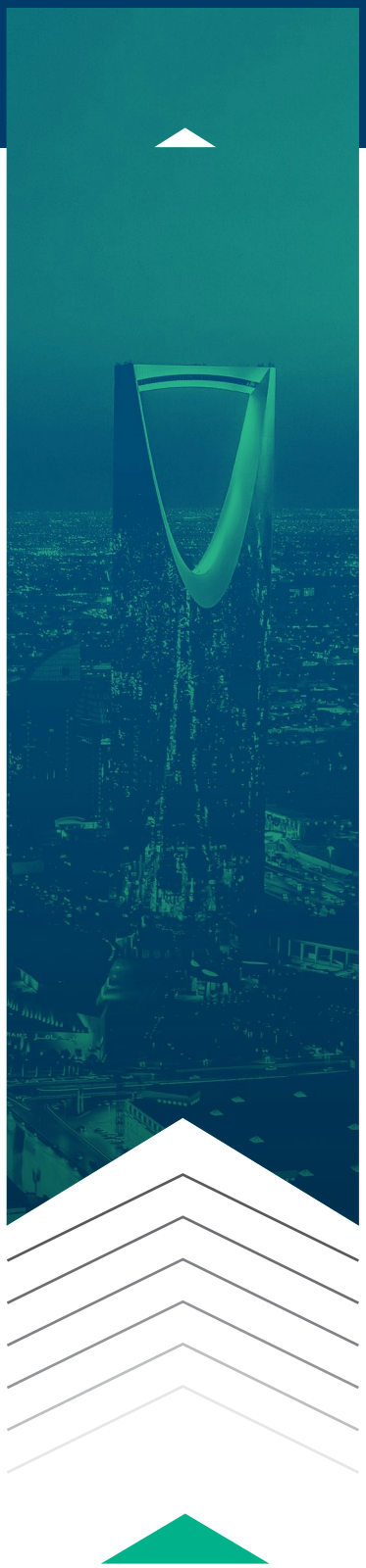
IMD | IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS CENTER

A Saudi delegation discuss means to enhance e-conomic partnership in Washington

180 business figures participate in the Saudi-American business forum

A Saudi-Dutch meeting reviews cooperation opportunities in promising sectors

Editorial



The Second Quarter of 2022 Competitiveness Newsletter keeps pace with developments in Saudi Arabia, in addition to monitoring the most prominent activities and efforts undertaken by the National Competitiveness Center in line with its vision to improve the business environment and raise the competitiveness of the Kingdom locally and globally.

In this newsletter, we present the royal order issued by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on establishing two commissions for the development of Taif and Al-Ahsa regions.

The issue shed a light on Kingdoms' ranks in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022, published by Switzerland-based International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

The Kingdom is ranked as the 24th most competitive economy among the 63 countries covered by the benchmark, up eight positions from a year earlier. Among its G20 peers, the Kingdom is ranked as the 7th most competitive economy.

This newsletter also monitored the internal and external activities of the National Competitiveness Center, including a discussion session held by Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Kassabi with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo in Washington to enhance economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries, as well as the Centre's cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce in organising a Saudi-US business forum in Washington.

What is Competitiveness?

It is the state's ability to make optimal use of all its resources that allow it to produce goods and services with higher efficiency and quality to compete with other economies at the regional and global levels.

Our Vision



is that the Kingdom be among the ten most competitive countries globally by 2030, by focusing on investment, entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity.

Our Mission



is to enhance the competitiveness of the Kingdom and align the strategies of government entities around a unified vision by developing the legislative and procedural environment.

May 05, 2022

King Salman Orders Establishment of Taif, Al-Ahsa Development Commissions



King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, issued a royal decree on establishing two commissions for the development of Taif and Al-Ahsa regions. Each commission will have a board of directors whose chairman and members will be appointed by order of the Prime Minister.





May 23, 2022

Saudi Arabia Expects 7.4% Growth in 2022



Speaking at a panel discussion during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan expected that the Kingdom will witness 7.4 percent growth in 2022.

Forecasts indicate Saudi oil domestic growth at 19% of GDP growth which makes Saudi Arabia become the fastest G20 economies this year. It is worth noting that the International Monetary Fund expects the Kingdom's gross domestic product to exceed $1 trillion for the first time.

May 27, 2022

King Abdullah Port Ranks 1st in CPPI 2021

King Abdullah Port has ranked 1st among the most efficient container ports in the world on the 2021 Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) report published by The World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

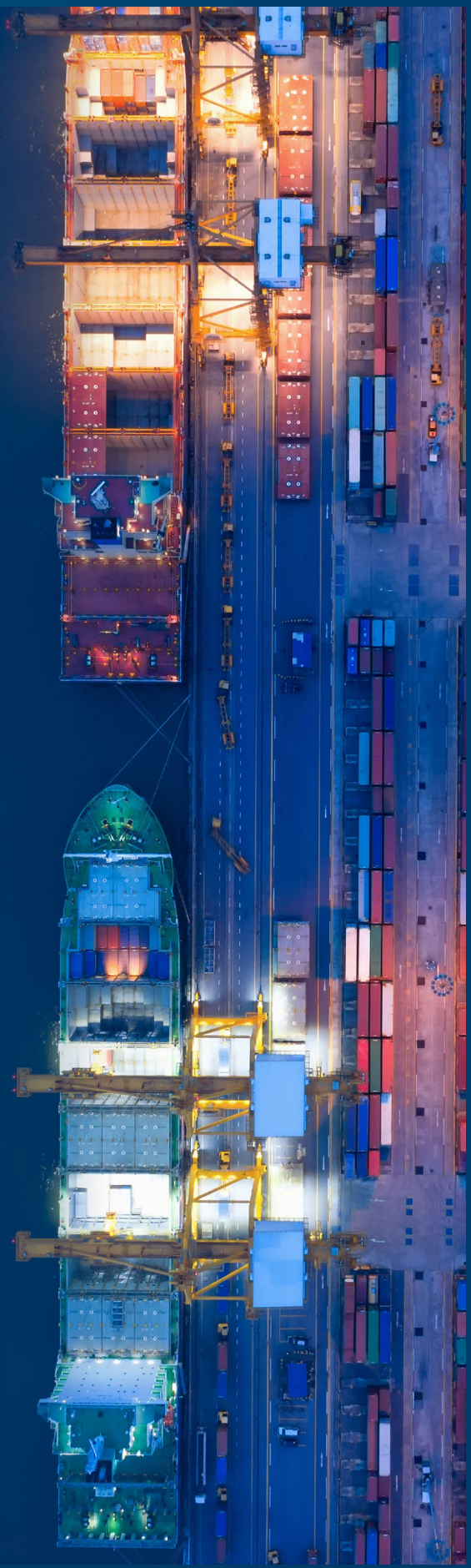
Saudi Arabia's Jeddah Islamic Port also featured strongly in eighth place overall and King Abdulaziz Port placed at 14th in Port efficiency worldwide, while The King Abdullah Port ranks 1st on the list of 370 global ports.

1st	8th	14th
Globally	Globally	Globally
King Abdullah Port	Jeddah Islamic Port	King Abdulaziz Port

Among 370 global ports

Factors of the progress of Saudi ports

- Strengthening public-private partnerships
- Improving operational and logistical services procedures
- Establishing partnerships and alliances with major international companies



May 24, 2022

Saudi Arabia Advances 10 Places in the WEF's Travel & Tourism Development Index

1st Globally for managing demand pressure and impact

9th Globally for prioritisation of travel and tourism

10th Globally for business environment

17 KPIs measured by the TTDI



Saudi Arabia has jumped to 33rd place in the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2021 (TTDI) issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF), advancing 10 places compared to 2019.

Globally, the Kingdom ranked first in terms of demand pressure and ninth in terms of prioritisation of travel and tourism, as well as occupied tenth in the business environment.

May 27, 2022

Saudi Arabia Ranks 1st Globally in Exporting Dates in 2021



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranked first globally in terms of the value of date exports in 2021 according to the TradeMap of the International Trade Center, where the value of Saudi exports of dates in 2021 reached SAR 1.2 billion.

The National Center for Palms and Dates, in a statement, stressed that the value of palms and dates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia amounts to nearly SR7.5 billion, 12 percent of the agricultural gross product and 0.4 of the non-oil gross product.

Saudi Arabia Ranks 1st Globally in Exporting Dates

1.215 SR billion
The value of Saudi dates exports stood

%12.5
annual growth rate

%16 of the global
dates from Saudi

133 countries
Exports entering

33 million
total palms in the Kingdom

Factors contributed to the world's leading Saudi dates

- Facilitate export procedures
- Value chain development
- Marketing Efficiency
- Enhance human capabilities
- Quality & quantity

June 16, 2022
IMD Institute:

Saudi Arabia Advances

8 Positions in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022

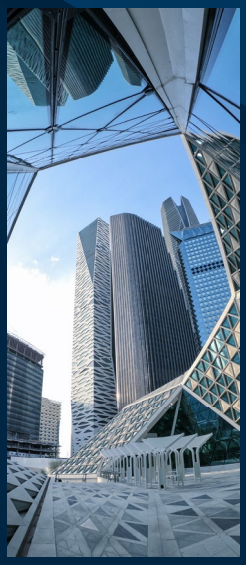


IMD WORLD COMPETITIVENESS CENTER | CMI

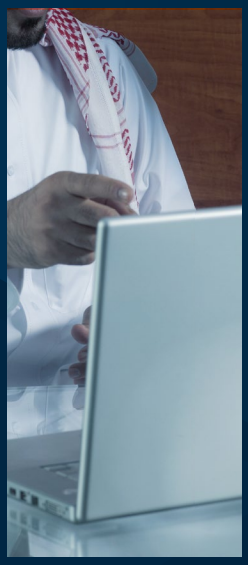
Kingdom is ranked as

24 Globally | **7** Among G20 countries

The Kingdom made progress in all the four main Competitiveness Factors









17 Positions — Economic performance

5 Positions — Government efficiency

10 Positions — Business efficiency

2 Positions — Infrastructure

Saudi Arabia continues its upward ascent in the global competitiveness rankings in the just-released World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022, published by Switzerland-based International Institute for Management Development (IMD). The Kingdom is ranked as the 24th most competitive economy among the 63 countries covered by the benchmark, up eight positions from a year earlier.

Among its G20 peers, the Kingdom is ranked as the 7th most competitive economy, ahead of countries such as South Korea, France, Japan, Italy, India, Argentina, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil, and Turkey.

A yearly report published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)

About the report

4 Main factors

63 Countries measured by the report

333 Indicators

Remarkable Progress in many Sub-indicators

1st in digital transformation in companies

2nd in cyber security

2nd in stock market capitalization

2nd in social cohesion

3th Total public expenditure on education

5th Electricity costs for industrial clients

5th Adaptability of government policy

6th Gasoline prices

5th Public finances

7th Digital/Technological skills

5th Foreign labor force migrant stock

8th Total early-stage entrepreneurial activity

The Kingdom made progress in all the four main Competitiveness Factors assessed by the report: from 48th to 31st position in economic performance; from 24th to 19th in government efficiency; from 26th to 16th in business efficiency; and from 36th to 34th in infrastructure.

The Kingdom is also ranked among the top 10 countries in the world on many sub-indicators, most notably: adaptability of government policy; digital transformation in companies; employment-long-term growth; public finances; total general government debt; social cohesion; stock market capitalization; gross fixed capital formation; energy infrastructure; electricity costs for industrial clients; cyber security; total public expenditure on education; digital/technological skills; total early-stage entrepreneurial activity; and national culture.

June 15, 2022

Minister of Commerce, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Discuss Means to Enhance Economic Partnership in Washington



Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al Kassabi held a discussion session with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo in Washington, with the participation of Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador to the USA, over means to enhance economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries.

Dr. Al Kassabi, who heads a Saudi delegation on a visit to the United States of America, said: These discussions are part of both countries' keenness to increase bilateral coordination according to a joint action plan that can increase the commercial exchange opportunities in several promising economic sectors, such as: building the green economy, strengthening the role of women in doing business, developing small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and promoting innovation.

Al Kassabi also met with President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) Reta Jo Lewis, in the presence of the Saudi ambassador, over means to enhance Saudi-U.S. economic partnership.

The delegates also held bilateral meetings with several U.S. government's officials at the U.S. Department of Commerce with the aim of institutionalising and enhancing government communication between the two sides at all levels, in addition to reviewing the top reforms implemented to increase the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's competitiveness.

The Saudi delegates and U.S. officials discussed bilateral partnership and promising opportunities in the fields of hydrogen production, waste management, promoting innovations through protecting intellectual property, enhancing the knowledge economy based on artificial intelligence, cloud storage, data flow, developing SMEs, and the role of women and their participation in the economic development.

June 16, 2022

Saudi-US business Forum Discusses Enhancing Cooperation









Minister Majid Al Kassabi stressed that, since the launch of Saudi Vision 2030 in 2016, the Kingdom's economy has witnessed a transformation that has led to the opening of many new sectors and providing promising business opportunities.

The minister said that Saudi reforms, which are aimed at diversifying the economy and developing trade and investment in the Kingdom, are attributed to the Vision 2030 program, which was launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

In the presence of the Saudi ambassador to the US, Princess Reema bin Bandar, as well as 180 Saudi and American figures in the business sector, the Vice Minister of Commerce, CEO of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi reviewed the reforms implemented to enhance the Kingdom's competitiveness and promising opportunities.

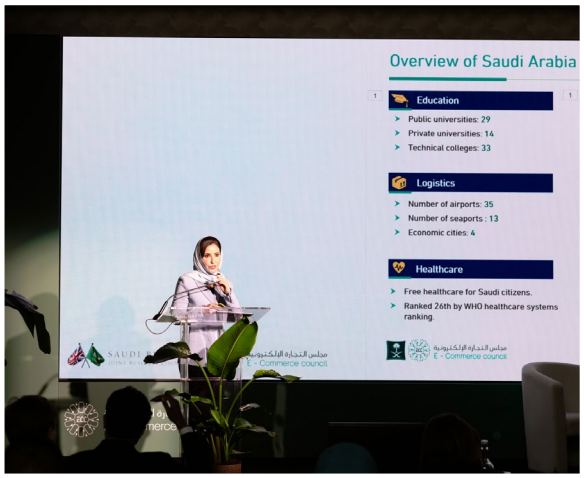
The Saudi-US business Forum discussed four main panels:entrepreneurship, sustainability, digital Economy and Innovation, E-commerce and Logistics.

The Saudi delegation held workshops and discussions with US business figures.

May 26, 2022

Al Kassabi Discusses Strengthening Saudi-British Economic Partnership in E-Commerce







The Saudi E-Commerce Council co-organized with the Saudi British Joint Business Council the "Leveraging E-Commerce to Expand KSA-UK Bilateral Trade" event in London, with the participation of a high-level Saudi delegation led by the Minister of Commerce, Chairperson of the Saudi E-Commerce Council, Dr. Majid Al Kassabi, and leaders from 11 government entities.

This event reviewed the promising opportunities launched by the Kingdom's Vision 2030, especially in digital infrastructure, financial technology, e-payment, logistics and transportation, last-mile delivery solutions, as well as electronic services related to quality of life such as e-health, e-learning, entertainment, games, and others. In addition to the cooperation and bilateral partnership in light of e-commerce's high growth.

Moreover, the Vice Minister of Commerce, General Supervisor of the Saudi E-Commerce Council, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, highlighted the most prominent reforms implemented by Saudi Arabia regarding e-commerce and the opportunities for growth in this field in light of the whole e-commerce market growth that reached SAR 162 billion in 2021.

The delegation visited a number of business accelerators and incubators, most notably "Techuk" concerned with trade and technology, which constitutes British government cooperation with about 350 members in various sectors to form and accelerate trade policies. They also visited "LEVEL39", which is an innovation hub and business accelerator specializing in cybersecurity, financial technologies, retail, and smart cities.

May 11, 2022

Al-Mutairi Reviews Opportunities for Cooperation in the Netherlands







A Saudi delegation, led by the Vice Minister of Commerce, CEO of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, held joint meetings in the Netherlands to enhance partnership in the economic and trade fields between the two countries.

Regarding the matter, several meetings were held between the Vice Minister of Commerce, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Liesje Schreinemacher; the Netherlands Vice Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Hanneke Schuiling; the Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Jan Kees Goet; Commissioner of the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency, Hilde van der Meer; and the Mayor of Rotterdam, Ahmed Aboutaleb.

The delegation visited the Innovation Center for Artificial Intelligence (ICAI), the University of Amsterdam, and the Business Incubator Village, and was briefed on the latest developments and practices, which are supported by the expertise of the Netherlands in the field of innovative sciences and the development of knowledge and technology in the fields of renewable energy, food, transportation, logistics, healthcare, smart cities, and innovation.

Later, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized working sessions with the participation of the leaders of major Dutch companies (Shell, Unilever, Phillips), as well as the VNO-NCW organization, which is the largest union of business and industry owners in the Netherlands and represents more than 185,000 establishments, in addition to the TNO organization, which ranks as one of the largest research institutions worldwide interested in the circular economy and sustainable infrastructure. Moreover, additional joint working sessions were also hosted by the Foreign Investment Agency with the participation of major Dutch companies, to discuss the promising opportunities and prospects for cooperation and partnership in the fields of waste management, e-health, hydrogen production, water, and agriculture.

The Saudi delegation, then, reviewed the promising opportunities and prospects for cooperation and partnership, especially in the field of renewable energy, in light of the Kingdom's competitive advantages provided by its geographical location and the nature of its climate, which make benefiting from renewable energy sources economically feasible and supportive of its efforts in the field of diversifying energy sources.

May 18, 2022

The Saudi Business Center, with 12 Branches, Facilitates the Start and Practice of Commercial Activities



The Saudi Business Center has implemented, through 12 branches located in 10 Saudi regions, more than 350,000 different services for the business sector provided by the concerned entities operating in these branches since the activities of the Saudi Business Center were launched in March 2020, reaching over 300,000 beneficiaries through the integration work of the concerned entities in the business sector providing their services to facilitate the start and practice of economic business in one place, represented via the Saudi Business Center branches around Saudi Arabia.

These branches provide the services of the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Investment, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing, the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority, the General Organization for Social Insurance, and the Saudi Chambers of Commerce, in addition to providing access to the services of 58 entities involved in the business sector.

This one-stop shop of the Saudi Business Center provides more than 750 services, including issuing and amending business records, licenses, and certificates of origin; documenting contracts and transactions; transferring and updating facility data; appointing and registering employees and authorized representatives; ownership transfer; sponsorship transfer; issuing visas; and providing tax, zakat, and social insurance return services.

The Center adopts the concept of empowerment based on transcending traditional services to provide procedural business requirements based on data and identify promising opportunities that support growth. Therefore, among the most prominent roles of the Center is to propose developing policies and procedures in integration with the concerned government entities, reviewing them, and re-engineering them to be more concise and less costly, in line with best international practices, to create an attractive business environment that promotes the growth of the national economy.

May 19, 2022

NCC Hosts a Saudi-Swedish Meeting on Economic Partnership



The National Competitiveness Center hosted a joint meeting of leaders from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, the Local Content and Government Procurement Authority, the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority, and the Public Investment Fund, with a delegation of representatives from the Swedish business network in Saudi Arabia, led by the Ambassador of Sweden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Niclas Trouvé, and the presence of the Saudi Vice Minister of Commerce, CEO of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi.

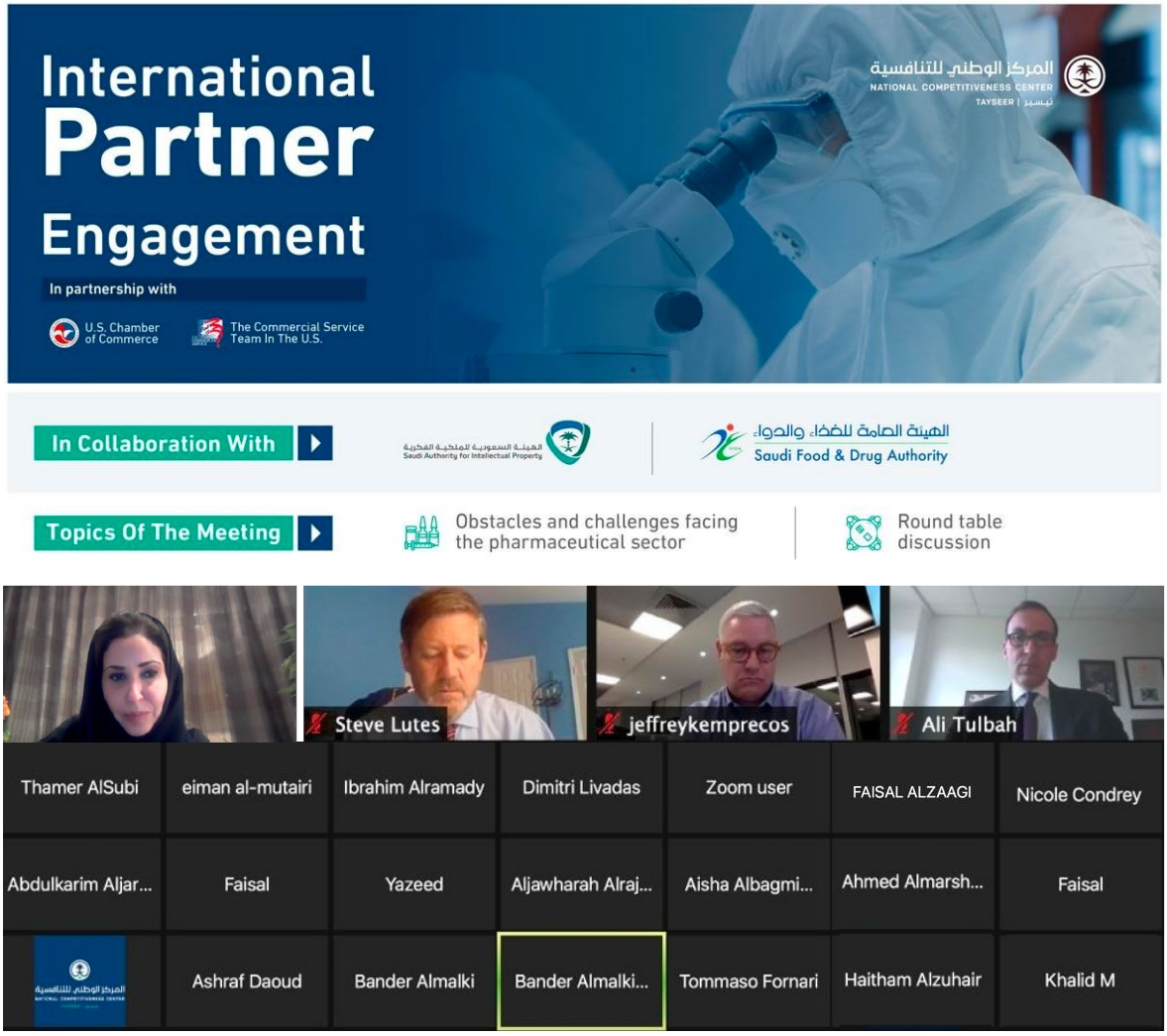
The participating entities reviewed their roles in improving and facilitating business practice, in addition to the promising opportunities in Saudi Arabia, as well as strengthening the economic and trade partnership between the two countries, especially in those sectors that contribute to diversifying the sources of the national economy and supporting its competitiveness regionally and globally within the plans and objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030.





April 19, 2022

NCC, the U.S. Chamber Discuss the Pharmaceutical Sector



The National Competitiveness Center held its periodic meeting with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the presence of 31 officials representing 18 American companies in the pharmaceutical sector and the support sectors, and with the participation of representatives from the Saudi Ministry of Health, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property.

The meeting, which was attended by the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of the NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, discussed growth opportunities and the competitiveness of the promising sectors in the medical and pharmaceutical industry fields, in addition to addressing the challenges facing American companies and ways to address them in cooperation with the relevant entities.

Al-Mutairi stressed the need to continue supporting the local and foreign business sector in the Kingdom in various sectors, including the health sector, which is generally one of the most promising sectors in light of the tendency of many international companies operating in this sector to move their regional headquarters and factories to Saudi Arabia.

April 6, 2022

Minister of Commerce Meets the Trade and Investment Committee of the Saudi Shura Council



The Minister of Commerce, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Majed Al Kassabi, explained and stressed, in his meeting with the Trade and Investment Committee of the Saudi Shura Council in the presence of the Vice Minister of Commerce, CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, the role and efforts being made by the NCC to improve the Kingdom's ranking in the global competitiveness indicators and reports.

During the meeting, the members of the committee discussed with the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, what was mentioned in the annual report of the National Competitiveness Center for the fiscal year 1442/1443 AH, in preparation for presenting the committee's report that includes its opinion and recommendations regarding the NCC's report to the Council for the coming term.

The meeting also discussed mechanisms for the NCC's communication with government and private entities, including concerned civil and non-profit associations and institutions, and building partnerships to raise the quality of the competitive environment, as well as concluding memoranda of understanding and cooperation with the government entities and the private sector, in order to unify efforts aimed at improving the competitive environment in Saudi Arabia.

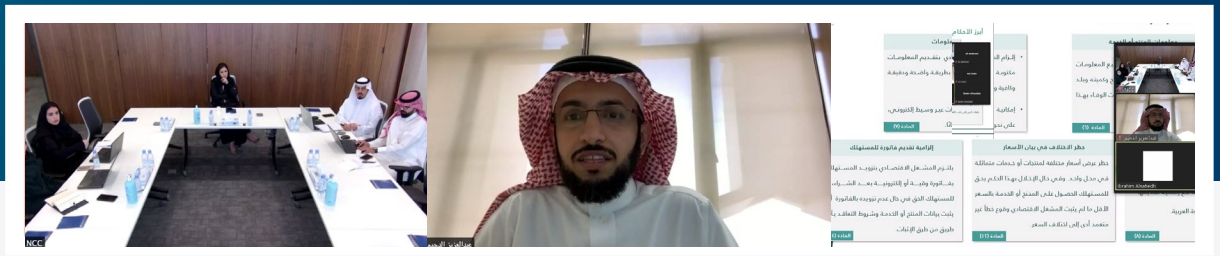
June 1, 2022

NCC Hosts the Belgian Diamond Council Meeting with the Saudi Business Sector

The National Competitiveness Center hosted a meeting in the presence of Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of The National Competitiveness Center, H. E. Dominique Mineur, Ambassador of Belgium to Saudi Arabia, Karim Al-Enezi, head of the Precious Metals and Gemstones National Committee at the Saudi Council of Chamber, and a delegation from the Belgian Diamond Council with representatives of major Saudi companies in the jewellery field.

May 29, 2022

NCC Organizes a Workshop on the "Consumer Protection Law Project"

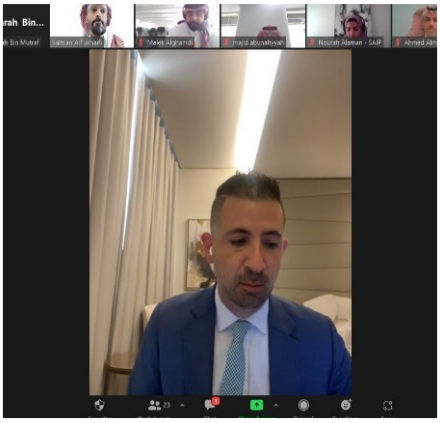


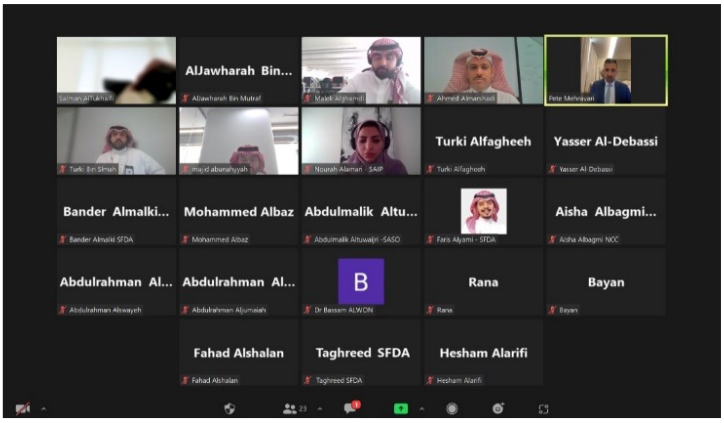
The National Competitiveness Center organized a virtual workshop on the "Consumer Protection Law Project" in the presence of the Vice Minister of Commerce and CEO of NCC, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, and with the participation of more than 150 representatives of the concerned government entities and the business sector.

The workshop, which was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, sought to receive feedback regarding the most prominent provisions of the "Consumer Protection Law Draft", which aims to achieve a fair balance in rights and duties between the economic operator and the consumer and protect the consumer from harmful, defective, or unsafe products and services. In addition to spreading, strengthening, and raising awareness of consumer rights and duties as well as encouraging the concept of sustainable consumption.

May 11, 2022

NCC Participates in a Meeting on "Intellectual Property"





The National Competitiveness Center participated in a meeting of several government agencies with the U.S. Intellectual Property Attaché for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, Peter Mehravari.

The meeting discussed challenges related to intellectual property, and the efforts made to raise awareness of the policies, procedures and reforms in this regard by the participating entities.

KSA's Performance

in International Reports and Indicators

In order to achieve the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 regarding raising the Kingdom's competitiveness regionally and globally to be within the Global Competitiveness Report's top 10 ranks, the National Competitiveness Center is following up, studying, and analyzing 27 global main reports to monitor the Kingdom's performance in these reports' indicators; by monitoring and analyzing global competitiveness indicators and reports and comparing the Kingdom's performance with the leading countries; in addition to listing the most important indicators and specialized reports in various fields; referring them to the concerned government entities; and proposing appropriate recommendations for their implementation.

Among these reports are the "Travel and Tourism Development Index" by the World Economic Forum, the "Global Competitiveness Yearbook" by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), the "Global Entrepreneurship Monitor" by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring Group, and the "Global Terrorism Index" by the Humanitarian Vision Group.

The importance of these global reports is that they monitor, analyze, and review the state's competitive performance within the framework of its strategy, in a way that reflects its development and improvement efforts, in line with best international practices, in order to improve its indicators and contribute to raising its competitiveness and enhancing its global position.

Travel and Tourism Development Index

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM | Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021

advanced	2021
+10 Positions	33 ▲

Helps decision makers identify challenges and best practices to drive the future development of the travel and tourism sector by providing distinctive and unique services.

Global Competitiveness Yearbook

IMD | Imd World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022

2021	2022
32	24

It is considered one of the most comprehensive global reports on the competitiveness of countries by analyzing and classifying their capabilities to create an environment that maintains the competitiveness of institutions and economic prosperity in general, as it compares 63 countries based on 4 main factors using data and statistics from governments, organizations, and other international indicators, as well as the feedback of executives in the private sector.

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor

GEM Global Entrepreneurship Monitor | Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2021/2022

2020	2021
7	4

It measures the incentives for entrepreneurship and the legislation and regulations to stimulate and develop entrepreneurship.

Global Terrorism Index

IEP | Global Terrorism Index 2022

2020	2021
49	54

It provides a comprehensive summary of the main global trends and patterns in terrorism. Countries are evaluated from 10 to 0, from least affected by terrorism (0) to most affected (10), and countries are ranked from most affected to least.

News Stand

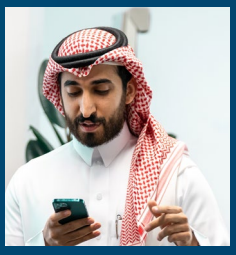
It's a regular internal activity that aims to inform the center's employees of the latest developments and news in various fields related to the competitive environment or business environment.

The center's employees participate in organizing the event through rotation. In terms of searching for news and reports in various local and foreign media, addressing them to the audience, explaining their relationship to the roles played by the Center, and answering the inquiries that follow the news presentation.

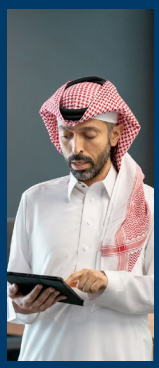






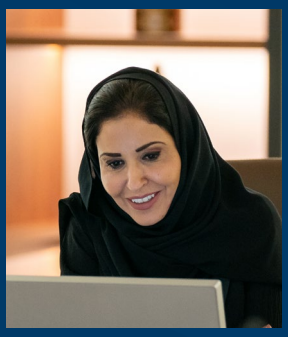










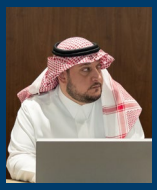
















Journal Club in pictures

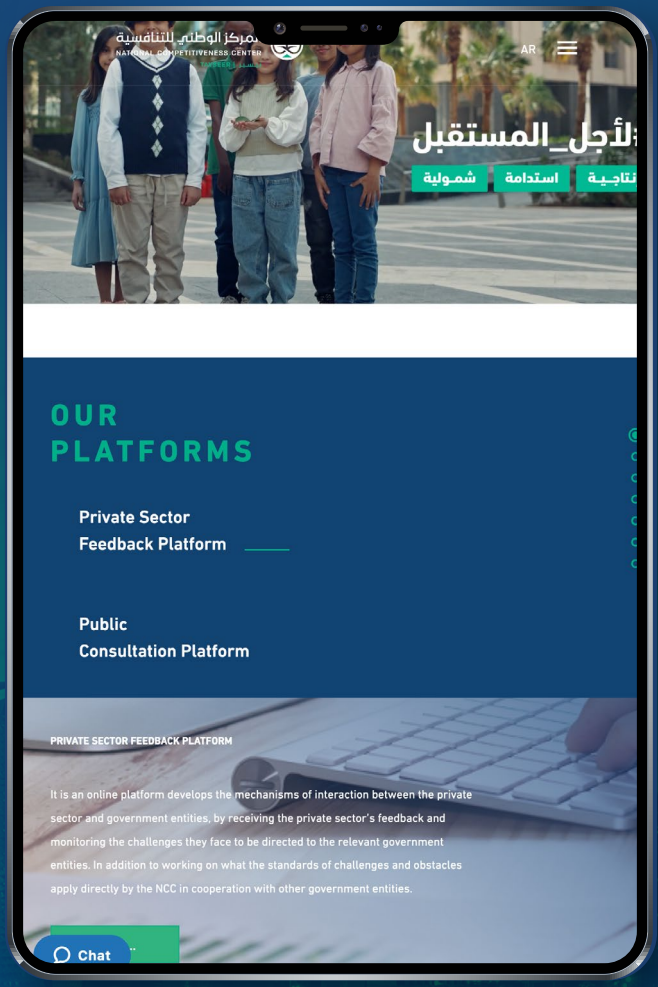
It is a weekly educational program held at the National Competitiveness Center, which aims to develop the knowledge capabilities and functional skills of the NCC's team and create a creative work environment for the team.
That by hosting prominent speakers in various fields, in addition to the NCC's employees, to talk about the most prominent topics of the economy and global competitiveness circulated in the global and international press.

Facing Challenges

in the Business Environment?

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