

Coyne, Michael

From: Coleman, Norm B.
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:39 PM
To: mark_johnston@rounds.senate.gov
Subject: Recent Event in SD with Saudi Investment Ministry Official
Attachments: Sen. Rounds - University of South Dakota Letter.pdf; HL - University of South Dakota Event Summary.pdf

Dear Mark,

On behalf of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, I wanted to make sure your office was aware of a recent event in South Dakota featuring Abdulrahman T. Bakir, Vice President of Investment Attraction and Development USA for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment.

On November 19, the Finance Management Association at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business hosted Mr. Bakir for a webinar with members and faculty from the University of South Dakota. Mr. Bakir was pleased to share his thoughts on a diverse array of topics, including the importance of the 75-year economic partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, the transformative changes occurring in the Kingdom as a result of Vision 2030, and the Kingdom's efforts to rapidly diversify their economy. Attendees asked Bakir questions on topics of their choice, with a particular focus on Bakir's career and his current efforts on behalf of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment.

Please find additional information in the attached letter and event summary, and do let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

All my best,

Norm

Senator Norm Coleman

Senior Counsel

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Columbia Square

555 Thirteenth Street, NW

Washington, DC 20004-1109

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Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Nov. 19, 2020 Event at the University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business

Dear Mark,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that the Finance Management Association at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business recently hosted Abdulrahman T. Bakir, Vice President of Investment Attraction and Development USA for a virtual webinar with their members and some of the faculty from the University of South Dakota on November 19, 2020.

The Finance Management Association at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School has hosted numerous speakers over the years in pursuit of developing better finance professionals, investors, and business leaders. They are additionally focused on improving global understanding and promoting meaningful discussions on current international affairs impacting international business and trade. Bakir was pleased to participate and shared his thoughts on a diverse array of topics, including the importance of the 75-year economic partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, the transformative changes occurring in the Kingdom as a result of Vision 2030, and the Kingdom's efforts in rapidly diversifying their economy.

The event was well attended with over 39 students and faculty from the Beacom School joining to hear from and interact with Bakir. Attendees had the opportunity to ask Bakir questions on topics of their choice, with a particular focus being on Bakir's career and his current efforts in the business world on behalf of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Norm Coleman

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Event Summary

Webinar: A Conversation with Abdulrahman T. Bakir, Vice President of Investment Attraction and Development USA for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment

Hosted by the Finance Management Association at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business

November 19, 2020
Zoom Interactive Event
5:00-6:00 p.m. EST

Abdulrahman T. Bakir, Vice President of Investment Attraction and Development USA for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment addressed a virtual event, hosted by the Finance Management Association (FMA) at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business on Thursday, November 19, 2020. After being introduced by University of South Dakota senior and FMA President Brianna Caskey, Bakir gave short remarks on several areas surrounding the robust 75-year U.S.-Saudi economic partnership, Saudi Arabia's leadership of this year's G20, and his career leading up to his role at the Saudi Ministry of Investment. He then participated in a question and answer session with close to 40 students and faculty who joined the webinar.

Bakir spoke passionately on his experiences working in business and the close ties between the people of the Kingdom and the U.S. He further applauded the students joining the event for their interest in learning about global trade, Saudi Arabia's rapidly expanding and diversifying economy, and the multitudes of opportunities being created by Vision 2030. During the event Bakir interacted extensively with numerous students and faculty from the University of South Dakota and was able to answer specific questions from attendees.

Among the many topics discussed, Bakir focused extensively on the bold and inspiring transformation occurring in Saudi Arabia under Vision 2030. From diversifying the Saudi economy to opening Saudi Arabia to tourism, Vision 2030 touches every government department and Saudi citizen.

Additional topics covered by Bakir included:

- The exciting tourism opportunities in the Kingdom under Vision 2030
- Saudi Arabia's stock exchange, currency, and real estate market
- The importance of Saudi Arabia working with American companies and business leaders including here in the Midwest
- Saudi Arabia's efforts in expanding their renewable energy sector
- The decades of economic partnership between Saudi Arabia and the U.S.
- How the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted both Saudi Arabia and diplomacy
- His career leading up to his role with the Ministry of Investment
- Recommendations for the students on the call interested in a career in international business

The event concluded with Bakir thanking the panelists and encouraging all attendees to visit the Kingdom once COVID-19 allows travel.

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Coyne, Michael

From: Coleman, Norm B.
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:39 PM
To: 'Nelson, Ryan (Thune)'
Subject: Recent Event in SD with Saudi Investment Ministry Official
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Senator Norm Coleman

Senior Counsel

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