



SAUDI ARABIA WELCOMES PRESIDENT TRUMP

President Trump Makes Historic Visit to Saudi Arabia

In May, United States President Donald J. Trump made history: For the first time, a U.S. President traveled to Saudi Arabia on his first foreign trip, engaging in discussions with Saudi Arabia and other nations that resulted in several agreements and, ultimately, the strengthening of the critical Saudi-U.S. relationship.

The two countries engaged in a series of talks aimed at reaffirming the longstanding Saudi-U.S. partnership and strengthening the close ties between the two countries. These talks resulted in the formulation of the Joint Strategic Vision Declaration, which ensured that both nations will dedicate themselves to strengthening their Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century.

According to the declaration, “The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seek to embark on new initiatives to counter violent extremist messaging, disrupt financing of terrorism, and advance defense cooperation.”

— Read more on page 2



King Salman welcomes President Trump in Riyadh, May 20, 2017.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

-
- President Trump Makes Historic Visit to Saudi Arabia **1**
-
- Saudi Arabia Unveils Center for Combating Extremism **2**
-
- Three Summits, One Vision: President Trump Ramps Up Regional Engagement in Riyadh **3**
-
- Saudi Arabia and U.S. to Co-Chair Terrorist Financing Targeting Center **3**
-
- Saudi-U.S. CEO Summit Yields Billions in Investments **4**
-
- Arms Deal Bolsters Saudi Defense, Creates U.S. Jobs **4**
-

NOTABLE QUOTES

“As we extend our thanks to and appreciation of [President Trump] for his response to attend and participate in this summit, we reaffirm our happiness and gratitude for His Excellency’s choice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and this summit as His Excellency’s first trip and external participation since assuming office.”

– Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, May 21, 2017

“This historic and unprecedented gathering of leaders—unique in the history of nations—is a symbol to the world of our shared resolve and our mutual respect. To the leaders and citizens of every country assembled here today, I want you to know that the United States is eager to form closer bonds of friendship, security, culture and commerce.”

– President Donald J. Trump, May 21, 2017

Furthermore, the declaration lays out a vision for a “robust, integrated regional security architecture,” recognizing that such infrastructure is necessary for successful cooperation.

The two countries will form a Strategic Joint Consultative Group to chart the course of the strategic partnership. The group will meet at least once per year, alternating between the two countries, to review areas of cooperation and continually strengthen efforts toward collaboration.

The two leaders also agreed on the necessity of containing Iran’s interference in the internal

affairs of Saudi Arabia and other regional states, encouragement of sectarianism, continued support of terrorism and militant proxy groups, and efforts to destabilize the region.

Additionally, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and President Trump recognized the importance of economic ties between Saudi Arabia and the U.S., and took steps to increase trade and investment, develop joint economic projects, and create jobs in both countries. The visit resulted in investment and trade agreements with a potential value of more than \$350 billion.

Saudi Arabia Unveils Center for Combating Extremism

On May 21, King Salman inaugurated the new Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology. President Donald Trump joined the King for the opening of the Center, further underlining the close cooperation that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. enjoy in combating extremism.

The Center, headquartered in Riyadh, builds upon and extends the growing international cooperation in combating extremist ideology, and will use innovative techniques to fight the growth of terrorism and destroy its allure for vulnerable young people by promoting moderation and encouraging positive dialogue.

The Center will monitor, process and analyze extremist speech online in a number of languages and dialects, relying on technology that can process and analyze data in six seconds.



King Salman and President Trump sign investment agreements, May 20, 2017.

Three Summits, One Vision: President Trump Ramps Up Regional Engagement in Riyadh

Following the unprecedented Saudi-U.S. Summit, President Donald Trump participated in two other major forums during his visit to Riyadh: a GCC-U.S. Summit and the Arab Islamic American Summit. All participants are hopeful that the administration's commitment to ramp up engagement and dialogue will help solve the region's most pressing problems.

The GCC-U.S. summit yielded the reaffirmation of the strategic partnership between the two parties. A number of issues were discussed, including a commitment to tackling the root causes of crises in the Middle East, the need for more urgent steps to address threats posed by Daesh (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda, and the rejection of Iran's continued interference in the internal affairs of the GCC states and other regional countries.

King Salman expressed his optimism about the outcomes of the meetings in his remarks at the Arab Islamic American Summit on May 21.

"The meeting significantly shows that our 55 Arab and Islamic countries attending the summit today with a population exceeding 1.5 billion, are an important partner in fighting the forces of extremism and terrorism and achieving world peace, security and stability," said King Salman. "His Excellency [President Trump] holds many hopes and aspirations for cooperation with the Arab and Muslim world."

President Trump also gave a speech in which he spelled out the necessity for cooperation between the U.S. and the entire region.

"You also hosted me in the treasured home of King Abdulaziz, the founder of the Kingdom who united your great people," President Trump remarked. "Working alongside another beloved leader – American President Franklin Roosevelt – King Abdulaziz began the enduring partnership between our two countries. King Salman: your father would be so proud to see that you are continuing his legacy – and just as he opened the first chapter in our partnership, today we begin a new chapter that will bring lasting benefits to our citizens."

President Trump laid out the U.S. commitment to work alongside Arab and Muslim nations to defeat terrorism and extremism.

"This is not a battle between different faiths, different sects, or different civilizations," he said. "This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life, and decent people of all religions who seek to protect it. This is a battle between good and evil."

This sentiment was echoed by Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir at a joint press conference with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

"Unless we are able to move [away] from notions of a clash of civilizations and move towards a partnership among civilizations, we will not be able to eradicate the scourge of terrorism," said Minister Al-Jubeir.

Saudi Arabia and U.S. to Co-Chair Terrorist Financing Targeting Center

Saudi Arabia and the United States signed an agreement on May 21 announcing the intent to establish the Terrorist Financing Center (TFTC).

The TFTC marks a collaborative approach to confronting new and evolving threats from terrorist financing, leveraging existing tools and formalizing cooperation between the U.S., Saudi Arabia and partners in the Gulf.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin praised the agreement, pointing to the benefits of enhanced cooperation between the two countries.

"This new Terrorist Financing Targeting Center will enhance existing tools and cooperation with partners in the Gulf to forcefully address evolving threats," Secretary Mnuchin said. "Treasury will offer the vast expertise of our Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to this creative new effort. We will co-chair the TFTC with Saudi Arabia, and will work collaboratively with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council to counter these global terror networks."

Saudi-U.S. CEO Summit Yields Billions in Investments

As President Donald Trump traveled to Saudi Arabia, another high profile event was being held in tandem in Riyadh: the inaugural Saudi-U.S. CEO Forum, attended by more than 100 CEOs and leaders of the most influential companies in Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Saudi and U.S. companies signed investment and trade agreements worth \$350 billion. The agreements are expected to drive economic growth and create jobs in both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson commented on the agreements during a press briefing with Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir.

“We expect that these investments over the next 10 years or so will provide hundreds of thousands of jobs in both the United States and Saudi Arabia,” said Secretary Tillerson. “They will lead to a transfer of technology from the U.S. to Saudi Arabia, enhance our economy, and also enhance American investments in Saudi Arabia, which already are the largest investments of anyone.”

The agreements are in line with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 plan for economic development and reform. Dr. Majed Al-Kassabi, Minister for Commerce and Investment in Saudi Arabia, emphasized that the

agreements demonstrate the fast diversification that the Kingdom’s economy is currently undergoing.

“The sheer breadth and scale of these agreements epitomize the accelerating diversification of the Kingdom’s economy into high-growth sectors such as technology, industrial manufacturing and aerospace, creating and safeguarding 250,000 jobs both in Saudi Arabia and the U.S.,” he said.

The agreements covered a number of sectors, including defense, energy, oil and gas, chemicals, infrastructure, technology and digital solutions, healthcare and pharmaceuticals.



Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid Al-Falih participates in the Ministerial Panel at the Saudi-U.S. CEO Forum, May 20, 2017.

Arms Deal Bolsters Saudi Defense, Creates U.S. Jobs

While in Riyadh, President Trump and King Salman announced a defense package potentially worth more than \$110 billion, aimed at building the security capabilities of Saudi Arabia and contributing to job creation in the U.S.

The package of defense equipment will contribute to the long-term security of Saudi Arabia, increasing capabilities to fight terrorism in the region and effectively contribute to regional security. The sale will include air force modernization, with improvements to

systems and training that will enable the Kingdom to continue its air campaign against Daesh targets in Syria.

The arms sale demonstrates the U.S. commitment to Saudi Arabia, while expanding opportunities for American companies in the region and, according to the Trump administration, potentially supporting tens of thousands of new jobs in the United States. Approximately 1.2 million Americans work in the aerospace and defense sectors.



ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SAUDIEMBASSY.NET | @SAUDIEMBASSYUSA | YOUTUBE.COM/SAUDIEMBASSYUSA