



# ***IBBC Spring Conference Twelfth Iraq Day at The Mansion House***

*Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd July 2024*

Booklet

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

03	WELCOME
05	EXHIBITION: CHALLENGING LEGACIES
06	IBBC TECH FORUM
07	PRE-CONFERENCE RECEPTION SPEAKER
08	IBBC SPRING CONFERENCE AGENDA
10	ATTENDANCE LIST
17	SPEAKER PROFILES
27	SPONSORS AND PARTNERS
31	WHAT IS IBBC?
32	COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
34	CONTACT DETAILS



# WELCOME

*Dear members & honoured guests* —

## **Welcome to the IBBC's Spring Conference 2024**

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 12th Iraq Day at The Mansion House.

I particularly welcome our large delegation coming from all parts of Iraq including Baghdad, the Kurdistan Region, Basrah, Mosul, and many other governorates. You have travelled a long distance and I congratulate you for overcoming the difficult and time-consuming task of obtaining a visa to enter this country.

Unfortunately, it has yet again become more difficult for Iraqis to obtain British visas. This is not a political decision but is due to the fact that more visitors from Iraq have overstayed the permitted time allocated in their visa and that a significant percentage of illegal immigrants arriving on small boats are of Iraqi origin. We have several officials from the Home Office with us today who will be pleased to meet with you to discuss the visa process and to inform you about legal ways of immigration open to all Iraqis who aspire to come to the United Kingdom.

A special thanks goes to the Lord Mayor of the City of London and to his excellent team at The Mansion House. We thank them for their support and for granting us permission to use this truly exceptional venue once more. This is of particular importance this year as we face a general election in 2 days' time and can therefore not have a British Minister attend this year's proceedings.

We are grateful for the attendance and contributions of the many Iraqi and UK officials, particularly to Prime Minister Mohammed Shiah al Sudani and his counterpart in Erbil, Prime Minister Masrour Barzani. Both have been personally briefed about this event and are giving us their explicit support.

With parliamentary elections taking place in 2 days' time in Britain we do not have a British Minister attending. However, in addition to the Home Office we have representatives from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office FCDO, Department of Business & Trade DBT and the UK Export Finance UKEF attending as well as delegates from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EBRD. Yesterday you heard from our Vice President and former Trade Minister Lord Green and today we are fortunate to hear from Rupert Soames, Chairman of the Confederation of British Industry, our President Baroness Nicholson and our Vice President Lord Howell.

In 2024 we celebrate the IBBC's 15th anniversary. IBBC and Iraq have come a long way since June 2009 when we launched ourselves under the leadership of Baroness Nicholson at the House of Lords. A first trade delegation and conference in Baghdad was held in September of that year, and trade delegations and conferences in Basrah and Erbil followed soon after, and we went on to become what we are now. A display in the Saloon shows some of the milestones passed in the last 15 years.

# WELCOME

Despite the conflict in Palestine and its wider ramifications for the region, Iraq has remained stable and peaceful. Security remains consistently good and as in last year and previous years we called on Britain and other countries to review their travel advice for Iraq. We believe that changing the advice is the single biggest step that can be taken to improve access to the Iraqi market for international business.

In his new paper for the IBBC advisory council, launched today, Professor Frank Gunter cheers Iraq's economic reform with some caution. The Government has taken measures to improve economic prospects, notably in de-dollarizing the economy, pushing for a consolidation of the banking sector and passing a 3-year budget.

However Iraq's overall business environment remains inhospitable, the country's structural problems are not being tackled and are growing all the time. In 2050 Iraq is due to have a population of 80 million. To provide meaningful jobs to its population the Iraqi Government must free the private sector from its shackles and literally make space for it. There needs to be less bureaucracy and red tape, and the state has to be shrunk massively to allow for significant and exponential private sector growth. Many if not all our Members already succeed despite this inhospitable environment and demonstrate private sector success to others. Many more success stories like those of our members are required for Iraq to truly prosper.

I would like to thank all our Members who provide IBBC with leadership and funding. I specifically thank those Members who sponsor this conference, AAA Holding, Sardar Group, Trade Bank of Iraq, CJ-ICM and Hydro-C. A special thanks goes to our travel partner London Sky, very strong supporters of the organisation, who have recently given us an office in Erbil.

IBBC is committed to a free and prosperous Iraq and has a track record going back 15 years to show for it. We believe in a promising future for Iraq and stand by its people and government.

I invite you to make the best possible use of the expertise across many sectors gathered here today. Please make use of the different roundtable discussions taking place alongside the main sessions throughout the day. There is no need to register for these in advance. and I also invite you to visit the exceptional exhibition on Gertrude Bell brought to us by Newcastle University.

I very much hope that you will find your time with us valuable and enjoyable.

Christophe Michels  
Managing Director, IBBC



# *Challenging Legacies*

The Kingdom of Iraq and Gertrude Bell



We are delighted to bring a showcase of our multi venue exhibition *Challenging Legacies* to the IBBC Spring Conference 2024.

*Challenging Legacies: the Kingdom of Iraq and Gertrude Bell* examines the events leading up to the creation of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1921, considering the impact and legacy of the First World War and the British administration on the country as well as the role of archaeologist and colonial administrator, Gertrude Bell (1868 – 1926).

Through Newcastle University's UNESCO Memory of the World registered Gertrude Bell Archive, *Challenging Legacies* focuses on the dual narratives of Bell and Iraq, primarily the 17-year period from 1909 to 1926 where their fates intertwined. Representing them independently and together using original archival material and newly digitised photographs from the Gertrude Bell Archive, the exhibition considers their respective complex histories.

*Challenging Legacies* aims to educate, enlighten, and encourage critical and nuanced thought towards Bell and the wider British colonial legacy in the Middle East whilst also exploring Iraq's rich history and global significance. The exhibition has been designed to be suitable for visitors of all backgrounds with no prior knowledge of the subjects covered expected, and hope delegates can help us bring this shared heritage to new audiences.

# IBBC Tech Forum

1st July, online via MS Teams

## AI IS HERE

### *Part One: AI is Here*



#### **Karl Niblock, Cyber Defence & ICS Expert, Microsoft**

Karl came to Microsoft Security from more than a decade in Engineering and as a former business owner in Mechanical Engineering, and then as a Chief Security Technology Officer for infrastructure and heavy industry businesses. Now as a Microsoft specialist in Security Operations and Cyber Defense Karl has led next-generation Security Operations transformation initiatives with OT/ICS reliant enterprise customers across EMEA and APAC. He is a globally recognized Subject Matter Expert on Threat Protection, Secure Cloud, and AI security & privacy. As a thought leader in data security and protection standards, particularly for industries reliant on sensitive data, Karl is a trustworthy voice speaking into what it means that “AI is secure, and secure is AI”

### *Part Two: The investment and start up world in Iraq*



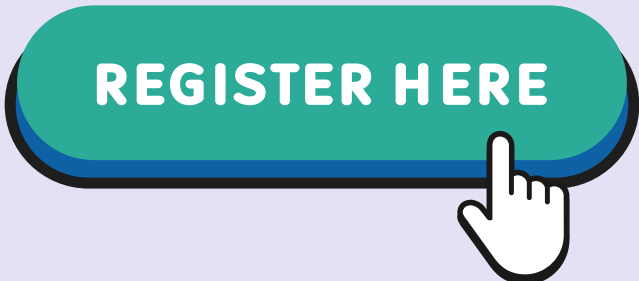
#### **Nadine Benchaffi, Venture Builder Director, DANA Global**

Agritech overview- Investor in UAE at Dana fund, Farmer and Agritech - and the Dune Development fund.



#### **Omar Al Handal: Iraq Venture Partners and Director at the Station.**

Investing in startups and early stage companies.  
Impediments to acceleration and the Tech ecosystem in Iraq.



# PRE-CONFERENCE RECEPTION SPEAKER

Monday 1st July 2024



## **Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint**

Stephen Green studied at Oxford University, graduating in 1969 in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He also obtained a Masters Degree in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1975.

He was created a Life Peer in 2010 and was appointed Minister of State for Trade and Investment in January 2011. He retired from this position in December 2013. He sits in the House of Lords as a cross-bencher.

Lord Green began his career in 1970 with the British Government's Ministry of Overseas Development. In 1977, he joined McKinsey & Co Inc.

He joined The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in 1982. He became Group Chief Executive in 2003 and Group Chairman 2006. He retired from HSBC in December 2010. He served as a non-executive director of BASF until 2010. He was Chair of the Natural History Museum from 2014 to 2023.

He is Chair of Asia House and Honorary President of The Chartered Institute of Export and International Trade.

Stephen Green has written several books, including; *Reluctant Meister - How Germany's Past is Shaping its European Future* [2014]; *The European Identity - Historical and Cultural Realities We Cannot Deny* [2015]; *Brexit and The British* [2017]; *The Human Odyssey* [2019].

# AGENDA

Tuesday 2nd July 2024

## “INSIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES”

**Chairman of the day: Mr Christophe Michels**, IBBC Managing Director

**08.00** Arrival and registration, tea & coffee

**08.55** Move to the Egyptian Hall

**09:00** Welcome Address:

**Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**, IBBC President

**Alderman Barr**, The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor’s Representative

**H.E. Hayan Abdul Ghani Al-Sawad**, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Oil, Ministry of Oil

**H.E. Dr Mohammed Shukri**, Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board

**Mr Rupert Soames OBE**, President, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

**Dr Amet Selman**, AAA Holding Ltd

**Mr Jonathan Wilks CMG**, Senior Advisor, IBBC

**10.10** Tea & Coffee break

**10.50** Keynote Address: **The Rt Hon Lord Howell of Guildford**

**10.50 Kurdistan Regional Government Round Table Discussion (South Drawing Room)**

**Chairman: Mr Jonathan Wilks CMG**, Senior Advisor, IBBC

**Speakers: H.E. Dr Mohammed Shukri**, Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board

**10.50 Finance Round Table Discussion (North Drawing Room)**

**Chairman: Mr Ardil Salem**, Hogan Lovells International LLP

**11.05 Session 1: Energy**

**Chairman: Dr Luay Al Khateeb**, Centre on Global Energy Policy – Columbia U.

**Panellists: Mr Hassan Heshmat**, Hydro-C Ltd; **Mr Andy Wiper**, Basrah Gas Company;

**Mr Zaid Elyaseri**, BP; **Mr Ellis Renforth**, Wood Plc; **Ms Dunia Chalabi**, TotalEnergies;

**Mrs Sara Akbar**, Oilserv

**12.35 The Rasmi Al Jabri Award**



**12.45 Lunch, Long Parlour**

**13.45 Education & Skills Roundtable Discussion (North Drawing Room)**

**Chairman: Professor Mohammed Al Uzri**, IBBC Health and Education Advisor

**Speaker: Professor Hamid Khalaf**, PM Advisor & Executive Director

**13.45 Session 2: Climate Change & AgriTech**

**Chairman: Mr Richard Cotton**, AAA Holding Ltd

**Panellist: Dr Fareed Yasseen**, Iraqi Government's Climate Envoy; **Dr Shamal Mohammed**, Silal;

**Mrs Sara Akbar**, Oilserv

**14.25 Session 3: Finance**

**Chairman: Mr Ardil Salem**, Hogan Lovells International LLP

**Panellists: Prof. Frank Gunter**, IBBC Advisory Council; **Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyer**, IFC,

**Mr Jamil Choucair**, Standard Chartered Bank; **Mr. Ezzeldin Sajid Yousif**, Central Bank of Iraq

**15.10 Session 4: Transport**

**Chairman: Prof. Frank Gunter**, IBBC Advisory Council

**Panellist: Mr Tugrul Titanoglu**, CJ-ICM; **Mr Steve Alexandar**, Sardar Group

**15.40 Tea & Coffee break**

**16.10 Round Table Discussion on Iraq's Exchange Rate Challenges (South Drawing Room)**

**Chairman: Prof. Frank Gunter**, IBBC Advisory Council

**16.10 Heritage Session**

**Chairman: Professor Mohammed Al Uzri**, IBBC Health and Education Advisor

**Panellists: Professor Mark Jackson**, Newcastle University; Professor Mark Horton, Royal Agricultural University; **Dr John MacGinnis**, Nimrud Archaeological Trust; **Dr. Rawaa**

**Qasha**, University of Mosul

**17.25 Close of the Conference**

# ATTENDANCE LIST

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Mr Mohsen Garcia	Co-Founder & MD	1001 Media
2	Dr Amet Selman	CEO	AAA Holding Group Ltd
3	Mr Richard Cotton	Business Development Director	AAA Holding Group Ltd
4	Mrs Reggad Selman	Managing Director	AAA Holding Group Ltd
5	Mr Adam Albazy	Trainee Lawyer	Addleshaw Goddard LLP
6	Mr Muhammed AL-Qumbarji	Country Manager	ADIB
7	Mr Henry Tillman	CEO	Aiyana Advisory and Research
8	Mr Imad Burhan	Managing Director	Al Burhan Group
9	Mr Abir Burhan	Operations Director	Al Burhan Group
10	Mr Ismael Shakir	Managing Director	Al Busttan
11	Mr Andrew Martin	Business Development Manager	Al Busttan
12	Mr Fattah Ismael	CEO	Al Busttan
13	Mrs Hadeel Hasan	Managing Partner	Al Hadeel Al Hasan LLC
14	Mr Ghazi F. Ali	Senior Partner	Al Hadeel Al Hasan LLC
15	Mr Marwan A. Hawwari	Business Development Manager	Al Hadeel Al Hasan LLC
16	Mr Ali Abdulhussein A.Aladheem Al Yasiri	Attorney	Al Mustashar Company (IIB associate)
17	Mr Ahmed Shaban	Chairman	Al Zaman Group
18	Mr Abdullah Shaban	Naval Architect Engineer	Al Zaman Group
19	Mr Ahmed Hankawi	Managing Partner	AlEtihad Law Firm
20	Ms Shayma Azeez	Partner	AlEtihad Law Firm
21	Mr. Abdulahadi Ali Abdullah Ahmed	Founder & Chairman	AlEtihad Law Firm
22	Mr Omar Sahib	Managing Director	ALFAJER UK LTD
23	Mr Alaa Aldaigami	Director	Alfasael for agriculture Investments ltd
24	Mr Ashhad Hamad Yasir	Advisor to the Board of Directors	AlHuda Bank
25	Mr Karar Alkhassaki	CEO	Alkhassaki sweets company
26	Mr Ali Imad Jumaah Alkhalidi	Managing Director	Almutakhassesah
27	Mr Hussein Mohsin Hamel	Managing Director	Alnrjes industrial city company
28	Mr Ahmad Sulaiman Abdulla	Shareholder & Managing Director	Alpha Steel Company
29	Ms Rozha Sharif Othman	Health and Safety Manager	Alpha Steel Company
30	Mr Yahya Husam Omar	Chief financial officer	Alqurtas islamic bank
31	Mr Hussain Mohammed Hussain Alamer	Contract Manager	Alsabah for General Services
32	Mr Andrew Methven	Managing Director	AMAR Foundation
33	Dr Ali Jawad AlMaliki	Representative in KRI	AMAR Foundation & IBBC
34	Mr Gaby George Fadel	CEO	Arab Bankers Association

35	Mr Omar Ridha Mezaal Alkarawi	Owner and manager	Aswar Al-Hadhaba
36	Mr Shailesh Pandya	Senior Vice President	Atul Europe Ltd
37	Mr Bashar Kassab Hasan	Corporate Affairs Manager	Basrah Gas Company
38	Mr Marfa Al-Asady	Production Director & Deputy Managing Director	Basrah Gas Company
39	Mr Sultan Ajimi Abdullah Almaliki	Commercial Director	Basrah Gas Company
40	Mr Andy Wiper	Managing Director	Basrah Gas Company
41	Professor John Strachan	Vice-Provost Research and Enterprise	Bath Spa University
42	Mr Ali Al Makhzomy	President	Bil Weekend - Tourism for Iraq
43	Mr Mike Wenham	Business Development Manager	BP
44	Mr Ben Dewhirst	Commercial Manager, Iraq Region	BP
45	Mr Zaid Elyaseri	President	BP Iraq
46	Mr Damian Allison	UK Director of Trade in Iraq	British Embassy Baghdad
47	Mr Oliver Christian	HM Trade Commissioner for the ME & Pakistan & HM Consul General to Dubai	British Embassy in Dubai
48	Mr Dashti Najim	Consultant	Cambridge City Company
49	Mr Kosar Najim	Consultant	Cambridge City Company
50	Ms Chapka N.Othman	Principal	Cambridge City Company
51	Mr. Ezzeldin Sajid Yousif	Head of Foreign Remittances Department	Central Bank of Iraq
52	Mr. Hussein Hasaballah	Front office Manager	Central Bank of Iraq
53	Mr Sabah Yahya Saeed	President	Cihan group
54	Dr Kodo S Aziz	Board Member	CISQ – Cambridge International School – Queen Anne
55	Mr Shahriyar Majlesein	CEO	Citadel Engineering Company
56	Mr Douglas Fulton	BDM	Citadel Engineering Company
57	Alderman Barr	The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Representative	City of London
58	Mr Ian Alexander	Senior Project Coordinator	CJ ICM (UK) LTD
59	Mr Andreas Yiangou	Country Manager	CJ ICM (UK) LTD
60	Mr Ibrahim Miskavi	Director	CJ ICM Group
61	Mr Fuat Miskavi	Chairman	CJ ICM Group
62	Mr Tugrul Titanoglu	COO	CJ ICM Group
63	Mr Timur Nakkas	Director of Bid Management and Proposals	CJ ICM Group
64	Mr Altug Sozalan	Director	CJ ICM Group
65	Mr Jordan Colby Kiss	Trainee Lawyer	Clifford Chance
66	Dr Luay Al Khateeb	Centre on Global Energy Policy	Columbia University
67	Mr Rupert Soames OBE	President	Confederation of British Industry
68	Mr Matthew Maynard	Associate Director	Control Risks Group Limited
69	Ms Hind Hussain	Partner - Director, Compliance & Government Affairs	Control Risks Group Limited
70	Ms Joanne Bayley	Chief Operating Officer	D.P.D. Ltd (Date Palm Developments)
71	Mr Daniel Caiger- Smith	Senior Marketing and Sales Executive	D.P.D. Ltd (Date Palm Developments)
72	Mr Harem Mohammed Rasul	Authorised Director	Dashti Between Company
73	Mr Zakarya Ibrahim Mohammed	COO	Decor Home Company
74	Ms Dunia Ahmed	Pharmacist	Deedal
75	Mr James Kelly	Deputy Head Middle East and Pakistan	Department for Business and Trade
76	Ms Eleanor Mardlin	Regional Advisor	Department for Business and Trade
77	Dr Zain Sikafi	Chairman	Doctoori Group Holdings
78	Dr Muhanad Seloom	Assistant Professor in Critical Security Studies	Doha Institute
79	Mr Rodrigo Vila Perea	Marketing Consultant	Dolavon GB Ltd
80	Mr Jorge Vila	Managing Director	Dolavon GB Ltd
81	Ms Katya Lehair	Associate Director, Financial Institutions	EBRD

82	Mr Gabriel de Lastours	Regional Head, SEMED, Energy Eurasia MEA, Sustainable Infrastructure Group	EBRD
83	H.E. Mohammed Jaafar Al-Sadr	Iraqi Ambassador to the United Kingdom	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
84	Dr Ahmed Mohammed Khalid	Consellor	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
85	Dr Dhibian Shammam Hasan	Deputy Director of the European department	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
86	Mr Mohammed Hmaid	1st Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
87	Mrs Noor Abdulzahra	2nd Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
88	Mr Mustafa Alobaidi	2nd Secretary	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
89	Mr Ahmed Al-Haidary	Staff at the Economic Desk	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
90	Mr. Ali AlYahya	Diplomat	Embassy of the State of Kuwait
91	H.E. Mr Omed Khoshnaw	Governor of Erbil	Erbil Governorate
92	Mr John Curtin	Partner	Ernst & Young LLP
93	Dr Zana A hussein	Manager	Excel College
94	Mr Richard Wilding	Co-founder	Eye on Heritage
95	Mr Farzand Fattah Harki	Director General	Farzand Company
96	Mr Rawand Faris	Procurement & Supply Chain Manager	Fasco LLC FZ
97	Mr Ivan Parks	Deputy Director, MENAD	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
98	Ms Holly Vare	Deputy Head of Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Department	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
99	Mr Alex Cocker	Head of Iraq Team	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
100	Mr Joe O'Keefe	Iraq Desk Officer	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
101	Ms Elizabeth Salmon	Iraq Desk Officer	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
102	Mr Raoul Hodgson	Iraq Desk Officer	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
103	Ms Angeline Turner	Iraq Research Analyst	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
104	Mr Neil Beauchamp	Iraq Climate Advisor	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
105	Mr Richard Rose	ISF Team Leader	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
106	Mr Jon Allen	Strategic Account Director (Government Services)	G4S
107	Mr Leqa Al Habib	Partner	Garth Coates Solicitors
108	Mr Celemet Yener	Partnet	Garth Coates Solicitors
109	Mr Basil Al-Qaisi	CEO	GCITJ Babel Ltd
110	Dr Amir Saadati	Executive Director	Gems Consult
111	H.E. Mr Asaad Al Eidani	Governor of Barash	Government of Iraq
112	H.E. Hayan Abdul Ghani Al-Sawad	Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Oil	Government of Iraq
113	Dr Husain Al-Chalabi	PM Advisor	Government of Iraq
114	Mr Dara Rashid Yara	Former Minister of Housing, Construction and Municipalities	Government of Iraq
115	H.E Mr Abdul Qader al-Dakheel	Governor of Nineveh	Government of Iraq
116	H.E Mr Jabbar Al Luaibi	Former Minister of Oil	Government of Iraq
117	Mr Zaid Al Jabri	–	Guest of IBBC
118	Mr Baan Alsheikh	–	Guest of IBBC
119	Mr Alabbas Aljabri	–	Guest of IBBC
120	Mr Ali Aljabri	–	Guest of IBBC
121	Mr Muhammad Aljabri	–	Guest of IBBC
122	Mr Maha Aljabri	–	Guest of IBBC
123	Ms Leen Qasim	–	Guest of IBBC
124	Mr Talal Al Jabri	–	Guest of IBBC
125	Mr Amjed Fouad Abdulmageed	Deputy Director	Gulf Commercial Bank

126	Ms Farah Raad Yaseen	Assistant Manager	Gulf Insurance Company
127	Mr Rawaz Rauf	Secretary to the Chairman	Hiwa Company
128	Mr Ardil Salem	Partner	Hogan Lovells International LLP
129	Ms Rebecca Wales	Partner	Hogan Lovells International LLP
130	Ms Claire Lipworth	Partner	Hogan Lovells International LLP
131	Mr Jonathan Chertkow	Partner	Hogan Lovells International LLP
132	Mr James Maltby	Partner	Hogan Lovells International LLP
133	Ms Sharan Ghuman	Engagement Lead	Home Office
134	Ms Ozlem Kurt	Campaign Planner	Home Office
135	Ms Magdalena Maylam	Campaign Lead	Home Office
136	Mr Bede Porter	Campaign Planner	Home Office
137	Mr Richard Rands	Head of Upstream Team	Home Office
138	Mr Edrin Gjoni	Illegal Migration Operations Command	Home Office
139	Mr Sam Goldbart	Head of Upstream operations	Home Office
140	The Rt Hon Lord Howell of Guildford	IBBC Vice President	House of Lords
141	Mr Daniel Sanchez	Parliamentary Researcher	House of Lords
142	Mr Omer Farooq Nahi Alnahi	Partner	Hydro – C Ltd
143	Mr John Taylor	Oil & Gas - Business Development Consultant	Hydro C
144	Mr Hasan Heshmat	Managing Director	Hydro C
145	Mr John Kett	Service Advisor	Hydro C Ltd
146	Mr Elias Zghaib		Hydro C Ltd
147	Mr Suhail Aboud		Hydro C Ltd
148	Mr Donald Mclvor	Projects Director	Hydro-C Ltd
149	Prof. Dr. Sabih Gatea Khisaf	Infrastructure Lead MENA Region	HyperloopTT
150	Mr John Scott	Energy Advisor and Secretary to the ETHST	IBBC
151	Professor Mohammed Al Uzri	Health and Higher Education Advisor	IBBC
152	Mr Christophe Michels	Managing Director	IBBC
153	Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne	President	IBBC
154	Mr Ashley Goodall	Marketing Consultant	IBBC
155	Mr Colin Findlay	Strategic Development Officer & Honorary Advisor to the Board	IBBC
156	Mr Mohanad Al Khattab	Baghdad Office Manager	IBBC
157	Ms Agne Abramauskaite	Events Manager	IBBC
158	Ms Emma Joyce	Senior Events Coordinator & Office Administrator	IBBC
159	Mr Nabeel Mohsin	Senior Administrator	IBBC
160	Ms Hibah Nathir	IBBC Intern	IBBC
161	Professor Frank Gunter	Advisory Council	IBBC
162	Mr Mohammed AlDelaimy	Advisory Council	IBBC
163	Mr Muntazar Alashbal	Volunteer	IBBC
164	Mr Abudi Heshmat	Volunteer	IBBC
165	Mr Jonathan Wilks CMG	Advisory Council	IBBC
166	Ms Kushala Sharma	Accountant	IBBC
167	Mr John Francis Kennedy	Global Head of Business Development	IDG Americas Inc.
168	Mr Steven Turner	Country Security Manager	IDG Iraq
169	Mr Ihsan Ahmed Hasan	CEO	IHSAN Electric
170	Dr. Zead Khalaf Abed	Chairman	International Development Bank
171	Mr Balsam Al-Hilli	Executive Assistant to COO	International Development Bank
172	Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyer	Iraq Resident Representative	International Finance Corporation (Online attendance)

173	Mr. Mohsin Salim Srayyih Al-Waka		International Islamic Bank
174	Mr. Ali Adnan Ali		International Islamic Bank
175	Mr Padraig O'Hannelly	Managing Director	Iraq Business News
176	Mr Hussein Thamer	General Manager	Iraq Company for Bank Guarantees
177	Mr Khaldoon Tareq Alwan Alwan	Loan Officer	Iraqi Company for financing SMEs, LTD
178	Ms Tania Hussein	Deputy Head of	Iraqi Embassy Finland
179	Mr Adel Okab Hussein	Chairman	Iraqi Federation of Industries
180	Dr Fareed Yasseen	Climate Envoy	Iraqi Government's Climate Envoy
181	Ms Basma Amer Hasan	Follow-up employee	Iraqi Private Banks League
182	Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas	President	Iraqi Red Crescent Society
183	Mr Anas zaid Al-Sarraf	President	Iraqi restaurants association
184	Mr Rasul Braim Mustafa	Deputy General Manager	Kane Seew
185	Mr Richard Rippon-Swaine	Director of Operations	KBR
186	Mr Khasro Ajgayi	Director of Political and Media Affairs	KRG UK
187	Mr Bargasht Aqrawi	Media manager of BOI Chairman	Kurdistan Board of Investment
188	H.E. Dr Mohammed Shukri	Chairman	Kurdistan investment board
189	Mr Miran Hassan	Director	Labour Middle East Council
190	Mr Adam Cameron	Country Security Manager	Larsa Security Services
191	Mr Omar Al Bayati	Acting General Manager	Lexus
192	Mr. Thabit Mustafa Sabbubeh	Personal Assistant to Director of Lexus Operations	Lexus
193	Mr Sarwhar Al Bebany	Director	Lexus Operations
194	Sheikh Salih Al Barzinje	CEO & Chairman	London Sky Company
195	Mr Mahmood Scott	General Manager	London Sky Company
196	Mr Günther Hahn	Managing Director & Owner	Martrade Holding
197	Mr Montadhar Najem	Founder/Director	MHD International
198	Mr Abdulkareem Sulaiman haji	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
199	Mr Zida Muhammed Karim	Director General	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources KRG
200	Mr Rzgar Hamad khidir	Advisor	Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
201	Mr Ali Al-Khairalla	First Secretary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Iraq
202	Mr Mohammed Riyadh Ishaq	Director of Thi-Qar Inspection Division	Ministry of Oil
203	Mr Mohammad Al Edani	Senior Officer	Mitsubishi Corporation
204	Mr Kei Watanabe	Manager	Mitsubishi Corporation
205	Mr Ralph Al Raheb	Managing Director - Head Of Emerging Markets Onshore And Offshore For Europe, The Middle East And Africa	Morgan Stanley
206	Mr Hal Miran	CEO	MSELECT
207	Mr Raed Hanna	Managing Director	Mutual Finance Ltd
208	Mr Aden Nguyen	Chief Business Officer	National Bank of Egypt (UK) Ltd
209	Dr. Abdel Hamid El Kafrawy	Business Development Manager, Egypt & Middle East	National Bank of Egypt (UK) Ltd
210	Dr Yasser Hassan	CEO	National Bank of Egypt (UK) Ltd
211	Professor Mark Jackson	Professor of Byzantine Archaeology	Newcastle University
212	Mr Stephen North	Regional Manager, ME	Newcastle University
213	Ms Valentina Flex	Gertrude Bell Project Archivist	Newcastle University
214	Dr John MacGinnis	Chairman	Nimrud Archaeological Trust
215	Mr. Ismail Al Kabtan	Governor of Nineveh office	Nineveh Governorate
216	Mr Nawar Faize Abdullah	Goernor of Nineveh's office	Nineveh Governorate
217	Mr Mohammed Alazeer	Goernor of Nineveh's Escort	Nineveh Governorate
218	Mr Saman Khudhur	Goernor of Nineveh's Escort	Nineveh Governorate

219	Mr Hasan Hamood Abbas Al Maliki	Managing Director	NUMUR BABIL (IIB associate)
220	Mrs Sara Akbar	Chair Person and CEO of JV - Kuwait & Chair Person & Chairman	OILSERV & OILTECH
221	Dr Falah Al-Amri	Oil & Gas Advisor to the Iraqi Prime Minister	Prime Minister's office, Government of Iraq
222	Mr. Nawzad Hadi	Advisor to the Prime Minister	Prime Minister's office, KRG
223	H.E Dr Abdulkareem Al-Faisal	Chairman	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
224	Dr Hussain Chalabi	Advisor	Prime Minsiter of Iraq office
225	Mr Adrian Powell	Lawyer / Managing Partner	Proelium Law LLP
226	Mr Sirwan Sami Abdul Rahman	Chairman	Renwa Group DMCC
227	Mr Michael Austin	–	Retired
228	Mr James Wellwood	Founder	Reviresco Group
229	Professor Mark Horton	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)	Royal Agricultural University
230	Mr Mohammed Al Asaadi	CEO	Sama Hammurabi Law Firm
231	Ms Tabarek Radeef Abbas	Paralegal and legal translator	Sama Hammurabi Law Firm
232	Mr Shihab Ahmed Mohammed	Legal Consultant	Sama Hammurabi Law Firm
233	Mrs Batoul Hussein	Executive Director Government Affairs MENA	SAP
234	Mr Saman Bakhtiar	Deputy General Manager Human Resources Department	Sardar Group
235	Mr Sabah Mohammed	Media & Public Relations Manager	Sardar Group
236	Ms Shadha Sarmad Asi	Corporate Planning Department Assistant	Sardar Group
237	Ms Leena Zeyad	Deputy General Manager BOD Admin Office	Sardar Group
238	Mr Muqdad Saeed	Deputy General Manager - General Administration	Sardar Group
239	Mr Samer Adnan Hashim	Lawyer	Sardar Group Basra
240	Mr Steve Alexander	Head of Operations - Central & South	Sardar Trading Agencies
241	Mr Nibras Basim	Regional Sales Manager	Sardar Trading Agencies
242	Mr Zaidoon Yaseen	Senior Sales Executive	Sardar Trading Agencies
243	Mrs. Fatima Al Zahra Abdul Hussein	Public Relations Manager	Seraj Al Adalah Company
244	Mr Rebin Anwar Mohammed	Owner	Sharazoor Poultry Egg Project
245	Mr Wajdi Abou-Izzeddine	Partner/ Director of Operations	Sidara / Dar
246	Dr Shamal Mohammed	AgriTech Director	Silal
247	Mr. Jamil Choucair	CEO	Standard Chartered Bank
248	Mr Muhammed Canbaloglu	Deputy CEO Education	Stirling Education
249	Mr Haval Sami Ali	Director General Erbil	Stirling Education
250	Mr Bnar Karim Mohammed	Director General Kirkuk	Stirling Education
251	Mr Timothy Donald Fisher	Global CEO	Stirling Education
252	Dr Omed Hama	CEO	Stirling Education
253	Mr Sakar Ismael Gharib	General Director	Stirling Education
254	Mr Miran Abdalhameed	General Director	Stirling Education
255	Mr Bayar Abdalla	General Director	Stirling Education
256	Ms Nada Dawid	Infrastructre Planner Civ.eng. (M.Sc.)	Swedish Transport Administration
257	Mr Hawre Hiwa Mohammed	Authorized Manager	TELFORD Company
258	Mr. Hussien Hasab Allah	Front Office Manager, Investment Dept	The Central Bank of Iraq
259	Professor Hamid Khalaf	PM Advisor & Executive Director	The Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq & PM office
260	Mr Raed Mahmoud	Regional Operations Director	The International school of choueifat - SABIS Iraq
261	Mr Baqer Muneer Mghames Al-Jadooda	Operations Manager	Thimar Alalam Co
262	Ms Hanadi Ibrahim Madhkhoo Lami	Relationship Manager	Thimar Alalam Co
263	Mr Sabeeh Khalaf Saddam Altaie	Owner & Manager	Tofahat AlFrdos
264	Ms Dunia Chalabi	Country Chair	TotalEnergies
265	Ms Nisreen Albander	Communications Manager	TotalEnergies

266	Ms Rouba El Hajj	Event Management and Media Relations Assistant Manager	Toyota Iraq
267	Mr Taha Shihani	Service Field Operation, Acting General Manager	Toyota Iraq
268	Mr Taiseer Jawad Mohammed	Erbil Branch Manager	Trade Bank of Iraq
269	Mr. Ahmed Saad Jabbar	Media and PR. Manger	Trade Bank of Iraq
270	Mr. Ali Abdulridha Hasan Al Alwan	Corporate Banking Department Manager	Trade Bank of Iraq
271	Mr Ali Abdulridha Alwan	Head of Private Sector Banking Department	Trade Bank of Iraq
272	Brigadier James Ellery CBE	Chairman	TurnKey LLC
273	Mr Khalil Nezir	Vice Chairman	UB Holding
274	Mr Ibrahim Nathir	PA	UB Holding
275	Ms Yasmine Siddiqi	BDO	UK Export Finance
276	Mr Aows Abdallah	Regional Director EMEA	Unihouse Global
277	Dr Sherine Chaar	Assistant Professor and Director of Professional and Executive Education Centre	University of Kurdistan Hewler
278	Mr Ahmed Gailani	Research Fellow	University of Leeds
279	Dr. Rawaa Qasha	Associated Professor & Director of Scholarships and Cultural Relations	University of Mosul
280	Mr Firas Aburagheef	CEO	West Al- Qurna Oil Services Co
281	Mr Ellis Renforth	President, Operations	Wood Plc
282	Ms Steph Crawford	Marketing and Communications Manager	Wood Plc





# SPEAKER PROFILES

Tuesday 2nd July 2024

## CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY



### **Mr Christophe Michels, IBBC Managing Director**

Mr Christophe is the Managing Director, Iraq Britain Business Council (IBBC). Christophe helped establish the IBBC in 2009 and joined its board of directors in 2017. Prior to IBBC, Christophe headed Baroness Nicholson's political office in the European Parliament (EP). In 2008 he worked for the EP as a consultant in the Iraqi Council of Representatives. He observed the 2012 elections in Yemen, and volunteered for the Amar Foundation in Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and the USA, and for the Russian Booker Prize in Moscow. In 2023 he established the Ukraine Britain Business Council with Baroness Nicholson. Christophe graduated from the Lycée Franco-Allemand in Paris and studied History and Art History in Berlin, Amsterdam & Duesseldorf.

## WELCOME ADDRESSES



### **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, IBBC President**

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne is President of IBBC, which she founded in 2008. Her lifetime interest in Iraq stems from the ancient civilisation and continuing culture the region offers. Her professional training in music and high level computer software development alongside political and charitable responsibilities led to two decades of elected posts in the UK, European and Council of Europe Parliaments. She founded the AMAR International Charitable Foundation to provide health and education to refugees and internally displaced victims of war, in Iraq and elsewhere. She is an active member of the House of Lords and has other outside responsibilities.



### **Alderman Alexander Barr - Cordwainer (Elected 2022)**

Alexander Barr (Alex) is a partner at Sarasin & Partners LLP, a leading wealth manager. He leads Sarasin's private markets arm, Sarasin Bread Street, a business he co-founded in 2021. He previously held global and investment leadership roles at Aberdeen (now abrdn), Deutsche Asset Management and Janus Henderson. Over his 31-year investment management career he has developed and led successful investment platforms, has run private and public markets portfolios for pension funds, government agencies and endowments and has managed the portfolios of five LSE and NYSE listed investment funds. Alex has an extensive governance and oversight track record spanning audit & risk, pensions, education, charity and investments. He has acted as a non-executive director on multiple private equity corporate structures, previously sat on the Investment Association's Investment Committee and set up and chaired a substantial group DC pension plan.



### **H.E. Hayan Abdul Ghani Al-Sawad, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Oil**

Hayan Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Zahra Al-Swad was born in Basra in 1958 and holds BSc and MSc degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Basra. With over 40 years of experience in the oil sector, he has held several key positions, including Director General of South Oil Company (SOC) and Basra Gas Company (BGC). He significantly increased crude oil and gas production capacity in fields like Rumaila and West Qurna. Additionally, he played a crucial role in developing the Basra Natural Gas Complex and implementing modern oil calibration systems.



**H.E. Dr Mohammed Shukri, Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board**

Dr Mohammed Shukri, Chairman of the board, Iraq Council of Ministers, Board of Investment, Kurdistan Regional Government. Practicing government work since 2001, he was the Director of the Follow-up and Planning Department at the Ministry of Interior, after which he became the Director of the Strategic Research Department in the Kurdistan Region Security Council. In 2011, he became the General Director of the Anti-Corruption and Organized Crime Department in the region, also, he worked as an effective member of the Economic Reforms Committee in the Kurdistan Region's Presidency for the years 2011 to 2019. He is now the Chairman of the Kurdistan Investment Board in the 9th cabinet of Kurdistan regional government.



**Mr Rupert Soames OBE, President, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)**

Rupert joined Serco as Group Chief Executive on 1 May 2014, tasked with turning around what was, at the time, a troubled business. Over the last four years, Serco has been transformed into a specialist supplier of services to Government in Health, Defence, Transport, and Justice and Immigration. He joined Serco from Aggreko plc, the temporary power business, where he served 11 years as Chief Executive. During his tenure at Aggreko, the market capitalisation of the business increased from £450 million to over £5 billion



**Dr Amet Selman, AAA Holding Ltd**

Chief Executive Officer Leader, AAA Holding Group LTD, London. Talented owner with excellent marketing, customer service and facility oversight skills and more than 20 years of experience. Mr Amet is leading the first British investment in fertiliser in Iraq. Highly effective and comfortable working with people at all levels in organization. Furthermore, he obtained a medal of honor from USA Army Iron Thunder Airborne for building military bases for USA Army in Baghdad in 2004. Studied Master of Business: Project Management from Charters University - England in 2012 and have Bachelor of Science: Civil Engineering from Baghdad College - Collage Of Engineering.

## *Keynote Address:*

### **The Rt Hon Lord Howell of Guildford**



Lord Howell of Guildford is the only Minister to have served in the Heath, Thatcher, and Cameron administrations. He has been deeply involved in government foreign policy, energy policies, and the Commonwealth. Notably, he served as Energy and Transport Secretary under Thatcher and as Foreign and Commonwealth Minister of State in the 2010 Coalition Government. He has also held several significant positions, including President of the UK Energy Industries Council and Chair of the Windsor Energy Group. Lord Howell is a former Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and has been honored by the Emperor of Japan. He advises several international companies and is the author of numerous books on energy and international relations

## *Kurdistan Regional Government Round Table Discussion*

### **Chairman: Mr Jonathan Wilks CMG, Senior Advisor, IBBC**



Jon Wilks has been Registrar and Azman Hashim Fellow in International Relations at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies since January 2024. He is also a Distinguished Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute.

He retired from HM Diplomatic Service in 2023 after 34 years working mostly on the Middle East. He was British Ambassador to Qatar (2020-23), Iraq (2017-19), Oman (2014-2017) and Yemen (2010-11). He was also Special Envoy for Syria (2012-2014). Jon worked in and on Iraq more than any other country and has been captivated by its history and its people. He is fluent in Arabic and continues to be active in building UK relations with the Middle East.

## *Finance Round Table Discussion*

### **Chairman: Mr Ardil Salem, Hogan Lovells International LLP**



Ardil Salem is a Partner at Hogan Lovells International LLP, based in its London office. He is a highly experienced commercial disputes lawyer, whose practice focuses on high-value, complex and multi-jurisdictional corporate and commercial litigation. Ardil has significant experience of disputes and investigations emanating from emerging markets, and particularly from the Middle East and Africa. Hailing from a British-Iraqi background, he speaks fluent Arabic and French, which assists when it comes to managing the sensitivities which are typically in issue in any contentious matter arising out of commercial dealings in the MENA region

### *Session 1: Energy*



**Chairman: Dr Luay Al Khatteeb, Centre on Global Energy Policy - Columbia U.**

Dr. Luay al-Khatteeb is a former Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Columbia's Center on Global Energy Policy. Prior to this appointment he was former minister of Electricity & Member of the Federal Energy Council in the Republic of Iraq. Dr. Luay al Khatteeb is the founding director of Iraq Energy Institute, and a former Foreign Policy Fellow at Brookings Institution.

### *Panelists:*

**Mr Hassan Heshmat, Hydro-C Ltd**



Hassan Heshmat is CEO to group of British, Iraqi and UAE companies operating within energy sectors, established the family business in March 2013 in the UK, Scotland. Inspired by Shell company when established in 1903 as trading company. Evolved the business from trading only to trading and services, providing services to energy companies and IOCs at sites, with main focus on transitioning the energy sector to fully green, renewable and sustainable by 2050. Introducing new technologies and innovations to energy sector which can help transform to greener solutions.

**Mr Andy Wiper, Basrah Gas Company**



Andrew is Chartered Engineer and Senior Leader with commercial acumen and wide leadership and transformation experience in the energy Industry. Technically accomplished with the ability communicate and influence at all levels. Mr Andrew has more than 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, most recently with Shell, and previously with the Shell-associated KPO in Kazakhstan.

**Mr Zaid Elyaseri, BP**



Zaid Elyaseri is President for BP Iraq and responsible for managing BP's business integration in Iraq where BP is the lead contractor for developing the Rumaila oil field, Iraq's largest field contributing over 40% of Iraq's production. Mr. Zaid is responsible for driving business agenda in Iraq, working closely with key energy officials in country. He also held various central and regional roles within BP and was involved in starting up the Rumaila business.



**Mr Ellis Renforth, Wood Plc**

Ellis Renforth, Wood's President of Operations in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Ellis became President of Operations for Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) at Wood in 2022, after serving three years as Senior Vice President of the company's upstream business in the UK and Europe. He leads a team of over 7,000, focusing on operations, decarbonisation, and asset optimisation. With over 20 years of industry experience, including senior roles at Aker Solutions and CNOOC International, Ellis is dedicated to delivering sustainable growth through smart operations solutions across various sectors. He prioritizes safety, employee engagement, and career development.



**Ms Dunia Chalabi, TotalEnergies**

Dunia is TotalEnergies' current Managing Director and Company representative in Iraq, based in Baghdad. As such Ms. Chalabi is in charge of the Company's assets, new business developments, and lead to the negotiations on the multienergies Gas Growth Integrated Project (GGIP). Prior to taking the role of Managing Director, she held several positions within TotalEnergies including Sherpa to the CEO on Multilateral Affairs, Advisor to the Middle East President and Director of Government Relations to the President of Marketing, Distribution and New Energy Branch. She has been responsible for the French Iraqi business Council with the Medef International since 2010.

***Education & Skills Roundtable Discussion (North Drawing Room)***



**Chairman: Professor Mohammed Al Uzri, IBBC Health and Education Advisor**

An Honorary Professor with College of Life Sciences at the University of Leicester and is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Associate Medical Director at the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Prof. Al-Uzri has significant experience working on various initiatives in Iraq including having coordinated, delivered and advised on numerous health and education developments in Iraq since 2003 and modernising medical education in Iraqi universities. Prof. Al-Uzri's vast experience in the sectors of health and education in the UK and Iraq, as well as a determined desire to improve the situation of Iraqis, makes him an ideal candidate to help IBBC facilitate lasting and effective changes in the areas of health and education.



**Speaker: Professor Hamid Khalaf, PM Advisor & Executive Director**

Hamid is the Executive Director of the Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq and an advisor to the Prime Minister. Previously, he served as Secretary General for the Council of Ministers (2014-2015) and Chief of Staff for the former Prime Minister (2010-2014). He is also the Prime Minister's advisor for Education and Higher Education, contributing to policy papers and the national education strategy with organizations like UNICEF, UNESCO, and the World Bank. He supervises the implementation of this strategy and directs the PM Initiative for educational development, which aims to send 10,000 students abroad on scholarships to meet strategic national needs. Hamid collaborates with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Education on educational reforms. As Deputy Chair for PMAC, Hamid has chaired national committees on public sector modernization with UNDP and USAID, good governance with UNDAF, and federalism under a Canadian grant. His international experience includes extensive travel, public relations, and diplomacy.

## *Session 2: Climate Change & AgriTech*



### **Chairman: Mr Richard Cotton, AAA Holding Ltd**

Richard Cotton joined IBBC in September 2014 as Commercial Adviser having spent the previous eighteen months as Head of Marketing and Leasing on the Basra International Oil and Gas Free Zone project which introduced him to the Iraq business world. Richard is a Chartered Surveyor by profession and has spent much of his professional career advising on major property development projects throughout the MENA region.

### *Panelists:*

### **Dr Fareed Yasseen, Iraqi Government's Climate Envoy**

Advisor to the Iraqi PM and Iraqi Climate Change Envoy, Iraq's Ambassador to the United States of America from November 2016 till 2022. He served as the Ambassador of Iraq to France between 2010 and 2016. Worked as a researcher in the field of physics, and as a consultant in the field of technology management. He also served as Director of the Information Program at the United Nations Secretariat on Climate Change and as a consultant at the RAND Corporation. He was a consultant at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. He is the founder and director of mafqud.org.

### **Dr Shamal Mohammed, Silal**

Shamal Mohammed is one of the UK's leading experts in digital agriculture. He is Chief Technical Officer at Agri-EPI Centre, one of the UK's four Centres of Agri-Tech Innovation. In this role, he drives Agri-tech innovation through engagement with farmers and technology providers to develop and upscale digital products and services to improve food production systems and environmental sustainability. Shamal has PhD (Cranfield University, 2010) and strong expertise in technologies applications in agriculture including smart sensors, earth observation, drones, and robotics and automation and their application in the UK and international settings, including on Agri-EPI led Smart Farms in China and Paraguay.

### **Mrs Sara Akbar, Oilserv**

Sara Akbar is the Chief Executive Officer, co-founder and Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Energy Company (KEC). Established in Kuwait in August 2005, KEC is a multi-national, independent, Oil & Gas Exploration and Production company. Sara has garnered over 30 years of experience in upstream operations, holding several senior positions within Kuwait Oil Company and KUFPEC (Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co.).



### *Session 3: Finance*



#### **Chairman: Mr Ardil Salem, Hogan Lovells International LLP**

See bio on page 20

### *Panelists:*



#### **Prof. Frank Gunter, IBBC Advisory Council;**

Fank R. Gunter is a Professor of Economics, a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a retired U.S. Marine Colonel. After receiving his Doctorate in Political Economy from Johns Hopkins University in 1985, Frank joined the faculty of Lehigh University where he teaches Principles of Economics, Economic Development, and the Political Economy of Iraq. He has won four major and multiple minor awards for teaching excellence. Based on his two years in Iraq as an economic advisor to the US Government, Frank wrote *The Political Economy of Iraq: Restoring Balance in a Post-Conflict Society* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013). This book was published in both English and Arabic and was selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title" by Choice magazine. His most recent work, "Immunizing Iraq Against al Qaeda 3.0" (*Orbis*, 2018, Vol. 62, No. 3, pp. 389-408), discusses the possible economic causes of political instability in Iraq. Frank is married with three children and his family shares their Pennsylvania home with over 4,000 books.



#### **Mr Bilal Al-Sugheyer, IFC**

Bilal al-Sugheyer, a Jordanian and Palestinian national, has over 20 years of global experience in investment, corporate and Small and Medium Enterprises finance and banking advisory support accumulated over his career in IFC, financial and regulatory institutions. Mr. al-Sugheyer joined IFC in 2006 as an Operations Officer in IFC's Financial Infrastructure Group covering the Middle East and Northern Africa, Eastern Europe and Africa, focused on banking and financial infrastructure Advisory Services. He later moved to become an Investment Officer covering financial markets in MENA, Africa and Eastern Europe. Over and starting 2020 was appointed as IFC's Resident Representative in Iraq.



#### **Mr Jamil Choucair, Standard Chartered Bank**

Jamil Choucair, General Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the banking industry. Strong finance professional skilled in Banking, Credit Analysis, Commercial Banking, Trade Finance, and Credit with a solid network within key stakeholders and clients in the region.



### ***Session 4: Transport***

**Chairman: Prof. Frank Gunter, IBBC Advisory Council**

See bio on page 23



### ***Panelists:***

#### **Mr Tugrul Titanoglu, CJ-ICM**

Tugrul Titanoglu, Chief Operating Officer of the CJ ICM Group, is a logistics professional specializing in the Oil & Gas, Power Generation, and Defense industries, with over 25 years of experience. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Marmara University in Istanbul and worked in the finance industry before transitioning to logistics. Since 2003, Tugrul has been a pivotal figure in the transformation of Iraq's logistics landscape. He has spearheaded teams that executed critical logistics and mechanical operations for landmark projects, such as the New Basra Refinery (2021-2024), Karbala Refinery (2016-2018), Besmayah 4500 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (2016-2022), Majnoon Oilfield CPF 2 (2019-2021), West Qurna II Oilfield FCP 1 (2015-2018), and MOE IDP/POC 132/133 KV substation (28) projects (2018-2023). Tugrul's tenure also includes the development of Garraf Oilfield FCPI (2010-2012) and significant contributions during the Iraq CPA period with projects like Cetac I/II, KICC, and RIO, in collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers, KBR, and USAID (2003-2008). Beyond Iraq, Tugrul has successfully managed similar high-stakes projects in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and across East and West Africa.



#### **Mr Steve Alexandar, Sardar Group;**

Steve is responsible for the development of the central and south regions of Iraq on behalf of Sardar Trading Agencies and Jaguar Land Rover. This includes the management of a new, "state of the art facility" in Baghdad and the future representation in further cities. Steve has more than 35 years automotive experience in international markets, both mature and emerging. He is also well versed in the establishment of new business from company registration, through to employee recruitment in addition to importation and type-approval processes. His current area of focus is the changing face of automotive retailing and the role of digitalization.



### ***Round Table Discussion on Iraq's Exchange Rate Challenges***

**Chairman: Prof. Frank Gunter, IBBC Advisory Council**

See bio on page 23



## Heritage Session



### **Chairman: Professor Mohammed Al Uzri, IBBC Health and Education Advisor**

See bio on page 21

## Panelists:



### **Professor Mark Jackson, Newcastle University**

As a Professor of Byzantine Archaeology, Mark is responsible for teaching, research, and mentoring students. Additionally, they direct the Archaeology MA Programmes, overseeing curriculum development and student admissions. Mark also co-curates the Gertrude Bell Archive, preserving and managing documents and artifacts related to Gertrude Bell. Mark serves as the Honorary Secretary of the British Institute at Ankara, engaging in administrative duties and organizing scholarly events to advance research in archaeology and history. From 2020 to 2023, Mark served as the Head of Archaeology at Newcastle University. Prior to that, they were a Senior Lecturer (2017–2023) and a Lecturer (2005–2017) in Archaeology. Mark's academic career at Newcastle began as a Research Fellow at the AHRB Centre for Byzantine Cultural History (2004–2005). Mark was on the Executive Committee of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies (2009–2012) and served as a Visiting Scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge in 2009. Additionally, they were a member of the Council of the British Institute at Ankara (2006–2009).

### **Professor Mark Horton, Royal Agricultural University**



Mark Horton is the PVC for Research at the Royal Agricultural University – and was formally professor of archaeology at The University of Bristol. He is an expert on Islamic archaeology, especially in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf regions, and has worked for many years in East Africa, directing excavations at Islamic port cities. Mark also has had a media career, presenting TV programmes on the BBC since 2002, as well as other channels in UK and USA, and is a passionate advocate for the public understanding of history and heritage.

### **Dr John MacGinnis, Nimrud Archaeological Trust**



Dr MacGinnis is a specialist in ancient Mesopotamian (Iraqi) archaeology, with a particular expertise in the period of the Assyrian Empire (ninth to seventh centuries BC). He is currently Senior Curator in the Department of the Middle East in the British Museum, as well as Research Fellow in Cambridge University's McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. He has over thirty years' experience as an archaeologist across the Middle East, of which more than fifteen have been in Iraq, including as Archaeological Advisor to the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalisation and, from 2016 to 2021, directing the work of the Darband-i Rania Archaeological Project.

## *Principal Sponsor*



AAA Holdings Group is a UK-registered company established by founder and CEO Amet Selman and Reggad Selman, Operations Director, with the support of external investors and international bank finance.

In 2022, it opened a fertiliser production unit in Khor Zubair, in partnership with the State Fertiliser Company, with a capacity of 750,000 tonnes per year, producing a full range of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilisers. The factory is currently undergoing an expansion programme which will increase production to 1,000,000 tonnes per year.

Its output is primarily sold to the GOI Ministry of Agriculture, which then distributes to Iraqi farmers, but also to the private sector.

The company has recently established businesses in Canada and the USA. It currently imports the raw materials for its production but is working on plans to exploit Iraqi raw materials.

The company is a member of the International Fertiliser Association and the Fertiliser Institute. Through these memberships, it continually investigates more efficient ways of producing and using its products to the benefit of its farmer customers, working closely with them to educate about promoting modern farming practices.

In 2023, Amet Selman was the recipient of the IBBC, Rasmi Al Jabri Award, recognising his business achievements and his significant contribution to the Iraqi private sector.

## Gold Sponsors



المصرف العراقي للتجارة  
TRADE BANK OF IRAQ  
بانكى عراقيو بازارگانى

Trade Bank of Iraq (TBI), wholly owned by the government of Iraq, was established in July 2003 to facilitate Iraq's international trade and the reconstruction of the country after the expiration of the UN Oil-For-Food Program. Upon establishment, a consortium of international banks led by JPMorgan Chase Bank, New York assisted TBI in starting its operations. TBI quickly developed into a highly credible and effective organization and built banking relationships with reputable banks within geographical locations that serve our clients' interests and needs.

TBI has contributed to revitalizing the Iraqi economy by facilitating imports and exports and also through offering new and innovative services to the public and private sectors.



Hydro-C is a British family business operating from the United Kingdom, with offices in Iraq and UAE. Hydro-C was established in March 2013, focusing on supporting energy providers and operators worldwide with a focus on energy rich zones i.e. Middle East, GCC, Iraq and Kurdistan region. The company was established to bridge the gap between Middle East and the European markets by means of supplying and distributing specialised energy related products made in the UK, EU, USA and China. Our aim for 2022 is to transforming the conventional energy sector to greener and more sustainable by building solar powered solutions with privet and governmental departments.

Our vision is to merge green energy solutions with Oil and Gas operations, by offering renewable energy options to be used in the process of operations, maintenance and exploration for fossil fuel or in the process of petrochemicals. Then ultimately transform the sector into fully renewable clean energy.



CJ-ICM Logistics, a leading international logistics provider with over sixty years of proven experience, excels in project logistics. Headquartered in Dubai, UAE, the company operates in 18 countries through 35 strategically located offices, offering end-to-end logistics solutions with its own equipment and in-house engineering expertise. Specializing in heavy lift transportation, CJ-ICM is particularly focused on the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa regions.”

# *Travel Partner*



**LONDON SKY**

London Sky Aviation Agency, an approved consolidator in the travel and tourism sector, has been a key player in the region, offering unmatched services. Regarded as one of the leading Tour Operators in Kurdistan. Upholding the highest standards of services and product excellence, our growth has been led by the dedicated efforts of all our staff members, and our commitment to adhering to the highest professional standards and ethics.

The acknowledged performance in terms of customer satisfaction and a devoted focus to provide the finest tourism and travel experience has placed us in the to league of Inbound and Outbound Tour Operators in Kurdistan Reg.

# PRE-CONFERENCE RECEPTION SPONSOR

## Toyota Iraq تويوتا العراق

In March 2016, Toyota Iraq was established through a partnership between Sumitomo Corporation and Iraqi businessman, Mr. Sardar Al-Bebany, owner of Sardar Group. The company was established with the shared understanding and ambition to become the leading automotive company in Iraq to contribute for a better society. Toyota Iraq is the first exclusive and official distributor for Toyota, Lexus and Hino in Iraq.

تأسست تويوتا العراق في آذار 2016، من خلال شراكة بين شركة سوميتومو ورجل الأعمال العراقي ومالك مجموعة شركات سردار، السيد سردار البيباني، وتم الاتفاق بهدف وطموح مشترك لتصبح الشركة الرائدة لخدمات بيع وصيانة السيارات في العراق والمساهمة في مستقبل أفضل للمجتمع العراقي. تويوتا العراق هي الموزع الرسمي الأول والحصري لسيارات 2017 تويوتا ولكزس وهينو في العراق.



**Drive with Confidence**  
قيادة بكل ثقة



**Experience Amazing**  
تجربة مذهلة



**PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS**  
شراكة من أجل عمل مستدام



10 CITIES COVERED  
مدن تم تغطيتها



7 DEALERS AUTHORIZED  
وكلاء معتمدين



32 DEALER FACILITIES  
مطبات لوكلاء



## BORN WITH AN INSPIRATION TO CONSTANTLY INNOVATE

Sardar Group aims to build sustainable growth and become the leading company in the Iraqi market. We observe local laws and regulations while carrying out world-class business practices to satisfy our stakeholders. Our commitment extends to contributing to the broader Iraqi society through continuous business development and innovation. We strive to blend our local expertise with international approaches and treat people from all backgrounds and communities with respect and fairness. Additionally, we value our employees and provide them with opportunities to enhance their skills through corporate business, training, and education.

## OUR BUSINESS PORTFOLIO



JAPAN



TOTO



KOMATSU



MATERIAL HANDLING

TADANO



UK & EUROPE



VOLVO PENTA

USA



THERMO KING

POLARIS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# WHAT IS THE IRAQ BRITAIN BUSINESS COUNCIL?

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TOGETHER WE BUILD IRAQ  
معاً نبني العراق

Founded in 2009, the Iraq Britain Business Council brings together business, trade and investment, for the benefit of the Republic of Iraq and its members. It is a powerful network of some of the most important global corporations, Iraqi and British companies, chambers of commerce and universities and enjoys support from governments and international institutions. Committed to a free, prosperous and diverse Iraq, IBBC has created strong relationships to benefit business, industry and education for the people of Iraq. IBBC is more than a business initiator, it promotes best practice and international standards as well as transferring technology and know-how.

IBBC is fully funded by its members and is registered as a not for profit company in the UK with number 06929280 and as an NGO in Iraq with registration number 2D76104.

**COUNCIL OF MEMBERS**

Company	Principal Activities	Contact
AAA Holding Group	Fertilisers	Mr Amet Selman
Alzaman Group	General Trading	Mr Abdullah Shaban
Al Busttan	Oil & Gas	Mr Ismael Al Busttan
Al Burhan Group	Logistics, life support	Mr Abir Burhan
Al Hadeel Al Hasan LLC	Legal Services	Mrs Hadeel Hasan
Alkhorayef Group	Agriculture, Energy, Manufacturing	Mr Salaheldin A. Eisa
Al Maseer Insurance Company	Insurance	Mrs Sarah Safa
Basra Gateway Terminal	Logistics	Mr Romeo A. Salvador
Basrah Gas Company	Oil & Gas	Mr Bashar Kassab Hasan
Bath Spa University	Higher Education	Professor John Strachan
BP	Oil & Gas	Mr Zaid Elyaseri
Cambridge City Company for educational services	Education	Ms Chapka N.Othman
CISQ - Cambridge International School	Education	Dr Kodo S Aziz
Control Risks	Security	Mr Chris Boaler
CJ-ICM	Logistics	Mr Altug Sozalan
DAAX	Construction	Mr Hossein Gozal
Defaf Alkhaleej Security	Security	Mr John Kitchen
Dolavon GB	Financial Services	Mr Jorge Vila
Etihad Law	Legal Services	Mr Ahmed Hankawi
ENKA UK	EPC O&G / Energy/ Infrastructure	Mr Mustafa Kevser
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