

**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY & PLANNING**

THE EIGHTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**1425 – 1430 H
2005 – 2009**

Preface

The Eighth Development Plan marks a new phase in the development process of the Kingdom. Since it was founded and unified by the Late King Abdul Aziz, achievements of the Kingdom have been truly impressive in a wide variety of sectors. His great sons followed in his footsteps and went on to build on the strong foundations laid by him. As a result, the Kingdom has made remarkably wide-ranging economic, industrial and development advances; along with ever rising aspirations for continued improvement in living standards and quality of life of Saudi citizens in all regions of the country.

The achievements have been a result of joint government-private sector efforts. Indeed, public-private partnership has led to outstanding increases in output and expansion of production capacities in all economic sectors. Measured by any criterion, achievements in key areas of national welfare, including provision of infrastructure and public services and enhancement of living standards and quality of life, stand out as striking testimony to the success of the state role in development.

The private sector has also grown remarkably in size; expanded its range of activities; and improved its competitiveness and the effectiveness of its developmental role. In addition, institutional development, administrative reforms, sound government economic policies and economic and social stability have all helped create a favorable environment capable of enhancing and sustaining the achievements made.

Against the background of these achievements and the underlying challenges, the Eighth Development Plan has been prepared in the context of a long-term vision and economic and developmental strategy geared to achieving sustainable development. In its quest for greater national welfare, the Plan draws on the set of Objectives and Strategic Principles approved by Council of Ministers Resolution 175 of 27/6/1424. It is also inspired by the speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques at the inauguration of the third year of the third session of the Shourah Council, and the concept paper of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on

higher education. Furthermore, it draws on the conclusions and recommendations of the Symposium on the Future Vision, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Planning under the patronage of HRH the Crown Prince, as well as on Resolutions of the Shourah Council on development plans and its follow-up reports of plan implementation. The Plan has also been designed to be in line with approved strategies, such as the Strategy on Improving Living Conditions of All Citizens, the Privatization Strategy, the National Spatial Strategy, and the Manpower Development Strategy.

Emphasis is placed on several priorities; key among which are: improving living standards and quality of life and providing job opportunities to all Saudi citizens; expansion of education, training, health and social services, both quantitatively and qualitatively; expansion in applied and technological sciences; and furtherance of initiative and creativity in all spheres. In addition, the Plan lays stress on keeping pace with the fast momentum of global economic and technological developments, diversification of the economic base, and improving productivity and boosting competitiveness of the national economy. Considerable attention is given to promising areas, such as strategic and manufacturing industries, particularly energy-intensive industries; the natural gas industry; mining; tourism; and information technology.

Contribution of the private sector to economic and social development is another area of focus. Continued development of laws, rules and regulations on investment; accelerated implementation of the privatization strategy; continued improvement of the efficiency of financial services; and intensive provision of technical assistance to enhance competitiveness of domestic producers are all emphasized.

As key factors for increased output and productivity, and for further improving investment prospects, the Plan focuses on development of the science and technology system and of informatics, on support and promotion of scientific research, and on the drive for a knowledge-based economy. It also envisages that continued expansion and maintenance of infrastructure and services would be in response to demand, in such a way as to contribute to further growth and improved efficiency of all goods producing and services sectors.

Particular stress is placed on increased participation of women in the economy; providing greater employment opportunities for women; and strengthening the family role in society, through upgrading capabilities of Saudi women and removal of constraints on their increased participation in economic and development activities.

The Plan envisages that the Kingdom would continue to implement economic reforms, support the private sector, and maintain economic stability. Moreover, efforts to maintain prudent, balanced state budgets and sustainable balance of payments equilibrium and to keep inflation at its current low levels would continue.

The Plan foresees improved prospects for a successful outcome of the negotiations for the Kingdom's accession to the World Trade Organization. It also envisages that the Kingdom would pursue stronger cooperation with all regional blocs and with Arab and Islamic countries in general, along with closer integration with GCC states in particular.

Indeed, the Plan ushers in a new phase in the development process initiated over three decades ago. It constitutes the first link in a strategic path for the national economy, extending well into the next two decades and involving four successive five-year development plans. This approach marks a step forward for the strategic planning methodology adopted by the Kingdom.

The Plan is keen to combine development-oriented change with continuity. Thus, while continuing to underscore growth, diversification of the economic base, and balanced regional development, it seeks to speed up economic transformation and modernization. It also highlights the challenges that, faced with unrelenting globalization, the development process may encounter in the coming phase.

It should, however, be stressed that planning is in essence a continuous process, not a one-off, isolated event. Success of development plans is measured by achievements, not by good intentions; and is judged by results, not financial allocations. Thus, whether the intended impact of the Eighth Development Plan will materialize depends on the determination and resolve with which implementation is pursued.

The planning experience of the Kingdom has been one of continuous orderly advancement, within an overall temporal and spatial framework that brings together sectors and regions and links up efforts across successive years. Indeed, outstanding achievements over the full range of economic and social development have been many. Yet, further work and continuous efforts are needed to maintain momentum. The Eighth Development Plan is intended to support this endeavor, with public-private partnership playing an important and effective role.

Development is not only about building factories, dams, roads, and other infrastructure. It, rather, focuses on people, and has satisfaction of material, cultural and spiritual needs as its basic objective. In other words, the human element and the human dimension are the substance of development.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the fruitful cooperation of all Government and private sector agencies involved in Plan preparation, and the valuable, effective contribution made by all these agencies. My appreciation goes also to the devoted efforts made by the staff, advisors and experts of the Ministry of Economy and Planning.

I should also like to point out that the achievements of the development process would not have been possible without the prudent guidance and continuous support given by the wise leadership of our dearly cherished country.

KHALID M. AL GOSAIBI
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING

SAUDI FISCAL AND HIJRA YEAR DATES AND GREGORIAN EQUIVALENTS

SAUDI FISCAL YEAR	STARTS ON *	GREGORIAN YEAR
<u>Seventh Development Plan Period 1420/21 to 1424/25</u>		
1420/21	23 Ramadan 1420	2000
1421/22	5 Shawwal 1421	2001
1422/23	16 Shawwal 1422	2002
1423/24	27 Shawwal 1423	2003
1424/25	8 Dhul-Qi'dah 1424	2004
<u>Eighth Development Plan Period 1425/26 to 1429/30</u>		
1425/26	19 Dhul-Qi'dah 1425	2005
1426/27	29 Dhul-Qi'dah 1426	2006
1427/28	11 Dul Hijjah 1427	2007
1428/29	22 Dul Hijjah 1428	2008
1429/30	4 Muharram 1430	2009

Hijra Months

Muharram
Safar
Rabi I
Rabi II
Jumada I
Jumada II
Rajab
Sha'aban
Ramadan
Shawwal
Dhul-Qi'dah
Dhul-Hijjah

Gregorian Months

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

* Dates are approximate for future years.

ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
KACST	King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology
LTS	Long Term Strategy
MA'ADEN	Saudi Arabian Mining Company
MCuM	Million Cubic Meter
MEPA	Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOEP	Ministry of Economy and Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOMRA	Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs
MOPMR	Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources
MW	Megawatt (One million watts)
NCWCD	National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development
LNG	Liquid Natural Gas
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PCA	Presidency of Civil Aviation
PIF	Public Investment Fund
MOPTT	Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones
MOWE	Ministry of Water and Electricity
R & D	Research and Development
REDF	Real Estates Development Fund
SAAB	Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank
SABIC	Saudi Basic Industries Corporation
SAGIA	Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority
SAMA	Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency
SANTRA PLAN	Saudi Arabian National Transportation Plan
SAPTCO	Saudi Arabian Public Transport Company

SASO	Saudi Arabian Standards Organization
Saudi ARAMCO	Saudi Arabian Oil Company
SAUDIA	Saudi Arabian Airlines
SCB	Saudi Credit Bank
SCECO	Saudi Electricity Company
SCI's	Specialized Credit Institutions
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SGS	Saudi Geological Survey
SIDF	Saudi Industrial Development Fund
SLI's	Specialized Lending Institutions
SMMA	Simulate Mean Marriage Age
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPA	Saudi Press Agency
STC	Saudi Telecom Company
SWCC	Saline Water Conversion Corporation
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WTO	World Trade Organization

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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