



Message from
His Highness Sheikh
Nasser Mohammed
Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah,
Prime Minister of Kuwait

It gives me great pleasure to welcome this special FIRST publication on Kuwait. It provides a fitting celebration of the warm and close relations between the United Kingdom and the State of Kuwait which have existed for more than a hundred years.

This relationship began to flourish towards the end of the 18th century and has developed steadily ever since that time. The first official treaty between Britain and Kuwait was concluded in 1841. Then, on January 23, 1899, the ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer (Mubarak the Great) signed an exclusive agreement with Great Britain. This treaty sealed the friendship between the two countries, and led to a formal commitment by Britain to the defence of Kuwait. Even after Kuwait's birth as an independent and sovereign nation, the strength of that relationship has endured.

This year Kuwait is celebrating three anniversaries: 50 years of independence, 20 years since liberation, and 5 years under the leadership of our beloved Amir.

As part of these celebrations, Kuwait will never forget the part played by the United Kingdom, on both the military and the diplomatic front, in the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. We remember the sacrifices of those brave men and women of the British armed forces who fought for our freedom, and we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to them for their bravery and devotion to duty. For the people of Kuwait, they will forever be in our hearts and minds.

We were delighted to welcome Prime Minister David Cameron to Kuwait in February this year. Our discussions were wide-ranging and fruitful, touching not only on our bilateral relations but also on fast-moving events in the Arab world. Following our talks, we also signed several economic and energy memoranda, which we anticipate

will double bilateral trade between both countries in the next two or three years. Kuwait's constitution provides guarantees to foreign investors and trade with Kuwait is very stable. All this creates a very positive environment for trade and investment.

Kuwait is in fact the United Kingdom's third largest trading partner in the Gulf. Additionally, Kuwaiti investment in the United Kingdom is both substantial and longstanding. Our investment office in London was opened as long ago as 1953. Today, we manage numerous investments across the United Kingdom.

The joint agreements we signed in February aim to further deepen and strengthen our economic and commercial links, both as regards trade and in respect of energy. Concerning the latter, we will be setting up a joint Kuwaiti-UK Trade and Investment Task Force that will support the joint venture between BP and Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC) for the development of Kuwait's Burgan oil fields.

Globally, Kuwait is committed to international aid and development. Founded in 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is the first institution in the Middle East to take an active role in international development, providing valuable financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

In this special year of celebration, Kuwait is keen to build on these achievements and attain new heights. Kuwait deeply values its longstanding ties with the United Kingdom and looks forward to fostering these links yet further. That is also true of relations with our many friends and allies, both in the region and across the globe. Above all, we will continue to work for the security and stability of our world. Only then can all our peoples, in freedom, enjoy lasting peace and growing prosperity. **E**