

# WIRTSCHAFTSFORUM NAH- UND MITTELOST<sup>©</sup>

No. 1 – January / February 2008

C 46321

## Contents

<b>Saudi Arabia:</b> A milestone in the Saudi-German Relationship	1
<b>Editorial</b>	3
<b>Personalities</b>	3
<b>UAE:</b> What can Germany do to attract UAE investment	4
<b>UAE:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emirates in Germany	8
<b>Kuwait:</b> Kuwait finalises plans to build city metro	8
<b>Saudi Arabia:</b> A milestone in the Saudi-German Relationship	10
<b>Saudi Arabia:</b> The rise of Saudi Arabia's six Economic Cities	12
<b>Tunisia:</b> The mega-projects of Tunisia	14
<b>Turkey:</b> Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Countries' Court and Arbitral Awards in Turkey	15
<b>Iran:</b> General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific-Broadcasting Union (ABU) in Iran	16
<b>Palestine:</b> Economic Delegation from the Palestinian Territories	18
<b>Jordan:</b> The visit of his majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	20
<b>Energy:</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> European Forum on Energy Security	22
<b>UAE:</b> Second meeting of the Emirati German Friendship Society	23
<b>News &amp; Projects</b>	24
<b>Tunisia:</b> The mega-projects of Tunisia	27
<b>Wassermanagement und Wassertechnik im Nahen und Mittleren Osten</b>	27
<b>News in brief</b>	28
<b>Exchange rates</b>	28
<b>German-Turkish University</b>	28
<b>Pakistan:</b> Pakistan's growth performance over the last five years	29
<b>Business page</b>	30
<b>Business enquiries</b>	30
<b>NUMOV-DIRECTORY of German Companies in the Near and Middle East</b>	31
<b>NUMOV Services</b>	32
<b>Application form for members</b>	32
<b>Introducing a NUMOV member:</b>	
SICK AG	33
Imprint	34
Board	34
Services for NUMOV members	34

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## A Milestone in the Saudi-German Relationship

*H.H. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud presents Saudi economic reforms in Germany*

*by Natascha Braumann*



*H.H. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia*

**H.H. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud**, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia, visited Berlin from the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2007. During this time, he met with numerous German representatives, including Germany's President **H.E. Horst Köhler**, **H.E. Chancellor Angela Merkel**, Foreign Minister **H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier** and the mayor of Berlin, **Klaus Wowereit**. It was the first official visit of a Saudi King to Germany since the visit of H.H. King Khaled in 1980. H.H. King Abdullah had come to Germany at the invitation of H.E. Chancellor Angela Merkel, who

herself had visited Saudi Arabia in February 2007. During their discussions, both emphasized the excellent bilateral relations between Germany and Saudi Arabia, as well as their desire to see their cooperation strengthened in the future, particularly in the economic domain. Germany imported Saudi goods worth 1.61 billion Euros in 2006, some 77.9% of it Saudi oil. However, Germany only meets 3% of its oil needs through imports from Saudi Arabia. Other Saudi exports to Germany are mainly made up by machinery and plastics. The volume of Saudi exports to Germany has risen sharply in recent

*continued on page 10*