



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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U.S. - ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROMOTES U.S. - JORDAN COMMERCIAL TIES

"We welcome the opportunity to work with the United States, our first partner in trade." – H.E. Yarub Qudah, Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply

"Today, we celebrate our strong economic ties and pave the way for future trade and commerce endeavors." – H.E. Dina Kawar, Jordan's Ambassador to the USA

*"The United States recognizes Jordan as a crucial partner in the Arab world."
– Acting Assistant Secretary of State Stuart Jones*

*U.S. – Arab Chamber Announces Plans to Lead a Trade &
Investment Mission to Jordan on September 25 – 29*

Washington, DC – During a recent reception co-hosted by the Embassy of Jordan and the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC), the Chamber announced that it will lead a trade & investment mission to Jordan on September 25 – 29. The announcement was made at the Embassy of Jordan during a reception in honor of H.E. Yarub Qudah – Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply – and an accompanying delegation of 35 business representatives drawn largely from the Jordan Chamber of Industry and the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan. Organized under the auspices of Her Excellency Dina Kawar, Jordan's Ambassador to the United States, the reception drew more than 100 high-level attendees, many of whom are members of the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce.



H.E. Yarub Qudah, Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply.

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During next month's trade & investment mission to Jordan, delegation members will network with senior government officials and leading businesses in Jordan, as well as hundreds of Arab and African delegates attending the first ever Arab – African Economic Forum to be held in the capital city of Amman. The mission will be organized by NUSACC in partnership with the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, and the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce (based in Beirut, Lebanon). For more information about this trade & investment mission, please click [HERE](#).

The Jordan – U.S. Partnership

In her welcoming remarks at the reception, Ambassador Kawar observed that “this gathering is a manifestation of the strong relationship that we share with the United States.” She has served as Jordan’s Ambassador in Washington for one year, she suggested, a year that has been marked by major changes around the globe. Throughout this period, she noted, the partnership between Jordan and the United States has been a source of continuity and stability in a sometimes turbulent region.

She expressed great appreciation to Minister Qudah for leading the Jordanian delegation to three cities – Chicago, Washington, and Detroit – and she thanked NUSACC for its longstanding and consistent support for the Embassy of Jordan’s efforts to promote commercial relations.



H.E. Yarub Qudah has been Minister of Industry, Trade, and

Supply since September 2016. The purpose of the mission to the United States was to create closer ties with U.S. companies in the following sectors: foodstuffs, agribusiness, packaging, chemicals and plastics manufacturing, and construction and engineering services.

The Minister extolled the bilateral relationship with the United States, telling reception guests, “The best way to strengthen the relationship is through linkages and partnerships between Jordanian and U.S. businesses. With all the challenges facing our region, we welcome the opportunity to work with the United States, our first partner in trade.” He went on to say, “We share the same values.”

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The reception drew more than 100 high-level attendees, including (from left to right): Greg Lebedev, Chairman, Center for International Private Enterprise; Ambassador Stuart Jones, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; H.E. Dina Kwar, Jordan's Ambassador to the United States; H.E. Yarub Qudah, Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply; Senator Issa Murad, Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce; David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO; Mohammed Bataineh, Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan; Rose Alissi, CEO, AmCham Jordan.

Mohammed Bataineh, Chairman of the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, stated, "The United States is our number one trading partner, despite the distance. Jordan stands ready to serve as a platform for rebuilding neighboring countries, including Iraq and Syria."



The Honorable Stuart Jones, former Ambassador to Jordan and currently the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, discussed the U.S. - Jordan partnership.

The Honorable Stuart Jones, former Ambassador to Jordan and currently the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, offered some brief remarks about his tenure in Jordan and the state of U.S. - Jordan relations. "The United States recognizes Jordan as a crucial partner in the Arab world," he noted, "and Ambassador Kwar is a tremendous asset for Jordan in this relationship."

David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC, offered concluding remarks. He highlighted the U.S. - Jordan partnership by citing an Arab proverb: "One hand alone cannot clap." He expressed deep appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Kwar and H.E. Minister Qudah for their proactive role in building the bilateral business relationship, and he pledged the Chamber's full support in this effort, including co-sponsorship of the evening's

reception. Finally, he invited members of the U.S. business community to participate in the upcoming trade & investment mission to Jordan.

Trade & Investment Mission: September 25 - 29

The September 25 - 29 mission will target the following sectors:

- Alternative Energy & Green Tech
- Healthcare & Medical
- Hospitality & Tourism, including Medical Tourism
- Information & Communications Technology
- Infrastructure
- Pharmaceuticals
- Security & Defense
- Water & Wastewater



Mohammed Bataineh, Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, helped to organize the trade mission of 35 Jordanian business representatives.

This mission will provide an excellent opportunity to meet potential partners in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, an important regional gateway to major markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, including but not limited to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and, eventually, Syria. Jordan's strategic location provides access to over one billion consumers in neighboring and global markets through its modern transportation systems and strong communication networks. Moreover, Jordan's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) ensures access of Jordanian goods and services to 161 world markets.

The Hashemite Kingdom is party to many bilateral and regional trade agreements that contribute to enhancing the international competitiveness of Jordanian exports and help to distinguish Jordan as an investment destination. Since the U.S. - Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force in 2001, bilateral trade has increased from less than \$400 million to over \$3 billion in 2016. U.S. goods exports to Jordan grew 9.28 percent in 2016 and, according to Ambassador Kawar, Jordan is one of the fastest growing economies in the Arab world.

Delegates in the trade and investment mission to Amman will network with corporate leaders, innovators, investors, and senior government officials in Jordan. They will also be invited to participate in the first Arab - African Economic Forum of its kind. To register for the NUSACC trade & investment mission, please click [HERE](#).

Recent NUSACC Roundtable on Jordan

In addition to co-hosting the reception with the Embassy of Jordan and leading a trade & investment mission to that nation in September, NUSACC recently hosted an Expert Roundtable that focused on some of the most promising sectors in the Jordanian economy. The Roundtable featured: H.E. Ambassador Kwar; the Honorable Alice Wells, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan until March, 2017; and H.E. Senator Na'el Raja Al Kabariti, Chairman of the Jordan Chamber of Commerce and President of the Union of Arab Chambers.

- For more information about the Roundtable, and to learn more about the Jordanian economy, please click [HERE](#).
- NUSACC's analysis of the most recent figures for U.S. – Jordan trade may be found [HERE](#).



Ambassador Kwar (center) with The Honorable Dwight Bush, Sr. (right), former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and current NUSACC Board member, and David Hamod (left), NUSACC President & CEO.

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To learn more about the benefits of membership in NUSACC, please click [HERE](#).

The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.

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