



# MBI AL JABER Foundation

Building bridges through education

***“The MBI Al Jaber Foundation helps the next generation of talent from the Arab world gain the freedom and opportunity to shape their future and that of their community, country and region.”***

H.E Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber – UNESCO Special Envoy

## Vision

We are striving for a future in which talented young men and women throughout the Arab world will enjoy the fundamental rights of freedom and opportunity. With education as a catalyst for change, we believe these people will be given the power to positively shape not only their own future, but that of their community, country and region.

In addition, the MBI Al Jaber Foundation seeks to bring people together from a diverse range of countries and cultures, in order to promote cultural dialogue. We want to contribute to an age of mutual understanding, where global misconceptions about the people of the Arab world are a thing of the past.

## Education

***“Education gives people the chance to define their future and take control of their destiny.”***

H.E Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber – UNESCO Special Envoy

The MBI Al Jaber Foundation firmly believes that education will be the catalyst for building a better tomorrow. Since the 1990s, we have given hundreds of promising students from the Middle East and North Africa the chance to continue their education in some of the best universities around the globe.

Today our graduates are performing important work in government, global politics, medicine, literature and scientific research. We are proud to have given them the chance to excel... and want to ensure that we give the same opportunities to as many people as possible.

Together with our trusted partners, we are also committed to offering support and financial assistance to elite institutions, seats of learning and a number of global initiatives.

## Cultural Dialogue

***“Dialogue is a lifeline for understanding and respect.”***

Irina Bokova – UNESCO Director General

We believe that greater understanding will be achieved through improved awareness and respect for each other's cultures. Only through open, inclusive and constructive dialogue can we seek to break down the barriers between the Middle East and the wider world.

Far more than simply a grant-giving organisation, we are also recognised as a respected hub of knowledge and expertise. We continue to work closely with partners such as the London Middle East Institute, 'Connecting Cultures' and the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, to promote cultural dialogue.



*The MBI Al Jaber Foundation is named after our Patron and Chairman, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber. Sheikh Mohamed began the work of the Foundation in order to promote better understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and the wider world... and to equip promising students from the Middle East with the skills, values and opportunities to both fulfil their own potential and then go on to help further the capabilities of future generations.*



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## Good Governance

*"Good Governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development."*

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General

Our expanding programme of seminars, lectures and conferences allow the exchange of best practice, information and ideas in a free-thinking environment where open debate is actively encouraged.

We recognise that good governance has an essential part to play in all aspects of life, not just in government or the corporate world. We also support good governance in communities; and believe in teaching people about their rights, and showing them how they can hold governments, institutions and organisations to account.

## History

The MBI Al Jaber Foundation is a British registered charity, based in London. The Foundation grew out of a scholarship programme developed in conjunction with the London Middle East Institute, SOAS, of which Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber is founding donor and patron. Sheikh Mohamed began these charitable works in order to promote better understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and the wider world... and to equip promising students from the Middle East with the skills, values and opportunities to both fulfil their own potential and then go on to help further the capabilities of future generations.

## Our Founder, Chairman and Sole Patron

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber is a Saudi entrepreneur and philanthropist who has successfully built an international business empire spanning Europe and the Middle East. He is founder, Chairman and CEO of the MBI Group, which has assets valued in excess of \$9Bn. The Group is a worldwide investment institution operating in the hospitality, real estate, finance, oil and gas and food industries.

## Board of Trustees

We are governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees. The Trustees are chosen for their expertise in education and good governance, and their extensive knowledge of the Middle East.

### **H.E Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber**

Patron and Chairman

### **Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham**

Chairman of Young Associates

### **Sir Tim Lankester**

Former Director of SOAS and President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford

### **Professor Peter Jones**

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh

### **Mr Steve Vogel**

Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright

### **Miss Mashaal Al Jaber**

Director of MBI International and Partners

## MBI Al Jaber Foundation

78-80 Wigmore Street,  
London W1U 2SJ UK

Tel +44 (0) 207 535 1599

Fax +44 (0) 207 725 0997

Email [info@mbifoundation.com](mailto:info@mbifoundation.com)

[www.mbifoundation.com](http://www.mbifoundation.com)

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