

U.S.-MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA TRADE & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

MR. NASIR ABBASI
COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS
U.S. EMBASSY RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. Nasir Abbasi, a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, is the Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In this capacity, Mr. Abbasi is accountable to the U.S. Ambassador for a number of mission-critical programs and commercial initiatives in Saudi Arabia and is responsible for maintaining and increasing U.S. investments. Within the Embassy he is the main point of contact for the Saudi Government and private sector leaders on commercial issues. Mr. Abbasi oversees an operation of 19 employees - both American and locally employed staff - operating in three offices in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran) and partnership post responsibility with Sanaa, Yemen. Mr. Abbasi has extensive knowledge of industry sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, telecommunications, automotive, defense and franchise. This is his third assignment to Saudi Arabia.

From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Abbasi served in Melbourne, Australia, where his commercial expertise was put to test during the negotiations and eventual implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between United States and Australia. He managed the States of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, nearly two thirds of the Continent, primarily focusing on the oil and gas, automotive and defense sectors.

From 1997 to 2002, Mr. Abbasi was assigned to Saudi Arabia as the Commercial Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran and as the Commercial Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Abbasi began his tenure with the U.S. Commercial Service in Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked with high-level business delegations organized by the U.S. Commercial Service around the world. Before joining the U.S. Commercial Service, Mr. Abbasi had five years experience working in the private sector. He worked for an international transportation firm based in Michigan and for a multinational corporation based in London, England.

A resident of Maryland, he received his MBA in International Business from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in Glendale, Arizona and his Bachelors Degree in Management from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida.