



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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+1 (202) 289-5920  
[info@nusacc.org](mailto:info@nusacc.org)



## NUSACC CO-CHAIRMAN APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW AUTHORITY FOR SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

***“I appreciate the Chamber’s expertise, and I will continue to draw on NUSACC as Governor,” Says Dr. Ghassan Ahmed Al-Sulaiman***

**Washington D.C.** — Dr. Ghassan Ahmed Al-Sulaiman, Co-Chair of the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) for more than a decade, has been appointed to serve as Saudi Arabia’s first Governor of the newly-created General Authority for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The mission of the SME Authority is to foster a greater role for startups and young companies in the Kingdom’s economy, which will contribute significantly to job creation and achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

Don DeMarino, the U.S.-based Co-Chairman of the NUSACC Board of Directors, noted, “It has been my privilege to serve as Co-Chair with Dr. Ghassan for many years. He has been a tireless and devoted Board Director, and we all greatly benefited from his wise counsel and vast experience as a respected businessman.” He concluded, “I have every confidence he will be outstanding as the first Governor of the important SME Authority.”

DeMarino made these comments last week at a meeting of NUSACC’s Board of Directors. At that meeting, the Board unanimously adopted a resolution that commended Dr. Ghassan’s appointment, praised his years of service to NUSACC, and welcomed him as an Honorary Board Member.



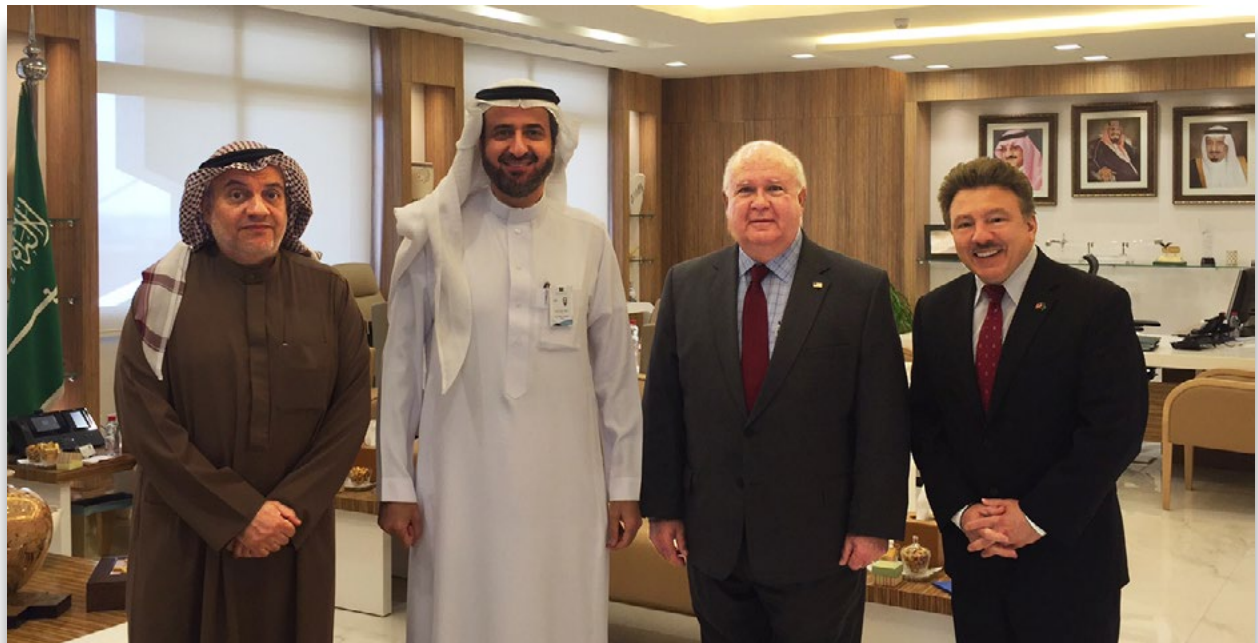
Dr. Ghassan Ahmed Al-Sulaiman, Governor of the General Authority for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

WASHINGTON D.C. (HEADQUARTERS) • HOUSTON • LOS ANGELES • NEW YORK • SALT LAKE CITY  
1101 17TH STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1220 • WASHINGTON D.C. 20036  
TEL: (202) 289-5920 • FAX: (202) 289-5938 • [WWW.NUSACC.ORG](http://WWW.NUSACC.ORG)

For his part, Dr. Al-Sulaiman said, “I have greatly enjoyed serving on the NUSACC Board of Directors, and I truly value the relationships and friendships that I have developed with the Chamber and its stakeholders over the years. Although I am stepping down as Co-Chairman because of my new appointment, I am pleased to continue my association with NUSACC by serving as an Honorary Member of the Board of Directors.”

Dr. Al-Sulaiman went on to say, “I appreciate the Chamber’s expertise, and I will continue to draw on NUSACC as Governor. Sustaining relationships like these will assist the SME Authority as we work to increase the number and effectiveness of SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Kingdom.”

This is not the first time that a NUSACC Co-Chairman has been tapped by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assume a senior government position. Dr. Al-Sulaiman’s predecessor, H.E. Abdullah Zainal Alireza, stepped down as NUSACC’s Co-Chairman in 2003 to become Minister of State, a member of the Council of Ministers, and then Minister of Commerce & Industry.



Left to right: Dr. Ghassan Al Sulaiman; Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, then Saudi Minister of Commerce and Industry; U.S. Ambassador Joseph Westphal; David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO.

Dr. Ghassan is a prominent Jeddah-based businessman who serves as Chairman of numerous companies, including Ghassan Ahmed Al Sulaiman Development Company (Ghassanco), the Saudi Venture Capital Investment Company, Siraj Capital Ltd., and the Venture Capital Bank. He is a former Chairman of the Savola Foods Company, the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and the Jeddah Marketing Board.

Dr. Ghassan brought IKEA to Saudi Arabia, and he has served as Sweden's Honorary Counsel in Saudi Arabia ever since. In recent years, in service to the Kingdom's promising youth, Dr. Ghassan sponsored [Qotuf](#), a non-profit venture designed to build sustainable entrepreneurship initiatives in Saudi Arabia.

David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC, celebrated the high-level appointment, saying, "Dr. Ghassan is the right man at the right time for Saudi Arabia. His expertise in guiding entrepreneurs over the years will serve him well in his new position." Hamod quipped, "NUSACC's loss is Saudi Arabia's gain, but our Chamber looks forward to the opportunity to support Dr. Ghassan in his exciting new mission."

To read more about Dr. Sulaiman's appointment, please [click here](#).

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To learn more about 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,*

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