

Press release: UK welcomes His Highness the Aga Khan for the opening of new academic centre in London

Foreign Office Minister for Human Rights Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon attended the official opening of the new Aga Khan Centre in King's Cross today (26 June) as part of the Diamond Jubilee tour of His Highness the Aga Khan.

The centre is a positive symbol of diversity, cross-cultural learning and shows Britain as a multicultural, multi-faith and tolerant nation.

The new development will be home to institutions and agencies including those of the non-profit Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of international agencies dedicated to improving the quality of life in the poorest countries of the world.

The UK Government works closely with the AKDN in Central Asia and Tanzania, as well as in Afghanistan where the Aga Khan Foundation implement Department for International Development (DfID) programmes including delivering an education programme under the Girls' Education Challenge.

Speaking at the opening, Lord Tariq Ahmad said:

The opening of this spectacular new building in London is a concrete example of the privileged relationship the UK enjoys with the Aga Khan and the Ismaili community and is the ideal way to mark the Diamond Jubilee tour of His Highness the Aga Khan.

The work we do together makes a huge difference to people's lives, not least in Afghanistan where 300,000 more girls are going to school thanks to our girls' education programme there.

One of the Foreign Secretary's key priorities is ensuring the world's poorest girls receive 12 years of quality education. Appallingly, 90% of world's poorest children leave school unable to read and write. That's why we've committed £500 million of UKaid to help over 1.5 million vulnerable girls to learn.

Also in attendance for the official opening were His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Mayor of London.

The new centre in King's Cross, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki includes gardens, terraces and courtyards inspired by different Muslim civilisations, although the centre will serve as an academic centre only and will not have a religious function. It brings together under one roof the

Aga Khan Foundation (UK), Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) and Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC).

Tomorrow His Highness will be attending a lunch at Lancaster House in his honour hosted by the International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, with Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary, Sir Simon McDonald, attending.

Notes to editors:

- The Aga Khan is celebrating 60 years as Imam of Shia Ismaili Muslims during 2017-18 by conducting official visits to countries where there are significant Ismaili communities including the UK, USA, Canada, Uganda, Tanzania, India, Pakistan and UAE.
 - The UK office of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) was established in 1973 to support the broader AKDN by forming strategic partnerships with UK and European institutional partners including government agencies, policy institutes, corporations, foundations, NGOs, universities, associations and professional networks.
 - The Aga Khan University (AKU) is an autonomous, not-for-profit university that promotes human welfare through research, teaching and community service. It operates in Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan and the UK. The AKU's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (ISMC) was established in 2002 and provides research and teaching on the heritage of Muslim societies including in contemporary environments, with a Master's programme in Muslim Cultures. The institute is listed with UKVI as an Overseas Provider as the degree is an AKU degree under its Pakistani charter. The AKU works with scholars abroad and in the UK including at Oxford, Cambridge and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
 - The Institute for Ismaili Studies (IIS) was established in 1977 to promote scholarship and learning of Muslim cultures and societies, historical and contemporary, and encourage a better understanding of their relationship with other societies and faiths. IIS collaborates with universities around the world and has two graduate programmes: Islamic Studies and Humanities and a joint double-Master's Degree Programme in partnership with University College London's Institute for Education.
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Press release: UK aid to help provide Gazans with access to clean water and sanitation

UK aid will help provide Palestinians living in Gaza with clean water, the Middle East Minister Alistair Burt announced today (Tuesday 26 June).

Today's support, an allocation of £2 million to UNICEF, will help ensure that the two million Palestinians in Gaza have access to safe water to drink and cook with.

There is a dire shortage of water in Gaza, where just 4 per cent of water in the strip is fit for human consumption and many families rely on buying dirty water from unregulated vendors.

This UK aid package will help:

- install over 1,000 roof water tanks to help families store clean water
- provide over 3,000 communal water drums so that households can collect clean water
- provide chlorine to treat water in 280 wells and 38 water treatment plants.

Minister Burt, who made the announcement in a Westminster Hall debate in Parliament earlier today, said:

With only 4 per cent of the water in Gaza fit for human consumption, people are left with no choice but to drink dirty water and risk falling victim to deadly water borne diseases.

Today's UK aid package will help provide the 2 million Palestinians in Gaza with access to safe, clean water and sanitation so they can feed and wash themselves and their children without fear of falling seriously ill.

But aid alone isn't enough and the rest of the international community must do all it can to help ease the people of Gaza's suffering. The UK is committed to helping achieve a peaceful two-state solution and we call on parties to urgently redouble their efforts to bring this suffering to an end.

In addition to today's package of support, UK aid in Gaza is already helping to repair water and wastewater pipes, provide chlorine for 70 wells and 20 desalination plants. It will also provide 1,300 water storage tanks and give 15,000 of the most vulnerable families essential hygiene items, such as soap, sanitary towels and shampoo as well as water treatment kits.

On a recent visit to Gaza Minister Burt also announced £1.5 million for the International Committee of the Red Cross to keep hospitals open and functioning following the recent surge in violence.

Notes to editors

The UK has allocated £2 million to UNICEF from the DFID OPTs 2018/19 budget.

In November 2017 the UK provided £1.9 million to UNICEF through the 2017 Gaza Crisis Urgent Appeal from the DFID OPTs 2017/18 budget.

News story: PM speech to Times CEO Summit: 26 June 2018

Introduction

As business leaders, you will understand exactly what the nineteenth century American politician Daniel Webster meant when, as a young man, he was considering what career to pursue.

After some thought, he decided to become a lawyer.

His friends told him it was a bad idea.

It was highly competitive. Most people who tried it did not succeed.

Hadn't he better choose a field in which it would be easier to find a place?

No, he replied. 'There's always room at the top.'

Real success does not come from setting your sights low.

It comes from striving to be the best.

That is what British businesses have always done.

You create the wealth and the jobs that provide the backbone of our economy.

Your innovation and creativity are vital ingredients in our success as a nation.

A Conservative government will always listen to your voice and back you every step of the way as you help grow our economy and create more good jobs.

And what's true for businesses is true for nation states in a globalised economy – to stand still is to fall behind.

The United Kingdom is not standing still.

In leaving the EU we are charting a new course in a changing world.

Brexit presents significant opportunities and I am confident that we can build a more prosperous and secure United Kingdom in the years ahead.

To do so, we must achieve the best Brexit deal, pursue our modern Industrial Strategy to deliver jobs and growth, and make sure our economy truly works for everyone in society.

The best Brexit deal

In the Brexit negotiations, we continue to make good progress.

You will each have conducted negotiations yourself, so you will know that they are never straightforward.

They are complex and can generate uncertainty.

But at every stage of the Brexit process we have sought to reduce uncertainty as much as possible.

Last week Parliament approved the EU Withdrawal Bill and today it will receive Royal Assent.

It will provide the legal certainty we need to ensure a smooth and orderly Brexit.

In December we achieved sufficient progress in the first phase of the negotiations, reaching agreement on the rights of EU citizens and UK citizens in Europe; on a good financial settlement for taxpayers; and on the need for no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

In March we reached agreement with the EU on an implementation period to ensure a period of time for business and citizens to adjust to the new relationship after we leave in March 2019.

Next month we will publish a White Paper setting out in detail what our future relationship with the EU should look like.

We have listened carefully to the voices of business throughout, and your input has helped to shape our negotiating position.

Our goal – a deep and special partnership that ensures trade remains as free and frictionless as possible and allows established patterns of trade to continue without disruption – is ambitious but it is achievable, because it is in the mutual interest of the UK and the EU.

To make a success of life outside the EU, and to fully seize the opportunities it will present, getting the right Brexit deal will be essential.

But this alone will not be sufficient. We also need to look to the future in a fast-changing world and ensure that our economy is ready to rise to the challenge of creating the jobs of tomorrow.

Our modern Industrial Strategy is our plan to do just that.

The Modern Industrial Strategy

It is rooted in the belief that free markets provide the best engine for growth, jobs and prosperity.

Its premise is very simple: for businesses to thrive, government has to step up and secure the foundations of productivity.

Providing an education system that works with business to deliver the rights skills mix for our economy.

Improving standards in our schools.

Encouraging diverse provision in higher education.

Transforming technical education with new high-quality T-levels that are every bit as good as A-levels, and Institutes of Technology to provide higher-level training.

Young people in school or in college today will start their careers in the economies of the 2020s and 2030s.

They will live to do jobs that do not yet exist, and may change sectors several times during their careers.

So our new national re-training scheme will help workers of all ages adapt their skills to the needs of the future.

We also need to deliver the infrastructure for growth – faster trains, bigger stations, better road connections, next generation mobile and broadband.

That is what we are doing with the biggest roadbuilding programme since the 1970s, the biggest investment in our railways since Victorian times, and a National Productivity Investment fund of over £30 billion to boost housebuilding and transform our digital infrastructure.

Last night the House of Commons backed building a third runway at Heathrow – a vote of confidence in the UK's determination to compete on an international stage and win new global trade in the years ahead.

We will also ensure that people have the homes they need in the places they want to live, by changing the planning rules and doing much more to turn planning permissions into bricks and mortar.

Housing is as an essential infrastructure investment within the Industrial Strategy. Making housing more affordable will free up resources for more productive investment and help people move homes more easily, leading to a

more productive workforce.

This will not deliver change overnight, but that is what Industrial Strategy is all about: taking action for the long-term that will pay dividends in the future.

The role of the state, however, goes beyond simply fixing those essential economic foundations.

Government, the private sector and academia working as strategic partners achieve far more than we would separately and alone.

To compete in a globalised economy and play to our historic strengths as innovators and pioneers, both the public and private sector need to invest in the ideas of the future.

So we have set an ambitious goal of lifting UK public and private research and development investment to 2.4 per cent of GDP by 2027.

To guide this joint endeavour, we are working with business and academia to develop the four Grand Challenges that sit at the heart of the modern Industrial Strategy.

These are four of the big drivers of social and economic change in the world today, which carry huge potential for economic growth if we face them head on.

First, artificial intelligence and the data revolution – which are transforming business models and employment practices.

Second, changes in the future of mobility – which are revolutionising how we travel and move goods.

Third, our ageing society – which makes new demands but also creates new opportunities.

And fourth, the revolution in clean growth that our commitment to fight climate change is driving.

By focusing our efforts on meeting these four Grand Challenges we can develop new exports, grow new industries, and create more good jobs.

We know that setting clear missions can drive human endeavour, leading to faster solutions to the problems we face.

So last month I set the first four missions in each of the Grand Challenge areas.

Saving lives by using data, AI and innovation to transform the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and dementia.

Helping people live independent lives for longer through new technology.

Cleaning our air by making all cars and vans effectively zero emission by 2040.

And protecting our planet by halving the energy use of new buildings by 2030.

These are ambitious goals to drive faster progress in delivering social improvements that will benefit everyone.

An economy that works for everyone

We should never forget that the primary purpose of our economic policy must be to raise the living standards and protect the livelihoods of the British people.

And for people to retain confidence in a free market economy, they must feel the benefits of it and see clearly that everyone is playing by the same rules.

This is more important now than ever.

When people become disenchanted by the economic system we have a choice – simple, populist answers that seek to smash that system – or reforming solutions that recognise people’s concerns as genuine and enlist the power of business to change itself for the better.

That’s why the Industrial Strategy makes spreading jobs and prosperity across the UK, especially to communities that have been left behind, a priority.

It is why we are strengthening the UK’s corporate governance regime, to give workers and shareholders a stronger voice and incentivise firms to take decisions for the long-term.

As employment practices evolve, that is why we are implementing the recommendations of the Taylor review, updating the rules so that good, rewarding, work remains available for all.

And from closing the gender pay gap and getting more women onto boards, to broadening the social and ethnic diversity of management – there is so much that you, as business leaders, can do to create an economy that is more deserving of public support.

Conclusion: being the best

The United Kingdom is a great country with a bright future.

After years of hard work and sacrifice from the British people, we can now move forward with our balanced approach to the public finances that gets debt falling while also investing in our public services.

The fruits of that labour have put us in the position to announce a major investment in our NHS – the public service we value most dearly – to secure it for the future.

That will not just deliver better care, it will also ensure that businesses have a healthy and productive workforce to draw from.

We are blessed with tremendous assets.

We speak the global language of business.

The Greenwich meridian puts us in the perfect time-zone for international commerce.

London is the world's premier financial hub.

We are home to the planet's finest universities.

We have produced more Nobel Prize winners than any country apart from America.

Our system of representative government is replicated around the globe.

Our courts set the gold standard for incorruptibility.

Our soft power is unrivalled.

Our cultural, intellectual, and technological contributions to the world are without equal.

And our ambition for the future is to be the very best we can be.

To get the best possible Brexit deal.

To build an economy that works for everyone.

There is room at the top of tomorrow's global economy for a country with our talents and ambition.

You all have a vital role to play in getting Britain there.

Press release: CSSP Brazil

O encontro aconteceu em Exeter, Inglaterra, e foi organizado pelo programa Climate Science for Services Partnership (CSSP), no âmbito do Fundo Newton. O evento integra o calendário do Ano Brasil-Reino Unido de Ciência e Inovação 2018/19.

O uso da ciência climática para auxiliar em políticas públicas de prevenção e mitigação de desastres naturais foi debatido entre cientistas do Brasil e do Reino Unido em um encontro em Exeter, na Inglaterra, no dia 25 de junho. Esta discussão integra o workshop anual do programa Climate Science for Services

Partnership (CSSP), programa de pesquisa climática que visa desenvolver modelos científicos conjuntos para análise de mudanças climáticas.

Este acordo bilateral de parcerias científicas para estudos climáticos é financiado pelos governos do Reino Unido e do Brasil, por meio do Fundo Newton, em parceria entre o UK Met Office Hadley Centre e três institutos subordinados ao Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovações e Comunicações (MCTIC): o Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), o Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE) e o Centro Nacional de Monitoramento e Alertas de Desastres Naturais (CEMADEN).

O objetivo da reunião foi estudar os resultados dos programas de cooperação atuais, e investigar formas de integrá-los às decisões políticas para auxiliar no planejamento contra possíveis ocorrências de desastres naturais. Nos próximos dois dias, o workshop estudará como aperfeiçoar os modelos científicos existentes para análise de mudanças climáticas para contribuir com a prevenção e redução de desastres associados à influência humana sobre o clima. “É essencial que os tomadores de decisão, do planejamento de contingência até os que respondem aos desastres, sejam capazes de utilizarem as melhores e mais robustas ferramentas científicas, e o CSSP Brasil está trabalhando para fornecer isso”, disse o diretor do Met Office Hadley Centre, o Prof. Albert Klein Tank. “O projeto está apoiando a Quarta Comunicação Nacional do Brasil para a Convenção-Quadro das Nações Unidas sobre Mudança do Clima. As melhorias da compreensão do que gera ganhos e perdas de carbono no Brasil fornecerão evidências que sustentem os esforços em direção às metas do Acordo de Paris”, explica Tank.

Estiveram presentes em Exeter representantes de todos os parceiros citados: o diretor do UK Met Office Hadley, Professor Albert Klein-Tank, a supervisora de Meteorologia e Clima, também do UK Met Office Hadley, Dra. Kirstine Dale, o diretor do Centro Nacional de Monitoramento e Alertas de Desastres Naturais (Cemaden), Dr. Osvaldo Luiz Leal de Moraes, o diretor do Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Luiz Renato França, e o diretor do Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE), Ricardo Magnus Osório Galvão.

O Fundo Newton, que financia o CSSP Brasil, tem como objetivo construir parcerias igualitárias em ciência e inovação e é administrado pelo Departamento de Negócios, Meio Ambiente e Estratégia do Reino Unido (BEIS). O evento em Exeter é parte do calendário do Ano Brasil-Reino Unido de Ciência e Inovação: uma oportunidade para que os países aprofundem seus laços em pesquisa e desenvolvimento ao longo de um ano de eventos, conferências e workshops onde pesquisadores, organizações científicas e centros de pesquisa podem estreitar parcerias. O calendário tem atividades nas áreas de Saúde & Ciências da Vida, Clima & Biodiversidade, Agricultura Sustentável e Energia.

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