

JEF 2018 Introduction

The Jeddah Economic Forum (JEF), Jeddah's largest annual economic conference organized by the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and this year in collaboration with the Gulf Research Center as knowledge partner, and under the patronage and attendance of His Royal Highness Prince Khaled Al Faisal, Adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Governor of the Makkah Region, will run with a main theme entitled "From Vision to Prosperity: The Role of the Private Sector". Focus will be on the strategic execution of four major themes of Saudi Vision 2030:

- (1) National industrial development and logistics
- (2) Public Investment Fund and tourism
- (3) Enriching the Hajj and Umrah experience
- (4) Improving quality of life.

In addition to the main session, the JEF will dedicate sessions to each of these four themes, bringing together relevant Saudi stakeholders from the public and private sectors and international experts to discuss ways in which the private sector can contribute to each respective sector's growth, and learn from best international practices.

This year's JEF also seeks to shed light on available investment opportunities as the Kingdom continues its development into a global investment powerhouse and prepares to increase the private sector's contribution to the GDP from 40% to 65% as envisaged in Saudi Vision 2030. This includes the Kingdom's many efforts to improve its legislative climate for investment and increase international trade, in addition to its progress in opening up to the global economy.

The Jeddah Economic Forum has been held annually since 1999 and has become the leading strategic forum in the Middle East tackling the region's most important economic and social issues. It brings together the most influential political, social and economic leaders as a catalyst for positive change in the region and the world.