

# Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber

H.E. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Issa Al Jaber is a self-made Saudi-Austrian entrepreneur and philanthropist of Yemeni origin, who has successfully built an international business empire spanning Europe and the Middle East. He is founder and Chairman of the MBI Group, a conglomerate of companies which has assets valued in excess of \$10bn. Sheikh Al Jaber is also the founder and sole patron of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, a UK registered charity focused on education, good governance and cultural dialogue; and dedicated to building bridges between the Middle East and the wider world. In recognition of his commitment to educational projects, he has received numerous honours and awards.

## Early Life: The Middle East & Europe

As a young man, H.E. Sheikh Mohamed developed a passion for classical Arabic poetry and it was through this medium that he began studying the history of civilizations, culture and the Middle East, before going on to continue these studies at SOAS. A keen traveller from his early 20s, he spent extensive time in Europe, which provided a contrasting and influential exposure to western culture. In tandem with his travels, Sheikh Mohamed developed a deep interest in education, good governance and democracy in the Middle East; as well as a sound business acumen which saw him set up his first company in 1980. After an exceptionally successful decade building for the future, he turned his attention to philanthropy, and in the mid-1990s founded his first Charitable Trust. This journey continued with the launch of his MBI Al Jaber Foundation, a charity that has allowed him to become actively involved in the issues which, to this day, remain close to his heart.

## Entrepreneur & Businessman

Sheikh Mohamed is founder and Chairman of the MBI Group, a worldwide investment institution operating in the hospitality, real estate, finance and oil and gas industries. His investment philosophy is based on the principle of social responsibility, and combines risk management, market trends and intuition, with a deliberate and measured decision making process. He seeks out opportunities for long-term growth, and takes a personal and active interest in the management of each of his companies, providing direction and guidance to ensure they deliver outstanding products and services.

## Philanthropist

Sheikh Mohamed has been an active philanthropist and champion of causes most dear to his heart for more than 25 years. His philanthropic work focuses on three areas: education, cultural dialogue and good governance.

Much of this work is enabled by the MBI Al Jaber Foundation, which is focused on building bridges between East and West through education and dialogue. Through the Foundation, Sheikh Mohamed has invested millions of pounds in a broad range of educational projects, from individual scholarships to international education programmes; reaching out to students from all Arab countries, from Saudi to Yemen to Syria, to Iraq and to Morocco. In addition to this, he continues to support numerous capital projects for high profile academic establishments in countries across Europe and the Middle East. He is also the Founding Patron of the London Middle East Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies and endowed the MBI Al Jaber Chair in Middle East Studies. In recognition of his work in this area, Sheikh Mohamed was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy for Education, Tolerance, Democracy, Human Rights and Cultures in 2003.

He continues to focus a great deal of his personal resources on breaking down barriers to understanding, promoting cultural integration and instigating meaningful dialogue. Where possible, he encourages and develops public-private partnerships which focus on the transfer of best practise in governance, management and business development. His philosophy is driven by his desire to promote good governance,

accountability and transparency, while remaining respectful of Arab traditions. For his work in this field, he was appointed UN Spokesman for Global Forums and Reinventing Government in 2007.

## Honours & Awards Include:

- Honorary Fellowship at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
- Awarded Dialog Institut "Person of the Year"
- Doctorate of Letters from University of Westminster
- Honorary Fellowship at University College London (UCL)
- Honorary Fellowship at Corpus Christi, Oxford
- Founding Donor of MODUL University
- Appointed as a Senator of MODUL University by the Austrian Government
- Awarded Gold Medal by the French Government for Services to Tourism and Culture
- Honorary Degree: Doctor of Science, from City University, London
- Aladdin Project Dialogue of Cultures Award
- ISESCO Gold Medal
- UNESCO Medal on the Occasion of the Organisation's 60th Anniversary
- Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Gold Medal
- Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, on multiple occasions, by leading global institutions and Universities

For further information please visit: [www.mbialjaber.com](http://www.mbialjaber.com)