

Northern Powerhouse Trade Mission Launched at India Roadshow

A golden opportunity now exists for Northern businesses to mark their stamp in India, audiences were told at the India Roadshow in Manchester and Sheffield this week.

The roadshow, organised by the Department for International Trade (DIT) and Invest India, is visiting 7 UK cities to bring to life the many opportunities on offer for British companies in this market of 1.3 billion people.

Speaking in Sheffield on Thursday, the head of the Northern Powerhouse region at DIT, Natalie Bain, announced a new trade mission to Bangalore and Mumbai in October, which will focus on opportunities in digital technology, clean energy, health innovation and education.

The roadshow provided an opportunity for companies across the North to access expertise and share best-practice when expanding into and doing business in India. Alongside specialists from DIT and Invest India were representatives from the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) and the Manchester India Partnership.

Northern businesses which shared their experiences of trading in India included TGW Global (Wolstenholme Machine Knives), Gripple, Grant Thornton, JSR Genetics and MIDEL.

In 2018, total UK exports of goods and services to India grew by 19.3% to reach a value of £8.0 billion, while inward investment from India in the 2018/19 financial year also grew to 106 projects.

Exports of goods from the Northern Powerhouse to India grew by 18.1% from 2017 to 2018 to reach a total value of £698 million.

India now has a thriving middle class, is the world's 6th largest economy and has the highest expected growth rate in the G20. A major attraction for UK exporters is the sheer pace of expansion and the country's notably young demographic. India has a population with a median age of 27, and rising affluence is the biggest driver of increasing consumption.

Natalie Bain, Head of the Northern Powerhouse region at DIT, commented:

The Indian economy is more relevant, faster growing and more open to UK exporters than ever before.

Now is the moment for Northern Powerhouse businesses to make their move and establish a presence in this diverse and exciting country.

DIT is on hand to help navigate the Indian market, and with a team of 60 International Trade Advisers in the Northern Powerhouse alone, we have the resources, sector expertise and financial support through UK Export Finance to help you leap into India.

Guatemala invited to participate in the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London

The UK and Canadian governments are working together to defend media freedom and improve the safety of journalists who report across the world. The Global Conference for Media Freedom is part of an international campaign to shine a global spotlight on media freedom and increase the cost to those that are attempting to restrict it.

It will bring together global leaders and representatives from the media industry, journalists, civil society and academia and is supported by [Luminate](#). The Global Conference for Media Freedom in 2019 will be the first of its kind.

The conference will be structured around four themes:

- protection and prosecution, including impunity
- national frameworks and legislation
- building trust in media and countering disinformation
- media sustainability

Global leaders, representatives from the media industry, journalists, civil society and academia will gather to attend interactive panel discussions. The first day will focus on defining the challenges, the second on framing solutions.

Follow [#defendmediafreedom](#) on social media for the latest news and information.

International Development Secretary

Rory Stewart visits Jordan in first foreign visit in role

On Monday (July 1 2019), the Secretary of State visited UK aid funded programmes and met with Jordan's Prime Minister Dr Omar Razzaz.

He was given a tour of one of the country's largest solar power field, Solar Power One, which is helping the country move away from dependence on expensive and polluting fossil fuels.

The visitor also spoke to families in Za'atari refugee camp who had been forced to flee their homes in Syria during the war. While there, he was shown how UK-made iris scanning technology was improving the efficiency of a cash support programme so refugees can shop for a large variety of goods, which brings a sense of normality and dignity to their life.

The Department for International Development has pledged to give £55 million to support refugees in Jordan over three years. This will provide financial assistance to 22,000 of the most vulnerable refugees caught up in the protracted crisis. The UK aid support is helping to create stability in the wider region.

During his meeting with Dr Razzaz, the International Development Secretary reaffirmed the importance of the UK-Jordan Partnership announced by Prime Minister Theresa May in November 2017. This involves the UK supporting Jordan's ambitious programme of reforms, including on its economy and energy sector.

International Development Secretary Rory Stewart said of his first overseas visit in his role:

"I can think of no better example than Jordan anywhere in the world where Britain is working so well with another country. It's the work we do with refugees that I saw in Za'atari camp. It's about helping Jordan's economy grow and young unemployed Jordanians find work. It's about helping create security and stability in one of the most fragile regions of the world.

"Then there's the work we are funding around tackling climate change, including the solar farm I saw, which is helping to drive growth in a country which is trying to move away from fossil fuels and become a world leader in green, renewable energy

"Jordan has made these impressive reforms whilst on the frontline of tackling the Syria crisis, showing immense generosity by hosting millions of Syrian refugees. We will continue to support Jordan, which remains a critical friend and important ally that is vital for regional stability.

"The British public should be proud of our partnership with Jordan. We are helping create prosperity, stability and a cleaner climate in Jordan, which will benefit the wider region, and ultimately the UK as well."

The Secretary of State's visit follows the Jordan: Growth and Prosperity Conference in London in February, which rallied the international community behind Jordan's own ambitious plans for economic growth. It also made a breadth of UK expertise available to the Government of Jordan to support their plan for wide-ranging reforms.

During his visit this week The International Development Secretary also met with Hala Zawati, Minister of Energy, and Dr Mohamad Al Ississ, Minister for Planning and International Coordination, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs.

Before arriving in Jordan he also attended the Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting.

General media queries (24 hours) Email mediateam@dfid.gov.uk Telephone 020 7023 0600

Homes England Senior Independent Director Appointed

Homes England can confirm that Simon Dudley has been appointed Senior Independent Director by the Homes England Board today (4 July 2019).

The Non-Executive role is in addition to Mr Dudley's responsibilities as a Board member and will include acting as intermediary between the Chairman and Board members and deputising for the Chairman.

Mr Dudley will commence his new role with immediate effect, including deputising for Sir Edward Lister during his short leave of absence while he carries out specific work related to the Conservative Party leadership contest.

Home Secretary visit to Turkey

The Home Secretary met his Turkish counterpart in Ankara today (4 July 2019) to discuss joint efforts to tackle terrorism and organised immigration crime.

Sajid Javid held discussions in the Turkish capital with Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu where they both stressed the importance of UK-Turkey cooperation and agreed to strengthen collaboration in the fight against terror.

They also signed a joint Declaration of Intent which formalises the processes that are already in place with the Turkish Government to safely manage the deportation of British terrorist fighters from Turkey.

It also includes specific provisions on information sharing which will aid investigations into these individuals upon their return.

During the visit, Mr Javid and his Turkish counterpart also discussed the importance of tackling anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Semitism and Christian persecution.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Turkey is a vital partner to the UK in our combined efforts to tackle the global threat we face from terrorism.

The joint Declaration of Intent, formalising our existing processes of information sharing and managing the safe deportation of British terrorist fighters from Turkey, is testament to that close collaboration.

As Home Secretary, I'm committed to continuing to work closely with our friends in Turkey to counter the terrorist threat.