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**The Address of His Highness the Prime Minister on the second  
conference of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry held  
under the auspices of His Highness the Amir**

**12 March 2007**

**In the Holy name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful  
Your Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Your Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Your Excellency the Honourable Jassem Mohammad Al-Khorafi, Speaker of the  
National Assembly  
Your Excellencies Sheikhs and Dignitaries  
Mr. Ali Mohammed Thunayan Al-Ghanim Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh**

**It is fortunate that His Highness the Amir could honour the second conference of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry with his attendance. We seriously look forward to its deliberations and recommendations to put them into effect and serve our country Kuwait. Particularly, that this conference incorporates intellectual and economic approaches with vast expertise and knowledge that may ensure comprehensive recommendations and serve the public interest.**

**The importance His Highness attaches to the economic issue is a well known factor to all. His sound vision in calling for Kuwait to become a financial and commercial centre on both the regional and international levels has been attained, and the government has persistently given this issue the priority it merits. Without economic progress and modernization to coincide with the worldwide economic development, it would not be possible to achieve real competition in a world where globalization imposes a set of serious challenges.**

**International and regional systems are undergoing at this phase in particular, steps to reform the economic structures of countries. Kuwait is not exempt from this, and the accomplishments of many countries are obvious to the people of Kuwait, it is no secret. It merely requires resolve and joint efforts to elevate the collective interests and rise above trivialities.**

**We have youths who are able to devise plans, follow them up and achieve success. The national private sector in Kuwait has demonstrated time and again, the human ability and the ambitious minds of our young men and women to achieve success.**



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Let us be frank, reform is not a slogan, nor is it mere hopes. Reform is action and sacrifice. It is to understand the challenges that surround us and choose the most successful means to overcome obstacles. Our People, lead by their wise government, consented to Shura in general matters between us. There is no going back on this and there can be no skepticism. However, Shura and democracy have criteria and frameworks placing public and joint interests as a priority, sacrificing at a stage of difficult adaptation for the sake of greater gains for our future generations. Moreover, it acts to rally national will which is aware of the necessity of reform and its cost, and responds to shifting circumstances easily. Therefore legislative structure and administrative review are a prerequisite for the desired reform. Without genuine cooperation between the executive and legislative branches; our efforts are in vain, despite our pure intentions and noble objectives. Let our preoccupation be to serve Kuwait which has given and remains to give us in abundance. This can be achieved through empowering our society to handle the burdens of the present and future. Unless there is genuine cooperation, we shall miss out on the great opportunities available to our country.

Material potential available today may not be accessible tomorrow and true investment is to utilize this financial wealth towards the growth of human resources. Therefore, restructuring our educational programs by permitting change in a proficient way will prepare our youths for jobs with added value to the economy, as well as being highly beneficial to the nation in developmental administration in its various forms. The development of production sectors, activities and others, require defeating obstacles that are a hindrance to them, in order to benefit from their efforts in the local and foreign markets, as well as providing job opportunities for our youths. All this requires genuine and fruitful national cooperation between both branches as an utmost priority, detaching us from narrow minded selfishness and deplorable personal feuds. We all belong to this country, it gave us security and we owe to its development. On the other hand, the Kuwaiti private sector is entitled to call for economic reform and preparations for a healthy and sound climate to restore its leading role in our society. Nevertheless, it is obliged to participate socially. There can be no rights without obligations and no responsibilities without accountability. Reviving the efficiency and capability of the private sector, as is the case in the public sector, necessitates conduct with a national perception, based on sound practices and clean competition within the boundaries of justice and the in the framework of the law, and serving society.

**Your Highness,**

We are all honoured by your attendance of this historic meeting. Through Your Highness' kind directives and aspirations for Kuwait and its people to assume their correct status on the economic map, we hope that those in position to make decisions and all sectors of the Kuwaiti society cooperate to raise Kuwait's standing under your wise leadership.



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**Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh**