

Bandar M. H. Hajjar

President, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group



Dr Hajjar has been President of the Islamic Development Bank since 2016. As development enters a new era, Dr. Hajjar is reimagining the traditional role of a development bank. Through his strategic programme, the IsDB is empowering people for a sustainable future by building global partnerships and driving innovation through a value chain approach to development. Prior to this appointment, he served as Minister of Hajj between 2011- 2016, where he introduced 25 initiatives to develop and enhance the services provided to Hajj and Umrah performers.

Dr Hajjar was awarded a Bachelor's Degree with first-class Honours in Economics and Political Sciences from the King Saud University, Riyadh, and a Master's Degree in Economics from Indiana University, USA. In 1982, he returned to Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a lecturer for four years. In 1986, he attended Loughborough University in the United Kingdom on a scholarship, where he received a Ph.D. in Economics.

Dr Hajjar is also a Chairman at the Coordinating Council for Monitoring Municipal Elections and formed a coordinating council of seven NGOs under the umbrella of the National Society for Human Rights to monitor the first municipal elections held in Saudi Arabia in 2005. The Council deployed approximately 1,500 volunteer citizens to all cities in the Kingdom and issued daily statements in both Arabic and English explaining the election instructions, regulations, and outcomes.