

المركز الوطني للتنافسية  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS CENTER  
تيسير | TAYSEER



# Saudi Arabia marks the only progress in the Middle East

and ranks 24th in IMD World

▶ What NCC has accomplished during coronavirus pandemic

▶ NCC holds a seminar on the economic recovery from the consequences of coronavirus.

▶ Holding the second edition of the "Competitiveness Talk"



The National Competitiveness Center “TAYSEER” presents its Newsletter for the second quarter of 2020, highlighting the Kingdom’s progress in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, issued by the International Institute for Management Development IMD. In addition to a set of reforms to improve the business environment, as well as a set of government efforts to stimulate and support the private sector to confront covid-19 pandemic.

This newsletter also reviews NCC’s participation in seminars, and virtual local and international meetings that took place during this period. In addition to the workshops organized by NCC, which aims to develop the Kingdom’s legislative and regulatory environment to improve its ranking in global reports and indicators.





# Only Improving Country in the Middle East

**Saudi Arabia 24th Most Competitive Country in the  
IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues its upward ascent in global competitiveness rankings. In the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020 published by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), the Kingdom is ranked as the 24th most competitive economy among the 63 countries covered by the report, up two positions from a year earlier. The Kingdom has moved up the ranking despite the economic conditions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic; and NCC has launched a media campaign to announce the results of the Kingdom's extraordinary progress in the report.

Commenting on the results, His Excellency Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center said, "Our positive performance in the World

Competitiveness Yearbook 2020, despite the coronavirus economic conditions, evidence the deep reforms in the Kingdom's business environment. In addition to the awareness efforts to inform the private sector about developments in regulations and legislation, as well as government initiatives and programs envisioned by Vision 2030, which aims to raise the Kingdom's competitiveness. Moreover, the high level of transparency between the government and the private sector, and opening channels of communication between the two sectors. Our progress is the fruit of a unique model of cross-sectoral collaboration among more than 50 government entities, collectively dedicated to carrying out ambitious policy and regulatory reforms and improving the competitiveness assets of the Kingdom".

# The Kingdom has moved up the ranking on 3 out of 4 factors covered by the report

## ► The Purpose of the report:

Analyze countries' ability to create, maintain and develop a supportive and competitive environment and compares between the **63** most competitive countries in the world.

## ► The overall ranking of the Kingdom in the report

- ✓ The Kingdom is the only improving country in the GCC and in the Middle East
- ✓ The 24th most competitive economy among the 63 countries covered by the report
- ✓ The Kingdom is the 8th most competitive G20 economy

## ► The report covers four main factors:



Economic performance



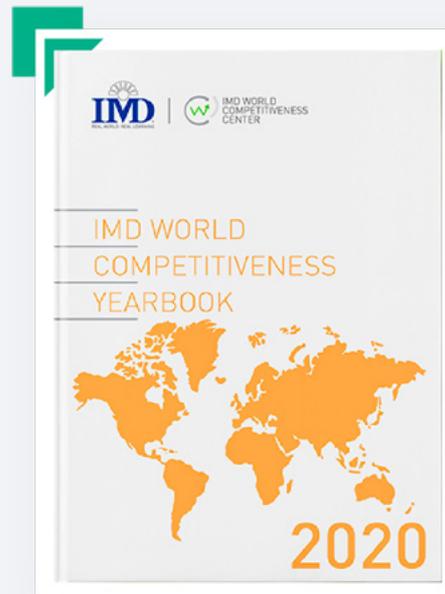
Governmental efficiency



Business efficiency



Infrastructure



The Kingdom has moved up the ranking on 3 out of 4 factors covered by the report:



Business Efficiency



Economic Performance



Infrastructure

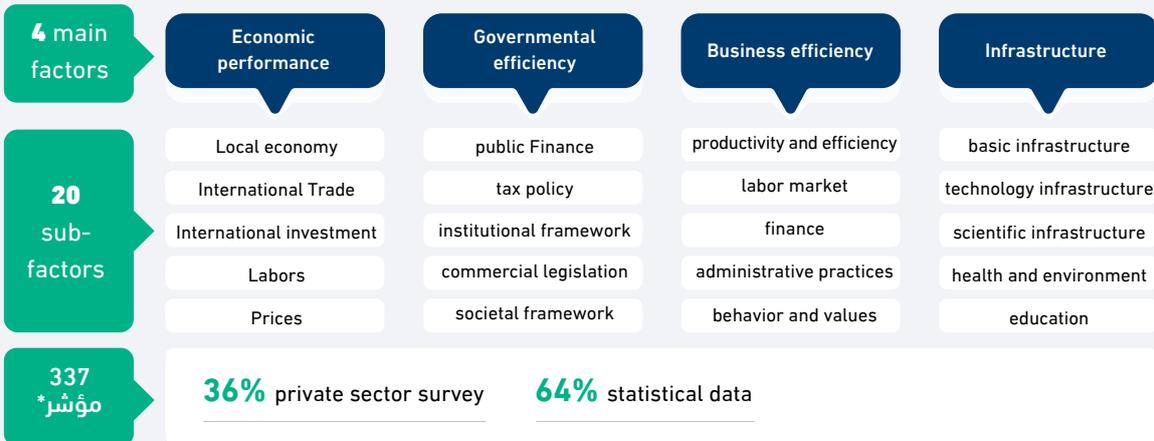
## ► The official joining of the Kingdom

The Kingdom was officially included in IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook in 2017

## ► The report covers:

32 sub-factors      337 indicators

## ► The elements and the methodology of the report:



## Saudi Arabia achieved high ranking in the following indicators:

**1 Globally**

- ▲ Labor force growth

**2 Globally**

- ▲ Consumer price inflation
- ▲ Cyber security

**3 Globally**

- ▲ Exports of commercial services

**4 Globally**

- ▲ Pension funding
- ▲ Central bank policy
- ▲ Adapting of government policy
- ▲ Total public expenditure on education

**6 Globally**

- ▲ Gasoline prices
- ▲ Foreign currency reserves per capita
- ▲ Unemployment legislation
- ▲ Overall productivity

**7 Globally**

- ▲ Total indigenous energy production
- ▲ Funding for technological development

**8 Globally**

- ▲ Subsidies
- ▲ Social cohesion

**9 Globally**

- ▲ Development and application of technology

**10 Globally**

- ▲ Resilience of the economy
- ▲ Investment incentives
- ▲ Financial and banking services for business

**12 Globally**

- ▲ Regulatory compliance (banking laws)

# What NCC has accomplished during coronavirus pandemic

The National Competitiveness Center issued a report on the efforts made in light of the consequences of coronavirus pandemic. These efforts included dealing with the challenges of the private sector, by following up the implementation of reforms via holding more than 50 virtual meeting. In addition to discussing the economic situation

and the impact of the crisis on the business environment in cooperation with International organizations. NCC has made also specialized studies and research on the experiences of more than 40 countries imposed curfews (total / partial), then delivered the recommendations, which aims at supporting the private sector.

## Private sector service

277



cases of private sector challenges and observations

76



inquiries through the instant chat feature

30



challenge and proposal analyzed and addressed

## follow up the implementation of reforms

▶ Issuance of approval to delete Article (75) from the implementation law.

▶ Issuance of the noble high approval to publish the executive regulations of the commercial court law.

▶ Update the executive regulations of the government procurement and competition law.

▶ Issuing the movable assets rights law and its executive regulations.

▶ Issuing the regulations of conflict of interests and manners of those who implement the provisions of the government procurement and competition law.

▶ Issuance of approval that any amendment on electricity and energy prices will be applied after 30 days after the announcement of the amendment.

▶ Holding meetings with all committees affiliate to NCC, to follow up the progress in carrying out the tasks.

▶ Holding workshops with World Bank experts in the presence of a group of interested public and private sectors.

▶ Holding a workshop with an expert of the United Nations Organization in the field of classification of activities ISIC-4 in the presence of a number of those interested in the public sector.

▶ Issuance of approval of the Cabinet to provide electricity and water services to the beneficiaries according to the regular procedures without requiring any certification.

In the presence of the Minister of Commerce

## The National Competitiveness Center launches the 2nd edition of the “Competitiveness Talk”



The National Competitiveness Center organized the second virtual edition of the “Competitiveness Talk”, which was entitled “The Importance of Economic Diversification for Saudi Arabia”, presented by Professor of Economic Development, Ricardo Hausmann, from Kennedy College at Harvard University. This was in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Competitiveness Center, Dr. Majid Bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi,

and a number of specialists and interested people from the public and private sectors.

The event, which was attended by more than 200 participants from government entities private sector leaders, aims at viewing the best global practices in economic diversification and its impact on competitiveness. In addition to discussing the most prominent theories to promote economic diversification in order to achieve the goals of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030.

On the sidelines of announcing the results of the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020

## NCC participates in the International Institute for Management Development symposium



Her Excellency Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi, Assistance Minister to the Minister of Commerce and Director of the National Competitiveness Centre, participated in the virtual roundtable:

“Small economies, sound politics: Is globalization dismantled?”, which was presented by Prof. Arturo Bris, Director of World Competitiveness Centre, and other specialists.

- ▶ The biggest reason we have advanced in competitiveness is because it is one of the most important goals of the Saudi Vision 2030.
- ▶ Our vision aims to be among the top ten competitive economy in the world.

Part of the speech of Her Excellency Assistance Minister to the Minister of Commerce and Director of the National Competitiveness Centre, **Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi**.

- ▶ Saudi Arabia achieved a great success since officially joining four years ago, and reached an advanced ranking positions; making a great leap and ranked as the 24th most competitive economy among 63 countries.

**Prof. Arturo Bris**  
Director of World Competitiveness Centre, IMD



2020.05.10

## NCC holds a seminar on the economic recovery from the consequences of coronavirus



WORLD BANK

► The National Competitiveness Center organized the virtual seminar “The economic recovery from the consequences of coronavirus, short and medium-term strategies”. It was presented by Rabah Arezki, the Chief Economist for Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank, in the presence of Her Excellency Assistance

Minister to the Minister of Commerce and Director of the National Competitiveness Centre, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi.

More than 200 participants attended the symposium from government entities, the private sector and a number of specialists in the economy.

2020.06.18

## “The role of public opinion polling in the legislative process” workshop

United Nations  
UNCITRAL

► The National Competitiveness Center held the virtual workshop “The role of public opinion polling in the legislative process .. reality and expectations”, in cooperation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law – UNCITRAL. Luca Castellani, the legal officer in the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), presented the workshop, in the presence of Her Excellency Assistance Minister to the Minister of Commerce and Director of the National Competitiveness Centre, Dr. Eiman Al-Mutairi. In addition to a number of officials and specialists from the public and private sectors, attended the workshop.

laws and public policies in supporting the consultation process and public opinion polls, “UNCITRAL texts as a model”. In addition, the importance of stakeholders’ support for the polling process, and not delaying the legislative process with inappropriate views.

The Laws and Regulations Support Unit, recently established by a Cabinet decision, is concerned with seeking public and government entities opinions, through a unified electronic platform. Preparing survey forms, focusing on the importance of surveys in evaluating the draft laws and regulations; and similar, disseminating that to government entities, as well as providing observations and views on the results of the survey to the owner of the project.

The workshop aims to benefit from UNCITRAL experiences and best practices in the area of public opinion polling when preparing draft regulations and the similar. The workshop included a comprehensive discussion of public opinion polls, the hoped-for role in developing laws and regulations at the national level. Moreover, the role of

The National Competitiveness Center is working to sign a memorandum of cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat represented by the Office of Legal Affairs regarding the financial contribution to the UNCITRAL Trust Fund.

