

His Excellency Dr Khaled Al-Duwaisan, Ambassador of Kuwait to the Court of St James's and Doyen of the London Diplomatic Corps.

Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law

Introduction by Professor Nabil Ayad

Vice-Chancellor, Your Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with an immense sense of pride and privilege that I start these proceedings. The fact that the platform I share represents the University of East Anglia accounts for much of that pride. The UEA has been serving the cause of education and academic and scientific research with great distinction for generations. Its innovativeness and leadership in various disciplines and subject areas have been amply documented as well as rewarded at several levels and from various quarters. The London Academy of Diplomacy, whose staff in their turn have a track record of at least three decades in teaching and training diplomats, has recently brought in an added distinction and uniqueness to the spectrum of UEA's achievements.

These two, interrelated, contexts—the Academy and the University at large—account for my sense of pride, tinged with humility. For the man we are honouring today has himself contributed generously to both fields of education and diplomacy.

His Excellency Mr Khaled AbdulAziz Al-Duwaisan has served his country Kuwait for a long time and in various capacities, though always with the same level, same intensity, of dedication, ethicality, and excellence.

As diplomat and Ambassador, he has represented Kuwait in the USA, The Netherlands, Romania, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, and, of course, the UK, where he is also Dean of the diplomatic corps at the Court of St James's since April 2003, dispensing tact and wisdom to that distinguished fraternity.

Ladies and Gentleman, in these dire times, of disunity, financial crisis, global turmoil, it is on real individuals that diplomacy must rely on. Diplomats of fortitude, of candour, of spirit of intercultural dimensions, diplomats of bridging, no one in our mind can occupy this place better than Ambassador Al-Duwaisan. He encapsulates these diplomatic skills to which many of us would aspire in our diplomatic and international career. Professionalism coupled with diplomatic aplomb, business acumen and cultural resilience are inherent qualities of His Excellency.

It is indeed a recognition to a diplomat with a soul, a diplomat of our times, that the University of East Anglia and the London Academy of Diplomacy wish to honour with their highest order of academic merit.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the diplomatic community and bilateral and broader relations, Ambassador Al-Duwaisan has received accolades from Her Majesty The Queen, from the City of London, from the British Business Forum, and, among others, from the Three Faiths Forum in acknowledgment of his inspirational leadership. He has also been awarded The Lifetime Contribution to Diplomacy in London by *Diplomat* Magazine during its first Annual Awards ceremony. His educational interest and contributions have seen him

at the Advisory Board of the Centre of Near and African Studies at SOAS and, among other activities, participating in a workshop organised jointly by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

No stranger to accolades and contributions, he is widely regarded as a model of a modern diplomat. His country, Kuwait, small in terms of territory and population, has been a leader in many cultural, diplomatic ventures and development programmes in various parts of the world, and has used her wealth in innumerable aid. An excellent model is the Al Babtein foundation for peace and intercultural dialogue. Today, we are also acknowledging, and in our manner rewarding, the contribution and courage of that country as summed up in her chief representative in the UK, who, at both personal and professional levels, represents some of the very best qualities in his nation and in the civilised world.

Professor Nabil Ayad

Rector

London Academy of Diplomacy

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