



Embassy of Germany
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



30 January 2013

Press Release

Germany Visa Application Centre opens in Al-Khobar

In a move aimed at providing a high level, customer-oriented services to applicants for their visa application process, the Embassy of Germany in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday announced its collaboration with VFS Global, world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for diplomatic missions and governments, to set up a new visa application centre in Al-Khobar. The Embassy signed an agreement for outsourcing Germany visa processing to VFS Global, a move which is expected to fasten visa application process.

The announcement was made at a press conference held at the opening ceremony of the Germany Visa Application Centre at Al-Khobar on 30 January 2013. **H E Mr Dieter W Haller**, Ambassador for Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and **Mr Paul Vijayakumar**, Chief Operating Officer – Africa and Middle East, VFS Global inaugurated the new facility. The VFS Global operated Schengen Visa Application Centre (SVAC), where applicants can submit their visa applications for Germany, has commenced operations since January 2013.

VFS Global will be responsible for accepting applications for German visas from applicants residing in Saudi Arabia. All applications will continue to be assessed and processed by the Embassy of Germany in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The key features of the centre will be longer operating hours, dedicated website for easy access, visa information including visa types, biometrics, applicable fees and application status, professional and responsive staff dedicated to handle visa queries, dedicated call centre unit and email support. The service would attract a nominal service fee, payable at the Schengen Visa Application Centre at the time of submitting the application. The centre in Al Khobar will remain open from 08:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs from Sunday to Thursday, keeping in mind the convenience of the applicants.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr Haller** said: *“With the opening of the Visa Application Centre we intend to improve our services to the citizens of the Eastern Province which is an economic powerhouse of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With this positive step we want to contribute to a further increase of the already impressive relations in all fields. Our bilateral trade increased by about 40 % in 2012. More and more Saudi businessmen travel to Germany. We very much welcome this development. Germany is a prime destination for both business travellers and tourists!”*

Mr Vijayakumar said, *“It is our privilege to partner and provide services to the Embassy of Germany in Saudi Arabia, and facilitate visa application process for Saudi residents in the eastern province. We are committed to providing highly efficient and convenient services to all visa applicants applying for a German visa in the region. VFS Global has been privileged to be associated with the Government of Germany in Saudi Arabia since 2009 in Riyadh and 2011 in Jeddah apart from eight other countries globally. This extension of our association with the German Government reflects their faith in our abilities, and we are sure this will go a long way in forging a longstanding partnership with VFS Global.”*

Since 2007 VFS Global, jointly with its local partner M/s Al Etimad Modern Business Solutions Co. (ETIMAD), has been successfully operating visa application services and VACs for diplomatic missions of 11 sovereign governments in the cities of Riyadh, Jeddah and Al Khobar in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

For more information about the visa application centre, please visit <http://de.vfsglobal.sa.com>

VFS Global

www.vfsglobal.com



Embassy of Germany
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Germany Visa Application Centre Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Helpline: +966 3 8978198/ 8977354

Email: info.germanyriyadh@vfshelpline.com

Website: <http://de.vfsglobal.sa.com>

ADDRESS and TIMINGS

Address: 4th Floor, Gulf Centre, Prince Turki Street, Corniche Road, Al Khobar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Submission Timings: 08:30 - 15:00 hrs | Sunday - Thursday (except declared holidays)

Passport Collection: 16:00 - 17:00 hrs | Sunday - Thursday (except declared holidays)

**VFS Global will be responsible only for accepting applications for German visas in Al-Khobar. All applications will be assessed and processed by the Embassy of Germany in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Timelines for turnaround of visas are as per the discretion of the authorities.*

About VFS Global

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for diplomatic missions and governments worldwide. With **802** Visa Application Centres (VACs) located in **88** countries across five continents. As at 31 December 2012, VFS Global serves the interests of the diplomatic missions of **42** sovereign governments. VFS Global's worldwide operations are certified **ISO 9001:2008** for Quality Management System and **ISO 27001:2005** for Information Security Management System by TÜV SÜD, one of the world's leading external and independent certification bodies. The company has successfully processed **55.66** million applications since its inception in 2001. For more information, please visit www.vfsglobal.com

Media Contacts

VFS Global

Rustom Dhanbhoora: drustom@vfsglobal.com

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