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CAAR launches 'Explore Australia' in the Middle East

During April 2006, the Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR) launched the 'Explore Australia' Teachers' Resource Kit in Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The launches were accompanied by in-service training workshops across five cities and were enthusiastically received by the participating teachers and academic supervisors. Many praised the Australian initiative calling it a 'unique product' for the region, and applauded the Australian Government's efforts to enhance relations through education. Only a limited number of kits were available at the launches, and they proved so popular that all three education ministries have asked for more kits to be delivered. A total of 3,000 have been produced for distribution in the three participating countries.

The official launches were very successful, with local media covering each individual launch in Doha, Kuwait City and Abu Dhabi with enthusiasm. The launches also drew large numbers of Ministry of Education officials, teachers and Australian and local business representatives. The UAE launch was attended by the Minister for Education, Dr Hanif Hassan, who discussed with Ambassador HE Jeremy Bruer his keenness to bolster already burgeoning Australian-UAE relations in the field of education. Kuwait's Minister for Education, Dr Adil Tabtabaie, also welcomed the launch, considering the kits a valuable contribution to Kuwaiti curricula.

After two years of co-operation between DFAT and local authorities, the reception exceeded expectations. *'Explore Australia'* has helped strengthen ties between CAAR and the governments of Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE, now keen to explore possibilities for similar projects in the future.



Caption: (L to R) Mr Syd Giller, CAAR Member, Mr Roland Jabbour, CAAR Member, HE Mr Ralph King, Australian Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr Tim Gurry, Ryebuck Media, Ms Catharine O’Ryan, Manager CAAR Secretariat, Mr Jonathan Faulkner, Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, in Kuwait at the launch of “Explore Australia” Teachers’ Resource Kit.



Caption: Participants in the launch of the Teachers' Resource Kit from the Qatar International School with Mr Tim Gurry, Ryebuck Media.



Caption: UAE Minister for Education HE Dr Hanif Hassan