



MEDIA RELEASE

CBIE SIGNS AGREEMENT TO MANAGE MAJOR LIBYAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN NORTH AMERICA

Ottawa, October 26, 2009: The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) has been selected by the Libyan Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to manage their Government's North American scholarship program for study at the graduate and post-graduate levels. Currently there are 1,800 Libyan scholarship recipients studying in North America, 400 in Canada and 1,400 in the United States. This number will increase in the coming years.

Following a meeting with His Excellency Dr. Abdel Kabir Mohamed Al Fakhri, Minister of Education and Scientific Research, the agreement was signed at a ceremony in Tripoli today by Dr. Mohamed A. Husen, Under-Secretary from the Ministry and Dr. Robert McCulloch, Chair of the CBIE Board, as well as President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. Notable witnesses included Her Excellency Sandra McCardell, Ambassador of Canada to Libya, Ms. Karen McBride, President of CBIE, and Dr. Basel Alashi, CBIE Director of International Partnerships. The signing follows on the heels of a visit to Libya by the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and is a reflection of the growing Canada-Libya and Canada-United States bilateral relationships.

"We're delighted to be partnering with Libya in ensuring the quality education of the next generation of leaders," said CBIE Chair Robert McCulloch. "This is an exciting opportunity for Americans, Canadians and Libyans to develop and foster lasting people-to-people relationships."

CBIE and Canada have long played a role in ensuring the education of Libyan students. For 20 years, from 1981 to 2001, CBIE managed the successful Libyan Scholarship and Medical Residency Program in Canada, which was then turned over to the newly opened Libyan Embassy. "The CBIE-Libya relationship predates this decade's re-opening of Libyan diplomatic ties with the West," noted Dr. McCulloch. "This is a great example of the benefits of keeping our doors open to ongoing dialogue."

From 2001 the scholarships in Canada were managed by the Embassy of Libya in Ottawa. Due to the growing scope of the program, the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research chose CBIE from among a number of service providers on both sides of the 49th parallel, based on the government's positive prior experience with CBIE, as well as CBIE's depth and breadth of knowledge and experience in the North American education system.

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CBIE benefitted from the work of the Trade Commissioner Service at the Embassy of Canada to Libya. “It was great to have the full support of the Canadian Government behind us during the development of this project,” shared CBIE President Karen McBride. “This is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Libyan students benefit from a high quality learning experience in North American universities, hospitals and clinics, and these institutions benefit from the talent of these students. CBIE is proud to be a partner of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in the delivery of this important North American scholarship program.”

CBIE will begin active management of the scholarship student files on both sides of the Canada-United States border early in 2010.

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CBIE is a national not-for-profit educational association made up of nearly 200 school boards, colleges, universities and associates. It is involved in both aid-supported and trade-related educational projects around the world.



Left to right: Dr. Mohammed Al Husen, Under-Secretary, Libyan Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (seated), Yousef Kshedan, Director of Technical Cooperation, Dr. Robert McCulloch, Chair of the CBIE Board, translator, Hesham Ghanem, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Embassy in Tripoli, H.E. Sandra McCardell, Ambassador of Canada to Libya, and Karen McBride, CBIE President.