



Sam Kafil

Commercial Advisor Sam Kafil joined US Commercial Service – Baghdad, Iraq on July 1, 2008. His efforts are focused on supporting US business interests in Iraq and providing expert business consulting service to US and Iraqi companies. Mr. Kafil actively networks with Iraqi public and private sector entities bringing U.S. goods, services and best business practices into play. He counsels U.S. business representatives on market entry strategies providing support to U.S. companies who are bidding on projects and assisting them to evaluate potential business partners.

Before assuming his current position, Mr. Kafil served as Host Nation Business Advisor for the Joint Contracting Command – Multi National Forces Iraq from October 2006 to July 2008. He developed a program of instruction and lesson plans on business development and the contracting process to educate local Iraqi firms on the US and coalition contracting system. Mr. Kafil provided technical expertise, advice, and assistance in monitoring and assessing the development of the Iraqi economy, economic systems in general, trade activities, agencies, services, personnel, and resources.

Prior to joining the efforts in re-building Iraq, Mr. Kafil taught management courses to international business students at Auckland Institute of Studies in New Zealand. Mr. Kafil also served on the Faculty Committee providing consulting services to government and industry.

Mr. Kafil received his Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Technology, Baghdad, Iraq in 1981 and his Masters Degree in Engineering Management from University of Auckland, New Zealand in 1999. Before migrating to New Zealand in 1996, Sam managed his family's business in Iraq for more than 15 years. The family business was established in Iraq in 1936 and specialized in manufacturing cleaning products. Born and raised in Iraq, Mr. Kafil holds dual citizenship, Iraqi and New Zealand citizenship. He and his wife, Sally Khafaji, have three children and reside in Auckland, New Zealand.