NEWSLETTER

BLCC Joins the British Chambers of Commerce Network

We are delighted to announce that the British Lebanese Chamber of Commerce is now officially part of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) network, marking an important milestone in the development of the Chamber and strengthening our connections with the UK business community.

The BCC brings together **51 accredited Chambers across the UK and more than 75 international markets,** providing businesses with access to a wide network of companies, organisations and opportunities. For BLCC members, this means greater access to business connections across the UK, including introductions to potential partners, clients and suppliers, as well as opportunities to participate in relevant events and initiatives. It also strengthens our ability to support members looking to enter or expand their activities in the UK by connecting them with trusted networks and practical market insights.

As the BLCC continues to develop its UK presence, our participation in the BCC network will be an important part of building stronger and more practical UK–Lebanon business links.

This is a significant milestone for the BLCC, but more importantly, it is an additional resource for our members as we continue working to strengthen bilateral tr

AI in Lebanon: Real Lessons, Real Impact









The British Lebanese Chamber of Commerce recently hosted "AI in Lebanon: Real Lessons, Real Impact," bringing together government, business and technology leaders to explore the opportunities and challenges of AI adoption in Lebanon.

Held at Voco Hotel Beirut, the event featured H.E. Dr. Kamal Shehadi, Minister of Displaced and Minister of State for Technology and AI, alongside Jihad Bitar, CEO of Siren Analytics; Carole Rizkallah Alsharabati, Research Director at Siren Associates; and Rami Maalouf, Head of the AI Lab at Strategy&. The discussion, focused on practical applications of AI, business transformation, innovation and Lebanon's potential to develop as a regional AI hub.

The event opened with remarks from BLCC Chairman Farid Chedid, who highlighted the importance of AI, innovation and UK–Lebanon collaboration in strengthening Lebanon's future competitiveness.

Victoria Dunne, Deputy Ambassador and Development Director at the British Embassy Beirut, also joined the event, reflecting the Embassy's continued support for the BLCC and UK–Lebanon commercial relations.

The event brought together a highly engaged audience from Lebanon's business community, reflecting the growing interest in leveraging AI to enhance productivity, competitiveness and economic growth.



BLCC Vice Chairman, Rajab Jubaili, Dinner

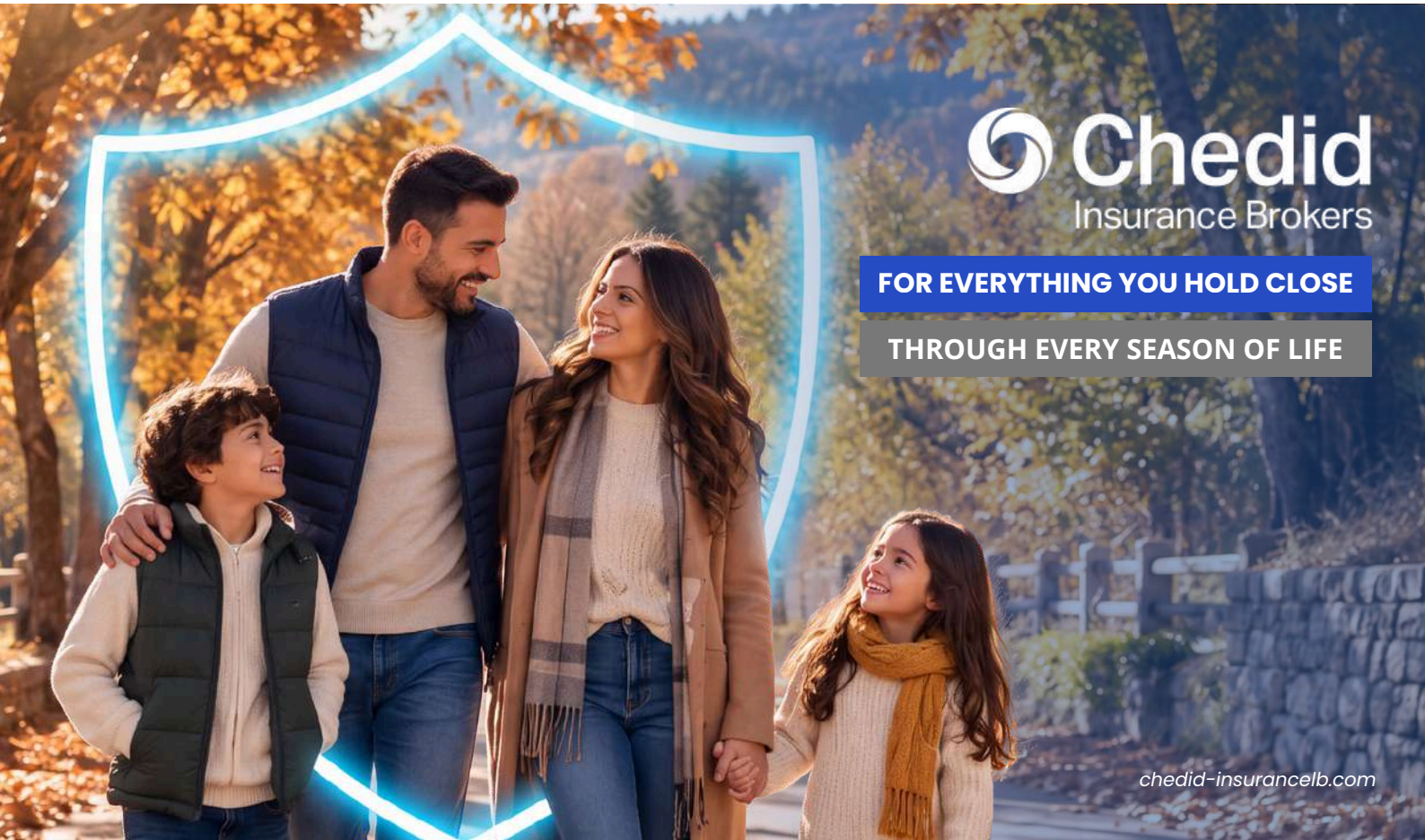
The BLCC recently brought together its members, Board, government representatives, British Embassy colleagues and friends of the Chamber for a networking dinner hosted by Rajab Jubaili, Vice Chairman of the BLCC, at his residence in Beirut. The evening welcomed H.E. Joe Issa-El-Khoury, Minister of Industry; H.E. Adel Nassar, Minister of Justice; Mohamad-Ali Kabbani, President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR); and Victoria Dunne, Chargé d'Affaires at the British Embassy Beirut, alongside representatives from the Lebanese and British business communities. The gathering provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, exchange ideas and discuss the BLCC's growing role in supporting trade, investment and commercial cooperation between the UK and Lebanon.

During the evening, Yasmine El Hajj, CEO of the BLCC, highlighted the Chamber's continued growth and recent admission to the British Chambers of Commerce International Network, while Chairman Farid Chedid reflected on the BLCC's progress since its launch and its growing collaboration with the British Embassy. Victoria Dunne reaffirmed the Embassy's support for the Chamber and its mission to strengthen UK–Lebanon commercial ties. The evening reflected the growing BLCC community and its commitment to building meaningful connections between businesses, policymakers and partners across both markets.





This edition is sponsored by Chedid Insurance Brokers



BCC AI Academy

Unlock Everyday AI for Your Business:

BCC AI Academy Empower Your Team with Practical AI Skills AI is rapidly changing how businesses operate. The BCC AI Academy, powered by PAIR, offers hands-on, role-specific masterclasses to help your team work smarter, faster, and more creatively. No technical background is needed— modules cover writing, research, data analysis, and more, with immediate feedback and LinkedIn-ready credentials.



Why Upskill Your Team Now?

With 35% of SMEs already using AI, staying ahead is vital. The Academy is suitable for all sectors and business sizes, whether you're just starting or want to maximise existing AI tools like Microsoft Copilot or ChatGPT. Flexible packages are available for individuals and teams, with 24/7 access and ongoing updates.



Find out more and join the AI revolution: https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/ai-academy

BLCC Member Highlight

We are pleased to highlight the achievement of BLCC member Ramy El-Khoury of Rafik El-Khoury & Partners Consulting Engineers, which, in joint venture with Arab Consulting Engineers (Moharram Bakhoum), has been awarded the consultancy contract to review and update the design of the Tripoli–Abboudieh Railway Link.

The contract was signed at the Grand Serail on 15 September 2026, in the presence of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Minister of Public Works and Transport Fayez Rasamny, and representatives of the Port of Tripoli and the Office des Chemins de Fer et du Transport en Commun. The project covers the 35-kilometre railway link between the Port of Tripoli and Abboudieh, at the northern Lebanese-Syrian border, with the consultancy focusing on updating the engineering design and cost estimate. The BLCC is proud to see its members contributing to important projects that support Lebanon's infrastructure and development, and looks forward to continuing to showcase the achievements of our growing business community.



Introducing Our New Members

Gemayel Freres S.A.L.

Manufacturing & Packaging

Founded in 1929, Gemayel Freres s.a.l. is a longstanding Lebanese manufacturer specialising in recycled wastepaper and corrugated cardboard packaging. The company has played a pioneering role in developing Lebanon's cardboard industry and has exported its products to European markets, as well as markets across the Middle East and North Africa. It continues to focus on sustainable packaging solutions, innovation and environmental responsibility.

Website: www.gemayelfreres.com

RJ Group

Real Estate

RJ Group is a privately owned diversified group operating across hospitality, real estate, manufacturing, sports & leisure, retail, and business consultancy. With over 30 years of experience, the Group has a presence across the UK, France, Greece, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Lebanon, and is currently looking to further expand its operations in the UK.

Website: www.rjgroupholding.com

SCOPSIS

Technology & Digital Transformation

SCOPSIS is a Lebanese technology company that helps manufacturers and FMCG brands run their operations on data. It delivers brand protection and track-and-trace, supply chain traceability, business intelligence and market intelligence solutions across the MENA region, and partners with UK manufacturing and technology companies to bring integrated production-line and traceability systems to the region's factories.

Website: www.scopsis.com

Diageo

FMCG

Diageo is a leading global beverage alcohol company, with a portfolio spanning spirits and beer brands, including Johnnie Walker and Smirnoff, among others. Its products are sold in more than 180 countries worldwide. Diageo is headquartered in the UK and listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Website: www.diageo.com

Sannan International S.A.R.L.

Automotive & Defence

SANNAN INTERNATIONAL S.A.R.L. is a Lebanon-based supplier of automotive parts, equipment, machinery and technical solutions. Leveraging established partnerships with manufacturers, Tier 1 distributors and defence-sector providers in the UK and USA, the company serves government, institutional and commercial clients. As an officially approved and licensed supplier to the Lebanese Ministry of Defence, SANNAN supports maintenance operations for thousands of military vehicles: enhancing fleet reliability, operational readiness and efficiency.

Website: www.sannan-international.com

Richa Group International

FMCG

Richa Group International is a leading FMCG distributor in Lebanon, specialising in premium local and imported cheese, pasta, chicken and meat products. The company has built a strong reputation as a leading provider of cheese products in Lebanon, with a significant commercial relationship with Prima Cheese Ltd., a UK-based cheese supplier.

Website: www.richagroupintl.com

Adam Pearson

Independent Member

A former British Army officer with 4 RANGER, he led a team of British soldiers in Lebanon in 2024 and 2025, supporting the training of special forces units within the Lebanese Armed Forces. Working closely with the British Embassy in Beirut, he developed strong professional ties with Lebanon. He also previously worked with Massaya Winery, giving him a longstanding personal connection to the country.

Samer Harb

Legal & Professional Services

Samer Harb is a Partner at Samir Harb & Partners – Advocates & Legal Consultants and a dual-qualified lawyer in Lebanon and England and Wales. He holds an LL.M. from Queen Mary University of London and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and included in the LCIA's database of arbitrators. His practice focuses on commercial law, dispute resolution and arbitration, with strong professional and institutional ties to the UK.

Website: www.harblawfirm.com

Newsletter Sponsorship Opportunities

Showcase your business to the BLCC network.
The BLCC newsletter provides an opportunity for companies to increase their visibility among our network of businesses, professionals and stakeholders across Lebanon and the UK.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to both BLCC members and non-members. Companies interested in sponsoring a future edition of the BLCC newsletter are invited to contact us to explore the available sponsorship opportunities.

Interested in sponsoring? Contact us at info@blcc.org.lb

Interested in joining the BLCC community?

Become part of a growing network of businesses committed to strengthening UK–Lebanon trade, investment and collaboration.

Contact us at info@blcc.org.lb to learn more about membership opportunities.