

BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council was founded in 1934. Since then it has been playing its part in every corner of the world. There could hardly, therefore, be a publication with which to be more appropriately involved than *The Annual Register*. The stories which the *Register* tells each year are the same stories with which the Council interacts, whether they are political, educational or cultural. As a source of reference *The Annual Register* is invaluable whether we work online or accompanied by book shelves. It is comprehensive, accurate, detailed and perceptive. It has no axe to grind, though this is not to say that the individual contributors are without opinions; they simply hold them in a measured and responsible way. The British Council is proud to be a nominating organisation to the Advisory Board of *The Annual Register* and congratulates this superb and influential publication on achieving its 250th anniversary. It is unlikely that there is an older or more reliable record of information in the English-speaking world. Through *The Annual Register* facts about nations and cultures can be easily checked. The political and intellectual movements of the past can be traced from their origins, while today's world is laid out before the reader in manageable sections. This is an indispensable publication, a great link between the eighteenth century and the present day. In every decade it has reinterpreted its mission, so that it is kept constantly fresh and illuminating. The British Council is seventy-five years old, a youngster by comparison with *The Annual Register*, but it shares the same objective belief in the value of unbiased information and recording.

Martin Davidson, CMG
Chief Executive of the British Council.