

The Kuwaiti Digest

April-June 2007



Achievements
KOC CELEBRATES
Festivities

The Kuwaiti Digest

April - June 2007



The Kuwaiti Digest is a quarterly magazine published by the Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.) since 1973.

The Kuwaiti Digest invites newspaper, magazine and trade journal editors to reprint or otherwise make use of articles or illustrations appearing in this issue. Material should be credited and a copy mailed to the Kuwait Oil Company.



Produced by
Al-Assriya Printing
Press Publishing &
Distributing Co. w.l.l.

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Ahmadi town above ground models KOC marine colony underwater



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Special 8-page insert
17th Ahmadi Festival three-day extravaganza delights crowds

Special CD insert in Cover
Ahmadi Festival of Lights state-of-the-art technology creates Ahmadi wonderland



Ali D. Al-Shammari, DMD
Administration and Finance

Letter from the Editor

Ahmadi – what a place, what a history and what a future – insha' allah!

It's time to catch our breath and share with you some of the marvelous celebrations and festivities plus exhibitions such as the 2nd I.T. exhibition that have tumbled along, one after the other, over the last several months for the company itself, the city of Ahmadi as well as the State of Kuwait.

National Day and Liberation Day, February 25-26, 2007 gave us a moment to pause and reflect on how much we have to be thankful for in the State of Kuwait. In addition our KOC Spring Camp provided wonderful recreational and family facilities over this two-day holiday period.

KOC's Marine Colony launch saw the culmination of months of effort to create the largest reef ball project, to date, for any oil company worldwide. What was particularly exciting about this visionary project is that it attempted to duplicate underwater the relative position of the main office buildings and institutional buildings that exist above ground in Ahmadi city itself. Again KOC's environmental responsibilities came front, row and center.

The Ahmadi Fairy Lights throughout the months of February and March brought joy to the hearts of young and old alike. What was particularly exciting about this event was the state-of-the-art lighting technology that provided the electronic infrastructure for dramatic and yet low-cost efficient lighting effects. Certain sections of Ahmadi were a fairyland of colors, shapes, entrances and gateways along the major streets, gardens and main buildings of the KOC. We would to share with you some of the wonderful highlights of the Festival – would you just take a moment to watch this special CD we have included for you?

The 17th Ahmadi Festival – formerly called the Ahmadi Sports Day – was a three-day extravaganza of stunning international entertainment, larger-than-life street side venues, games and challenging sport events. It was, in many ways, a first ever for Kuwait! What a breath of fresh air, a whirl of excitement plus a sense of revitalization it brought to the tens of thousands of people who celebrated along with us, and what a sense of achievement to realize how far the KOC has come since the earliest pioneering days more than 60 years ago when oil was first piped from Burgan oil field to Mina Abdullah port.

Indeed at the KOC we are extremely proud to have taken part in all these major events and so early in the year which, hopefully, will bring us the opportunity to celebrate more wonderful events over the coming months ahead.

Bahra natural gas field extends into Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Preserve at Al-Sabiyah

Khalid Al-Sumaiti Deputy Managing Director North Kuwait and a number of KOC senior management attended a luncheon for the Amir at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Preserve at Al-Sabiyah organized by the first Deputy Premier Interior Minister, Defense Minister and Chairman of the Environment Public Authority Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti Digest met recently with Ahmad Al-Eidan, Team Leader, Prospect Evaluation to talk about the recent visit of the Amir to Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Preserve. "Guests to the Preserve were briefed by Khalid Al-Sumaiti KOC Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait on gas exploration in Bahra field especially the part of KOC's Bahra field that is located inside the preserve itself. Bahra structure extends to the bay area and is part of the natural gas discovery in North Kuwait."

"We wish you every success in your efforts to discover new oil and gas reservoirs," Sheikh Sabah said as he praised KOC efforts to increase production levels to support Kuwait's national economy.

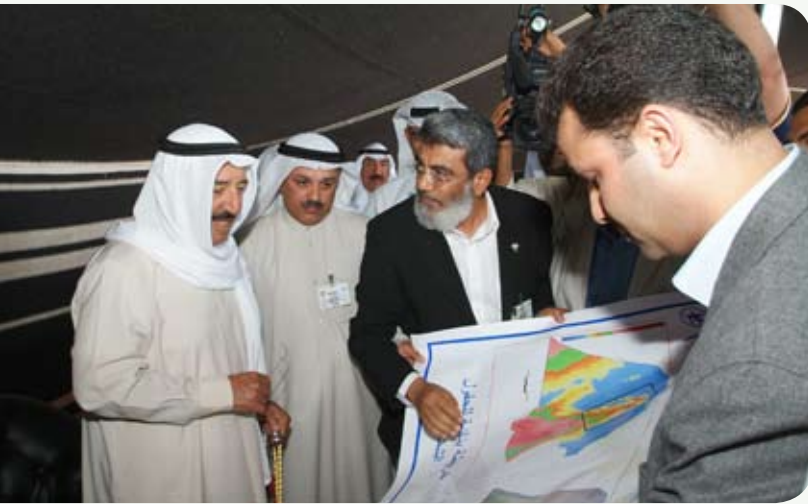
The Amir, the Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Muhammad, the Parliamentary Speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi, Deputy Chief National Guards, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad and other state dignitaries attended the luncheon banquet held at the preserve.

Khalid Al-Sumaiti Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait presented HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait with a glass container of light oil on discovering new natural gas fields.



HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, Abdul Khaleq Al-Ali, KOC Manager Public Relations and Information, Khalid Al-Sumaiti KOC Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait.





HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, Abdul Khaleq Al-Ali, KOC Manager Public Relations and Information, Khalid Al-Sumaiti KOC Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait, Menahi Al-Anzi, KOC Manager Exploration, and Ahmad Al-Eidan, KOC Team Leader, Prospect Evaluation.

Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al Sabah Preserve

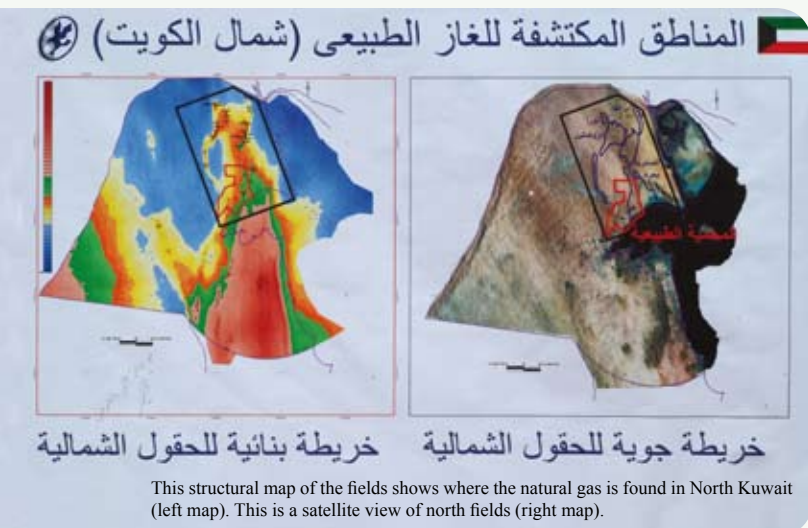
As a symbol of his own continuing commitment to environmental issues, the Amir released a number of deer into the preserve itself while, at the same time, he was presented with a rare Orta tree that nature preserve staff transplanted into the grounds of Sabah Al-Ahmad preserve.

The reserve of Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al Sabah is considered to be one of the most important symbols that highlight how important environment affairs and the maintenance of nature are in Kuwait. The reserve consists of 320 square kilometers divided into two north and south. It has eight gates with two main gates and six sub-gates. The reserve itself is divided into two sections, tame and wild, and is separated into two equal parts by the main street leading to Bubiyan and Subbayya.

The reserve was established in 1982 by the Municipality of Kuwait and after considerable research, the best location and concept began with KISR. A committee was formed together with KISR, the Municipality of Kuwait and the Ministry of Defense and Public Authority for Agriculture concerning the reserve's environmental, fungal and biological diversity. Characteristics of the reserve include 400 of the richest species of plants, 350 species of migrating birds in addition to indigenous animals and reptiles.

Rich in rare birds and indigenous plants, this reserve will soon import gazelles from the Arabian Peninsula. An information team of specialists has researched the documents, records and films of the existing location to record it for posterity.

The delegation from KOC who met the Amir included Khalid Al-Sumaiti KOC Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait, Abdul Khaleq Al-Ali, KOC Manager Public Relations and Information, Menahi Al-Anzi, KOC Manager Exploration, Ahmad Al-Eidan, KOC Team Leader, Prospect Evaluation and Bader Al-Khayat, Team Leader, Deep Drilling II.



The Prime Minister receives a gift of light oil from Khalid Al-Sumaiti, KOC Deputy Managing Director, North Kuwait and Abdul Khaleq Al-Ali, KOC Manager, Public Relations and Information.

New Gathering Center GC-24 at Sabriyah Field in North Kuwait

KOC signs contract with SK Engineering and Construction



“Today this is my first official activity in my capacity as the Minister of Oil for the State of Kuwait. And, it is my pleasure to be here.”

Minister of Oil, Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

Amidst the sound of traditional drums signifying the leader’s word to complete what he has promised, Woong-Suk Yoo, President and CEO, SK Engineering and Construction, the Republic of Korea wrapped up the formal part of the ceremonies between KOC and SK at the beautiful water-side KPC headquarters on March 26, 2007. This ceremony celebrated the official contract signing to build a new Gathering Center, GC-24. GC-24 is designed to handle 165,000

barrels of crude oil per day and gas 240 MMSCFD to ensure the strategic production plan for the State of Kuwait.

Following the Minister’s introductory remarks, Farouk Al-Zanki, KOC Chairman and Managing Director, said that “it is an honor to have his Excellency, the Minister of Oil for the State of Kuwait and the Minister of Commerce, Industry & Energy for the Republic of South Korea here today along with senior delegates from both companies.

We thank them for taking their precious time to come here. We want to thank the SK Group Chairman as well as the CEO of KPC and to congratulate SK for the GC-24 contract. Special thanks also go to KOC employees and SK for making this possible.”

Woong-Suk Yoo, President and CEO, SK, remarked: “I have great pleasure to be here at this most exciting moment of the contract signing today regarding the building of Gathering Centre 24 in Sabriyah Field in North Kuwait. We are well aware that the Kuwait Oil Company has a challenging vision of production capacity extension in the near future. More importantly we understand that this project will play a pivotal role in aligning the vision of Kuwait with the company itself.”

“In response to such an important project,” he continued, “I would like to emphasize that SK Engineering and Construction is now fully committed and prepared to successfully carry out this valuable project with full support and assistance from KOC. My assurance is based on our extensive experience in various types of plant projects at home and abroad including the rebuilding of the fire-damaged facilities at GC 15 as well as the facility modernization project for 10 Gathering Centers and one Bushing station which is currently under construction. On behalf of our company and myself I would like to express my sincere appreciation again to the management of KOC who have placed clear confidence in our company

Left to Right: Fahad Al-Ajmi, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director, Technical Services, Abbas Ali Al-Naqi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil, the State of Kuwait, Hani Abdulazziz Hussein, Deputy Chairman and CEO, KPC, HE Sheikh Ali-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Oil of the State of Kuwait, Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman and Managing Director, KOC, Woong-Suk Yoo, President and CEO, SK, HE Young-Ju Kim, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea, Tae-Won Chey, Chairman, SK and Fouad S.H. Bebehani, Chairman, SHBC.





Group picture of KOC delegation with Korean Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy at luncheon celebration

and the people involved as well as other organizations who have helped make this project possible today.”

Adding his comments: HE Young-Ju Kim, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea, remarked: “It is a great pleasure to be here to celebrate the construction of Gathering Center 24 between KOC and SK Engineering. I would like to take a moment to congratulate KOC and KPC for their achievements and ability to develop such facilities in Kuwait.”

The delegation from KOC included Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman and Managing Director, KOC, Ali D. Al-Shammari, Deputy Managing Director, Administration and Finance, Khalid Al-Sumaiti, Deputy Managing Director North Kuwait, Ibrahim Al-Faraj, Team Leader Contracts II, Commercial Affairs Group, Ahmed Salem Al-Zaabi, Team Leader, Major Projects IV, Mohammed Ja’afar, Team Leader Contract Services, Aisha Al-Sulaih, Acting Team Leader, Contracts I, Mohammed S. Iqbal, Senior Contracts Engineer, Adnan Al-Aradi, Manager, Major Projects II, Sanad Al-Sanad, DMD, South & East Kuwait, Abdul Khaleq Al-Ali, Manager Public Relations and Information, and Fares D. Al-Oan, Assistant GM, SHBC.

The delegation from SK Engineering & Construction Company included Kyoung-Jin Park, Managing Director, KPOC, Seong-Hoa Hong, Director General, MOCIE, Myuon-Jong Kim, Executive VP, Tack-Soo Kim, VP, Kyu-Ho Whang, Senior VP, Myung-Sung Lee, Senior VP, Dong-Hyung Cha, Director, MOCIE, Seung-Jae Lee, Director, MOCIE, Ik-Hwan Kim, Director, KOTRA and Heon-Sup Lee, VP.

According to recent newspaper sources, the State of Kuwait is the third largest exporter to the Republic of South Korea. There are expanding relationships beyond oil & gas. US\$8.8 billion was exchanged in products and services in 2006 between the two countries. Worldwide South Korea

is ranked 12th in development – as it continues to seek to be a player in NE Asia. Last year the South Korean delegation was in the UAE, and this year the visit includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Diplomacy between these two countries goes back to 1979—and continues to be strong despite the distance—in the fields of energy, construction and Human Resources development. During the Iraqi Invasion of 1991 and again in 2003, SK Engineering and Construction supported the State of Kuwait.

Furthermore South Korea has accumulated experience in crude reserves. East Asia is among world countries looking forward to more joint ventures in the oil industry and storage, petrochemicals, refineries. South Korea seeks to expand negotiations with the State of Kuwait in manufacturing, banking, and I.T. Ultimately the Republic of South Korea would like to develop a region-wide Free Trade Zone in the Gulf.



Biggest Marine Colony Launches in the Mid-East



Minister of Energy (Oil), Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah expressed pride on the development of the KOC Marine Colony that plays such a major role in the wider environmental protection process. KOC's Marine Colony was officially launched on February 21, 2007 at the Hilton Hotel and Resort in Mangaf Kuwait.

Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman and Managing Director, remarked, "The KOC Marine Colony is the biggest Marine Colony in the Middle East which constitutes the last in a series of environmental projects inaugurated during the last year."

The Kuwait Oil Company is the world's first oil company to develop a marine colony. The KOC marine colony falls in line with the KOC's environmental commitment to preserve, develop and re-habilitate Kuwait's natural resources and maintain it for future generations to come.

The KOC marine colony is part of Kuwait's sustainable development model, an integral part of the company's focus on social responsibilities to Kuwait society and the environment. Within this wider concept, KOC plays a major role in developing every sectors of society be it the economy, education, culture, art or sports in addition to its vital role in maintaining the long-term well fare of Kuwait.

The main goal of this project is to preserve, develop and rehabilitate marine life, one of Kuwait's major natural resources. It is part of a wider vision to nourish and protect the entire ecological system of the State of Kuwait.

MAJOR EVENTS

KOC Marine Colony

The 54,000 square metre marine colony may be the world's largest man-made marine colony and it is fully funded by Kuwait Oil Company. Below ground it is built to match Ahmadi City's major landmarks above ground, namely: KOC Main Office, Ahmadi Governorate, Ahmadi Hospital, Petroleum Research & Study Center, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Stadium, Traffic & Police Department as well as North Tank Farm and South Tank farm.

The site was selected for its suitability for the growth of coral including water depth, currents, temperature, sea-bottom, light and other components vital to marine life. The exact location is closely watched by the coast guard, safeguarding the site from intruders.

The Idea

Protecting the environment concerns all employees, in fact, increasingly, 'Thinking about the Environment' has become part of daily life. Recently the Community Services Group employees began thinking about creating a KOC marine colony together with the KOC Dive Team. The idea gained support.

2. Create an innovative underwater marine laboratory to carry out scientific studies and research for local and international educational institutions.
3. Design and construct the largest artificial marine colony in the region. (The original idea was to build one of the largest underwater landmarks).
4. Strengthen relationships with Kuwait's wider community in keeping with KOC Strategy.
5. Be the first oil company to create a dive team (and committee) to carry out a project of this magnitude.
6. Enhance the KOC image and widen exposure internationally.
7. Participate in world environmental conventions and exhibitions to attract local and international media attention.



The kick-off was on International Environment Day on June 6, 2006. A series of meetings ensued with regional and international environmental and diving authorities including the Emirates Diving Committee, Documentation and Heritage Committee, UAE, the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), and Alexandria University.

Project Goals

1. Enhance marine and underwater aquatic life in keeping with Kuwait Oil Company objectives to rehabilitate the environment.

Remember

Corals should not be collected dead or alive.

Participants

The Scientific Center Kuwait
State of Kuwait Ministry of Transportation,
Support Services Department
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
State of Kuwait Coast Guards

**Location**

The 54,000 square metre marine colony is located approximately 4 nautical miles south of Ahmadi Port and 1.5 nautical miles off shore. Depth ranges from 7-9 meters depending on low and high tides.

Advantages

- The presence of existing underwater habitats such as this encourages aquatic life to grow and establish colonies.
- Environmental properties, light and water temperatures contribute to the reproduction of various types of marine creatures such as fish, shellfish and coral.
- The location is far enough away

from underwater oil production lines, ships and tankers as well as large boat waterways.

- Water visibility ranges between 5-15 meters at approximate depths of 7-9 meters at low and high tides. It is an excellent site for diving and marine nurseries.

Reef Balls

Underwater marine colonies consist of different designs, shapes and sizes of reef balls which are made of treated concrete and other associated (harmless) materials. They interact with the marine environment creating an artificial marine habitat.

- Total number 1,000
- Each reef ball weighs 800–1,000 kilograms
- Constructed of environmentally-friendly concrete. Alkalinity is similar to sea alkalinity.
- Constructed of different shapes and sizes.
- Each reef ball produces 180 kg of bio-mass per year.
- Reef ball holes are suitable for a wide

range of sea-bottom creatures to grow in a natural habitat. The holes create water currents that attract crustacean organisms which are the source of nutrition for sea creatures.

- Design was distributed in clusters following Ahmadi's major landmarks. Each cluster is 20x30 meters.

Promising Results

- Within one week after placing the reef balls in place, several kinds of fish and shellfish began to inhabit the reef balls.
- Within one month, many types of plants and animals as well as soft and hard corals began to grow on the reef balls themselves.
- Small fish, shrimps, crabs and other marine creatures used the reef balls for shelter and a food source.
- Promising signs of nesting and mating of squid and other marine species have been detected.
- All work was completed without a single incident.

Challenges

Wind, dust and cold weather combined to be the main challenges. The water was exceptionally chilly this year. Sometimes the temperature dropped to 4° C. The other major challenge was availability of barges and boats at Ahmadi Sea Port itself as these vessels work for oil Export Operations, and priority was given to them. Divers used these vessels when they were not in operation.

The Team

The dive team (self-made) learned by experience. At first they did not have the necessary experience to build such a colony: at the beginning 4-5 reef balls were dropped every day then during the last month, divers dropped 70 reef balls per day.

Importance of Coral Reefs

The world's coral reefs contain one-quarter of the world's diverse underwater species while occupying approximately 0.2 percent of the world's sea bed.

Normally coral reefs are situated in

MAJOR EVENTS

tropical waters. Coral reefs themselves are a good source of food; they attract other underwater organisms providing an ideal habitat for them to reproduce.

Reefs are fragile and susceptible to small changes in outside conditions such as temperature (between 20-28 C), oxygen levels and food mixture, etc. The coral reefs are under siege: numerous threats to their existence can be attributed directly or indirectly to human interference such as excessive coastal development, destructive fishing practices and widespread land-based as well as marine-based pollution.

By providing food and shelter, coral reefs are the ideal habitat for a large variety of organisms with their overwhelming range of colors, forms and shapes. The spectacular abundance of creatures that live in the reef's intricate ecosystem include fungi, mollusks, sea worms, crustaceans and sponges that bore into coral skeletons as well as oysters, clams, sea urchins, jellyfish, sea anemones and turtles to name but a few.

Nutrition

Corals feed on suspensions getting food in different ways. Reef-building corals depend on photo-synthetic products to get most of their nutrients and they capture floating microscopic plankton. The sun is the initial source of energy for this ecosystem. Reefs prefer clear water that allows light to reach the algae.

Kuwait's sea waters suffered an unprecedented environmental disaster when millions of barrels of oil were poured into the Gulf.

Efforts to establishment an artificial environment will aid the re-growth of coral reefs, preserves and marine sanctuaries. Surely they will help ensure the availability of these unique ecosystems in the years to come.



KOC DIVE TEAM

President

Tarek Al-Failakawi

Member

Adel Al-Harban
Muhammad Al-Basri
Jamal Sultan
Ibrahim Sultan
Nasser Al-Murdi
Fuad Juma'a
Ahmad Safar
Nawaf Al-Wazaq
Wafa' Al-Hureibi
Jassem Al-Anezi
Faisal Salmain
Musa'd Al-bawardi
Muhammad Hamid
Abdul Aziz Al-Kassar
Ali Bin Muhammad
Abdul Rahman Al-Failakawi

UAE Dive Society

Juma'a Bin Hareth
Ali Al-Zanhani

NAUI

Riad Al-Bannan

KOC COMMITTEE MARINE COLONY

Chairman

Ismail Al-Khawari
Member
Nouri Al-Khatrash
Saud Al-Humeidan
Hasan Al-Bairami
Muhammad Al-Basri
Fayez Al-Mazkour
Tarek Al-Failakawi
Wafa' Al-Hureibi
Dari Al-Gharaballi
Abdul Aziz Al-Kassar
Khaled Ghuloom
Abdul Rahman Al-Kandari

NAUI Environmental Enrichment Award



Keith Sliman announces NAUI Environmental Enrichment Award to KOC marine colony project to be formally presented in Florida in the fall, 2007.

Keith Sliman, NAUI Member Board of Directors

"The environment is a key element in the future of our planet. It is for this reason that (NAUI) the National Association of Underwater Instructors happily celebrates activities such as this which fosters the well-being of our underwater world.

As a member of the Board of Directors, it is my extreme pleasure to represent NAUI in commemoration of this very special event. I wish to extend my congratulations to Kuwaiti Divers who have participated in this event especially to the Kuwait Oil Company who have sponsored this and allowed NAUI to be a part.

It is my pleasure to announce that in recognition of its ongoing efforts to protect our oceans and seas the KOC has been awarded NAUI's Environmental Enrichment Award that will be presented at the DEMA show in Tampa, Florida in October 2007. This is NAUI's highest award regarding the environment."

"If you look at the efforts in Kuwait by the dive teams and the Kuwaiti members who are teaching and instructing here, per capita, per area, there is more protection and care taken here than any place else."

**Randy Shaw
Training Manager
NAUI Worldwide**

How does the KOC Dive Team get connected to NAUI U.S. worldwide?

Randy Shaw

Our NAUI connection started with Al-Boom. We have helped them grow and support NAUI in this area ever since. Six years ago Kuwaiti Divers were awarded the Environmental Enrichment Award for their clean-up efforts after the Iraqi War - opening the waterways, for example.

If you look at what they are doing now there is nothing comparable in any other country around the world. Keith Sliman spoke about NAUI'S mission to preserve the environment - this is an ideal environment for that. If we can foster this here that helps all of us because so much of our future and our food are tied to the sea.

So, we are very excited about the Marine Colony project. NAUI Board Members have taken time out from their schedules to come to join in this important celebration. I feel fortunate to revisit Kuwait again.

Michael Tong President, NAUI Pacific Rim

I met Reydhadh Al-Bannow when he came to Malaysia to train as a Course Director and he invited me to visit Kuwait. I am involved in many environmental projects to cleanup Thailand, for example, after the Tsunami NAUI divers and instructors cleaned up the rubbish. We have a core environmental program for Malaysian students Save-the-Sea projects for future generations.

Keith Sliman, DEMA

The Diving Marketing Association (DEMA) is an international association that promotes scuba diving in trade shows; it meets once a year and NAUI participates in these events and uses it as a platform to meet our members - that's where we have our Annual Award Ceremony based in Orlando Florida. This year NAUI'S Environmental Award will be awarded to KOC's Marine Colony project.



KOC at MEOS 2007

Focus on Business and Technology

Masouma Nasser

This landmark event was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Bahrain, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The 15th Society of Petroleum Engineers Oil & Gas Show and Conference (MEOS) took place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from March 12-14 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Center. It focused attention on technical and

business challenges, and equally extensive opportunities, which the Middle East faces in managing the world's most important energy reserves. HE Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa praised Kuwait's role in the success of MEOS-2007. He described the relationship between Bahrain and Kuwait as 'One-Family'.

"Under KPC sponsorship, KOC's extensive participation in the Middle East Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition 2007 included several work papers as well as the representation of Farouk Al-Zanki, the Chairman and Managing Director and a number of KOC managers," commented Ali D. Shammari, DMD, Administration and Finance in an



interview recently with Kuwaiti Digest Deputy Managing Editor, Masouma J. Nasser.

“It was a great honor for KOC to be involved in this major world-level conference which has long been supported by HE Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa since 1979,” Al-Shammari continued. He added that MEOS is now a well-established event on the international calendar. “As the Gulf holds two-thirds of the world’s oil reserves, a heavy burden is put upon the shoulders of officials, engineers and geologists to fulfill today’s commitments.”

SPE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Delivering Energy: Faster, Better and Smarter

Under the theme ‘Delivering Energy: Faster, Better and Smarter’ this high-level technical conference ran parallel to the exhibition of this year’s products and services. Organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), key participants made a return appearance at MEOS including all six GCC national oil companies. KOC participated under the KPC umbrella.

MEOS-2007 conference coincided with the Society of Petroleum



Engineers Golden Jubilee. 70,000 members strong, SPE co-sponsored MEOS-2007 together with the Arab Exhibition Company.

1,500 participants, 200 work papers and over 300 companies participated in the event. “This is an excellent venue for all oil-concerned experts and decision-makers to discuss the latest technologies in exploration and production,” Al-Shammari concluded.

Farouk Al-Zanki, KOC Chairman and Managing Director, presents a gift to the Prime Minister of Bahrain, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa.

Masouma Nasser, KOC Chief Multimedia Officer, interviews the Prime Minister of Bahrain.



HRH Prince Charles Visits Kuwait



Internationally-recognized for his commitment to environmental issues HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, UK, together with official dignitaries including the Minister of Energy visited the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation on February 20, 2007.

Prince Charles asked many probing questions while in Kuwait concerning soil contamination, bioremediation, student involvement, oil production, IOC business – innovation and empowerment in operations/production functions.

Two years ago Dr. Fatimah Al-Abdali, Team Leader Health & Environment represented the Oil Sector Strategy for the environment with EPA. Today she was a member of the task force presenting the Kuwait oil sector for the visit of his royal highness to Kuwait. The visit was designed to showcase all the missions and practices that are being implemented in the oil sector directly related to the environment. The

Kuwait faced the challenges of oil fires, smoke, ammunitions and explosives right after the invasion in 1991, how Kuwait (through KOC) tackled the fires and eventually renewed its oil operations once again.

The second section ‘Soil Remediation: From Oil to Soil’ focused on how the teams put out the fires and how the environmental disaster was investigated to build a case to create compensation records for UN claims. This section also portrayed how oil lakes and oil contaminated soil was converted into rich biomass soil through innovations in technology together with KISR who collaborated on the project. Innova-

emissions in compliance with EPA issues. The oil sector continues to move towards sustainability and community environmental protection.

‘Environmental Sustainability’, the fourth section of the presentation focused on KOC’s community services through environmentally sustainable projects. It also highlighted community services targeting preserved areas including the Spirit of the Desert and the official launch of the Marine Colony which continues to nourish the marine ecological system.

The fifth section ‘Children Outreach’ and their role in sustainable development



“The oil sector used to have one language but now proudly there are two languages. It used to speak about production now it speaks about HSE to enrich the language of oil – making it wider, deeper and more sustainable. And to that end Kuwait proudly continues to be a leader in the Gulf region.”

Dr. Fatimah Al-Abdali, Team Leader Health & Environment



exhibition also highlighted its partnerships with British BP for history records that the first shipment of oil from Kuwait was produced in co-operation with a British oil company.

Kuwait’s environmental story was divided into five separate but related themes beginning with the Iraqi invasion and ending with environmental issues and children & community outreach.

The first section, ‘Destruction and Recovery: We Have to Fight to Protect’, covered by many people including Mr. Hashem Refai (Designation in ODC) the head of the task force team focused on how

tion with the private sector showed that Bioremediation is the most economical and eco-friendly environmental solution.

The third section ‘Clean Production’ - adopted by KPC - highlighted two major KOC projects upstream and two major projects downstream for KNPC and PIC. KOC continues to reduce gas flaring and to reduce its emissions. Also it is re-injecting water or disposing of it into underground environmental pits. Gas flaring, air pollution and air quality issues was the focus of two continuing ‘upstream’ challenges: KNPC and PIC covered downstream air pollution and sludge management projects reducing

featured their involvement in the Waste Management Program and the Million Tree Campaign. Ahmadi Services talked about Ahmadi’s Recycling Project - how students continue to help.

Last but not least, the last section ‘Partnership with IOCs’ showcased new technologies and future management of the carbon footprint.

Task Force committee members included: Abdul-Hameed Khajah, ODC (Task Leader), Dr. Fatma Al-Abdali, KOC, Ali Murad, KPC, Ahmed Al-Omani, KPC, Maher Saleem, KOC, Fadhel Al-Koot, KNPC and Hamdan Al-Ajmi, PIC.

KOC Exploration Group has discovered condensate rich gas in Jurassic

The Kuwaiti Digest talked recently with Menahi Al-Anezi, Manager, Explorations Group. Efforts of the Exploration Group has resulted in the discovery of five structures with two major hydrocarbon-bearing formations—each in Jurassic—that need to be delineated and developed. A substantial amount of condensate rich gas that has been discovered in the fifteen wells drilled, so far, will meet the needs of the State of Kuwait for many years to come.

Menahi Al-Anezi, Manager, Exploration Group explains: “Further delineation drilling continues to fully realize the productive limits of these formations into other traps in the area. Another important goal now is to translate this invaluable resource into the production of condensate type oil and much-needed gas for Kuwait at the earliest possible time. Considering the uncertainties of naturally-fractured limestone reservoirs and the need to bring early production on line, a three-phased development approach has been prudently devised to drill wells, and add production capacity.”

“Experience gained from drilling for and producing these volumes in the first two stages,” he says, “will be used to launch the third leg of the strategic development to reach a sustainable daily target production rate of 1 BCFPD of gas and 265 MBOPD of condensate by 2015.” The Exploration Group is in the final stages of preparing this strategic plan to achieve these targets by using the latest technical tools such as fracture network, geostatic and dynamic modeling techniques.

He continues: “A dynamic model will be used to stage various well locations, combinations and reservoir management scenarios to optimize the drilling plans. In addition, various configurations of wells, completion techniques and stimulation designs can be simulated before deciding on the most beneficial combination to maximize per-well production rates. A tactical road



Menahi Al-Anezi
Manager, Exploration Group

map will be drawn up to implement the strategies to achieve targeted rates.”

In addition to delineation drilling of the five discovered structures—the strategy involves locating wells in new structures with similar seismic attributes. “Recently one such well has been logged,” Al-Anezi comments, “with hydrocarbon shows and fracture indications in the Marrat and Najmah/Sarjelu reservoirs. The well has also shown unexpectedly high matrix porosity in the Middle Marrat section. We are preparing to conduct production

tests very shortly in this well. Another achievement (due to this well) is the confirmation of our seismic model for the southern limits of the North Kuwait prospective area: this will result in significant reserves being moved from ‘Prospective’ to ‘Known’ categories. Other structures in the southern extension will now be drilled to tap the Jurassic formation with increased confidence to add reserves and production to meet KOC strategic targets.”

The models will be periodically updated with the latest information obtained through future drilling, testing and production of the wells. Thus an iterative decision making process is envisaged to simulate various drilling and completion strategies, devise follow up plans and modify if necessary to keep a continuous focus on the targeted rates and dates.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the highest professional standards of our people and the full utilization of latest earth modeling technologies facilitating the techno-economic decisions. The static model is the foundation upon which dynamic flow models are built. Iterative decision process based on these technologies is the key to our continued success in finding and developing hydrocarbon assets to achieve the goals of KOC 2020 production capacity and the long term reserve replacement strategy.

Capacity:
175 MMCFD & 50 MBOPD
425 MMCFD & 115 MBOPD

Commission Date:
Fourth Quarter, 2007-08
Fourth Quarter, 2010-11



KOC's Discovery Promotion Team plays pivotal role evaluating production potential

The Kuwaiti Digest talked with Falah Saleh Al-Omair, Team Leader Discoveries Promotion recently about the latest developments as the team continues to assure best practices to provide allowable production from each well, monitor the wells performance and provide vital data for life-cycle reservoir management through well surveillance activities. They believe that their efforts are in complete harmony with KOC's 2020 Strategy to achieve production capacity goals.

"The Discoveries Promotion Team (DPT) obtains maximum information about the reservoir using this knowledge to enhance project economics," explains Falah Saleh Al-Omair, Team Leader Discoveries Promotion. "Well completion, testing and stimulation of these productive zones – the core effort of this strategy – are analyzed by geological and petro-physical analysis. 26 short term tests together with data gathering goals have been performed in 15 wells drilled, so far. These naturally-fractured limestone formations require



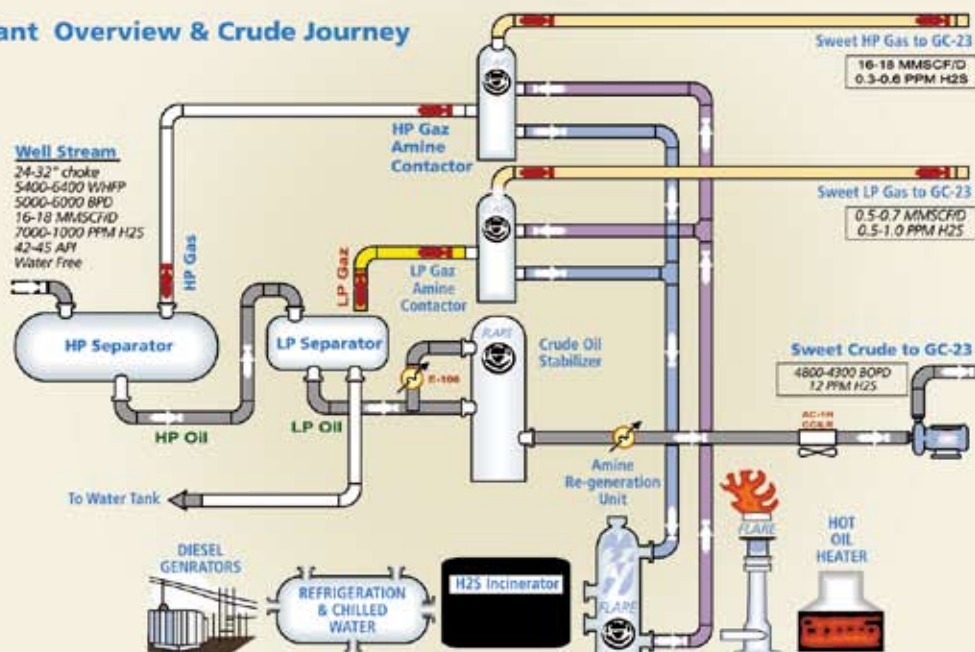
Falah Saleh Al-Omair, Team Leader Discoveries Promotion

acid stimulation in varying degrees to get commercial rates."

Falah Al-Omair continues: "HSE concerns are of utmost concern during testing because of the presence of sour gas in the well streams. It was recognized, quite early, that reservoir limits, relative capacities of fracture Vs matrix and recognition of faults and compartmentalization was key information needed to create the development plans. Therefore an early production facility with a 5 MBOPD condensate, 18 MMSCFD capacity, and containing gas sweetening plant up to 1 per cent H₂S was commissioned in February 2004 which has facilitated long-term testing of individual wells up to several months at a time."

Discoveries at Raudhatain and Umm Nigah expanded H₂S handling capacity of the EPF. "The plant was upgraded in September 2006," he says, "to enable H₂S handling up to 3.5 percent, process 8.5 MBOD condensate

EPF Plant Overview & Crude Journey



and 25 MMCFD gas. 6 wells have been tested and analyzed through the plant which has greatly enhanced the state of KOC's reservoir knowledge and confirmed the long-term potential of the wells. In addition, long terms testing have contributed a total of 15.4 BCF gas and 4.0 MMBBL of condensate to the North Kuwait Fields Gathering Center production."

"Well stream fluids sampling, compositional analysis and prediction of pressure temperature behavior is vital information needed," continues Falah Al-Omair, "to optimize the lifecycle reservoir management of these reservoirs."

DPT has conducted 45 fluid sampling and comprehensive PVT analysis programs from the producing wells," he says. "A number of twin samples from bottom hole, well head and separator outlets were always obtained to assure the most accurate fluid characterization. DPT will continue monitoring the reservoir pressure and fluid behavior of the producing zones and provide data for dynamic modeling of the reservoirs."

He elaborates: "The next challenge for Discovery Promotion Team is to maximize the production potential of each well so that asset management can economically optimize the EPFs and gathering systems. One example of this effort is the SA-198 well."

He continues: "The well completion originally produced 6.8 MMCFD of gas and 1730 BOPD condensate after completion. An acid mini-fracture job was designed to reach deeper into the reservoir. The well production increased to 17.0 MMCFD and 5850 BOPD at 5800 psi flowing wellhead pressure after the job was completed."

He concludes: "The Discoveries Promotion Team will continue to gather vital production and reservoir data for feedback for drilling, prospect evaluation and surface facilities optimization and integration teams. Another 50 MBOPD and 175 MMCFD capacity plant is expected to be on stream in the fourth quarter of 2007."

KOC Serves the Wider Community: The Scientific Centre Kuwait



Kuwaiti Digest talked recently with Ahmed Rasheed, KOC Manager, Export and Marine Operations about the strong working relationship between the Kuwait Oil Company and The Scientific Centre Kuwait and the recent emergency to clear the underwater pipes that lead from the Gulf to the aquarium itself.

Ahmed Rasheed explained: "We received a call from the Scientific Centre. They have two pipes underwater at the Centre. These pipes need to recycle water around the clock into the aquarium itself. They have, I think, chosen this depth to get pure water free of pollution. Pipes do get blocked from time to time, but they do have a cleaning filtering mechanism that can be pushed through the pipe itself. Unfortunately a filtering mechanism was stuck inside the pipe itself blocking the pipe all the way through. There's no intake. The other pipe was blocked with dirt inside it."

"Divers normally dive around 10 metres - beyond that, it is very tough diving," Rasheed continues. "25 metres is very dark when you dive down. You cannot see ½ metre in front of you. We have very experienced divers who can dive down to 30 metre depths. It needs very experienced people to be able to understand what they are seeing."

We are a can-do group that can do this. We responded on time.

They began on a Thursday at 6 a.m. and were finished by 12 noon. We sent a big ship –an offshore international service contractor who we have hired for several years. They are very professional in underwater pipes offshore. We have made a longer contract with a smaller scope. We wanted the best people with this service. Mid-day the job was done. Al-Muttawa went onboard and thanked everyone personally for their services.

Partnership with Business

2nd I.T. Exhibition showcases KOC's competitive edge, strategic vision, best practices and latest technologies

“This 2nd I.T. Exhibition is a continuing success story for the Kuwait Oil Company. It adds real value for KOC in particular and the oil sector in general,” said Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman and Managing Director.

Thousands of people attended the exhibition held in facilities near to the Ahmadi Governorate office. Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Du'aj Al-Sabah, Ahmadi Governor, Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman & Managing Director, Deputy Managing Directors, a number of Kuwait's oil sector leaders, KOC I.T. business partners and dignitaries launched the three-day event on January 21, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.

“KOC's I.T. applications are quite advanced,” said the Governor, “and now employees have solutions right at their finger tips that make their work more effective and efficient.”

Fahed Al-Ajmi, Deputy Chairman & Managing Director (Technical Services) said that “the exhibition was organized with the key objectives in mind: How do we all align ourselves to meet our 2020 Strategic objectives?”

“Here is a sneak-preview,” Al-Ajmi said, “an excellent opportunity for KOC employees to have a taste of e-business and meet the behind-the-scenes talent.”

Hisham Al-Nouri, Manager, I.T. Group, mentioned that “the exhibition was designed to focus attention on the critically important and challenging role that the I.T. Group plays in the company, and how I.T. projects impact KOC's core business and its respective responsibilities.”

Al-Nouri highlighted some of their achievements including employee accessibility company-wide to computing facilities, open-access agreements with major technology partners, e-Business plus the strategic move forward with the Digitally Intelligent Asset (DIA).





Hesham Al-Nouri
Manager, I.T. Group

We live in a fast-paced environment that demands continuous upgrades to our systems and in particular to the services we are extending to our users.

The I.T. Group is responsible to provide comprehensive, integrated and continuous services in communications and data to users throughout the company. Focused on this - is our introduction of service level agreements with vendors where we specify minimum measurable service levels. We have stringent conditions for liquidated damages in the event of any failure in order to maintain these levels. Though an initial target was set at 90 per cent, we achieved 96 per cent last year.

Services have two sides: what we think we should provide and what people expect. Continuous proactive enhancement exceeding expectations are very important to us on the one side. On the other side people have to be in touch with I.T. innovations whether in commercial systems like FS & HR or in core business applications for exploration, field development & production. Customer expectations can only be met with proper business solutions to processes - challenging activities to increase productivity and efficiency.

To understand the needs of our customers and providing them with I.T. solutions, we need the support of core business experts. Recently we have managed to bring 'on board' the support of a petroleum engineer recently who understands I.T. and can educate our staff in the core business as well.

For innovations in I.T., there is a race among oil companies in the region- one of our competitors is Aramco. Aramco's processes are much faster; it enjoys the competitive edge over KOC which is governed by governmental regulations. Aramco, by comparison, is an independent organization with more resources and flexibility in procedures and policies.

The challenge is greater for us in searching for and identifying the best solutions. In the oil business, some processes depend on corporate culture and solutions for these kinds of processes require customization. The slogan 'Empower Business Partnership' chosen for this exhibition visualizes this approach.

After all, communication between us and our customers is a must to precisely understand their needs. For example, we can understand the difficulty of the Simulation System for Greater Burgan Field through an interactive approach resolving the situation by providing a high capacity and very fast system. This system, selected after extensive research, operates on a LINUX system. WINDOWS or UNIX was our standard but a decision had to be made to procure servers operating on Red Hat LINUX. Even if an existing operating system solution is used how you use it and incorporate it to enhance your business is innovative in itself.

For I.T. vendors, there is no off-the-shelf ready-made product for certain solutions such as e-tendering, for example. So, we approached Microsoft who has SharePoint Technology. They had to partner with a Jordanian company who coordinated with us to develop a system that satisfies all of Commercial Affairs Group requirements. Though Microsoft added this to their success stories (featured in their conferences), we share with them the ownership of the system.

Coordination is not enough - we need to build trust and understanding of I.T. We look forward to creating an integrated cross-discipline approach, which is our biggest challenge in the coming period.



Abdullah Al-Mazidi, Team Leader
Information Systems Projects

The 2nd I.T. Exhibition was an opportunity for the I.T. Group to raise awareness of its contributions and its future strategic role to enable KOC's corporate objectives. To realistically evaluate how we handled this opportunity, I feel it is only appropriate to use the 1st I.T. Exhibition as a reference.

The first major difference was that we presented ourselves this time as a focused cohesive group (rather than a team-oriented group) who are collectively delivering effective business solutions. That's one major positive step forward.

The second big plus for us was an awareness of how ITG helps transform critical KOC business processes. For example, Ibrahim Faraj, Team Leader presented the user's perspective on e-Tendering; he highlighted that this system has added value by reducing very long tendering cycles and enabling online communication between concerned parties. The Parallel Reservoir Simulation presentation explained how high-end computing power has shortened the simulation processing cycle time from 5 weeks to just a couple of days which contributes to major improvements in KOC's critical core business processes ultimately translating into better corporate performance. Lastly the 3-D Visualization presentation showed how the I.T. infrastructure facilitates a collaborative environment to enable people from across business groups to walk through business scenarios in real-time creating the framework for sound business decisions.



Mohammed Khadada
Team Leader
I.T. Communications

For KOC it is really a matter of complete connectivity wherever and whenever you need it.

The map in front of us shows KOC's Fiber Optics Communication structure with 850 kilometers of buried fiber, 800 kilometers of buried copper cable, and running on top of it, an SDH system and DWDM Fiber Optics System. Over 200 stations and 6500 network nodes are connected all over KOC premises.

We have Radio Communications – 7 trunk radio stations and 2000 hand-held fixed radios with 500 vehicle mount radios in addition to 500 SCADA scattered all over North, West and East Kuwait providing a reading for the wellheads (related to temperature and oil pressure etc.)

We have 9 telephone exchanges with more than 9000 lines in service. Recently we introduced direct inward dialing allowing 5 digits to act like 7 digits. In addition to IP telephony, on a trial basis, we plan to implement it in KOC's new office.

We have various services running on top of this: 2000 land lines, 500 fax lines, 3000 user security, 200 DSL network connections, employee access to networks from home.

Our future plan: to have 5 segments network ability which is 99.999 percent reliable with fully-meshed network capabilities.



Bader Al-Awadhi
Team Leader
Information Technology

KOC is leading in computer operations.

We are faced with two main tasks. First, we have to ensure that all the machines are up-and-running 24/7 and secondly we have to ensure that the gate is safe, secure and available.

Centralized Disk Storage
Storage Area Network (SAN)

All KOC information is stored in one centralized network so that it remains independent of the computers; you change the system or the computer independently.

Centralized Tape Backup

Here we secure KOC daily information storage without human intervention. A robotic arm does everything on time and on schedule with no interruption for anyone using their computer. KOC uses IBM for backup and centralized storage.

Disaster Recovery Room

KOC has a disaster recovery room. In case of emergency we can immediately shift into this room; there would be a seamless continuation of KOC work.

Systems Monitoring

We monitor all KOC systems plus the computer room; we monitor any failures and problems. We will be alerted by mobile-designated support staff. We can detect if there is a failure in the AC, for example, the electricity, water leakage underground (we can plan ahead of time if there is a problem).



Hashem Al-Moussawi
Team Leader
Corporate System Support (CSS)

Our exhibition is as much about building awareness as building a branding opportunity.

In today's fast-paced world we continue to implement new ideas faster as we learn even faster from the challenges we face. A lot of things we do are hidden from view but they are important in the sense that they make the world go 'round. Our 2nd I.T. Exhibition is a tremendous opportunity for dialogue. We have tried to let everyone know what we are doing. The 'hot' issues these days, of course, are document imaging and management system (DIMS).

Take, for example, our first I.T. exhibition held in 2003. We had individual teams present their latest products and services to KOC employees. Three year's later our 2nd I.T. Exhibit is more polished, informative and cohesive: we have presented ourselves as one single face to the world rather than individual teams within the larger 'I.T.' Group, and it has made a real difference.

We provide the technical support which extends to all of KOC; we have people to support the communication connections everywhere – if the problem can be solved remotely from the office we have the facility to do this, and if not, we will send someone to the exact location to provide assistance.

One thing we know for sure: we hope to keep this venue open for future permanent display events and exhibitions. The 2nd I.T. exhibition has proved to be a milestone.



Mariam Al-Ajmi
Team Leader
Information Systems (IS)

Here's a local & regional solution that has a global impact – cutting time in half.

We provide core business solutions for KOC exploration, production, drilling and development as well as non-core business. We invest time, money and human skills in order to come up with the latest technologies in the industry.

We have implemented a number of successful key solutions including the 3D Visualization Centre where decision-making has been cut from 90 to 45 days. The Simulation Centre also minimizes our turn-around time which impacts, not only, on KOC, but also, on Kuwait in revenue and economics.

KOC's GeoPortal is a gateway for professionals providing production data and information to senior management as well as links to all applications. It provides the right information to the right people at the right time.

Other solutions include Fire Management Solutions plus state-of-the-art Hospital Solutions integrate pharmaceutical patient/doctor support. The Geographic Information System also contributes faster and more accurate information in terms of maintenance.

Hosnia Hassem, DMD, West Kuwait has launched West Kuwait as a test pilot to transform its assets into business assets. This is KOC's vision to create a digitally intelligent system to expand into the entire KOC with a new generation of information systems.



Eassa Al-Yousefi
Team Leader
Technical Systems Support

Why did we have an exhibition? It was designed to remove any barriers between our customers and KOC. We wanted them to know what our past successes were, what we are now doing, and what our plans for the future are. Simply put, we want to become their business partners. This exhibition symbolizes a new beginning in the I.T. Group – 'Empowering Business Partnerships'. It was intended to bridge the gap. Our slogan was created by the I.T.G. staff themselves. We conducted a group-wide competition based on a theme inline with our vision, mission and strategy. Everybody thought that we had to do more proactive in building business partnerships with our users.

We are an integral part of this company. We played a major role in KOC's strategic initiative when the company decided to adopt an 'Opportunist Technology' theme to support its 2020 strategy to produce 4 million barrels per day. We have to be efficient to achieve these seven corporate objectives. We are more than a service provider; we are perceived by some as only a service provider of software or hardware. Instead we strive to be partners with business.

Petroleum engineers, geologists and geophysicists continue to rely more and more on us to provide the kind of I.T. technology support they need. We have to be the catalyst to achieve their plans. We have to be aligned with their vision. We have to offer best practices in I.T. as well as system's support. This was the key message of the 2nd I.T. Exhibition.



Ibrahim Al-Faraj
Team Leader Contracts II
Commercial Affairs Group

KOC leads in e-Tendering not only in the entire Middle East but also among many IOCs. In 2002, for example, not only did KOC offer its tenders online but also its actual submissions by contractors. To be leaders in this field, we continue to strive to reach a paperless environment saving our environment as well as the trees.

Launching Phase 2 e-Tendering

We are now entering a new Phase. We are planning to start Phase 2 implementation procurement in addition to contracts e-tendering. We will link e-tendering with financials to implement e-payments so that all payments and banking can be done directly through our system rather than through bank-to-bank transfers. We will implement digital certificates and signatures. We will process the prequalification of contractors fully through the system in what we call e-PQ. We are in the process of awarding a contract to prepare the plan, the package and the implementation plan to align all these systems in the second quarter of 2008. It's one integrated Business-to-Business solution.

We want to satisfy people's demands regarding projects and services that contribute to achieving KOC production capabilities and goals. The picture is continually changing; there are big projects, a big demand for qualified contractors and new faster and more efficient ways for communicating and achieving everyone's objectives.

KOC Launches First Ever Video Recruitment in Mumbai

Bringing Business People Together Around the World

The Kuwaiti Digest talked with the team in Mumbai India about KOC's first ever Video Conferencing Recruitment. They have been associated with Kuwait Oil Company to recruit engineers from India since April 2006 and they have recruited more than 100 experienced engineers so far. They have completed two recruitment drives; a third campaign is scheduled for the end of February 2007. They believe that their success is based on the immense support and cooperation they receive from KOC's recruitment department. Video Conferencing offers tremendous scope for recruiting people in the future.



Describe how the technology works in India.

Technology that connects IP to public IP is called KODIAN, which is based

in Mumbai. It takes care of the IP-to-IP Video Conferencing; Video Conferencing is done by opening a gateway which allows the public IP to connect to the Telecom Service Provider's IP, for example, VSNL, BSNL, Reliance and Satyam, for example. Via this bridge we connect to different studios located at different locations across India.

How did you recruit engineers as well as support staff before KOC's Video Conferencing studio was launched?

Once we received the job description and specifications from KOC we suggested

the best way to find the right people and then our sourcing began. Once we received candidate's resumes we created a shortlist and evaluated the candidates based on KOC's job description and their profile. Preliminary interviews are then conducted through video conferencing as well as personally. Resumes of successful candidates (preliminary interviews) were forwarded to KOC for their review and approval. A final shortlist was created for the final interview. Once KOC sent us the final shortlist candidates had a final personal interview with us and out of that final shortlist candidates were selected.

How did Video Conferencing begin in India?

Although Video Conferencing started in India in the mid-70s, it really took off in the early 80s. Here at Jerry Varghese International Ltd. we started using video conferencing facilities for our recruitment operations in 2000 with a prestigious Saudi Arabian company. Our client wanted to reduce costs, time and money needed to conduct personal interviews, and validate their CVs while actually raising the quality of candidates and the recruitment selection figure. They wanted to make an immediate decision selecting people without a personal interview. International face-to-face recruitment is an expensive business especially if companies meet the wrong kind of candidate (a person that does not meet the complete job criteria); it can cost the company and the agency dearly. Therefore we encourage each of our clients to conduct a preliminary round of video conferencing interviews before conducting the final interview.

Currently we are using ISDN-based facilities to interview candidates on a day-to-day basis for a Saudi Arabian company as well as other companies. We have more than eight centres spread throughout India including Delhi, Bangalore and Pune, for example. We extended this ISDN-based facility to KOC from Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkotta in January 2007.

KOC I.T. Library Leads the Way

'Content is King' but how to access it in today's fast-paced world of data and information? KOC's I.T. library is leading the way, providing a gateway for easy access to all the latest information right at your fingertips. Company-wide connectivity includes worldwide access to online references, software guides and archives. The future of connectivity: to link all KOC libraries and K companies libraries.

I.T. Library System

The I.T. librarian handles all transactions related to borrowing, reserving, returning and tracking books, (office admin.) documents, manuals, journals, CDs, DVDs, and security devices.

1. Withdrawal Screen

The Library Oracle System will update all items purchased from the vendor: stationery and withdrawal items to measure the actual consumption with the I.T. group.

2. Data Entry

The system will save and update reports for publishers and authors. Send an email for new books through the Postmaster to all KOC staff.

3. Transaction

- Log master file (borrowing, returning, renewing and reserving). Report generation (overdue, return notice for the user through a printer or email).
- Bar Code; The Bar Code works together with our In-House Oracle Asset database to allow the librarian to bar-code label all books, periodicals and software assets in order to streamline the process of adding new assets to the library plus checking-out and checking -in.
- Personnel information web page is a step to update the employee information of all IT staff and its contractors.
- The web page contains employee information form and telephone directory report.
- Initiate your own update and explore its functions.



Nuhad Jumah
I.T. Group Librarian

"We have had great feedback from the people visiting KOC's 2nd I.T. exhibition in January 2007. People were very eager to hear about our own electronic system, and what's more, they want to be part of it. KOC has more than six different libraries in six different parts of the company and our short-term goal is to link them altogether."

Nuhad Jumah, I.T. Group Librarian

4. I.T. Employee Details (update borrower information)

- Initiate your own update and explore its functions at <http://mesoraapp.kockw.com:7778/forms60/f90servlet?config=plib>

Digital Library User System

These web pages contain information about using the I.T. library including

manuals, book collections and electronic resources with links to useful external sites including subject guides and other libraries. To find the information you are searching for, select a link from the menu below. Use the Search for the Library Web Pages. <http://mykoc>, then Services Scrolling list, then I.T. e-library.

- I.T. Library Catalogue: How to search and find materials (books, journals, software and other materials)
- Library Services: Borrowing, reserving, renewing inter-library loans
- Finding Material in Other Libraries: Search other library catalogues and access rights for users
- Subject Guides: Select a Subject or Region to find information about the library collection and selected links to other useful web sites.

Searching for a Book outside KOC I.T. Library

- Kuwait University Library provides online search facilities through this site: <http://library.kuniv.edu.kw> (The required reference can be read or photocopied. Borrowing requires a deposit of 40 KD plus information on your name and address, etc).
- KISR Library http://www.kisr.edu.kw/nstic_units.asp

Online search facilities can be accessed through the KISR website. References not accessible through the website can be checked out directly at KISR's library from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. It can be borrowed through a KISR staff number free of charge.

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Digital Library) <http://cwg.bibalex.org:8000/cgi-bin/chameleon?skin=defaulting&lng=en>
- Online Catalogue (Library of Congress) <http://catalog.loc.gov> These collections include over 110 million items
- Search online for the following links: <http://www.amazon.com/> <http://www.free-books.co.uk/> <http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm#2>

KOC Pioneers Video Conferencing

We are proud of the fact that KOC is a pioneer in so many fields. At KOC we are adopting the latest technologies, latest tools and service levels – anything that might help the core business and its operations. We aim to maintain the great image that KOC has been known for I.T. services which it provides to the core business and non-operations of the company. We plan to provide integrated unified I.T.-based service infrastructure to distribute video, voice, data, streaming and IP TV to users depending on their needs.

Let's take the general concept of Video Conferencing.

Video Conferencing communicates directly between people, who are in dispersed locations, visually and audibly. It's a technology that shortens the distance between two places especially when they are not reachable. It minimizes risk and minimizes time. It enhances performance of staff and managers depending on the service and operations that you are looking at.

If you take a look at the history of Video Conferencing, it has been in the market for around 20 years. With the technology advancements that have been achieved, we can presently have amazing picture qualities and video sessions that makes you believe as if you are sitting next to the person that you are having a conference with.

Therefore, you can look at this technology for usage in instructions/teaching, medicine, recruitment, security, knowledge transfer, operations, even the oil industry for decision-making of core business matters that is time sensitive. All these factors increase the demand for the technology especially when it is a mature one. I think for KOC to be a leader and a pioneer in its field and in order to cope with the business, operations, and services needs we opt to introduce such a technology in every way we can.

You know companies are evaluated based on how secure, efficient, effective and how fast they operate. Introducing video conferencing is not a luxury but rather it is to focus on the support needs of our core business. Since KOC is the backbone of the whole country, financially that is, we must make sure



**Jamal Ameen, Acting Team Leader
Communication and Networks**

that the best technologies are available to the company in order to have it perform to the satisfaction and expectations laid upon it by the Government and people of Kuwait. Furthermore, any technology introduced to KOC will be used to serve the other K-Companies. In this regard, we have established Wide network connections with the other K-Companies through which we provide them with whatever services they require including video conferencing.

Video conferencing has benefited them a lot and they are presently using this technology for contracting, recruitment, and other operations related to them.

We don't want people to travel anymore. No need to travel when we have a secure, encrypted efficient visual and auditory form of communication. At the same time you can also display documents, explaining sessions which give us real-time communication. This will contribute to saving fuel, time and human energy, minimizing accidents,

costs of wear-and-tear on cars – here is the real added-value.

We also have used Video Conferencing for real time drilling operations. There is also communication with our London office via a remote site, for recruitment.

One heart, same veins run together

Video conferencing is only one in many steps that we are taking to improve the efficiency of our work operations. As an example, we are introducing the SMART building concept. It is a part of the company's target regarding our major projects today. Take a look at our latest project, KOC Office Complex, which is under execution at the moment. It is designed for about 2500 users and includes six buildings. We are talking about completely SMART facilities provided to the users. All this is based on one infrastructure and one platform which will deliver all intended services.

If you look at Video Conferencing, even the projector, the IP TV, Voice, Data, they are all running on the same 'veins' as we call them – one heart same veins all run together. You need only one brain to control everything together properly managed and properly administered, and this will provide you with the high performance that you are looking for in any service. What we are looking at is fully I.P.-based services – you just plug to the Network Interface and you can get any service that you are authorized to receive it anytime and in anyplace you wish.

Finally, I would like to end my conversation with this slogan: 'Act Local, Think Global'.

KOC moves into a digital future: Parallel Reservoir Simulation System

The future of the 21st century oil industry depends heavily on state-of-the-art information technology. KOC's IT Group developed a vision to meet the challenge to be fully aligned with the company's corporate vision: 'to be a key player in KOC's transformation into a Digitally Intelligent Company (DIC)'.

During the last decade and more, the oil & gas sector has been racing against time to harness the latest information technologies that can enhance productivity while simultaneously managing huge amounts of data every day in oil & gas operations.

To become a strategic partner with KOC's core business is one of IT's three key goals. There are a number of ongoing projects that serve as a platform for this vision to put technologies in place that can automatically optimize operations while integrating different business processes including Exploration, Drilling, Production and Process as well as facilities.

Equally important, expertise of this kind has been made available to the various Assets so they can meet the challenge of operational issues and implement the best technical advice about industry-standard workflows. They can also implement recommendations concerning the latest technologies.

Fahd Al-Ajmi DMD, Technical Services



"The current challenges of reservoir simulation are multi million cell models that can model denser well patterns, map-detailed heterogeneities and, with regular surveillance, track fluid flow better."

Mariam Al-Ajmi Team Leader, Information Systems



"We will, hopefully, reach the ambitious objective for KOC 2020 Strategy to produce 4 million barrels of oil per day," says Mariam Al-Ajmi Team Leader Information Systems. This kind of IT expertise will also provide the necessary technical infrastructure for the Assets by working closely with them to achieve higher production levels.

Al-Ajmi added that "... the system has recently been installed and tested. It has proven to deliver significant performance enhancement. The system is capable of accommodating all Field Development Groups requirements while running a number of simulation jobs simultaneously. Simulation of massive reservoir models (in the order of 10 million cells) can be carried out at a reasonable time and at an affordable price."

Hussein Saleem Business Systems Leader



"Parallel processing refers to the way the program can be speeded-up by dividing it into more than one fragment that can be executed simultaneously, each fragment on its own processor, then combined together to provide full-field model results," explains Hussein Saleem concerning the Parallel Processing concept. Furthermore the new platform increases the overall performance of the simulation runs because not only does it improve CPU technology and its performance but also improves the system architecture.

**Badria A/Al Rahman, Team Leader
Field Development (Greater Burgan
Studies)**



“... relative to its vast oil reserves, the geological models of the Greater Burgan Field in SE&K are gigantic (Burgan full field - 65 million cells, Wara – 26 million cells). Because of the hardware/software limitations, we often have to scale-up the model for simulation purposes. As a result, the coarse-grid model loses the original geological details hampering simulation efforts and quality,” explains Badria. “As such, the advent of parallel simulation provided the technological breakthrough to put KOC at the forefront to take advantage of this new technology. In 2003, a 16-processor Power4 server arrived at the KOC and since then we have enjoyed the advantages of fast simulation and great success with the 1.4 million-cells Burgan full field parallel model.”

Badria explains its added benefits: “The latest addition of a Linux cluster (PRSS) has provided the much-needed simulation power to support several key projects in SE&K. Benefits have been tremendous in terms of development strategy and reserve’s additions. Fast simulation run time results in quick turnaround in history matching and prediction resulting in better reservoir flow descriptions and more reliable production forecasts. Extra sensitivity cases (because of shorter runtime) also improve the confidence and quality of development scenarios and reserves addition bookings. All in all, parallel simulation software and hardware has helped us achieve our business objectives in SE&K.”

Badria concludes: “We thank the IT Group, management and staff, for their key role in providing such critical resources which help us meet unforeseen challenges while continuing to provide the necessary deliverables. Moreover, we appreciate the IT Group’s continuous efforts and constant drive in pursuing simulation technology.”

**Qasem Dashti, Senior Engineer,
Greater Burgan Studies Team**



Senior Engineer, Qasem Dashti added: “the Parallel Simulation system is required to develop next-generation reservoir simulation models of multi-million cells to improve the accuracy of production forecasts in KOC fields which will enable the production of 4,000,000 million barrels per day. Without such technology, KOC may not be able to build a reliable simulation model to predict the field performance in the future and realize its 2020 vision.”

**Digital Challenge:
Defining the Future**

Reservoir simulation is one of the key tools used by multidisciplinary teams to manage and develop the reservoirs optimally. It is a yardstick to assess recovery potential as well as the reserves themselves.

The most important index to measure the economic health of any oil company is the list of how many reserves are booked and how many reserves remain. Larger more complex models are being designed, as part of current industry practice, to meet both the challenges of uncertainties as well as heterogeneities in the oil & gas sector.

If KOC’s current plans to increase production are carried out on full-field models being built for various reservoirs, reservoir simulation will help identify what is the best development plan to follow. This is how important reservoir simulation is.

Time is of the essence, too. The development of larger more complex models with more data takes longer to run. Engineers face crucial management decisions: how to access complex data faster and easier because, as time goes by, current available hardware is not able to process larger models efficiently. Simulation runs are the solution and turn-around times are significantly shortened -- almost overnight. By the end of the next day engineers can have

new and relevant data on their desk in order to help them analyze and make fresh runs.

**Reducing the Simulation
Modeling Cycle:
Parallel Reservoir Simulation System**

To meet the growing demand for High Performance Computers (HPC) the Information System Team from the I.T. Group together with concerned engineers created the PRSS (Parallel Reservoir Simulation System) Task Team. How to choose the most cost-effective Parallel Simulation platform to meet Field Development Group’s increasing requirements for more powerful, high-performance and flexible simulation systems?

Reservoir simulation – that runs parallel rather than single simulation systems – has significant benefits.

Parallel reservoir simulation systems improve the accuracy of the information while, at the same time, reducing the modeling cycle. Parallel simulation also helps to run larger models while breaking them up into smaller sections, if need be, running them together in parallel fashion then combining them together to create full field model results.

State-of-the-art hardware is an on-going challenge to meet the needs of the Parallel Reservoir Simulation System (PRSS) technology. After extensive pilot projects combined with extensive market research, KOC decided to replace its existing technology with Linux cluster AMD-Based technology.

What is the added value? The PRSS technology is superior to the existing model in terms of performance, productivity and cost. PRSS technology is approximately 10 times faster and, as a result, significantly reduces cost.

As a single program is executed across many processors it saves time than using one single processor. Multiple processors can speed-up many operations but as yet most applications cannot benefit from parallel processing because parallel processing is appropriate only if the program is rewritten to take advantage of this kind of architecture.

'We build people not only projects'

Personally Speaking is a new feature in the Kuwaiti Digest, and on this occasion we met with Ahmed Rasheed, KOC Manager, Export and Marine Operations to talk about his life and times at the Kuwait Oil Company.

The Journey to England

When I went to England in 1984 I was a pilot at that time, I went for a safety course. I remember that our Mina Ahmadi terminal, in those days it belonged to KOC before we gave it up to KNPC. The wall of the classroom had a picture of Mina Ahmadi and it read below it, "The best terminal in the world in terms of safety." Here I am in England and there on the wall is a picture of Kuwait's terminal. I felt very proud.

I remember we had a lot of pressure to take Kuwaitis into here and quite frankly it means a lot to employ Kuwaitis but they have to be qualified. They cannot cross this line. We cannot let go of this standard. We have to be very proud of it. We spend a lot of money to make these people qualified – Master's Certificates. Certificates for Ship's Captains.

Think Big: Change your Mind

I personally am qualified as a Ship's Captain, the Masters certificate. I came here as a pilot and now into Export Operations. From there into Planning for 5 years, Operation Planning then Strategic Planning then from Planning, I became Manager of Planning Group for 3 years then I came back to the real world, in my first year, as Manager, January 7, 2006.

In my first year I have made a lot of changes, lot of projects begun, a lot of studies carried out. I am trying my best to make sure that we fit within KOC to make sure that we are supporting KOC from Export and Marine here.

One of the most important things I think I have done in the last year is to change the look on people's face. I really wanted from Day One to create a different perspective in the company. People have to understand their potential and how we can utilize it. I keep telling them: "I want you to do whatever you think you cannot do. I'll take the responsibility. Just do it!"

I reach a point that when I ask for something people cannot say anymore, "I cannot do it." Take the word 'impossible' out: there is no word such as 'impossible'.

How I Learned to Change my Mind

How did the light go on? When I first came here as a young marine pilot, they always thought that things will happen as we go along. No need to think about it. You are going

to be promoted whenever you are going to be promoted. I was fortunate that I was working hard towards a promotion and suddenly there was an internal change in the office. Our boss left, and a new boss came. He changed my career actually. He promoted somebody else instead of me. At this point I said, "There must be something wrong. There is nothing wrong with me. I haven't done anything wrong. I don't want to put my faith in someone else."

First of all, I said, "Well, If KOC doesn't want my potential, I am going to take it somewhere else. I remember I was working on shift and at nighttime I have a Masters, I have to keep awake. I cannot go to sleep. It is a 12- hour shift from 6 pm to 6 am in the morning. There is nothing to do actually. Watch the harbor. Wait for calls, for example, on the VHF, and so on. Nowadays we have an assistant whereas then we didn't have any help."

Sheik Jaber's Challenge on Marine Mapping and Information

"To be awake at night, I started using my mind. I started thinking. I started reading books, and I started doing some writing. I said, "If I want to keep up with my qualifications and my knowledge and my experience, I should pass this to people in an easy way. And I started writing books. I made my first book, 'Skipper's Guide'. It was a big book, a



simple book of 170 pages or so. I started distributing it for my family – they told me to go and give it to important people within a company – I gave the then-Amir, Sheik Jaber, a copy, the Ministers, and the Crown Prince. I said to the Amir: “I will do this. I will make a beautiful nice booklet – a safety guide. And, I gave it to the Amir as a present for him. He wanted this book to be published for the Ministry of Information.”

I started making and distributing marine charts of Kuwait. How can you read this chart – there wasn’t anything before I started to tackle this. What type of fishes – I came to the idea which KOC is doing now which is a booklet of types of tides – a six-month Tide Table book. Every six month’s I published all the information on moon cycles and everything you need to know. This book was well received and well advertised. I remember I used to make it for Bahrain, UAE and Kuwait. It became very famous but it was also very demanding. People didn’t know I was KOC but they knew I was a ship’s Captain and this guy had all this marine knowledge and information.

I was so busy in this job that I forgot about this business. The job of management took all my time: I stayed 13 years. I made a huge project. I was appointed in 1988 unfortunately there was the Invasion in 1990 but after the Invasion I was fortunate to have the opportunity to do all these things after it. Export at this time had a major ‘hit’. Control room was down. The Island was done. Export was down. It was the bottleneck of the company. When you stop export you stop everything in the company.

13 years I stayed on Export Operations. We bring a lot of new engineers, a lot of new people. I came here and there was only 1 foreign engineer and I new Kuwaiti (UD). When I left there were over 10 Kuwaiti engineers – all seniors. I believe that I have done a good job.

That’s why they picked me out for planning unbeknownst to me. I was involved in setting the first KOC Strategy in 1995. In 1994, I was involved in the teams: I understood about export. We need to move ahead.

When we started this, I went out to all the Gulf Countries. When I used to visit with people, I used to make people interested in us, and we always exchanged ideas. We started to understand that we had a major default here. We made the biggest project ever – we started in 1996. We never thought that we could have this big project. Everyone was against this. They couldn’t believe that we need that big a project. I had to go and explain to every single person that we needed this, and that they needed to believe that we needed this – DMDs and the Chairman. Everyone supported this project; it became the most important project ever. Number 1 in KOC and KPC. Everyone knew that we had to do it at all cost – 270 m KD, 1 billion US; almost 400 million KD – 1.5 billion as one single project.

Train Your Mind to Achieve Your Goals

In 1999, I attended a session at the Plaza Hotel with the trainer, Tony Berzan, for a two-day session. They said that it was good only for management so I said, “I wanted to attend anyway.”

I attended this presentation and from the very first he challenged us: “I know what you are going to do because that’s the way you have always done it. You will do like others. I will give you questions. And I can put the answers on the board. I will challenge you to change the questions.”

And he was right. This man said, “Everything is in your mind. Your potential is in your mind. You can set whatever you want and reach it.”

He came to change the way we thought about juggling. He said that juggling was very difficult to do but that at the end of the session because of how we thought we would learn how to juggle. And we did. In two days, I will make sure that you will learn how to be a juggler. I will put it in your mind and you will succeed.

All what he told us: the mind of a person is so powerful that you can reach what you want. All you need is a clear objective and set your mind to it, and you will reach it 100 percent.

I remember at that time I used to be scared of presentations. I remember every time I froze in front of people. Suddenly I changed my mind: I am going to do great presentations. I came to like presentations. I was thrilled to do presentations: I was doing a great job – I believe that this guy has done something to me. I am sure.

Juggling Two Jobs: You Can Do It

Planning, I never knew so when I came to planning Tony’s thoughts came to mind – ‘If you can set your mind on it you can do it’. I’ll stay in this job June through February when they changed the organization at KOC and I was shifted to Strategic Planning. Then after six months they shifted me again to?

I stayed for another year, and they shifted me to planning manager in 1.5 years from start to finish. It’s one of the most important jobs at the KOC with no background in oil, as I am from Marine in Export.

Cleaning 56 Tank Farms in 4 Days: The Big Challenge

I remember the first task ever: we had insurance surveying. I was appointed in January and the Insurance was three months later for our tank farms. There was a huge safety issue with this group. I remember that I went to the Tank Farm, oil spills and safety things, and I said, “We need to clean these tanks – 56 tanks, and that each tank would take 4 days to clean.” I said that I needed all 56 Tanks to be cleaned in 4 days. They said, “It’s impossible.” I said, “We need a 1000 laborers. I will bring you a 1000 laborers.” What else do you need?

“I will bring you 100 trucks.” What else?

Tell me what you need and I will give you the resources. Don’t tell me that it can’t be done. I just want to show you that it can be done. I remember the next day when I went there, there were cues of people and lineups of trucks. We didn’t get everything done but things can be done. They understood, “Why didn’t do this before.” – in 2006. People started believing – People know that all the resources

KOC: Banking in Kuwait

Looking at Banking History in Kuwait

For a very long time we had 12 bank accounts with 7 local banks. Account No 13 was located in London at NBK the Kuwait National Bank up to 1990. Most of the systems and transactions were done manually.

After the liberation of Kuwait, all of the bank of Kuwait's accounts were frozen by the government. We could open only one National Bank account of Kuwait and the strong relationship we had with the National Bank of Kuwait.

They located one person from Kuwait City to come to work in Ahmadi even though the atmosphere was polluted. Most people considered Ahmadi too far and too polluted. They opened a branch to deal with KOC cheques. Most of the contractors and suppliers (invoices in July 1990) were mainly not paid. All of them came looking for money. The Bank of Kuwait came to our rescue. We did everything manually in order to make sure that duplications were avoided. In 1991, we re-established the banking system in Kuwait; we opened an account with every bank until 2004. The Kuwait Oil Company has an account with every single local bank in Kuwait. We closed our account in London with NBK and committed ourselves to local banks.

The Kuwait National Bank assured us that they will enhance the system of transferring the funds if we give them cheques before 10:30 am in the morning which makes it local and makes it faster. I can assure you that the same day that we receive the funds they will be transferred into your account – international contractors do not now have a need to have an international account.

If they assure us that they can do all the transactions which we need there is no added value to have an international account with the same bank which is located in Kuwait. The government



Abdullah Al-Shammari
Team Leader, Finances

stipulates that we cannot open a City Bank account : (as example) we have to have, by law, all our accounts in Kuwaiti banks.

In 2000, we implemented a new system which is Oracle which gives us great flexibility with electronic transactions. We did meet the banks. We told them we are looking for a facility called 'e-banking'. The national Bank and the Gulf Bank only the ones who met our needs.

Customer Service and e-Banking continue to grow

Competition is good. The National Bank said yes but the rest said no. By the way we moved ahead to talk with Gulf Bank. National Bank said that we have to implement electronic banking which will decrease the number of queries from each contractor and supplier. From 2002-4, no one had these facilities except the Gulf Bank and NBK. We signed an agreement for 3 years to be renewed automatically unless one party wants to cease the agreement.

KOC is looking forward actually to be the best company in Kuwait in banking. We talked to the other banks. We need an investor to have a branch in our building here in Ahmadi. We are looking for Customer Service. Our customers could be the Ministries, 'K' Company,

employees, contractors and suppliers. If we pay them direct, they will give more to KOC. All the banks in Kuwait said, no, we will not invest except the Gulf Bank. Gulf Bank accepted the idea.

We allocated three rooms to the Gulf Bank, they furnished it; we gave them the electrical infrastructure. In two short minutes, say 10.25 to 10.27 am, I can give a man a cheque and they can effectively transfer their money before 10.30 am. We realized at one point that the world is leading the way and that we needed to catch up and focus on customer service which we have now done. Follow the footsteps.

This branch tried to attract people in the small corner of the employment section. They benefited as well as KOC. It was a two-way street. At the end of the employment process when he finishes his exam, KOC added 172 new employees to its roster. They want to go out and just as they headed out the door they passed the Gulf Bank. If you open an account with us you will have 100 KD free to your account, you will have a new visa, salary will be in this account. If you require a loan, you will be served in 10 minutes but first we need your first salary in this account. The employee thinks: I don't need to drive and my account is now safe-and-sound in the accounting section of KOC.

After three or four months, they issue a small booklet through KOC's Postmaster emphasizing that KOC staff are welcome . Most employees went from Kuwait Finance House to the Gulf Bank, from NBK to Gulf because they would have a chance for a draw, a laptop perhaps, prizes, Al-DANAH account for cash prizes. 156 employees opened accounts with Gulf Bank in the first year. NBK now arrived on the scene with requests to open a bank in KOC locations. Dismayed but not beaten NBK approached KNPC and KPC's new buildings because finally they realized the competition.

Our employees located in Ahmadi hospital have to drive 12 kilometres for the nearest ATM machine so we need one at Ahmadi Hospital. They gave KOC 4 machines from the Gulf Bank.

Take Control of Your Health

Dr. Essam Zaher met recently with the Kuwaiti Digest to talk about how taking control of your life can benefit your physical health especially when it comes to knees and ankles. "By reducing weight and burning fat, the vicious circle of obesity-which affects the health of your joints can be broken," says Dr. Zaher. He encourages people to exercise more; control their weight and eat properly. Women need to wear sensible shoes – they're now in style again - with wide heels and no more than 3" high. People need to enjoy life again-walk along the shoreline, play sports with their family and go shopping."

Dr. Essam Zaher came to Ahmadi Hospital in March 2006. Dr. Zaher is certified and well-trained in foot and ankle surgery from Royal Berkshire Hospital, one of the biggest hospitals in Berkshire west of London. For the past 15 years Dr. Essam Zaher's special focus has been joint replacement especially the replacement of hips and knees. Recently he is also introducing ankle replacements although they are not yet offered here in Kuwait. Royal Berkshire Hospital, one of the most important shoulder units in Europe as well as a major trauma centre, provides a premier training area for London as well as Oxford.

The Link Between Health and Joint Replacement

Dr. Essam explains the architecture of arthritis pain by explaining the architecture of the knee – that is the lower end of the femur (thigh bone) and the upper end of the tibia (leg bone).



**Dr. Essam Zaher, Consultant
Orthopaedic Surgeon and Head of
Orthopaedic Unit, Ahmadi Hospital**

He remarks, "The knee itself is a hinged joint; it has three parts, the medial and lateral tibio-femoral joints and patello-femoral joint. When you lose the cartilage which covers the lower end of the femur, the upper end of the tibia so the bone starts to rub against each other or irritate the membranes that line the joints. The joints become swollen. Once you lose this cartilage the pain continues, not only, with walking, but also, at night. Actual walking is reduced. Painkillers don't work anymore, and at some stage, you may decide to have surgery. People visit a surgeon to talk about knee replacement that could last for 15 years. People who are younger than 45-50 years old should remain active and delay their surgery until they really need it." He concludes that osteoarthritis is an aging problem: the primary factors are obesity, lack of exercise and post-traumatic injuries to the knee or ankle.

High Success Rate

Even though Kuwait faces a huge problem with knee joints and joint replacement there is a high success rate. Dr. Essam's goal is to create a joint replacement centre at Ahmadi hospital. Dr. Essam remarks: "I have performed surgery on one patient's knee, and in three months, while I was away the patient called my office to put them on my waiting list as their other knee surgery was so successful."

In Kuwait Dr. Essam has performed 15 joint replacements (hip and knee) in the last four months. He says, "Trust and a good relationship with my patients are important; the patient will then leave themselves to you. I need to see people for at least 20 minutes to be able to make all my assessments."

The Latest Technology

Dr. Essam dreams of introducing the first computer-driven system with new joint replacement software in Kuwait. It combines a highly-accurate computerized system with superb hands-on surgery. The actual replacement is comprised of metal at the lower end of the femur and another metal piece at the upper end of the tibia plus a special plastic inserted in the middle, which will be exposed to wear-and-tear. The actual quality of material used in joint replacements -that resist scratches while reducing wear-and-tear - is constantly improving too.

Dr. Essam needs more people on his three-person team. In the UK, no one is allowed to wait longer than 6 months for surgery and recently it has been reduced to only 18 weeks. For the first time in Kuwait, Dr. Essam has introduced a Joint Replacement Club where all patients who have had or will have joint replacement surgery meet to share their experiences and provide support. Commonly people begin to have knee problems after 60 but Dr. Essam prefers to operate after people reach 65 years old.

Your Health Your Best Investment

Dr. Ikram talked with the Kuwaiti Digest about the fascinating relationship between culture and disease. “The specter of disease is quite different in the Middle East,” he says, “in Saudi Arabi and Kuwait for example, than it is in the West. Regarding knee problems, people sit on the floor and rest on their haunches which is why people have more problems with their knees here in the Middle East than in the west where they have more hip problems. Statistically knee problems in people 60 years old and above in the west is about 1 percent whereas in Kuwait it is roughly 40-60 percent.”

In 1999 a small medical team comprising Dr. Ikram, a radiologist and pediatrician launched a very intense screening program at Ahmadi Hospital to diagnosis hip problems in very young children. The program screened new born children for DDH (developmental displasia hips) from the day they are born. Treatment directly after birth or shortly thereafter is simple and successful. If parents delay a year or more, more difficult operations often take place.

First visit is important

The first thing Dr. Ikram does with new patients is to take their weight because there is a direct link between obesity (42 percent are overweight) and knee problems. Dr. Ikram works together with his patients to also help them understand what the human body is, how the joints work, what cartilage is and what his patients can do to stay healthy. He works closely with the dietician.



Dr. Mohammad Arshad Ikram
Orthopaedic Surgeon, Ahmadi Hospital

He believes that women need to think especially about their abdominals. They need to focus on the muscles that support the spinal column, abdominal and back muscles. With repeated pregnancies muscles become weak and are unable to support the backbone. This affects their posture which increases the load on the lower part of the backbone.

Are you taking care of your skeletal framework?

“Your muscles are telling your body to move,” says Dr. Ikram. “But one of the main things to consider is the amount of muscle bulk you have at your joints. Joints cannot move without muscle bulk – they are your main tool for moving your body. You can move about easily if they are strong and in good condition. However, if you are obese, fat fiber actually collects inside your muscles. As a result your muscles cannot support your body properly and

you can experience pain.”

He continues: “Pain is a language: it tells you that something is amiss and that, if pain persists, you need to check with your doctor.

The most common cause for back pain, knee and shoulder pain comes from a mechanical problem, which can be treated mechanically by physiotherapists for example. Pain killers only provide temporary relief: they are not the complete solution to your problem. All pain killers upset your stomach: They provide only temporary relief. Pain killers are not candy.”

Bad Knees are Bad News

When it comes to being active, pause to consider your amazing knee joint – how it works, what can go wrong and what you can do to keep your knees strong and pain-free. Lots of active people – runners, walkers, cyclists, dancers and ballplayers – have trouble with their knees. Sometimes the problem is structural; sometimes it’s poor technique, bad shoes or inadequate conditioning. Sometimes it’s a messy car collision that leaves you hobbling.

Anatomy 101: Back to Basics

The architecture of your knee is complicated. The hinge-like joint is designed to give you the motion of walking. The ligaments of the knee give stability. Anterior and posterior cruciate ligaments control the back-and-forth movement of your knee and collateral ligaments control side-to-side movement.

Cartilage in the knee complicates the inner anatomy even more. Cartilage is Mother Nature’s way of coating the knee to prevent the raw end of the shinbone from rubbing against the raw end of the thigh bone. A second form of cartilage in the knee, the meniscus, aids in stabilizing and weight-bearing. Cartilage can, unfortunately, be ripped, torn or damaged.

Finally, knee movement involves two different muscles – the quadriceps (front thigh muscle) is the knee extensor, and the hamstring (rear thigh muscle) is the knee flexor.

Antibiotics and your children's health

Antibiotic crisis

Medical breakthroughs have changed the way we treat our children. In many ways, antibiotics are miracle drugs--but only if you use them wisely and cautiously. The discovery of penicillin in 1941 launched the era of modern drug treatment for bacterial infections, and life expectancy shot up by 10 years in twenty short years as additional antibiotics became readily available.

Unfortunately, wonder drugs like penicillin have been taken for granted. Excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics has made many strains of bacteria resistant. Leading experts have been warning that many countries are facing an antibiotics crisis unless prescribing is brought under control. 'Gross overprescribing' is making many antibiotics useless.

Typically your baby or young child will probably develop several respiratory infections each year. Some will be viral and will resolve themselves on their own but others such as ear infections and strep throat are bacterial they will need antibiotics. Today, bacterial infections usually can be treated easily and successfully in children with access to good medical care.

The Digest recently talked with Dr. Yaser Kheraibet, Pediatrician, Ahmadi Hospital, about how to take care of small children with flu and colds.

Colds, Sore Throats and Children's Health:

Appropriate use of antibiotics

Dr. Kheraibet says that most young patients (99 percent) that he sees with a fever have an infection and 99 percent of them are viral. Colds, sore throats and runny noses are symptoms of a viral infection that is easily transmitted through the air. However, antibiotics work only



Dr. Yaser Kheraibet, Pediatrician
Ahmadi Hospital

on bacterial infections not on the flu. In Canada, for example, the doctor can know within 30 minutes what kind of virus the child has by swapping the nasal discharge or throat but unfortunately this procedure is not available here. Swabbing throat infections reassures parents that their child is sick with a virus not a bacterial infection.

Antibiotics are only effective against infections caused by bacteria, not those caused by viruses.

It is not appropriate to use antibiotics for viral infections like colds and flu. However it is appropriate to use antibiotics for bacterial infections with children. Because most childhood infections are caused by viruses, in most cases, your child will not need an antibiotic for an infection, but parents need to work along with their doctor to make certain what is needed.

Kuwait's Culture and Health

According to Dr. Kheraibet, his parent's generation waited out the disease. They lived through it. New generations want immediate answers to everything including the treatment of illness. They

often want antibiotics and there are a whole host of international antibiotics that are used here. Bacteria are changing and becoming resistant to drugs. Amoxicillin, for example, has very high resistance due to its abuse.

Anxious parents sometimes revisit the same doctor(s) day-after-day to get another opinion; they often mix-and-match medication for their children. Sometimes they heed the advice of a pharmacist instead of a doctor. Sometimes they resort to using any medicine.

However, infections will run their course, most of the time, whether the doctor gives the child antibiotics or not. There is no magic cure; in fact, colds improve a child's immunity. Most acute illnesses are due to the body's response to diarrhea, cough or vomiting, for example.

How long does it take to recover from a virus? Some patients take from a few days to weeks depending on the child's immunity and the particular kind of virus. For optimal health for their children as well as themselves, diets should be rich in meat, fish, fresh vegetables and fruits which bolster the immune system.

Tips: When to use Panadol for Fever

Dr. Kheraibet recommends to parents that they need to double check with their own doctor if their child has a fever of 39 or above. High fevers can affect the brain.

Worldwide fever is benchmarked at 38, and here in Kuwait, at al-Mubarak Hospital, for example, Panadol is only given to children if the fever is 38.5 or above, otherwise, doctors recommend that

'Nature should take its course'. Nothing should be purchased from a pharmacy to treat a common cold. Allergies, however, require specific treatment.

For Dr. Kheraibet, medicine is as much a science as an art.

In 2000 Dr. Yaser Kheraibet, Pediatrician, Ahmadi Hospital graduated from Bahrain's Arabian Gulf University, then took his internship and five years of pediatrics at al-Mubarak Hospital as well as other hospitals in Kuwait in different areas of pediatrics (birth to 12 year old children) through the Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization. Dr. Kheraibet now works in GP Pediatrics (walk-in pediatric patients) and pre-vaccination checkups.

KOC Spring Camp Builds memorable relationships

Ghunaim Al-Adwani Team Leader Community Services took time out from his busy schedule to talk with the Digest about his new role and responsibilities. Trained as an administrator with a Bachelor's Degree in Administration, Ghunaim Al-Adwani Team Leader Community Services joined KOC directly after graduation in 1987. He worked first at the hospital as a Team Leader, Medical Administration then moved sideways into the position of Team Leader Office Administration with responsibilities for office equipment, furniture, machinery, decoration as well as the building itself. More recently he became Team Leader Community Services.

Explaining Community Services

“Community Services works within the larger KOC 2020 Strategy,” says Ghunaim Al-Adwani. “We examine every aspect of this mission statement and we try to implement it within our own framework. We should take care of our people, our employees and our senior management -- that is primary. This is our mission regarding Sports, Social Activities, Catering Activities and other activities. We can provide services - very special prices on hotels and ticketing, this is another area we plan to target.”

He continues: “First and foremost, Community Services cares about our community. Because KOC is an energy company that requires long hours of commitment from everyone involved on a day-to-day basis, KOC employees need to be taken care of - in their hobbies and in their entertainment. Their families also need their own entertainment. They should have their own sports, privacy and prestige – making it different than other companies. We should keep our history and continue to provide very good service to our customers.”



Ghunaim Al-Adwani
Team Leader, Community Services

Explaining Social Activities Camping Services

“To bring families together is crucial in today’s world,” he says, “where families continue to be ‘under siege’ for lack of time to relax and to visit with their friends in a stress-free environment. We have also created gardens, trees and plants to add to a sense of relaxation. This is a central aspect of our human resources strategy. We are very proud of supporting families in this. It’s good logistically and socially.”

He describes KOC Camp on the weekends. “During the weekends we can have 1500-3000 people at the camp.

In fact we had over 10,000 people during National & Liberation Day. During most holidays we provide facilities on a first-come first-served basis for the day. People are welcome to stay until 11 pm. Our management includes a fulltime camp administrator, senior administrator, receptionist, resident security man plus outside camp security.”

Security and the Environment are our main concern

Security is KOC’s first priority. They have security inside and outside the camp reporting on an hourly basis regarding cars, children, fire issues and the movement of people.

“Our camping facilities ensure that the fragile desert environment is also protected from the onslaught of hundreds of campers during the winter months,” he remarks. “We have created associates - friends of the camp such as the Ministry of Education with its camping facilities for example. We also care about the Kuwait community and some associations such as Special Needs and Handicapped Associations – we provide transportation, everything free to make it a great day for them at our VIP camp.”



Phase 1 at KOC Camp

Ghunaim explains: “Senior Management continues to look for places where they can provide entertainment facilities for KOC employees and their families. People used to head out to the desert to camp. Originally KOC had a place for gas which is KOC property - now it is a camp location. Camp is now changed to chalets directly in front of the beach. This is Phase 1.”

He explains further: “Phase 2 will include swimming pools and lots of other amenities. On the other side of the chalet we will use it during the winter as Spring Camp. We build tents, very VIP diwanas for men, women and kids.”



Ghunaim Al-Adwani's personal style is to give everyone on his team permission to 'go for it' in their area of expertise. No one can produce such camping amenities in Kuwait with 5-Star VIP services as KOC can. Even the 'K' companies dream of having their day away at KOC camp and KOC tries to facilitate them as much as possible. The big challenge for KOC is to build, maintain and continue to develop the camp. He is very proud of KOC and is proud to be a Kuwaiti.

“We have plenty of playgrounds for children,” he says. “During holidays, especially weekends, National Day, we have our own program. During our recent Eid holiday we had a three-day program. We had national dancing, distributed gifts to visitors and guests at the camp. The Governor of Ahmadi joined us on the 2nd day of Eid. We have excellent security, tents, toilets and kitchen. We have our own office. Food is prepared on site - fresh, hot and delicious. We cook our own breads and cakes. We have Away Days. We organize special days and we have a contractor who organizes such activities. KOC has a history. It has a very good working environment, the management is wonderful.”

Catering Services

Catering is his first priority. Ghunaim wants to provide very good food, for example. He looks forward to implementing a new catering systems. He explains: “We used to have over 700 catering people on our contract. How to manage these people? You have to concentrate on managing these catering people first rather than provide services that fall within your mission statement - visas, residences and problems ‘all add up’. The answer: to use technology reducing the manpower while changing KOC employee’s ideas about the nature of work.”





KOC fosters long term contracts with DAELIM



Out of little acorns has grown the riches of a huge oak tree—and in the case of DAELIM, a huge forest of diversified opportunities. One of KOC's major Korean partners, DAELIM has built a sustainable future for their communities in Korea and around the world by focusing on how to deliver the best value to its customers and a better life for all its shareholders—DAELIM is Korea's oldest and

one of its most respected international engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors.

The Kuwaiti Digest had the opportunity recently to meet with Mr. S.H.Won, DAELIM Kuwait Manager to talk about the long term working relationship between the Kuwait Oil Company and DAELIM and how he sees DAELIM as a global enterprise.



S.H. Won
DAELIM Kuwait Manager

S.H. Won came to Kuwait as general manager in July 2000 but his first overseas assignment in Kuwait was in 1983 when DAELIM built the Doha West Power Plant on a Lump Sum Turnkey basis. His career has focused predominantly in the Middle East with two years in Kuwait and Baghdad in early 80s, three years in Baghdad as general manager in the late 80s and two years in Tehran as general manager in the mid-90s.

KOC's EWDP project consists of two plants, one in Magwa and one in Burgan, with more than 10 million man hours without incident for a single project. The Burgan Effluent Water Treatment Plant which leads to Minaguish oil field in West Kuwait includes 4 water tanks, filtering and pump house, control rooms and substations.

Risk Management Indexes

He remarks, "The work volume is tremendous in the Middle East but still the resources are limited. There are not enough qualified engineers and skilled labor in the marketplace, and even the mill capacities for construction materials are limited—to meet sky rocketing demand. How precisely can we quantify these risks?"

There are no local price indexes published for the construction industry or contractual mechanism to alleviate risks of cost overrun, for example. I have a

general view based on my own experience as a regional representative of an EPC contractor, not on the overall view of the whole industry. Issues of work production and business ethics, entrepreneurship, worldwide demand for limited expertise at all levels of the industry, the push-pull of different economies in the Gulf - Dubai, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar to name but three - are all converging to create opportunities as well as risks and challenges. Owner needs, markets are changing yet the timing is good for contractors and owners."

The Challenge of Time Versus Cost Factors

He continues, "At the bidding stage, it is very difficult, virtually impossible sometimes, for experienced contractors to quantify the risks involved in the EPC lump sum turnkey contracts. Timely decisions to identify and eliminate or at the very least alleviate the risks involved at the bidding stage are needed more than ever in the interest of both the clients and contractors to avoid incidental cost overruns for the contractor at the execution stage. In my

view, time is more important than the cost (he stresses) from the owner's perspective. Earlier completion with more construction costs but earlier operation of the project may result in greater returns for the owner than the other way around."

Leadership and Management Korean-style

"Diligence, loyalty, creation, and customer satisfaction have been the prevailing values for Korean contractors," he comments. "Koreans are diligent by tradition; the older generation and baby boomers had to work day and night, 7 days a week sometimes to survive the postwar reconstruction of the Korean War. I think these values

attached. At Daelim, we also appreciate these values and business style. Yet we do not hesitate to reinvent ourselves to adapt to changing times always moving into the future with our vision – 'Best Value, a Better Life'."

DAELIM Track Record in Kuwait

He recalls Daelim's track record: "In Kuwait, we began in 1977 through the early 90s executing many medium-sized as well as large-scale projects for major clients such as MEW, MPW, KOC, KNPC and PIC. Our relationship with KOC dates back to the Gas Gathering Plant construction at Umm Al-Aish in 1977. Daelim tackled its first EPC contract for the New GC-25 in

this program will certainly encourage international EPC contractors to participate in major projects in the future. The current bidding system itself is government-driven and could be tailor-made to suit current market demands creating a synergy alongside the UCP program."

DAELIM's future

"Thanks to high oil prices," he comments, "I think this unusual construction boom in Kuwait and other Middle East will continue for some period of time. In Kuwait, huge mega-projects are being implemented in the oil sector (with the peak expected to come in the next couple of years) let alone those multi-billion dollar infrastructure

DAELIM's History

Back in 1939, DAELIM (then Boolim meaning 'Rich Forest') was just a small lumber and construction shop but in less than 10 short years in 1947, DAELIM Industrial Co., Ltd. (DIC) soon became the center of Korea's construction industry. DAELIM Industrial eventually became the flagship of DAELIM Business Group bringing world-class expertise and high-tech turnkey solutions to virtually every construction challenge. Thirty years later DAELIM was listed on the Korea Stock Exchange in 1976 as a construction blue-chip company and was awarded the Korean Government's Golden Tower Order of Industrial Merit.

During Korea's 5-year post-war reconstruction plan and beyond following the Korean War (1950), DAELIM participated in the construction of official public & commercial buildings, housing and key industries like oil refineries, petrochemical plants, roads, harbors, bridges, power plants and subways.

Growth and opportunities continued in the 60s and 70s. By 1966, at home, DAELIM had grown into Korea's biggest construction company participating in several steel and petrochemical projects in Pusan, Kunsan, Yochon and Samchok while abroad it won its first overseas contract to construct a harbor in Vietnam, then continued to expand in Thailand, Guam, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Overseas expansion continued unabated. By 1974, DAELIM had branch offices in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Egypt. DAELIM Engineering was created to handle large-scale turnkey projects. In quick succession, DAELIM created a technical training center to develop a highly-skilled workforce, established REDEC-DAELIM in Saudi Arabia with branch offices in Tehran and South Africa.

In 1979, DAELIM entered the heavy chemicals industry as Korea's first Builder/Operator/Owner of a petrochemical complex acquiring Honam Ethylene Company which merged with DIC in 1987. As an international EPC Turnkey contractor, DIC's (DAELIM Industrial) construction expertise combined with DEC's engineering and procurement capabilities. The stage was set for even bigger things; DAELIM acquired Kia Motor Company forming DAELIM Manufacturing and in late 80s acquired two construction companies Samho International and Korea Development Corporation.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary DAELIM merged with DEC in 1999. DAELIM's track record speaks for itself: it has been involved in more than 300 overseas projects in 23 countries worldwide from energy & petrochemical facilities to public infrastructure, commercial, and residential projects.

were also inspired by the development-driven policy of the Korean government. Korean contractors still work at job sites on Thursdays and Fridays."

"Loyalty & customer satisfaction are crucial," he continues. "For example, when faced with technical and/or contractual disputes at work, Korean contractors generally do not hesitate to put the owner's instructions immediately into action. 'Do-it-first-and-ask-later' attitude is still today's business style for Korean contractors even with the latent risks

1997, followed by the GC-15 upgrade, the SCADA System and the Effluent Water Disposal Plant Project."

Future Challenges

"We would like to have more projects with KOC," he says. "In my view, the bidding system in Kuwait is quite challenging -- you must present the lowest bid price to win projects. The UCP program recently adopted by KOC is an excellent approach to a win-win policy. Having been a member of the program myself, I believe,

projects. I anticipate that the Korean EPC contractors would aggressively vie or partner with the other major international contractors to secure a major portion of these mega-projects as they have in the past. Unfortunately, I believe the current EPC business environment, market analysis and risks involved have been properly analyzed in the recent MEED report. EPC contractors as a whole are neither ready to risk the EPC lump sum type bids nor accept the cost overruns incidental at the execution stage."

Inspired by the Chinese letters 'Big Forest', DAELIM's logo symbolizes two people marching forward shoulder-to-shoulder.

CULTURAL EVENT

Abdul Khaleq: It's such a pleasure to have you here in Kuwait, Mrs. Pring. Usually we prepare questions for our guests to prepare interviews but you are such a special guest for us today that it is so difficult to prepare any questions. Let's talk from the heart and let's imagine that we are in 1949-50. ...

Mrs. Pring: 1951 for me.

Abdul Khaleq: How did it all start? Was it with an ad?

Mrs. Pring: No, I was a nurse, as you know, and I was nursing at one of the London clinics. And I met a man named Roderick Butt who was connected with the Kuwait Oil Company. He was very instrumental in setting up the refrigeration and air-conditioning in Kuwait. In fact I was looking after his son who was a teenager who had had a big back operation. We got to know each other quite well. I got to know the family quite well.

He said to me, "Why don't you go to Kuwait? It's wonderful there and you

would love it. Lots more money than you'd get in London, and so on."

He said, "I'll get a form from the company for you."
And he did.

Mrs. Pring: I put it on one side for awhile and thought about it. Then one day I found it in some drawer or other. Few month's later, I said, "Why don't I have a go?"

I applied to the company at Marble Arch and Great Cumberland Place. I was interviewed by Dr. John Brevner, who was the Chief Medical Officer at that time. He said, "Yes, we'd like you very much."

But they hadn't got a vacancy at that time. So he suggested a Tropical Diseases Course which I did in Liverpool. While I was doing this six-month course I had a message from London to say that they've got a vacancy and can I get myself down here as soon as possible, and we'll get you on the plane. That's how we began.

Mrs. Pring visits KOC



Abdul Khaleq: How did your family take all this?

Mrs. Pring: I don't know. ...

Abdul Khaleq: Because going to this unknown place

Mrs. Pring: I know

Abdul Khaleq: Away in the desert

Mrs. Pring: You're right. They didn't try to stop me but they must have been very worried. I really don't know. I didn't think about it and I wanted to do it. Enthusiasm and excitement, something really different and, of course, in the early 50s, England was still a 'grey' place; it was still recovering after the war. Food was rationed, clothes were still rationed. It was a very dreary place, really and that time. And the thought of coming to something exotic like the Middle East ...

Abdul Khaleq: You packed and flew to Kuwait. ...

Mrs. Pring: Yes, and of course in those days it took a long time to get here. The plane was an Argonaut 4 propellers, no jets, you know. You have to land in Rome, Athens, Beirut. And then we heard in Beirut that there had been a terrific rain storm in Kuwait, and we couldn't land in Kuwait that day. Took about 12 hours, I think, and because the runway was newly-oiled and the plane was too heavy to land so we came down in Basra. So all the people who were coming to Kuwait we stayed in the airport hotel in Basra.

Abdul Khaleq: Do you remember your feelings that night? Going into the unknown? Was it the right decision?

Mrs. Pring: Yes, what have we done - especially spending the night in Basra as I had expected to come straight to Kuwait. And I had been told in London that people would meet me in Kuwait and everything would be fine. You'll be taken to your accommodation. Spending



Farouk Al-Zanki, Chairman & Managing Director, meets with Mrs. Pring in KOC's main office.

Abdul Khaleq: How did you see the place then?

Mrs. Pring: It was dark. It was very dramatic because all the flares were burning from the wells and to come into that, it's an amazing scene. They don't burn like that to the same extent.

a night in Basra where I knew nobody and. ...

Abdul Khaleq: Were you in a group?

Mrs. Pring: There were 20 or 30 of us coming to Kuwait but I didn't know any of them. And the next day we came down on one of the Dakotas from Basra. They were Skyways - had a contract with a small firm that ran these small planes. And the company rented two, and we came down on one of those and they were really good plane that brought in fresh vegetables from Beirut or Cyprus or wherever. And we got on this Dakota in Basra and there were no seats in the plane because it was full of boxes and vegetables. And I sat on a box of cabbages or something coming down from Basra to Kuwait. It was funny, really. We all laughed about that.

Abdul Khaleq: And your first day in Kuwait did you expect something that

matched your expectation?

Mrs. Pring: There was a man called Angus MacDonald who worked with the company. He and his wife ran a company guest house in Shweik. Angus was a well-known character, a Scotsman as you can imagine. He played the bagpipes. Angus was the meter-and-greeter at the airport. Everyone was met by Angus. His line was "Welcome to Kuwait."

Then we were all allocated cars and things, and I came up to Ahmadi - There were what we called 'Swedish bungalows' in those days. I don't think there were any left now. They were accommodation for lots of people. I was taken to a bungalow with two other girls, there were three of us in each bungalow. In my bungalow there was one teacher, one secretary and myself. They were very nice to me when I arrived. They were English people.

Abdul Khaleq: How did you see the place then?

Mrs. Pring: It was dark. It was very dramatic because all the flares were burning from the wells and to come into that, it's an amazing scene. They don't burn like that to the same extent.

Abdul Khaleq: It's different now.

Mrs. Pring: Flares everywhere in those days, so that was an extraordinary sight coming in. And then I had a few days to recover and then went to work at Mugwa in the hospital.

Abdul Khaleq: What did you do in your free time? At that time there wasn't much to do.

Mrs. Pring: To the pool, played tennis at Hubara. We sat and talked, drank cups of coffee, and walked around. I keep on saying this and I am sure it is true that we were a very small community – everybody got to know everybody else. We were always being invited round for tea or coffee. If you were off on the morning shift, somebody would say 'Come round and have a coffee.'

Abdul Khaleq: How were you treated by the local Kuwaitis? Did you interact with them? Did you go to the city?

Mrs. Pring: Very friendly. Oh yes. They were all very very nice. I think that this is one of the things that strikes me then and strikes me now, how friendly the Kuwaitis were. They didn't regard us interlopers or a nuisance or anything. The hospital was divided up into different parts. There was one part across the road from the main hospital and I was in the family unit which had a maternity section, a women's section and a children's section. It had all nationalities there. We had Kuwaitis, Indian and Pakistanis who's husbands were working here. I can never remember feeling that anyone was unkind.

Abdul Khaleq: Is there any single major incident that you can remember -- social that affected your stay or anything?

Mrs. Pring: Because of those two airplanes they had, two Dakotas, you

could put your name down on a list, because they used to take staff away on weekends. You could go to Cyprus, Baghdad, Irkuk, Beirut, and so if you put your name down your turn came round when you go and have a weekend away at company expense. Marvellous. I was on one of them that went to Baghdad on a trip. I didn't know the chap at the time. They used to take the cricket or hockey teams to play the teams locally, the embassy in Baghdad or whatever. We were at a cricket match and an embassy cocktail party on the Thursday evening. I met Arthur who turned out to be the husband and the father of these two, in Baghdad.

He was working with KOC but I had never met him. We met on this weekend away.

Abdul Khaleq: KOC is part of your romance. That's really good to hear. Before coming back to this trip, I would like to turn to Humphrey and ask him 'You were born here in Kuwait and stayed until you were six years old. And now you are back in Kuwait. Just give us some thoughts on this. How did you see it? What were your memories that we talked about this morning -- your memories of King Hussein? What other memories do you have while you are here in Kuwait?

Humphrey Pring: It's fantastic to come back, really. Both Ben and I, and our other brother Andrew, who couldn't unfortunately come on this trip, we've heard so much about Ahmadi and the KOC ...

Mrs. Pring: They have been taken to KOC reunions in the UK, London ...

Humphrey Pring: And we have grown up with the family, and now we come to see where it all took place – where it all began. I was only six when I left so I don't have a great deal of very fresh memories but I remember learning to swim in the swimming pool here in Hubara. I remember we went on a family picnic into the desert and I was chasing a kite across sand dunes. That's strongly

imprinted on my memory. I don't really remember going to the Anglo-American School. I had the great privilege of meeting King Hussein of Jordan. I was only five years old. Like many young boys I was very keen on military uniforms that looked very smart. And he was making an official visit to Kuwait, and I think my mother and father had stood me on a round about where the procession would come through ...

Abdul Khaleq: Close to the main office....

Humphrey Pring: King Hussein was standing up on top of his car in an open-air car. And I was a very cheeky little five year-old and put up a very smart salute. Hussein was kind enough to salute back. So many memories. As children we grew up here in Ahmadi and when we moved back to the U.K. many of our friends, fellow children, had also been children of Ahmadi as well. Yes, we still have contact. In a way we are all -- oil babies.

Ben Pring: We left when I was just a baby and I really don't have any memories.

Abdul Khaleq: But seeing everyone at home talking about Kuwait and KOC, how was it?

Mrs. Pring: It was unbelievable really, it was our lives -- even after we left, it was still our lives. Of course, we kept in touch with so many people we met here. Then there were these reunions and children who were born about the same time kept in touch with our children, and still see them.

Abdul Khaleq: And now you have your friends here in this building. It's a good continuation.

Ben Pring: At Christmas every year we would have a little movie show, the old cine-films, pre-video games, of Ahmadi; we used to make a huge performance of getting these films out and sit down on Christmas and watching the movies. So my memories are watching Kuwait second-hand. This is part of our story.

Mrs. Pring: One thing that was very big for all the children here when they were little was on Christmas Eve a helicopter used to come to the Hubara car park there with Father Christmas in and give all the children presents. The company arranged it. The helicopter landed came down there. There was no canopy. Just open ground. All the children got a present from Father Christmas. We were terribly lucky.

Abdul Khaleq: How did you think of coming back to Kuwait?

Humphrey Pring: We've always talked about coming back. It's been such an important part of our lives. It was just a question of making it happen and then about a year ago a friend of mine whose currently in the British army – he's on attachment working with the Kuwaiti army here in Kuwait City and he is working with the British commission there – he's a trainer. And he was saying, 'Yes, you must go and I will help organize the logistics on the ground.'

The fact that we are all getting on and the fact that I had a good friend on the ground, we decided 'to have a go'. But the really the trip would not have been as good and rewarding without the great support of you, your colleagues and all KOC. We are all enormously grateful for that.

Mrs. Pring: We can't believe all the things what you have done for us. You have been so kind ..

Abdul Khaleq: It's part of paying back. You have spent 15 years of your life helping Kuwaitis, helping locals here. ...

Mrs. Pring: Over 20 years ... We didn't expect the wonderful treatment you have given us. We have been so lucky to meet you and to have all the ...

Abdul Khaleq: What were your expectations? Of course we are talking about 50 years or more. How do you compare it now? What were your expectations in infrastructure, landscape, small details of Ahmadi, Hubara?



Mrs. Pring: We can't believe all the things what you have done for us. You have been so kind ..

Abdul Khaleq: It's part of paying back. You have spent 15 years of your life helping Kuwaitis, helping locals here. ...

Mrs. Pring: I think I was very frightened that there would be so many changes that I wouldn't recognize anything. It might not be a good thing to go back. But, on the contrary, there are still so many focal points that I remember, so many places; it is much greener, of course, far more greener, the cultivation and landscaping is beautiful, wonderful.

The job that has been done since the war is fantastic. It has all recovered. There are still many things that I could walk in today and it would be like it was like it was 50 years ago, which is wonderful. And I was so nervous of that. I have had a wonderful time.

Abdul Khaleq: One last question, if I may . If you had the chance to do it all over again, imagining that it's 1949, would you do it all over again?

Mrs. Pring: I have been asking myself that question and I'm sure I would. Friends we have since, and the good times we had here. The Chairman was saying

this morning that he wished it would be more like it was in our day because it felt more like family. Now it's so big that it can't feel like family anymore. And all the world has changed.

Abdul Khaleq: It's now a bigger family. Talking about all these memories, it's so difficult. It's very emotional. We are not talking about numbers, facts and figures. I am touched by this visit, your reaction to KOC, Kuwait, Humphrey and Ben.

Mrs. Pring: Coming back with us together like this has made it all more believable and real to you.

Ben Pring: I have been talking with my daughter who's in the States telling them that I am riding a camel every day.

Abdul Khaleq: We've been so thrilled having you over the past two days. You have a house and a home in KOC whenever you feel the need to visit come to see us.

Alternative Energy



Dr. Nikolai Blatey, Vice President, Russian Academy of Science, speaks at KISR on Alternative Organic Biofuels for Energy on February 7, 2007.

Let's look at what we can do and what additional energy sources different countries are using including natural gas and biomass. There has been a dramatic increase in the use of dynamic bio-fuel in Europe which is very exciting. Renewable sources have reached 24 percent (2005) of total energy production.

In the far east of Russia itself, for example, hydrocarbon lakes have been formed by volcanic caldera but much more interesting are organic bio-fuel trees such as the Petroleum plant (*Callitropis gigantis*) which is widespread in equatorial Africa, tropical Asia including Indonesia, the Diesel tree (*Copiba*) and Poplar trees including the Canadian Poplar which contains 25 percent oil which is almost ready diesel fuel.

According to Dr. Blatey, "If you catch the oil from the Petroleum plant itself, for example, you can collect 20 litres of petroleum per day. Rape is also economically feasible as a typical 21st century bio-fuel. Mother Nature

"80 percent of the consumed energy of Paris is achieved by combustion of city waste and city garbage."

has collected for us a lot of natural hydrocarbons in addition to oil & gas. Why not use them?"

Biofuels emit fewer pollutants than fossil fuels. Poplar trees and related plants store captured carbon dioxide in their roots, stems, branches and leaves. Mother Nature provides opportunities to improve carbon removal from the air by producing trees that effectively shuttle and store more carbon below ground in their roots and the soil. Equally important bio-energy crops re-absorb carbon dioxide creating a cycle that is essentially carbon neutral.

Sustainable or renewable energy in the form of bio-ethanol, for example, can now be produced by trees – Forests worldwide cover 30 percent of the world's land area, accommodate two thirds of life on earth, and are responsible for 90 percent of the biomass on solid ground. Fine-tuning plants for bio-fuel production is one of the keys to making bio-fuels economically viable and cost-effective. This kind of international research, using the latest genome technologies, is an important step to develop practical long-term substitutes for gas and other fossil fuels.

Have you hugged a tree today? The Poplar tree, the first tree genome, could be a renewable bio-energy resource.

A lot of the properties that trees possess are not found in other plants like their abilities to produce large quantities of wood, to synchronize their growth with the seasons, and to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

It's difficult to overestimate the importance of trees as providers of clean air as well as raw material for bio-energy, paper, furniture and other useful objects. They need all these kinds of properties working together because they must be able to survive for many years rooted, quite literally, in the same place.

Because the size of its genome is relatively limited, the poplar serves as a model organism for trees such as *Populus trichocarpa* (Black Cottonwood, the largest American poplar) With the new data, molecular biologists are setting to work to discover the activities the genes are responsible for. This fundamental research can provide a wealth of information about how trees function, and it can also provide answers to general biology questions. In fact, a lot of the reactions and functions in plants – and thus in trees – are also found in humans and animals.

The research is the result of a four-year scientific and technical effort, led by the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute (DOE JGI) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), uniting the efforts of 34 institutions from around the world, including the University of British Columbia, and Genome Canada; Umeå University, Sweden; and Ghent University, Belgium.

Note: This story has been adapted from a news release issued by VIB, Flanders Interuniversity Institute of Biotechnology.

10 Things

You Can Do to Reduce Global Warming

You and your family can help to reduce the impact of global warming by using energy more wisely. Here are 10 simple steps that you can do to help. Burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, coal, oil and gasoline raises the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and carbon dioxide is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect and global warming.

Change a Light Bulb

Replace your regular light bulbs with compact florescent light (CFL) bulbs wherever you can. Replacing just one 60-watt incandescent light bulb with a CFL bulb can save you 7-8 KD over the life of the bulb. Did you know that CFL bulbs last 10 times longer than incandescent, use 2/3 less energy, and give off 70 percent less heat?

Here's an interesting factoid: According to recent internet reports, if every family in the U.S. replaced one regular light bulb with a CFL, it would eliminate 90 billion pounds of greenhouse gases, which is the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road.

Use the 'Off' Switch

Someday we will all have Smart Rooms designed directly into our homes but, in the meantime, turning off the lights when you leave a room saves energy. Learn to use only as much light as you need. Remember to turn off your TV, video, stereo and yes, your computer when you are not using them.

Turn 'Off' the Water

Use water more wisely especially here in Kuwait when you wash your car and water your garden. Encourage your family to use pails instead of hoses. You'll reduce your water bill and help conserve one of Kuwait's most vital resources.

Use Less Hot Water

Simple things mean a lot. For example, set your water heater lower to save energy. Insulate your water heater if it is more than 5 years old.

Electric hot water heater blanket: Hot water heaters generate a lot of CO2. They can cut your home's CO2 emissions by roughly 4 percent.

Buy low-flow showerheads and save about 350 pounds of carbon dioxide yearly.

Wash your clothes in warm or cold water reducing your use of hot water and the energy it takes to produce it. Here's another factoid: You can save at least 500 pounds of carbon dioxide annually in most homes when you follow these simple guidelines.

If you have a dishwasher, use energy-saving settings and let the dishes air-dry. Home appliances now come in a full range of energy-efficient models.

Drive Smarter

Make sure your car is running efficiently. For example, you can improve gas mileage by more than 3 percent by keeping your tires properly inflated. Not only does every gallon of gas you save help your budget, but also it keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Start Digging: Plant a Tree

We can't have enough trees to counter the ever-increasing amount of carbon dioxide caused by cars, manufacturing

and other human activities. Did you know that a single tree will absorb approximately one ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime?

Buy Efficient Products

If you reduce your household garbage by 10 percent, you can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide every year so try, whenever you can, to avoid products that come with excess packaging especially molded plastic that can't be recycled.

Use recycled aluminum foil: It uses just 1/20th of the energy needed to produce regular foil.

Use cloth bags instead of plastic: An estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. That's 1 million bags used per minute. Less than 1 percent of them are actually recycled in the US. Instead, they clog landfills and create litter.

Use your AC Wisely

Insulate your walls and install caulking around doors and windows. It can reduce the amount of heat (for winter) and air-conditioning (for summer) reducing costs more than 25 percent.

Air filters: Changing the air filters in your heating and cooling systems regularly can save 2 percent of your CO2 output each year.

Use Solar Lighting

These yard or patio lights are inexpensive, and they don't burn any electricity or produce any carbon dioxide.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Choose reusable products instead of disposables. Buy products with minimal packaging. Buy the economy size when that makes sense for you and your family to help reduce waste.

Wherever you can, recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum cans. Did you know that by recycling half of your household waste, you can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide every year.

Spring symbolizes rebirth, and in that context, visitors are especially welcomed for month-long celebrations; it's an extravaganza of culture and entertainment. Hala Festival is a great opportunity for young and old alike to participate in cultural events, shopping carnivals, raffles and contests, and musical concerts.

Springtime in Kuwait:

A Time of Festivals, Celebrations and Holidays

Liberation Day

February 26 is Liberation Day in Kuwait. Liberation Day celebrates Kuwait's liberation by a multinational force from seven months of Iraqi occupation on February 26, 1991. Every year Liberation Day is marked with special public gatherings and get-togethers as Kuwaitis take a moment to remember and honor men and women who lost their lives during the invasion.

National Day

February 25 is National Day in Kuwait. National Day celebrates the moment when Kuwait became a nation state in 1961. It is marked with national celebrations which include firework displays, family get-togethers, a spirit of

celebration that festoons every Kuwaiti Public Buildings with neon illumination for the occasion. Kuwaitis, young and old, often wear their national dress to participate in these important annual festivities.





Hala February features performances by local, regional and international artists including religious programs, fireworks, exhibits, children's programs and plays.

The Opening Carnival was held on Salem Al-Mubarak Street, one of Kuwait's major thoroughfares - this venue was continues to be a focus based on the success of the Opening Carnival in 2005 when 100,000 people, both foreign and local, joined in the festivities along the street. Originality and innovative entertainment for the entire family played an important role in the event's success. The carnival involved the participation of local, regional and international performers while maintaining Kuwait's unique culture, customs and traditions.

Hala February

Kuwait's Hala February festival is an annual spring event - a time when the parched desert landscape is transformed into a magical carpet of dancing spring flowers and migrating birds adding elegance, life and beauty to the shifting sands. Hala February Festival features prominent poets of the Gulf. Poetry recitals, using the marvelous Hala February Hall, inspire poets and audiences alike who feel passionate about literature and poetry.



HSE in Oil & Gas Forum held in Malaysia



HSE in Oil and Gas Business Forum 'Ensuring operational sustainability and enhanced profitability through HSE excellence' was held on February 5-7, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Mutiara Hotel, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. The focus was on (1) securing strong commitment to promote a healthier safer work environment; (2) aligning management goals through improved safety performance to deliver positive results; (3) focusing on strong effective HSE performance and continuous safety improvements; and (4) enhancing environmental obligations through effective environment management initiatives.

Mohammad Al-foundry spoke on 'Corporate Responsibility and Safety Management: From Expectations to Action'. He touched on the key roles corporate responsibility plays in safety management including challenges and issues of implementation and where the approach of safety fits into the wider corporate responsibility philosophy. Samih Sarhan focused on 'Occupational Hazards in the Oil Industry'. The focus of his presentation included issues on how to reduce the risk of fatigue in oil & gas operations, how to manage heat stress and occupational stress and how to manage post-accident injuries.

Mohammad Alfoundry, HSE Manager, Kuwait Oil Company, Samih Sarhan, Senior Occupational Hygienist, Abdullah Salam, Team Leader HSE (NK) and Jawed Akbar, Group Planning Coordinator attended.

SOURCE: WORLD FOCUS, American Society of Safety Engineers, Special Issue, International Perspective on Safety, Special Issue 2006.

ASSE-Kuwait Chapter grows by leaps and bounds

Garlapati Asok,
KOC, Health, Safety and
Environmental Specialist



For the past six years Ashok Garlapati has been part of ASSE's Kuwait Chapter, and now as the chapter's current Vice-President

he continues to strive to further its growth and development. Ashok Garlapati has almost two decades of environmental management experience in the oil and gas industry, and he holds SH&E certification from the National Safety Council. He attributes the chapter's current success to the member's continued commitment. The chapter is divided into five committees – training, public awareness, outreach, government affairs and membership.

He believes that the chapter's most significant accomplishments include: (1) three international professional development conferences on a regional basis in 2001, 2003 and 2004; (2) first international chapter to achieve the highest growth membership in 2005; (3) ASSE's Board of Directors created a taskforce to further enhance ASSE's growth in the international arena based on the success of the Kuwait Chapter; (4) In 2004 the Kuwait Chapter conducted its first national seminar on SH&E regulations in Kuwait; (5) The Kuwait Chapter has developed a series of annual outreach programs including a Beach Cleanup Campaign on Feb 19, World Environment Day (June 5), International Ozone Day (Sept. 16) and SH&E Pupils Week (in April, which is similar to North American Occupational Safety and Health Week).

In the State of Kuwait the American Society of Safety Engineers-Kuwait Chapter is the only umbrella providing the latest updates in the field of HSE for its members. It also involves students and the general public in public awareness programs. Launched in 2000, the KC Chapter has become one of the leading International Chapters increasing its membership by at least 50 percent. The American Society of Safety Engineers serves more than 64 countries worldwide. The Board of ASSE, USA has developed a global taskforce to enhance its presence worldwide. Garlapati Asok attended the taskforce meeting in Chicago last October 2006: KOC's Ashok represents the Kuwait Chapter on the ASSC global taskforce. ASSE-Kuwait Chapter has 220 HSE professional members.

Distinguished SPE international awards go to KOC

Qasem Dashti,
Senior Petroleum Engineer
Field Development,
South & East Kuwait



After successfully passing extensive examinations and interviews, Senior Petroleum Engineer Qasem Dashti from Field Development, South & East Kuwait was awarded the SPE Professional Petroleum Engineer international certificate from the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE/USA) in 2006. Several factors have contributed to this success story.

Personalized Development Plans (PDP) combined with sustained management follow-up and support such as the support Qasem Dashti received from Hashim Hashim, Manager Field Development, South & East Kuwait, Badria Abdul/Raheem Team Leader Greater Burgan Studies and Hosnia Hashim Deputy Managing Director West Kuwait provide every KOC engineer with the extensive training and background necessary to attain the highest international standards in their fields.

Qasem Dashti has focused on Greater Burgan Field Development. He has had several achievements in many petroleum engineering projects; he has designed and built reservoir simulation models to predict field performance, evaluated different field production scenarios, vertical as well as horizontal well infill-drilling, workover wells to shut-off access water production increasing oil production, design and implement different well tests to collect data to diagnose well problems and optimize oil production, pressure-transient analysis to diagnose well- or formation-related problems, design and implement injection tests to understand required injection pressure and formation fracture pressure to prepare for important future water flood projects, well performance optimization using Nodal Analysis to optimize oil production, conning studies using single well modeling to understand water production problems and best economic remedial actions, compositional modeling for gas storage project, asphaltene characterization and remedial field trials, designing Marrat pilot waterflood facilities to prepare for future major KOC projects.



Hosnia Hashim, SPE Regional Service Award

During the Middle East Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition (MEOS 2007) held recently in Bahrain, the Society of Petroleum Engineers recognized Hosnia Hashim, DMD, West Kuwait, for the major role she has played in the support and expansion of its activities. Abdul Jalil Al-Khalifa, SPE President 2007 presented the SPE Regional Service Award to Hosnia Hashim. For over 20 years, Hosnia Hashim has played an important role in the development of oil reservoirs as well as increasing oil production and reserves in Kuwait. She has given presentations, participated in organizing conferences and helped to increase SPE membership.



Badria Hussain Farhad, SPE Regional Service Award

On behalf of 2007 Society of Middle East region Abdul Jalil Al-Khalifa, SPE President 2007 presented the SPE Regional Service Award to Badria Hussain Farhad, Manager Fields Development (North Kuwait) in recognition of her services for Kuwait SPE as well as other sections in the region, her contribution to SPE committees and activities and the important role she has played in promoting the image of Kuwait women in the petroleum industry.

Ahmadi Festival of Lights

'Cool' technology delights Kuwait



This effort is to beautify Kuwait thanks to the KOC. And thanks to the visitors who watched our extravaganza which began on January 8, 2007 through the end of March. This is the first time ever we introduced a whole new concept in themed lighting entertainment focused on Ahmadi's main street, KOC's main office, gardens and hospital. I saw similar kinds of design in Malaysia and in Paris at the Eiffel Tower.

At KOC's main office we tried to introduce programmed presentations to create the flag of Kuwait, for example. The water tower technology is actually new technology. We created comfortable lighting, low wattage, which reduces the power supply and glare. It makes the lighting safer. Except for wind, dust and rain damage, KOC's lighting system survived beautifully.

Designs included rope flag designs, starlight for trees, spike lights on specially-designed frames, wracks for the pools, durable lights on trees in front of Ahmadi Gate, and net lighting for palm trees.

Electrical systems to support the entire architecture of lights included 1 MSB panel (400 amps), 7 DBS (sub-distribution panels) and approximately 800 metres of cabling.

We want to encourage people to think big, to think about further design projects which can even reflect on smoke, vapor or water mist.

Sharida Khalifa Al-Sharida, Supervisor


We have had more beautiful celebrations in Kuwait with each passing year. In fact specialized suppliers provided the connection between KOC and advanced lighting. Fixed frames were manufactured then placed on-site, while other frames were built on site such as the towers, for example. This celebration would not have been possible without special rope design fixtures designed around weight and electrical consumption. The main office lighting is a completely computerized program designed to change the color, make photos – all designed by lighting itself. There are 20 projects around KOC's main building itself- all high beam.

Shukri Mohammed, Senior Engineer

Nabil Marout was Team Leader Building Maintenance during the planning of the decoration for the National/Liberation Days, before transferring to Projects Design Team.



Left to Right: Abdulkarim Fakir Mali, Foreman, Shukri Mohammed, Senior Engineer, Nabil Marout, Team Leader, Projects Design, Ahmadi Services Group, Sharida Khalifa Al-Sharida, Supervisor, R.M. (Electrical and Instrumentation), Abdullah A/Raheem Al-Khandary, Senior Foreman.

A young boy with a beard is riding a black bicycle with yellow wheels through a tunnel of warm white lights. The tunnel is formed by strings of lights hanging from the ceiling and sides, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere. The boy is wearing a dark jacket and patterned pants. In the background, another person is visible walking through the tunnel.

The whole idea of the beautification of Ahmadi is not a new idea; in fact, it has been going for the past 30-40 years but on a different scale. What has truly set this year's Ahmadi Festival of Lights apart has been the sheer scale, size and diversity of the idea, which began two year's ago and was delayed with the late Amir Jaber's passing last year. KOC management wanted to see something special, something multi-colored and diverse. Coordination with our contractors and technical support of the idea came from our team.

Nabil Marout, Team Leader, Projects Design