

# The Kuwaiti Digest

April-June 2026



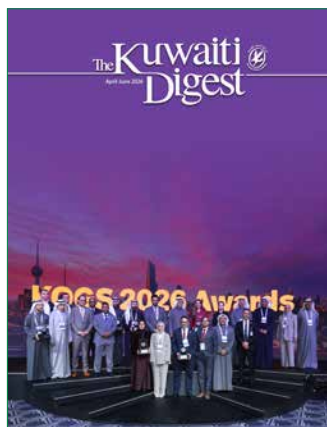
Kuwait Oil & Gas Show



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# CONTENTS

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03		Fifth Edition of the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show
10		Ahmadi Sports Day 2026
16		Marine Operations Qualification Program for Small Boat Crews
21		Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
26		SANAD AI: The Generative AI Drilling Assistant
30		KOC's CSR Role in Kuwait Geopark
33		People of KOC: Engineer Abdullah Alsarraf
37		People of KOC: Eman Hussein and Kholoud Al-Rasheedi
40		Al-Arfaj: A Striking Symbol of Kuwaiti Unity and Resilience
44		How to Raise Strong Children When Things Feel Uncertain
46		Celebrating Earth Day in Times of Regional Conflict

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# Letter from the Editor



## **Mohammad Khalifa Al-Abduljaleel**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Planning & Innovation

Dear Colleagues,

The period covered by this issue has been truly exceptional in every sense, marked by both significant achievements and unprecedented regional developments that have tested our resilience and reinforced our unity.

In its earlier months, particularly February, this period brought together a unique convergence of religious, national, and oil-sector occasions. Alongside Kuwait's cherished national celebrations, we were blessed with the Holy Month of Ramadan, followed by the joyous Eid Al-Fitr. We pray that these occasions brought goodness, peace, and prosperity to you and your families, and we ask God to continue to protect our beloved Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God preserve him.

During this time, the Kuwaiti oil sector, and KOC in particular, witnessed several important milestones. Chief among them was the successful hosting of the Fifth Edition of the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference (KOGS 2026), one of the most prominent energy events in the region. This achievement was made possible by the generous patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the exceptional efforts of our Teams, whose dedication ensured the highest standards of organization and hospitality.

Through strong collaboration with KPC, this event reinforced Kuwait's leading position in the global energy sector and advanced the shared vision of "Shaping Tomorrow's Energy," with a clear focus on sustainability and a cleaner future.

Our successes also extended beyond the energy sector, as demonstrated by the continued growth of the Ahmadi Sports Day, now in its third year, which has become a valued tradition promoting wellbeing, determination, and a strong sense of community.

However, alongside these achievements, recent regional developments have introduced new challenges that require vigilance, unity, and unwavering commitment.

In light of these developments, I would like to reaffirm that KOC continues to demonstrate the highest standards of readiness and resilience. Our priority remains the safety of our personnel and the continuity of our operations, supported by the dedicated efforts of our emergency, crisis management, and business continuity Teams who have shown exceptional professionalism and preparedness.

Our Organization Resilience Team has been actively engaged, providing strategic direction, ensuring effective coordination, and supporting informed decision-making across all levels. At the same time, our Emergency Response System, including the Emergency Operations Center, Crisis Management Centers, and field response Teams have demonstrated outstanding responsiveness in managing risks and addressing incidents efficiently.

We also continue to maintain close coordination with KPC and relevant national authorities, ensuring alignment and a unified national response.

KOC's performance during this period reflects the strength of its accumulated experience, built through continuous training, advanced planning, and robust crisis management frameworks that safeguard both our operations and our national resources.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all Teams and individuals for their dedication, professionalism, and steadfast commitment during this critical time. Your efforts are instrumental in maintaining operational excellence and protecting Kuwait's energy future.

As we move forward, we remain confident in our ability to overcome challenges while continuing to build on our achievements. Together, we stand resilient, committed to ensuring safety, sustaining our operations, and supporting the continued prosperity and security of our beloved Kuwait.

# Fifth Edition of the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show Achieves Remarkable Success

A landmark event, hosted by Kuwait and organized by KPC and KOC

*It is widely recognized that the State of Kuwait represents an ideal destination for major regional and international events, forums, and high-level meetings. The country offers a strategically attractive location, coupled with a welcoming and open environment. Kuwait also maintains strong relations with countries around the world, as well as with a wide range of international organizations.*





Due to all these factors, it came as no surprise that Kuwait successfully hosted one of the most prominent global events in the oil and gas sector. Owing to its outstanding organization, carefully designed discussion themes, and the participation of distinguished international personalities and institutions, the event emerged as a prominent milestone for industry dialogue and decision-making. It provided a platform for launching advanced initiatives and aligning strategies that support the energy sector, effectively reflecting the event's theme: "Shaping Tomorrow's Energy."

This article covers the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show (KOGS) 2026, marking its fifth edition after a nearly seven-year hiatus due to global circumstances. The conference once again showcased Kuwait's capacity to bring together decision-makers, experts, specialists, and industry stakeholders on a unified platform, providing an ideal setting for advancing strate-

gic planning toward a sustainable future that benefits nations and future generations alike.

### High-Level Patronage

Held under the esteemed patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and attended by numerous senior officials and distinguished guests—foremost among them His Excellency the Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi; and the CEO of KPC, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah—the fifth edition of KOGS took place over three days. The conference and exhibition opened with an inaugural ceremony hosted at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center in Kuwait City.

In his keynote address, His Highness the Prime Minister welcomed all guests to Kuwait and expressed pride in hosting this important international gathering, empha-

sizing that it represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen global partnerships, attract investments, and bring together leading experts and decision-makers from across the energy sector.

His Highness also announced two major projects scheduled for launch in the near future: "Shaheen" and "Al-Seef", both designed to attract international partnerships aimed at enhancing production capacity in Kuwait's onshore and offshore fields.

For his part, KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Conference's Executive Committee, stated that hosting the fifth edition of KOGS reflects the national leadership's vision to reinforce Kuwait's position as a global hub for dialogue on energy, innovation, strategy, and cooperation, particularly in light of the rapid transformations taking place across the oil and gas sector globally.



### Speeches and Panel Sessions

Recorded keynote addresses were also delivered by H.E. Minister Al-Roumi and Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah.

H.E. Al-Roumi stated that hosting the event reaffirms Kuwait's standing within the global energy sector, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to expand Heavy Oil production and advance offshore exploration while implementing more efficient operations with reduced environmental impact.

For his part, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah emphasized the strong international participation, expressing his optimism that the conference would generate mean-

ingful dialogue, productive discussions, and valuable exchanges of global best practices.

The opening ceremony included two main panel discussions. The first featured H.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while the second brought together chief executives from leading international companies.

The ceremony culminated in the signing of ten significant contracts, marking key partnerships between Kuwait's oil sector and leading regional and international companies.

Later on the same day, H.E. Minister Al-Roumi inaugurated the accompanying exhibition at the Arena Hall

within 360 Mall, attended by senior oil sector officials led by the CEO of KPC. This was followed by the official Gala Dinner for participants and distinguished guests, during which the KOGS Awards were presented across six categories.

### Maximizing Resource Value

In his opening remarks, His Highness the Prime Minister emphasized that the presence of international guests reflects Kuwait's continued role as a trusted global energy partner and its readiness to engage with the international community through cooperation, innovation, and long-term investment.

His Highness explained that Kuwait's economic transformation



is anchored in the New Kuwait Vision 2035, which serves as the strategic roadmap for building a diversified, competitive, and sustainable economy.

He further noted that the strategy focuses on maximizing the long-term value of Kuwait's natural resources while enhancing resilience and operational excellence through innovation, positioning Kuwait as a competitive global energy hub that is attractive to investment.

His Highness underscored that updating policies and regulatory frameworks to create a more transparent and robust business environment is among the government's priorities, noting that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation plays a central role in translating national ambitions into tangible outcomes.

He also stated that KPC is implementing a comprehensive package of strategic initiatives aimed at developing the oil sector and maximizing asset value within the framework of the New Kuwait Vision 2035 and KPC's 2040 Strategy.

His Highness the Prime Minister explained that the first initiative is the Shaheen Project, which aligns with the strategic direction to de-

velop oil infrastructure. KPC is currently engaged in discussions with leading global financial institutions to establish a long-term strategic partnership that includes leasing Kuwait's domestic crude oil pipeline network, built to world-class standards.

He noted that the project is based on a clear principle: maximizing the economic value of strategic infrastructure assets by enabling international investment within carefully structured frameworks and governance mechanisms.

His Highness confirmed that the proposed framework guarantees that KPC retains full ownership of the pipeline network while maintaining complete operational control and sovereign decision-making authority. He stressed that Kuwait's sovereignty over its national resources is constitutionally protected and non-negotiable. Upon completion in the coming months, the project is expected to represent the largest single foreign direct investment in the history of Kuwait's oil sector.

His Highness added that Kuwait, through KPC, is preparing to invite international oil companies to support KOC in developing re-

cently announced offshore oil and gas discoveries. In this context, he announced the Al-Seef Project, which aims to engage international companies in investing and participating in the development of the Nokhatha, Jaza, and Julaia offshore fields, thereby accelerating development timelines, facilitating technology transfer, and strengthening KOC's operational capabilities.

### Two Main Panel Discussions

His Highness the Prime Minister attended the first panel discussion, which featured H.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy, who reviewed the Kingdom's energy production efforts and its objectives to maintain sustainable stability in global oil markets.

His Highness also attended a second panel discussion featuring CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah; CEO of TotalEnergies, Patrick Pouyanné; CEO of Shell International Limited, Wael Sawan; and CEO of OQ, Ashraf Al-Mamari. The discussion addressed key energy challenges as well as exploration and investment initiatives across their respective regions.

KOC CEO and Executive Committee Chairman, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, also delivered remarks highlighting the vital role of the conference in advancing knowledge exchange and investment in technology and innovation to ensure energy security, while balancing global energy demand with environmental responsibility.

### A Leading Platform

In his remarks on the occasion, KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah affirmed that the fifth edition of KOGS represents a leading international platform that enriches dialogue, strengthens partnerships, and contributes to shaping the future of the energy sector.

He added that the conference, held under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister under the theme “Shaping Tomorrow’s Energy,” provides an exceptional opportunity to bring together leaders, experts, and innovators from across the oil industry.

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah also explained that the conference’s agenda evolved in response to rapid transformations within the global energy industry; from exploration and production to sustainability, emissions reduction, energy transition, and digital transformation—while noting that the conference’s continued success reflects Kuwait’s leading role in the global energy dialogue.

He reaffirmed that KPC and its subsidiaries remain committed to strengthening Kuwait’s role as a reliable and responsible energy producer, ensuring stable global supplies while maintaining the highest standards of safety, environmental stewardship, and operational excellence within a strategic framework that balances energy security with Sustainable Development requirements.

He also expressed his appreciation to all partners, sponsors, speakers, and participants, emphasizing that their collaboration and commitment were instrumental in establishing the conference as one of the region’s most prominent energy events.

### Major Agreements

A major highlight of the opening ceremony was a special segment during which ten agreements were signed between Kuwait’s energy, oil, and gas sector institutions and prominent regional and international companies and organizations.

In the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister, the first agreement was signed between the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEWR), and the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), with the Gulf Alliance for Power & Water Company (KSCP). The agreement relates to the Energy Conversion and Water Purchase Agreement (ECWPA) for the Al-Zour North Power Plant Project (Phases II and III).

The second agreement, related to Khafji Joint Operations (KJOA), was signed between KGOC and Saudi Aramco Gulf Operations Company.

The third agreement, pertaining to the Oman Petrochemical Project Continuation, was signed between Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) and Oman’s OQ Company.

Kuwait Petroleum International also signed a fourth agreement concerning Project Apollo with Italy’s Eni.

A fifth agreement addressed the Sale and Purchase Agreement for the ORCA Project between Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) and Shell.

The sixth agreement also involved a Strategic Partnership Framework between KUFPEC and Shell.

KUFPEC also signed its third agreement, the seventh overall, covering a Collaboration Framework for Knowledge Sharing and Cooperation, with TotalEnergies of France.

### KOC’s Agreements

The final three agreements of the ceremony were signed by Kuwait Oil Company.

The first was a Memorandum of Understanding with TotalEnergies, a global leader in the energy sector, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation, facilitating the exchange of expertise, and conducting joint technical studies.

The signing took place in the presence of the CEO of KPC, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah; the CEO of KOC, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan; and the CEO of TotalEnergies, Patrick Pouyanné.

The agreement defines areas of collaboration between the two parties, including technical studies and scientific research intended to expand oil exploration opportunities in the State of Kuwait. This includes evaluating resources, costs, and associated risks in preparation for informed investment decisions that support the Company’s strategic objectives and accelerate progress towards its long-term goals.

This MoU represents an important step towards deeper strategic cooperation in the future, with both parties expressing confidence that the collaboration will deliver positive and sustainable outcomes.

The second agreement signed by KOC was with SLB, a leading oil-field services company. This agreement represents the first of its kind for the management and development of the strategic Mutriba Field, located in Northwest Kuwait.

The signing of the Mutriba Integrated Project Management (IPM) agreement was attended by the CEOs of KPC and KOC, along with SLB CEO, Olivier Le Peuch.

This pivotal project represents a strategic advancement for Kuwait's oil sector, aiming to enhance production through the development of remote and technically challenging fields. It constitutes a significant step towards achieving Kuwait's strategic vision while enhancing operational efficiency and implementing global best practices.

Production in the Mutriba Field presents substantial technical challenges, requiring the deployment of advanced technologies, particularly given that some wells have recorded hydrogen sulfide gas concentrations among the highest in the world.

The agreement, with a duration of five years, aims to boost production to over 90,000 barrels of oil per day from the field. Both parties expressed confidence that it will drive positive and sustainable outcomes.

The third agreement signed by KOC was with BP, and pertains to an Enhanced Technical Services Agreement (ETSA) for South & East Kuwait Conventional Oil Fields.

## Awards and Recognition

During the official Gala Dinner organized for participating delegations and senior executives from global companies, the KOGS Awards were presented across six categories.

The first category, the Academic Achievement Award, recognizes individuals and institutions that contribute to the advancement of scientific research, the promotion of learning, and the delivery of distinguished academic work with-



in the energy sector. The award was presented to Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdullah from Kuwait University.

The second category, the Sustainability and Energy Transition Award, honors pioneering initiatives in environmental stewardship, energy efficiency, and innovative pathways towards a sustainable energy ecosystem. The award was granted to Shell for its North Kuwait Jurassic Gas Green House Gas Emissions and Energy Dashboard at KOC.

The third category, the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Award, celebrates organizations that adopt digital innovation to achieve smarter, safer, and more resilient energy operations. The award was won by KOC's SANAD: The Generative AI Drilling Assistant.

The fourth category, the Award for Excellence in a Regional Project, celebrates exceptional projects within the region that demonstrate technical excellence, strategic impact, and successful execution under complex conditions. It highlights the strength of regional expertise and collaboration. This

award was presented to Halliburton for its Integrated Offshore Drilling Services (IODS) - Offshore Kuwait Project within Kuwait's offshore exploration program.

The fifth category, the KOGS Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), recognizes organizations that are building inclusive cultures, empowering talent, and ensuring equal opportunities across all levels of the workforce. The award was presented to ADNOC Offshore for its Khabeer Program.

The sixth and final category, the Young Professionals Award, recognizes emerging leaders who are already making a significant impact through innovation, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

This category holds special meaning, as it represents the next generation shaping the energy sector. The award was presented to Anwar Jamal Al-Salem from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

## Figures and Statistics

The fifth edition of the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show recorded exceptional participation, with total attendance exceeding 10,000 partic-

ipants over the three-day event, including 6,128 attendees on the final day alone. Participants included current and former ministers, executives from international companies and government entities, as well as leading experts, specialists, and academics. The event hosted 1,106 companies and entities representing 59 countries worldwide.

The conference featured 200 distinguished technical papers selected from more than 1,500 submissions. These were presented across 31 technical sessions. The program also featured eight high-level sessions, including ministerial and plenary discussions, an opening session, and six strategic sessions, with senior executives from around the world and 56 expert speakers.

The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) in Kuwait City hosted the conference's sessions and meetings, while the accompanying exhibition was held at the Arena Hall in 360 Mall. The exhibition included 56 booths representing 236 entities from 48 countries, showcasing the latest technologies and innovations across energy, oil, and gas sectors.

### Remarkable Success

The event, jointly organized by KPC and KOC, achieved remarkable success, once again confirming Kuwait's pivotal position in the oil and gas industry at both regional and international levels.

The conference and exhibition witnessed the signing of numerous agreements and memoranda of understanding between national oil companies and their counterparts from international and private sector organizations, reflecting the depth of strategic partnerships and the confidence of global institutions in Kuwait's oil sector investment prospects.



The event also recorded strong and notable participation from state-owned companies across the region, alongside major international oil and gas corporations. This created substantial professional momentum and contributed to enhancing diverse opportunities for knowledge exchange and the development of future partnerships.

Conference sessions included comprehensive and in-depth discussions addressing the latest scientific and technological developments across energy sectors, particularly oil and gas, including advancements in exploration and production, digital transformation, sustainability, HSE, as well as global best practices to address future challenges.

In parallel, the accompanying exhibition attracted significant participation from academics, experts, and specialists in oil and gas, serving as an interactive platform for showcasing advanced solutions and technologies while linking scientific research with practical industry applications.

The success of KOGS 2026 further reinforces its position as one of the region's leading specialized oil and gas events and a strategic platform that supports devel-

opment objectives, strengthens regional and international cooperation, and drives innovation across the industry. This success was further underscored by the strong support demonstrated by Kuwait's political leadership, highlighted by the personal attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister at the opening ceremony, alongside numerous senior leaders and prominent figures from various sectors.

Notably, H.E. the Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, remained actively engaged throughout the three-day event. His Excellency was strongly involved in all activities held at both the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, where sessions and meetings took place, and the Arena Hall of 360 Mall, which hosted the exhibition featuring 236 participating entities.

In addition, the CEO of KPC, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, and the CEO of KOC, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, were consistently present on-site, overseeing developments, coordinating with guests, and ensuring optimal conditions for all participants. Their direct engagement played a crucial role in the event's exceptional success.

# Ahmadi Sports Day 2026

## Sustained Institutional Excellence and Expanding National Impact

*Continuous development remains a foundational principle embedded within the operational culture of KOC. This commitment to structured growth, measurable impact, and long-term sustainability extends beyond the Company's core business activities, to include its diverse community initiatives.*





Among the most prominent of these initiatives is Ahmadi Sports Day, which has evolved into an iconic annual event. With each successive edition, the event has demonstrated measurable advancement in scope, participation levels, diversity of competitions, and institutional engagement. What was once regarded as a successful milestone has consistently been surpassed in subsequent editions, reflecting disciplined planning, organizational progress, and expanding stakeholder alignment.

The third edition, following a long hiatus, was organized at Ahmadi Park, marking a significant progression in both scale and execution. The event witnessed strong public attendance, record participation from competitors, and an unprecedented level of official representation at the closing ceremony.

The closing ceremony was led by the Acting Prime Minister, Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, and attended by six ministers, senior government officials, oil sector executives, and distinguished guests. The strong institutional presence underscored the national importance of the event and its alignment with broader state objectives related to youth engagement, public health, and social cohesion.

### Early Launch and Comprehensive Programming

It is worth noting that the event's execution extended well beyond the final three days of public engagement. Competitive activities commenced nearly one month prior across multiple KOC sports facilities throughout Ahmadi. Several tournaments concluded before the official closing days, while others culminated during the final weekend.

During this period, Ahmadi Governorate experienced ongoing sports activity across all affiliated venues. The competitions were characterized by high performance standards, strong competitive spirit, and the emergence of promising talents across multiple disciplines.

The official opening of the final three-day program at Ahmadi Park took place under the patronage of H.E. the Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Also in attendance were:

- KOC CEO, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan
- KOC's Deputy CEO for Planning & Innovation, Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel
- Manager Public Relations & Information Group, Mohammad Al-Basry (Event Supervisor)
- Senior members of the organizing committees



The first day recorded strong public turnout from across Kuwait. The program included live performances, artistic and sports shows, family-oriented activities, children's zones, and collaborative initiatives with the Public Authority for Sport. The event also featured interactive competitions and organized prize distributions, contributing to a structured and engaging visitor experience.

The second day continued with sustained public engagement and various outdoor competitions, including:

- Men's Marathon
- Women's Marathon
- Men's Cycling Race
- Women's Cycling Race

Participants competed along designated routes across Ahmadi, supported by organized safety measures and strong spectator presence.

A featured highlight of the second day was an aerial performance by the Ministry of Interior's Parachute Team. The team executed coordinated aerial maneuvers over Ahmadi Park, displaying both the State of Kuwait's flag and a flag bearing the team and KOC logos.

Throughout the event's duration, senior leadership—including H.E. the Governor, KOC executive management, and the Public Relations & Information Teams—maintained direct supervision to ensure operational precision, safety compliance, and seamless program execution.

### **Closing Ceremony: High-Level Official Representation**

The closing ceremony was held under the patronage and in the presence of Acting Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.





Also in attendance were:

- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah
- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi
- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi
- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq
- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs, Abdul Latif Al-Mis-hari
- H.E. the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, Omar Al-Omar

Senior dignitaries included:

- Head of the Crown Prince's Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Major General (Pilot) Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

- Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), H.E. Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Oil sector leadership present included:

- Kuwait Petroleum Corporation CEO, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah
- Kuwait Oil Company CEO, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan
- Kuwait Oil Tanker Company CEO, Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah

The closing program featured official remarks, artistic performances including a national operetta, a tribute segment honoring the late Kuwaiti football legend Fathi Kameel Matar Marzouq, visual presentations highlighting event milestones, an official tour of Ahmadi Park's facilities, and the award ceremony for the padel and basketball championship finals.

### **Institutional Legacy and Historical Continuity**

H.E. the Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber expressed pride in attending the event for the third

consecutive year, describing Ahmadi Sports Day as a growing institutional legacy within the Governorate.

He emphasized that the event traces its origins to 1974 and represents the revival of a longstanding community tradition spanning 52 years. Despite prior interruptions, the event has been successfully re-established as an annual fixture on the national sports calendar.

He commended Kuwait Oil Company's strategic partnership with Ahmadi Governorate and praised the leadership of CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan and the organizing committees for their professionalism and commitment.

The Governor concluded by extending his congratulations to Kuwait on the upcoming National Days and wishing continued security and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### **Executive Perspective**

KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan affirmed that Ahmadi Sports Day



reflects the Company's commitment to institutional continuity and structured growth. He highlighted the event's historical foundation in 1974 and its successful modernization into a contemporary national platform for sports and community engagement.

Al-Eidan also expressed his appreciation to the organizing teams, partner institutions, volunteers, and supporting entities whose collective efforts ensured the event's success.

### Participation Metrics and Competitive Scope

The third edition recorded:

- Over 4,300 registered participants
- 26 competition categories
- 16 primary sports disciplines
- 22 sports overall
- 40 competitive categories
- 40 formal competitions

Sports disciplines included:

- Football (Men, Women, Juniors)
- Basketball (Men)
- Volleyball (Men & Women)
- Handball (Men)
- Tennis (Men & Women)
- Table Tennis (Men & Women)
- Swimming (Men & Women)
- Padel (5 categories)
- Chess
- Checkers
- Dominoes
- Snooker
- E-Sports (3 age categories)
- Bowling

Special needs competitions were organized across five sports within eight dedicated categories.

Additionally:

- Marathon races (Men & Women)



- Cycling races (Men & Women)
- Two equestrian show-jumping competitions, organized in cooperation with the International Police Federation Show Jumping Championship

**Competition Results**

**Snooker**

Champion: Mohammed Faraj

Runner-up: Sulaiman Dashti

**Chess**

Champion: Denis Poliquit

**Checkers**

Champion: Hamad Yousef

**Dominoes**

Champion: Ahmed Abdulmaqsood

**E-Sports**

Adults: Khaled Abdulbasit (Gold)

Ages 12-15: Ali Al-Buraik (Gold)

Under 11: Ahmed Al-Fadl (Gold)

**Tennis (64 Participants)**

Men's Champion: Hassan Mousa

Women's Champion: Asrar Abdulmajeed

**Volleyball**

Men: Team Niaz Salem

Women: Team Jumana Asad

**Bowling**

Champion: Adel Fahad Al-Ali

**Handball**

Champion: Team Yaqoub Abbas



**Table Tennis**

Men: Salem Al-Hassan

Women: Manwah Al-Shammari

**Football**

Men: Team Mustafa Al-Maghrabi

Women: Team Nour Al-Houti

**Basketball**

Champion: Saqr Abdulreda Hassan

**Swimming**

Men: Zain Al-Abideen

Women: Andrea Escamilla  
Padel champions were crowned across five competitive categories.

**International Equestrian Championship – Sabhan**

Held under the patronage of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Grand Prix (145 cm) Champion: Abdullah Al-Awadhi  
Winning Time: 43.47 seconds

Competitions were conducted across height categories ranging from 100 cm to 145 cm.

**Marathon and Cycling Results**

- Men's Marathon (Open Category): Philip (1<sup>st</sup> Place)
- Women's Marathon: Haya Al-Tuwajri (1<sup>st</sup> Place)
- Men's Cycling: Ali Al-Shammari (1<sup>st</sup> Place)
- Women's Cycling: Taiba Al-Asfour (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

The third edition of Ahmadi Sports Day reinforces Kuwait Oil Company's strategic commitment to structured community engagement, health promotion, youth empowerment, and institutional excellence. With expanding participation metrics, elevated official representation, broader competitive programming, and strengthened organizational execution, the event continues to evolve into a nationally recognized platform that integrates sports, community values, and public-private collaboration.

# Marine Operations Group Organizes Qualification Program for Small Boat Crews

*Program conducted over two weeks to enhance skills  
and operational readiness*

*Kuwait Oil Company continues its efforts to develop its workforce by providing structured training opportunities that enhance professional competence and support operational excellence. In parallel, the Company places strong emphasis on supporting newly appointed employees through targeted programs that facilitate their integration into the work environment and enable them to gain early, structured understanding of their roles and responsibilities.*

*Within this framework, the Marine Operations Group has implemented a qualification program aimed at enhancing operational readiness and maintaining high standards of performance in the marine environment. The program was conducted under the direction of the Group Manager, Sami Al-Sawagh, as part of ongoing strategic efforts to strengthen operational efficiency and ensure continuous preparedness.*





As part of these efforts, the Group organized a training program for employees Under Training in the position of Assistant Skipper (Skipper II), assigned to the Small Boats Section. The objective of the program was to develop and refine participants' skills in operating small boats in accordance with Kuwait Oil Company standards and established maritime practices.

The program was conducted under the supervision of the Group's Team Leaders, with direct follow-up from Fleet Operations Section Heads. This approach reflects management's commitment to providing a safe and well-structured work environment that aligns with modern maritime operational requirements.

The program represents an essential stage in the development of new employees, contributing to the reinforcement of safety awareness, team-

work, and operational discipline, in support of the Company's objectives related to operational sustainability and institutional excellence.

### Program Design and Scope

The integrated Skipper II UT qualification program was designed and implemented over a period of two weeks. It combined intensive theoretical instruction with practical training to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of port operations, marine safety requirements, and small boat operation.

The program introduced trainees to KOC's operational standards, as well as relevant international maritime practices. In addition, it included introductory modules covering marine operations, the Company's history and organizational structure, and an overview of the oil and gas industry.

Given the nature of maritime operations, which are influenced by variables such as sea conditions, weather patterns, and navigational traffic, the program emphasized the importance of operational readiness, accuracy in executing procedures, and strict compliance with safety requirements.

Accordingly, the training focused on familiarizing new employees with the operational structure of the marine fleet and the roles of its various units, including tugboats, workboats, crew transfer vessels, and pilot boats, as an integrated operational system.

### Health, Safety, and Operational Risk Awareness

HSSE and occupational health constitute a fundamental component of maritime operations. The program addressed common operational risks and preventive measures,

while reinforcing the importance of reporting unsafe conditions.

In line with KOC's established safety culture, the training included detailed instruction on the correct use of marine safety equipment, distress and rescue equipment, and firefighting systems. This ensured that participants were familiar with procedures designed to protect personnel, assets, and operational continuity.

### **Practical Training and Knowledge Exchange**

The program incorporated a series of practical workshops focusing on VHF radio communication, emergency response scenarios such as man overboard incidents and vessel fires, and the use of essential marine navigation equipment.

Open discussion sessions were also held, involving vessel captains, shift supervisors, and experienced personnel. These sessions provided an opportunity to reinforce technical knowledge, clarify oper-

ational procedures, and support the confidence of new employees in carrying out their duties.

### **Program Outcomes**

The program contributed to improving safety awareness among participating employees and enhancing their understanding of operational workflows within marine operations. It also strengthened their readiness to respond to emergency situations and improved professional communication among marine crews.

Overall, the program reflects KOC's continued investment in human capital through structured training initiatives aimed at preparing qualified national personnel capable of operating efficiently in demanding operational environments, particularly within the marine sector.

### **Training Management and Oversight**

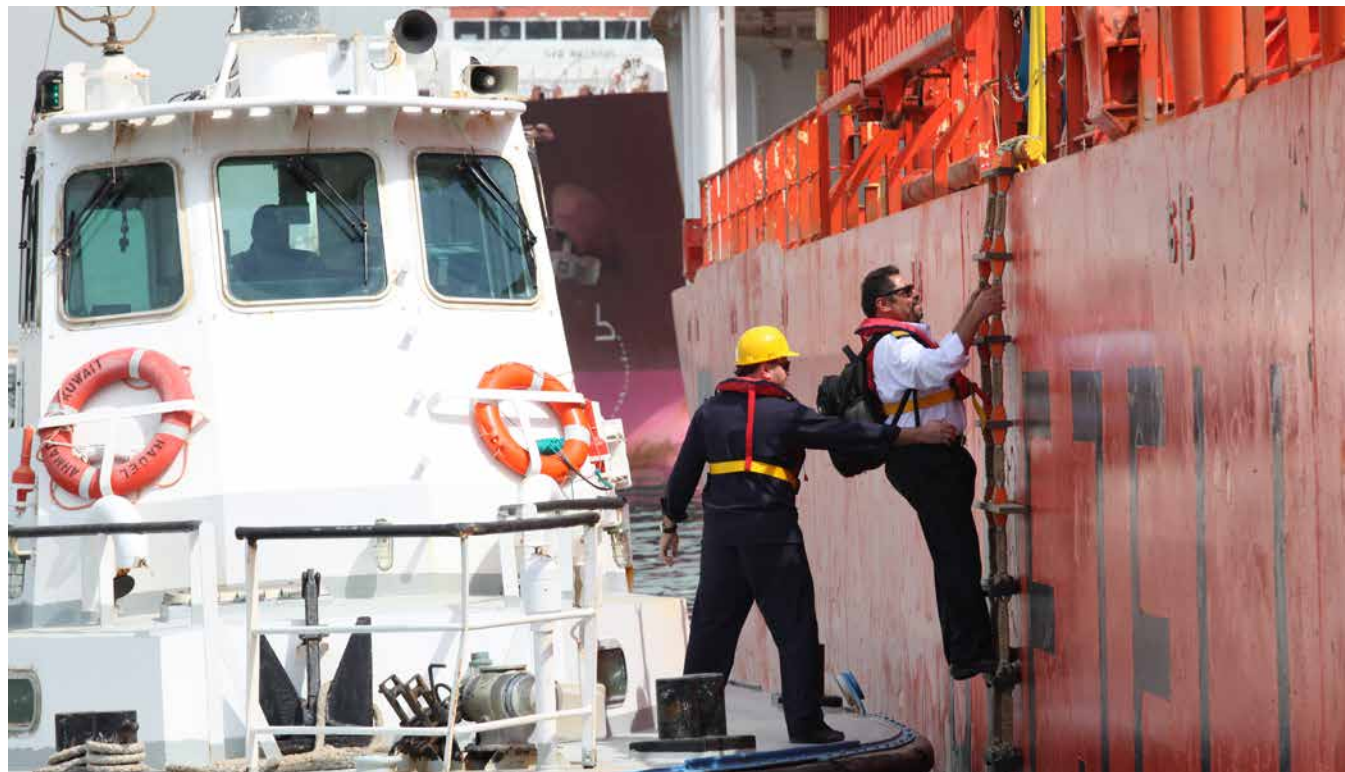
Port Operations Team (I) was re-

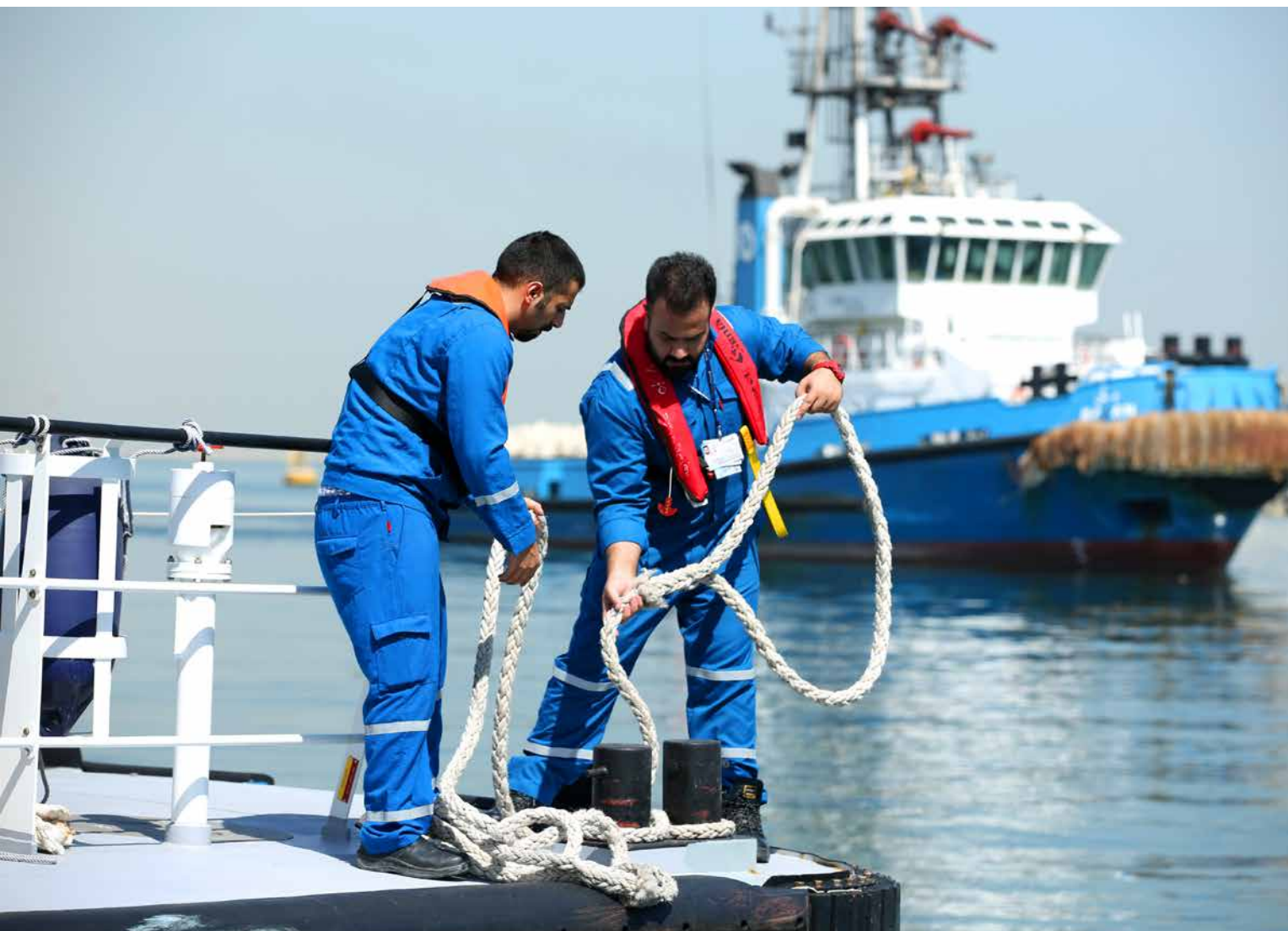
sponsible for the implementation of the program. The preparation, execution, and direct supervision of the training schedule were undertaken by Senior Fleet Operations Supervisors Captain Ahmed Ibrahim and Captain Abdullah Al-Rashidi.

Both supervisors carried out their responsibilities based on their operational field experience, ensuring alignment between training content and actual marine operational requirements. The program maintained a balanced focus on theoretical instruction and practical application, with emphasis on safety, discipline, and professional communication.

They were supported by a training team that included Captain Ahmed Hassan, while Section Heads (Fleet Operations) Captain Ahmed Al-Naar and Captain Mamdouh El-Nebishy provided technical and administrative support.

The program underwent extensive planning prior to implementation and achieved several objectives, including:





- Standardizing operational concepts among new employees
- Enhancing safety awareness to reduce marine incidents
- Developing navigation and voyage planning skills
- Supporting employee morale by reinforcing the Company's commitment to professional development

Captain Ibrahim and Captain Al-Rashidi noted that the program's training content represents a point of professional pride for the Marine Operations Group and expressed appreciation to all contributors, particularly Captain Al-Naar and Captain El-Nebishy.

### Training Schedule Overview

The qualification program was delivered over two full weeks. The first week focused on foundational knowledge and technical skills, while the second week addressed advanced operational and leadership topics.

#### First Week

**Day One – Company Identity and Foundations:** The program kicked off with an introductory session delivered by Captain Ahmed Hassan, focusing on the history of Kuwait Oil Company. The session covered the Company's establishment in 1934 and the export of its first oil shipment in 1946 under the

patronage of the late Amir, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The session emphasized the Company's development and the responsibility associated with working within its operations. This was followed by an overview of port facilities and the types of small boats operating within the fleet.

**Day Two – Vessel Structure and Mooring:** Training covered the structure of small boats, including hull, deck, propeller, and rudder, followed by instruction on deck equipment such as bollards, mooring posts, and cranes.

**Day Three – Safety and Emergency Procedures:** This day focused on per-

sonal protective equipment, emergency signals, muster procedures, firefighting equipment, and practical emergency response exercises.

**Day Four - Maritime Navigation Regulations:** Participants were introduced to international collision prevention regulations, right-of-way rules, navigation lights, vessel shapes, and sound signals used in restricted visibility.

**Day Five – Marine Communications:** Training addressed VHF radio operation, distress communications, phonetic alphabet use, and practical application of the International Code of Signals.

## Second Week

**Day Six – Meteorology and Navigation in Adverse Conditions:** The program covered basic meteorology, wind patterns, atmospheric pressure, the Beaufort scale, interpretation of marine weather forecasts, and case studies related to navigation in challenging conditions.

**Day Seven – Leadership and Work Ethics:** Topics included chain of command on board vessels, watchkeeping responsibilities, teamwork, professional conduct, and conflict management through role-play exercises.

**Day Eight – Passage Planning:** Training focused on navigation tools, chart reading, and the four stages of passage planning: appraisal, planning, execution, and monitoring. Participants developed a practical navigation plan for a small boat.

**Day Nine – Maneuvering and Tugboat Coordination:** Instruction covered maneuvering fundamentals, the effects of wind and current, berthing and mooring techniques, and coordination with tugboats and marine pilots. The

penultimate day included video analysis of real port maneuvers.

**Day Ten – Review and Final Assessment:** The final day included a comprehensive review of all topics, a feedback session, and a final knowledge assessment consisting of 20 questions covering both theoretical and practical aspects.

## Management Engagement

Manager Marine Operations Group Sami Al-Sawagh met with the trainees upon completion of the program, welcoming them and commending their performance and conduct throughout the training period. He expressed confidence in their ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired as they join their respective operational teams.

He also acknowledged the efforts of the training team and the specialists involved in delivering the program.

The meeting was attended by TL Port Operations (III), Captain Yousef Behbehani; TL Port Operations (II), Captain Eissa Al-Ayyar; TL Port Operations Services, Cap-

tain Ahmad Al-Hashemi; in addition to the program trainers.

## Role of Small Boats in Marine Operations

Small boats play a vital role in marine oil operations and are widely used to support drilling platforms, transport personnel and light equipment, monitor safety, and provide logistical services between shore facilities, islands, and offshore platforms.

These vessels are characterized by their maneuverability and speed and include specialized small tankers used for rapid service operations. Their functions include logistical support, fuel and material transport, infrastructure development, safety and security operations, and rapid response activities, particularly in areas requiring frequent and flexible movement.

Through these roles, small boats contribute to maintaining operational continuity and supporting the development of marine facilities within KOC's operational scope.



# Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI)



By **AHMAD SOUD BUALBANAT**  
SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST  
SERVICES & CALL CENTER TEAM





**ADEL AL-AZMI**  
MANAGER CORPORATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP



**JAMAL AL-ENEZI**  
TEAM LEADER SERVICES & CALL CENTER

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When it comes to the most advanced topics in the Oil and Gas industry or Information Technology (IT) industry today, AI and Cloud Computing easily tops the list. Everyone is talking about them, everyone wants them, and somehow AI or Cloud computing keep showing up in major discussions. These days, AI is literally everywhere. It has become everyone's favorite topic of conversation. Our smartphones come with AI companions, apps suggest what we should do next, and sometimes it feels like technology is listening to us even during our meetings. Whether we notice it or not, AI has quietly become part of our daily routine; quietly working behind the scenes to make life faster, helping us at work, communicate better, and make smarter decisions. AI and Cloud Computing are no longer just trends and futuristic

concepts but have become an essential building block of "Digital Adoption" in organizations like Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

Here, in this article, I will be elaborating on this hot topic in the industry, "How Cloud technologies (Microsoft, Google, Meta, etc.) and AI help Kuwait's Oil and Gas Companies to work smarter, faster, and safer".

## THE FUTURE EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT

Around the world, people are talking about two major technologies that are shaping the future: Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Let me ask a question to the readers, have you realized that these technologies are becoming part of our daily lives?

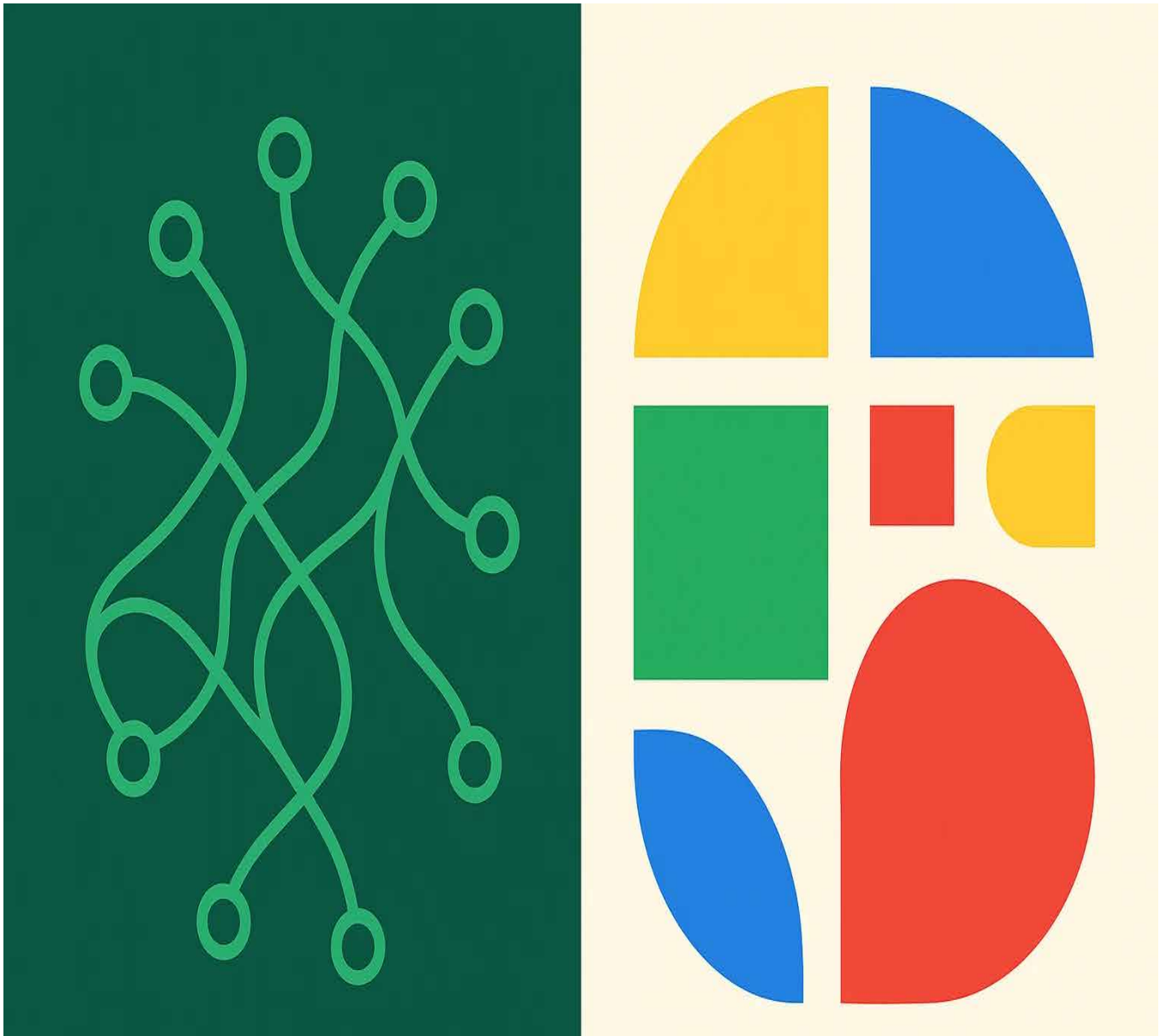
Today, we use Cloud and AI every time we:

- Unlock our phones with face recognition
- Get navigation routes from Google Maps
- Ask digital /AI assistants for help
- Store photos online
- And much more.

The idea is quite simple, if these technologies can simplify our personal lives so effortlessly, imagine what they can do for one of the world's leading international Oil and Gas companies like Kuwait Oil Company which stands as the prominent pillar of the Kuwaiti economy.

Most companies are adopting Digital Transformation and moving towards Cloud and AI because:

- They reduce costs
- They increase efficiency
- They help people make better decisions



- They enhance safety and reliability
- They support innovation and future growth

As global energy markets shift and digital transformation accelerates, Oil and Gas Companies are increasingly turning to the combined power of Cloud Computing and advanced AI technologies to reinvent their operations. For the Oil and Gas sector in Kuwait, it had once seemed like an aspiration but now, these technologies are becoming essential.

Cloud and AI can analyze enormous amounts of data, predict problems before they happen, automate routine work, and help teams collaborate faster than ever. Everything from drilling operations to Contract management or HR administration can become smarter, safer, and more efficient.

In other words, Cloud and AI are no longer the technologies of tomorrow but they are the technologies of today. It is already transforming the nature of corporate work in KOC.

### **CLOUD COMPUTING AND ADVANCED AI: TRANSFORMING KOC'S PROSPECT**

Oil and Gas companies in particular, are increasingly turning to the combined power of Cloud Computing and advanced AI technologies to rejuvenate the operations towards the global energy markets shift and digital transformation accelerates. In KOC, there are immense opportunities to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and embrace sustainable operations



through Cloud computing and advanced AI technologies.

Today, in KOC, the fusion of Cloud platforms such as Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, intelligent analytics, and AI-driven automation is reshaping exploration, production, Contracts management, HR operations, workforce productivity, safety, and most importantly in a vital decision-making technique.

Although multiple cloud platforms (such as Microsoft Azure and Google) have already proven a successful track record in KOC, this article will predominantly focus on Google Cloud technologies, supported by Google Workspace, Professional Services, Marketplace solutions, and implementation partners. We will also look at strategic frameworks such as Cloud Centers of Excellence (CCoE), Landing Zones, migration factories, and data center exit strategies, all of which serve as pillars of a successful cloud transformation journey.

### **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)**

The Google Cloud Platform (GCP) is a suite of cloud computing service by Google. It offers server space on virtual machines (VMs), internal networks, VPN connections, disk storage, machine language SaaS (Software as a Service) applications, and TPU (Tensor Pro-

cessing Units). Platforms like Google Cloud Platform (GCP) provide elastic, scalable infrastructure capable of handling enormous data while enabling advanced AI and machine learning models to operate at unmatched speed.

So, what does this mean for KOC? Below are some of the key benefits the Company will gain:

- Enhanced drilling optimization
- Predictive maintenance for rigs, pipelines, and refineries
- Improved safety analytics
- Real-time operational dashboards, drilling performance dashboards,
- Production forecasting
- Knowledge Mining and AI Agent solutions that enhance AI capabilities in a governed manner across Contracts and Legal departments, with the potential to extend to HR and other business units
- Decision-making based on unified data across the enterprise
- Zero-trust access, threat detection and AI-powered SOC capabilities

By combining advanced cloud infrastructure with AI-driven analytics and security, KOC can enhance efficiency, improve safety, reduce downtime, and drive sustainable growth.

### **Google Workspace**

In this section, we will explore Google Workspace. Google Workspace comprises email application platform (Gmail), Chat, Meet, Calendar, Drive for storage, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, notes, Sites for collaboration, Apps Script for building low-code/no-code business applications, which helps to run and grow the Company business. In a nutshell, Google Workspace is a comprehensive suite of cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools developed by Google. In KOC, where coordination between departments is crucial, Google Workspace drastically improves productivity, enhances collaboration among exploration teams and refinery operators, and significantly supports decision making.

### **Professional Services**

In a company like KOC, one of the biggest challenges is transitioning smoothly from traditional IT to Cloud and AI without disruption to critical production systems. So, this is where Google Professional Services plays a vital role. It provides expert guidance tailored to unique requirements, industry best practices, and hands-on support to ensure the transition is secure, controlled, and as seamless as possible. In addition, Google Professional Services also offers access to experienced consultants and innovators who play a key role in shaping the organization's Cloud journey. KOC has already leveraged Google's experts and consultants to make this transformation smoother and more effective.

### **Marketplace Solutions**

Once the Cloud foundation, GCP, Landing Zone, and professional services are in place, the next question is simple: how soon can we start using it?

After establishing this foundation, putting everything to work is where the real value and Return on Investment begins. The beauty of Cloud services is that you don't have to build everything from scratch. There are built-in, ready-to-use solutions available in the marketplace, which makes a great difference. KOC and its sister K-Companies can avail third-party tools, applications that are optimized for Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

### Implementation Partners

Moving forward, as KOC leverages Cloud services to achieve innovation and growth objectives, it can also be challenging to manage the infrastructure. That's where a Google Cloud partner or Vendor Implementation Services comes in. Vendor Implementation Services ensure that adoption is seamless, compliant, and aligned with enterprise workflows, by providing a local support through authorized partners. The Company has signed a contract with a local entity, "Impulse", to leverage these services. The local contractor works not just with the Company but also with other K-Companies to identify the best solution package and assist to leverage Google Cloud's technology, while enhancing the Company's operations to prepare for future challenges. However, the Company will still be in touch with Google directly. Through this contract, the Company will access a wide range of Google Cloud products and services.

The Company shall benefit from this program by establishing a strong GCP foundation through the design and deployment of a Cloud Landing Zone, creation of a Cloud Center of Excellence (CCoE), implementation of robust FinOps, security frameworks, and execution of a phased migration strategy including a full data center exit. This strategic initiative will enable KOC to reduce operational costs, improve scalability, and accelerate innovation through secure and efficient Cloud adoption. This collaboration ensures that KOC benefits from world-class cloud expertise directly from Google, while maintaining local governance and compliance through the Access for All (AFA) structure.

### PILLARS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLOUD JOURNEY

"Taking Cloud to New Heights"

Our Cloud transformation journey is all about setting the stage for success. From defining strategy and building the right teams, to creating secure environments and migrating applications seamlessly, each workstream plays a vital role. Together, they form the pillars that make our transition to Google Cloud smooth, efficient, and future ready. Here I introduce our four (4) pillars for a successful Cloud journey.

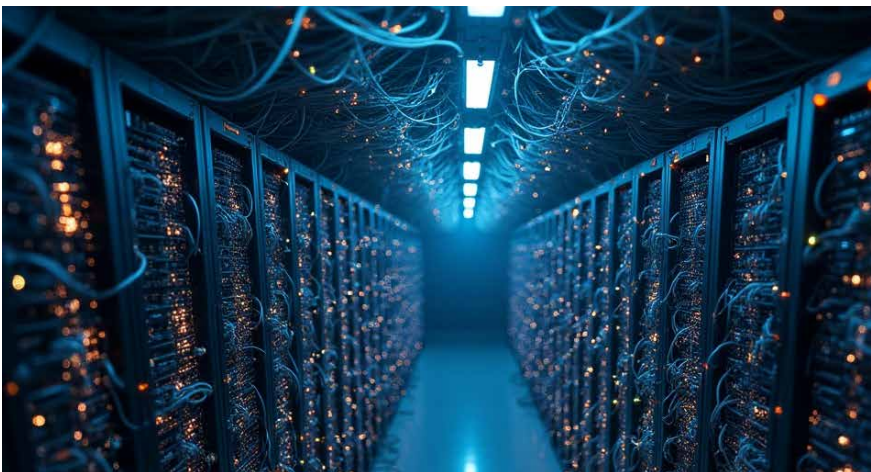
- Cloud Center of Excellence (CCoE)
- Cloud Landing Zone
- Cloud Migration
- Data Center Exit

The Company's CITG Group establishes a Cloud Center of Excellence (CCoE) to define cloud strategy, governance, security, architecture, FinOps, and organizational readiness, ensuring alignment with the business and IT goals. Along with Google professional services, a Cloud Landing Zone is designed and built to provide a secure, compliant, and scalable environment for workloads, with proper networking, monitoring, and automation. The Cloud Migration workstream assesses, plans, and executes phased application migrations to Google Cloud, ensuring minimal disruption, optimized architecture, and post-migration support. Finally, the Data Center Exit strategy enables a smooth transition from the existing data center to Google Cloud, with workload prioritization, phased migration planning, risk mitigation, and recommendations for cost, performance, and security optimization.

This journey reflects not only our technological progress but also our CITG's collective commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

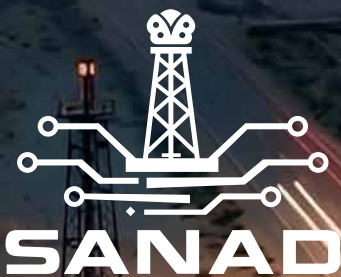
I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to our Company's leadership, especially our CIT Manager Adel Al-Azmi and Team Leader Services & Call Center Jamal Al-Enezi, for their unwavering support and guidance on this journey. Their active involvement, insightful feedback, and steadfast commitment to the vision have been invaluable. Without their encouragement and strategic direction, these achievements would not have been possible.

Having said this, I conclude with delight that we are "Taking Cloud to New Heights".



# SANAD AI: The Generative AI Drilling Assistant

Transforming Drilling Knowledge into  
Actionable Intelligence





SANAD AI, The Generative AI Drilling Assistant, is the first domain-specific generative artificial intelligence tool developed inside Kuwait Oil Company to support drilling operations with real-time knowledge, best practices, and engineered decision-making. More than a digital tool, SANAD represents a fundamental shift in how drilling engineers access information, analyze operational challenges, and apply standardized procedures across all fields in a consistent and optimized manner.

The initiative began with a simple but powerful vision: to provide drilling engineers with fast, actionable intelligence that merges engineering expertise with modern AI capabilities. In high-pressure, complex drilling environments, timely decision-making is critical. Engineers must navigate an overwhelming volume of technical documentation, including standard operating procedures (SOPs), health, safety, and environmental (HSE) guidelines, non-productive time (NPT) prevention manuals, and historical well datasets. Traditionally, retrieving and interpret-

ing this information during live operations has been time-consuming and sometimes prone to human error. SANAD was created to bridge this gap, transforming scattered knowledge into a single, reliable source of guidance accessible anywhere and at any time.

Senior Drilling & Workover Engineer Yousef Al-Shammari from the New Venture Operations Team, who was largely involved in this initiative and narrates the details of it below, stated, "SANAD AI represents a major leap in how drilling knowledge is accessed and applied in KOC, providing engineers with fast, precise, and reliable guidance rooted in official KOC standards and proven best practices."

### Why SANAD AI Was Developed

Drilling operations at KOC have relied on extensive libraries of procedural documents, best practices, and lessons learned from previous wells. While these materials are essential for operational safety and efficiency, they are often difficult to navigate under time-sensitive

conditions. Delays in accessing information can result in operational inefficiencies or, in worst-case scenarios, safety incidents. SANAD addresses this problem by providing instant, validated responses based on official procedures, technical standards, and historical data, ensuring that engineers can act confidently even in the most challenging circumstances.

The project was initially conceptualized and piloted by the Drilling Group in North & West Kuwait, focusing on providing engineers with a tool that centralizes KOC's drilling knowledge. Over time, the initiative evolved into a strategic digital program aligned with KOC's long-term objectives of operational excellence, safety, efficiency, and performance consistency across all Directorates. By offering a single point of access to validated technical knowledge, SANAD helps minimize variations in operational practices across Teams and locations.

### How SANAD AI Works

At its core, SANAD combines advanced generative AI models with



engineering expertise. The system has been trained on 14 North Kuwait Drilling SOPs, HSE standards, NPT prevention guidelines, and historical well datasets. Once fully implemented, integration with OpenWELL allows SANAD to provide contextualized access to operational and historical well data, enabling engineers to receive answers specific to the well and conditions they are working on.

This combination allows SANAD to provide engineers with fast, accurate, and context-aware guidance across a wide spectrum of challenges. Whether the issue involves wellbore stability, lost circulation in deep sections, casing design considerations, blowout preventer procedures, stuck pipe incidents, or early cues for well control, SANAD delivers actionable guidance aligned with KOC standards.

By functioning as a unified drilling knowledge hub capable of understanding complex technical questions, SANAD transforms how engineers approach problem-solving and operational planning.

### **Reliability and Traceability**

Reliability and traceability were foundational principles in SANAD's development. Every output is grounded in documented procedures, validated data, and sound engineering logic. The tool is designed not to replace human judgment, but to enhance it; reducing uncertainty, improving operational continuity, and supporting faster, more informed decisions.

In practice, this means that in critical situations, SANAD serves as a rapid reference point, significantly reducing the time required to search through manuals, technical reports, and archived documents.

For example, when a Drilling Team encounters unexpected losses while drilling a deep well, SANAD can quickly suggest solutions based on historical cases, official procedures, and real-time data, helping the engineer implement corrective actions promptly. This immediacy is invaluable in reducing NPT and maintaining well safety.

### **Supporting Organizational Learning**

Beyond real-time operational support, SANAD plays a strategic role in preserving organizational knowledge. In large technical organizations, expertise is often distributed across individuals and teams. When personnel rotate, transfer, or leave, critical knowledge can be lost. SANAD ensures that this expertise is captured and made accessible, providing a consistent

reference for engineers regardless of experience level or location.

By standardizing access to best practices, SANAD strengthens operational integrity and improves performance consistency across North Kuwait, West Kuwait, and the wider Company. This long-term knowledge retention also benefits onboarding, allowing new engineers to quickly familiarize themselves with KOC procedures and reduce the learning curve associated with complex drilling operations.

### Collaboration Across Teams

The development of SANAD AI reflects a strong partnership between multiple Teams within KOC. The Drilling Group (N&WK) served as the project origin and pilot owner. The Drilling & Workover Engineering Group – Standards Team provided governance and validation to ensure outputs were consistent with Company procedures. The Innovation & Digitalization Group delivered technical support, while SLB acted as a technology partner responsible for model training and data processing.

This cross-functional collaboration ensured that SANAD was both technically robust and fully aligned with KOC engineering standards. The partnership also facilitated real-world testing and validation, allowing the tool to evolve in response to operational feedback and ensuring it meets the practical needs of drilling engineers.

### Pilot Phase and Validation

During the pilot phase from 2025 to 2026, SANAD was trained on North Kuwait SOPs, HSE, and NPT documents and tested against real operational scenarios. Its integration with OpenWELL allowed the AI to generate contextually relevant responses.

Every output was validated by the Drilling & Workover Engineering Group – Standards Team to ensure alignment with official procedures. This rigorous validation process ensured that the AI could be trusted to provide accurate guidance during both routine and complex drilling operations.

### Benefits for KOC

The benefits of SANAD AI are far-reaching. By providing fast, reliable guidance, the system helps reduce non-productive time, improves the quality of real-time decision-making, and increases consistency between rig-site and office-based Teams. It strengthens well delivery performance, enhances knowledge retention, and improves onboarding, enabling engineers to align quickly with Company standards and best practices.

Additionally, SANAD reduces reliance on individual memory and experience, meaning that even less experienced engineers can make informed decisions with confidence. This creates a more resilient operational workforce, capable of maintaining high performance regardless of staffing changes or rotations.

### Future Expansion and Roadmap

SANAD AI is designed with scalability in mind. Its 2026 roadmap includes modules such as SANAD-CAPEX, SANAD-Stage-Gate, SANAD-Production Support, and SANAD-Performance Optimization. Over time, full integration across drilling, reservoir, and production domains is planned, creating a unified AI platform that accelerates decision-making and fosters collaboration across Teams.

Future enhancements also include predictive analytics, procedural verification, real-time performance

benchmarking, and advanced drilling simulations. These capabilities aim to shift SANAD from reactive support toward proactive, predictive guidance, helping engineers anticipate operational challenges before they occur and mitigate risks more effectively.

### Industry Recognition

SANAD AI has already been recognized within the energy sector. During the Kuwait Oil & Gas Show 2026, one of the industry's leading events, SANAD was honored in the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation category.

The Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Award celebrates organizations that leverage digital innovation to enable smarter, safer, and more resilient energy operations, underscoring KOC's leadership in applying cutting-edge technology to improve operational performance.

### Looking Ahead

Today, SANAD AI stands as a milestone in KOC's Digital Transformation journey. It demonstrates how advanced technologies can be integrated responsibly into core operations while maintaining the highest standards of safety and engineering excellence.

From its inception in the Drilling Group to industry recognition, SANAD AI embodies KOC's commitment to innovation, operational integrity, and continuous improvement. It is more than a technological tool—it is a strategic enabler of smarter drilling operations and a cornerstone of the Company's evolving digital transformation journey, providing a foundation for the future of intelligent drilling support.

# KOC Embodies National Responsibility Through the Kuwait Geopark Initiative



## Introduction

KOC continues to strengthen its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by supporting national initiatives that protect heritage, preserve the environment, and promote sustainable development. Among the most prominent of these initiatives is Kuwait Geopark, a landmark national project located in the north of Kuwait Bay.

The project reflects an integrated vision that brings together science, nature, culture, and community engagement, positioning Kuwait as a future regional and global destination for geological and heritage tourism.

It is worth mentioning that the Geopark project, which will be explored in detail in the article below, was also completed in a record period of only 28 days.

## A National Project Built on Partnership

Kuwait Geopark is a collaborative national initiative supervised by the Ministry of Information and implemented by KOC in partnership with the Kuwait Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC), the Kuwait Geosciences Society (KGS), and several governmental entities. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to delivering a project that serves national interests and aligns with Kuwait's long-term development goals.

During his inspection visit to the site, H.E. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, highlighted the unique nature of Geopark's land and its strong potential for attractive and sustainable investment. The visit brought together representatives from government institutions, the private sector, and civil society to review progress and ensure that the project continues to move forward in a coordinated and transparent manner.

## Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

The Minister emphasized that Kuwait Geopark embodies a national effort to transform challenges into opportunities that benefit all stakeholders. The project seeks to translate Kuwait's natural, geological, and historical assets into a living destination that offers educational, cultural, and recreational value. Through a variety of planned activities and events, Geopark will present these assets in a way that resonates with the public and creates meaningful engagement.

Kuwait Geopark, which opened its doors to visitors in January 2026, is expected to become a distinctive attraction for visitors from within the country and abroad. Its desert character and geological uniqueness will offer a different tourism experience, one that reflects Kuwait's environment and climate while contributing to the cultural and educational tourism sectors.

## KOC's Role and Corporate Social Responsibility

From a Corporate Social Responsibility perspective, KOC's role in Kuwait Geopark extends well beyond construction and development. The Company views the project as part of its national responsibility to support initiatives that create long-term social, educational, and environmental value.

In his statement, DCEO Planning & Innovation at KOC, Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, highlighted the exceptional historical significance of the site, which is linked to archaeological locations dating back to the Ubaid civilization, approximately 5500 to 4900 BC. This period represents one of the earliest stages of human settlement in the Arabian Gulf and reflects early cultural interaction among coastal communities.

KOC is overseeing and supervising all development works at

the site, drawing on its extensive experience in managing desert environments and environmentally sensitive areas. The Company is committed to implementing the project in accordance with the highest environmental and technical standards, ensuring the preservation of geological formations and the protection of archaeological remains. This approach reflects KOC's CSR obligation to balance development with conservation.

## A Living Museum and a Global Vision

Kuwait Geopark is envisioned as an open-air museum and a living memory that tells the story of Kuwait's land, people, and environment. It aims to position the country as a global destination in the fields of geology, archaeology, and natural and human heritage.

One of the project's strategic objectives is to secure Kuwait's inclusion in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN). This international network currently includes 229 geoparks across 50 countries worldwide, with only a limited presence in the Arab region. Achieving this recognition would enhance Kuwait's international standing and demonstrate its commitment to sustainable heritage management.

## Project Phases and Development Scope

The project will be implemented in two main phases. The first phase, described as the rapid plan, covers an area of 20 square kilometers and focuses on establishing core infrastructure and visitor facilities. The second phase will expand the Geopark over approximately 1,000 square kilometers, significantly increasing its scale and long-term impact.

Together, these phases will transform the north of Kuwait Bay into



a distinctive destination that integrates tourism, education, scientific research, and community engagement.

### **Facilities and Visitor Experience**

Kuwait Geopark includes a wide range of facilities designed to serve diverse audiences, showcasing KOC's commitment to every segment of society. Highlights include geological and heritage activity zones, visitor centers offering educational content, cafés and restaurants, traditional handicraft shops showcasing local crafts such as Sadu weaving and pottery, and a heritage village inspired by the Ubaid era. Seating areas and a stargazing platform will further enrich the visitor experience, encouraging exploration, learning, and leisure.

### **Environmental Stewardship and Site Preparation**

Environmental protection is a central pillar of the project and a key element of KOC's CSR approach.

Extensive preparatory works were carried out, including surveying the entire site to ensure safety, repairing and enclosing the external fence, installing a controlled entry gate, and securing the area.

In addition, more than 1,500 native desert plants have been planted, including ghaf, awsaj, markh, talh, arfaj, and wild sidr.

Arfaj seeds have also been dispersed across the site to support natural regeneration. These efforts contribute to preserving biodiversity, stabilizing the soil, and safeguarding Kuwait's unique desert ecosystem, reaffirming KOC's commitment to promoting biodiversity.

### **Exceptional Achievement: Project Delivery in Just 28 Days**

This project stands out as an exceptional national achievement, having been completed in only 28 days. Delivering a project of this scale, sophistication, and national importance within such a

compressed timeframe reflects an extraordinary level of planning, coordination, and execution.

The 28-day completion underscores KOC's operational efficiency, institutional readiness, and ability to mobilize resources rapidly while maintaining the highest environmental, technical, and quality standards. This achievement sets a powerful benchmark for future national initiatives and highlights KOC's capacity to translate vision into reality with speed, discipline, and accountability.

### **Contribution to Sustainable Development**

Kuwait Geopark supports several national and global development objectives. It contributes to diversifying sources of national income through eco-tourism and geo-tourism, protects geological and natural heritage, and raises public awareness through education and interactive experiences. The project also provides a platform for scientific research and field studies, supporting innovation in earth sciences, environmental studies, and cultural heritage.

This initiative aligns with KOC's strategic vision, in which advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a core component.

### **A Shared Legacy for Future Generations**

Through its involvement in Kuwait Geopark, KOC reaffirms its role as a responsible national energy company committed to creating sustainable value beyond oil and gas. The project stands as a shared national legacy, demonstrating how collaboration, responsible development, and respect for heritage can shape a more diversified and sustainable future for Kuwait.

# People of KOC: Engineer Abdullah Alsarraf



***KOC is distinguished by its excellent employees, each of whom contributes in unique ways to the Company's continued success and innovation. Abdullah Alsarraf, Senior Drilling & Workover Engineer in the Workover Team-III (North & West Kuwait), is a prime example of this excellence.***

This article highlights two distinct yet equally impressive achievements by Alsarraf, who brings over 16 years of valuable experience in oil and gas operations.

The first achievement, the Multi-Rig Pad Project, was initially featured in a previous issue of the Kuwaiti Digest, and since its publication, it has garnered additional recognition and accolades for its innovative approach and impactful results.

The second achievement centers around a series of Public Speaking Workshops, in which Alsarraf delivered engaging sessions in both Arabic and English, aimed at enhancing communication skills within KOC and beyond. These workshops have contributed to the professional development of participants and demonstrated Alsarraf's commitment to fostering growth and excellence across the Company and externally.

### **Brief about the Multi-Rig Pad Project**

The acclaimed Multi-Rig Pad Project, which enables two rigs (drilling and workover) to simultaneously work on the same pad, allows early restoration of significant deferred oil production.

Early last year, Alsarraf proudly led an excellent initiative and significant achievement in operational excellence, as the Workover Team successfully initiated the first-of-its-kind project in KOC and GCC by deploying a WO rig (SP-991) while drilling rig KDC-62 was drilling in-fill well at the same Multi-Well Pad (MWP) SA-O16 CO.

This required a high level of coordination with various stake holders for location constraints, rigorous Pad specific risk assessments, development of Pilot MOPO for Drilling & WO SIMOPS, technical planning, and extensive operational documentation.

By safely deploying WO Rig SP-991 at well SA-1123 on the Pad while KDC-62, a Drilling Rig, was actively drilling well SA-1150, the Team successfully completed the WO job and well SA-1123 is put back into production. This innovative approach prevented an estimated 120+ days of production deferment, the expected drilling duration for three consecutive wells on the same pad.

### **KOC Participates in KPC Innovation Excellence Symposium**

Alsarraf explained that following its significant success, the Multi-Rig Pad Project was also recognized at the KPC Innovation Excellence Symposium, in which KOC proudly participated.

The symposium was held on 6th November 2025, a one-day event designed to highlight KPC's commitment to fostering innovation and strategic transformation.

The event commenced with an opening speech by the KPC CEO, Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, emphasizing the vision and purpose of innovation as a strategic initiative.

This was followed by a keynote address from the KOC Deputy CEO (P&I), Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, who shared highlights

on the implementation of the Innovation Framework.

The event featured panel discussions showcasing early achievements across K-Companies, and poster sessions presenting selected innovation portfolios. Over 200 employees and more than 20 senior leaders attended.

KOC made a significant contribution by presenting seven innovation-PMO approved ideas (including the Multi-Rig Pad Project), reinforcing its dedication to innovation and supporting KPC's vision of a future-ready energy sector. The Multi-Rig Pad Project was selected as one of the seven finalists from over 300 projects submitted for nomination.

The symposium concluded with an award ceremony recognizing outstanding contributions, underscoring KPC's focus on continuous improvement and knowledge sharing.

During the ceremony, KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah stated that the Multi-Rig Pad Project is now on track to become standard practice; calling it "a clear example of how empowering teams can deliver meaningful results, and do so quickly".

### **Nomination for Excellence Symposium**

Prior to Alsarraf's participation in the KPC Innovation Excellence Symposium, the Multi-Rig Pad Project was presented to the Innovation Committee at KOC, in the presence of several Group Managers, who are also members of the Committee. These Managers



accepted and nominated the project for the prestigious Innovation award.

Also leading up to the Symposium, it was presented at a Technical Support Group meeting chaired by Manager Ali Al-Saleh, and praised as a prime example of successful collaboration between KOC Groups and contractors.

#### Multi Rig SIMOPs TFT

Following the successful completion of two Multi Rig SIMOPs projects—piloted by N&WK (Drilling & Workover rigs) and S&EK (two Workover rigs)—the HSE, Drilling Excellence, and Workover Teams aim to develop a comprehensive Multi Rig SIMOPs TFT applicable across all assets in Kuwait.

The focus areas for the Multi Rig SIMOPs TFT include attending workshops and participating in the development of key documents such as the MOPO & Risk Assessment, Crisis Management Flowchart, Communication Protocol, and the Multi Rig SIMOPs Document.

This initiative follows the project's recognition at the KPC Innovation Excellence Symposium.

The successful execution of similar projects in S&EK in August 2025, involving two workover rigs, further demonstrates that the standardization of this process across KOC is already well underway.

#### KOGS 2026

During KOGS 2026, which was held from 3-5 February of this year, and featured at length in this issue of The Digest, Alsarraf had the opportunity to present his SPE paper on the Multi-Rig Pad Project at one of the KOGS sessions.

Alsarraf extended his sincere thanks to everyone who attended the session. He expressed that their presence and engagement were truly appreciated and emphasized that KOC would continue to push forward with innovative projects like this to enhance oil production and accelerate recovery. The Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference is a pivotal platform for exchanging expertise and showcasing the latest achievements and

technologies in the energy sector, in addition to discussing future issues and challenges facing the industry; which further highlights the significance of presenting the Multi-Rig Pad Project in this event.

#### Second Achievement: Public Speaking Workshops

Alsarraf explained that public speaking is a personal passion he discovered while coaching newly appointed UD employees in KOC's Drilling & Workover Groups, before he had formal certification as a public speaking trainer. Later, at the EAGE conference at the end of last year, he led multiple events, including teaching students, where he decided to pursue certification and launch his social media account, "Tekallam," to share his knowledge.

He began offering these workshops in May of last year and has since become a certified trainer in the field.

Alsarraf shared that his passion for public speaking and hosting events has always been present, and the more he engaged in these activities,

# The Confident Presenter

By: Abdullah Alsarraf

 Tekallam



the more he realized his personal growth. He emphasized that both body language and verbal communication are equally important.

## **“The Confident Presenter” Workshop**

In September 2025, the Elevate Committee, under the DEI umbrella, organized a workshop titled “The Confident Presenter” under the patronage of DCEO Gas & Environment and Chair of the DEI Council at KOC, Ameena Rajab. The workshop was supervised by Dr. Fahad Al-Ghanem, Manager Operations Support Group (Gas) and Executive Office Chair of the Council.

The workshop was led and organized by TL Office Administration and Chair of the Elevate Committee, Najlaa Mubarak, alongside Vice Chair of the Committee and TL Drilling & Workover Technical Services Zahraa Muqaddes.

The workshop was presented by Senior Engineer Abdullah Alsarraf after being personally invited to host the event—the first of its kind by the DEI Council, further adding to his long list of accomplishments.

The event attracted a notable attendance of Group Managers, Team Leaders, and employees. It was part of a series of events and workshops aimed at developing and enhancing the technical concepts of KOC members within the Elevate Committee framework.

The workshop included various activities and interactive discussions, focusing on developing presentation skills and speaking confidently in front of an audience. It concluded with a speech from TL Office Administration, who highlighted the importance of cooperation and supporting personal and professional development for members through future workshops and events.

In addition, once the KOC Toastmasters Club was officially founded in July of last year, Alsarraf became Vice President of Memberships in the club, a well earned position.

## **Outside KOC**

Alsarraf shared that as the founder of “Tekallam”, his own personal social media platform, he focuses

on public speaking, communication, and leadership development; showcasing his excellence and ambition both within and outside the Company.

Alsarraf has also been hosted by several external entities to give his accredited public speaking workshops, including Adan Hospital and Kuwait University’s College of Science and College of Business Administration.

The Nuclear Medicine Department at Adan Hospital also recently held a training workshop under the umbrella of the research committee, titled “Public Speaking and Communication with Audiences”. This workshop was run by Abdullah Alsarraf.

The workshop aims to develop participants’ presentation and speaking skills for lectures and conferences, while enhancing their professional presence. The research committee operates under the development and quality committee at Adan Hospital and is chaired by Dr Latifa Al-Kandari.

# People of KOC: Eman Hussein and Kholoud Al-Rasheedi

Two KOC employees who gained ADIPEC 2025 recognition for AI-Powered Smart Water Flood Optimization Tool



## KOC Wins First Place for AI-Driven Water Injection Project

A KOC project titled “Application of Intelligent Waterflood Optimization for the Greater Burgan Oilfield” won first place at ADIPEC 2025, held in November 2025, earning widespread acclaim from the ADIPEC organizers and participants. The project, developed by three of KOC’s leading female engineers, was praised for its innovation and its practical contribution to field optimization.

Their pioneering use of artificial intelligence to analyze and optimize water injection patterns demonstrated KOC’s commitment to harnessing advanced technologies to maximize field productivity, reduce uncertainty, and enhance reservoir performance. The recognition

also highlighted the growing impact of women in the Middle East’s energy industry, celebrating their technical expertise and leadership.

The Company also achieved a significant accomplishment at this event, as its project titled “Application of Intelligent Waterflood Optimization for the Greater Burgan Oilfield” won first place, earning recognition from the organizers for the three engineers who prepared and developed the project, in appreciation of their efforts and their role in promoting innovation and technological development.

The three engineers are Senior Geologist in the Greater Burgan Studies Team, Eman Hussein; Senior Reservoir Engineer in the Integration Excellence Team (S&EK), Kholoud Al-Rasheedi; and Senior Petroleum Engi-

## CEO Honors Three KOC Engineers and Geologists

On the sidelines of KOC's weekly Leadership Committee meeting, chaired by CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan and attended by all DCEOs in the Company, an honoring ceremony was held in recognition of three engineers who contributed to a remarkable project that was awarded first place in the ADIPEC 2025 Conference.

During the ceremony, Al-Eidan praised the hard work that went into the project, stating that the three engineers had raised KOC's head high, particularly due to the significance of ADIPEC. He also praised the integration and cooperation between the FD S&EK and I&T Groups, highlighting that this achievement is proof of the importance of teamwork.

Al-Eidan then listened to an explanation of the projects from the three engineers, who outlined its scope, benefits, and positive impact on production. They also expressed their sincere gratitude to the Higher Management, stating that this achievement would not have been possible without their unwavering support.

The meeting was also attended by Manager Fields Development Group (S&EK) Abdullah Al-Rabah, who confirmed that this project will save significant time, with a highly positive impact on project completions in S&EK.

In closing, DCEO S&EK Fuad Al-Shaikh praised the hard work of the engineers, and wished them luck on their career trajectory, affirming his belief in their further achievements.

The project, titled "Application of Intelligent Waterflood Optimization for the Greater Burgan Oilfield", had won first place after earning widespread acclaim from the organizers and participants.

Developed by three of KOC's leading female engineers, the project was praised for its innovation and its practical contribution to field optimization. The three contributors were: Senior Geologist in the Greater Burgan Studies Team, Eman Hussein; Senior Reservoir Engineer in the Integration Excellence Team (S&EK), Kholoud Al-Rasheedi; and Senior Petroleum Engineer in the Research & Technology (Subsurface) Team, Noor Al-Kandari.



The honoring ceremony concluded with Al-Eidan presenting awards and certificates of appreciation to the three winners.



neer in the Research & Technology (Subsurface) Team, Noor Al-Kandari.

### Interview with Eman Hussein and Kholoud Al-Rasheedi

The Kuwaiti Digest met with Eman Hussein and Kholoud Al-Rasheedi, two excellent KOC employees who have developed an innovative AI-powered tool for smart water flood optimization that has earned top recognition at ADIPEC 2025, where they gave valuable insights on their experience and trajectory with the project.

Their project, Smart Water Flood Excellence AI-Powered Optimization for Enhanced Reservoirs and Smart Water Flood System with Optimization for Wara Reservoir, provides automated insights, live dashboards, and actionable recommendations, transforming how KOC manages reservoir production.

### From Daily Challenge to Award-Winning Innovation

Hussein and Al-Rasheedi explained that the idea for the project emerged from the challenges they faced in their day-to-day operations. Updating waterflood optimization while reviewing wells for additional production requirements was extremely time-consuming. The Team sought a solution that could streamline this process, reduce human error, and accelerate decision-making.

The pilot well, initiated in March 2025, achieved an impressive production of 2,300 barrels of oil per day (bopd). The dashboard integrated geological studies, physics, engineering analyses, and other critical data, providing a unified platform for decision-making.

### Collaboration and Support

The initiative was championed by the Greater Burgan Studies Team in collaboration with the Innovation & Technology Group under their contract. While multiple pilots were carried out, the Wara Reservoir pilot was the most successful, offering a scalable solution for recycling water and optimizing well production.

The project was recognized at ADIPEC 2025 as one of the top three projects out of 6,000 submissions, under the Fields Development category. The other winners were Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and Uzbekistan's Uzbekneftegaz. Hussein and Al-Rasheedi described the recognition as a proud moment for KOC and all the Teams involved.

### Project Status and Technical Details

The project is currently in Phase II, which involves full-field implementation across the Wara Reservoir. Phase I covered a smaller area, where the pilot phase included only two sectors. The dashboard now supports the creation of workover opportunities and map-

ping, pulling data directly from KOC's internal dashboards.

The dashboard algorithm identifies production opportunities, rigless and workover interventions, and mapping features, all designed to maximize production based on reservoir health. In Wara Reservoir alone, there are 470 injection wells and over 1,500 producing wells, making optimization a complex challenge. The AI system significantly reduces the reliance on traditional applications like Microsoft Word and Excel, enabling faster, more accurate decision-making.

The project is executed in cooperation with SLB, ensuring advanced technological support throughout the process.

### Impact and Future Plans

Hussein and Al-Rasheedi emphasized the transformative impact of the tool:

- Faster decision-making and immediate implementation of recommendations.
- Reduced human error and time-consuming manual processes.
- A scalable approach for full-field optimization beyond the South & East Kuwait Directorate.

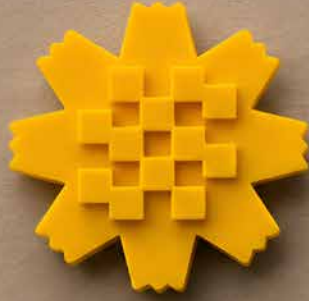
They also acknowledged the crucial support from KOC's Higher Management, including CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, DCEO S&EK Fuad Al-Shaikh, Group Managers, and Team Leaders, whose backing has been instrumental in the project's success.

Hussein and Al-Rasheedi expressed confidence that the system will become a standard tool across KOC, providing lasting value for reservoir management and production optimization.

# **Al-Arfaj: A Striking Symbol of Kuwaiti Unity and Resilience**

In appreciation of frontline heroes and as an expression of resilience, Al-Arfaj blooms proudly in the hearts of Kuwaitis.

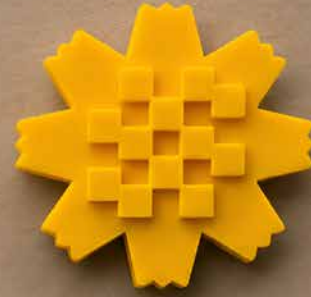




**Al-Arfaj flower** is the national flower of Kuwait. It blooms in the harshest conditions, symbolizing resilience and the ability to rise under pressure.

It reflects those on the front lines. They protect the nation and continue to give it strength so that, similar to the flower, the country returns stronger.

**Al-Arfaj flower** badge is an expression of appreciation, honoring the people who sacrifice for our security, safety, and stability.



زهرة العرفج، الزهرة الوطنية للكويت؛ تنبت في أقسى البيئات، لتكون رمزاً للصمود والنهوض حين تشتد الظروف.

هي تجسد روح من يقفون في الصفوف، الأمامية في كل الميادين، يواصلون العطاء، ويحفظون الوطن بثبات لا ينكسر، هي كالكويت؛ كلما اختبرت عادت أقوى وأجمل.

شارة زهرة العرفج هي رسالة وفاء وتقدير لكل من ضحى وأعطى لأجل أمننا وسلامنا واستقرارنا.

Generation after generation, Kuwaitis have proven their steadfastness in facing challenges, standing united and ready to defend and sacrifice for their homeland. In the face of the blatant Iranian aggression, they have stood firmly behind their wise leadership, confident in their nation's ability to deter attacks, with unwavering faith in God Almighty.

This aggression recalls the brutal Iraqi invasion, during which Kuwaitis made history through their extraordinary sacrifices, leaving enduring marks on Kuwait's national memory. Today, Kuwaitis face challenges with the same resilience, affirming that their love for their homeland is resilient and that justice prevails over aggression.

While countless sacrifices deserve recognition, this article highlights a contemporary expression of Kuwaiti solidarity; a commendable initiative uniting everyone under one emblem, using a deeply rooted national symbol: the Al-Arfaj flower.

### Online Tributes

In the age of technology, social media has provided Kuwaitis a platform to stand against aggression and express pride and gratitude towards the heroic men and women who safeguard the country. Social media has been filled with campaigns organized by governmental institutions, private sector organizations, and personal initiatives expressing loyalty, devotion, and belonging to a resilient nation.

### The Iconic Al-Arfaj

Al-Arfaj (*Rhanterium epapposum*) is a perennial shrub that thrives in Kuwait's arid landscapes. As the national flower, it represents the resilience and beauty of the desert while playing an essential role in the ecosystem.

The national campaign draws on Al-Arfaj as a symbol of resilience, steadfastness, patience, sustainability, and natural beauty. It reflects the enduring spirit of Kuwaitis: their ability to overcome adversity and remain united.

### Widespread Support

The Al-Arfaj initiative received widespread support from citizens and institutions alike, honoring



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior  
**Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah**



CEO, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation  
**Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah**

frontline workers. Many Kuwaitis and residents proudly wear yellow Al-Arfaj pins as a symbol of appreciation for the sacrifices made for peace, security, and stability.

The oil sector, through the Ministry of Oil, emphasized the initiative's role in instilling loyalty, supporting our national heroes, and reinforcing the importance of unity.

The Ministry stated: "You are our shield after God, the pride and glory of Kuwait... Our heartfelt thanks to you. It is through your strength that we endure, and through you that our journey continues."

### Beauty and Resilience

Al-Arfaj is a resilient yellow desert shrub, 20-60 cm tall, thriving in Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula. Blooming in spring after rainfall, it endures drought, heat, and salinity. Environmentally, it stabilizes soil, reduces desertification, and provides habitat and fodder. It is prevalent across Kuwait's deserts, reserves, and oases, and faces challenges from overgrazing, human activity, and climate change.

Yellow, the flower's color, symbolizes energy, optimism, happiness,

sunlight, creativity, warmth, and vitality; reflecting Kuwaitis' pride and resilience.

### Kuwait's National Flower

Following the example of many nations that have adopted distinctive symbols representing their natural heritage, Kuwait chose the Al-Arfaj as its national flower.

According to the Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS)—a public benefit organization founded in 1974—the Al-Arfaj was selected as a national emblem in 1982 by the National Flower Committee, before the recommendation was submitted to the Supreme Council for the Environment.

KEPS noted on its official social media accounts that this information was originally published in Issue No. 9 of Environment (البيئة) Magazine, released in December 1982.

### Reasons for Selection

Specialists attribute the choice of Al-Arfaj to several key factors, including environmental succession, longevity, historical roots, distribution range, ease of care, year-round persistence, and economic benefits.

This selection was made despite the "intense competition" Al-Arfaj faces from other local flowers, such as Al-Nuwair, Al-Ja'da, Al-Khuzam, and Al-Awsaj.

### Characteristics of Al-Arfaj

- Al-Arfaj is a woody desert shrub with many branches, well adapted to drought and high temperatures.
- It produces striking bright yellow, daisy-like flower heads.
- Its small, narrow leaves appear after rainfall and may be shed during dry periods.
- The plant reproduces through wind-dispersed seeds that remain dormant until sufficient moisture is available.
- It thrives in sandy and gravelly soils and tolerates harsh desert conditions, including some salinity.

### Rehabilitating Vegetation Cover

Additionally, experts highlight Al-Arfaj as an ideal candidate for natural vegetation rehabilitation. It spreads rapidly in open areas, stabilizes watercourse edges, and



Kuwait's Ambassador to the U.S.  
Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

supports the ecosystem. It can be used as ground cover and for clustered plantings. In natural habitats, it reproduces effectively through seeds.

### In Arab Culture

The Al-Arfaj flower occupies a significant place in Arabian heritage. It is one of the most well-known long-living desert plants and a key element of desert vegetation. Its cultural and aesthetic importance is reflected in proverbs, poetry, and folk traditions.

Historical sources show that Arabs have passed down stories, tales, and poems about the Arfaj. The Companion of the Prophet (PBUH), Hassan ibn Thabit, wrote:

“You see the common Arfaj spreading its roots... brushed by the breezes of the traveler’s mount.”

The poet Labid ibn Rabi’ah al-’Amiri described it as:

“Veiled, intertwined with the Arfaj... like the smoke of a blazing fire rising high,”

referring to the north wind blowing over a fire mixed with both the green and dry parts of the Arfaj, making the smoke rise like a towering flame.

### An Arab proverb also captures its resilience:

“Like rain upon the Arfaj,”

“كَمَنَّ الغَيْثُ عَلَى العَرْفَجَةِ”

meaning that when rain falls on the dry Arfaj, it flourishes and turns green.

### Global Plant Symbols

Many countries use plants as national or symbolic emblems:

- **Canada:** Maple leaf for sacrifice and courage.
- **Egypt:** Lotus for purity and renewal.
- **Lebanon:** Cedar for resilience and peace.
- **Cyprus/Eritrea:** Olive branches for peace.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Palm tree representing heritage.

Other symbolic flowers include Forget-me-not for fallen soldiers, poppies for remembrance, cherry blossoms for beauty and femininity, and Heliconia for unity. These plants worldwide represent values, memories, and environmental or cultural causes.





# How to Raise Strong Children When Things Feel Uncertain

*In times of regional conflict and instability, protecting children's mental health is at the forefront of adults' priorities.*

Out of KOC's great concern for this pressing issue, in line with its unwavering commitment to every segment of society, particularly children, who are among the most vulnerable, and shape the future of Kuwait, The Kuwaiti Digest took the initiative to meet with Shaima Namavar, a child development specialist, parenting consultant, and child abuse educator, who provided important insights to navigate this challenging period.

## **Shaima Namavar:**

You cannot control everything happening around your children, but you can influence how they experience it. The way they feel in uncertain moments often stays with them longer than the details of what actually happened.

I am Shaima Namavar, a child development specialist, parenting

consultant, and child abuse educator. My work focuses on supporting children and families in ways that are practical, thoughtful, and culturally aware. Over time, working closely with families has shown me that a child's well-being is shaped not only by events, but by the environment around them and the relationships they rely on every day.

Being both a parenting consultant and a mother has shaped how I approach this work. Parenting does not take place in ideal conditions. It happens during stress, confusion, and moments where answers are not always clear. During difficult times, I am not speaking only from professional knowledge. I am having the same conversations at home, trying to reassure my child while managing my own concerns.

Recent events have had a noticeable emotional effect on children in Kuwait. Even when they are not directly exposed to danger, children are aware. They notice changes in routine, pick up on tension in conversations, and respond to the overall mood around them. The closure of schools and the shift to online learning affected more than academics. Many children lost structure, daily interaction, and a sense of normal life. At the same time, they are surrounded by constant information through news, conversations, and social media, often without fully understanding what they are hearing.

This often appears in their behavior. Some children become more anxious or attached to their parents. Others have difficulty sleeping, ask repeated questions, or



# Children Advocate KW

SHAIMA NAMAVAR

react more strongly than usual. Teenagers may respond differently, becoming quieter or more distant. These reactions are not unusual. They are ways children respond when something feels unclear or unsettled.

One of the most common challenges for parents is knowing what to say. It is not always about having the correct answer, but about choosing how to respond. I have experienced moments where a simple question from my child required a pause, not out of uncertainty, but out of care in how to answer. I had to make sure that what I was saying was assuring my child and making them feel safe. With younger children, simple reassurance is often enough. They do not need detailed explanations. They need to feel that they are safe and that the adults around them are present. With older children, conversations may be more direct. They may already have their own understanding or concerns. In these situations, it is important to allow space for discussion and to listen without dismissing what they are feeling.

Across all ages, reassurance matters more than detail. Children look to the adults around them to understand how to feel.

In other places, I have used my social media platforms (@childrenadvocatekw) to support parents, especially during times when uncertainty feels more present. Many parents feel overwhelmed and unsure of how to respond to their children. In these moments, clear and simple guidance can make a difference. Even small reminders can help parents feel more steady in how they respond at home.

It is also important to recognize that not all signs of struggle are obvious. A child may appear fine, yet behave differently. You may notice increased sensitivity, repeated questions, or changes in mood. Some children withdraw, while others try to control their surroundings. Teenagers may not express their emotions openly, but that does not mean they are unaffected.

When working with parents, I often return to a few simple ideas. Stay connected before correct-

ing behavior. Acknowledge feelings rather than dismissing them. Maintain some consistency in daily routines. Remain calm, even when it feels difficult. These are not complicated strategies, but they create a sense of stability that children rely on.

My work in this field began through observation and direct experience with children. Over time, it became clear that supporting children requires supporting the adults around them as well. Small changes in how a parent responds can have a strong impact on how a child feels.

Resilience is not something that develops in a single moment. It builds gradually through everyday experiences. It comes from feeling heard, supported, and understood, especially during difficult times. Children may not remember every detail of what happened, but they will remember how they felt.

That sense of safety, once established, stays with them.

# Celebrating Earth Day in Times of Regional Conflict

*Earth Day, founded in 1970, is observed annually on April 22, and serves as a global call to action that bridges environmental stewardship, economic responsibility, and increasingly, geopolitical awareness.*

*For corporations globally, including KOC, which emphasizes environmental stewardship as a core value, Earth Day is no longer a peripheral CSR initiative. It has become a strategic moment to reflect on sustainability commitments, operational resilience, and the broader forces shaping the environmental landscape; including the often-overlooked impact of armed conflict, which this article explores, in light of the recent regional developments.*





## The Enduring Purpose of Earth Day

At its core, Earth Day was created to raise awareness about environmental degradation: pollution, habitat destruction, and resource depletion, and to inspire collective action. Over the decades, its focus has expanded to include climate change, biodiversity loss, and Sustainable Development. Today, Earth Day serves as an annual reminder: Are organizations reducing emissions? Are supply chains resilient? Are technological innovations aligned with a low-carbon future?

KOC has, of course, consistently demonstrated its responsibility towards all these commitments.

### Corporate Responsibility in a Changing Environmental Landscape

Modern corporations operate within a complex ecosystem where environmental performance is directly tied to long-term value creation. Sustainable practices are no longer optional; they are integral to competitiveness and keeping pace with global trends.

Key areas of corporate focus include:

- **Decarbonization:** Transitioning to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency
- **Circular economy models:** Reducing waste and reusing materials
- **Supply chain transparency:** Ensuring environmental standards across global operations
- **Innovation:** Investing in green technologies and sustainable products

Earth Day amplifies these priorities, encouraging organizations to align their strategies with global climate goals and societal expectations.

However, one dimension is often underrepresented in corporate sustainability discussions: the environmental consequences of conflict.

### War and the Environment: An Overlooked Crisis

Armed conflict has profound and lasting environmental impacts. According to the United Nations, conflicts disrupt ecosystems, deplete natural resources, and generate pollution that can persist for generations.

These impacts include:

- Air and soil pollution from explosives and military activity
- Water contamination from damaged infrastructure and chemical leaks
- Deforestation and habitat destruction due to troop movements and resource exploitation
- Long-term ecological damage that hinders recovery even after conflicts end

In fact, November 6, the day marking the extinguishing of the last burning oil well following Iraq's devastating invasion of Kuwait, is officially recognized as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

Environmental degradation often goes unnoticed, making it a "silent casualty" of war, yet its effects—reduced agricultural productivity, health risks, and resource scarcity—can destabilize regions long after hostilities end.

The United Nations has highlighted this connection by designating an international day to prevent environmental exploitation during armed conflict, emphasizing its global significance.

### A Regional Lens: Conflict and Environmental Risk in Kuwait

For organizations operating in the Gulf region, including Kuwait, the intersection of conflict and environmental sustainability is currently not theoretical—it is immediate and strategic.

Recent geopolitical tensions, including the Iranian attacks that have directly harmed the region, underscore how rapidly environmental risks can escalate in the context of military aggression. Beyond the widely recognized hu-

man and economic tolls, these deliberate actions inflict substantial environmental damage, a dimension that demands urgent and serious attention.

## **Environmental Implications of Regional Conflict**

### *1. Energy Infrastructure Vulnerability*

The Gulf region's energy infrastructure, including oil fields, refineries, and transport networks, is both economically critical and environmentally sensitive. Damage to these assets can result in large-scale oil spills, fires, and emissions.

### *2. Air Quality Degradation*

Military operations and fires release significant pollutants into the atmosphere. In comparable conflicts, millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been generated in a matter of weeks due to fuel consumption, explosions, and infrastructure destruction.

### *3. Marine Ecosystem Threats*

The Arabian Gulf is particularly vulnerable to contamination. Oil spills or debris from attacks can disrupt marine biodiversity and fisheries, with cascading economic effects.

### *4. Water Security Risks*

Desalination plants, which are vital for Kuwait's water supply, are sensitive to both physical damage and pollution, making them critical points of environmental and operational risk.

## **Why This Matters for Corporations**

From an industry perspective, the relevance of these developments lies in risk management and resilience, in which KOC has demonstrated a remarkable track record throughout this critical period and beyond.

### *1. Operational Continuity*

Environmental damage caused by conflict can disrupt supply chains, damage infrastructure, and limit access to critical resources such as water and energy.

### *2. Regulatory and Compliance Exposure*

As global attention on environmental accountability grows, companies may face increased scrutiny regarding their role, direct or indirect, in environmentally sensitive regions.

### *3. Investor Expectations*

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks are evolving to include geopolitical and conflict-related risks. Investors are increasingly evaluating how companies manage these complex dynamics.

### *4. Reputation and Stakeholder Trust*

Organizations operating in or near conflict zones must demonstrate responsible environmental stewardship, even under challenging conditions.

## **Linking Earth Day to Conflict-Aware Sustainability**

Earth Day offers an opportunity to expand the conversation about sustainability. It goes beyond reducing carbon footprints or planting trees, encompassing a deeper understanding of the full range of forces shaping our planet. In a world where geopolitical tensions can rapidly escalate, environmental strategies must incorporate conflict awareness.

This includes:

- Scenario planning for environmental disruptions caused by conflict
- Investment in resilient infrastructure that can withstand shocks
- Collaboration with govern-

ments and NGOs to mitigate environmental damage

- Transparent reporting on environmental risks and responses

## **The Path Forward: Integrating Sustainability and Stability**

The intersection of environmental sustainability and geopolitical stability is becoming increasingly evident. Environmental degradation can contribute to conflict, while conflict, in turn, accelerates environmental damage: a cycle that poses risks to both societies and businesses.

Earth Day's message, collective responsibility for the planet, extends naturally into this area. Businesses have a role to play in reducing their environmental impact and advancing stability through responsible practices.

## **A Broader View of Responsibility**

As Earth Day is observed on April 22, it serves as a reminder that environmental stewardship is inseparable from the broader global context in which organizations operate. For companies in Kuwait and the wider region, this means recognizing that sustainability is not confined to emissions targets or recycling programs. It includes understanding how external forces, such as regional conflict, can shape environmental outcomes and business resilience.

This evolving landscape calls for a more integrated approach: one that aligns environmental goals with risk management, innovation, and long-term strategy.

In doing so, Earth Day becomes more than a date on the calendar. It becomes a framework for navigating complexity: where environmental responsibility, corporate leadership, and global awareness converge.



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1960



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