

The Kuwaiti Digest

January - March 2025



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Letter from the Editor



Mohammad Khalifa Al-Abduljaleel

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Planning & Innovation

KOC has kicked off this year with a highly productive period, marked by numerous accomplishments that build upon past successes, herald new beginnings, and solidify our current standing. This issue of the Kuwaiti Digest comes in a period that reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence, continuous development, and our maintained leadership in the international oil and gas industry.

The year began with the announcement of a significant achievement in our offshore exploration project: the discovery of promising commercial quantities of oil in one of the experimental wells in the Julaia offshore field. This success came less than five months after our first major milestone in offshore exploration, which was the discovery of large commercial quantities in the Al-Nokhatha field.

This announcement followed closely behind a major accomplishment from the previous year: the increase in Heavy Oil production in North Kuwait.

The list of successes continued to grow. In February of this year, KOC hosted the Ahmadi Sports Day event, which secured its place as a key highlight of Kuwait's National Day celebrations. Originally a popular regional event, it has since evolved into a

nationwide festival, with its transformation solidified by high-profile attendance at Ahmadi Park, where thousands participated in various competitions and activities. In the same month, KOC also held its highly successful Second Short Film Festival, reinforcing the Company's role in supporting local arts and culture.

Several major conferences and exhibitions were also held throughout this period, all of which significantly enhanced KOC's partnerships with major external players across diverse fields. Notable events included the Public Authority of Industry's seminar on carbon emissions reduction, the REC-SO Envirospill Conference & Exhibition, and the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers Conference, all of which KOC actively and keenly participated in.

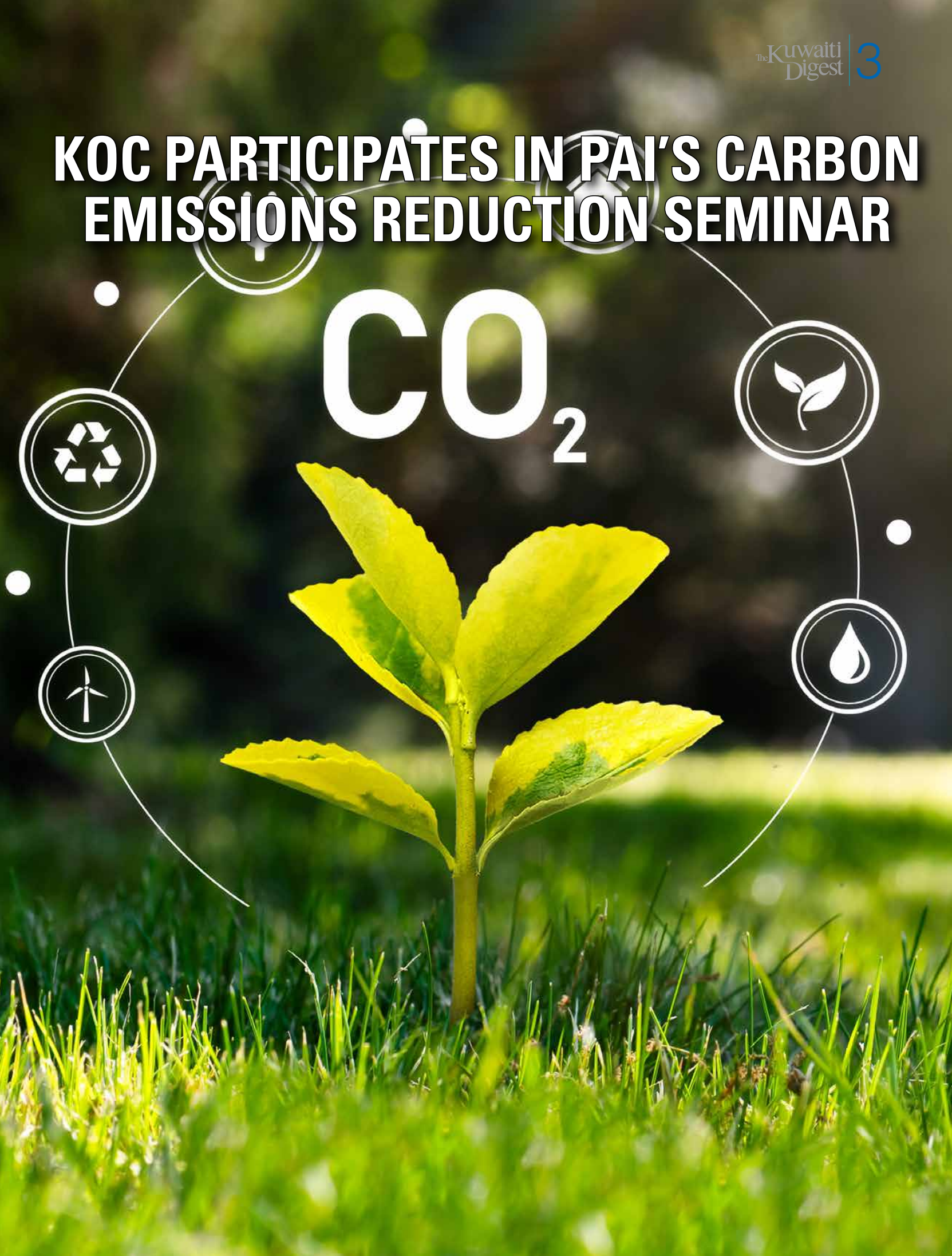
In addition, the Company signed contracts with five international companies to establish the Ahmadi Innovation Valley—a new global landmark extending from Kuwait, specifically from Ahmadi Oil City, to the world. This project will significantly boost our industry and create a unique research and development hub, positioning KOC as a leader among its peers. The AIV will combine several pioneering advantages, including complete digital transformation, innovative scientific research, and advanced strategic analysis, enabling us to provide the best solutions to the challenges facing the oil and gas industry, not only in Kuwait but across the region.

These numerous achievements, realized within a remarkably short period, demonstrate that Kuwait Oil Company is relentlessly pursuing continuous improvement, reaching new heights, and overcoming all challenges.

As a result, KOC continues to solidify its position as a prominent international player in the oil sector.

KOC PARTICIPATES IN PAI'S CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION SEMINAR

CO₂



I - Executive Summary

KOC actively participated in a seminar on carbon emissions reduction within Kuwait's industrial sector, held under the patronage and in the presence of Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry Shamlan Al-Juhaidli. The event also witnessed participation from several representatives from various entities in Kuwait.

Manager Production & Projects (Gas) Group at KOC, Abdullah Al-Mutairi, represented the Company at this important event, which was hosted at the Public Authority of Industry's headquarters in South Surra. Manager Gas Operations Group Hamad Al Zuwayer, and Manager Operation Support (Gas) Group Dr. Fahad Al-Ghanem were also present from KOC, along with officials from prominent organizations including KISR, KFAS, EQUATE, KNPC, The Ministry of Electricity Water & Renewable Energy, the Environment Public Authority, and Gulf Cryo.

The event began with a speech from Al-Juhaidli, who praised His Excellency the Minister of Commerce & Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel for his ongoing support. He explained that this seminar aligns with Kuwait's Low carbon vision coupled with 2050/2060 Net Zero targets, the key components of its Energy Transition strategy. The event aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, development of environmental solutions and implementation of associated projects.

Following Al-Juhaidli's address, several presentations were given by experts in attendance, covering various topics related to carbon emissions reduction and environmental protection. Notably, Al-Mutairi discussed the implementation plan of Carbon Capture Storage and Utilization in KOC.

After the presentations, a panel discussion was held, before concluding by honoring all the speakers.

This seminar came within the framework of KPC and KOC's broader, ambitious Energy Transition Strategy.

II. Energy Transition Organizational developments at KOC – brief:

1. 2050 Energy Transition Strategy Implementation Committee

Based on the directives of KPC Board of Directors on 4th Aug 2022, KOC implemented the following in preparation for its Energy Transition Strategy:

- Creation of 2050 Energy Transition Strategy

Implementation
Committee on 13 Nov
2022

- Amendment to the KOC 2050 Energy Transition, Net Zero Emission Implementation Committee on 30 Oct 2023

2. 2050 Energy Transition Implementation Committee Structure:

- Deputy CEO Gas & Environment - (Chairperson) – Mrs.

Ameena Rajab

- Manager Production & Projects Gas – (Deputy Chairperson) – Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutairi
- Team Leader Planning (Gas & Environment – (Member & Secretary) – Mr. Raad Gharib
- Team Leader Environment & Energy Transition – (Member) Mr. Mohammad Haidar
- Manager Innovation

& Technology Group
– (Member & Head
of Renewable Energy
Initiative) – Mr. Bader
Al-Ajmi

- Former Manager Gas
Operation Group and
current Advisor –
(Member & Head of Zero
Routine Flaring Initiative)
– Mr. Hamad Al-Zuwayer
- Manager Operation
Support – (Member &
Head of Energy Efficiency
Initiative) – Mr. Fahad Al-
Ghanem
- Manager Fields
Development Group
(West Kuwait) – (Member
& Head of Carbon
Capture Utilization &
Storage Initiative) – Mr.
Abdulaziz Sajer

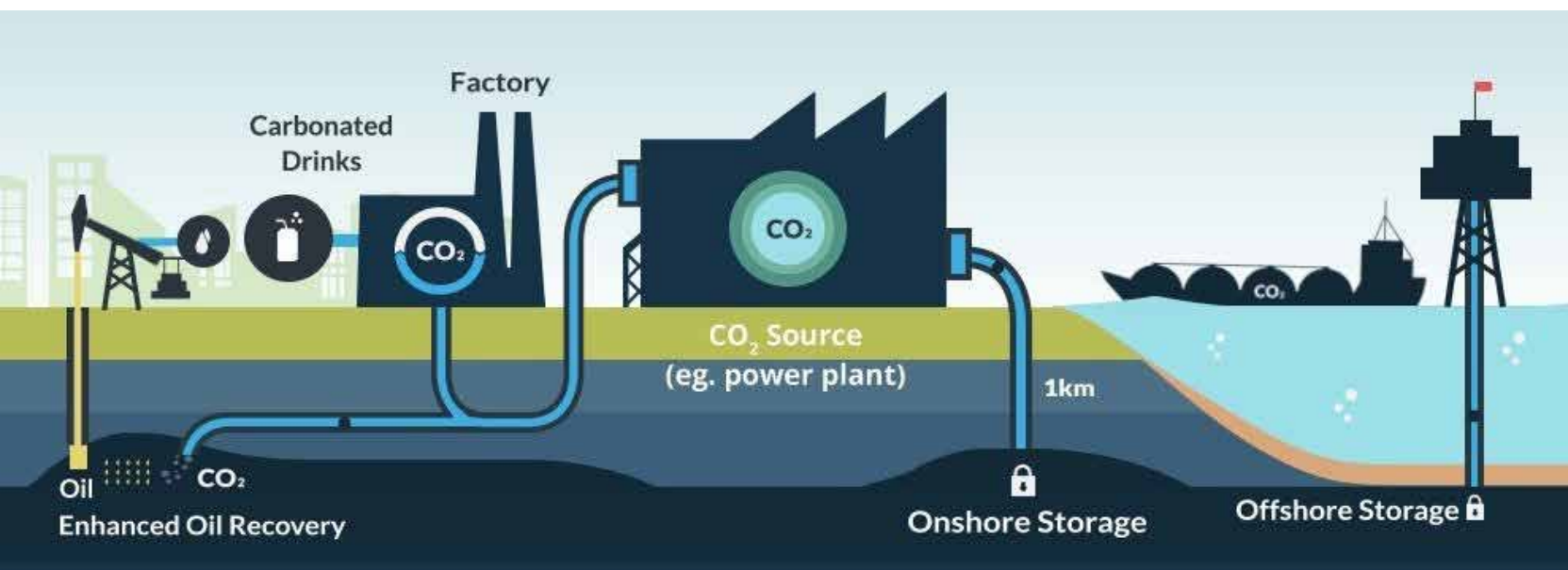
- Manager Health, Safety
& Environment Group
– (Member & Head of
Carbon Offsetting) – Mr.
Faisal Mirza

3. Formation of Environment & Energy Transition Team:

The Environment & Energy
Transition Team was
created on 9th September
2024 to help support
the Energy Transition
Implementation committee.
The Team's roles &
responsibilities includes the
following:

- Map current emissions
data, systems, & reporting
requirements
- Breakdown emission
inventories (State, KPC,
KOC, Assets, etc)

- Define KOC's internal
carbon management
model Benchmark carbon
management parameters
and assumptions
- Identify reporting
protocols (templates,
assumption, etc)
- Develop principles to
frame KOC's emissions
reporting standards
(templates, inputs,
assumptions, etc)
- Develop the reporting
trajectory & requirements
- Build energy and
emissions reporting
requirements trajectory
- Renew KOC's Energy
Transition / Net Zero
targets, roadmap, and
milestones



III. KPC 2050 Energy Transition Strategy & Implementation - Overview

KPC has defined the ambition for Net Zero scope 1+2 carbon emissions by 2050 and made selective investments in alternative energy solutions.

In this context, Kuwait Oil Company has launched five different initiatives as a part of achieving KPC 2050 targets, as outlined below:

1. Renewables

- Use renewable energy to reduce emissions from own gensets and grid sourced (scope 2)

2. Carbon Capture, Utilization & Storage

- Capture carbon at major emission points and use it for upstream Enhanced Oil Recovery or store in depleted reservoirs

3. Flaring

- Eliminate routine (non-emergency) flaring across the entire Oil & Gas value chain by 2040

4. Carbon Offsetting

- Use forestation and soil carbon sequestration to offset remaining hard-to-abate emissions

5. Energy Efficiency

- Implement and extend current efforts aimed at improving subsidiaries' energy efficiency

1. Renewables

KPC aims to eliminate 29 % (14 Million tons per annum) of its 2050 Net Zero target through the production of 17 GW of renewable power, based on Photovoltaics and Wind technologies, including a storage capacity of 3 GW. In addition, 25 GW of renewable power is envisioned to produce Green Hydrogen. Kuwait Oil Company is

conducting a detailed feasibility study in this regard.

This study will include the following:

- Screening and shortlisting of suitable lands for solar and wind power.
- High-level grid assessment.
- Energy storage assessment.
- Infrastructure requirements for transportation, storage, export, and usage of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Technology assessment and future technologies for Green Hydrogen production.
- Manpower and skillset requirements.

2. Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage (CCUS)

Kuwait Oil Company is also in the process of developing a CCUS hub with a CO₂ storage capacity of 9 Million ton per annum, which is expected to be operational by 2030. This will handle 45% of the total K-Companies' projected emissions, with CCUS playing a crucial role in achieving KPC's Net Zero plans.

CCUS 2050 targets phasing is defined as follows:

- CO₂ Capturing 2030 Phase (3.22 Million ton per annum)
- KNPC - MAA & MAB : 1.22 Million ton per annum
- KOC - Blue Hydrogen Facility : 2 Million ton per annum
- CO₂ Storage & Utilization at KOC is defined at WK.
- CO₂ Capturing 2040 Phase (7 Million ton per annum)
- KNPC- MAB : 2 Million ton per annum

- KIPIC :
5 Million ton per annum
- KOC (Jurassic Production Facilities) :
1 Million ton per annum

CO₂ Storage & Utilization at KOC is defined at West Kuwait & North Kuwait.

- CO₂ Capturing 2050 Phase (15.78 Million ton per annum)

Sources under assessment with KPC and its subsidiaries

- Storage & Utilization will be initiated at KOC South & East Kuwait and North Kuwait areas.

3. Flaring

Kuwait Oil Company has begun its journey towards achieving zero routine flaring by 2030, through implementing several key projects to reduce the current flaring rate in its daily operations and eventually reach this goal.

In April 2015, the World Bank introduced the Zero Routine Flaring by 2030 initiative to promote sustainable and environmentally responsible production processes. "Routine flaring" refers to non-safety-related flaring of associated gases during normal production operations. Routine flaring often occurs when a facility lacks the resources or infrastructure

to recover or otherwise use the waste gas. The Zero Routine Flaring by 2030 initiative aims to eliminate the routine flaring of approximately 140 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually, thereby reducing 300 million tons of CO₂ emissions worldwide.

Alongside flaring, efforts are also focused on minimizing methane fugitive emissions.

KPC target phasing is outlined as follows:

Regarding Zero Routine Flaring initiative, KOC must reach zero routine by 2030

- KOC already started its journey towards zero flaring where currently Company's routine flaring is 0.1% & actual flaring is 0.43%.
- maintaining 0.1% of routine flaring will be achieved through the upcoming 2030 projects under G&E directorate
- KOC plans to kickoff Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Project by Quarter 4 of 2025/26 to better monitor all possible leaks.

4. Carbon Offsetting

KPC intends to eliminate 15.5 % (9 Million ton per annum) of its 2050 Net Zero target through carbon offsetting. Kuwait Oil

Company is exploring the possibility of the following options:

- Investing in or partnering with afforestation projects in the GCC and beyond to capture 2-3 million ton per annum.
- Utilizing Direct Air Capture technologies to capture 3-4 million ton per annum.
- Establishing a Carbon trading desk/capability to capture 1-3 million ton per annum.
- KPC intends to eliminate 15.5% (9 million ton per annum) of the total estimated emissions in 2050 through carbon offsetting where KOC is exploring the possibility on the following:
- Invest or partnering in afforestation opportunities in GCC and beyond to capture 2-3 million tons per annum
- Utilization of technologies related to Direct Air Capture to capture 3-4 million tons per annum
- Establishment of Carbon trading desk and capability to capture 1-3 million tons per annum
- **Other plans have been defined as follows:**
- Conduct meetings with Kuwait Environment Public Authority for

support in assessing the current-status for afforestation and plantation of Mangrove and other prevalent species in Kuwait with respect to other members (KISR, the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR)).

- Local collaboration efforts for the “Ezraa” campaign throughout the year
- Collaboration with KNPC for shared plantation efforts (i.e. seagrass, mangrove) and the utilization of available resources
- Review the land availability for inside KOC’s fence with concerned teams
- Identify possible contract services for the implementation of pilot projects
- Finalize and establish land availability inventory for inside KOC’s fence

KOC is also exploring the possibility of planting the following:

5. Energy Efficiency

KOC efforts in this initiative have started and projects are defined as follows:

Establish annual energy intensity assessment process

- E&D: feasibility study for smart power and LED lighting system
- EF / 2104 D / E / F-Power Provision for Artificial lift Pumps PHASE II & RHM at S&EK - Construction of RMUs for 1700 wells and 29 RHM
- EF / 1947 C / D / E ESP Power network Phase-I
- EF / 2014 Power Distribution Network for NK ESPs Phase-II

Energy efficiency initiatives target activities related to oil and gas production, as well as operations. Employee awareness is key

to improving efficiency in everyday work. The design and energy usage of office buildings are continuously monitored, with the aim of achieving Green Building Certification.

Energy-efficient oil and gas processes require less power and heat (e.g. natural gas, fuel gas), thereby reducing CO2 emissions. Energy-efficient designs consider the facility as a single system, aiming to minimize overall energy consumption across varying operational conditions. These designs also involve evaluating the lifetime energy savings against the incremental costs of different alternatives.

Addressing energy efficiency is easier during the design phase of a facility than retrofitting existing structures. Incorporating energy efficiency into the design may also allow facilities to defer costly hardware upgrades or retrofits for

S. No	Ecosystem	CO ₂ capture potential* (MT/ha/year)
1	Mangroves	10 -25
2	Tropical rain forests	10 -20
3	Temperate forests	5 - 10
4	Boreal forests	1 - 5
5	Plantation forests	2 - 10
6	Agroforestry	2 – 5
7	Microalgae	60 - 170


post-combustion CO₂ control (e.g., carbon capture).

Considering the above, Kuwait Oil Company ensures that Energy Efficiency is a key design parameter for

its new facilities. For existing facilities, KOC is exploring different opportunities to improve efficiency through the deployment of Waste Heat Recovery systems, Heat Integration, electrification,

digitalization, and other initiatives.

KPC has set a target for all its subsidiaries to increase their energy efficiency to 8-12% by 2050, with a target phasing as follows:

Targets 	KPM	2022-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	2036-2040	2041-2045	2046-2050
EE improvement	EE increase vs. today's efficiency (%)	~1-3	~2-6	~5-9	~7-11	~8-12	~8-12



KOC Hosts RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition

Held under the slogan "Sustainable Clean Seas" with high-level regional and international participation



Environmental stewardship is one of KOC's top priorities, and the Company spares no effort to achieve this goal, succeeding because it has the necessary capabilities and competencies. These factors have helped it achieve pioneering accomplishments throughout its history.

This subject is the focus the following pages, which will tell the story of a very important event the Company recently hosted. The event saw cooperation with a leading regional entity that places equal importance on a clean environment, and it facilitated collaboration between the two sides with other entities working toward the same goal, and together, they discussed how to achieve it.

The aforementioned entity is the Regional Clean Seas Organization (RECSO), an ongoing partner of KOC as well as the Kuwaiti and Gulf oil sectors.

The event covered in this article is the RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition, hosted by KOC over three days and featuring prominent regional and international participation, including many experts, specialists, and executives from concerned entities and companies.

The Digest is pleased to present all the details of this event, which discussed many proposed solutions and showcased the latest marine environment technologies.



Introduction

Following the spectacular success of the previous two editions held in Abu Dhabi in 2019 and Bahrain in 2022, RECSO is excited to launch this third edition of this important event in the region, exclusively hosted by the Kuwait Oil Company, and Saudi Aramco.

RECSO EnviroSpill 2025 is supported and endorsed by leading corporations across the globe,

particularly in the energy and marine sector. This premier event serves as a platform for industry and government stakeholders in the Gulf region to come together and discuss planning, preparedness, and response issues related to oil and hazardous materials spills. It unites all stakeholders responsible for prevention and response operations from around the world to share best practices and build vital relationships for successful responses on land and water.

Organized by RECSO – The Regional Clean Seas Organisation and managed by Nexus Events, this conference spotlights strategic, operational, and tactical aspects of response strategies for oil cargos, emphasizing new technology, its deployment, and regional collaboration.

Prominent Sponsorship

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Kuwaiti Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, and attended by his representative, KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah in the opening session, KOC hosted the Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition, over a period of three days.

The event, held under the slogan "Sustainable Clean Seas", took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in 360 Mall and saw broad international and regional participation from the most prominent executives, experts, and specialists in the field.

The opening session featured several notable speeches, including one by Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah, representing the event's sponsor. He spoke about Kuwait's efforts in ensur-

ing a clean marine environment through numerous laws and legislations. The Conference's head and Chairman of RECSO Sami Al-Sawagh, also spoke, outlining the challenges facing the Organization and its partners, as well as the solutions that would be discussed during the event.

Following this, Saudi Aramco's Senior Vice President of Industrial Services, Mishari Al-Sheikh Mubarak, delivered a speech before the first main session began. The session was titled "Forging Partnerships for Rapid Response and Environmental Resilience: Collaborative Strategies in Oil Spill Incident Management". KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan participated in the session, highlighting the Company's longstanding relationship with RECSO. He emphasized that KOC highly prioritizes the cleanliness and safety of the seas, particularly after the commencement of offshore exploration operations that led to two major discoveries within just seven months.

Al-Eidan welcomed all the participants, wishing them success in their discussions and in finding optimal solutions to the challenges facing the achieve-

ment of their shared goals.

The most notable participants, speakers, partners, and sponsors were also honored during the event, including regional and international companies, organizations, and prominent figures. This was followed by a tour of the accompanying exhibition, which showcased the latest technologies and products for combating oil leaks and spills.

Over the course of three days, the conference discussed various solutions, technologies, and applications related to this year's theme: Sustainable Clean Seas, as well as the best response strategies. This biennial international event focuses on oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

Firm Principles

In his speech on behalf of the sponsor of the event, H.E. the Minister Al-Roumi, KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah confirmed that this is a prominent event, which highlights many essential issues for the State of Kuwait, reaffirming its core values, as well as its plans and strategies—namely, the New Kuwait Vision 2035.





He added that Kuwait has always placed a high priority on environmental protection and has enacted numerous laws and regulations to ensure a clean environment for all. One such law is the Environmental Protection Law of 2014, which, for example, prohibits the discharge of any materials, waste, or liquids that may cause pollution in beaches or adjacent waters, as well as any practices that harm terrestrial and marine wildlife.

Kuwait has also developed a long-term, integrated plan to monitor and follow up on related activities, ensuring the effective implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management program. This plan aims to protect the marine environment and support the rehabilitation of its wildlife.

These laws, among others, are part of the State's ongoing efforts, across all sectors, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, where the oil sector is making excellent prog-

ress. This conference is a prime example of that commitment—particularly in conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources, as well as protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

These laws, legislations, and efforts largely align with the objectives of this conference. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah took this opportunity to express his full support for both the conference and the goals and values upon which the Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) was established. He explained that the oil sector has a long history of positive cooperation with RECSO, which has made significant contributions to protecting the Kuwaiti sea from all types of pollution.

In this context, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah expressed his full support for the efforts of the Kuwaiti oil sector, including KOC, which is hosting this esteemed event, to protect both the land and the sea. All the sector's

projects include numerous stipulations and initiatives focused on maintaining a clean Kuwaiti environment.

He also commended the efforts of the organizers of the RECSO EnviroSpill conference, which include the distinguished members of the regional organization and the oil sector, for their commitment to discussing all means of achieving the conference's declared goals. These goals include preventing oil spills and developing effective responses to any incidents that may occur, thereby protecting the region's marine environment. He affirmed that we all share the same objectives and emphasized his full readiness to cooperate and coordinate in support of this noble mission.

In conclusion, he wished all participants great success in identifying the best ways to achieve the set goals, in alignment with everyone's commitment to the conference's slogan: "Sustainable Clean Seas."

Working Towards Sustainability

KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan began his speech by welcoming the esteemed attendees to this prominent international conference, expressing his sincere thanks to His Excellency the Minister of Oil, H.E. Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, for his generous sponsorship.

Al-Eidan explained that this conference is part of the ongoing and full cooperation between KOC and RECSO, through which they have achieved many accomplishments that contribute to protecting Kuwait's seas, despite the risks arising from heavy maritime traffic through the State's ports.

Al-Eidan expressed that KOC takes great pride in its close relationship with the Organization, which was recently strengthened, as they have worked tirelessly together to develop operations, face future challenges, and find effective solutions. This includes this prominent conference, which addresses a critical issue for all parties concerned with maintaining a clean marine environment, and is held under the slogan "Sustainable Clean Seas."

Sustainability is a shared goal for all of us. KOC and the Kuwaiti oil sector, in general, integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into all their projects and initiatives, with the aim of achieving key objectives: creating an inclusive, safe, and resilient country, and safeguarding the safety and security of Kuwait's seas.

At KOC, the importance of marine safety has only increased since it launched offshore exploration operations and made its first major discovery. As a result, it has become more crucial

than ever to work in a clean and safe environment, reinforcing KOC's commitment to the goals of this conference.

As one of the founding entities of the Organization, KOC has always supported its endeavors unconditionally, and this support only grows stronger with time. The Company also shares the same goals and practices and actively exchange experiences. This is what Al-Eidan encouraged all attendees to do at this event, in order to maximize the benefits from the international expertise present.

Al-Eidan wished success to all stakeholders and participants, hoping that the many workshops and sessions at this conference, along with the products presented at the accompanying exhibition, will result in solutions that benefit everyone. He also reaffirmed KOC's commitment to providing all available resources to support this mission and contribute to the positive outcomes of this international meeting.

Finally, Al-Eidan concluded by extending his thanks to the esteemed members of RECSO, as well as to all parties involved in coordinating, organizing, and communicating to make this conference and exhibition a reality. He also extended special thanks to the individuals who worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible conditions for attendees, whether from Kuwait Oil Company or the other partners.

Safe and Clean Waters

The Conference's Head and Chairman of RECSO, and Manager of the Marine Operations Group at KOC Sami Al-Sawagh, also spoke.

He began by expressing his

pleasure to host the prominent leaders at this conference and exhibition, which his organization holds biennially, looking forward to achieving the desired goals from this international event.

Al-Sawagh explained that since its inception in 1972, RECSO has worked tirelessly to uphold the noble goal of maintaining safe and healthy seawater in the region, which provides a suitable environment for all types of marine vessels passing through it in all directions.

Despite the significant challenges RECSO has faced, particularly as it operates in a region known for its prominent oil and gas-producing countries, it has successfully overcome these obstacles and achieved the highest ambitions possible. This success is due to the unconditional and unwavering support from all concerned governments and national oil companies, as well as effective coordination with companies involved in the transportation of high-risk goods and materials.

This periodic conference and its ongoing sessions have proven effective in discussing how to confront various challenges and find appropriate and innovative solutions to emerging issues. Al-Sawagh expressed his hope that the RECSO Envirospill Conference & Exhibition will achieve this once again, especially given the growing challenges we face, where the difficulty of finding and securing necessary solutions continues to increase.

Al-Sawagh explained that at this event, where participants explore ways to respond to oil spills, participating professionals from a range of major industries will be given the platform to discuss best practices, explore the latest technologies in the field, and ultimately ensure

the best protection of the marine environment in the region.

He added that over three days, the most prominent experts, specialists, officials, and VIPs will discuss various technical papers, as well as the latest and most effective solutions. They will also conduct important technical workshops, all of which aim to unify efforts and exchange experiences to better understand the challenges facing the region's seas—which are filled with the movement of materials that may pose major risks. Therefore, all participants hope to develop appropriate solutions to confront these challenges and determine the best ways to handle them while avoiding any incidents with undesirable outcomes.

This year, the event was held under the slogan "Sustainable Clean Seas", aiming to develop lasting solutions and provide technologies that will serve future generations for decades to come. Al-Sawagh stated that while we aim to be fully prepared to face present challenges, we also look to the future to ensure it remains completely safe, maintaining the absolute safety of maritime traffic in this region.

In conclusion, Al-Sawagh extended his thanks to all his brothers and colleagues, the members of RECSO, whether on the Board of Directors, the Technical Committee, or the Committee in charge of the preparation of this Conference, in addition to KOC for hosting the event and Nexus Company for its excellent organization.

He also reaffirmed RECSO's commitment to continued cooperation in all matters that serve the shared goals, and extended a warm welcome to all the companies and entities that

responded to the invitation to participate, hoping for success in everyone's efforts to achieve the common interests of their countries and institutions.

Various Sessions

The opening session featured a film that highlighted the importance of the event's topic, before the main sessions began, which witnessed the participation of many prominent figures.

The main topic of the first session was "Forging Partnerships for Rapid Response and Environmental Resilience: Collaborative Strategies in Oil Spill Incident Management", with the participation of H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Ahmad, Executive Secretary for the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Eng. Ziyad Al Shiha, Group CEO – SIRC, and Meshari Al Shaikh Mubarak, Senior Vice President for Industrial Services at Saudi Aramco.

The second session focused on the Importance of Crisis Leadership During the Spill Incidents.

This keynote explored the essential qualities and strategies that define successful crisis leadership, emphasizing the need for decisiveness, transparency, and empathy in high pressure situations.

Prominent participants in this session included: Dr. Vania De Stefani, CEO of Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), and Capt. Abdulkareem Al Messabi, CEO of ADNOC L&S.

The third was held under the theme of "Overcoming Barriers to Global Collaboration: Lessons Learnt".

The speakers shared examples of leadership during past spill



incidents, illustrating how strong leadership can help mitigate risks, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and maintain public trust.

It was moderated by Majed Kaki, Regional Oil Spill Coordinator at Aramco, with the participation of panelists:

- Andy Myers, Response Director, OSRL
- Capt. Aref Al Awadhi, Acting Director, MEMAC
- Ali Al Shehab, Global Director – Special Projects & Services, DNV Maritime
- Yacout Mohamed Abdelmoineim, Director, EMARSGA
- Mark Shepherd, Environmental Response Director, Sureclean

The fourth discussion posed the question: "How Can We Effectively Communicate Potential Environmental & Health Risks to the Media and Public During an Oil Spill Incident?"

In this Panel, industry leaders explored strategies for conveying complex information in an easy-to-understand manner, the importance of community



engagement in risk assessment which will allow the attendees to gain valuable insights into building trust, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that the public is well-informed and prepared to respond to any environmental crises resulting from oil spills.

Ijaz Ashraf, Superintendent of Social and Welfare in the ESG Department at BAPCO Refining, facilitated this important discussion, with the following panelists:

- Hatim Khalifa Al Owaid, VP - Emergency Response, Crisis Management & Business Continuity, ADNOC
- Ahmed Al Babbain, Chief Technology Officer, SAIL
- Miguel Moyano, Senior Advisor, ARPEL
- Zal Rustom, Head of Crisis Management, Sureclean

Honoring Session

The opening session of the RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition concluded with a

segment in which all speakers in the four sessions were honored, in addition to representatives of sponsors and partners as follows:

Keynote Speakers:

1. H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Ahmad
2. Ahmad Jaber Al Eidan
3. Ziyad Mohammed Al Shiha

Sponsors & Partners:

1. Exclusive Host: Kuwait Oil Company
2. Host Partner: Saudi Aramco
3. Strategic Partner: KJO
4. Platinum Partner: WJO
5. Silver Partner: SAIL
6. Technical Partner: OSRL
7. Knowledge Partner: ROPME
8. Institutional Supporting Partner: ARPEL
9. Regional Partners: KEPS & EMARSGA

Committee Chairs:

1. Steering Committee Chairs: Sami Al Sawagh & Muhammad Saber
2. Technical Committee Chairs: Ahmed Khalil & Majed Kaki
3. Organising Committee Chairs: Mohammad Al Basry & Majed A. Saber

Official Organiser:

- RECSO

Organising Partner:

- Nexus Events

Onsite Partner:

- Gemini

The Second and Third Days

The second day's sessions covered several topics, including: Challenges & Future Trends in Oil Spill Technology Development, Sustainable Approaches to Oil Spill Clean-up: Eco

Friendly Solutions, and Impact Analysis & Business Continuity. The sessions also discussed Crisis & Communication, Insurance & Compensation, Technology & Innovation, International Case Studies, Incident Management, and Community Engagement.

The third and final day of the event featured workshops on:

- ICS (Incident Command System)
- Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spill (RETOS): Assessing Response Planning & Preparedness
- SCAT (Shoreline Cleaning Assessment Technique)
- Intro to IMO Level 1 & 2
- Oil Spill Preparedness & Response.

About RECSO

The Regional Clean Seas Organization (RECSO) was established in 1971 by oil companies operating in the GCC countries, with the aim of cooperation and coordination among them to fight oil pollution.

The organization is connected with various international bodies concerned with clean seas, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UNEP - UN Environment Programme, and the IOGP - The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers.

The organization includes 9 oil companies in its membership: Kuwait Oil Company, Saudi Aramco, Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), QatarEnergy, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), in addition to Wafra Joint Operations (WJO), Khafji Joint Operations (KJO), and Dubai Petroleum.

Manager Marine Operations Group at Kuwait Oil Company, Sami Al-Sawagh, is the current Chairman of the organization.

RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition is a biennial event that focuses on oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response. It is a major international conference and exhibition that provides a platform for professionals from major industries to discuss best practices, explore technologies, and network.

This year, the third edition of the conference is hosted by Kuwait Oil Company, with the first edition held in Abu Dhabi, UAE in 2019, and the second edition in Manama, Bahrain in 2022. The event gathers international entities in the Middle East, with participants from over 65 countries around the world.

The objective of the conference is to focus on oil spill response and marine environmental protection in the region. The conference features VIP keynote sessions, plenary sessions, technical papers, workshops, and an exhibition showcasing products and solutions from leading companies in the industry.

RECSO EnviroSpill is the leading platform in the GCC region for stakeholders to enhance knowledge related to oil spill prevention, preparedness, and resilience. It is a global forum to discuss potential solutions and research that highlight current science, and new directions benefiting the industry and region.

This year, RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition is being held under the theme: Sustainable Clean Seas – Preparedness, Response, Technology, Collaboration.

RECSO Envirospill Conference & Exhibition

Under the patronage and with the attendance of Deputy CEO South & East Kuwait Fuad Al-Shaikh, the Company held an honoring ceremony in recognition of the excellent KOC employees who contributed to the remarkable success of the RECSO Envirospill Conference & Exhibition held in January.

The ceremony was held at KOC's Main Office in Ahmadi and attended by Manager Marine Operations Group and Chairman of RECSO Sami Al-Sawagh, Manager Public Relations & Information Group Mohammad Al-Basry, Manager Corporate Services Group Abdulaziz Al-Obaidan, Manager Training & Career Development Group Bashar Al-Khashti, and several Team Leaders and KOC employees who worked hard to make the event a great success.

Al-Shaikh opened the ceremony with a heartfelt speech in which he extended his thanks and deep appreciation on behalf of KOC to the organizers for their tremendous efforts and ongoing support, relating that KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan was highly pleased with the conference and exhibition. He expressed his deep pride of KOC employees for their accommodation of various international guests and their exceptional coordination and organization, stressing that they have raised the Company's head high.

Al-Sawagh followed, praising the outstanding success of the conference and all its organizers, explaining that it was a long process that saw sincere dedication from all organizers along the way, who showed excellent follow-up and smooth management of all challenges, which came as no surprise to him due to their remarkable capabilities.

Al-Basry then asserted that we are only fulfilling our duties to KOC, appreciating the acknowledgement and praising all participating departments in the Company, expressing that they have raised our heads regionally and internationally, and confirming that KOC always meets its commitments on every level.

In the conclusion of the ceremony, Al-Shaikh presented honorary shields to the honorees, who were as follows:

Manager Public Relations & Information Group Mohammed Al-Basry, Manager Marine Operations Group Sami Al-Sawagh, Manager Corporate Services Group Abdulaziz Al-Obaidan, Manager Training & Career Development Group Bashar Al-Khashti, TL Community Services Abdullah Al-Mansouri, TL Information Bedor Sayed Omar, TL Oil & Gas Exhibitions Nora Al-Soula, TL Port Operations Services Captain Ahmed Al-Awadhi, and TL Marine Maintenance Saoud Al-Otaibi.

The honoring also included Chief Public Relations Officer Abrar Al Mahdi, Section Head (Fleet Operations) Captain Muhanad Al Mansouri, Senior Public Relations Officer Fahad Al Fahad, Senior Multimedia Officer Nada Al Husainan, Senior Multimedia Officer Abdullah Al Jadi, Senior Controller Aisha Al Ahmad, Senior Training Officer Abbas Hamza, Senior Marine Maintenance Engineer Mohammed Abdul Ghafoor, Public Relations Officer Yousef Dashti, Public Relations Officer Dalal Al Mee, Training Officer Noura Al Khurayef, Marine Maintenance Engineer Anwar Al Bishi, and Marine Maintenance Engineer Ahmed Al Awadhi.

The Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers Conference

*Held under the patronage and with the attendance of the Minister of
Oil, and hosted by KOC*



Official Launch

Under the patronage and with the attendance of His Excellency the Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, and hosted by Kuwait Oil Company, the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers held its annual conference over three days. The conference was attended by an elite group of experts and leaders, including KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, and KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan.

The conference was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in 360 Mall, and opened with a speech from the conference's sponsor, Minister Al-Roumi. The Minister began by expressing gratitude to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, for his ongoing support in protecting workers in vital sectors, as well as nurturing national talent. He emphasized that workers in this sector are the pillars of the economy, and assured that Kuwait always strives to provide the best conditions for its workers.

The opening session included speeches by the Secretary-General of the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers, Emad Ali; the Chairman of the Kuwait Trade Union Federation, Eng. Sabah Al-Oqab; the Chairman of the Coordinating Council for Gulf Workers' Unions and Committees, and Chairman of the Saudi National Committee of Workers Committees, Eng. Nasser Al-Jarid; the Vice-Chairman of the Oil & Petrochemicals Industries Workers Confederation (Kuwait) Hussein Al-Mayl; and the Chairman of the Arab Executive Board of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers, Abbas Awadh.

Following the speeches, representatives of the unions, federations, committees, and some Arab

countries honored several leaders in the oil sector. The honorees included His Excellency Minister Al-Roumi, the CEO of KPC, the CEO of KOC, the CEO of KNPC, Wadha Al-Khatib, and the CEO of KGOC, Abdul Wahab Al-Mithin.

The conference aimed to strengthen relations, exchange knowledge, and enhance the safety of workers in the Arab oil sector.

High Patronage

In his speech at the conference, Minister Al-Roumi emphasized that Kuwait, through the Ministry of Oil and its national companies, is always committed to enhancing the work environment, raising the efficiency of national cadres, and ensuring the highest standards of safety and environmental sustainability. He expressed his hope that this conference will serve as a fruitful platform for dialogue that contributes to the exchange of constructive ideas and strengthens cooperation between all member states of the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers.

He explained that the conference brings together an elite group of experts and specialists in the oil, mining, and chemical sectors from various Arab countries, reflecting the spirit of cooperation and integration between them. It also highlights the importance of exchanging expertise and experiences to face challenges and advance the development process in these vital industries. He expressed his hope that the conference will yield recommendations that contribute to the development of these critical sectors for the benefit of Arab peoples and nations.

He considered the oil, mining, and chemical industries sector to be one of the main pillars of the economies of Arab countries, with its role growing in light of rapid

global changes. These changes necessitate that officials intensify efforts to achieve sustainability and ensure energy security for future generations. Minister Al-Roumi concluded his speech by addressing the workers, saying, "Now it is your turn as workers and leaders in these industries, as you are the foundation on which our countries depend to achieve their ambitious visions."

Supporting the Central Cause

Secretary-General of the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers, Emad Hamdi Ali followed, thanking His Excellency the Minister and all high-level attendees from the Kuwaiti oil sector for their kind hospitality. He stressed that Kuwait is a major and active member of the Federation, with numerous and fruitful contributions over the years. He also highlighted the role this sector plays in economic development, particularly in light of the challenges the Arab world is facing today.

He stressed that choosing the slogan "In Support of Arab Issues and No to the Displacement of Palestinians from Their Lands" as the title of this session carries significant meaning, confirming support for Arab unity and rejecting the liquidation of the central cause—the Palestinian cause.

Ali added that the challenges facing labor and workers worldwide, as emphasized by the International Labor Organization in all its official statements—such as unemployment, the lack of adequate social protection, and the plight of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories—place the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers under a great responsibility. This responsibility requires, at the outset, continuing to adhere to its unity in order to address



these challenges and to partner with the world in creating a decent work environment, benefiting both workers and employers.

He stated that the next stage requires ongoing development of the Arab Federation's resources, as well as continued efforts to spread awareness and participate in decisions and legislation that would consolidate the culture of rights and duties between employers and workers. This will help increase production in this strategic sector, support development in Arab countries, provide job opportunities for young people, and support construction and development plans, as well as the expansion of investments, ultimately leading to the achievement of the dream of Arab integration and a shared Arab market.

He stressed that Arab countries possess the wealth and resources that qualify them for economic progress and the ability to overcome current crises, with the participation of all, especially through the historical role of workers in the production pro-

cess and their participation in development as social partners with governments and business owners.

Constant Support for Labor Rights

The Chairman of the Kuwait Trade Union Federation, Eng. Sabah Al-Oqab, then delivered a speech in which he thanked all oil sector leaders for their ongoing support, expressing hope for close cooperation toward a brighter future and the achievement of shared goals. He explained that the conference focuses on protecting the rights and safety of workers in the oil sector.

For his part, Al-Oqab stated that the Federation is an integral part of the Arab trade union system, expressing his firm belief in the importance of concerted efforts to achieve common goals that serve the interests of workers.

He highlighted the tireless efforts made by unions in the oil sector, which have led to many important accomplishments, whether in improving the work

environment, enhancing workers' privileges, or defending acquired rights. He also emphasized the unions' commitment to strengthening channels of dialogue with company managements, which has contributed to creating a stable and safe work environment.

Al-Oqab praised the pivotal role played by the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers in defending the rights of Arab workers and enhancing their position in the oil and industrial sectors. He explained that the Federation has been able to achieve numerous labor improvements through its unwavering stance, influential advocacy, and constant support for labor rights, in addition to enhancing Arab trade union cooperation to serve the common interests of all.

He stressed his full confidence that meetings with the General Secretariat, the Central Council, and the Arab Working Women Committee would result in important decisions and recommendations that advance Arab trade union work and contribute to further labor improvements. He

noted that collective cooperation, well-studied decisions, and sincere efforts are the keys to achieving progress and strengthening the role of unions in supporting workers and enabling them to face challenges.

Workers As a Priority

The Chairman of the Coordinating Council for Gulf Workers' Unions and Committees, and Chairman of the Saudi National Committee of Workers Committees, Eng. Nasser Al-Jarid; stressed in his speech the importance of enhancing integration among Arab countries in this field, confirming that our presence at this conference will strengthen ties and unity and reaffirm our commitment to occupational health and protection.

Since its launch in 2021, the Coordinating Council for Gulf Workers' Unions and Committees has sought to achieve clear goals, namely enhancing cooperation and communication between Gulf labor unions and committees in everything that serves workers in the Gulf region, in particular, and the Arab region, in general.

Al-Jarid added that Arab integration and cooperation have become an urgent necessity, and to

enhance this integration, efforts must be focused on supporting and developing the Arab economy. This is especially important since labor unions and federations are the voice of Arab workers and the platform that advocates for their rights and seeks to support their ambitions.

He expressed his belief that workers are the foundation of the economy and the most important entity in the economic equation. He noted that the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers has sought, since its establishment over 60 years ago, to support the affairs of the profession, raise levels of performance and productivity, and keep pace with the latest technological developments in order to prepare the workforce to face future changes in the sector. This is because it concerns workers in one of the most important economic sectors, and therefore, the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers is considered one of the most important Arab unions responsible for protecting workers in the sector and advocating for the safeguarding of a suitable work environment, as well as ensuring the availability of occupational safety and health in their workplaces.

Historic Achievements

The Vice-Chairman of the Oil & Petrochemicals Industries Workers Confederation (Kuwait) Hussein Al-Mayl thanked the Kuwaiti oil sector and government for their support in this area. In his speech, he explained that the hosting of the event was under the full sponsorship and support of the Kuwaiti oil sector, based on the directives of His Excellency the Minister of Oil and the backing of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries.

Al-Mayl specifically praised KOC for its tireless efforts in making the conference a success, due to its firm belief in the importance of workers and their union movement.

He explained that Kuwait, represented by the Oil & Petrochemicals Industries Workers Confederation, has held the presidency of the Executive Council of the Arab Federation since 2005. This success is a result of government support, and the confidence placed in the workers of the oil sector, which has motivated employees and positively impacted the country's economy.

He stressed that this support has





greatly inspired workers, leading to major discoveries, including KOC's recent offshore exploration achievements. He added that he looks forward to further enhancing cooperation to benefit workers and hopes for continued progress across all Arab countries.

He elaborated that Kuwait's historic oil achievements, particularly through KOC, are clear evidence of governmental support. These include successive discoveries, such as the Al-Nokhatha Offshore field, which produces light oil and associated gas, and another discovery in the Al-Julaia offshore field within Kuwait's territorial waters. These contributions will strengthen the national economy, thanks to the dedication of workers who strive to serve the country from their work sites.

He expressed his hope that the conference would help overcome the challenges facing the working class in various Arab countries, while enhancing joint cooperation. He also hoped these meetings would yield successes that benefit workers, enhance their

rights, and defend the union achievements of workers in the oil sector, who represent the backbone of production and the cornerstone of the Arab national economy.

Al-Mayl then addressed the Arab Federation, urging it to support the needs and efforts of the Kuwaiti Oil & Petrochemicals Industries Workers Confederation. He emphasized that the Confederation has always worked to protect the rights and advantages of workers and will continue to strive for their advancement and progress, encouraging them to make further efforts to serve the country and the oil sector.

A Clear Vision

The Chairman of the Executive Board of the Arab Federation of Petroleum, Mining & Chemicals Workers, Abbas Awadh, also delivered an important speech in which he stated that this is not just a conference, but an opportunity to develop the oil sector through closer ties and collaboration. He praised the Federation's growth since its establishment in

1961 and confirmed that this is a historic event bringing together oil sector leaders and workers. He also thanked KOC for its ongoing cooperation with the Federation, noting that today, all Arab workers unite through a shared vision and goal.

He added that this conference is not merely an official gathering, but a platform for exchanging experiences, discussing challenges, and unifying efforts for a better future for workers in this vital sector, who are the backbone of development and stability in Arab countries.

Awadh further explained that the Federation has continued to carry out its mission since its founding in January 1961 by supporting workers, providing consultations, enhancing partnerships, and focusing on the development of the oil sector. He noted that the Arab Federation currently includes 15 Arab countries in its membership, and recently welcomed the accession of Saudi Arabia and Turkey. This underscores the solid position of the Arab Federation and its influential voice in both the Arab and international oil industries.



He elaborated that, with these developments, the Federation's future vision has expanded to achieve greater goals, most notably the expansion of experience exchange among workers in the Arab world.

He suggested holding an annual conference that brings together workers in the oil, energy, and gas sectors in the Arab world to exchange experiences, undergo training, and discuss the latest technologies and developments. This, he believes, would contribute to the sector's advancement and enhance the efficiency of its workers.

He also stressed the Federation's firm stance on the Palestinian cause, which remains the central cause for all Arab and Islamic nations. Awadh expressed his pride in the unwavering position of Kuwait, whose leadership and people continue to be steadfast in their support for Palestine.

Promoting Understanding

Also among the speakers was the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs at the General Secretariat of the Arab Federation, Mohammed Al Bloushi, who emphasized the role of the Federation in promoting understanding

between trade unions and companies operating in the oil sector. He highlighted the importance of constructive cooperation between these parties, which benefits both oil institutions and the national economy in general.

Al Bloushi pointed out that success in a strategic sector like the oil industry depends heavily on the solidarity between all concerned parties. Trade unions play a crucial role in advocating for workers' rights and creating supportive work environments, while companies represent the innovative edge capable of expanding and revolutionizing the industry based on local competencies.

He stressed the importance of vocational training and sustainable development for workers in the sector, noting that such initiatives not only enhance individual skills but also contribute to building a strong knowledge base capable of effectively addressing future challenges and global competition. Advanced training programs ensure that companies have qualified personnel capable of improving productivity and enhancing competitiveness.

He considered investing in human capital as an investment in

the future, stating that increased efficiency and skills result directly from vocational training, which in turn improves institutional performance and raises productivity. This positively impacts the national economy and, consequently, the standard of living of individuals.

Ongoing Development

The speeches concluded with remarks from Kuwaiti union officials. The first to speak was Nawaf Al-Enezi, head of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company Workers Union, who stressed that Kuwait is a pioneer in hosting activities and events for Arab trade unions and federations, highlighting its full support for Arab union work.

Al-Enezi stated that the conference aims to create more channels for cooperation between oil institutions and companies, as well as those in the mining and petrochemical sectors. These industries are labor- and production-intensive, contributing significantly to the primary source of income in many countries, especially within the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The second official was Tariq Al-Fares, Vice President of the Workers Union at Equate Petrochemical Company and a participant in the conference. He noted that such activities always have a direct impact on oil institutions and their subsidiaries, benefiting both them and their workers.

Al-Fares added that union work is continuously developing, and therefore must keep pace with advancements in administrative practices. He called for continued cooperation between leaders in the oil sector and union heads and representatives to support the development of both companies and workers.

KOC's Second Short Film Festival

With over 60 films, four different categories, and 16 winners





It seems that there is a small Hollywood growing steadily in Kuwait Oil Company, or rather, it is a small but capable Oscar Academy with experience and knowledge, that effectively platforms and appreciates creatives and provides them with the necessary support, as well as contributing to launching and enhancing their careers.

These are, in short, the goals that the Company seeks to achieve through its Short Film Festival, which recently celebrated the completion of its second edition with great success. This edition demonstrated the extent of KOC's progress in this field, which, despite being far from its main areas of work.

This success was a result of the Company's great faith in the youth of Kuwait and the capabilities they possess, and because providing them with absolute support represents a commitment that it has pledged to enduringly fulfill. This festival was the perfect opportunity to prove this support and introduce the world to a number of these young people, by showcasing their creativity that rises to a global standard.

In the first edition of the festival last year, a success worthy of documentation was achieved, and this year the Company has surpassed that success, with a highly professional and objective festival.

To document this success, the Digest delves into the details of the festival in the following pages.

A Grand Ceremony

KOC held a grand closing ceremony for its Second Short Film Festival, where the winners were also announced.

The ceremony was held at Andalus Cinema in Hawalli, and attended by H.E. the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, DCEO Planning & Innovation Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, CEO of Ooredoo – Kuwait Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, as well as the guest of honor, the veteran artist Saad Al-Faraj, and a number of artists, interested parties, and a large audience.

The event featured several notable speeches, most notably

from the President of the Festival, Manager Public Relations & Information Group at KOC Mohammad Al-Basry, and Head of the Judging Panel Abdulaziz Al-Sayegh. The guest artist Hamad Al-Omani and the late artist Abdulaziz Al-Haddad were also honored during the ceremony.

The final results were then announced, with Hamad Marouf's film "Ma'arakat Al-Jusoor" (Battle of Bridges) winning first place in the documentary category, Mariam Al-Abbad's film "Tashathi" (Fragmentation) in the short films category, Yousef Al-Baqshi's film "Li Ajl Yousef" (For Yousef) in the animated films category, and "Jassim Podcast" by Jassim Al-Rushoud in the social media accounts category.

Awards were presented to the creators of the four winning works, as well as to those who came in second and third place in each category. The participating and sponsoring entities, and members of the judging panel, Abdulaziz Al-Sayegh, Dr. Hussein Ali Hussein Abdullah, and Abdul Sattar Naji, were also honored.



The second edition of the festival this year saw a great turnout from Kuwaiti creators, with more than 60 participating works across the four categories of the award, 38 of which qualified for the final rounds.

Various Participations and Categories

As mentioned, more than 60 films were submitted to participate in the four categories included in this year's competition: short films, documentaries, animation films, and social media accounts.

After the first qualifying screenings reviewed by the judging panel, 38 films were approved for the final competitions, including 19 in the Short Film category as follows:

- "Red or Green" by Ibrahim Al-Qallaf.
- "The Signal" by Nasser Al-Qattan.
- "The Beginning" by Rasha Shaalan.
- "Goodbye" by Areej Al-Failakawi and Noor Al-Othman.
- "The Radio" by Muneera Al-Kharaz.
- "The Circle" by Manal Al-Laham.
- "Secrets" by Nawaf Bu Arky.
- "Under the Rubble" by Husain Shaaban.
- "Fragmentation" by Mariam Al-Abbad.
- "Screen" by Othman Al-Saad.
- "Shadow of Hope" by Laila Al-Abdullah.
- "A Policeman's Story" by Dawoud Al-Shuail.
- "Don't Get Angry (The Temptation of Money)" by Shaheen Al-Sharrah.
- "Who" by Amani Al-Doub.
- "We Will Not Lose Hope" by Adwi Al-Dhafiri.
- "My Content" by Moath Al-Salem.
- "We Hope for Peace" by Husain Ashkanani.
- "Concern" by Ali Al-Farhan.
- "A Day in Mubarkiya" by Mohammad Al-Hasyan.
- In the documentary films category, 10 films qualified as follows:
 - "Kuwait is a Blessing from God" by Abdulaziz Nasser.
 - "Society" by Athoub Al-Haddad.
 - "Bu Abdullah" by Thunayan Al-Rushoud.
- "Life in the Time of Corona" by Abdulrahman Al-Khamees.
- "Qarouh Island" by Dr. Arafat Al-Shuaibi.
- "Heritage Tragedy" by Mohammad Al-Qattan.
- "An Overflow of Sudairat" by Ali Al-Masree.
- "Masaka" by Latifa Al-Qatami.
- "Battle of the Bridges" by Hamad Marouf.
- "Bird Migration: The Journey of Life or Death" by Dr. Mahdi Gholoum.

The animated films category included only three films: "The Dreamer" directed by Mohammad Al-Mounir, "Onwards" directed by Mohammad Al-Nassar, and "For Youssef" directed by Youssef Al-Baqshi.

In turn, 6 accounts competed in the social media category, namely: "Hassan Ahmed Shabr", "Hassan Akbar", "Jasim Podcast", "Shorouk Taher Al-Sayegh", "Saleh Al-Ajeel", in addition to "Abdullah Al-Farhoud".

Winning Films

We start with reviewing the Short Films category, in which

the first five films were awarded, and the film "Fragmentation" by director Mariam Al-Abbad won first place.

The film tells the story of the struggle of a woman named Athba with her memories and past, as she receives in the present a box containing letters and pictures that take her back to a painful love experience she had in 1976 with a man named Mohammad. It is a love story that ended in a conflict with her cousin Mutab, who wanted to marry her by force, which prompted her to attempt suicide. This film explores the impact of social restrictions and traditions on an individual's life, particularly women, and sheds light on the disintegration of the self as a result of sacrificing true love for the sake of social norms.

The film "A Policeman's Story" by director Dawoud Al-Shuail came in second place. It is about an unsuccessful policeman who works in secret and impersonates a taxi driver to pursue a se-

rial killer who targets taxi drivers to kill and rob them.

The film "A Day in Mubarakkiya" by director Mohammed Al-Hussain came in third place, and it is aptly named, as it tells the story of a young photographer who spends a day in the iconic Kuwaiti market. He takes a photography tour through its corridors, where he meets an old man who reveals the secrets of the market.

The film "My Content" by director Moath Al-Salem won fourth place. It conveys a creative session between two filmmakers on a mission to find the perfect film idea, but they face challenges with each new script.

It was followed in fifth place by the film "Secrets" by director Nawaf Bouarki, in which the director narrates the story of the Kuwaiti martyr Asrar Al-Qabandi during her imprisonment, and the psychological and physical torture she was subjected to.

In the documentary category, from which five winning films were also selected, the first place went to the film "Battle of the Bridges" by Hamad Marouf, which is about a fateful battle during the invasion. It showcases the courage of the Kuwaiti forces and the sacrifices they made to face the invading Iraqi forces, and also explores the struggle for survival under extreme pressure.

The second place went to the film "Qaruh Island" by Dr. Arafat Al-Shuaibi, which aims to educate and raise awareness among the community, students, researchers, and specialists in Kuwait and countries around the world about the nature and importance of the island, while documenting the biodiversity of living organisms that live in the sea surrounding the island.

The film "Bird Migration: A Journey of Life or Death" by Dr. Mahdi Gholoum came in third place, a film that highlights the migration of birds across Ku-





wait and showcases the beauty of their natural environments, as well as the challenges they face, such as habitat loss and pollution.

Coming in fourth place was the film "Masaka" by director Lati-fa Al-Qatami, which documents the journey of a community living under the burden of poverty and deprivation, and relying on foreign aid to meet basic needs, however its children created a force thanks to joint efforts and deep spirit of solidarity that prevailed among them.

The fifth place in this category went to "Life in the Time of Corona" by director Abdulrahman Al Khamees, which is about a child born during the pandemic, and this birth signifies hope for the future.

Animations and Social Media Accounts

The film "For Youssef" by director Youssef Al-Baqshi won first place in the animation category. It tells the story of a strange evening that the 6-year-old child Youssef lived on a quiet night with his mother who was watching a movie in the same room.

The film "The Dreamer" by di-

rector Mohammed Al-Mounir came in second place, followed by the film "Onwards" by director Mohammed Al-Nassar in third place. The first tells the story of the exciting journey of Alex William, the aspiring author, to prove his strength after being chased by skeptics, while the second tells the story of an ant trying to reach its goal in the face of various difficulties and obstacles.

The social media accounts category remains, in which only the first three were selected, and the first place was won by the account "Jassim Podcast" by Jassim Al-Rushoud. The account documents the history

of Kuwait in general and the Iraqi occupation in particular, and highlights the importance of recording history to preserve national identity, enhance unity, and educate future generations.

The second-place account was "Hassan Akbar," which focuses on showcasing the latest innovations in medical technology, both in the Ministry of Health in Kuwait and at the global biomedical industry, followed by Shurouq Al-Sayegh's account, which seeks to enhance digital awareness and empower society technologically through inspiration and creativity.

The Judging Panel

The judging panel included three prominent Kuwaiti figures in the world of cinema, the first of whom is the prestigious academic figure, Dean of the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Kuwait, Dr. Hussein Ali Hussein Abdullah. The second was the President and Founder of the Kuwait New Cinema Festival, Vice President of the International Union of Arab Film Festivals and President of the Al-Kout International Film Festival, Abdulaziz Al-Sayegh, while the third member is the researcher and film and theater critic with extensive experience



in international festivals, including the Cannes Film Festival, Abdul Sattar Naji.

Guest Artists

As customary in all international festivals, the festival's management decided this year to honor three figures who played a major role in the world of art in the State of Kuwait. One of them was the festival's guest, the great artist Saad Al-Faraj, the second was the festival's personality, artist Hamad Al-Omani, while the third honoree was the late artist Abdulaziz Al-Haddad.

Saad Al-Faraj: He is a famous Kuwaiti television and theater actor, born in 1938, and worked for a period of his life as head of the drama department in Kuwait TV, specifically from 1962 to 1984.

He participated in more than 40 television series and more than 30 plays, in addition to four films, and he also wrote more than 20 television and theater works.

In 1969, he took a course in directing and television production from the British Broadcasting Academy, while in 1973 he received a diploma in directing



and television production from the United States, in addition to a diploma in theater directing from Los Angeles City College in 1974, and a bachelor's degree in directing and television production from the United States.

Hamad Al-Omani: A young actor, born in 1985, who's distinguished by his great activity. He participated in 37 series and 18 plays, in addition to 6 films, noting that he entered the artistic field by chance in 1999, meaning that he achieved all this in only about 25 years.

Al-Omani was a football player in one of the Kuwaiti clubs, but after an issue with his club that kept him away from participat-

ing for about a year, he joined the acting club that was close to the stadium, to end up as a prominent actor.

Abdulaziz Al-Haddad: This great artist who passed away on the second day of this year grew up in a family that loved the arts, and started acting when he was only 13 years old. Born on June 14, 1950, he is a Kuwaiti actor, writer and director. His passion for acting was evident from a young age, and he participated in about 30 TV series, 6 plays and 5 films only, because he devoted his life to writing, producing up to 14 TV and theatrical works of his own writing.

President of the Festival

In his speech on the sidelines of the ceremony, the President of the Festival, Manager Public Relations & Information Group at KOC Mohammad Al-Basry, greeted all the distinguished guests in the name of KOC, starting with His Excellency the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, and the distinguished artists, headed by Mr. Saad Al Faraj.

Al-Basry noted that this is the second season of the festival,





following the great success of the first season, and in this year's season, we saw exceptional creativity.

He expressed his great pride of the Kuwaiti male and female youth who presented films on this caliber, while thanking every artist and director, as well as the judging panel that provided its full support, and helped make this festival a success.

He explained that this festival comes as part of KOC's community service, as it walks with the youth hand in hand and tells them that they are the pioneers of art, starting from 1934 to today.

Al-Basry also thanked KOC's Higher Management, for its ceaseless and complete support of the youth in every matter that concerns them, confirming that he, and everyone behind this festival is very proud of all participants, and are confident that they will carry Kuwait's head high by creating the best films, reaffirming that KOC will stand by them every step of the way.

Perspectives from the Participants

Mariam Al Abbad, director of "Tashathi":

This win is an indescribable feeling, and gave me a drive to keep going in this field and never stop. I am really excited to present something new to the cinema, particularly in Kuwait since it is limited here. This support will highly encourage the upcoming generation of Kuwaiti filmmakers.

Abdulrahman Khamees, director of "Life in the Time of Corona":

My film is documentary that documents a moment of hope during the covid pandemic, in which a baby was born during lockdown. I wanted to highlight this moment to give us hope for the future. The documentary was actually filmed during covid, and now 4-5 years later it wins a prize. This is a great feeling, following that tough period. To me, this film gains more value with time, as it captures our moments during covid.

Latifa Al Qatami, director in Kuwait TV, participating with the film "Masaka":

This was a tough journey, as I filmed a documentary outside Kuwait (in Masaka – Uganda), but this experience was worth it, and I am very pleased with this recognition in which I won fourth place.

Al-Eidan and Al-Abduljaleel Confirm their Full Support of the Youth

On the sidelines of their participation in the closing ceremony, the local press interviewed both the Company's CEO, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, and Deputy CEO Planning & Innovation, Mohammed Al-Abduljaleel.

KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan:

KOC strives to serve the community, beyond its primary operations as an oil and gas producing and exporting Company. We support the Kuwaiti youth in every field, including the art and cultural field. The first season last year was a success, and the success only multiplied this year.

We support the youth to contribute to Kuwait's artistic development, and we encourage them to pioneer in art.

We invited venerable figures like Saad Al Faraj and Abdulrahman Al-Aqel to add another layer of support to the youth.

We are very pleased with this festival. The level of success and participation exceeded our expectations, we wish all participants the best and even more growth in the third season, and we are happy to be part of their journey.

Whether in the oil industry or beyond, we support their passion and dedication towards Kuwait, for this great land that has given us so much. We encourage them to give their all to this nation, as expressed in Al-Faraj's patriotic statement.

Deputy CEO Planning & Innovation Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel:

It brought me great pleasure and enjoyment to be here today, with KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al Eidan, along with an elite attendance of artistic figures in Kuwait, to attend the honoring ceremony of our youth who participated in this competition.

KOC has ensured great support towards this competition, in the past and current season.

We have seen participations that brought us great pride in our talented male and female youth, who participated in different categories of films. This stands as a testament to the determination and great interest of the youth in the artistic field, and we are very proud of them and wish them success in the film industry.

Pilot Multi Rigs SIMOPS Project

Innovation: The first of its kind in the GCC and Successful Execution of Pilot Multi Rigs SIMOPS Project WO (SP-991) & Drilling (KDC-62) Rigs on same MWP SA-O16-CO for Early Restoration of Oil Production by RWO at 5M spacing well SA-1123



Executive Summary

Joint Achievement of the Workover-I and Drilling-III Teams in NK

In a pioneering initiative that marks the first of its kind in the history of the Company's well workover rigs, the Workover Team-I (NK) successfully completed the repair of well SA-1123, despite the presence of another rig that was drilling well SA-1150, located just 95 meters away.

Well SA-1123 was initially expected to cease production until the completion of drilling operations and the departure of the drilling rig from the site after 120 days. However, through the Team's determination, in cooperation with Drilling Team-III (N&WK) and all the concerned Teams in the Company, all obstacles were successfully overcome. This accomplishment took into account all the necessary studies and precautions to ensure the safety of the well workover rig's entry and avoid any interference with the drilling operations in the nearby well.

The repair of well SA-1123 was completed within a record time of 13 days, exceeding expectations by achieving a production rate of 2,800 barrels of oil per day, while the well workover rig also left the site according to plan.

In this context, Manager Fields Development Group (NK) Saad Matar praised this achievement and thanked all the Teams that contributed to it. He highlighted that this success reflects the positive impact of the recent organizational changes in KOC, which merged the Drilling and Workover Teams into the same Directorate, as they share the same goal with the Field Development Teams in terms of increasing production and accelerating well workover. Matar explained that this experience will certainly be applied to similar cases across all KOC Directorates. For his part, TL Workover-I (NK) Abdullah Al-Ajmi noted that the capabilities and competencies demonstrated by the employees herald even greater future accomplishments. He extended his thanks to all the departments that contributed or provided support to achieve this success. These departments are from the N&WK, Exploration & Drilling, Gas & Environment, and Commercial & Corporate Services Directorates.

Introduction

Workover-I and Drilling-III Teams in NK: We are pleased to submit an excellent initiative and significant achievement in operational excellence, as our team successfully led the first-of-its-kind project in KOC and GCC by deploying a WO rig (SP-991) while drilling rig KDC-62 was drilling infill well at the same Multi-Well Pad (MWP) SA-O16 CO. This required a high level of coordination with various stakeholders 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, we successfully completed the WO job and well SA-1123 is put back into production. This innovative approach prevented an estimated 120+ days of production defer-

ment, the expected drilling duration for three consecutive wells on the same pad.

Background and Challenges:

- ON MWP SA-O16 CO, drilling rig KDC-62 was deployed for drilling 3 infill wells for estimated duration of +/-120 days and WO rig deployment is prohibited on same Pad due to SIMOPS Procedure Constraints.
- The existing SIMOPS document prohibited two rigs on the same pad mainly due to physical incompatibility. It requires Management of Change approvals for deviation from existing SIMOPS procedures.
- Scheduling conflicts: Several WO pad wells remained unscheduled due to concurrent drilling operations on the same pad.
- More drilling activity is taking

place through pad extensions or infill wells.

- The well SA-1123 is declared for WO with expected production of 500 BPD. It is located 95 meters away from SA-1150 which is being drilled by KDC-62.
- Location Space constraints for deployment of WO rig equipment while drilling rig equipment on the same Pad and timely removal of such location surface constraints.
- Adjustment of both rigs equipment lay out for independent access routes and Muster points.
- Additional space constraints challenge due to adjacent wells (both sides) at 5M spacing from the WO well SA-1123.
- It requires shutting down of adjacent producing well SA-1124 at 5M spacing from SA-1123 for the duration of rig workover +/- days resulting production loss.
- In addition to the drilling rig equipment, the Pad has all 12 wells surface facilities in place thus congested for safe rig move, simultaneous operation with another rig, and for spotting Fly Camp in close proximity of various scattered GC manifolds and other surface facilities.
- Risks associated with crew working and vehicle movements among two rigs.

Execution:

- A dedicated core group of WO team members were assigned for timely actions and safe execution the Pilot Project.
- Multiple office and site meetings were conducted with various Groups/ Teams to assess the feasibility and ensure physical compatibility along with.
- It was decided to backfill several mud pits and construct a new road for the drilling rig to be utilized for moving its equipment.
- The team developed and updated key documentations for the Pilot Project:
- Combined rigs' layout on the same pad.
- Matrix of Permitted Operation (MOPO) between conventional Drilling, WO and Production operations for pad SA-O16 CO between KDC-62 and SP-991.
- HAZID Action List from Risk Assessment.
- Desktop Review (DTR) for Multi Well Pad SIMOPS.
- Review of Site-Specific Emergency Response Plan and develop Emergency Action Plan (EAP).
- Communication Protocol between the two rigs.
- Management of Change.
- As a pilot project, WO team decided to assign a night company man and dedicated Field HSE Supervisor for operational, HSE oversights and logistics coordination among both rigs.
- While the drilling operation was ongoing at rig KDC-62(SA-1150) the WO rig, SP-991 moved safely and spud the

well SA-1123 on 3rd February 2025.

- Addition close supervision and monitoring of the WO operations was ensured from Base office Engineers and successfully completed the well with good production testing (ESP -FT) results safely, thus opening a new opportunity of similar cases in the future to be commenced.

The WO rig was released from SA-1123 on 17th February 2025 @11:00 hours without any incident /asset damage to other surface production facilities at MWP location.

Results & Achievements:

The project's success was driven by critical thinking, proactive team engagement, integrated planning, and risk mitigation strategies, leading to the following achievements:

- First successful simultaneous operation of two rigs on the same pad in KOC history and first of its kind in GCC due to 5 M spacing wells.
- No operational conflicts as both rigs executed their tasks without delays or disruption.
- Well SA-1123 successfully ESP Function & Production tested @ 3092BLPD with 10%WC thus net Oil +/-2780 BOPD against expected production of 500 BOPD.
- Oil Production Impact is early oil production restoration of total 333600 BBLS which is estimated as total oil deferment due to delay in WO rig deployment by +/-120 days due to existing conventional SIMOPS.
- Aligned with KOC objectives of maximizing uninterrupted production.
- Compliance to KOC HSE procedures by conducting Specific



Risk Assessment and application of Pilot MOPO guidelines and Management of Change Procedures.

- Enhanced KOC capabilities for Innovations in MWP Drilling & Workover SIMOPS to meet production objectives.
- Increased Multidisciplinary collaboration among various KOC Groups/ Teams, Business Partners, field and office personnel.

Learnings & Way Forward:

The milestone will be presented to the SIMOPS Task Force Team (TFT) for procedural review. The following learnings can be summarized:

- Feasibility Criteria: Two rigs can be accommodated on the same pad when well-to-well distance exceed 80 meters while taking into consideration other location constraints.
- Mud pits are required to be backfilled upon completing drilling pad wells.

- ESP generators should serve multi wells to reduce on-site footprint.
- A 20-meter space between 2 central wells in the pad is ideal for feasibility of 2 rigs (Drilling & WO) deployment.
- This type of multi-rig operations should be classified critical, and Pad specific Risk assessment is essential for feasibility.
- Mobilizing sufficient number of cement crash barriers to barricade the wells and their other surface facilities.
- Consider this type of rig move and SIMOPS operation as critical to ensure additional supervision by having Field HSE Supervisor and Nigh Co Man available for the supports to the company man for effective supervision.

Due to its complexity and advance planning requirements, it is recommended that all existing pads on which a drilling rig is assigned to be analyzed and feasibility to be checked.

The following Teams members' critical thinking, proactive engagement and unwavering commitment for Operational and HSE excellence has paved the way for the success of this pilot project:

1. WO I NK
2. Drilling II NK.
3. DWOOS.
4. FD SA.
5. IE NK.
6. HSE NK.
7. PSM NK.
8. Maintenance Team NK.
9. Transport Operations
10. ORT

WO Team I (NK) was able to champion this pilot project as one of the opportunities for minimizing days to keep producing wells idle due to a drilling rig is on the same pad. We are committed for value addition in our services to enhance KOC capabilities to meet strategic business objectives and production targets with operational and HSE excellence.

GCC Ranked First Globally in Crude Oil

Production, Exports, and Reserves
2024 Statistics Announced in February 2025





- GCC States' crude oil outcomes hit 17 million barrels per day in 2023, making up 23.2 percent of the total global production of crude oil and a decrease of 6.8 percent compared with 2022.
- The states' crude oil reserves in 2023 reached 511.9 billion barrels, making up 32.6 percent of the global reserves and an average annual growth of .03 percent between 2014 and 2023, the report noted.
- In 2023, GCC states' crude oil exports hit 12.4 million barrels per day, causing a 28.2 percent of the world's total exports and a decrease of 8.2 percent compared with 2022.
- GCC states' oil derivatives exports hit about 1518.6 million barrels, making up 13.4 percent of global oil derivatives exports and an increase of 7.1 percent compared to 2022, it pointed out.
- Oil derivatives imports amounted to 212.3 million barrels, with an average annual growth rate of 0.1 percent.
- Gas oil/diesel outcome recorded the highest rate among petroleum derivatives in 2023, reaching 660.4 million barrels followed by gasoline with 336.2 million barrels, and kerosene and jet fuel with 319.4 million barrels, it stated.
- Gasoline consumption in GCC countries hit about 336.6 million barrels in 2023 while gas oil/diesel consumption was 299.7 million barrels. The rest of derivatives varied between 34.8 and 268.3 million barrels.
- GCC States' natural gas reserves amounted to about 44.195 billion cubic meters in 2023, making up 21.4 percent of the world's total reserves, and an increase in reserves of 0.2 percent compared to 2022.
- GCC natural gas exports hit 180.9 billion cubic meters in 2023 that made up 13.1 percent of the world's total exports and an average annual growth rate 2.5 percent during the period from 2014 to 2023, it said.
- GCC countries' outcome of marketed natural gas in 2023 reached about 464.2 billion cubic meters, 10.8 percent of the total global production, recording a rise of 1.4 percent compared to 2022.
- On renewable energy indicators, the capacity of GCC renewable energy stations was 10,742 megawatts in 2023, a rise of 74.7 percent compared to 2022, thanks to the implementation of policies related to the use of renewable energy instead of fossil energy.
- GCC states' energy produced from stations reached about 14,403 gigawatts per hour in 2023, a rise of 72.4 percent compared to 2022.
- GCC electricity production hit about 794.9 thousand gigawatts per hour in 2022, with an average of about 4.7 percent during the period from 2019 to 2023, with an increase of 1.2 percent compared to the year 2022.
- Electricity consumption recorded about 732.5 GW per hour, an increase of 1.3 percent compared to the year 2022, the report concluded.

Museum of Marine Support & Marine Operations Groups



KOC is distinguished by its exceptional employees, whose passions extend far beyond their daily duties, and in this particular case, the Kuwaiti Digest met with two employees who managed to connect their deepest passions and hobbies with their love and loyalty for the Company, resulting in an exceptional curation of artifacts related to the Company's Marine history and beyond.

For this article, the Kuwaiti Digest met with Team Leader Marine Maintenance Captain Soud Al-Otaibi, and Ibrahim Dashti, Senior Admin Officer in the same Team, who together worked to establish the Museum of Marine Support & Marine Operations Groups in the B5 Building of the Company's Offices Complex in Ahmadi, which displays an impressive range of marine antiques and Company publications.

History

At the beginning of the interview, Al-Otaibi explained that the Museum started in around 2011, where a few antique marine pieces had been gathered (mostly consisting of ship equipment). It took around a year and a half to establish and develop the idea of the museum. The museum is open and constantly growing, and Al-Otaibi confirmed that they will continue to add more rare and unique pieces as they find them, and that this is an ongoing effort, as collecting such items never stops, and they are constantly on the lookout for new items that are related to the marine or oil sector, especially if they are of heritage significance. He expressed that the goal is to preserve and record Kuwait's marine heritage, from the port to the office.

Many and Growing Contributions

Al-Otaibi explained that due to their unique and distinguished

collection, which are detailed in the photos attached, they receive many calls from external parties who show interest in their collection.

The most significant of them is Bayt Al-Othman, which was established in 2013 with their contributions, to whom they handed over around 14 pieces of antique collectibles.

They also participated in the Youm Albahar Festival for a few months in 2023 with more of their impressive marine antiques.

Al-Otaibi took this chance to express his gratitude towards Dashti, as this idea expanded when he joined the Company, and antique collecting is a personal passion of his. Al-Otaibi reaffirmed the Management's full support of such unique and sincere voluntary efforts made by employees, where Dashti voluntarily resourced all the materials, and none of this demanded considerable costs from the Company.

Dashti also curates all marine related KOC publications, dating

back to the sixties in the Company's long history.

A Treasure to KOC

Al-Otaibi also stressed that with the 90th Anniversary of KOC's establishment that was celebrated recently, it is worth noting that the Marine sector has always played a major role in supporting the Company's operations, since the first oil export.

Indeed, the Company's long-standing careful archive of its materials and publications also facilitated the curation process and helped grow the collection, where Dashti explained that everyone involved exerted great efforts to hunt through all sorts of archives. Many employees throughout the history of the Company had gathered different rare pieces worthy of preservation, explaining that the higher purpose of this process is to document the Company's rich history. Dashti confirmed that this is a combined effort between past and present KOC employees from the Marine Group, that passes from generation to generation, and now all passers-by can develop an appreciation





and interest in this aspect.

Plans for Expansion

Al-Otaibi added that a new building is currently being constructed to accommodate the Marine Group, in which the Marine Museum will be greatly expanded and properly established. This will be in small boats harbor in the Ahmadi North Port.

Al-Otaibi explained that the new building will be much bigger, with an entire separate hall where the museum will be set up. The display will be enhanced, more creative, with less restrictions, and new unique touches will be added instead of adapting and compromising with the current space provided.

Al-Otaibi closed off by thanking the Management, particularly Manager Marine Operations Group Sami Al-Sawagh, for their limitless and unwavering support, who have long highlighted the importance of this endeavor. He also thanked Dashti for his close follow-up, coordination, directives, and effective communication with concerned external bodies.

The Items

The items detailed in the photographs notably include items such as:

- A typewriter dating back to the 1940s
- Seal holder and some antique seals
- Silver coin issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the export of the first oil shipment 1946-1996
- OMEGA wristwatch as a gift from Kuwait Oil Company Limited to employees who spent 25 years in service during the seventies
- Binoculars
- Captain's whistle used inside the ship
- Manual compass
- GPS marine and land positioning device
- Wireless device used in marine communications
- Magnetic compass
- Kerosene flashlight
- Ship clock
- Humidity meter
- Electric current meter
- Device to determine the direction of any fixed or moving object in the sea, also used to correct compass errors
- Device to determine the speed of the ship
- Navigational light for the ship
- Manual indicator to determine the ship's course in degrees
- Alarm bell
- Steering wheel of one of the sea vessels
- Air horn of a ship
- A set of IDs of some employees of Kuwait Oil Company Limited
- Map illustrating Kuwait Oil Company Limited. Concession in the extraction of crude oil
- A picture of the crude oil pipeline to transport oil from the Ahmadi tanks to the terminal at Mina Al-Ahmadi
- A naval officer's uniform belonging to Captain Sulaiman Ghuloom
- Several copies of Al-Kuwaiti magazine from the sixties
- Pictures of the Company's old prominent boats
- Various news clippings about maritime achievements

KOC's Team Wins Strongest Company Competition

KOC won the third edition of the Strongest Company Competition, which was organized by KPC with the participation of all K-Companies.

The CEO received and congratulated the Team, after which he was handed the winning trophy.





The KPC Strongest Company Competition was held over a whole day, with the attendance of KPC's CEO Shaikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, and several high officials of its subsidiaries. This notably included Ag. KOC CEO Ameena Rajab, and KOC's DCEO Planning & Innovation Mohammed Al-Abduljaleel.

The team, which included six Company employees, successfully won all rounds, where it defeated the team representing KNPC in its first round, before eliminating the KIPIC team in the semi-final round.

In the final round, the team successfully defeated the home team, KPC, in the presence of an enthusiastic audience at the KPC Auditorium in Shuwaikh.

The winning team includes Abdullah Al-Azmi, Mahdi Johar, Shadan Al-Mubarak, Jassim Al-Shumais, Yousef Al-Khaledi, and Ali Safar, who represented the Company after winning internal qualifying rounds last September in which 63 employees participated, where these rounds were the most prominent factor in ensuring their victory in the competition.

To honor their achievement, CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, in the presence of his Deputies, received the members of the KOC team, on the sidelines of the Higher Management's weekly meeting. Al-Eidan congratulated the winners on this exceptional achievement, expressing his great pride in each team member.

The DCEOs also congratulated the six team members, praising their achievement and expressing their hopes for another victory in the next edition of the competition.

The team members handed the winning trophy to the CEO, who in turn stressed that they had earned it due to their exceptional efforts and healthy competitive spirit they showed, whether during the internal qualifiers that took place in the Company, or in the finals that were held at KPC's Headquarters.

An Inspiring Story

To further learn about this remarkable achievement, and as part of KOC's ongoing keenness to support and encourage its distinguished employees,

the Kuwaiti Digest met with the winners of the competition to hear about their journey and experience in more detail, and indeed, it was not disappointed with the story of close teamwork and the great enthusiasm and passion the winners showed.

The winners started off by explaining that a memo about the exciting competition was announced, and as regular employees with miscellaneous hobbies and interests, with a focus on trivia and general knowledge, they signed up for the qualifiers in September, in which 6 nominees were selected out of 63 participants.

The team members, from diverse backgrounds and fields in KOC, then got to know each other for the first time, and immediately bonded and got along over their shared interests, each with a strength in a different field of knowledge, all coming together to represent KOC in the best possible manner.

KPC then met with the nominees online to prepare them for the competition on December 6, presenting them with random, spontaneous, and various categories of trivia.

Al-Abduljaleel receives Qualified Employees participating in the Strongest Company Competition

Deputy CEO Planning & Innovation Mohammed Al-Abduljaleel received the six employees who qualified to participate in the "Strongest Company" competition held by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

The meeting aimed to show support and encouragement to the employees participating in the competition, and was attended by Manager Public Relations & Information Group Mohammed Al-Basry, and TL Public Relations Nora Al-Soula.

Al-Abduljaleel met with the six employees and encouraged them to take every opportunity to excel and represent the Company in the best possible way, while affirming that the Higher Management supports each of them and is proud of the knowledge they showed during the qualifying rounds, expressing his wishes for everyone to succeed.

The six employees were nominated through qualifiers held by the Company last September, in which 63 employees participated. The competition will be held in December, and representatives of the Corporation and all its subsidiaries will compete in it.

KOC CEO receives Champions of the Strongest Company Competition

On the sidelines of the Higher Management's weekly meeting, CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, in the presence of his Deputies, received the members of the KOC team that won the third edition of the "Strongest Company Competition" organized by KPC. Teams from all K-companies had participated in this competition.

Al-Eidan congratulated the winners on this exceptional achievement, expressing his great pride in each team member, and stressing that he had faith that they'd win the competition due to their high level of competence.

The DCEOs also congratulated the six team members, praising their achievement and expressing their hopes for another victory in the next edition of the competition.

The team members handed Al-Eidan the winning trophy, who in turn stressed that they had earned it due to their exceptional efforts and healthy competitive spirit they showed, whether during the internal qualifiers that took place in the Company, or in the finals that were held at KPC's Headquarters.

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Close Bonds

After meeting with Deputy CEO Panning & Innovation Mohammad Al-Abduljaleel, the competitors were fully prepared to brace the challenge. Through this interview, they expressed that they weren't only playing to win, and were highly determined and motivated throughout the process, through the close bonds they formed while meeting to prepare for the competition.

Each team member excelled in a different area of knowledge, all of which they considered to be of equal importance, stressing that representing KOC remained their top priority throughout.

The Public Relations Team was also heavily involved in coordinating between the team members, which they expressed gratitude towards for the close bonds they established. They explained that they met regularly and brainstormed on a large variety of topics, with open discussions covering all areas and benefiting everyone involved. Topics included culture, Kuwaiti history and heritage, arts, geography, religion, and sports.

They also stated that they felt a sense of healthy competition with the other K-companies, noting that PIC won the competition the past two years, and this year,

they were determined for KOC to take the title home. They explained that in past years, competing employees were selected at random, rather than through qualifiers that present the most eligible employees, confirming that this year's qualifiers in September nominated employees with superior knowledge.

The Day of the Competition

The competition was held through Kahoot, which not only depends on correct answers, but also the speed of response.

The team members explained that they voluntarily held rehearsals among themselves prior to the competition, where they competed against each other. They confirmed that this was of great help and also mentally prepared them for the competition, explaining that they held six rounds over multiple days.

Finally, the day of the competition arrived, and by that point they were all ready and enthusiastic to participate and raise KOC's head high. The competition was held in KPC's headquarters, in a knockout style, with challenging and engaging questions, where they defeated KPC in the final round.

From KOC's side, Acting CEO Ameena Rajab was present, reaffirming KOC's great support of its em-



employees and strong belief in them. Al-Abduljaleel also attended once the victory was announced, noting that the competition was live broadcasted on KPC's channel.

KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah presented the award to the winners, which included a trophy cup, an honorary shield, and monetary rewards for each winner, accompanied by KOC Public Relations representatives, all of whom praised, honored, and cheered the winners. Rajab and Al-Abduljaleel also contacted the winners to congratulate them.

Statements from the Winners

Abdullah Al-Azmi: Marine Maintenance Engineer in the Marine Maintenance Team

Al-Azmi began by praising his Team Leader Soud Al-Otaibi for his unlimited support, as well as Team Leader Public Relations Nora Al-Soula for her great efforts, along with her entire Team for their support and unique method of organizing this year's event.

He revealed that as someone who's deeply interested in trivia, he'd been preparing for this competition for a long time, with a strong and longstanding determination to win. This further proves the strong character and work ethic of KOC's remarkable employees.

Al-Azmi also suggested conducting a similar internal competition exclusively for KOC employees,

and more frequently, in order to enhance the knowledge, communication, culture, and teamwork in KOC. He ended his statement by encouraging everyone to read and research for their own benefit and personal development.

Shaden Al Mubarak: Training Officer, Career Development Team

Al-Mubarak expressed in her statement that the competition was a great experience. She explained that the team members focused on good planning and working as a team, and this is what helped them win first place. She learned the importance of perseverance and organization. Her advice to future participants, is to prepare, understand the details, and enjoy the experience because winning is not only about the title, but also about learning and growing during the competition.

Mahdi Johar: Senior Petroleum Engineer in the New Fields Development Team (Bahra)

Johar stated that in conclusion: teamwork, team spirit, dedicated preparation, sacrifice, practice, and the continuous support and encouragement of the Company's Higher Management all played a part in this achievement.

He expressed that the team members were all proud to carry KOC, which was a great challenge and responsibility that they all rose to meet, determined to give KOC this strong title.

Ali Safar: Emergency Response Coordinator in the Organization Resilience Team

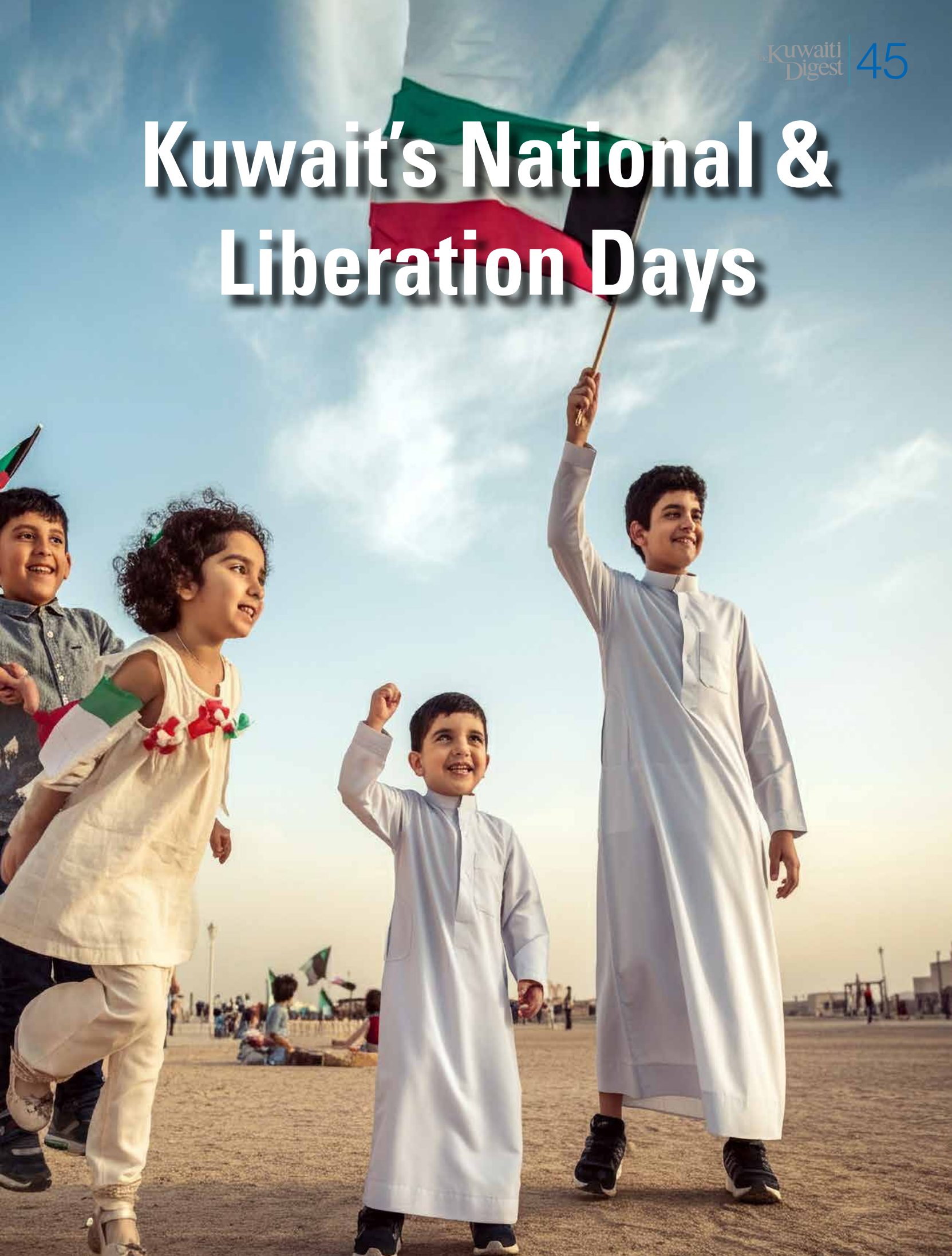
Safar opened his statement expressing that this entire journey was a dream come true, as it was unique compared to daily duties, and was a great use of his free time, also adding that it encouraged everyone to take their hobbies more seriously.

He went on to express his gratitude for his Team Leader Nasser Al-Buhairi for his support and encouragement, and praised his teammates for their great support and excellent knowledge, adding that it was a pleasure to find people with similar interests, which motivated him to return to his passion for reading. Safar added that he enjoyed the competitive atmosphere, which brought together diverse employees from the entire Company, confirming that this participation will not be his last.

Jassim Al-Shumais: Mechanical Engineer in the Water Handling Team (South Kuwait)

Al-Shumais explained that despite the short notice announcement of the competition, he enjoyed the entire process, and while he's always enjoyed trivia, this competition brought him closer to his passion due to the motivational environment he was placed in. He confirmed that he was confident they would win, due to his great preparation and full faith in his team.

Kuwait's National & Liberation Days



Each year, on February 25, the people of Kuwait joyously commemorate the ascension of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah to the throne in 1950. This significant day marks not only the beginning of his exceptional leadership but also Kuwait's independence from British rule in 1961.

Celebrating Kuwait National Day

Kuwait National Day is characterized by bright colors and lights, whether in people's houses adorned with flags and lights, fireworks, vibrant displays on historical landmarks like the Kuwait National Museum and Kuwait Towers, lively processions, or colorful decorations throughout the streets.

Shopping festivals, featuring discounts and special offers, are also customary in February, providing an opportunity to boost Kuwait's economy.

This year saw particularly special celebrations, with hours of fireworks at venues like Shaheed Park, Blajat Beach, and Khairan Mall, unique diving shows at the Scientific Center, air shows by the Kuwaiti Air Force, open-air markets, and carnivals.

There were also some dazzling projections in the night sky over Kuwait City, featuring symbols of Kuwaiti history and culture, such as an oyster shell, alluding to the previous main source of Kuwait's income (pearl diving), various Kuwaiti landmarks, and girls in traditional dress, among many others.

Thousands of families of citizens and residents gathered to enjoy these diverse celebrations and spectacles, creating crowds of palpable joy throughout the country.

KOC's Celebrations

As is customary every year during Kuwait's National Day celebrations, KOC, represented by the Facilities Team, decorated both Ahmadi City and Souq Al-Mubarkiya with beautiful lighting and decorations.

In Ahmadi City, the illuminated models prepared by the Team spread across many streets, neighborhoods, squares, and buildings, transforming the city into a dazzling location every evening after sunset. The areas became a visual delight, showcasing creativity and innovation through impressive shapes and craftsmanship.

The lighting included the Company's Main Office and affiliated facilities, in addition to Ahmadi Park and its surrounding areas, the Company's Tent, and nearby spaces.

The Facilities Team also decorated Souq Al-Mubarkiya, turning it into a beautiful, skillfully illuminated canvas of streets and squares, giving it a festive character befitting the occasion. This decoration process in undertaken by KOC annually, and each year, it strives to create an even more stunning display than the previous one.

Unique Celebration Date

While most nations celebrate their Independence Day on the date of liberation, Kuwait National Day takes place on February 25. Originally set for June 19, the date was moved due to the extreme heat of Kuwaiti summers. Since 1961, Kuwait has celebrated National Day on February 25, commemorating Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah's ascent to power in 1950.

Kuwait National Day in Modern Times

During Kuwait's 2019 National





Day celebrations, it set a world record for the longest flag. Over 4,000 students paraded with a 6,624-foot Kuwaiti flag, recognized by the Guinness World Records. Such grand displays reflect the patriotism and unity of the Kuwaiti people.

Observing Kuwait National & Liberation Day Traditions

On the National and Liberation Days, Kuwaitis typically celebrate with feasts, family gatherings, public events, and fireworks. The Kuwaiti flag, with its symbolic colors of white, black, green, and red, is displayed and illuminated with pride all over the country.

People wear traditional dress and decorate their cars with Kuwaiti flags.

Various popular celebrations across different institutions are seen on this day.

Why Kuwait National Day Matters

National Day serves as a platform for Kuwaitis to celebrate their unique cultural heritage and pride. It fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens cultural bonds. Kuwait National Day encourages the acknowledgment of Kuwaitis' contributions to the nation's peace and progress. It's a time for unity, love, and solidarity.

Why Is Kuwait Liberation Day Important?

Kuwait Liberation Day is an important holiday for Kuwaitis, as it commemorates those who died in the Iraq war defending their country's freedom and independence.

According to the government, Kuwait Liberation Day is celebrated every year on February 26.

In February 2025, Kuwait celebrated its 34th Liberation Day and 64th National Day.

A Brief History of Kuwait

Archaeological finds on Failaka, the largest of Kuwait's nine islands, suggest that Failaka was a trading post at the time of the ancient Sumerians. Failaka appears to have continued to serve as a market for approximately 2,000 years, and was known to the ancient Greeks. Despite its long history as a market and sanctuary for traders, Failaka appears to have been abandoned as a permanent settlement in the 1st century A.D.

Kuwait's modern history began in the 18th century with the founding of the city of Kuwait by the Utaiba, a subsection of the Anaiza tribe, who are believed to have traveled north from Qatar.

Threatened in the 19th century by the Ottoman Turks and vari-

ous powerful Arabian Peninsula groups, Kuwait sought the same treaty relationship Britain had already signed with the Trucial States (U.A.E.) and Bahrain. In January 1899, H.H. Sheikh Mubarak "The Great" Al Sabah signed an agreement with the British Government that pledged himself and his successors neither to cede any territory, nor to receive agents or representatives of any foreign power without the British Government's consent, in exchange for protection and an annual subsidy. When Mubarak died in 1915, the population of Kuwait of about 35,000 was heavily dependent on shipbuilding (using wood imported from India) and pearl diving.

Mubarak was succeeded as ruler by his sons Jaber (1915-17) and Salem (1917-21). Kuwait's subsequent rulers have descended from these two brothers. H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah ruled Kuwait from 1921 until his death in 1950, a period in which oil was discovered and in which the government attempted to establish the first internationally recognized boundaries; the 1922 Treaty of Uqair set Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia and also established the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone, an area of about 5,180 sq. km. (2,000 sq. mi.) adjoining Kuwait's southern border.

Kuwait achieved independence from the British under Sheikh Ahmed's successor, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al Sabah. By early 1961, the British had already withdrawn their special court system, which handled the cases of foreigners resident in Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti Government began to exercise legal jurisdiction under new laws. On June 19, 1961, Kuwait became fully independent following an exchange of notes with the United Kingdom.

Kuwait enjoyed an unprecedented period of prosperity under H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah, who died in 1977 after ruling for 12 years. Under his rule, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement dividing the Neutral Zone (now called the Divided Zone) and demarcating a new international boundary. Both countries share equally the Divided Zone's petroleum, onshore and offshore. The country was transformed into a highly developed welfare state with a free market economy.

In August 1990, Iraq attacked and invaded Kuwait. Kuwait's northern border with Iraq dates from an agreement reached with Turkey in 1913. Iraq accepted this claim in 1932 upon its independence from Turkey. However, following Kuwait's independence in 1961, Iraq claimed Kuwait, arguing that Kuwait had been part of

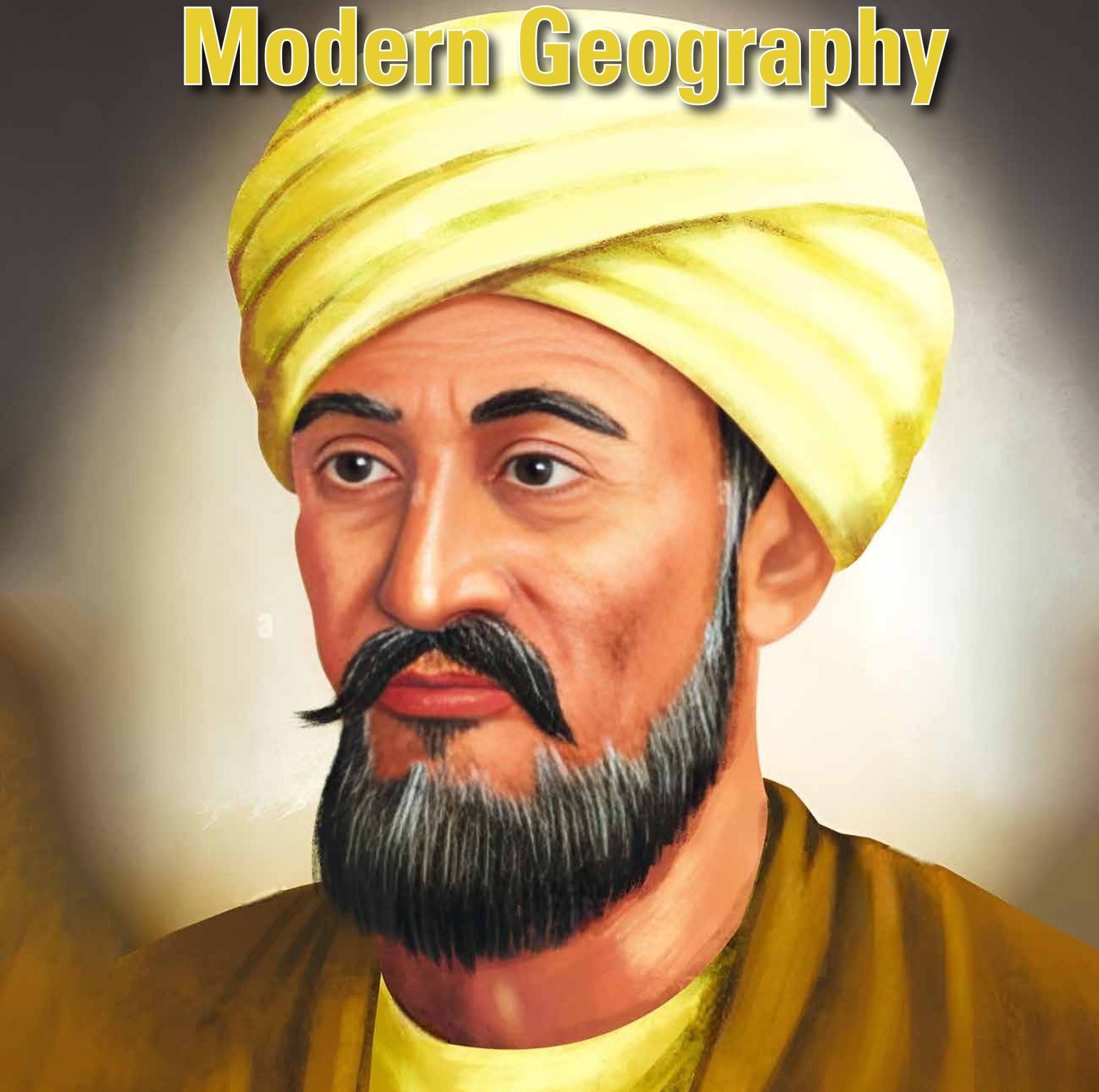
the Ottoman Empire subject to Iraqi overview. In 1963, Iraq reaffirmed its acceptance of Kuwaiti sovereignty and the boundary it agreed to in 1913 and 1932, in the "Agreed Minutes between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq Regarding the Restoration of Friendly Relations, Recognition, and Related Matters."

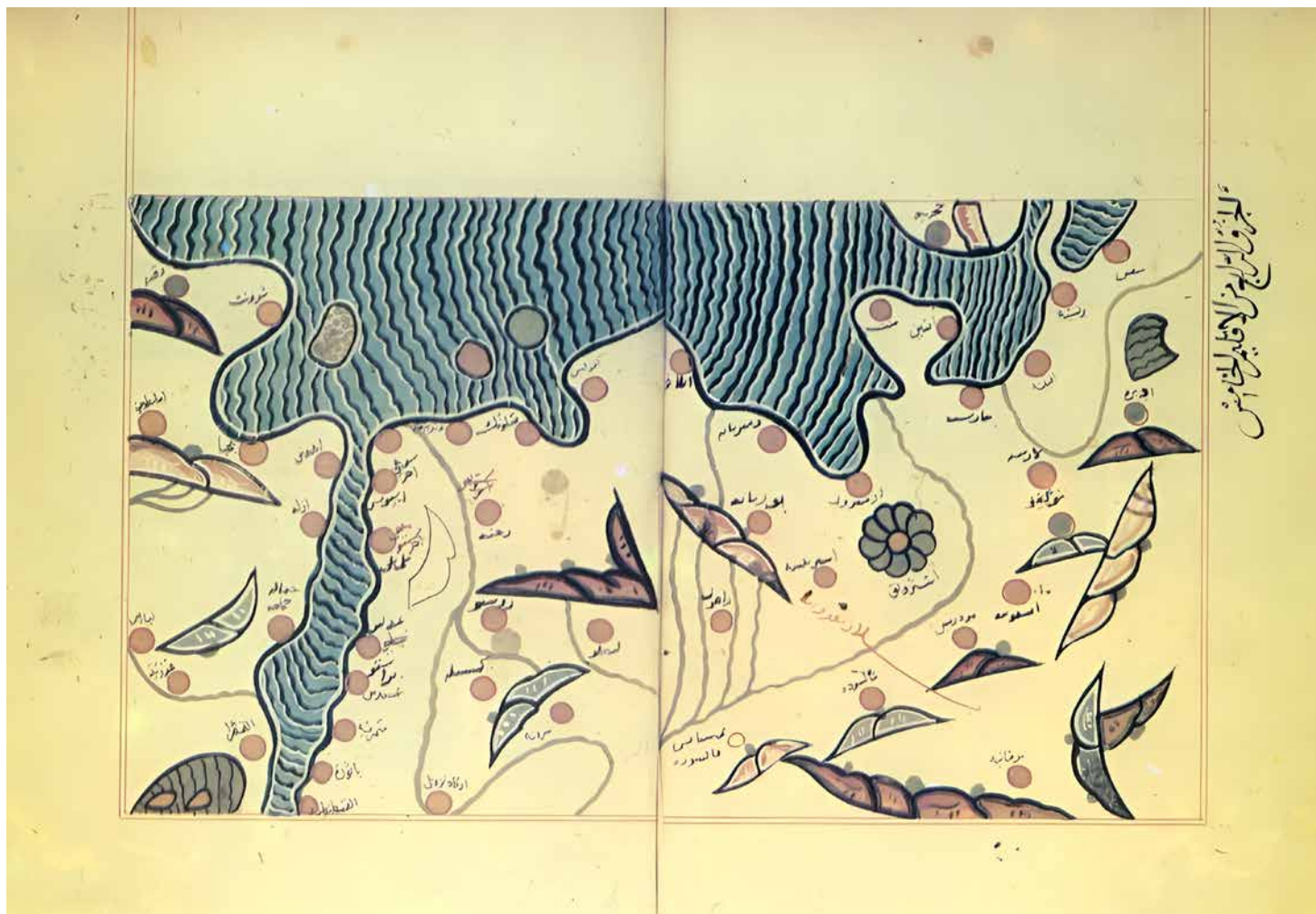
Following several weeks of aerial bombardment, a UN-mandated coalition led by the United States began a ground assault in February 1991 that liberated Kuwait. During the 7-month occupation by Iraq, the Amir, the Government of Kuwait, and many Kuwaitis took refuge in Saudi Arabia and other nations. The Amir and the government successfully managed Kuwaiti affairs from Saudi Arabia, London, and elsewhere during the period, relying on substantial Kuwaiti investments available outside Kuwait for funding and war-related expenses.

Following liberation, the UN, under Security Council Resolution 687, demarcated the Iraq-Kuwait boundary on the basis of the 1932 and 1963 agreements between the two states. In November 1994, Iraq formally accepted the UN-demarcated border with Kuwait, which had been further spelled out in UN Security Council Resolutions 773 and 883.



Al-Idrisi: A Muslim Pioneer of Modern Geography





Muhammad Al-Idrisi, born around 1100 in Sabtah (now Ceuta, Spain), was a prominent Arab geographer and advisor to King Roger II of Sicily. Widely regarded for his groundbreaking contributions to geography and cartography, al-Idrisi's most notable work was *Kitāb Nuzhat Al-Mushtāq Fī Ikhtirāq Al-Āfāq* ("The Pleasure Excursion of One Who Is Eager to Traverse the Regions of the World"). This comprehensive text, completed in 1154, remains one of the most significant works of medieval geography.

Al-Idrisi's lineage traces back to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and he was born into a family with a rich history in North Africa. His ancestors, the Hammūdids, were part of the

Idrīsīd dynasty, a descendant line from the Prophet's grandson, Al-Ḥasan Ibn 'Alī. Growing up in Ceuta, Al-Idrisi traveled extensively across North Africa, Europe, and Asia, gaining knowledge from his experiences and encounters in Spain, Morocco, and beyond.

In the mid-12th century, Al-Idrisi's journey took a pivotal turn when he entered the service of Roger II, the Norman king of Sicily. Roger invited Al-Idrisi to create an updated world map, which led to the creation of three major geographic works. These included a silver planisphere, a detailed world map, and a geographic text to accompany the maps. The finished product, *Kitāb Nuzhat Al-Mushtāq*, included over 70 maps and

described the world north of the equator, with Earth divided into seven climatic zones.

This work was not just a collection of maps; it was a synthesis of knowledge, incorporating data from both ancient Greek sources and contemporary observations gathered by Al-Idrisi's network of explorers. Al-Idrisi's maps were revolutionary, orienting the Mediterranean world with the south at the top, which was a unique perspective at the time. These maps detailed regions such as the Mediterranean, parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia, offering new insight into previously less-understood areas. The work was highly influential and translated into Latin, helping to bridge the



gap between the Islamic and European worlds.

Although Al-Idrisi's world map and planisphere are lost, the surviving maps and the accompanying text have been invaluable in understanding the geographical knowledge of the medieval Islamic world. Despite facing criticism for his reliance on earlier sources and the occasional inaccuracies in his work, Al-Idrisi's contribution to geography remains monumental. His detailed descriptions of the Mediterranean basin and the Balkans, for example, provide critical insights that were

unavailable elsewhere.

Beyond geography, Al-Idrisi also made notable contributions in medicine and linguistics. His *Kitāb Al-Adwiyah Al-Mufradah* ("Book of Simple Drugs") listed names of various drugs in multiple languages, showcasing his wide-ranging linguistic abilities. Additionally, Al-Idrisi's poetry has survived, indicating his literary talents alongside his scientific achievements.

Al-Idrisi's life and work continue to be studied by scholars worldwide, underscoring his place as one of the most impor-

tant figures in the history of geography and cartography. His legacy is a testament to the rich intellectual exchange between cultures during the medieval period, and his contributions paved the way for the future development of geographical science.

Al-Idrisi died in 1165 or 1166, likely in Sicily, leaving behind a profound legacy that transcends his time. His meticulous maps, based on both exploration and a deep understanding of earlier geographical works, stand as some of the most significant achievements in the history of cartography.



KOC Becomes 100 percent fully owned by the
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