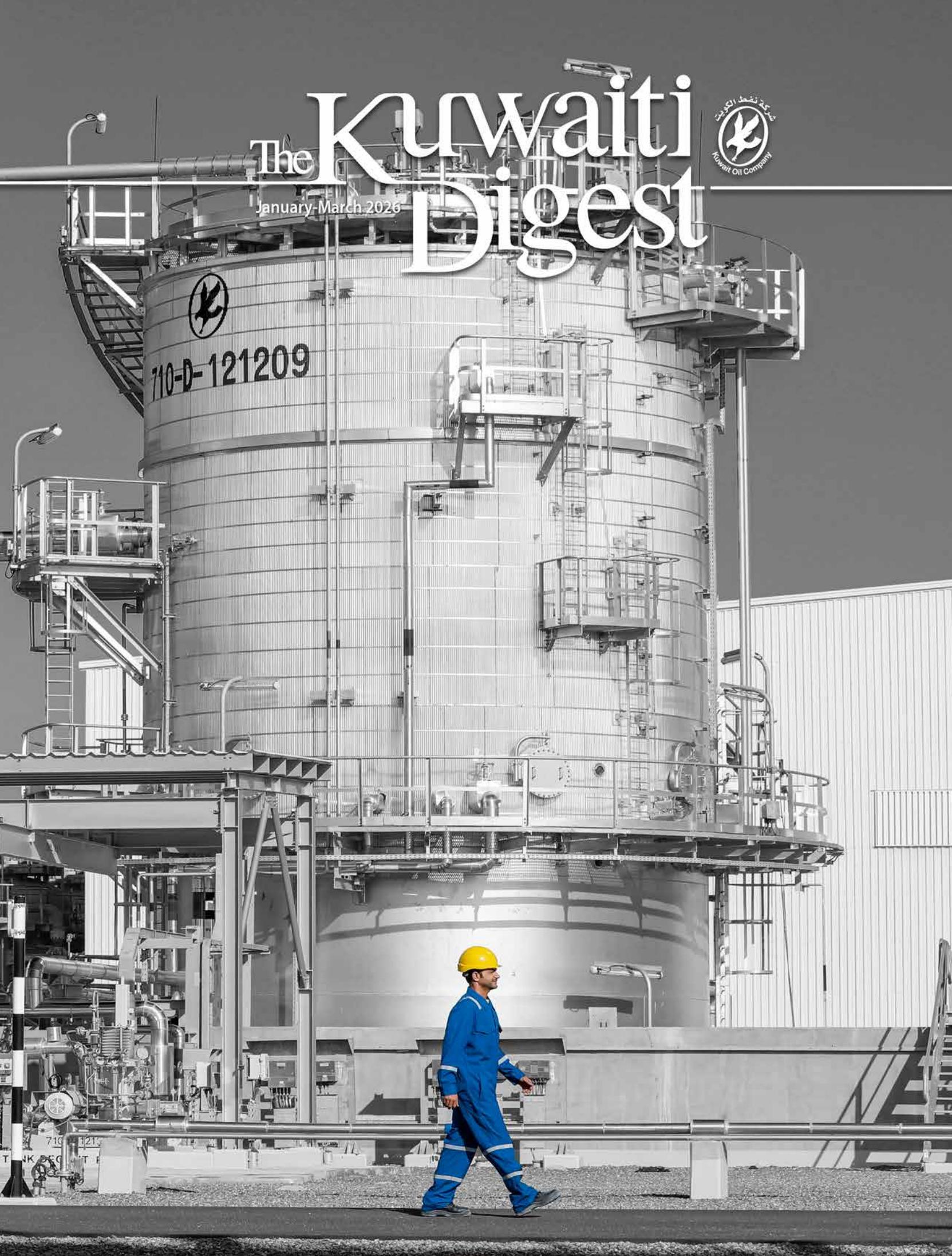


The Kuwaiti Digest

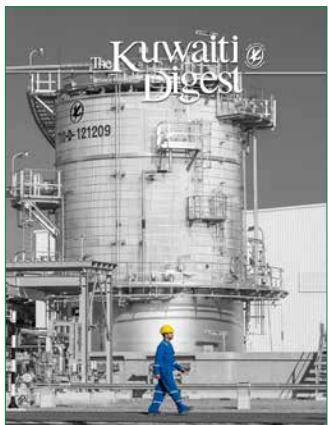
January-March 2020



Editor-in-Chief
DCEO Planning & Innovation

Correspondence concerning
The Kuwaiti Digest should be addressed to:
Editor-in-Chief, Kuwait Oil Company (K.S.C.)
Information Team
P.O. Box 9758
Ahmadi 61008, Kuwait
Telephone: 965-2398-2747
Facsimile: 965-2398-1076
E-mail: kocinfo@kockw.com
or visit the KOC homepage at
www.kockw.com

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



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



CONTENTS

03 | KOC at ADIPEC 2025: Leadership, Innovation, and a Vision for a Smarter Energy Future

09 | Finance Group Announces Revised KOC Capitalization Policy

12 | Developing the Low-Pressure Gas Network in Shuaiba Industrial Area

16 | MoU Signed Between Ahmadi Hospital and KIMS

21 | KwiDF: Powering the Digital Transformation of KOC NK Jurassic Gas

24 | Financial Payments Team Delivers Major Milestones

28 | The e-Challenge System: Transforming Asset Management and Innovation at KOC

31 | RTK: The Future of Port Navigation

35 | First Kuwaiti Appointed to the Harvard University Alumni Board

37 | Kuwaiti Photographer and Environmental Scientist Dr. Mahdi Gholoum

41 | UNESCO Recognizes the Bisht

43 | Reopening of Al Jahra Nature Reserve: A Welcome Return to Nature

46 | Vatican Elevates Ahmadi's Historical Church Our Lady of Arabia to Minor Basilica



16



28

Letter from the Editor



Mohammad Khalifa Al-Abduljaleel

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Planning & Innovation

Here at KOC, the new year 2026 begins with promising prospects after a period of remarkable achievements that opened a new chapter of innovation—one that reinforces the Company's pioneering role in driving progress and sustainable development.

This year, we look forward to advancing key projects, achieving significant completion milestones,

and launching new initiatives across various fields. KOC continues to operate according to carefully designed strategies that account for global industry conditions and anticipate market trends and technological shifts, resulting in strong outcomes and noteworthy accomplishments.

Driven by our commitment to the future and to our beloved nation—particularly our youth, who will continue the journey of success—we work tirelessly to create the best environment for generations to come, both within KOC and across Kuwait.

With a culture deeply rooted in continuous development, our initiatives and projects move forward with confidence and achieve their intended goals. This issue of The Kuwaiti Digest highlights a range of endeavors, from international participations to internal transformations, personal achievements, and efforts to preserve the environment and cultural heritage.

Internal organizational transformation, energy transition, enhanced innovation and technology, and digital development remain top priorities for KOC's Higher Management. These efforts support the vision of a more agile, innovative, and sustainable KOC, a key driver of Kuwait's Sustainable Development Goals and a source of promise for our youth.

In closing, we wish everyone a year filled with personal and professional success, and look forward to meeting again in December to honor another year of progress and accomplishment.

KOC AT ADIPEC 2025: LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND A VISION FOR A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE

KOC participated in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2025), which was hosted by the UAE capital over four days and organized by ADNOC.



أَدِيْبَك
ADIPEC



The Company's delegation to this event, which is considered the largest globally in the energy sector, was headed by DCEO Commercial & Projects Engineering, Musaed Al-Rasheed, and included several Group Managers, Team Leaders, experts, and specialists.

During the event, Al-Rasheed held a series of meetings with senior officials from several participating international companies, during which areas of cooperation, exchange of expertise, and ways to enhance future partnership opportunities were discussed. He also gave an interview with Sky News, in which he addressed the Company's latest and most prominent projects, plans, and strategies.

For its part, the Company's booth at the exhibition witnessed a wide attendance from international entities and companies that viewed presentations introducing KOC's projects and its future directions in the energy sector.

The Company also achieved a significant accomplishment at this event, as its project titled

"Application of Intelligent Waterflood Optimization for the Greater Burgan Oilfield" won first place, earning recognition from the organizers for the three engineers who prepared and developed the project, in appreciation of their efforts and their role in promoting innovation and technological development.

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

Meanwhile, Petroleum Engineers Mohammad Al-Eidi from the Fields Development Team (Minagish) and Rawan Al-Enezi from the Prospect Evaluation Team (I) delivered a presentation on Assessing Leakage in a Shallow Water Well After an Explosion: A Case Study in West Kuwait, which received acclaim and appreciation from the participants.

This year's edition was held under the slogan 'Smart Energy for Rapid Progress', and was considered the largest in the history of the event, as it witnessed the attendance of more than 45 ministers and 250 CEOs from around the world, in addition to industry, finance, and technology leaders from more than 172 countries.

The accompanying exhibition also received more than 205,000 visitors, while the number of exhibiting entities approached 2,250.

Overview

The Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2025) opened its doors this year to record-breaking participation, cementing its place as the world's largest, most influential gathering for the global energy sector. Held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 3-6 November 2025 under the slogan "Energy. Intelligence. Impact", the event brought together an unprecedented con-



centration of global leaders, innovators, policymakers, and industry experts. Among the distinguished participants was KOC, whose presence over the four-day event reflected both the Company's strategic priorities and its forward-looking approach to technology, sustainability, and international collaboration.

With more than 45 ministers, 250 CEOs, 2250 exhibiting companies, 205,000 visitors, and representatives from 172 countries, this year's ADIPEC marked the largest edition in the event's history. It provided an excellent platform to showcase technology and innovation as well as to discuss global energy transitions, digital transformation, low-carbon solutions, and the future of young talent in the sector.

KOC's four-day participation offered a compelling combination of engagement, achievement, and ambition, reflecting the Company's pioneering position in the region's energy landscape.

A Strong and Relevant Theme

- The theme emphasizes a dual mandate for the global energy sector, focusing on:
- Energy: Addressing the growing global energy demand by leveraging all viable energy sources.
- Intelligence: Utilizing both human and artificial intelligence to drive innovation, make data-driven decisions, and manage the evolving energy landscape.
- Impact: Translating discussions into tangible actions, showcasing real-world solutions, and fostering collaborations that deliver measurable results at speed and scale

Day One: A Strong Start for Kuwait Oil Company

KOC's participation in Day One set a solid tone for the Company's active presence at ADIPEC 2025. The Company's delegation, headed by DCEO Commercial & Projects Engineering, Musaed Al-Rasheed, consisted

of Group Managers, Team Leaders, technical specialists, and domain experts. Their presence underscored the strategic relevance the Company places on global engagement and cross-industry collaboration.

The opening day of ADIPEC 2025 attracted thousands of energy experts and top-level decision-makers. With the event witnessing its largest-ever ministerial and executive turnout, the first day highlighted the urgency and ambition driving global efforts to build a smarter, more resilient energy ecosystem. ADIPEC's overarching theme emphasized integrated, intelligent, and sustainable solutions capable of supporting economic development while navigating rapid technological and environmental shifts.

For KOC, the opening day was a key opportunity to introduce its latest projects and strategic direction to global audiences. Visitors to the KOC pavilion were welcomed to an immersive experience showcasing the Company's major projects, upstream technologies, sustain-



ability initiatives, and future roadmap. The first day also laid the groundwork for meetings and technical engagements scheduled across the remainder of the event.

Day Two: Engagement, Collaboration, and Global Partnerships

Momentum continued into Day Two, which saw rising presence at the KOC pavilion from international companies and industry stakeholders eager to learn about Kuwait's evolving role in the global energy landscape. Delegations from across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East visited the pavilion, where they were briefed on KOC's strategic initiatives, digital transformation programs, and planned expansions in upstream innovation.

A major highlight of the second day was a series of high-level meetings led by DCEO Musaed Al-Rasheed, who met with senior executives from global energy companies. These discussions focused on exchanging expertise, identifying potential partnership opportunities, and exploring areas for collabora-

tion in fields such as digital oilfield technologies, reservoir management, enhanced oil recovery, and future energy solutions.

In a year marked by the rapid expansion of digital and AI-driven technologies within the sector, KOC's engagement with global tech leaders reinforced the Company's commitment to integrating advanced tools into its operations. As the Company aims to enhance production efficiency, optimize reservoir performance, and accelerate decision-making processes, such meetings serve as catalysts for innovation-driven collaboration.

Day Two reaffirmed KOC's reputation as a forward-thinking operator eager to leverage global partnerships to support sustainable growth.

Day Three: Award-Winning Innovation and Technical Leadership

The third day of ADIPEC 2025 proved particularly momentous for KOC, as the Company achieved a prestigious recognition at the world's largest petroleum conference.

Technical Presentations Showcase KOC's Expertise

Day Three also featured a notable technical presentation by:

Petroleum Engineers Mohammad Al-Eidi from the Fields Development Team (Minagish) and Rawan Al-Enezi from the Prospect Evaluation Team (I).

Their presentation, on Assessing Leakage in a Shallow Water Well After an Explosion: A Case Study in West Kuwait, earned strong praise from attending experts for its analytical depth and relevance to subsurface integrity and operational risk management.

The two presentations reinforced KOC's standing as a major contributor to global technical dialogue at ADIPEC.

Media Engagement: KOC on Sky News

Adding to the day's highlights, DCEO Musaed Al-Rasheed participated in an interview with Sky News, where he discussed the Company's strategic priorities, upcoming mega-projects, and its evolving role in the Gulf's energy transition. The



interview further amplified KOC's visibility across the international energy community.

Day Four: Strategic Closure and Future-Focused Dialogue

The final day of ADIPEC 2025 marked the successful conclusion of KOC's four-day participation. KOC's pavilion continued to attract executives, experts, and delegates, reflecting broad interest in the Company's projects, innovation strategy, and future direction.

Throughout the day, KOC held several meetings and workshops with global industry leaders, focusing on:

- Future strategic partnerships
- Joint technology development
- Integration of AI and digital systems
- Low-carbon solutions and emission management
- Mega-project collaboration opportunities

These discussions are expected to open pathways for future cooperation, expanding Kuwait's presence within the global energy supply chain.

The closing day also revisited the Company's award-winning AI project, now officially recognized as the top project of the year, positioning KOC as a regional leader in digital transformation and reservoir intelligence.

By the end of the conference, KOC's participation had strengthened its global relationships, advanced its visibility, and showcased its commitment to innovation and sustainability.

Inside ADIPEC 2025: A Historic Edition Shaping the Global Energy Future

Beyond KOC's achievements, ADIPEC 2025 itself stood out as a transformative moment for the global energy sector.

Record-Breaking Participation

ADIPEC 2025 featured unparalleled scale and diversity:

- 205,000+ attendees
- 172 countries represented
- 2250 exhibitors
- 1800 speakers
- 380 strategic and technical sessions

The conference brought together leaders from across the energy, technology, finance, academic, and industrial sectors, reflecting the increasingly interconnected nature of today's global energy ecosystem.

Ministerial, Executive, and Technology Leadership

High-profile speakers included:

- H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber (the UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and the

Managing Director & Group CEO of ADNOC)

- The Minister of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE, H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei.
- Doug Burgum (U.S. Secretary of the Interior & Chair of the U.S. Energy Council)
- Minister of State for Energy Affairs in Qatar, H.E. Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi
- Leaders from OPEC, CNPC, Baker Hughes, Eni, SLB, Microsoft, Cisco, SandboxAQ, and more

The scale of executive participation demonstrated the escalating urgency around issues such as energy security, supply diversification, digital transformation, and decarbonization.

AI, Robotics, and Future Technologies Take Center Stage

ADIPEC 2025 showcased a rapidly expanding Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Zone, featuring groundbreaking technologies reshaping the industry:

- Unitree H1 humanoid robot – the world's fastest and most agile, capable of running at 3.3 m/s.
- Gecko Robotics "TOKA-5" – a wall-climbing robot for inspecting vital infrastructure.

- IKM Subsea Merlin ROV – an advanced robotic diver operating at depths of up to 3,000 m.
- SkyShine AI drones – autonomous systems for cleaning skyscrapers and solar panels with precision LIDAR technology.
- Bechtel's LEEDS water treatment system – transforming high-salinity water into reusable clean water.
- CleanConnect.ai platforms ProveZero and Minerva – real-time methane emission detection with blockchain-verified reporting.

These technologies highlighted the future of smart operations, predictive maintenance, and automated safety systems, areas closely aligned with KOC's award-winning AI project.

Empowering the Next Generation: ADIPEC Youth Program

A major pillar of ADIPEC 2025 was its largest-ever youth program, "Young ADIPEC."

- 1,000 high school students
- 400 university students
- 11 thematic tracks
- A new "Innovators" zone showcasing research and stu-

dent-led energy projects. The initiative reinforced the sector's commitment to preparing young talent for careers in an increasingly digital and sustainability-driven energy landscape.

Low-Carbon Solutions and the Chemicals Pavilion

For the first time, ADIPEC introduced a dedicated Chemicals and Low-Carbon Solutions Exhibition, featuring innovations in:

- Hydrogen
- Ammonia
- Methanol
- Carbon capture and storage (CCUS)
- Clean energy storage

This addition aligned with global efforts to accelerate decarbonization and represented the UAE's commitment to climate leadership and future-ready technologies.

A Defining Moment for KOC and the Global Energy Sector

Kuwait Oil Company's participation in ADIPEC 2025 was a strategic success on multiple fronts:

- Strong international engagement through technical and executive meetings
- Recognition of excellence with a first-place award for AI-driven reservoir optimization
- Dynamic technical contributions through well-received presentations
- High visibility through media engagements and pavilion activities
- Reinforced leadership position within a rapidly evolving global energy landscape

Meanwhile, ADIPEC 2025 itself showcased the energy sector at a pivotal moment: embracing AI, automation, sustainability, youth empowerment, and cross-sector collaboration like never before.

In an era of unprecedented energy challenges and opportunities, events like ADIPEC serve as catalysts for innovation, dialogue, and action. KOC's achievements at this historic edition showcase its current capabilities while underscoring its commitment to shaping a smarter, more resilient, and more sustainable energy future for Kuwait and the world.

KOC Wins First Place for AI-Driven Water Injection Project

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

Senior Geologist in the Greater Burgan Studies Team, Eman Hussein; Senior Reservoir Engineer in the Integration Excellence Team (S&EK), Kholoud Al-Rasheedi; and Senior Petroleum Engineer in the Research & Technology (Subsurface) Team, Noor Al-Kandari.

Their pioneering use of artificial intelligence to analyze and optimize water injection patterns demonstrated KOC's commitment to harnessing advanced technologies to maximize field productivity, reduce uncertainty, and enhance reservoir performance. The recognition also highlighted the growing impact of women in the Middle East's energy industry, celebrating their technical expertise and leadership.

Finance Group Announces Revised KOC Capitalization Policy

The Finance Group is pleased to announce that the KOC Capitalization Policy Guidelines have been revised, in an effort to strengthen the Company's financial controls, compliance, and user awareness. The recent revision has been approved by CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, with the goal of enhancing the understanding of how various costs should be classified.





To highlight the key aspects of the revision, the Budget & Cost Team, with the directive of Manager Finance Group Aisha Al-Sulaili and Team Leader Hendi Al-Hajri, organized an awareness session at the Ahmadi Office Complex, B5.

Representatives from various Company Directorates attended the session, reflecting a broad interest in understanding the new policy and its impact on daily operations.

Session objectives and content

The session was delivered by the Budget & Cost Team. The speakers Senior Accountant Major

Projects Mohammad Al-Faris, and Accountants Naser Al-Maili and Yousef Al-Kazemi, explained the following concepts:

- 1. The distinction between capital and operational expenditures:** The first category results in valuable assets that can be utilized for several years, such as wells, flow lines, production facilities, and buildings. Operational expenditures, on the other hand, cover routine daily expenses like production, operations, maintenance, and administration.
- 2. The main objective of the asset capitalization guidelines:** The criteria for classifying expenditures as either capital or operational, based

on the nature of the Company's activities.

- 3. Newly introduced features:** Which will be briefly discussed in the following section.
- 4. An overview of KOC assets:** Emphasizing their pivotal role in achieving strategic objectives and production goals.
- 5. The importance of adhering to financial accounting standards:** such as legal compliance, improved planning, budgeting, cost monitoring, and financial analysis.

Newly introduced features

The enhancements can be summarized into two main areas: content and presentation.



Hendi Al-Hajri
Team Leader, Budget & Cost



Aisha Al-Sulaili
Manager Finance Group

- Content:** The policy was revised to reflect the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 and its impact on the presentation of KOC leases, such as those of rigs. Additionally, in the revision, the Company standardized the minimum capitalization threshold for all assets. Previously, the threshold varied depending on the asset type.
- Presentation:** The policy was reformatted to meet the standards of simplicity and ease of use. Definitions, side notes, and references were also added, making it easier to comprehend for non-financial professionals.

Interactive presentation style

The session was designed for all employees regardless of background or position. The presenters used a simple and direct approach to explain complex financial concepts. The session also included live interaction with attendees, allowing them to ask questions and discuss challenges they might face in implementing the new policy.

The session also highlighted some technological solutions that could be utilized for a deeper understanding of the Company's Asset Capitalization Policy, including the recently launched Microsoft Teams "KOC Virtual Assistant" chatbot.

Promoting Financial Awareness

This session reflects the Finance Group's commitment to spreading financial awareness across all Company departments. By equipping employees with the necessary knowledge on cost classification, the Company aims to further its Strategic Goals and interests.

The session also aimed to raise awareness on the importance of adhering to the accounting standards and policies adopted by KOC to maximize the benefits of the Company's financial data.

Resounding Success

This initiative represents a significant step toward enhancing financial understanding within KOC. As the Company continues to face and overcome various challenges in the oil and gas sector, such awareness sessions contribute to building a stronger financial foundation that supports the Company's long-term goals.

By empowering employees with the necessary knowledge to manage financial decisions effectively, KOC ensures that its workforce is well-prepared to handle the complexities of operations.

In the end, the Budget & Cost Team extends its gratitude to all attendees and contributors who made this session a success. Special thanks are also extended to the various KOC departments that participated in reviewing and revising the policy.

Developing the Low-Pressure Gas Network in Shuaiba Industrial Area

A Qualitative Achievement in Separating, Replacing, and Modifying the Old, Dilapidated Network



At KOC, we continuously monitor, analyze, and innovate to deliver practical solutions. The Company pioneers in pushing the boundaries to optimize operations, enhance efficiency, and drive progress, achieving excellence in its every endeavor.

This is the work culture within the specialized Gas departments of the Company, particularly those responsible for gas and fuel networks. Recently, these Teams achieved a significant milestone.

The achievement involved monitoring a transmission pipeline, analyzing its issues in detail, researching possible solutions, innovating the best plans, setting out detailed procedures, and finally executing them to achieve tangible results.

The project in question involves an old pipeline supplying gas and fuel to several facilities in Shuaiba Industrial Area. Due to aging and declining performance for various reasons, KOC took the lead in finding a suitable solution, which The Kuwaiti Digest explores in the following article.

Project Overview

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the reliability and efficiency of its fuel supply networks and achieve the highest safety and sustainability standards in energy infrastructure, KOC, through the Consumers Networks Team, executed a vital project in Shuaiba Industrial Area.

The project involved disconnecting and decommissioning the old, deteriorating gas network and replacing it with advanced engineering modifications to the gas fuel supply pipeline serving the South Shuaiba plant—a facility for power generation and water desalination.



This achievement marks a major step toward improving operational safety and efficiency in one of the country's key industrial zones, on which many Kuwaiti industries rely for their energy needs.

Background and Significance

The old low-pressure gas network in Shuaiba Industrial Area dates back to the 1960s, originally providing an effective solution for supplying industrial facilities in the area with the necessary gas fuel to maintain production continuity.

Since then, the network has been a crucial factor in supplying gas to the Shuaiba Industrial Area, which hosts critical facilities such as the Shuaiba Oil Refinery, South Shuaiba Power and Water Desalination Plant, petrochemical factories under

the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), and several private-sector factories.

Over time, however, it became clear that the network's efficiency was declining due to the aging infrastructure and difficulties in performing maintenance and inspections.

In 2010, ownership of the low-pressure gas network transferred to KOC, prompting a detailed evaluation of its safety, reliability, and efficiency.

The assessment revealed numerous problems related to network design, lack of inspection capability due to insufficient infrastructure, inability to shut down the network because of continuous demand, and operational risks from pipeline corrosion and pressure limitations. It became necessary to replace the old network with a more modern, efficient system to enhance

supply reliability and reduce environmental risks.

KOC implemented a strategic project to decommission the old network and replace it with a new, fully integrated network capable of efficiently supplying low-pressure gas to consumers.

Multiple departments contributed to this achievement under the Gas & Environment Directorate: including the Consumers Networks Team, the Associated Gas Operations Team (S&EK), the Associated Gas Maintenance Team (S&EK), and the Operational Technical Services Team (Gas) under the Operations Support (Gas) Group. The integrated efforts of these Teams ensured the project's successful completion ahead of schedule while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality.

Effective Modifications

The initial plan relied on shut-

ting down the old network after the Shuaiba Refinery in 2017, the Petrochemical Fertilizer Plant in 2018, and the South Shuaiba Plant under the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, with an anticipated stoppage in 2021.

However, changes in ministry plans extended the operation of the South Shuaiba Plant until at least 2030, requiring KOC to continue operating the old low-pressure gas network—conflicting with the project's objectives.

To address this, KOC implemented several modifications, allowing the plant to continue receiving gas through the new network. This enabled the complete isolation of the old network, mitigating operational hazards such as gas leaks or explosion risks.

It is noteworthy that all modifications were executed using KOC's internal resources, including materials and labor, reducing construction and op-

erational costs in line with the Company's cost-efficiency policy.

National Coordination and Cooperation

Due to the site's sensitivity and the importance of its facilities, the project required close coordination with multiple government bodies and national companies, primarily the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries, Equate Petrochemicals, and several private-sector companies.

Regular meetings among all parties established contingency plans for emergencies during project execution and clarified roles and responsibilities, ensuring smooth operations without negatively affecting energy or water supply in the area.

Technical and Logistical Challenges



Like any project of this magnitude, this initiative faced numerous challenges, both technical and logistical, all of which were successfully overcome.

A major technical challenge was shutting down the South Shuaiba Power and Water Desalination Plant during execution. The plant is a critical energy source and part of the distilled water supply for the industrial area, making work execution without disrupting vital supplies difficult.

KOC prepared contingency plans to maintain operations in other critical facilities, coordinating closely with government authorities to ensure uninterrupted energy and water supply.

Logistical challenges included sourcing materials and equipment for network modifications, requiring high-level coordination to ensure timely delivery and smooth execution.

Time was another critical challenge: replacing the old network was planned for seven days—a very tight schedule. Despite this, careful planning and effective management allowed completion in just five days, showcasing KOC's efficiency and team spirit.

A More Sustainable Future

This achievement represents a key step toward a safer, more sustainable energy future in Kuwait. The project improved gas network infrastructure, enhancing operational safety and reducing environmental risks.

It also exemplifies coordination among state institutions, highlighting KOC's commitment to operational development, efficiency, and cost reduction.

Importantly, KOC demonstrated its capacity to manage and execute vital energy and water projects efficiently, boosting environmental safety and security.

The project is an upgrade of the gas network as well as a clear indication of KOC's commitment to environmental sustainability and national collaboration to achieve sustainable development for future energy and water needs.

Additionally, the project is part of a broader strategy to enhance Kuwait's energy sustainability. While the oil sector develops new technologies to optimize renewable energy use, robust energy infrastructure remains crucial for industrial and economic growth.

Despite technical and logistical challenges, the results demonstrate that teamwork and strategic planning can transform challenges into real opportunities for success.

KOC continues to lead in developing and modernizing Kuwait's energy network, ensuring sustainable fuel and vital resource supply to meet future challenges.

Al-Osaimi: This Achievement Reflects Commitment to Continuous Improvement

TL Consumers Networks Ghazi Al-Osaimi stated that this achievement reflects the Team's commitment to continuous improvement and embedding it as a work culture.

Al-Osaimi emphasized that this is not the first project of its kind and will not be the last. His Team continually monitors gas and fuel pipelines and is always ready to intervene to ensure uninterrupted supply, smooth operations, and adherence to the highest standards of quality, safety, and security.

He praised the four Teams involved for their dedication, effort, and high efficiency, which overcame challenges and delivered results ahead of schedule while maintaining international standards.

Al-Osaimi also thanked all supporting entities, internal and governmental, noting that coordination and cooperation were key to the project's success.

He concluded by thanking KOC's Higher Management, especially DCEO Gas & Environment Amena Rajab, for her unwavering support and encouragement, which created a significant positive impact on operational development.



MoU Signed Between Ahmadi Hospital and KIMS

*Aiming to train and develop national cadres in line with the highest
international healthcare standards*





Among the key priorities emphasized by KOC are two highly significant matters: first, promoting health within the community by all possible means, and second, maintaining continuous and open cooperation with all entities in the country in ways that benefit Kuwait, its society, and its institutions.

This is precisely what the subject of our following article confirms, as it highlights a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Company—represented by Ahmadi Hospital—and the Ministry of Health—represented by the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS). This important memorandum aims to support young Kuwaiti professionals in the medical field and enhance health practices at Ahmadi Hospital, as the medical institution serving all employees in the oil sector and their families.

In reference to its significance, the MoU was signed under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, and KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan,

underscoring the commitment of both sides to supporting this cooperation and ensuring its success.

In the following article, The Kuwaiti Digest presents an overview of the MoU's key objectives, implementation pathway, coordination framework, scope of collaboration, distribution of responsibilities between the parties, and other related matters.

Signing Ceremony

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of KIMS, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between KOC's Ahmadi Hospital and the Kuwait



Institute for Medical Specializations. The MoU aims to provide an advanced training environment that enhances national medical competencies.

Attending the signing ceremony were KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan and Manager Medical Group (Ahmadi Hospital) Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmi. The MoU was signed by KOC Deputy CEO (Admin & Finance) Waleed Al-Rubaian, and Acting Secretary-General of KIMS, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

The signing of this MoU comes as part of the joint social contribution of both parties to achieve the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035, which focuses on developing human capital and enhancing the quality of healthcare services through training national cadres in accordance with the highest international standards.

The MoU sets out a joint framework to strengthen academic and training cooperation between the two sides, provide practical training opportunities for KIMS-affiliated doctors at Ahmadi Hospital, and apply best medical practices and standards to ensure improved quality of healthcare. It also aims to reinforce institutional cooperation to achieve in-

tegration between academic and practical expertise.

Under the MoU, safe, well-equipped training programs will be prepared and provided in line with international standards of quality and safety. Qualified supervisors will also be appointed to oversee KIMS doctors and provide ongoing academic and practical guidance.

A Social Contribution

In its introductory paragraph, the MoU states that, as part of the joint social contribution of both parties toward achieving Kuwait Vision 2035—which focuses on developing human capital and improving the quality of health services by preparing national cadres according to top global standards—the two sides have agreed to strengthen cooperation by providing an advanced training environment that helps develop national medical competencies.

It adds that the memorandum stems from the parties' recognition of the importance of integrating the efforts of medical and academic institutions to create a qualitative shift in the health sector through combined roles

in building qualified national medical cadres capable of facing challenges, thereby supporting the contribution of both sides to achieving the aspirations of Kuwait Vision 2035 for comprehensive and sustainable development.

Accordingly, the two parties agreed to sign the MoU to define the joint framework and clarify mutual commitments and responsibilities in order to achieve the desired goals.

Four Objectives

The MoU identifies four key objectives that this cooperation seeks to achieve:

1. Establishing a joint framework to enhance academic and training collaboration aimed at developing national competencies.
2. Providing hands-on training opportunities for doctors affiliated with KIMS at Ahmadi Hospital.
3. Applying best medical practices and standards to improve the quality of healthcare services.
4. Enhancing institutional cooperation to integrate academic and practical expertise.





Responsibilities of the Hospital

Regarding duties and responsibilities, the MoU states that Ahmadi Hospital is committed to five main obligations:

1. Providing a safe, well-equipped training environment that complies with international quality and safety standards.
2. Preparing safe, well-equipped training programs that similarly comply with international standards.
3. Appointing competent supervisors to oversee KIMS doctors and provide ongoing academic and practical guidance to help them work in the best possible environment.
4. Submitting periodic reports on the performance of these doctors, including supervisor observations, to monitor their progress and ensure program objectives are met.
5. Monitoring the compliance of KIMS doctors with the Hospital's internal rules and regulations. In cases of violations, the Hospital shall take appropriate disciplinary measures according to its approved regulations and formally notify KIMS in writing.

Responsibilities of the Institute

The MoU also obligates KIMS to six responsibilities, including selecting affiliated doctors based on clearly defined professional and academic criteria and coordinating with Ahmadi Hospital to identify training needs and ensure adherence to approved plans and program details.

Examples of such program details include, but are not limited to, required medical specialties, training hours, and program start and end dates, in alignment with the Hospital's capacity to ensure training compatibility.

Other responsibilities include issuing the necessary professional licenses for doctors before training begins and providing administrative and technical support during training, including facilitating procedures and resolving any issues faced by affiliated doctors.

KIMS must also ensure that affiliated doctors sign the contracts prepared by the hospital and abide by all provisions. Additionally, it must ensure compliance with the hospital's internal regulations, which must

be communicated to the doctors within five working days of registration or upon issuance of any new rules or instructions.

Guarantees and Rights

The MoU emphasizes the importance of confidentiality and data protection in the collaboration between the two parties, stipulating that neither side shall disclose any confidential information or personal data related to patients, doctors, or staff at Ahmadi Hospital to any third party, except as required by Kuwaiti law or judicial rulings, and that all exchanged information must be treated as strictly confidential and used solely when legally necessary. Additionally, both parties agree not to make public announcements or use the other party's logos, trademarks, or intellectual property without prior written consent.

Regulatory Provisions

The MoU between Ahmadi Hospital and KIMS includes several regulatory provisions concerning its duration and mechanisms for evaluation and follow-up.

The MoU will remain in effect for five years from the date of



signing and may be extended by written agreement. Either party may terminate it at any time by providing written notice at least three months before the proposed termination date.

For evaluation and follow-up, the MoU outlines five provisions:

1. A joint committee consisting of representatives from both sides will be established to monitor imple-
- mentation and ensure objectives are met.
2. The committee will meet periodically to review progress, identify challenges, and work on resolving them.
3. The committee will prepare periodic reports for both parties' relevant authorities, summarizing performance and recommending improvements.
4. Six months before expiry, the committee will conduct a comprehensive review and propose whether to extend or amend the MoU based on emerging needs.
5. Each side will appoint a liaison officer to coordinate administrative matters related to participants and staff covered by the MoU.

H.E. Dr. Al-Awadhi: We Aim to Build Effective National Partnerships to Develop Medical Competencies



On the sidelines of the signing ceremony, H.E. the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi stated that the MoU reflects the vision of the KIMS Board of Trustees to build effective national partnerships that contribute to developing medical competencies and enhancing the quality of training.

He added that the current phase requires integrating efforts between health and educational institutions to keep pace with the expansion of public and private health services and the increasing number of resident doctors in Kuwaiti board programs.

He noted that cooperation with Ahmadi Hospital of Kuwait Oil Company reflects the recognition by both institutions of the importance of combining academic expertise with clinical practice. He emphasized that this step represents a significant shift in preparing and qualifying Kuwaiti doctors according to the latest global standards, aligned with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035 in developing human capital and improving healthcare quality.



KwIDF: Powering the Digital Transformation of KOC NK Jurassic Gas Asset

A New Era for North Kuwait Jurassic Gas

The Jurassic Gas Asset plays a crucial role in securing Kuwait's energy needs, supplying vital gas volumes for power generation and industrial demand. As production targets rise, KOC has recognized the need for a fully integrated, data-driven operating model to manage this complex, high-pressure environment with greater speed, efficiency and safety.

The Kuwait Integrated Digital Field (KwIDF) is the foundation of this transformation. Launched in 2011 as part of KOC's Digital Oilfield initiative, KwIDF has evolved into the central digital backbone of Jurassic Gas, connecting planning, engineering, surveillance, operations and optimization through a unified intelligent platform. Today, it supports more than 120 users across the asset and plays a defining role in KOC's journey toward a sustained production target of 950 MMSCFD.

In this article, the Kuwaiti Digest provides an in-depth overview of this flagship project, through an insightful interview with TL Gas Fields Development (Production) Jassim Barki, where he shares key details and perspectives on the project's scope, progress, and future impact.



From Concept to Strategic Asset

To open, Barki explained that KwIDF was created to address the unique challenges of Jurassic Gas: HPHT wells, fractured carbonate reservoirs and H₂S-rich fluids requiring precise, real-time oversight. Over more than a decade, the platform has grown to connect more than 150 wells and six Jurassic Production Facilities, with plans to exceed 300 wells as field development accelerates.

A landmark digital maturity assessment conducted in 2022 by KOC, SLB and Shell confirmed the strategic importance of KwIDF, shaping the five-year KwIDF roadmap launched in 2025. The roadmap prioritizes reliability, automation and advanced analytics, aligning with KOC's long-term operational and strategic ambitions.

A Unified Digital Backbone for Daily Operations

Barki elaborated that KwIDF brings together data, models and engineering logic into one integrated environment, eliminating silos and enabling multidisciplinary Teams to make faster, higher-quality decisions.

Key capabilities include but are not limited to:

a) Real-Time Surveillance & Intelligent Detection
KwIDF provides continuous real-time surveillance of all SCADA-connected wells, integrating high-

frequency instrumentation data to give KOC Petroleum Engineers a clear and up-to-date view of well behavior.

The platform continuously tracks pressure, temperature, flow trends and operating conditions, automatically highlighting wells that deviate from expected performance. This enables engineers to easily spot underperforming wells, identify production opportunities and carry out well performance reviews more efficiently and consistently across the entire asset.



b) Flow Assurance & Winter Readiness

A hybrid machine-learning and physics-based hydrate detection system delivers alerts in under five minutes and has achieved >90% accuracy, helping prevent winter-related deferment and improving safety.

c) Dynamic Flow Modeling

Integrated multiphase simulation enables real-time, look-ahead and what-if analysis—providing a window into flowlines, liquid loading behavior and facility constraints even when sensors are absent.

d) Opportunity Register & Tracking System

KwIDF includes a structured opportunity register and tracking system that enables Petroleum Engineers to log, prioritize, and follow up on production improvement opportunities. The system links each opportunity to real-time well performance data, providing a clear workflow from identification to closure. This ensures consistent evaluation, transparent accountability, and faster execution of actions that enhance overall asset performance.

e) Integrated Asset Modeling

KwIDF connects reservoir, well, network and facility behavior into a single digital twin—supporting production forecasting, bottleneck identification and opportunity evaluation.

f) Advanced Visual Dashboards

Enterprise-grade dashboards consolidate production behavior, facility performance, winter risk, chemical usage and opportunities into intuitive visuals used daily by engineers and management.

Delivering Measurable Impact

In this section, Barki outlined that KwIDF is recognized across KOC GFD for delivering tangible operational and financial results.

a) 3–5% Annual Production Uplift

KwIDF is directly credited with enabling sustained production improvements through improved diagnostics, better choke, header change, well restoration management, predictive analytics and integrated modeling.

b) Reduced Winter Deferment

Automated hydrate detection and prevention improved flow assurance, while reducing HSE exposure and optimizing methanol consumption.

c) Faster, More Confident Decisions

AI-driven surveillance, flow modeling and automated analysis reduce engineering cycle times and strengthen decision quality across subsurface, production and operations teams.

d) A Stronger Digital Workforce

The 12-week GFD AI Academy, completed in London in October 2025, trained the first cohort of Jurassic Gas engineers in Python, machine learning and data-driven workflows. This ensures that the next generation of engineers can fully leverage the capabilities of KwidF.



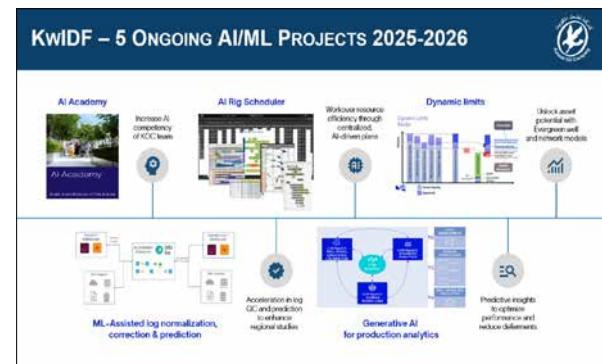
The Road Ahead: Scaling AI, Digital Twins & Autonomous Operations

The 2025-2029 roadmap outlines the next frontier for KwIDF, anchored around 19 AI initiatives that will enhance reliability, optimize performance and unlock new operational capacity.

These initiatives will enable KOC GFD to move toward autonomous field operations, strengthening safety, reliability and production stability across Jurassic Gas.

A Digital Legacy for Kuwait's Gas Sector

In closing, Barki highlighted that KwIDF has grown from a digital pilot into one of the most advanced integrated field management systems within KOC GFD. Through real-time intelligence, predictive models, automated workflows



and empowered engineering teams, KwIDF has set a new standard for how complex gas assets can be operated.

As KOC continues its journey toward 950 MMSCFD, Barki confirmed that KwIDF will remain central to delivering safer, smarter and more efficient operations—shaping the digital future of Kuwait's upstream sector.

First batch of Certified Technicians Graduate from UK AI Academy

The first initiative of its kind in AI for the oil and gas industry in Kuwait and the Middle East

For the first time in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East, KOC, represented by the Gas Fields Development Group, has graduated the first batch of certified technicians from the Artificial Intelligence Academy in the United Kingdom, in cooperation with the international oilfield services company SLB.



This initiative, which is considered the first of its kind in the field of artificial intelligence in the oil and gas industry, is part of KOC's ongoing digital transformation journey. It reflects the Company's commitment to building future-ready capabilities, empowering Kuwaiti talents, and equipping them with the scientific and cognitive skills necessary to lead digital transformation and accelerate oil and gas upstream operations in the State of Kuwait.

This program is considered one of the strategic projects within the intelligent plan that includes a set of AI-based initiatives under KWIDF. It will significantly and effectively contribute to developing technical capabilities and competencies in creating smart solutions related to production and performance optimization.

The 12-week intensive program focused on applying artificial intelligence and machine learning in production operations, optimization, and planning, and included hands-on sessions and knowledge sharing with SLB experts enabling participants to enhance their skills and contribute more effectively to future operations.

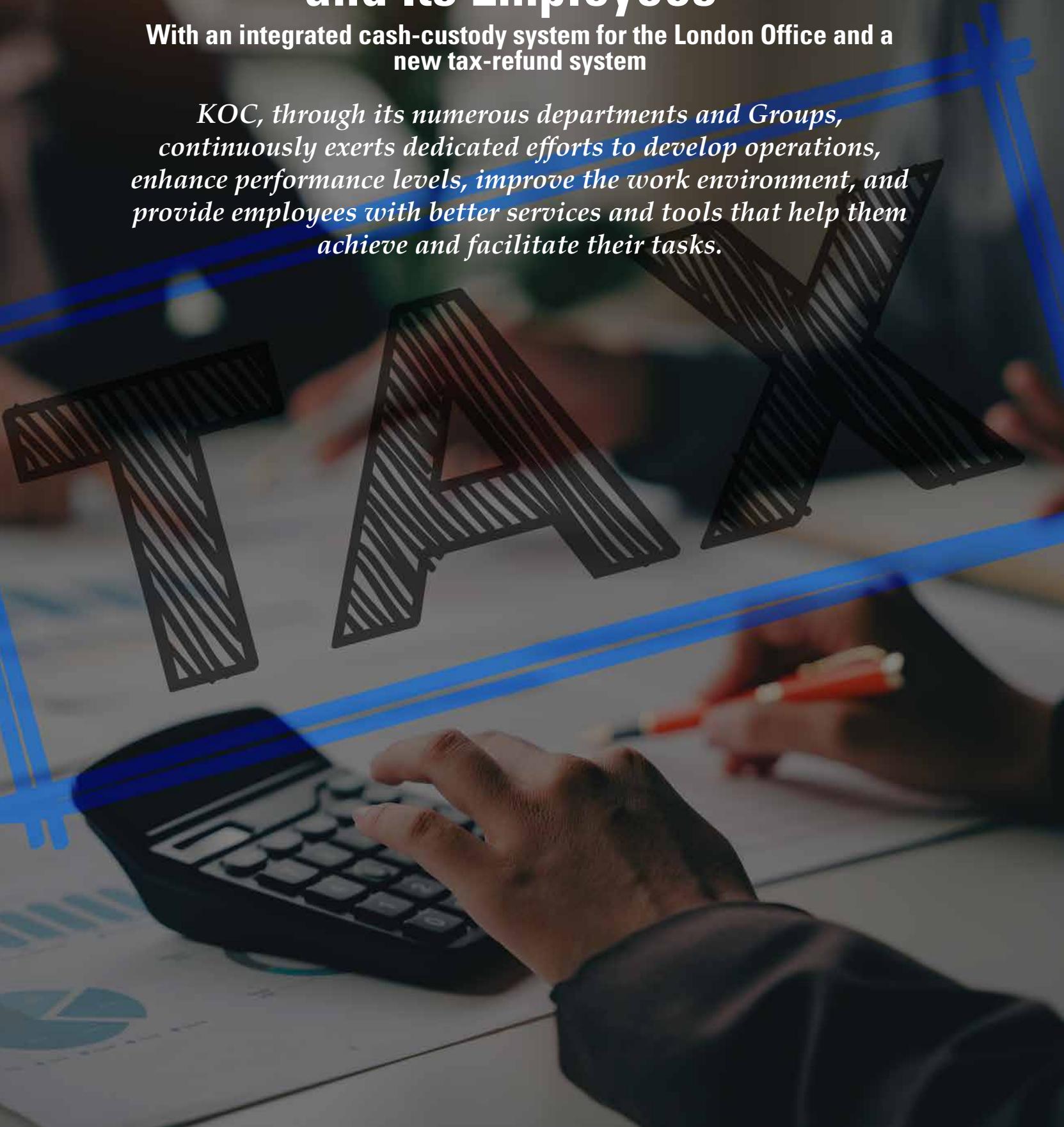
The visit also included a meeting between the GFD Manager Mohammad Al-Bahar and SLB executive management to explore digital technology solutions across production, subsurface, and drilling, reinforcing the KwIDF program as a key platform for advancing digital initiatives.

This was the first batch of the program, with more planned to further strengthen capabilities and expand AI/ML adoption.

Financial Payments Team Delivers Major Milestones for the Company and Its Employees

With an integrated cash-custody system for the London Office and a new tax-refund system

KOC, through its numerous departments and Groups, continuously exerts dedicated efforts to develop operations, enhance performance levels, improve the work environment, and provide employees with better services and tools that help them achieve and facilitate their tasks.





These services and support tools lie at the core of the work of several specialized Teams within the Company, including a pioneering Team that, since its establishment, has focused on designing, developing, and enhancing programs, systems, and processes, all while adopting world-class standards.

This is the Financial Payments Team within the Finance Group, known for exceeding performance expectations and consistently delivering achievements that benefit all employees without exception. Their work is driven by a clear goal: ensuring KOC employees have access to the best and most advanced programs, services, and systems; especially given the importance of the financial aspect in ensuring employee stability and satisfaction.

This article explores the Team's successful completion of two new systems that will support both employees and operations: one dedicated to the London Office, and another related to tax recovery.

We learn more through our conversation with Team Leader Faisal Al-Loughani and Senior Major Projects Accountant Dr. Mohammad Al-Zamanan.

Enhancement of Processes

Al-Loughani explained that as part of ongoing efforts to develop financial systems and improve operational efficiency within KOC, the Financial Payments Team has achieved two key milestones:

- Establishing a fully integrated cash-custody system for the Company's London Office, and
- Designing a special system for tax-recovery operations across the Company, in cooperation with the Corporate Information Technology Group.

He noted that the Team successfully created a modern electronic system to organize the petty-cash process for the London Office Manager. This petty cash covers essential, non-contracted services and purchases to en-

sure smooth, uninterrupted office operations.

The Team worked intensively with relevant stakeholders to expedite the project, introducing a new clause in the Executive Authorities Manual, approved by the Higher Management—that authorizes the London Office Manager to request a fixed-value petty-cash card, with a precise mechanism to monitor its usage and ensure compliance with approved financial policies and regulations.

Intensive Meetings

Dr. Al-Zamanan revealed that the Financial Payments Team held extensive meetings with the Administrative Systems Team within the Corporate IT Group to create and run the system on the eBeams platform, similar to other financial systems used in the Company.

The new system allows accurate tracking of petty-cash expenses and the electronic upload of invoices, as well as identifying the

authorized petty-cash holder—further enhancing transparency and improving financial oversight.

The Team also developed a comprehensive financial guideline manual governing petty-cash usage, approved by the Finance Group Management. Key rules include:

- Invoices must be issued in KOC's name
- Invoices must be clear and stamped by the service provider or vendor
- Invoice dates must be recent and correspond with the approved spending period

The Financial Payments Team and the Administrative Systems Team also held an introductory workshop for the London Office to explain system usage, invoice uploading, and updating the petty-cash holder's information when personnel change. The system was linked directly to accounting records to ensure accurate entries and ease of auditing.

Dr. Al-Zamanan emphasized that this project builds on a series of successful initiatives by the Financial Payments Team to strengthen financial governance and digital transformation in the Company.

A Strategic Step

Regarding the second achievement, which is the tax-recovery system, Al-Loughani described it as a strategic step that will enable the Company to reclaim taxes and achieve significant financial savings.

The system was developed in cooperation with Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) and the Corporate IT Group.

This system aims to recover



KOC's London Office

taxes paid by KOC employees while on duties abroad, including training courses, conferences, or other work-related events. Covered expenses include housing, transportation (air travel, taxis, local transport), communications (phone and internet), meals, and any equipment or tools purchased for work purposes.

Eligible employees include those undergoing external training, participating in events abroad, or incurring work-related expenses during official assignments.

The system covers conferences, external training courses, educational forums, and similar work-related events.

Various Challenges

Al-Loughani noted that the project initially faced several challenges, including:

- The exclusion of KOC employees from a clause in KUFPEC's contract with Tax-back International
- Difficulty coordinating with the international company due to differing workdays and hours

However, the Financial Payments Team overcame these obstacles by developing a special electronic system, obtaining tax certificates from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance, and strengthening coordination with sister companies to exchange expertise.

He emphasized that the system will yield significant financial savings while enhancing transparency and efficiency in managing international assignments.

Field Visits

Al-Loughani added that after continuous field visits to sister companies and several extensive meetings with the tax-recovery company, the Team succeeded in designing a system superior in efficiency to existing systems. The Corporate IT Group adopted the initial concept, enriched it with professional enhancements, and implemented it within the Oracle programs.

He noted that this system will bring direct financial benefit to KOC by recovering a substantial portion of taxes paid externally for training centers. These will be included as a main clause in the new contract.

This recovery includes a large percentage of taxes belonging to employees, as well as significant taxes paid by the Company to training centers. Final values and percentages will be determined when the contract is signed.

Countries covered will also be confirmed at a later stage, with the United Kingdom being one of the most prominent.

Three Years of Work

Dr. Al-Zamanan explained that the Team spent three consecutive years designing the system and preparing it for launch through Oracle. The system al-

lows for entering the destination country and the number of official mission days in advance, and upon return, employees can enter expenses and upload invoices electronically. The Financial Payments Team reviews and approves them before sending them to the tax-recovery company.

The system also enables employees to submit tax-recovery claims without visiting the Team in person, as all submissions and follow-ups can be made electronically.

Dr. Al-Zamanan confirmed that the project is ready for implementation as soon as the new

contract with the tax-recovery company is signed upon the expiration of the previous contract.

Appreciation

Al-Loughani expressed his gratitude to the Corporate IT Group, KUFPEC, and all Teams that contributed to the project. He praised their cooperation and dedication that made these milestones possible.

He also confirmed that these dual achievements represent a significant step in KOC's digital transformation journey and in strengthening smart financial management.

Petty Cash: A Helpful and Accurate System Based on Core Principles

To better understand petty-cash systems, here is general information about this globally used method, which is considered highly accurate, supportive, and based on clear principles.

A petty-cash system is an accounting method for managing recurring small expenses. A fixed amount is given to a responsible employee (the petty-cash custodian) to cover such expenses. This amount is reimbursed later once the supporting receipts are submitted.

Petty cash is used for small, immediate expenses such as office supplies, postage, and similar items.

Key principles include:

- Setting a fixed amount known as a cash float, ensuring the balance returns to its original level at the beginning of each period
- Reimbursing actual expenses instead of refilling the remaining cash
- Using petty cash for various predictable operational expenses or specific needs when required

There are two types of petty cash:

1. Permanent petty cash, used for recurring expenses and replenished regularly upon invoice submission
2. Temporary petty cash, issued for a specific, short-term purpose and settled after all documents are provided

The importance of petty cash lies in facilitating minor expenditures quickly without requiring multiple approval levels, while also ensuring accurate expense recording through the custodian's documented log of all transactions.



Dr. Mohammad Al-Zamanan



Faisal Al-Loughani

The e-Challenge System: Transforming Asset Management and Innovation at KOC

During the second quarterly performance review meetings in KOC, in cooperation with the Planning & Innovation Directorate through the Innovation & Technology Group, a session by the Innovation and Technology Group outlined a valuable opportunity to address KOC technology challenges, and spotlight initiatives that drive innovation within the Company.





A key highlight of the meeting was the introduction of the e-Challenge System: an interactive platform designed to transform how technical challenges at the asset level are captured, managed, and resolved, promising to significantly enhance operational efficiency and problem-solving capabilities through the Upstream Technology Roadmap exercise.

The E-Challenge System: A New Era for Problem-Solving

At the core of KOC's ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency and innovation is the e-Challenge System, a cutting-edge tool designed to streamline the way technical challenges are submitted, tracked, and resolved across the Company. The system was presented by the Innovation & Technology representative, Senior Petroleum Engineer Mariam Al-Foudari, who outlined its purpose and the significant benefits it brings to KOC's assets.

Traditionally, identifying and managing technical challenges across KOC's extensive opera-

tions could be a tedious, disjointed process. With the introduction of the e-Challenge System, however, KOC aims to provide a unified, automated solution that will facilitate faster decision-making and more effective resolution of technology challenges faced by the KOC assets. In this article, the Kuwaiti Digest takes a closer look at how the system works.

Key Features of the E-Challenge System:

- **Automated Challenge Capture:** The system automates the process of capturing asset-level technical challenges, ensuring no issue goes unnoticed.
- **Centralized Database:** A centralized, searchable database will store all submitted challenges, providing easy access and visibility across the organization.
- **Real-Time Tracking:** Assets can track the status of their submissions in real time, keeping Teams informed of progress and next steps.
- **Validation and Approval:**

The system ensures that all challenges are properly validated and approved by Management before any actions are taken.

- **Traceability:** From submission to resolution, the system maintains traceability of each challenge, providing transparency and accountability.
- **Visibility Across Teams:** The system is designed to be accessible to all KOC employees, fostering greater collaboration and communication between departments.
- **Training and Support:** the Innovation & Technology Group's Support Team is committed to ensuring all employees are well-versed in using the system, offering video tutorials and online training sessions for Teams upon request.

Ultimately, this platform streamlines administrative tasks, enhances KOC's ability to monitor and resolve challenges effectively, and leads to smoother operations and more innovative solutions.



The Process: From Challenge Submission to Resolution

The e-Challenge System isn't just about capturing technical issues; it's also about creating a structured and transparent process for tackling them. The journey begins with a click of a button accessible for all the KOC employees, who identify and submit asset technology-related challenges.

- 1. Challenge Submission:** KOC SMEs submit technical challenges related to their assets, using the E-Challenge System.
- 2. Technology Roadmap (TRM) Unit review:** Cross-department workshops and meetings are conducted to evaluate and prioritize these challenges, with inputs from both asset Teams and I&T stakeholders, and consultant SMEs to evaluate and prioritize challenges and formulate projects.
- 3. Approval Process:** Challenges are reviewed and approved by Asset Management, ensuring alignment with Strategic Goals and asset needs.
- 4. Scouting and Technology Identification:** The I&T Group reaches out to technology providers to identify solutions, forming teams to assess and implement them.

- 5. Project Charters:** Once technologies are identified, project charters are created for both Technology Management (TM) and Research & Development (R&D) projects. These are laid out in a comprehensive five-year roadmap.
- 6. Pilot Project Execution:** Pilot projects are initiated to test the solutions, with close coordination between the submitted challenge focal points and the I&T Group.

By centralizing the entire process and providing visibility at every stage, the E-Challenge System ensures that no challenge goes unresolved and that solutions are implemented efficiently and strategically.

The Bigger Picture: Driving Innovation and Operational Excellence

During the meeting where the new System was introduced, Deputy CEO Ameena Rajab emphasized the importance of fostering a culture of innovation and initiative within KOC in her opening remarks. She underscored that the collective efforts of all employees, working together to solve challenges, are integral to achieving the Company's Strategic Objectives and realizing its 2040 Vision.

The e-Challenge System is a prime example of how KOC is leveraging technology to improve performance, drive innovation, and enhance collaboration across Teams. By ensuring that every technical challenge is captured, tracked, and resolved in an organized manner, KOC can continue to improve its operational efficiency and maintain its pioneering position in the energy sector.

Looking Ahead: The Future of KOC's Innovation Strategy

With the success of the e-Challenge System, KOC is prepared to strengthen its position as a leader in the oil and gas industry. The system not only addresses current technical challenges but also sets the stage for future innovation, aligning KOC's operations with its long-term strategic goals. As part of the continued rollout, Innovation & Technology Group's Support Team is committed to providing ongoing training and support to ensure that the system is fully integrated across all Teams and departments.

As the Company looks ahead to its 2040 Vision, tools like the e-Challenge System will play a pivotal role in maintaining high standards of operational excellence, safety, and environmental responsibility.

The e-Challenge System is not merely a technical tool; it's an integral component of a larger strategy focused on promoting collaboration, driving innovation, and securing KOC's long-term success. Thanks to the continuous efforts of dedicated Teams and the strong support offered by the system, KOC is well-positioned to tackle the challenges of both today and the future with confidence and adaptability.

RTK: The Future of Port Navigation

By Capt. R. K. Arya, Port Captain, Kuwait Oil Company





Ports today face unprecedented challenges in handling mega-ships safely, efficiently, and reliably. Traditional GPS is no longer enough. This article explores how Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) positioning is transforming port operations worldwide, from Kuwait's Mina Al Zour to the Panama Canal, Rotterdam, and the Suez Canal Corridor. With centimeter-level accuracy, RTK is not just a navigation aid, it is the foundation of tomorrow's smart ports

Overview

Imagine piloting a 345-meter Q-Max LNG carrier through a channel narrower than the ship itself—one of the most demanding maneuvers a pilot can face. Strong crosswinds and sideways currents buffet the vessel, visibility drops, and you rely on GPS for guidance. Then you see it: the screen shows the ship several meters off course. Would you take the risk?

For decades, we were doing port navigation with GPS and later Differential GPS. But “good enough” positioning is no longer enough in high-stakes ports. Here we are introducing RTK positioning technology, the upgrade from meters to centimeters, from uncertainty to confidence.

Why GPS Isn't Enough Anymore

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) set strict accuracy requirements in Resolution A.915(22). For port approaches, GPS alone doesn't meet them.

- GPS: 3-5 m error
- DGPS: 1-2 m error
- RTK: 2-5 cm accuracy

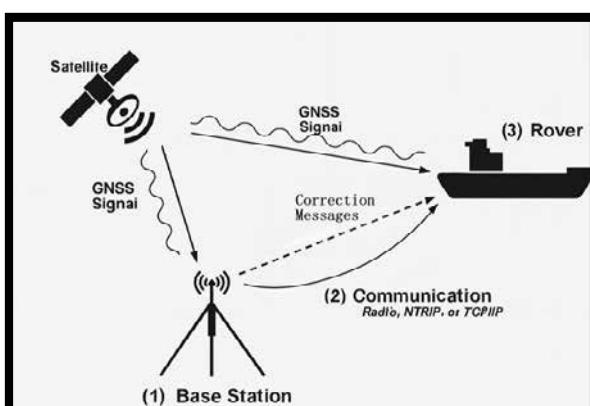
That difference matters. In restricted waters, position error in meters means grounding. Two centimeters can mean smooth sailing.

What Makes RTK Different

RTK uses a shore-based reference station to compute corrections for satellite signals. These corrections are transmitted to pilots' Portable Pilot Units (PPUs) or to tugs in real time. As a result:

- Bow swing and approach speed are monitored with precision.
- Vessel's position and berthing operation are measured in centimeters.
- Even in fog, war-like situations, or GPS jamming environments, positioning remains resilient.

It's like upgrading from a blurred old map to a digital version in 4K.



When GPS Can't Be Trusted

In the Arabian Gulf, pilots have already experienced GPS spoofing and jamming during periods of regional tension. Ships approaching oil terminals saw false fixes on their screens and sometimes showing them outside the safe channel.

That was a wake-up call. In a war-like situation, GPS can be denied or manipulated. RTK offers local, independent, and secure corrections, ensuring ports can continue moving ships safely in and out without disruption.

How Ports Can Benefit

Mooring safety – RTK reduces fender impact energy by up to 1.8x compared with traditional methods.

Hydrography – Precise tide corrections without tide gauges.

Dredging – Suez Canal case studies showed discrepancies of hundreds of thousands of cubic meters between RTK and conventional tide-gauge estimates.

Offshore Rig Movement - Precise positioning during Tow & Anchoring.

Under-Keel Clearance (UKC) – Real-time UKC monitoring lets deep-draft ships sail safely in shallow waters.

Pilotage confidence – Better tugs coordination and traffic monitoring with pinpoint precision.



Global Experience: Proof in Practice

- Suez Canal Corridor (Egypt):** Studies by Port Said University showed RTK and Virtual Reference Station (VRS) dramatically improved dredging estimates and under-keel monitoring.

- Panama Canal:** Since October 2023, all Neopanamax vessels (≥ 109 ft beam) must carry RTK-enabled piloting units. No RTK means no transit.

- Rotterdam, Singapore, Hamburg ports:** These digital-first ports quietly adopted RTK in hydrography and pilotage, embedding it into smart-port platforms. Together, these examples show RTK is no longer an experiment. It's becoming law, policy, and practice.

Comparing GPS vs DGPS vs RTK

FEATURE	GPS	DGPS	RTK
 ACCURACY	✗ ~3-5 m (Worldwide coverage)	⚠ ~1-2 m (Up to 450 kms)	✓ ~2-5 cm (Up to about 12 kms)
 BOW SWING ACCURACY	✗ ~5-10 Deg/sec	⚠ ~1 Deg/sec	✓ ~0.1 Deg/sec
 CORRECTION SOURCE	✗ None (satellite only)	⚠ Ground stations (Govt. controlled)	✓ Base station (Port/private owned)
 RELIABILITY	✗ Low (errors common)	⚠ Moderate	✓ Very high
 IMO SUITABILITY	✗ Not for restricted waters	⚠ Acceptable	✓ Fully compliant & best

Why Mina Al Zour is Taking the Lead

Kuwait's Mina Al Zour handles LNG carriers and VLCCs, and these vessels pass through narrow shallow approach channels. RTK is being considered for phased deployment:

- Base stations near LNGI structures.
- LTE/UHF correction broadcasting.
- Integration with pilot PPUs and VTS systems.
- Expansion to Mina Al Ahmadi.

The costs are modest - one base station costs less than a single berth repair. The benefits? Fewer incidents, safer navigation, and improved throughput.

The Future of Smart Ports

DGPS was a leap in the 1990s, but it's government-controlled and not always tailored to local needs. RTK, by contrast, is port-owned, flexible, and integrates with VTS, AIS, and ECDIS. RTK is more than a safety net. It's the foundation for:

- Automated docking and digital twins.
- Smart tugs and terminal asset management.
- Online traffic management and faster turn-around.
- Real-time analytics for efficiency and sustain-

ability.



As ports race toward digitalization, RTK is the backbone of precise positioning. Without it, the “smart port” vision remains incomplete.

From Optional to Essential

Once an academic tool, RTK is now essential infrastructure. IMO resolutions, Panama’s mandate, and Suez’s research all point to the same truth: ports cannot rely on GPS alone.

For the Arabian Gulf, where GPS spoofing is a reality, RTK is not a luxury - it’s survival. For Mina Al Zour, adoption means leading the region. For the wider maritime world, it means a safer, smarter future.

RTK is here. The question isn’t if, but how soon will your port adopt it.

Acknowledgment by Team Leader, POT-III

Capt. Lafi Al Mertaji, Team Leader Port Operations Team-III, Marine Operations Group, extends his appreciation and acknowledges Capt. R. K. Arya for taking the lead in researching, analyzing, and presenting the subject of RTK-based navigation clearly and practically. Capt. Arya’s experience in LNG, VLCC, and offshore pilotage at Mina Al Zour and other ports has shaped this study into something valuable for KOC’s future planning. His commitment to operational safety and technology enhancement reflects the high standards expected within the Port Operations Team-III. This work stands as a good example of the initiative and professionalism that drive improvement across the Marine Operations Group.



Statement from Team Leader

Commenting on this milestone, Capt. Lafi Al Mertaji stated that implementing RTK technology is a strategic step toward enhancing navigational safety and operational efficiency at KOC terminals. He noted that Kuwait’s ports are entering a phase where precision, resilience, and technological readiness are essential.



He highlighted that the ideas in this article were recently presented at the International Standard for Maritime Pilot Organizations (ISPO) Conference in Dubai (27-28 November 2025), where they received strong interest from global port operators and pilotage experts, reinforcing the relevance of RTK to Mina Al Zour and Mina Al Ahmadi.

As KOC continues evaluating advanced positioning systems to improve safety and reliability during GPS disruptions, Capt. Al-Murtaji emphasized that studies like this help guide informed decision-making. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the dedication and expertise behind this work.

Expanding Kuwait's Global Footprint: First Kuwaiti Appointed to the Harvard University Alumni Board



The Harvard University Alumni Association (HAA) has appointed KOC's Nadia AlZeabot, Group Planning Coordinator in the Innovation & Technology Group Admin, to its Board of Directors as the Director for the Middle East, after a competitive selection process across Harvard's global alumni network. This network includes more than 400,000 graduates across over 200 cities and 190 countries, representing leaders in government, energy, business, academia, innovation, diplomacy, and public service.

As the first Kuwaiti to serve in this position, the appointment carries both personal meaning and national significance. It reflects the Harvard University Board's confidence in her leadership, strategic judgment, and ability to represent the perspectives and priorities of the Middle East. It also highlights the increasing global recognition of Kuwait's talent and the vital role the region plays in shaping future-oriented dialogue across sectors.

This milestone aligns with her recent achievement of earning the Certified Chief Innovation Officer (CCIO) credential from the reputable Global Innovation Institute (GInI)—a certification focused on leading innovation systems, organizational transformation, and building cultures of creativity and adaptability.

Cultivating Talent and Mindset for the Future Workforce

Today's workforce, particularly in the energy and sustainability sectors, requires more than technical expertise. It requires curiosity, analytical capability, collaborative leadership, and the confidence to navigate uncertainty.

Through mentorship and coaching, Nadia Al-Zeabot supports emerging professionals in developing:

- The confidence to express and defend ideas



- The ability to analyze complex problems holistically
- Leadership grounded in responsibility and service
- An innovation mindset that sees possibility rather than limitation
- Kuwait's readiness to lead and contribute at international levels
- The region's commitment to knowledge-based development
- The value of cross-cultural dialogue and global collaboration

This work supports national efforts to empower youth, strengthen professional readiness, and nurture leadership that can contribute meaningfully to Kuwait's long-term development goals.

A Representation That Reflects the Region

This significant and pioneering appointment is a representation of the region's growing voice in global academic and professional institutions. It signals:

Expanding Kuwait's global presence begins with representation that is built on credibility, experience, and the ability to build bridges. This new role serves as one meaningful step in that ongoing trajectory.

KOC is confident that Al-Zeabot will set a benchmark for excellence that all employees can aspire to, inspiring everyone to give their utmost effort in pursuit of outstanding performance.

Kuwaiti Photographer and Environmental Scientist Dr. Mahdi Gholoum

Kuwaiti photographer Dr. Mahdi Gholoum won two awards at the Siena International Photo Awards, held in the city of Siena, central Italy, with participation from elite global photographers.



Dr. Gholoum explained that he competed in two main categories: Environmental Photography and Aerial Environmental Documentary Films, noting that his image of the Greater Spotted Eagle won second place in the latter category. He added that the second award was an Award of Excellence for an aerial documentary film on the migration of birds crossing Kuwait's skies annually, highlighting their environmental role and the importance of preserving natural habitats.

He remarked that the winning photos and films will be showcased in international exhibitions viewed by global audiences, demonstrating Kuwait's environmental significance as a major and vital passage for migratory route for birds on the world stage.

Dr. Gholoum emphasized that his message through this work is to show that photography and documentation are not just visual arts, but influential tools for spreading environmental awareness and promoting a more sustainable ecological future.

The Siena International Photo Awards was first launched in 2015, and on September 27 this year, winners in ten categories were honored, including environmental photography, documentary films, adventure, natural beauty, motion sports, and marine life.

Through an inspiring interview, and out of KOC's keenness to support talented nationals, as well as its commitment to environmental protection, The Kuwaiti Digest learned more about Dr. Gholoum and his prolific

work, which will be outlined in the following article.

Dr. Mahdi Gholoum

Dr. Mahdi Gholoum is a Kuwaiti environmental scientist and wildlife photographer with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Management from Australia. He integrates scientific expertise with visual storytelling to convey the richness and fragility of natural ecosystems. His work includes drone-based and ground-level wildlife photography and videography, capturing high-resolution imagery across Kuwait and internationally. Dr. Gholoum's mission is to use photography as a tool for environmental education and advocacy, raising awareness of conservation issues and inspiring efforts to protect the natural environment.

Background

In the beginning of the interview, Dr. Gholoum explained that he studied both Environmental Science and Environmental Management, and that he has a longstanding passion in this field. He added that he mostly focuses on the Jahra Nature Reserve when it comes



to his photography, and that he creates his videos to share a visual message. Dr. Gholoum stated that media is a strong tool for awareness and education, and that this work is an entirely personal initiative.

Dr. Gholoum explained that while using drone photography, he was able to see Kuwait's wildlife from a completely new perspective, adding to his appreciation of it, and motivating him to share this image of Kuwait with the world. He explained that while he was participating in the Siena Awards, many foreigners unfamiliar with Kuwait's environment approached him and expressed that they were fascinated with this side of Kuwait, and that they were unaware of its rich, beautiful natural life.

Environmental Protection

Dr. Mahdi highlighted the importance of protecting migratory birds that visit Kuwait, particularly in the reserves, as well as coral reefs in Kuwaiti islands. He also focuses on the impacts on human activity on areas like Kuwait Bay, including sewage, pollution, and fishing nets.



Nets often harm migratory birds, who can get stuck in them, leading to injuries. Dr. Gholoum explained that the EPA is responsible for documenting the details of the nets, after which the Kuwait Diving Team takes charge of removing them.

Dr. Gholoum has a particular interest in birds of prey, passing from Russia and heading to Africa in the migration season. This includes birds like eagles and vultures. He added that he also films the natural world outside Kuwait, but focuses his work locally.

On top of undertaking these missions, Dr. Gholoum educates students at the PAAET, and enriches them on environmental activities. He encourages beach cleaning, as well as cleaning camping areas

during the camping season, and smaller initiatives such as sharing on social media, which has an impact in our modern digital age.

Siena Awards

Dr. Gholoum shared that he started participating in photography competitions locally as early as 2003, slowly expanding regionally, and then internationally; gaining numerous accolades over the years.

He also won third place in KOC's 2025 Film Festival, for his film "Bird Migration: The Journey of Life or Death" in the Documentary category.

As for the Siena Awards, Dr. Gholoum stated that he competed in two main categories: Environmental Photography and Aerial Environmental Documentary

Films, noting that his image of the Greater Spotted Eagle won second place in the latter category. He added that the second award was an Award of Excellence for an aerial documentary film on the migration of birds crossing Kuwait's skies annually, highlighting their environmental role and the importance of preserving natural habitats.

When asked about his motive to participate in these competitions, he revealed that he aims to send a strong message about Kuwait's environment, and that he learned a lot from the international experts present at the competition, calling it "visual enrichment".

Correct Application of Knowledge

Dr. Gholoum also stressed the importance of correctly apply-



ing your knowledge, which is where his specialization in Environmental Management coupled with Environmental Science comes in.

He outlined a few methods he implements in this area: using remote sensing and GIS, satellite mapping, problem solving, and ultimately combining modern technologies with environmental science.

He also stressed that the environment is the base of everything, from the economy, to health, social life, and sustainable development, making it a cornerstone of daily life.

When discussing environmental economics, Dr. Gholoum highlighted that it is necessary to think long term, and not focus on short term profits, confirming that investing in the environment pays off in the long run.

Field Challenges

Naturally, this field comes with

its own set of difficulties and challenges. Dr. Gholoum noted that entering certain regions, particularly remote or desert areas, can involve significant risks. The desert's harsh, arid conditions, the presence of dangerous wildlife, and the possibility of encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO) all add to the hazards.

In addition, Dr. Gholoum noted that using drone photography can scare animals, so it is necessary to have a scientific understanding of their behavior before approaching them. In this context, he highlighted the importance of practicing the correct ethics in photography,

which requires proper education and awareness.

Driven by Purpose

Dr. Gholoum explained that his work is not driven solely by service to others; he genuinely loves what he does and feels an inner calling to pursue it. He remains active in the field and continues to engage in related projects and competitions.

He emphasized that his goal is to communicate a powerful message internationally, asserting that for any photographer to succeed, they must have something meaningful to express through their art.

Dr. Gholoum also highlighted the importance of consulting professionals when dealing with animals and noted that it is always acceptable to ask questions when unsure.

In closing, he stressed that media must be used responsibly to educate the next generation, while firm enforcement measures should be applied to address violations among the current one.



UNESCO Recognizes the Bisht: Preserving a Timeless Arab Cultural Heritage

In a landmark move celebrating Arab tradition, UNESCO has officially inscribed the Bisht (the traditional men's cloak) on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The announcement, made in 2025 during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, marks a significant step in preserving one of the most enduring symbols of Arab identity.



What is the Bisht?

The Bisht, also known as *abā'* or *mishlah*, is a flowing cloak traditionally worn over everyday clothes on special occasions such as weddings, official ceremonies, religious events, and festivities. Often crafted from high-quality wool or camel hair, and adorned with intricate gold or silver embroidery, the Bisht is a cultural statement – symbolizing dignity, respect, and social status across the Arab world.

A Shared Middle Eastern Heritage

Although commonly associated with Gulf countries such as Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE, the Bisht is a shared heritage across the Middle East, reflecting centuries of artistry, craftsmanship, and social tradition.

A notable example of a non-Gulf country where the Bisht is traditionally worn is Jordan.

- In Jordan, the Bisht is worn by men during formal occasions, weddings, and religious celebrations, particularly among tribal communities and in official ceremonies.
- It serves the same cultural and social function as in the Gulf: a symbol of dignity, prestige, and tradition.
- Other non-Gulf countries where the Bisht is part of

traditional attire include Syria and Iraq, especially in regions with historical Arab tribal communities.

UNESCO Recognition: Why It Matters

The UNESCO listing is not merely about the garment itself but also the skills and practices involved in its creation. These include:

- Selecting and preparing natural fibers such as camel or goat hair.
- Dyeing and weaving the fabrics using traditional methods.
- Tailoring and hand-embroidering the cloak's edges with fine detailing.
- Transmitting these skills from one generation to the next through families, workshops, and specialized institutions.

By recognizing these techniques, UNESCO aims to preserve the living heritage of the Bisht, ensuring that the artisanship, cultural knowledge, and symbolic meaning behind this iconic cloak continue to thrive in the modern era.

Preserving Arab Legacy

The Bisht's inscription was jointly submitted by nine countries: Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Iraq,

Jordan, and Syria. This collaborative effort underscores the garment's role as a unifying symbol of Arab identity, transcending borders while maintaining deep-rooted local traditions.

Inclusion on the UNESCO list not only honors the craftsmanship of the Bisht but also raises global awareness about the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in an age of rapid modernization. It strengthens cultural pride and encourages younger generations to engage with and preserve their ancestral traditions.

Looking Ahead

For Gulf and Arab societies, the UNESCO recognition of the Bisht comes at a critical time, as globalization and modernization challenge traditional crafts. This milestone opens avenues for:

- Training and supporting artisans.
- Documenting and transmitting traditional techniques.
- Promoting the Bisht as a living cultural emblem on international platforms.

Ultimately, the Bisht stands as a symbol of endurance, identity, and artistry, connecting the past, present, and future of Arab cultural heritage beyond its role as a garment.

Reopening of Al Jahra Nature Reserve: A Welcome Return to Nature



On November 9, 2025, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) officially reopened Al Jahra Nature Reserve to the public for the 2025-2026 season, marking another step forward for environmental tourism in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Digest is pleased to share this article, reflecting KOC's ongoing commitment to the preservation and care of Kuwait's natural environment. As a leading organization in the country, the Company recognizes the importance of supporting initiatives that protect biodiversity and promote sustainable tourism. The reopening of Al Jahra Nature Reserve highlights the value of conserving vital ecosystems, and KOC is proud to help raise awareness about these efforts, encouraging the public to appreciate and respect Kuwait's unique natural heritage.

About the Reserve

- Al Jahra Reserve spans about 18 square kilometers and includes a variety of ecosystems, from marshes and wetlands to coastal and des-

ert-style zones, making it a unique refuge for both native and migratory wildlife.

- The reserve supports a rich biodiversity: more than 300 bird species have been recorded, along with fish in its ponds, amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife — making it a key habitat for birds of prey, wading birds, and migratory bird species.

What's New This Season

- Visitors can book through the EPA electronic platform (or via the Sahel App). There are options for guided tours or booking an observation spot.
- Groups of up to five people pay KD 10 for a booked observatory; individual ticket pricing starts at KD 2 per person, depending on the booking option.

- Access is regulated: visits are guided and limited to certain areas for the protection of the ecosystem.

Why It Matters

- The reopening supports the growth of ecotourism in Kuwait, offering residents and visitors a rare chance to connect with natural habitats, which is especially valuable given the scarcity of natural "green" spaces in the region.
- The Reserve's wetlands, marshes, and ponds serve as a migratory stopover for birds, providing an important sanctuary for birds of prey, migratory wading birds, and other species. This helps preserve biodiversity and raises awareness of environmental conservation.
- With growing environmental pressures and climate chal-





lenges, protected areas like Al Jahra Reserve play a critical role for both conservation and public education.

Visitor Information & Tips

- The visiting season runs November through mid-February 2026.

- Visiting hours are 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily.
- Because visits are limited and often in demand, it's best to book early via the official EPA booking site to secure an observatory or guided tour slot.
- Dress comfortably, bring binoculars if you have — the reserve offers a great opportunity for birdwatching and enjoying Kuwait's natural wetlands scenery.

The reopening of Al Jahra Nature Reserve goes beyond being a seasonal event; it serves as a clear reaffirmation of Kuwait's dedication to environmental conservation and the promotion of ecotourism.



Vatican Elevates Ahmadi's Historical Church Our Lady of Arabia to Minor Basilica

In a momentous development for the Catholic Church in the Gulf, the Church of Our Lady of Arabia in Ahmadi, Kuwait, has been officially elevated to the rank of Minor Basilica, making it the first church in the Arabian Peninsula to receive this prestigious title.





The designation was granted by the Vatican's Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, through a decree issued on June 28, 2025. The elevation marks a major historic milestone, not only for Ahmadi but Kuwait as a whole.

In line with KOC's ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating Ahmadi City's historical landmarks and rich heritage, The Kuwaiti Digest highlights the church's elevation in the following article.

Historical Significance to Ahmadi

Located in the heart of Ahmadi, which was originally built to support Kuwait's oil industry, the Church of Our Lady of Arabia holds unique historical importance. As Ahmadi grew into a hub for oil workers and foreign professionals in the mid-20th century, the church became a vital religious and cultural landmark for Catholic expatri-

ates. Its presence contributed to shaping Ahmadi's identity as one of Kuwait's most diverse and internationally connected communities.

A Church Rich in History

The church was founded in 1948 as a humble chapel housed in a former power station. The stone structure that stands today was built entirely with the support of KOC, showcasing the Company's proud commitment to supporting community initiatives and fostering inclusivity across all segments of society. Its cornerstone, blessed by Pope Pius XII, was laid in 1955, and the church was formally inaugurated a year later in 1956.

Over the decades, it has earned recognition as the "mother church" of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia, playing a central role in the development of Catholic ministry across the Gulf.

Symbol of Strength and Solidarity During Crisis

Serving a predominantly migrant population, the Church of Our Lady of Arabia has become a vital community center for thousands of expatriates from the Philippines, India, Africa, and Europe. As such, the church offers a deep sense of community and cultural belonging.

During the Iraqi invasion, the church became yet another powerful symbol of Kuwaiti resilience and determination for those who remained in the country despite the hardships.

What Does It Mean to Be a Minor Basilica?

Becoming a Minor Basilica is a rare honor that signifies a special spiritual and liturgical connection with the Pope and the See of Rome. With this designation, the church is now entitled to use papal symbols such as:

- The crossed keys of St. Peter
- The ombrellino (a red-and-gold umbrella)
- The tintinnabulum (a bell on a pole)
- These elements are used during processions and major liturgical celebrations, underscoring the church's elevated status within the global Catholic hierarchy.

A Community's Joyful Affirmation

Reacting to the announcement, Bishop Aldo Berardi, O.SS.T., Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia, expressed heartfelt joy, noting that the honor reflects the vibrant faith of the Catholic community in the Arabian Peninsula. He emphasized that the church has served both as

a spiritual refuge in peaceful times and as a source of protection during conflict, representing a unifying presence for the region's diverse Catholic diaspora.

A Symbol of Shared Experience and Growth

The Church of Our Lady of Arabia was first established as a chapel in 1948 and later inaugurated as a stone church in 1956. It is located in Ahmadi, Kuwait, and serves as the mother church of the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia. The church is home to the statue of Our Lady of Arabia, which was blessed in 1949 and crowned in 2011. Its recent designation as a Minor Basilica, formally decreed on June 28, 2025, marks it as the

first such church in the Arabian Peninsula. With this honor, it receives special privileges, including the use of papal symbols like the crossed keys, the ombrellino, and the tintinnabulum. Over the years, the church has become a refuge and home for the region's migrant Catholic community and now stands as a symbol of faith, resilience, and unity in a culturally diverse environment.

The elevation of the Church of Our Lady of Arabia represents a celebration of perseverance, dedication, and the strength found in cultural diversity amid regional challenges. As the first Minor Basilica in the Arabian Peninsula, the church now stands as a symbol of community vitality and resilience in the Gulf.





1960

Ahmadi Hospital



احدى شركات مؤسسة البترول الكويتية
A Subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation