The Kuwaiti Digest

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The Kuwaiti Digest

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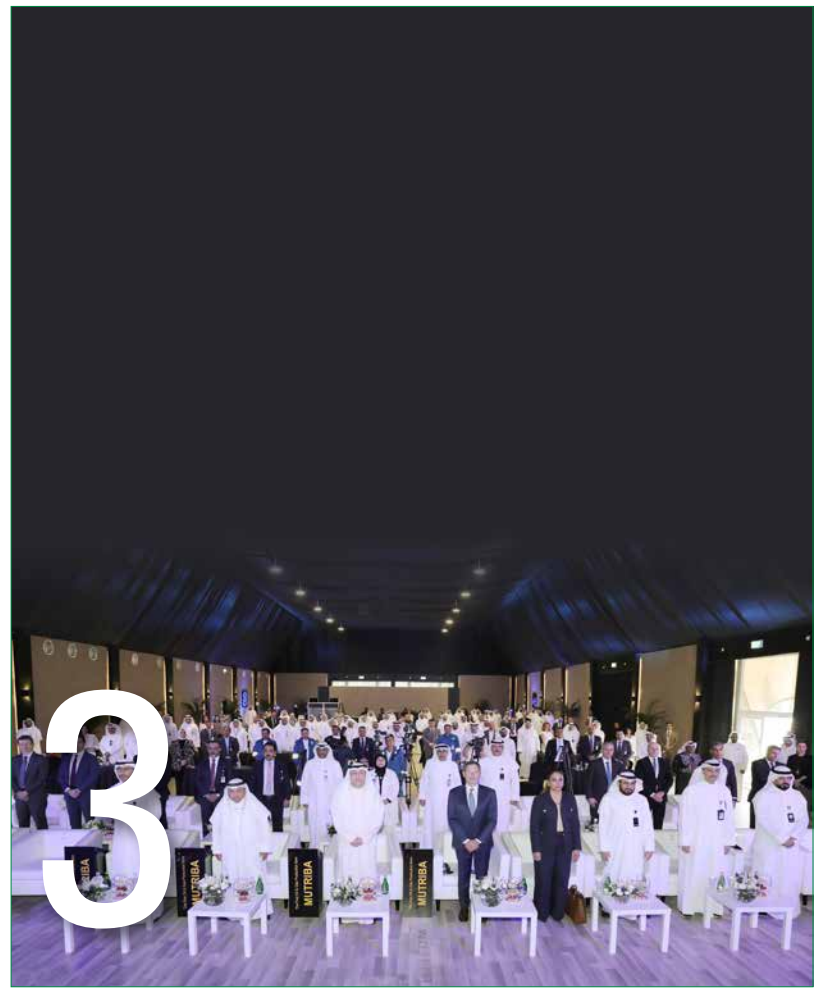


CONTENTS

Letter from the Editor

Mohammad Khalifa Al-Abduljaleel
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Planning & Innovation

In this issue of the Kuwaiti Digest, we proudly present several significant events that highlight the dynamic spirit of Kuwait's oil sector and its broader contributions to the nation's growth and future. These moments not only mark milestones for the sector but also resonate deeply with the country's progress, especially for the younger generation who represent its future.

We would particularly like to highlight the recent milestone discoveries made by KOC in the Mutriba Field and Jazah offshore field. In tandem with these remarkable developments, KOC has been pioneering the future of energy with its AI Innovation Center, which is setting new standards in innovation and technology. Additionally, the Company recently hosted the Third Season of its Sustainability Camp, an initiative that fosters a deeper understanding of environmental and social governance among youth, preparing them to be leaders in a sustainable future.

Also featured in this issue is the celebration of the successful reactivation of shut-in wells, an achievement that reflects the Company's commitment to maximizing the value of existing assets while adhering to the highest environmental and safety standards. This initiative is a key part of KOC's broader strategy to ensure long-term sustainability in the face of a rapidly changing global landscape.

This issue also reflects on an important historical moment: the Kuwaiti oil fires of 1991, with a remembrance of November 6. This tragic chapter in our history serves as a reminder of the resilience and perseverance of the Kuwaiti people in the face of adversity.

Among other stories, we highlight Kuwait's infrastructure advancements, including the Second Ring Road Project, which is transforming urban mobility, enhancing sustainability, and revitalizing our cityscape. The project plays a critical role in the ongoing urban renewal efforts and reflects Kuwait's commitment to modernity and environmental stewardship.

In the cultural field, we celebrate the architectural and cultural landmark of The Pearl at Kuwait University, which symbolizes the country's growing appreciation for the arts and heritage. Similarly, the Adaniyat Musical Legacy continues to capture the rich cultural traditions of Kuwait, fostering national pride and connection.

Also, the recent launch of the revised KOC Capitalization Policy promises to streamline and enhance operational efficiencies, ensuring continued growth and competitive edge. We also shine a spotlight on the lesser-known Miskan Island, and explore the PCC Hawalli Map project.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to all the individuals involved in making KOC's achievements a reality. Your tireless efforts and contributions continue to shape the future of Kuwait.

COMMENCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AT MUTRIBA FIELD

In a milestone achievement that marks a turning point in Kuwait Oil Company's efforts to meet its strategic goals for developing and producing oil from unconventional fields, the Mutriba Field has officially entered the commercial production phase as of June 15, 2025. This success follows the completion of the well connection operations to the Company's production facilities.

Located in an undeveloped area lacking infrastructure in Northwest Kuwait, the Mutriba Field spans more than 230 square kilometers, outside the scope of the Company's current operating assets. The first discovery of commercially viable light oil in the field occurred in 2009, within the Marrat Jurassic reservoirs in well MU-0012, which yielded commercial flows of oil and gas during testing.

The New Venture Group at KOC has placed strategic emphasis on accelerating the development and production of oil from remote fields and geologically complex reservoirs. The Group is dedicated to transforming these promising discoveries into productive assets that meaningfully contribute to enhancing Kuwait's oil production capacity.

Mutriba Field: A Key Addition to Kuwait's Oil Industry

Mutriba is a field of great significance, with its value and contributions benefitting the entire State of Kuwait. It is the newest addition to KOC's network of oil fields, which produces both oil and gas. Mutriba stands as the prime example of the positive growth trajectory of Kuwait's oil sector. The enhancement of Kuwait's production capacity and the improvement of its global market position are noble goals. Each additional barrel of oil or cubic meter of gas produced serves as a vital support for the country, its society, and its development journey.

The inclusion of Mutriba field in the list of producing oil fields signifies not only a success for KOC but also a new milestone, especially when considering the significant challenges faced by the Company's management to reach commercial production from this field.

In conclusion, and with high-level attendance from Oil Minister H.E. Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, Kuwait Oil Company celebrated the start of commercial production from the Mutriba oil field, a promising field in the light oil sector. This will undoubtedly contribute to meeting the needs of both the local and global markets.

Official Launch

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Oil, Tariq Sulaiman Al-Roumi, KOC celebrated the commencement of production at the Mutriba oil field in North West Kuwait.

This special ceremony was held in the KOC Tent in Ahmadi and was attended by several senior officials in the oil sector, including KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, KNPC CEO Wadha Al-Khateeb, and Ag. KGOC CEO Bader Al-Munaifi. Also in attendance was Olivier Le Peuch, CEO of SLB (formerly Schlumberger), one of the key companies involved in the project.

The ceremony featured a speech by KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, who acknowledged the numerous challenges encountered during the field's development and highlighted the Company's success in effectively addressing and overcoming them. He pointed out that KOC worked diligently to accelerate the operation of the field so it could join Kuwait's currently producing fields and help meet both local and global market demands, especially since the field produces light crude oil, which is highly sought after in international markets.

Following the speech, a video presentation provided historical context about the field and showcased its current status with the commencement of production. This was followed by remarks from DCEO Exploration & Drilling Khaled Al-Mulla, who spoke about the significance of this achievement.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of commemorative gifts to Minister Al-Roumi, the CEO of KPC, and the CEO of SLB.

It is worth noting that commercial production at Mutriba Field officially began on June 15, 2025, after the successful connection of several wells to the Company's production facilities. The field is located in an undeveloped area lacking infrastructure in northwest Kuwait and spans more than 230 square kilometers.

Historical Overview of the Field

- 1957: Initial exploration efforts began in the Mutriba area, with several exploratory wells drilled based on 2D seismic data, targeting Cretaceous formations.
- 2003: Acquisition of 3D seismic data enabled a major exploration campaign targeting Jurassic and Triassic reservoirs between 2000-2014 that included drilling several wells. Non-associated gas was discovered in the Triassic formations in well MU-0012.
- 2015-2021: A new campaign was launched, focused on Cretaceous reservoirs, leading to several additional wells and commercial oil discoveries.
- 2022-2023: Drilling of the first high-inclination directional well, MU-0029, targeting the Marrat reservoir. Initial production exceeded 3,750 barrels per day, using multi-stage completion technology to boost output.
- February 2024: Completion of a high-resolution Full Azimuth 3D seismic survey; data processing is currently underway.
- 2024-2025: Launch of the first-of-its-kind in KOC, Integrated Project Management (IPM) contract tender for the Mutriba Field. This initiative aims to accelerate production through a comprehensive study that includes economic feasibility evaluation, well planning, and long-term sustainability strategies.

Significance of the Achievement

To learn more about this impressive milestone, the Kuwaiti Digest had the pleasure of meeting with Deputy CEO of Exploration & Drilling at KOC, Khaled Al-Mulla, whose valuable insights are provided below:

The commencement of commercial production at the Mutriba Field represents the culmination of over two decades of intensive technical, exploratory, and developmental efforts. It stands as a successful model for developing complex, multi-reservoir fields in remote, underdeveloped areas. This accomplishment reinforces KOC's commitment to enhancing exploration efficiency and maximizing value from unconventional fields, in alignment with its 2040 Vision to ensure Kuwait's sustainable production capacity.

The launch of commercial production from the Mutriba Field on June 15, 2025, represents a landmark achievement for KOC. Once viewed as one of Kuwait's most technically challenging frontiers, Mutriba has now been transformed into a producing asset; an accomplishment that reflects the Company's vision, persistence, and ability to turn obstacles into opportunities.

This milestone coincides with a pivotal phase for KOC, as the Company recently embarked on a comprehensive organizational transformation aimed at enhancing efficiency and sharpening strategic focus. A key outcome of this restructuring was the establishment of the New Ventures Group, created to accelerate the journey from exploration to production in unconventional and complex reservoirs. Mutriba stands as the first major success of this initiative, proving that empowered teams, working with clarity of purpose, can accelerate delivery, mitigate risks, and maximize value for Kuwait.

Located in a remote and undeveloped area of northwest Kuwait, Mutriba spans more than 230 square kilometers beyond the Company's existing operational footprint. The field's commercial potential was first confirmed in 2009, when light oil was discovered in the Marrat

Jurassic reservoir through well MU-0012, which demonstrated sustainable flows of oil and gas.

Exploration activity in Mutriba dates back to 1957, with early wells drilled into Cretaceous formations based on 2D seismic surveys. Between 2000 and 2014, advances in 3D seismic enabled more extensive exploration of Jurassic and Triassic reservoirs, including the discovery of non-associated gas in the Triassic through well MU-0012. From 2015 to 2021, exploration of Cretaceous formations added several new commercial oil finds.

In 2022-2023, the Company drilled its first high-angle directional well, MU-0029, in the Marrat reservoir. Using advanced multistage completion technology, the well achieved an initial output of more than 3,750 barrels per day. This was followed by a high-resolution Full Azimuth 3D seismic survey in early 2024, with data currently under interpretation.

Between 2024 and 2025, KOC floated its first-ever Integrated Project Management (IPM) contract for Mutriba, an unprecedented initiative in the Company's history. Still in the bidding stage, this contract is designed to accelerate field development by assessing economic feasibility, refining drilling strategies, and ensuring sustainable long-term production.

Mutriba is distinguished not only by the quality of its light crude but also by its unusually high hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) content, reaching up to 40% a rarity worldwide. These conditions present unique operational challenges requiring specialized technologies and advanced safety measures.

To overcome them, KOC deployed state-of-the-art multiphase pumps to raise hydrocarbon pressure and enable transportation to the nearest Jurassic production facilities in North Kuwait. Complementing this, the Company built long-distance pipelines stretching 50 to 70 kilometers, using high-grade corrosion-resistant materials engineered to withstand extreme sour service and ensure long-term reliability.

Additionally, KOC commissioned the Mutriba Long-Term Testing Facility (MLTTF) in northwest Kuwait, with a nameplate capacity of around 5,000 barrels of oil per day and 5 million standard cubic feet of gas per day. Following the facility commissioning, production maximized and stabilized at approximately 5,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 7 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

This achievement serves as a pioneering example of how remote and geologically complex multi-reservoir fields can be successfully developed. It reinforces KOC's commitment to its 2040 Strategic Vision, which seeks to secure sustainable production capacity while safeguarding Kuwait's energy future.

The added value of this milestone is multifaceted. It initiated Mutriba's first oil production since its 2009 discovery, opening reserves left untapped for over a decade. It also laid a solid foundation for the upcoming IPM contract by generating essential reservoir and surface data that will guide future development.

Operationally, production was achieved with zero flaring, aligning with KOC's environmental sustainability commitments. A revised operational strategy further enabled simultaneous testing and production, overcoming pressure differentials and system constraints. Finally, the project validated the use of extended flowlines up to 70 km proving the feasibility of long-distance tie-ins in remote areas.

In conclusion, this milestone represents the initial production from the Mutriba Field, with future output expected to range between 80,000 and 120,000 barrels of oil per day, in addition to approximately 150 million standard cubic feet of gas.

CEO's Speech at the Ceremony Marking the Start of Production from the Mutriba Field

It gives me great pleasure and honor to join you at this event through which we celebrate a new achievement added to the many accomplishments our Company has attained across various fields. This time, it is in the core area of our operations: the exploration and production of oil and gas.

Since the discovery of the Mutriba Field in 2009, initial estimates indicated it was indeed a promising field, with an expected initial production capacity of approximately 80,000 barrels per day of light crude oil and 110 million cubic feet of gas per day. This marked an excellent starting point.

However, the development of this field came with many challenges that required appropriate responses. This is where the efforts of our Company's employees at all levels, leadership and technical, came into play. These employees, whom we consider our most valuable asset, exerted tremendous efforts from the very beginning to move forward with the development of this field and to reach the moment we are celebrating today.

Given the high level of competence across our departments, particularly the New Venture Group, the Fields Development Group (North Kuwait), and the Production & Projects (Gas) Group, all of which collaborated extensively throughout the development process and deserve our sincere appreciation, it was equally crucial to select the right partner.

Naturally, based on our long and successful history together, we chose SLB. I can say with full confidence that it was the right decision, clearly reflected in the outstanding results we are celebrating today.

Through full and ongoing cooperation between our two companies, we have successfully navigated the challenges, brought the field to safety, and started actual production of both oil and gas. This field now joins more than ten currently producing fields and contributes to meeting the needs of both Kuwait and the global market. Notably, it produces light crude oil, a product in high demand globally.

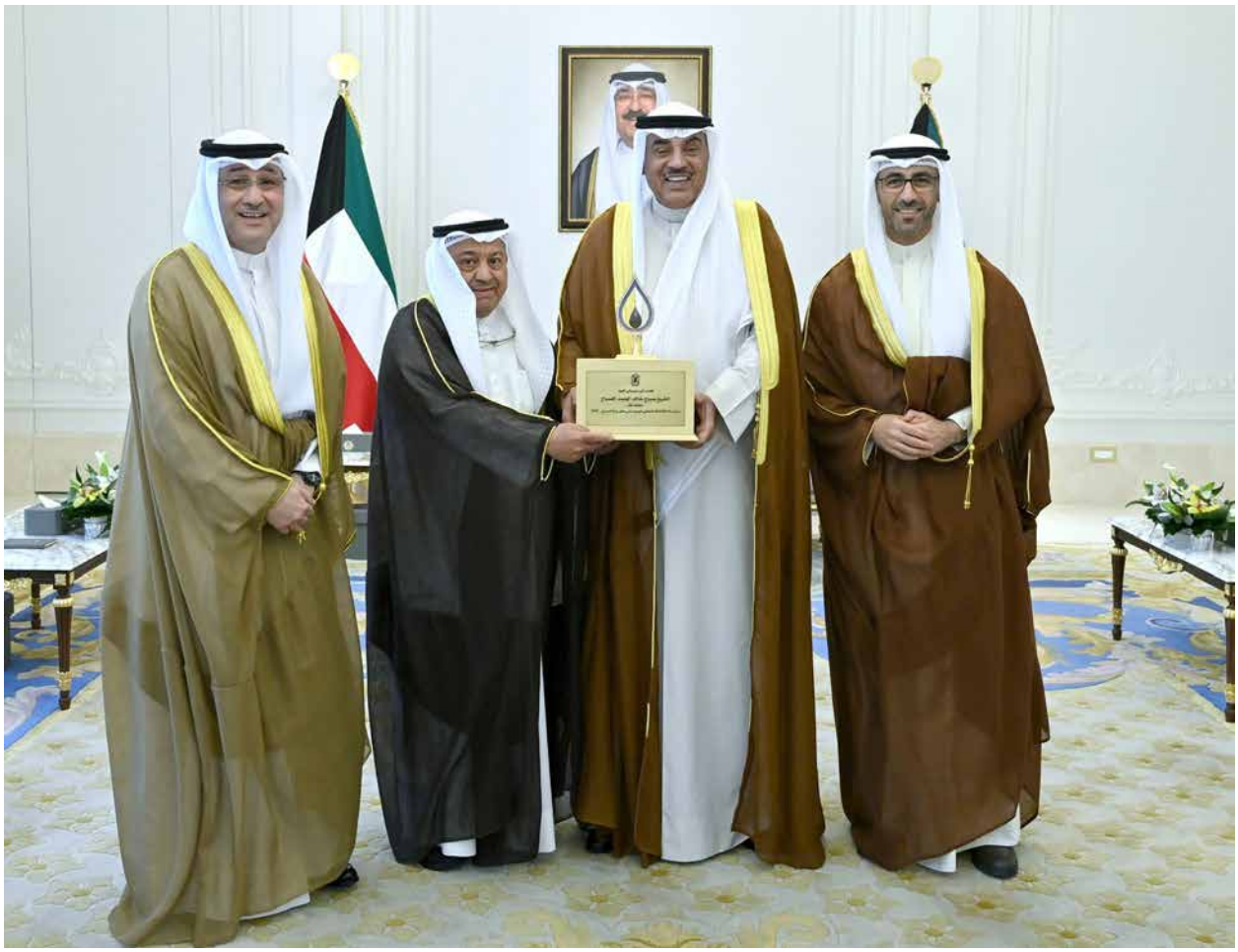
Meanwhile, gas is increasingly representing the future of energy, especially in supporting efforts to expand electricity generation capacity in Kuwait.

Given that such a successful partnership always brings about beneficial solutions, the field was developed using an innovative and pioneering solution, the Integrated Project Management (IPM) model, which was applied for the first time in our Company.

I would like to commend the efforts made by the various departments in our Company in collaboration with SLB. These efforts included holding regular meetings and workshops, preparing long-term well productivity testing plans, and striving to obtain actual reservoir data, which enabled us to conduct new studies in the area and identify the necessary requirements to optimize production capacity.

My thanks also go to all the officials in the departments under the North & West Kuwait Directorate, as well as to our partners at SLB. Today, we celebrate together the outstanding results of this effort, which we hope will continue to yield success in the future. At Kuwait Oil Company, we believe in the capabilities of our human resources and the expertise they have gained over time. That is why I am fully confident that we will soon gather again to celebrate further achievements, whether in the Mutriba Field or in other fields and areas of operations.

Discovery of the Jazah Offshore Gas Field – The Highest-Producing in Kuwait's History from the Managuish Formation – A New Strategic Milestone in Offshore Hydrocarbon Exploration



In another milestone achievement, KOC has announced the Jazah Offshore Gas Field discovery, which has recorded the highest production rates from a vertical well in Kuwait's history from the Managuish Formation, as part of its ongoing efforts to explore hydrocarbon resources in Kuwait's offshore region.

This achievement crowns a series of consecutive successes in exploring and developing the hydrocarbon potential of Kuwait's offshore areas, including the discoveries of the Al-Nokhatha Offshore Field in July 2024 and the Julaia Offshore Field in January 2025.

The Jazah-1 well achieved the highest production rate for a vertical well in Kuwait's 90-year history of oil and gas exploration and production from the Managuish Formation. Initial test results from Jazah-1 indicated exceptional gas production rates exceeding 29 million cubic feet per day and more than 5,000 barrels per day of condensates. This discovery is notable for its low carbon dioxide levels, absence of hydrogen sulfide, and lack of associated water production.

The estimated area of the Jazah Offshore Field is approximately 40 square kilometers, with preliminary estimates suggesting

Wells Preparation for Production

Original Gas in Place (OGIP) of about 976 billion cubic feet and 122 million barrels of condensates, equivalent to 347 million Barrels of Oil Equivalent (BOE).

KOC emphasized that these figures are preliminary and that the hydrocarbon reserves could increase with further exploration of multiple formations and reservoirs within the newly discovered field.

This discovery holds major economic significance, as Kuwait's offshore region is considered a cornerstone of KPC's and KOC's 2040 Strategy, which aims to increase production and enhance national energy security. Efforts are currently underway to develop and bring newly discovered offshore fields into production as quickly as possible, boosting economic growth by increasing output and creating new job opportunities for national talent in the offshore oil and gas sector.

In a new strategic step, KOC has recently begun drilling in deep Jurassic reservoirs in Kuwait's offshore area, including the Julaia-3 and Ragwa-3 wells—the first offshore Jurassic exploration wells in Kuwait—under an ambitious plan to discover new Jurassic-age hydrocarbon resources.

Additionally, KOC is preparing for the second phase of its offshore exploration campaign, marking a critical step following the near completion of the first phase. This next phase includes plans to drill 18 exploratory and appraisal wells in the offshore area and the Kuwait Bay region, alongside a 3D seismic survey project covering more than 6,000 square kilometers of offshore territory.

The project aims to provide high-resolution geophysical and geological data, enabling more accurate identification of exploratory hydrocarbon reservoirs and accelerating field development and production.

Flare Area

With the discovery of the Jazah Offshore Field, Kuwait's offshore exploration success rate has reached 100%—an unprecedented global achievement—reflecting the high efficiency of national expertise and the effective investment in human capital development. These accomplishments reaffirm KOC's steadfast commitment to sustainable economic development, enhancing national workforce capabilities, and strengthening collaboration with government entities and local and international partners. Together, these efforts position Kuwait as a reliable global energy producer, in line with a long-term strategic vision to bolster the national economy and ensure a sustainable energy future.

KOC also expressed its gratitude for the continuous support of the country's leadership and the KPC executive management, and commended the exceptional efforts of the national workforce that contributed to these promising discoveries, which will help build a bright and prosperous future for Kuwait.

In recognition of these achievements, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, received H.E. Minister of Oil Tariq Suleiman Al-Roumi, accompanied by KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Nasser Saud Al-Sabah and KOC CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan.

During the reception, His Highness was briefed on the newly achieved offshore discovery in the Jazah Field, the third discovery realized under the Offshore Exploration Project.

His Highness the Amir expressed his happiness with this accomplishment, describing it as a national milestone, and praised the efforts of Kuwaiti oil sector employees, particularly in KOC, for their continued achievements in the service of Kuwait and its people.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, received Minister Al-Roumi, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah, and CEO Ahmad Al-Eidan, who presented them with the details of the new oil and gas discovery.

Pioneering the Future: The KOC AI Innovation Center

Established in collaboration with Microsoft and Halliburton, and supported by the KDIPA

A Bold Step Forward

KOC's leadership knows no boundaries, as it marches on a continuous path of ongoing brilliance and innovation. In fact, the Company never ceases to impress with what it can achieve in its journey to cement its position as a pioneering company shaping the future.

Several years ago, KOC boldly embarked on a journey toward digital transformation. Today, after achieving numerous milestones, it can be said that the Company has far surpassed all expectations, serving as an inspiring example for others as it maintains its lead in this field.

This brings us to the launch of KOC's Artificial Intelligence Innovation Center, a pioneering step and a qualitative leap in digital transformation, marking an unprecedented advancement on the local level. The Center will serve the oil sector locally and regionally, placing Kuwait on the global AI map in the energy world. It will do so by innovating and launching homegrown technologies, while also enhancing and refining young talent in this field.

Following the high-profile inauguration of the center, attended by global experts and specialists, The Kuwaiti Digest details a full picture of the event — from the opening ceremony to an in-depth look at the features of this pioneering center.

Launch Ceremony

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Oil, Tarek Suleiman Al-Roumi, and in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of State for Communication Affairs, Omar Saud Al-Omar, KOC, in collaboration with Microsoft and Halliburton, inaugurated its Artificial Intelligence Innovation Center (AIIC). This represents a significant step in the digital transformation of the Company's operational processes.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the Company's Office Complex in Ahmadi, with the attendance of KPC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, the Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in addition to KOC's CEO, Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, and a number of senior officials from the Company and the oil sector, along with representatives from Microsoft and Halliburton.

The ceremony included speeches by Ministers Al-Roumi and

Al-Omar, KPC's CEO, KOC's CEO, and President for Microsoft Middle East and Africa (MEA) Naim Yazbeck. They highlighted the significance of this collaboration and its role in enhancing the digital transformation of Kuwait's energy sector.

A live demonstration was also given of the Agentic AI project for drilling rig scheduling, which is a breakthrough in real-time data analytics and proactive solutions to enhance operational efficiency and support Kuwait's 2035 Vision.

The Center, which is supported by KDIPA, aims to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence technologies within the Company. This will contribute to improving operational efficiency, reducing costs, enhancing productivity, and ensuring the quality and speed of decision-making through investment in the latest innovative digital solutions. This reflects KOC's position as a leading entity in the development of the national energy sector, as well as its commitment to staying aligned with the latest global technological trends.

CEO Remarks

During the launch event, KOC's CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan delivered a speech in which he expressed pride in this strategic milestone, calling it a tangible embodiment of Kuwait's vision for digital transformation and innovation in the energy sector.

Al-Eidan highlighted that KOC recognized early on the value of investing in modern technologies. Today, it is reaping the rewards of that foresight through its strategic partnership with Microsoft. It's a complete innovation network combining KOC's local expertise with Microsoft's global best practices.

He noted that the partnership has already yielded tangible outcomes, including smarter oil wells that rely on real-time data analytics, more accurate production forecasting to support better decision-making, and most notably, a smart platform for scheduling drilling operations using AI. This has led to increased production and reduced downtime.

Al-Eidan stated that the AI Innovation Center will lay the foundation for Kuwait's energy future in the decades ahead. He reaffirmed KOC's commitment to investing in national talents and empowering Kuwaiti youth to lead the transformation in AI and energy.

He also thanked the Minister of Oil for his continuous support, the Microsoft team for their effective collaboration, and all who contributed to this achievement, affirming:

"Together, we will lead the digital transformation and shape the future."

Key Statements

H.E. Minister of Oil, Tariq Suleiman Al-Roumi, said during the event that the AIIC is part of KPC's broader strategy for digital transformation in energy. He added that there is an intention to integrate AI into oilfield pro-

duction not just to increase output, but to improve operational performance and reduce costs.

H.E. the Minister of State for Communication Affairs, Omar Saud Al-Omar, said the Center represents a tangible result of Kuwait's strategic partnership with Microsoft. He noted that the center will deploy advanced technology to enhance KOC operations, especially by using AI in daily technical tasks that save time, effort, and costs. He expressed hope that this cooperation will extend across all government sectors.

Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, CEO of KPC, stated that the Center will help reduce the time required to drill a single well and improve drilling efficiency. However, he also stressed that human intelligence is still indispensable despite the speed and accuracy of AI, and that AI is simply a tool to supplement human skill and intelligence.

He also mentioned that Kuwait currently produces 2.548 million barrels per day, as per OPEC+ quotas, with a target production capacity of 4 million barrels per day by 2035.

A Historic Milestone for Microsoft

President for Microsoft Middle East and Africa (MEA) Naim Yazbeck described the opening of the Center as a historic event and a turning point in Kuwait's journey toward a knowledge-based economy. He praised Kuwait's strategic vision in establishing itself as a regional innovation and technology hub.

Yazbeck also announced Microsoft's recent strategic expansion in Kuwait, highlighting his company's strong belief in the country's potential and its commitment to supporting its full digital transformation.

He added that the Center is not just a training facility, but a comprehensive platform to shape the future, enhance operational excellence, embed sustainability practices, and empower national talents to lead from within the sector.

He noted that the partnership is based on three pillars:

1. Empowering national talent
2. Co-innovation
3. 3. Enhancing operational efficiency

He also added that a sustainable digital future starts with investing in the human element. Microsoft is committed to developing a new generation of engineers, analysts, and experts equipped with the technical and cognitive tools to drive transformation.

Yazbeck concluded:

"AI is not just a technology; it's a strategic tool to reshape the future and build a thriving knowledge economy that keeps people at its core and strengthens the competitiveness of key sectors."

Center Features

The AI Innovation Center, supported by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, aims to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence at KOC. This will:

- Boost operational efficiency
- Reduce costs
- Improve productivity
- Ensure faster and better decision-making using the latest digital solutions

This reaffirms KOC's leadership in energy sector innovation and its commitment to global technological trends.

The Center is one of the main results of the fruitful KOC-Microsoft collaboration. It enables the Company to leverage advanced analytics and AI to enhance decision-making, integrate operational systems, and create seamless links between operations, projects, and data.

The Center, overseen by KOC's South & East Kuwait Directorate, marks a new phase of digital transformation in Kuwait. It results from a strategic partnership with two global leaders: Microsoft and Halliburton.

The platform (G Agent) is one of the key fruits of this partnership. It uses AI to optimize drilling rig resource management, integrate systems, and enable real-time data analysis — all of which enhance operational efficiency and accelerate decision-making.

Another flagship outcome is the Agentic AI drilling rig scheduling project, which has improved productivity, planning, and operational quality. It represents a major leap in real-time operational data management and offers proactive solutions that support Kuwait Vision 2035.

This is the first strategic initiative of its kind between Kuwait and Microsoft and the first AI center of its kind in Kuwait. It is dedicated to training national talent on the latest technologies and applying them to daily operations, making implementation smoother and more efficient.

As a true innovation hub, the Center will keep pace with global tech developments, guide innovation processes, and help launch new technologies from Kuwait to the world; serving not just the oil sector, but other industries as well.

Ghaia AI will act as Microsoft's agent for technology programs and training management at the Center. This partnership will serve as a turning point for KOC's digital leadership not only in Kuwait, but across the entire region.

The project is led by:

- CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan
- DCEO South & East Kuwait, Fuad Al-Shaikh
- Project Supervisor: Manager Fields Development Group (S&EK) Abdullah Al-Rabah
- Operational Lead: TL Integration Excellence (S&EK) Hussain Shuber

Strategic Partnership Agreement with Microsoft

The AI Innovation Center is one of the flagship projects under the strategic partnership agreement between the Kuwaiti Government and Microsoft.

The agreement was signed in March 2025, and is part of a comprehensive framework to leverage the latest technologies and cloud services — including Azure, Microsoft product licenses, and technical support services — to develop a secure and advanced digital infrastructure that fosters innovation and accelerates smart government services.

The goal is to support digital transformation across government entities, boost efficiency, and encourage the use of AI in daily government operations, in line with Kuwait's vision for an advanced digital government.

The agreement will raise the digital maturity of government entities, benefiting Kuwait through:

- AI systems for operational tasks
- Cloud computing systems
- Licensing framework for Microsoft technologies
- Copilot for Office 365
- Zero Trust cybersecurity initiatives
- Azure cloud agreements
- Unified technical support for secure migration to Microsoft Cloud

KOC Hosts Third Season of the Sustainability Camp

With the participation of 125 children who produced various innovative and pioneering projects

The concept of sustainability, though more prominent today, is not entirely new. At its core, sustainability is about ensuring stability, security, and the responsible use of resources that support life itself. This aligns with the ultimate goal we all share: a better, longer life. As such, sustainability has evolved beyond a mere slogan to become a guiding principle for how we live, fostering a safer, more resilient future for both current and future generations.

Countries, communities, and institutions worldwide have made significant strides in embracing sustainability as a key driver of progress. KOC is no exception, and has been at the forefront of Sustainable Development efforts. The Company actively aligns itself with initiatives that promote sustainability, not just through cooperation, but by offering comprehensive support. This includes hosting events like the third season of the Sustainability Camp and working closely with partners to ensure its success. A key factor in the camp's achievements was the strong, strategic partnership between the Company and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the organization responsible for the initiative.

Spanning five weeks, the Sustainability Camp featured a series of impactful activities and events, culminating in pioneering projects that stand as tangible milestones in the pursuit of Sustainable Development.

Launch Event

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and with the attendance of DCEO Planning & Innovation at KOC, Mohammed Al-Abduljaleel, the Company hosted the launch ceremony of the third season of the Sustainability Camp, under the theme "Towards a Sustainable Kuwait."

The ceremony was attended by several representatives from diplomatic missions in Kuwait, as well

as officials from both the public and private sectors, including Head of Mission of UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) to GCC and Kuwait, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan. Also present was Manager Public Relations & Information Group at KOC, Mohammed Al-Basry.

Parents of approximately 120 children participating in this season were also in attendance. The children took part in various awareness activities, specialized tests, and worked on projects in three main fields: engineering, medicine, and law.

During the ceremony, Fatima Ashkanani, founder of the volunteer group (Enviro), which manages and organizes the camp in cooperation with KOC, delivered her remarks. Notably, this volunteer group is one of the initiatives of UN Habitat. Ashkanani praised the Company's strong support for this important event, which empowers the next generation.

The launch featured several activities, including learning about waste and how to sort it, a video presentation to introduce the camp's goals, an awareness-raising play, and an explanation about the projects and their requirements.

Closing Ceremony

Under the patronage and with the attendance of His Excellency the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Al Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KOC hosted the closing ceremony of the Third Season of the Sustainability Camp.

The event, held at the KOC Tent in Ahmadi, was also attended by several ambassadors and prominent personalities, namely Head of Mission of UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) to GCC and Kuwait Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, and Manager Public Relations & Information Group at KOC Mohammad Al Basry, who represented the Company in this event, along with all participating children and their parents.

The ceremony opened with a speech from His Excellency the Governor, who thanked KOC for hosting the event and for its ongoing support, as well as Dr. Al-Hassan and Enviro group and all volunteers for their sincere efforts.

Sheikh Humoud Al Sabah also reflected on the lessons learned through the camp, and the importance of cooperation and teamwork, stating that the camp was held in a safe and motivational environment that allowed the students to thrive.

For her part, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan thanked both the Governor and KOC, represented by Al-Basry, as well as Enviro group for their guidance with the children, including those with special needs. She also praised KOC for its sincere efforts throughout the duration of the camp, stressing that this event is a culmination of the successful five-week program. She also thanked all parents for their trust.

In turn, Al-Basry thanked the Governor, Dr. Al-Hassan, and the parents for supporting the camp, expressing that this camp represented hope for a more sustainable future, which is a shared responsibility and a way of living, and beyond a mere slogan. He also thanked all volunteers, stating that KOC has learned from them, and reaffirmed that the Company is always happy to support all that serves the benefit of Kuwait.

The speeches were followed by an honoring segment for all sponsors, partners in success, Enviro Group, and KOC employees involved in the organization and coordination of the camp, and all 125 participating children.

Following the honoring session, the exhibition was officially inaugurated, with booths from the

Ministry of Interior's Environmental Police, a lawyer's office, various sustainability groups, NGOs, medical companies, and all participating projects in the fields of Engineering, Medicine, and Law, which were: Flying Car Project, ASG Explorer, Sustainable Mosque Project, Al-Ahmadi Port Project, Burgan Oil Field Project, Al Zour Station Project, Robotic Medical Car, Sustainable Hospital Project, the Kuwaiti House Project, Bedouin Tent Project, Ahmadi Cinema Project, and Water Towers Project.

The officials toured the exhibition and learned about each project in detail, noting that all projects are directly involved in advancing Kuwait's sustainability goals.

These impressive projects are outlined below.

The "Sustainable Al Ahmadi Cinema"

This project was designed to showcase Kuwait's traditional landmarks. It was created by Kuwaiti youth and implemented with the help of children participating in the camp. The project utilizes renewable energy sources, namely wind power and kinetic energy, in addition to incorporating recycled materials.

Objectives:

• Empower the Next Generation: Engage young talents in every stage of design and execution, fostering creativity and innovation.

• Environmental Sustainability: Reduce carbon footprint through eco-friendly materials and clean energy systems.

• Promote Culture & Awareness: Host local and international film screenings and conduct educational workshops on sustainability.

• Interactive Architectural Renewal: Present design that balances heritage aesthetics with cutting-edge technology.

• Set a Scalable Urban Example: Create a replicable model for sustainable development in local communities.

The Water Towers Project

This is an initiative aimed at designing and constructing water towers using fully recycled materials, with the goal of minimizing environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices. These towers utilize advanced technologies to conserve and efficiently distribute water, while reducing energy consumption and employing renewable resources in their operation.

The project also seeks to instill the concept of water towers among participating students by teaching them about water pressure, its relationship to height, and demonstrating the practical role of water towers in supplying homes and residential areas with water.

Objectives:

• Protecting the environment by reducing waste and reusing materials.

• Promoting the sustainability of water resources.

• Providing innovative and eco-friendly solutions in the water sector.

• Reducing the carbon footprint of water storage and transportation operations.

• Raising awareness about the importance of sustainability in infrastructure.

The Bedouin Tent Project

The Sustainable "Bayt al-sha'ar" (the house of hair) Tent is a cultural initiative aimed at preserving the rich legacy of Arabic poetry while presenting it in a modern format that aligns with environmental and cultural sustainability. The tent blends the spirit of tradition with contem-

porary creativity, hosting events inside eco-friendly, recyclable tents powered by clean energy.

Objectives:

- Preserve and promote Arabic poetic heritage among younger generations.
- Integrate culture with sustainability through the use of environmentally friendly event materials.
- Support and empower emerging poets to express their cultural identity.
- Host regular poetry events that foster intergenerational cultural dialogue.
- Raise awareness about sustainability in all aspects of life, including arts and literature.

The Kuwaiti House Project

Made from recycled materials, the Kuwaiti House is an innovative initiative aimed at reviving traditional Kuwaiti heritage in a modern and sustainable manner. The project involves constructing a model of a traditional Kuwaiti house using recycled materials such as wood, metal, plastic, and compressed paper. It merges Kuwaiti cultural identity with environmental sustainability in the face of current climate and environmental challenges.

Objectives:

- Revive Kuwaiti heritage through a modern, eco-friendly lens.
- Promote a culture of sustainability in architecture and design.
- Encourage recycling as a practical and creative solution to waste.
- Empower students and youth to engage in hands-on environmental projects.
- Raise awareness about the importance of environmental preservation.
- Showcase the house model in exhibitions or environmental events as a symbol of positive change.

The Robotic Medical Car

RMC is a self-driving, autonomous medical vehicle designed to provide healthcare services for non-urgent cases and mild emergencies. The vehicle can be requested via a mobile application, allowing it to reach the patient's location and deliver essential medical check-ups right at their doorstep, eliminating the need to visit hospitals for basic services.

Technical Features:

- Operates using Micro:bit technology to control both the vehicle’s movement and medical examination functions.
- Runs on 12V electrical power, making it both safe and energy-efficient.
- Powered by solar energy generators, ensuring energy independence and reduced carbon emissions.
- Equipped with a self-sterilization mechanism after each

use to prevent the spread of infections.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Elderly individuals and people with disabilities.
- Residents in densely populated areas or regions with limited healthcare infrastructure.
- Patients with chronic conditions who require regular monitoring without frequent hospital visits.

Al-Zour Station project

This project is an innovative example of sustainable infrastructure. It was built using recycled materials to reduce the carbon footprint and conserve natural resources. The station operates entirely on sustainable energy sources. A bicycle is used to power 12-volt motors, and it is also used to operate the distillation unit for water purification at the station.

Objectives:

- Promote the use of recycled materials in large-scale projects.
- Lower carbon emissions.
- Support the circular economy and sustainable environmental practices.
- Provide clean and stable energy to the local community.

The Sustainable Burgan Field Project

This is an innovative environmental initiative aimed at developing a miniature model of the Burgan oil field using recycled materials such as plastic, paper, and metal. The model is fully powered by sustainable energy, specifically wind energy.

The project also aims to educate participating students on how oil is extracted from beneath the earth and its lower layers, emphasizing the importance of pressure in the process. This is demonstrated in a sustainable manner using kinetic energy, promoting environmental awareness and encouraging innovative solutions in the field of energy.

Objectives:

- Environmental Awareness: Promote awareness about recycling and clean energy use.
- Realistic Simulation: Provide an educational model that simulates oil field operations in an eco-friendly way.
- Encourage Innovation: Inspire students and communities to adopt sustainable technologies.
- Carbon Footprint Reduction: Offer environmentally friendly alternatives in engineering projects.

The Sustainable Mosque Project

This is an initiative that combines traditional Islamic architectural design with modern technology

to reduce electricity and water consumption within the mosque. The mosque was constructed using recycled materials, and Micro:bit technology was implemented to operate the mosque using smart programming systems that align with modern advancements.

The project includes smart sensors that detect peak times and periods when the mosque is empty, allowing lights and electrical systems to automatically shut off when not in use. Additionally, sensors were installed in the ablution (wudu) areas to reuse water for irrigating plants outside the mosque.

In this way, the project successfully achieves the three pillars of sustainability: recycling, reuse, and reduced consumption.

Objectives:

1. Integrate traditional Islamic architecture with modern technology to create a balance between cultural identity and technological advancement in mosque design.
2. Reduce electricity and water consumption within the mosque through the use of smart systems powered by sensors and automated control technologies.
3. Promote environmental sustainability in religious facilities by using recycled materials and reusing natural resources, such as repurposing ablution water for irrigation.
4. Raise environmental and technological awareness within the community by presenting a practical model that demonstrates how sustainability can be applied in places of worship and daily life.
5. Provide an energy-efficient smart environment utilizing Micro:bit technology to operate systems efficiently and sustainably through programming.
6. Encourage innovation among students and participants by applying modern coding and tech solutions in real-world scenarios, fostering creative thinking in sustainability and technology.

The Al-Ahmadi Port Project

This is an innovative development that relies on recycled materials in its construction and operates according to sustainability principles. The project aims to reduce environmental impact by using a sustainable extractor that captures carbon dioxide emissions from the factory. It also utilizes wind energy and kinetic energy generated from bicycle wheels to power the port, serving as a model for green infrastructure and environmental preservation.

Objectives:

- Use recycled construction materials to minimize waste.
- Rely on renewable energy to operate the port.
- Reduce the project's carbon footprint.
- Support economic growth while protecting the environment.
- Provide a model for sustainable maritime projects.

ASG Explorer Project

ASG Explorer is an innovative project featuring a self-operating lunar rover designed to search for water sources on the Moon with the long-term goal of enabling human life beyond Earth. The vehicle collects lunar ice from various regions and transports it to a space-based water distillation station, where it is purified and used to irrigate plants, contributing to the production of oxygen essential for sustaining life.

- How It Works:
- Collects lunar water (in the form of ice) using precise sensors.
- Transfers the collected water to a space distillation station for purification.
- Uses the purified water to irrigate plants, which release oxygen to support life.
- The station operates using solar energy, making it fully sustainable.
- The rover uses wireless self-charging technology when unloading water, allowing it to continue exploring without human intervention.
- Technical Features:
- Uses Micro:bit technology to control and activate sensors for both the rover and the station.
- The rover operates on 9V, while the station runs on 12V.
- Powered by solar panel generators to promote sustainability.

- Key scientific considerations include:
- Moon's gravity
- Lunar surface temperature
- Pressure levels needed to melt ice

Scientific Dimensions:

- Chemical: Purifying water from impurities.
- Physical: Studying the effects of gravity, temperature, and pressure on biological and chemical processes.
- Environmental: Applying sustainability principles in an extraterrestrial environment.
- Paving the way for living on the Moon by utilizing local natural resources.
- Promoting sustainability in space through the use of solar energy and lunar water.
- Supporting space agriculture as a source of food and oxygen for future human settlements.

The Flying Car Project

This is an innovative idea that combines programming technology with renewable energy. The project operates using Arduino technology and relies primarily on solar energy to power it.

The design features a car model that moves on the ground, and upon reaching the runway, the car's roof automatically opens, releasing a small plane that takes off from the runway, highlighting the interactive and smart aspect of the project.

The model is made using recycled plastic, aiming to promote the concept of sustainability and reduce environmental impact, alongside utilizing solar energy to power the project components.

This project aims to present an educational and practical model that demonstrates how to integrate programming, renewable energy, and recycling in a smart futuristic design.

Objectives of the Flying Car Project:

1. Develop a practical model integrating Arduino technology with solar energy to achieve high energy efficiency.
2. Promote environmental sustainability by using recycled materials and renewable energy technologies in the design.
3. Demonstrate how ground and air transportation can be combined into one innovative and smart system.
4. Encourage hands-on and practical learning in programming, engineering, and renewable energy fields.
5. Stimulate innovation and creativity by designing a project that uses modern technologies to address future transportation challenges.
6. Reduce carbon emissions by utilizing solar energy instead of fossil fuels.
7. Enhance participants' skills in programming and automated control using the Arduino platform.

KOC Hosts Launch Ceremony of the Sustainable Kuwaiti Ship "Al-Boom"

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, KOC hosted the launch ceremony of the sustainable Kuwaiti ship "Al-Boom," as part of the activities of the Sustainability Camp in its third season.

The ceremony was attended by the Head of Mission of UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) to GCC and Kuwait Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, along with Manager Public Relations & Information Group at KOC Mohammad Al-Basry, and TL Information Bedor Sayed Omar.

The scientific team Enviro, affiliated with the UN program, organized the event, which witnessed the launch and operation of the sustainable Kuwaiti ship "Al-Boom." The ship carries an educational and creative dimension, as its operation method was developed using a modern electrical system powered by energy generated from bicycles. This is a local innovation implemented by Enviro, aiming to highlight the potential of clean energy and the importance of environmental awareness among the new generation.

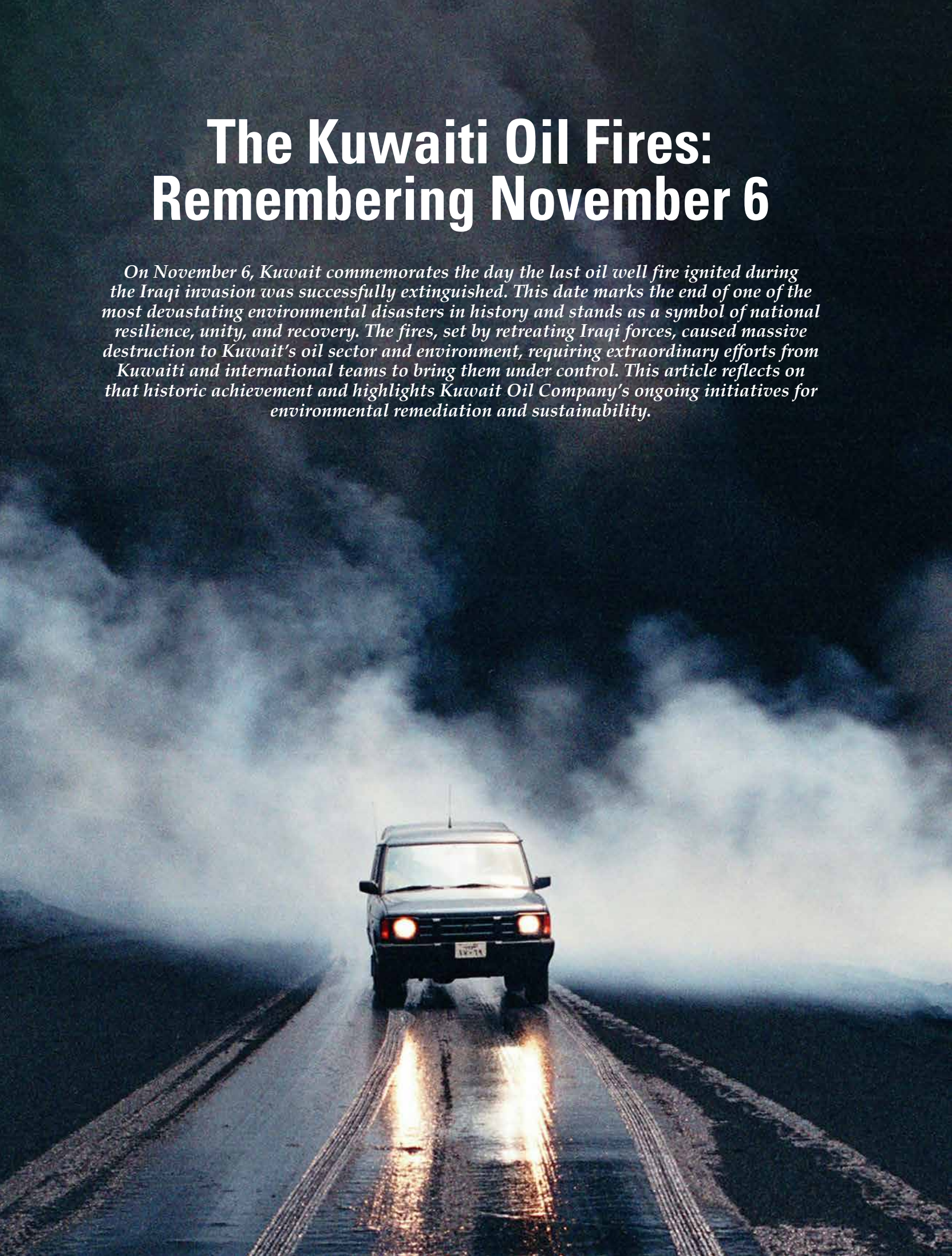
The project involved 125 children, including 20 with special needs, in an engaging activity that combined community integration, teamwork, and innovation, as they assembled and operated the ship themselves within a stimulating educational environment.

This initiative came as part of a series of activities and workshops aimed at promoting sustainability concepts and the circular economy among children, in line with the New Kuwait 2035 Vision as well as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The event saw a notable presence of representatives from official bodies, embassies, environmental organizations, public figures, as well as many parties interested in environmental and educational matters.

The Kuwaiti Oil Fires: Remembering November 6

On November 6, Kuwait commemorates the day the last oil well fire ignited during the Iraqi invasion was successfully extinguished. This date marks the end of one of the most devastating environmental disasters in history and stands as a symbol of national resilience, unity, and recovery. The fires, set by retreating Iraqi forces, caused massive destruction to Kuwait's oil sector and environment, requiring extraordinary efforts from Kuwaiti and international teams to bring them under control. This article reflects on that historic achievement and highlights Kuwait Oil Company's ongoing initiatives for environmental remediation and sustainability.



The invasion, led by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, resulted in the Gulf War, lasting until the U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait in February 1991. The invasion caused:

- Human losses: Thousands were killed, including Kuwaitis and foreign nationals, with many taken hostage.
- Economic damage: Iraq devastated Kuwait's infrastructure and oil industry, setting fire to hundreds of oil wells and creating one of the worst environmental catastrophes in modern warfare.
- International response: The United Nations condemned the invasion, imposed sanctions, and authorized a multinational coalition to liberate Kuwait.

Although Kuwait was liberated in 1991, the scars of the invasion remained visible in the environment and national memory for years. November 6 now serves as a day of remembrance and pride, honoring the resilience of the Kuwaiti people and the success of one of the largest environmental recovery operations in history.

Background & Scale of Damage

As Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait in early 1991, they set more than 700 oil wells ablaze, causing catastrophic environmental and economic damage. Flames soared up to 100 meters high, reaching temperatures of over 1,100°C. Between 1 and 1.5 billion barrels of oil were lost or spilled, forming around 240 oil lakes that contained approximately 20 million barrels of crude oil.

Eight gathering centers were completely destroyed and ten more were partially damaged. Gas Booster Stations, such as Station 160 in Ras Al-Zour, sustained severe damage. Refineries like Mina Al-Ahmadi and Shuaiba were hit by explosives and fire, causing widespread destruction to control systems, distillation towers, hydrocracking units, and storage facilities.

The environmental consequences were enormous: thick plumes of smoke darkened the skies, drifting thousands of kilometers and affecting air quality across Asia. Landmines, solidified oil residue, and damaged wellheads posed further risks long after the fires were out.

Mobilizing a Global and National Effort

To confront this unprecedented disaster, Kuwait assembled a massive international coalition of more than 10,000 firefighters from ten countries, divided into 27 specialized teams. Among them, the Kuwait Wild Well Killers (formed on September 9, 1991) played a leading role. This team of engineers, firefighters, and support staff extinguished their first well in just 12 minutes and went on to put out 41 fires in only 53 days.

The first well to be extinguished was Ahmadi (49) on March 20, 1991, by the legendary Red Adair. The Kuwaiti government invested approximately USD 1.5 billion in firefighting and

environmental recovery, which was completed in an astonishing 240 days—far faster than the three years initially projected.

This extraordinary national triumph culminated on November 6, 1991, at the Burgan Oil Field, when the final burning well was extinguished in the presence of the late Amir H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The day came to symbolize Kuwait's recovery, resilience, and return to stability.

Post-Fire Recovery and Environmental Remediation

After the final fire was put out, focus shifted toward environmental rehabilitation and rebuilding Kuwait's oil infrastructure. KOC launched the "Al Awda" (The Return) project to restore damaged gathering centers, repair marine facilities, and recover crude oil from surface lakes.

Through these efforts, nearly 20 million barrels of oil were recovered and treated, preventing further ecological harm. The combined national and international cooperation demonstrated Kuwait's determination to rebuild stronger than before.

World's Largest Environmental Remediation Program

In 2010, Kuwait launched the Kuwait Environmental Remediation Program (KERP), the largest of its kind globally. This initiative brought together international and national organizations, including the UN Compensation Committee, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and several ministries.

KOC's Soil Remediation Group led efforts to cleanse millions of cubic meters of contaminated soil affected by oil fires, oil lakes, and tar deposits. These large-scale projects transformed devastated landscapes into revitalized ecosystems.

A Kuwaiti Diplomatic Victory

Kuwait's diplomatic efforts led the United Nations to designate November 6 as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. This recognition not only honors Kuwait's environmental recovery but also advocates for global awareness and peacebuilding.

Sustainable Development and the Path Forward

Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), KOC continues to champion environmental preservation and biodiversity restoration.

- SDG 14 – Life Below Water: KOC established a marine reserve to help restore marine balance after the Gulf War, focusing on coral reef restoration and marine life rehabilitation.
- SDG 15 – Life on Land: The Company also developed multiple nature reserves and oases, including the Al-Abdaliya Nature Reserve and Ahmadi Oasis, to enhance biodiversity and revive previously damaged ecosystems.

KOC's Nature Reserves and Oases

Kuwait Oil Company remains committed to environmental stewardship, having created a network of reserves and oases across Kuwait. These areas, once barren, are now thriving habitats supporting wildlife, plants, and community engagement.

Projects such as the Kuwait Oasis, Desert Spirit Oasis, Subaihiyah Oasis, Ahmadi Oasis, and Qurain Hill Nature Reserve demonstrate KOC's dedication to transforming war-torn landscapes into symbols of renewal. The Abdaliyah Nature Reserve, covering over one million square meters, now sustains tens of thousands of plants and numerous species of birds and reptiles.

These initiatives represent Kuwait's ongoing journey of recovery and sustainability, reminding the world that from devastation can rise resilience—and from ashes, renewal.

Celebration of Shut-in Wells Reactivation Project

The Exploration & Drilling Directorate conducted an honoring ceremony in recognition of the contributors to the success of the Shut-in Wells Reactivation Project, which achieved highly fruitful results.

The Deputy CEO of the Directorate, Khaled Al-Mulla, alongside Manager Technical Support Group Ali Al-Saleh, honored Team Leaders and employees from the Group, as well as KOC partners who played a key role in the project's success.

During the event, Al-Mulla emphasized the importance of maintaining this level of achievement, and encouraged the implementation of similar projects that would benefit the Company.

To gain more insight on this impressive achievement, which is ongoing and asset-wide, the Kuwaiti Digest met with Senior Engineer (Well Surveillance) in the Technical Support Group, Mohammad Abdulsayed.

Background

At the beginning of the interview, Abdulsayed explained that the initiative originated as a directive from the KOC Leadership Committee. The aim was clear: to systematically identify and assess abandoned, dead, or deactivated wells across all Company assets. This initiative officially commenced around May 2024, marking the beginning of a structured and strategic approach to reactivating shut-in wells with untapped potential.

To ensure thorough coverage, the effort spanned all operational assets within KOC. Under the guidance of Manager Technical Support Group, Ali Mohammed Al-Saleh, around 20 preparatory meetings and workshops were held, representing a significant investment of time and collaboration. These sessions were organized in coordination with multiple specialized Teams, including Well Intervention, Field Development (FD), Technical Support, and Integration Excellence Teams. Their combined input was instrumental in shaping a comprehensive action plan. Additionally, several contractors were involved in the process, playing a pivotal role in supporting the technical and operational aspects of the initiative.

Contractors under the Technical Support Group (TSG) submitted proposals for the selected wells. These proposals were then carefully reviewed by FD, which assessed them for feasibility and potential oil gain. After evaluation, FD proceeded to assign priorities to each well, establishing a clear roadmap for implementation based on the wells' conditions and the expected production outcomes.

Technical Support Group's Active Role

Abdulsayed emphasized the central and highly active role played by the Technical Support Group in driving this initiative forward. Within TSG, wells were systematically distributed among a set of highly experienced contractors: GDMC, SLB (Schlumberger), Halliburton, NAPESCO, Fawares, and Oil Serve. Each of these companies contributed significantly by performing essential technical

tasks and offering expert consultations, which were invaluable in shaping the approach to reactivation. Their collaboration with KOC ensured that both industry best practices and cutting-edge technologies were brought to bear on the project.

As part of the preparatory stage, a SWOT analysis was carried out on each selected well. This process helped identify the strengths, weaknesses, and potential challenges of each well before any activation procedures began. The analysis, performed after close consultation with contractors, served as a strategic foundation for tailoring the approach to each individual well. To maintain efficiency and transparency throughout the initiative, a dedicated tracking system was also established. This system enabled real-time monitoring and seamless communication between KOC and its vendors, ensuring smooth execution of operations and prompt decision-making.

Once Field Development granted approval to move forward with the implementation phase, the Technical Support Group began assigning specific roles and responsibilities based on the content of each well's proposal. Every well possessed unique characteristics, so each one had to be approached as a distinct case. Individual testing was conducted for each well to confirm the viability of reactivation and to verify actual oil production gains.

In total, 298 wells were identified as shut-in. Of these, 104 wells have already been successfully reactivated across KOC assets. The results have been encouraging: production gains have been substantial, and with each new well tested and reactivated, overall output has steadily increased.

Different Well Services

Abdulsayed elaborated that the full range of Technical Support Group services contributed to the activation efforts. However, the most critical and frequently used service was coil tubing, due to its versatility and effectiveness in dealing with various well conditions. Coil tubing operations included:

- Nitrogen lifting – to remove completion fluids and initiate flow from the reservoir.
- Stimulation – to enhance the flow capacity of the reservoir through chemical treatments.
- Water shut-off – to isolate unwanted water-producing zones and improve oil recovery.
- Cleaning – to remove debris and buildup that could hinder production.
- Fracturing – to increase permeability and create new pathways for hydrocarbons to flow.
- Pumping – for the delivery of fluids, chemicals, or cement during various well interventions.

Each well required a tailored approach, often involving a combination of these services. In addition to coil tubing, a wide range of supplementary procedures were also used, such as Production Monitoring and Control (PMC), Production Logging Tool (PLT) runs, and various

logging operations. These diagnostic services provided critical insights into the wells' conditions and helped guide subsequent intervention strategies.

Fruitful Cooperation and Way Forward

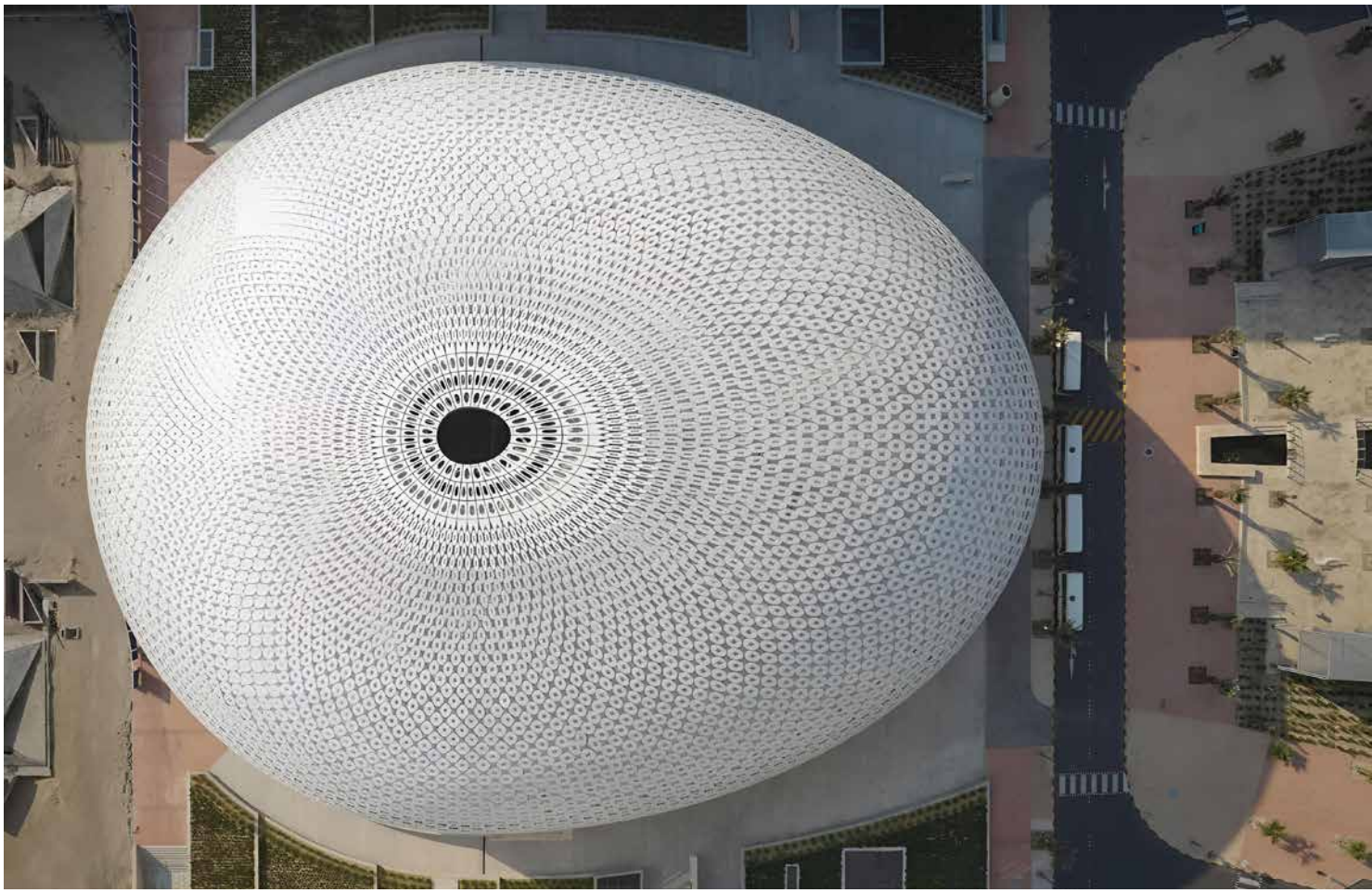
Throughout the interview, Abdulsayed highlighted that this achievement was made possible through a high level of collaboration, coordination, and mutual support among all stakeholders involved. This included not only the internal Groups and Teams across KOC but also external partners and contractors. He underscored the fact that all assets played an equally important role in the success of the Shut-In Wells Reactivation Project, each contributing value and insights that enhanced the overall outcome.

Looking ahead, Abdulsayed affirmed that the focus will remain on sustaining the production gains already achieved and on continuing the activation of additional wells. A key part of the forward strategy includes the ongoing integration of new technologies that align with KOC's performance standards and reflect the latest advancements in the industry. Some wells may present more complex challenges, requiring specialized solutions and more intricate operations. However, Abdulsayed expressed confidence in KOC's ability to meet these challenges head-on, as it has consistently done in the past.

However, despite all challenges posed, the results so far have been promising. The activation work is not only continuing but accelerating, with significant optimism about future gains. As Abdulsayed concluded, this is only the beginning of a broader and more ambitious effort, one that holds substantial promise for KOC's continued growth and operational excellence.

The Pearl: A Cultural and Architectural Landmark at Kuwait University

The Kuwaiti Digest was inspired to cover the stunning new hall at Kuwait University's Shadadiya campus, which features a new structure, known as The Pearl. This structure is considered a centerpiece of the campus, and a bold statement about the intersection of modern architecture, cultural heritage, and environmental responsiveness in the Gulf region.



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A Collaborative Vision

The Pearl was designed by the globally renowned architecture, engineering, and urban planning firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), in close collaboration with Kuwaiti artist and designer Farah Behbehani. Together, they've created a building that serves both ceremonial and symbolic functions.

Sitting between the university's administration building and library, The Pearl comprises a 1,600-seat theater used for major institutional events: student orientations, graduations, performances, and cultural gatherings. Yet its significance goes beyond utility.

A Modern Mashrabiya

Farah Behbehani reimagined the traditional Mashrabiya— a classic Islamic architectural element used for ventilation and shade— using a contemporary approach grounded in calligraphic geometry. As a result, the building is composed of thousands of sunshading panels that are as poetic as they are functional.

Each panel forms part of a complex façade system that spells out the Arabic word "الدانة" (aldanah), meaning "a large and extremely precious pearl" in Sumbuli calligraphy, a late Ottoman cursive script. The calligraphy, embedded in architectural form, turns the structure into an impactful visual experience, alluding to Kuwaiti culture while responding to its intense climate.

Light, Culture, and Climate

The façades do more than offer symbolism. They provide essential solar shading, cooling the building passively and allowing natural light to filter into its interior. The system culminates in a skylight aperture, which opens the structure to the sky and fills the central space with daylight, a nod to traditional Gulf architectural strategies that merge aesthetic grace with environmental sensibility.

This design solution connects tradition with innovation: the mashrabiya becomes a modern, sustainable element while simultaneously serving as a canvas for cultural identity.

A Building That Reflects Its Name

Naming the hall The Pearl is no accident. In Gulf culture, pearls are symbols of value, legacy, and natural beauty. The building embodies these traits both in name and in form. Its luminous, finely crafted exterior, meticulously designed and engineered, glows like a precious object in the desert sun.

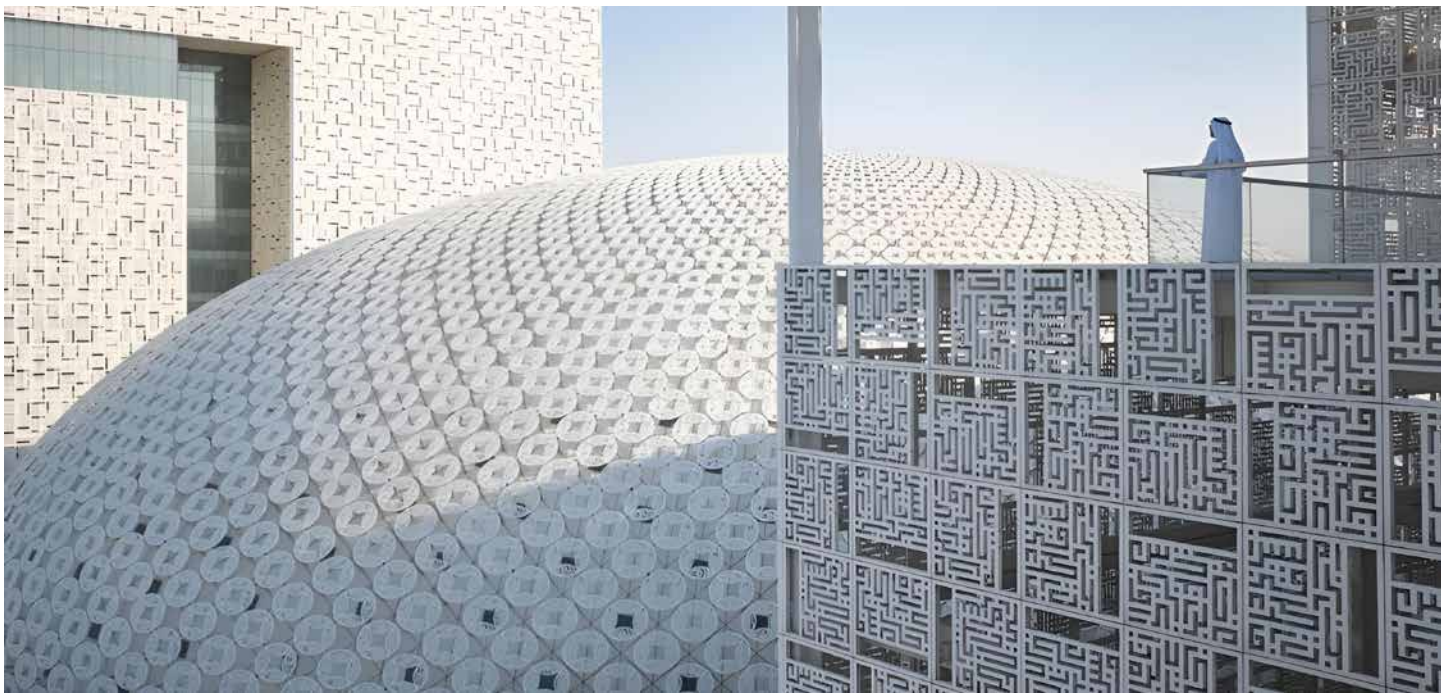
The Pearl is a venue for events that also stands as a tribute to Kuwaiti heritage, Islamic design traditions, and architectural innovation, redefining university infrastructure to be both functional and inspirational.

Sabah Al-Salem University City

The new Kuwait University campus in Shadadiya, also known as Sabah Al-Salem University City, represents a transformative leap forward in higher education in Kuwait. Spanning some 6 million square meters, it hosts six colleges: Arts, Education, Business Administration, Life Sciences, Science, and Engineering & Petroleum; along with advanced facilities, 17,000 parking spaces, and modern learning environments.

Officially opened in stages beginning in 2019, its grand inauguration under His Highness the Amir occurred in May 2024.

The campus is also being expanded with a major medical campus including five faculties, a teaching hospital of 700 beds, and a research center, intended to provide a comprehensive educational, medical, and scientific hub.



Kuwait's Second Ring Road Project: Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Urban Renewal

The development of Kuwait's Second Ring Road is entering a transformative phase as the government intensifies its efforts to modernize the country's critical infrastructure while incorporating sustainability and urban beautification. This multifaceted project is a major component of Kuwait's broader vision to upgrade transport corridors, alleviate congestion, and create a greener, more livable urban environment.

As part of its interest in discussing all matters related to Kuwait's sustainable visions and urban development, the Kuwaiti Digest takes a closer look at the project in the following article.

Overview

The Second Ring Road Project includes approximately 5 kilometers of road upgrades, along with the construction of bridges, drainage systems, and improved intersections. The development phase took place over a 24-month period, with closures occurring between 2023 and 2024 to facilitate asphalt work and maintenance. In parallel, a greening initiative has been implemented over a 1.46-kilometer stretch, involving more than 300 palm trees and new irrigation systems. This initiative is being led by the Al-Assima Governorate and the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee.

The Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee

The Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee serves as a central and pivotal body in advancing the sustainability and urban beautification agenda in the State of Kuwait. The committee was established by a ministerial decision issued by the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, and is chaired by the Governor of Ahmadi, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Sabah. Its membership includes a wide range of relevant government entities, public institutions, and private sector organizations, including:

The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR), the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEWR), the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait University (College of Architecture), the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Kuwait Banking Association, the Union of Investment Companies, the Volunteer Work Center, the Union of Cooperative Societies, along with several individuals and stakeholders concerned with this matter.

The committee aims to coordinate efforts across governmental bodies, the private sector, and civil society to implement development projects focused on improving the urban environment, increasing green spaces, and enhancing the quality of life in Kuwaiti cities. It plays a strategic role in shaping public policy, conducting studies, and overseeing the execution

of green projects across all governorates, while also promoting community initiatives and encouraging volunteer contributions.

The committee also ensures that all projects comply with environmental sustainability standards by promoting the use of native, low-water-consumption plants, smart irrigation systems, and eco-friendly materials. As part of its future vision, the committee aims to establish an interconnected network of green corridors and spaces that integrate infrastructure with environmental development — contributing to more livable cities and supporting Kuwait's sustainable urban growth.

Strategic Upgrades and Design Overhaul

In 2023, the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART) awarded consultancy contracts to oversee the comprehensive study, design, and supervision of key roads in the country, including the Second Ring Road, Third Ring Road, and Damascus Street. These projects aim to overhaul over 5 kilometers of roadway, including the construction of vehicular and pedestrian bridges, enhanced intersections, rainwater pumping stations, and other essential infrastructure elements.

The development timeline spanned approximately 24 months, from design to handover, pending budget approvals and the finalization of tendering procedures. Once completed, the upgraded road is expected to improve traffic flow, reduce accidents, and provide safer pedestrian access along the route.

Phased Closures and Traffic Management

Throughout 2023 and 2024, multiple phases of asphalt resurfacing and road maintenance necessitated temporary closures and diversions along key sections of the Second Ring Road. These have primarily occurred near the Daiya, Mansouriya, and Al-Qadisiyah areas,

Authorities have been actively coordinating with the public through announcements to ensure road users are informed about diversions and alternate routes.

Urban Greening and Beautification Initiatives

A standout feature of the Second Ring Road project is its integration with Kuwait's green urban development strategy. Beginning in April 2025, Al-Assima Governorate, in collaboration with the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee, launched the first phase of a beautification program in the Shuwaikh residential area.

This phase included:

- The planting of 300 palm trees, with a focus on non-fruiting date palms.

- A broader landscaping effort covering 1.46 kilometers, featuring Tecoma, Pennisetum, and red oleander plants.
- The installation of modern irrigation infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

By June 2025, the greening effort had expanded, symbolizing a deeper shift in Kuwait's urban planning priorities, prioritizing both aesthetics and environmental resilience.

According to the Governor of Al-Assima Governorate, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the initiative is envisioned as "the first of many," with plans to extend similar green corridors across Kuwait's urban landscape.

Shuwaikh Beautification Initiative

The first phase of the landscaping and greening project along the Second Ring Road in the Shuwaikh residential area officially kicked off on April 14, 2025, as announced by Ahmadi Governor and Chairman of the Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee, Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Project scope and execution

Led by Engineer Haifa Al-Muhanna, the initiative began with the planting of approximately 300 palm trees, specifically non-fruiting varieties to reduce maintenance demands along this busy urban corridor. Over the following three months, the project expanded to include thousands of climate-adapted plants, such as date palms, Tecoma, Pennisetum, and red oleander. A full irrigation system was installed to ensure long-term water efficiency and plant health.

The landscaped section covers approximately 1.46 kilometers and includes improvements around two key roundabouts. This phase is part of a multi-stage plan to introduce greenery and environmental enhancements across major roadways throughout Kuwait.

Funding, permits, and community involvement

The project was approved under Council of Ministers Resolution No. 1634 and was fully licensed by relevant authorities. What sets this initiative apart is the active participation of residents from Shuwaikh and neighboring areas, many of whom contributed funding and resources to support the planting and irrigation efforts.

The Green Urban Development Initiatives Committee also created channels for public and private sector involvement. Contributions can be made via the committee's official website (gudi.gov.kw) or its social media platforms (gudikuwait), enabling individuals, businesses, and civic groups to sponsor green spaces.

Sustainability Vision and Ambitions

This project represents the beginning of a broader national movement toward environmental sustainability and greener cities

in Kuwait. Goals include improving air quality, reducing heat absorption in urban areas, and raising public awareness of the benefits of sustainable landscaping.

Al-Assima Governor, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, emphasized that the initiative contributes to enhancing quality of life across Kuwait's residential areas. Falah Al-Enezi, who is serving as the Acting Deputy Director-General for Beautification at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs & Fish Resources in Kuwait, reiterated the Authority's commitment to offering technical assistance to citizen-led environmental projects.

The beautification effort aligns with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which emphasizes environmentally responsible urban planning and the creation of vibrant public spaces.

Civic Impact and Symbolism

More than a beautification campaign, this project has become a living example of civic pride and environmental responsibility. Special care was given to soil health, plant selection, and automated irrigation, reflecting a methodical and forward-looking approach.

The Shuwaikh greening project is now viewed as a model for future urban renewal efforts throughout the country, combining sustainability, aesthetics, and public engagement.

Looking Ahead

As the Second Ring Road development progresses, the government is preparing for upcoming construction tenders and allocating further budget resources to support large-scale bridge building, drainage systems, and road widening. At the same time, the sustainability component of the project continues to gain momentum, setting the stage for a greener and more pedestrian-friendly Kuwait.

Road users and residents are advised to stay updated with PART announcements for traffic diversions and project updates, especially as the next phases begin to unfold.

With modern infrastructure and sustainability now at the heart of national policy, Kuwait's Second Ring Road is a model for future urban transformation.

Adaniyat: Kuwait's Timeless Musical Legacy

Adaniyat is a vibrant Kuwaiti folk-song tradition rooted in the musical heritage of Aden, Yemen. It found fertile ground in Kuwait's maritime environment, blending Yemeni lyrical style with Gulf sea-chant influences through rhythmic, communal performances.

The Kuwaiti Digest offers an exploration of this culturally significant and still-relevant musical tradition in the following article.

Adaniyat & the Sea: Rooted in Kuwait's Pearl-Diving Legacy

Long before oil wealth changed the fate of the Gulf, Kuwait's identity was anchored in the sea—especially through the demanding occupation of pearl diving, which was a central pillar of the economy and culture.

Maritime Work Songs: Bahri & Fijiri Traditions

Among these seafaring traditions, two key musical forms emerged:

- Bahri (literally "of the sea") and Fijiri (also spelled Fidjeri or Fjiri) were work songs sung aboard the dhow fishing vessels. Fijiri especially became the highlight of the pearl divers' lore.
- These were call-and-response performances: a lead singer, the nahham, chanted poetic, often mystical verses about longing, divine protection, and the perils of the deep, while the crew sang back in rhythmic chorus, clapped, and played simple percussion like the mirwās and the clay jāhlah.

Function & Spiritual Power

Adaniyat music shares core traits:

- It acted as a **motivational ritual**—syncing repetitive tasks like rowing or raising the anchor, and boosting morale during long, dangerous months at sea.
- These songs were more than entertainment—they were spiritual shields, invoking divine protection for divers battling nature's unpredictability.

Adaniyat Within This Maritime Mosaic

While Fijiri was indigenous, Adaniyat reflects Kuwait's openness—absorbing styles from seafaring hubs like Aden. This blending arose naturally:

- Kuwaiti dhows trading pearls across the Indian Ocean brought back musical influences, sailboat rhythms, instruments, and lyrical motifs from East Africa, India, and Yemen—especially Aden—integrating them into Kuwait's own maritime musical identity.

Overview

- Lyrical tradition: Adaniyat belongs to the Gulf's rich fan al-ghinā' (sound art), characterized by poetic, emotive singing. While other Gulf regions saw such traditions diminish, Kuwait kept Adaniyat alive.

- Yemen and Hejaz influence: The style traces back to Yemen, especially Aden and Mukalla, as well as the Hejaz; carried to Kuwaiti shores through centuries of maritime trade.
- Maritime roots: Merging with Gulf Sea chant forms like al-bahriyya and nahma, Adaniyat adopted rhythms and themes tied to life at sea: pearl diving, shipbuilding, camaraderie, and community unity.

Historical Development in Kuwait: From Dhow-Deck to Diwaniya

- 1960s-70s: arrival and peak

Yemeni immigrant communities and musicians introduced the style in the 1960s, with Muhammad Jumaa Khan often cited as its pioneering figure.

By the 1970s, Kuwaiti musicians had adopted and reinterpreted Adaniyat, infusing local rhythms and themes; with less Indian influence, and more Kuwaiti dialect in lyrics.

- Community and media presence

Though largely popular in informal gatherings, it entered radio and cassette circuits in the late 1970s.

Post-1960s, with the decline of pearling, Fijiri and its related forms shifted from work songs to **cultural heritage performances**. They began to be revived in **diwaniyas**, community gatherings, and heritage festivals—sessions preserved by elders, and taught to youth at institutions like Kuwait Sea Sports Club. Today, Adaniyat songs are heard in sea voyages, weddings, diwaniyas, and folk concerts.

Notable Artists

Several musicians have played significant roles in shaping and popularizing Adaniyat in Kuwait:

- Mohammad Jumaa Khan is widely recognized as one of the foundational figures in introducing the Adani style to Kuwait, bringing with him the classical Adani vocal approach and Yemeni melodic structures.
- Yousef Al-Mutref and Jamal Al-Majeem are prominent Kuwaiti singers who helped localize and sustain the tradition, known for their emotive vocal delivery and lyrical adaptation to Kuwaiti dialect and sensibilities.
- Mutref Al-Mutref, a modern voice in this tradition, has further contributed to its revival and preservation through performances that bridge older traditions with contemporary audiences.
- Aboud Khawaja is a renowned Yemeni singer, skilled oud player, and violinist celebrated for his expressive interpretations and musical versatility. He masterfully blends classical techniques with regional Yemeni and Khaleeji folk styles. His exceptional talent has been showcased at prestigious venues such as the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center in Kuwait.

- Khalid Al-Ajiri has contributed through popular renditions of traditional Adaniyat songs, helping reintroduce the genre to younger listeners. He is considered one of the most prominent Kuwaiti voices in the Adani music genre. He is the older brother of the artist Waleed Al-Ajiri. Khalid is well-known for his deep admiration of the late Faisal Alawi, a pioneer of the Lahjawi song style.

He recorded a notable session with Ghulam, an Indian percussionist, and also has special recordings available online. Throughout his artistic career, Khalid participated in many private and public music sessions and performed several songs that were well-received by audiences.

These artists, among others, have kept Adaniyat alive through live performances, studio recordings, and public cultural events, ensuring its continued relevance in Kuwaiti musical identity.

Related Kuwaiti Folk Genres

Adaniyat is part of a vibrant folk ecosystem in Kuwait.

- Sawt: a blues-influenced urban style; along with samri, nahma, jurjina, liwa, and tanbura, all reflecting Bedouin, seafaring, and East African influences.
- Fidjeri: pearl-diving chants; Liwa and Tanbura – with African roots.
- Modern hybrids: Sawt and Adaniyat shaped the region's Gulf music landscape in the 1970s.

Modern Times

In modern times, artists associated with Adaniyat play a crucial role in preserving, adapting, and transmitting this

Kuwait's evolving cultural landscape. Their contributions can be summarized across several key areas:

1. Cultural preservation

These artists act as custodians of a heritage that might otherwise fade due to modernization and changing musical tastes.

By performing classic Adaniyat in traditional formats—with authentic vocal styles, lyrical structures, and instrumentation, they help keep the original form alive for newer generations.

2. Revival and adaptation

Some artists, especially younger figures like Mutref Al-Mutref, blend Adaniyat with modern musical elements such as updated arrangements or fusion with pop, jazz, or regional Gulf music. This adaptation helps make the genre more accessible to contemporary audiences.

In addition, recordings and reinterpretations by artists like Khalid Al-Ajiri have introduced Adaniyat to audiences unfamiliar with its cultural roots, helping bridge generational and regional gaps.

3. Performance and education

These musicians often perform at national events, cultural festivals, and heritage concerts (such as at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre or Kuwait National Museum), keeping Adaniyat visible in the public sphere.

Some are also involved in workshops, music schools, or cultural programs, transmitting knowledge about maqams (melodic modes), rhythms, and lyrical structure to younger musicians.

4. Media and archival efforts

Through digital platforms like YouTube, Anghami, and Instagram, these artists distribute recordings, livestream performances, and share archival material, making Adaniyat more accessible than ever before.

Some artists also participate in radio and television programs dedicated to Gulf music heritage, further solidifying Adaniyat's presence in the national media landscape.

5. Community engagement

Many still perform in traditional venues such as Diwaniyas, weddings, and informal gatherings, where Adaniyat continues to serve its original role: bringing people together through shared emotional and musical expression.

Today's Adaniyat artists in Kuwait serve as vital links between past and present. They preserve the genre's authenticity, adapt it for modern audiences, and ensure that it continues to play a meaningful role in both cultural identity and communal life. Their work underscores how heritage music can remain vibrant in a rapidly modernizing society.

Getting Involved and Listening

- Live events: Check the schedule at JACC and Kuwait's cultural centers for concerts like Aden Nights and Adaniyat-themed gatherings.
- Online platforms: Look for classic tracks by Jamal Al-Majeem, Yousef Al-Mutref, Aboud Khawaja, and Muhammad Jumaa Khan.
- Workshops and Diwaniyas: Seek out cultural centers or maritime heritage groups for immersive sessions.

Adaniyat is a cross-cultural musical tradition of Kuwait, born in southern Yemen, matured in Gulf maritime environments, and sustained by artists and communities. It is a testament to heritage, adaptation, and communal spirit, blending lyrical elegance with the dynamic rhythms of seafaring life. Exploring Adaniyat is not just a musical experience, it is an immersion into Kuwait's rich and diverse cultural identity.

PCC Hawally Map Project: Documenting the Everyday in a Cultural Exploration of Hawally

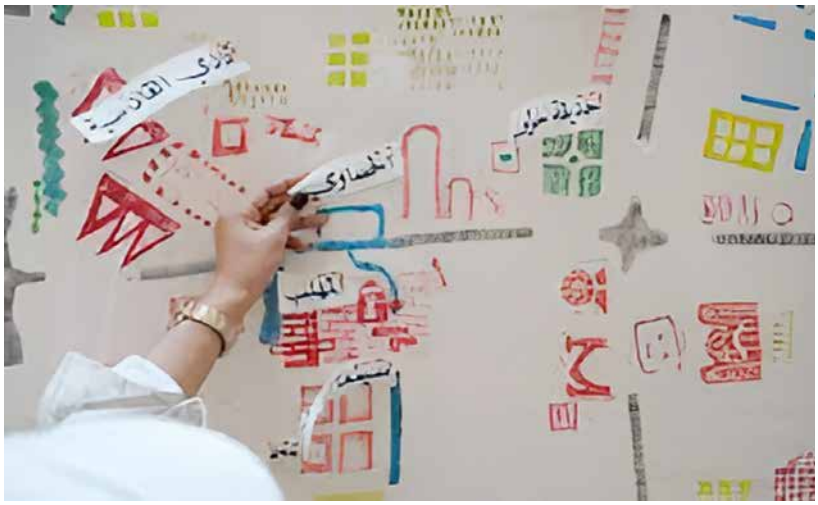
Project Overview

The Hawally Map Project, also known under workshop titles like "Hawally Bound", is a collaborative cultural initiative spearheaded by the Promenade Culture Centre (PCC) in Kuwait in partnership with Innarrative, a creative platform co-founded by architects Mishari Al Najjar and Sara Abdulla. This ongoing project is rooted in the goal of rediscovering, documenting, and celebrating the overlooked architectural, cultural, and social fabric of Hawally, a historically rich but often overlooked urban district in Kuwait, which the Kuwaiti Digest would like to shed some light on.

Rather than simply mapping buildings or streets in a technical sense, the project invites participants to explore Hawally with fresh eyes, through the lens of memory, narrative, artistic interpretation, and place-based storytelling. Each phase of the project unfolds as a hands-on, immersive experience, combining different disciplines such as architecture, urban history, visual art, printmaking, and storytelling. Through a series of themed workshops and public exhibitions, the Hawally Map Project builds a living archive of the city's hidden layers and communal stories.

Formats and Workshops

The initiative has taken shape over several editions and thematic explorations. One of the earliest and foundational workshops, titled "Hawally Bound" (February 2022), marked a significant moment in the project's development. Conducted over three weeks, this workshop gathered participants to engage with the neighborhood on foot, observing and tracing historical routes and spatial patterns. They then translated their observations into artistic outputs using traditional stencil and block printing techniques. The result was a community-made tapestry that was exhibited in the Promenade Mall, encourag-



ing interaction from the public and sparking conversations around heritage and identity.

In December 2023, a follow-up workshop called "Hawally Kitsch" turned its focus to the Al Othman Centre, a strikingly designed building by Polish architect Wojciech Jarząbek. This session celebrated the building's eclectic, almost theatrical aesthetic, often referred to as "kitschy" in popular discourse. Participants explored the site's interior and exterior through detailed visual studies and compiled their impressions into a collaborative printed collage. This work became a tribute to the Centre's lively spirit and its distinctive place in the urban landscape of Hawally.

Building on this momentum, "Hawally Dreaming" (May 2024) ventured deeper into experimental terrain. Participants were invited to engage with two modernist housing complexes (North and South Nugra) by imagining, dreaming, and reinterpreting these urban forms. Instead of straightforward documentation, the workshop prompted speculative and artistic thought. Through a blend of urban observation and block printing, the participants produced two distinct tapestries representing their imagined and real encounters with the structures. This exercise was as much about perception and emotion as it was about architectural form.

Another notable workshop took place at Al Rihab Complex, a mixed-use structure in Hawally. Here, the emphasis shifted toward personal narrative and creative expression. Participants used a combination of illustration, mapping, and creative writing to articulate their personal journeys through the building. These diverse perspectives were then assembled into visual and textual maps that conveyed the complex's unique ambiance and multi-use character.

In April 2025, the project explored the Hasawi Complex, designed by Iraqi architect Rifat Chadirji. This workshop was led by Innarrative and guided participants through a contemplative exploration of Hasawi's interior courtyards and calm residential layouts, contrasting them with the bustling commercial life outside. Through techniques such as collage, hand-drawing, and printmaking, attendees visualized not only the building's current conditions but also speculative futures for the site, asking how such spaces might evolve or be reimagined in years to come.

Objectives & Impact

At its core, the Hawally Map Project seeks to reframe how people see and relate to the built environment around them, particularly in urban areas that are often overlooked or dismissed as purely utilitarian. Hawally, with its eclectic mix of mid-century modernist buildings, lively commercial corridors, and dense residential clusters, offers ideal ground for such exploration. The project's participatory approach empowers citizens to become researchers, observers, and co-creators of their urban narrative.

Through workshops, public exhibitions, and printed materials, the project creates a multidimensional record of Hawally, one that includes not just its physical structures but also its emotional textures, collective memories, and informal histories. It encourages a multidisciplinary approach, drawing from architecture, anthropology, storytelling, and the visual arts to construct a richer, more human understanding of the city. By doing so, it not only helps preserve cultural heritage but also inspires new forms of engagement and creative placemaking.

Moreover, the project fosters dialogue and inclusivity, with one public exhibition. This "call and response" structure transforms the project from a closed artistic endeavor into a civic dialogue, a space where people from different backgrounds can share, question, and reshape their relationship to the city.

Promenade Culture Centre (PCC)

The Promenade Culture Centre is the institutional heart of the Hawally Map Project. Located on the second floor of Promenade Mall, PCC functions as a creative and

cultural hub, offering studio spaces, exhibition halls, and educational programs aimed at fostering community engagement through the arts. Since its establishment in 2016, the Centre has hosted a wide range of events, from film screenings and lectures to craft workshops and collaborative design initiatives.

By 2019, PCC had formally adopted "Community" as one of its core strategic pillars, aligning its programming with values of diversity, inclusivity, and grassroots cultural production. The Hawally Map Project emerged as a direct response to this mission, using art and research as tools to better understand and empower local communities. As a result, PCC has become not just a venue for cultural events, but an ideal platform for creating quality public spaces, storytelling, and cultural preservation.

Through its consistent focus on Hawally as a case study, PCC takes an innovative approach to studying Kuwaiti heritage and culture. It amplifies voices that might otherwise go unheard, showcases architectures that are often excluded from glossy urban narratives, and provides a platform for experimentation and collaboration across disciplines.

Context: Hawally District

The Hawally District, located just east of Kuwait City, is one of the most densely populated and dynamically diverse areas in the country. Known for its blend of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, Hawally is home to a vibrant mixture of long-time Kuwaiti residents, expatriates, and workers from across the Arab world and South Asia. This diversity is mirrored in its streetscapes, where you'll find everything from 1970s apartment blocks to lively electronics markets and pan-Arab coffee shops.

Despite its rich social and architectural character, Hawally has often been sidelined in national conversations about urban development. The Hawally Map Project challenges this narrative by highlighting the cultural value of the everyday, the aesthetic of modest buildings, the rhythms of daily life, and the history embedded in ordinary spaces.

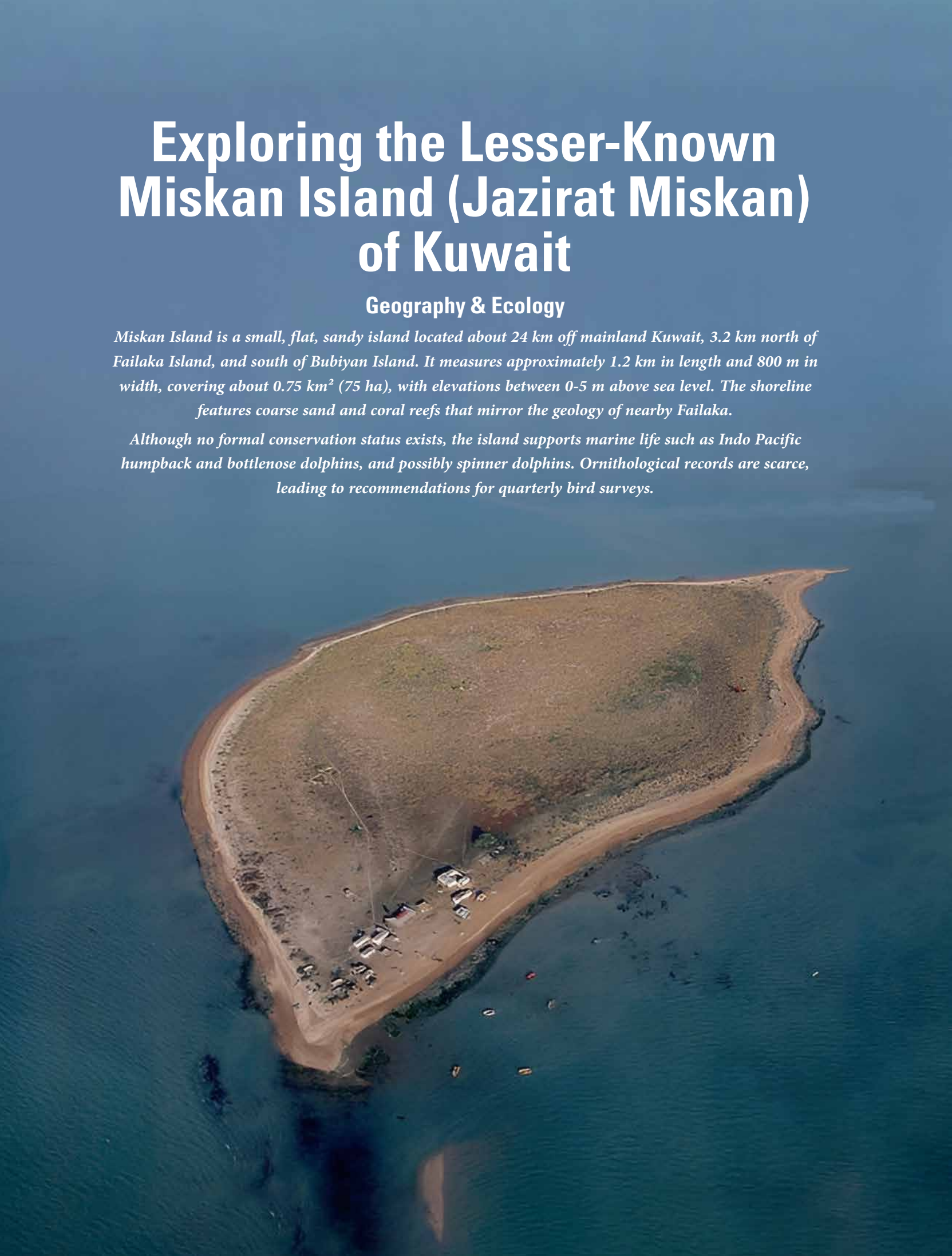
Among the local landmarks explored by the project are the Beit Othman Museum, the Al Othman Mosque, and various housing complexes that embody the design of mid-20th-century Gulf modernism. In doing so, the project offers a new lens through which Hawally can be seen, not as a fading relic of the past, but as a dynamic, multilayered urban ecosystem full of stories, possibilities, and beauty.

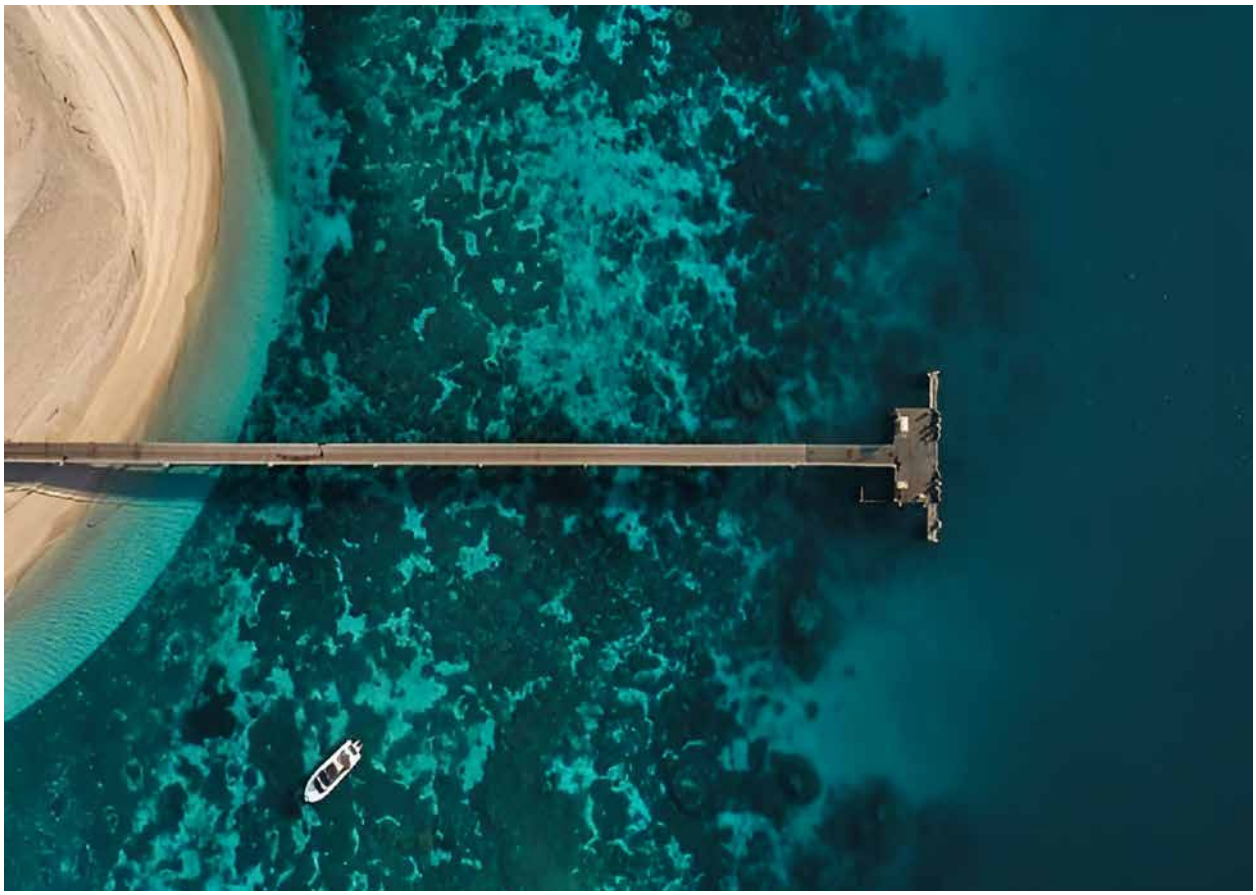
Exploring the Lesser-Known Miskan Island (Jazirat Miskan) of Kuwait

Geography & Ecology

Miskan Island is a small, flat, sandy island located about 24 km off mainland Kuwait, 3.2 km north of Failaka Island, and south of Bubiyan Island. It measures approximately 1.2 km in length and 800 m in width, covering about 0.75 km² (75 ha), with elevations between 0-5 m above sea level. The shoreline features coarse sand and coral reefs that mirror the geology of nearby Failaka.

Although no formal conservation status exists, the island supports marine life such as Indo Pacific humpback and bottlenose dolphins, and possibly spinner dolphins. Ornithological records are scarce, leading to recommendations for quarterly bird surveys.





Historical & Archaeological Importance

Originally recorded in 1918 by British traveler James Silk Buckingham under the name "Motion," the name later evolved into "Miskan". Extensive archaeological surveys have identified remains from the early to late Islamic periods, including fishermen's dwellings, pottery, and coins, indicating a small historic community possibly formed by Kuwaiti families such as Al Rashid and Al Awwad.

These findings align with the broader pattern of early Islamic settlements scattered around Kuwait Bay—such as Subiya, Miskan, Kharaib al Dasht, and others—dating back to the 7th-8th centuries CE.

Maritime Role & Lighthouse

Miskan hosts the only active structure on the island: a lighthouse, likely established around 1918. It is operated by Ibrahim Bu Rashid and his family, providing vital navigational aid in Kuwait Bay and the Arabian Gulf. Historically, the island's position helped form part of Kuwait's north to south coastal defense and navigation network.

Conservation & Contemporary Status

In recent years, authorities have removed unauthorized fishermen's dwellings to protect the island's natural and archaeological integrity. While lacking official protection, its undisturbed environment and cultural significance have prompted ongoing interest and informal conservation efforts.

Developmentally, Miskan is part of Kuwait's strategic vision to transform several islands—including Bubiyan, Failaka, Warbah, Auhah, and Qaruh—into multi-purpose economic and tourism zones. Feasibility studies for the KD 40 billion (USD 132 billion) initiative aim for implementation by 2030, with projected GDP gains of up to KD 10 billion annually and tourism inflows of up to 5 million people per year.

Cultural Significance & Defense

Despite its modest size, Miskan's layered heritage, from Islamic-era habitation to maritime infrastructure, illustrates Kuwait's long-standing role in Gulf trade, seafaring, and coastal defense. Its protective position underscores its historical strategic importance.

Looking Ahead

As development plans unfold, preserving Miskan's archaeological and ecological character will

be crucial. Future directions may include:

- Conducting regular biodiversity surveys (especially avian species)
- Formalizing archaeological protection and conducting deeper excavations
- Integrating sustainable tourism, such as cultural heritage trails and lighthouse tours, alongside protected conservation zones

At a Glance

Miskan Island is a microcosm of Kuwait's coastal identity, blending ecological riches with centuries-old human activity. Its enduring lighthouse, historic foundations, and marine habitats lend a quiet but meaningful testimony to the country's maritime legacy. As Kuwait plans a bold developmental path for its offshore islands, balancing economic growth with preservation will be essential to safeguarding Miskan's unique story.

Feature	Details
Location	~24 km offshore, 3.2 km north of Failaka
Size	1.2 km × 0.8 km; ~75 ha
Elevation	0-5 m above sea level
Ecology	Coarse-sand beaches, coral reefs, dolphins; avian status unknown
Structures	Active lighthouse; scattered Late Islamic ruins
Archaeology	Early-Late Islamic period pottery, coins, dwellings
Conservation	No official status; informal protection underway
Development Plan	Included in KD 40 bn multi-island economic initiative by 2030

Rig Crew at Work

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