



Kuwaiti inventor Nasser Al-Jimaz

KUWAITI TEEN CONTENDS FOR INT'L AWARD

GENEVA: Nasser Al-Jimaz, a 16-year-old Kuwaiti inventor, is competing for the award of the 44th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, jostling for the prize among 1,000 contenders from 40 countries.

Jimaz is taking part in the Geneva exhibition, sponsored by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Swiss Government, representing an expedition of the GCC Patent Office. The Kuwaiti citizen is the youngest inventor taking part in the international competition, with his innovation of transforming carbon dioxide (CO₂) into plastic granules.

Jimaz had developed desire for creativity when he was eight of age, joining the Scientific Center, where he discovered his interest in chemistry. At first, he entertained himself with mixing liquids and gases at the laboratory.

Scientific issues

The Kuwaiti innovator told said in an interview that he started to question basic scientific issues as he grew up, such as how to tackle the environment deterioration, and cope with hazards threatening the Earth and the human race.

Huge waste caused by consumption of various edible materials and food, namely bananas, had caught his attention, and he was wondering how to get rid of such waste when it dawned on him that peels contain the material aster which can be transformed into plastic. "I engaged myself in lengthy studies looking for methods how to treat the banana aster with chemical substances," he said.

"I could not sleep at night when I discovered the combination and my family was overwhelmed with joy realizing that my joining of the Scientific Club was not a waste of time." He explained that he succeeded in transforming carbon dioxide into plastic granules; subjecting the gas to chemical interactions before producing the tiny plastic pieces.

Jimaz said that his invention is better than other proposed methods; such as dissipating the carbon dioxide in sea and oceans' waters, "for the Kuwaiti invention could eventually help in creating new jobs." The plastic granules are used in various plastic industries.

Ambitious innovators

Meanwhile, Metleg Al-Baqmi, in charge of supporting innovation at the GCC Patent Office, said that the Council is very much keen on encouraging ambitious innovators in various fields in the member countries.

Current approach in the GCC countries is shifting from consuming to producing societies and that can be attained by supporting the skilled youth in all scientific and intellectual sectors. The GCC bureau holds regular sessions to offer technical and legal consultations to the inventors. — KUNA

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY FACES CONCERNS OVER ISLAMAPHOBIA

SALMON: Idaho State University's president said on Thursday he had been in talks with Saudi and Kuwaiti education officials seeking to allay concerns about students from those countries facing anti-Muslim harassment in the college town of Pocatello.

The discussions with officials from the two Gulf states, which together account for about 1,000 of the foreign students enrolled at Idaho State, were disclosed as school officials sought to determine the origin of anti-Muslim propaganda being distributed anonymously via DVDs on campus.

Hate-crime investigation

Separately, police in Pocatello have opened a hate-crime investigation into an attack on a man of Middle Eastern descent who was stabbed in the arm earlier this week for no other apparent reason than his appearance, Police Chief

Scott Marchand said. The off-campus assault was reported to police by the hospital where the man, who was not a university student, was taken for treatment, Marchand said.

Idaho State President Arthur Vailas said he was unaware of any individual complaints of anti-Muslim discrimination or harassment other than those cited in recent media accounts, such as a New York Times story last month about campus tensions faced by Saudi and Kuwaiti students.

"I expect all students to bring forth their concerns. The only way we can help is for people to come forward and we can look into the cases," Vailas told Reuters. But Vailas said the university was consulting with higher education officials from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose students account for nearly 10 percent of the school's 11,000 undergraduates, to address concerns about Islamaphobia.

Scholarships suspended

The Arabic-language Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al-Qabas and English-language outlet Gulf News reported on Thursday that the two Gulf nations were suspending scholarships earmarked for Idaho State and transferring their respective students at that school to other universities.

Kuwait's higher education minister was quoted as saying some 400 students were facing racial discrimination at the Pocatello campus. Vailas said he had no indication that the 535 Kuwaiti students or 481 Saudi students were being transferred elsewhere.

The US attorney for Idaho planned to meet publicly with international students from predominantly Islamic countries as part of a push announced this week by the US Justice Department to stem discrimination against Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian Americans following militant attacks in Brussels, Paris and San Bernardino, California. — Reuters

REPORT: KUWAIT LUCRATIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION

BRUSSELS: Favorable developments have placed Kuwait at the forefront as a lucrative investment destination for both local and foreign investments, according to the latest Newsletter of the Arab-Belgium-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (ABLCC).

It listed as favorable developments "the openness of the Kuwaiti economy, the strength of its macroeconomic performance, its strategic location as a link between the Gulf and the hinterland, and the predominance of Kuwait well-educated and talented youth."

The publication said that "Kuwait's new Five-Year Development Plan (2015/2016-2019/2020) embedded these favorable developments by focusing on enhancing economic diversification, fostering Kuwait's competitiveness, and adopting an economic policy that allows the private sector to play a leading role in the economy."

ABLCC referred to the Kuwait Investment Forum held in March and commented that this "Forum convened against the background of several positive developments witnessed in the Kuwaiti economy that have caught the attention of investors."

"It distinctly demonstrated the Kuwaiti Government's resolve to attract quality local and foreign investments, by creating the right investment environment, simplifying procedures, enabling a favorable legislative framework for the encouragement and protection of investment, and offering a host of incentives and exemptions, including allowing for a 100% foreign ownership," said the Newsletter. Founded in 1978, the ABLCC plays the role of bridge to develop economic and trade cooperation between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Arab countries. — KUNA



KUWAITI DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN MARITIME INDIAN SUMMIT 2016

NEW DELHI: A high level Kuwaiti delegation is participating in the three-day Maritime Indian Summit 2016, held in the Indian financial capital of India Mumbai. President of Arab Sea Ports Federation (ASPF) and Director General of Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) Sheikh Youssef Abdullah Al-Sabah, who is in Mumbai heading a high level Kuwaiti delegation said yesterday that the Kuwaiti delegation, comprising officials from government and private companies, is participating in the three-day event which will help strengthen ties between India and Kuwait in the field of maritime transport and trade.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the participating countries in the event, organized by the Indian Shipping Ministry in cooperation with the South Korean government for the first time, to invest hugely to exploit the 7500-km-long coastline of India. He also underlined comparative Indian advantage made possible by the strategic location of the Indian coasts which are connected to the major maritime routes.

Modi further said: "I must mention that our vast coastline of 7,500 kilometers offers a huge investment opportunity. Apart from the length of the coastline, India's maritime potential also lies in its strategic location on all major shipping highways.

"In addition, we have an expansive and productive hinterland, through which flows a network of mighty rivers. Our maritime agenda will complement this ambitious infrastructure plan for the hinterland which is going on in parallel," he added.

During his inaugural speech on Thursday, the Union Shipping and Ports Minister of India Nitin Gadkari had also said that India is planning to double the ports capacity within 10 years-time. "We have launched an ambitious program 'Project Unnati' to modernise our major ports. The major ports had registered record profits of \$650 Million in 2015-16. The turnaround time in ports has reduced by 20 percent, enabling customers to save over \$200 Million," the Indian minister said. — KUNA