



KUWAIT: A group photo for the students and organizers of a graduation ceremony of the fifth batch of 'The Protégés' program. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

'THE PROTÉGÉS' FIFTH BATCH STUDENTS CELEBRATE GRADUATION

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The graduation ceremony of the fifth batch of 'The Protégés' program's students was held on Sunday at Yarmouk cultural center. It was organized by Kuwait Projects Company Holding (KIPCO). "The Protégés has proved its success through its great projects, and I was very impressed with the quality of our Protégés and the work they did," said Abeer Al-Omar, corporate communications manager at KIPCO, the main sponsor of Generation 5.

Inspiring

Omar noted that KIPCO is keen to invest in Kuwaiti youth and the development of their skills. "The enthusiasm and teamwork that we saw from these guys is very inspiring, and it was a pleasure to recognize them. 'Raqsh: Donate to Educate' was a great humanitarian project, where members collected books and donated them to those in need in order to promote education," she enthused.

Mentor Shamlan Al-Bahar, The Protégés' general manager, spoke about The Protégés' beginnings. "We were six persons when we started The Protégés, and we decided to take out time to make a better future for Kuwaiti youth. Now we are here to graduate 24 young Kuwaitis with their humane ideas. The Protégés was our brainchild, and thousands of Kuwaitis applied this year, although we only accept 25 students in our program. And this shows how successful the program is," he said. "It has been a pleasure to get to know these passionate and motivated young people, and I am eager to see what they will achieve in the future. Young people are the means to uplift any community."

Underprivileged students

The Raqsh project seeks to provide books to underprivileged students by collecting books via devices placed in selected locations and by mass donations - the books donated are sent to refugee camps. The project emerged from The Protégés Generation 5 team of 24 to positively

impact society, and their goal is to collect 3,500 books in eight weeks.

The Protégés program is a part of a social enterprise that is designed to positively influence the youth of Kuwait through an inclusive program that combines travel, lectures, group activities, challenges, games and fun. Guided by a team of mentors, The Protégés are encouraged to discover their passions and are given the necessary tools to assist them excel in their future careers and contribute positively to society.

The Protégés aims to discover extraordinary potential in the youth and develop it through this once-in-a-lifetime experience. They offer these bright young minds the chance to master skills and techniques necessary to meet their goals. The Protégés are selected based on a thorough screening process ensuring that they meet high standards of excellence. Applicants must meet the following criteria: Aged 16 to 24, be charismatic, social, disciplined, tolerant, moral, eager to learn, hardworking, and demonstrate superiority to peers by successful achievements.

KUWAITI STUDENTS BEGIN TRIP TO CHINA

NINGXIA/DAKAR: A group of high-achieving Kuwaiti female students began a tour in the Ningxia autonomous region in China on Sunday, as part of an annual trip organized by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Ministry of Education. The trip included a visit to Ningxia's public hospital in Yinchuan, the capital of the autonomous region, where the Hui Muslim ethnic community lives.

The hospital, funded by KFAED with \$34 million (41 percent), stretches over 43 hectares and contains 2,630 beds, deputy chairman of the hospital told KUNA yesterday. It is currently considered the fourth best in China, said the official, adding that the building will be renovated while another sub-branch of the hospital with 800 beds will be opened. Meanwhile, the group also visited the Ningxia institute for Islamic studies, where students receive education on Arabic, Islamic and literature subjects, as well as studies on Chinese history. The Kuwaiti students were accompanied by their Chinese counterparts during their tour in the institute, where they exchanged cultural experience. Ningxia was established in 1945 in northwestern China. The autonomous region is the smallest province in the country, stretching over 66,400 square kilometers. Meanwhile, another group of distinguished Kuwaiti high school students visited

historical and cultural sites in Senegal on Sunday as part of a trip organized by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. After their arrival a day prior, the students were taken to Goree Island's House of Slaves, locally referred to as Maison des Esclaves, a museum and memorial said to have once housed slaves who were being transported to the Americas during the colonial period. Located in the Atlantic Ocean, the island itself is a stark reminder of a European colonial past in West Africa which stretched over three centuries. The island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, carries a traditional feel that is full of life scattered with outdoor markets selling local handmade goods. Other sites on the island include William Ponty School, a French colonial school established in 1903 which was instrumental in producing some of the most accomplished leaders on the continent.

Alli Al-Doukhi, one of the students, said that the visit, which concludes on January 16, has given him new insight into the tradition and culture of West African peoples, along with the impacts of colonialism on this part of the world.

The visit has also contributed to the photographic indulgence of Abdulredha Al-Muhanna, who said that the images he had witnessed were a great chance for him to take many a snap of traditional houses and colorful birds. — KUNA



DAKAR: Kuwaiti high school students visit historical and cultural sites in Senegal.

INDIAN EMBASSY CONFERENCE DISCUSSES COMMUNITY ISSUES

JAIN HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS AT PBD 2016

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait hosted a conference at its auditorium on Saturday and discussed several welfare issues concerning the Indian community in Kuwait on the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2016. PBD is celebrated every year in India since 2003 in order to connect India to its vast overseas Diaspora and bring their knowledge, expertise and skills on a common platform. This year, making a paradigm shift in its format, PBD conferences were held at various Indian embassies across the world in which delegates participated and presented proposals on improving the lot of the diaspora.

In his opening remarks, Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain highlighted the achievements of the government and the measures the embassy has taken in solving several issues of the community. Specifically talking about the issue of unfair practices of recruiting Indian labor from Kuwait, Jain pointed out several improvements. Firstly, he said the India government had put an end to recruitment of female domestic servants to Kuwait. Currently there are about 300,000 Indian domestic helpers in Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain speaks at the PBD 2016 conference at the embassy.

Nurses

The embassy also signed an agreement with the Kuwait's Ministry of Health streamlining the recruitment of nurses from India through government agencies such as NORKA, ODE-PC and OMCL. It was a landmark agreement that has virtually abolished overseas recruitment of nurses by private agencies from April 30, 2015, he said.

In service to citizens in Kuwait, the embassy last year issued 87,083 passports compared to 75,031 showing a

growth of 16 percent while 94,363 attestations were done compared to 94,363 in 2014 registering a growth of two percent. The embassy issued 3,923 emergency certificates for repatriation of Indians in 2015 compared to 2,791 in 2014. The ambassador also noted that there is a 33 percent increase in drug and liquor related crimes by Indians living in Kuwait, which is a worrying factor.

Contracts

Indian companies won several

contracts for various projects in Kuwait in the year 2015, the ambassador said. In 2015, Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has also made substantial investment in India showing the growing confidence of Kuwait in the Indian economy, he pointed out.

Various issues such as streamlining the activities of Indian associations, a platform for hosting Indian cultural events, exorbitant air fares being charged by India's state carriers from passengers from Kuwait were also raised and discussed during the conference.

Reaven D'Souza, Sajeev K Peter, Ashfaq Khan, Mohd Farooq, Sunoj Nambiar, Dr Shansethil, Vibheesh Thikkody, Chaitali Roy, S K Wadhawan, Rajpal Thyagi, Sharafudeen Kanneth, Dr Vinod Grover, Prashanth Nair and Hari Balaramapuram addressed the conference speaking on different issues. Deputy Chief of Mission Subhashish Golder concluded the event while A K Srivastava coordinated the event.

Representatives of various Indian associations, representing the community attended the event.

PBD is held on 9th of January every year to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India.

UN OFFICIAL PRAISES KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

GENEVA: Director of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Rashid Khalikov lauded yesterday Kuwait's prominent role in supporting United Nations organizations tasked with humanitarian missions worldwide.



GENEVA: Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim with the Director of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Rashid Khalikov. — KUNA

Khalikov praised Kuwait in a meeting with Kuwait's permanent delegate to the UN, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, at the Kuwaiti Commission headquarters in Geneva, held ahead of his official visit to Kuwait planned today. He added that his visit to Kuwait will tackle topics related to cooperation between Kuwait and the United Nations in humanitarian field.

"The United Nations cannot forget Kuwait's voluntary contributions and rapid action to deal with disasters and conflicts wherever they occur in the world; reflecting its adherence to humanitarian work regardless of ethnic or religious affiliations," Khalikov added.

Khalikov also expressed deep appreciation to Kuwait for its remarkable efforts to tackle the humanitarian situation in Syria by hosting three donors' conferences. Meanwhile, Ambassador Ghunaim pointed out that the cooperation between Kuwait and the United Nations in the humanitarian field comes from Kuwait's foreign policy principles, and out of Kuwait's keenness in alleviating human suffering caused by crises and disasters around the world. — KUNA

ZAKAT HOUSE LAUNCHES URGENT RELIEF CAMPAIGN FOR SYRIA'S MADAYA RESIDENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Zakat House launched an urgent relief campaign Sunday, receiving donations and alms to rescue residents of Madaya town in Syria who have been stricken by hunger and poverty due to the ongoing conflict in that country.

Zakat House's

Director General Dr Ibrahim Al-Saleh has met with organizers of the relief campaign to discuss the current situation in Madaya, and the possibility of granting aid convoys an access to the besieged town in order to deliver the relief materials to the residents, the Kuwaiti charity house said in a press statement. Saleh stressed the importance of speedy delivery of these aid to the town's families to enable them rescue their children and elders from starvation, the statement said, adding that he has affirmed Zakat House's willingness to receive donations from companies and individuals to aid devastated families.

Zakat House called on Kuwait's citizens and residents to donate to help Madaya residents via the House's website: <http://www.zakathouse.org.kw>, its branches that are usually located near cooperative societies in various areas around the country, or by calling 174 to be informed on donation methods.

The House is moving on with supporting philanthropic and humanitarian projects as part of implementing the directions of the Kuwaiti political leadership in cooperation with Kuwaiti philanthropists, companies and individuals, who trusted the House in delivering their aid to devastated families and people. — KUNA



EDUCATION MINISTER UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE OF GUIDE MOVEMENT

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa underlined importance of the guide movement in strengthening loyalty to the nation and volunteering. The guide movement is quite active in Kuwait, which houses the Arab Girl Guides and "is proud to do so," Essa said in a statement following the opening of the annual Peace Camp on Sunday. The camp's theme this year is strengthening principles of loyalty to the nation.

President of the Girl Guides Society Haid Al-Houly said the camp aimed at promoting values of belonging and loyalty to the nation. She said the camp also aimed at honoring aspirations of the girl guides, allowing them to interact and get acquainted with each other as well as improving their skills. The girl guides should develop their skills, she said, in a positive fashion. Other speakers highlighted the importance of promoting sound educational values. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa lights the torch of the camp. — KUNA

NUKS - USA HONORS ABK FOR GOLDEN SPONSORSHIP OF 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait recently announced that it was honored by the National Union for Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - USA branch, represented by its President, Fahad Al-Jadaan and Treasurer, Daoud Al-Busairi, for its Golden Sponsorship of the 32nd annual conference.

The conference, which took place in San Diego - California, was held under the patronage and presence of Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr Bader Al-Essa, and Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Abdulla Al-Sumait, Deputy Chief General Manager at ABK, recognized the tremendous

efforts of the members of NUKS - USA for successfully organizing the 32nd conference, and the active participation of students during the event. Sumait also highlighted the Bank's keenness to support Kuwait's youth and to offer these students job opportunities by participating in the job fair held at the conference. This participation allowed the Bank to introduce students to its activities, operations and services offered to its clients.

This sponsorship comes in line with the Banks Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives which include the education sector and the support of Kuwait's youth.



KUWAIT: Abdulla Al-Sumait, Deputy Chief General Manager at ABK receives a commemorative plaque from NUKS - USA branch President Fahad Al-Jadaan.