

Local

Kuwait seeks UNESCO's World, Modern Heritage recognition for several sites

Including Failaka, Boubyan, Kuwait Towers, water and petroleum systems



KUWAIT: Archeological sites in Failaka Island.— KUNA



Kuwait Towers.



The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) building in Al-Ahmadi City.



Water towers in Kuwait.

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) is working rigorously to enroll several Kuwaiti locations in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World and Modern Heritage sites. Several sites - including Failaka and Boubyan islands, Kuwait Towers, archaeological sites in Subbiya, the water and petroleum management systems in the country - are amongst the list of proposed locations.

Head of the selection program and Kuwaiti representative at UNESCO Jaber Al-Qallaf said that he alongside his partner Zahra Alibaba were working very hard to forward the nominations to the international organization.

At first, the focus was on a number of archaeological sites in the island of Failaka; however, UNESCO experts saw that the island, as a whole, was worthy, said Qallaf. The Kuwaiti official affirmed that such consideration from one of the highest authorities on world heritage and culture required from local authorities to

work on plans to develop the island's infrastructure in a way to preserve its historical treasures and integrity.

Protecting cultural treasures is complimentary to the agenda of the UN Sustainable Goals 2030, said Qallaf who indicated that preserving heritage sites could contribute to the overall economic development of the world and achieve global prosperity. He added that the 1979-inaugurated Kuwait Towers as well as the 1980s-built water management systems and towers in the areas of Bayan, Al-Saddiq, Al-Adailiya, Sabhan, and Al-Ahmadi were also deemed eligible for nomination as modern heritage sites. The history of the petroleum industry and oil installations throughout the country may also be included in the Kuwaiti nomination file, he said.

Qallaf said that it was important to take quick steps to ensure that all significant sites in Kuwait were ready for nomination, indicating that NCCAL was eager to contribute to the preservation and development of the locations for the sake of future generations and their wel-



Jaber Al-Qallaf

fare. The 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee will convene today in Bahrain until July fourth. The committee, founded in the early 1970s, is responsible for selecting location and including them in the World Heritage sites. — KUNA

Kuwait-UK panel to mull over Kuwaiti patients' conditions

KUWAIT: The joint UK-Kuwaiti Steering Group is set to look into the conditions of Kuwaiti patients in the UK, and bilateral cooperation to share expertise and doctors' mutual visits, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. A Kuwaiti delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, will fly to the UK today to discuss more facilities to Kuwaiti citizens visiting Britain, including online visa system. Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi said.

The group will also address issues pertinent to the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the areas of security, air transport and cybersecurity, he pointed out. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized recent preparatory meetings on the agenda of the group's meeting, which is mainly meant to bolster Kuwaiti-UK cooperation, he said.

Other issues related to Kuwaiti students in the UK, together with closer cooperation in the domains of scientific and environment research, cultural and knowledge exchange and academic quality criteria, he added. Also to be considered during the event are ways and means of pushing forward strategic cooperation between both sides to address common challenges and cement bilateral training and military cooperation, he noted. Economically, he said both



KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi.—KUNA

sides will seek to increase trade exchange and joint investments, adding that agreements and memos of understanding would be hammered out in this regard. The Kuwaiti diplomat commended the distinguished level of Kuwaiti-UK relations, mainly the increasing number of high-level visits from both sides, mentioning in particular a planned visit by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to London in July.

It will be a good opportunity for both sides to exchange views on the latest regional and internal developments, along with a number of Arab and Islamic issues, he said. The joint UK-Kuwaiti Steering Group's 12th meeting will be held between June 26-27. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) honored overachieving branch employees for the first quarter of 2018, during a recent ceremony attended by several bank officials.



Kuwait focuses on supporting overall development: Minister

VIENNA: Kuwait's Minister of Finance Falah Al-Hajraf said Friday that his country continuously takes part in international events and conferences to support worldwide development. The minister's remarks were made during his speech at the 39th meeting of Finance Ministers of the member states of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), which concluded late Thursday in Vienna.

Kuwait is the third biggest contributor to the fund, which was established by OPEC member-states in 1976 to boost financial cooperation between these countries and other developing countries to end poverty, the minister said. He added that Kuwait contributed around 12.21 percent to OFID's capital, giving the country a priority in voting on different resolutions in the fund, compared to the other members.

During the event, Minister Hajraf met

with his Saudi, Emirati and Algerian counterparts. He also met with Kuwaiti employees at OFID to learn about their experience and their views on the fund. The meeting saw electing Saudi Arabia's Dr Abdulhamid Al-Khalifa as OFID director general for a five-year term, succeeding outgoing Chief Suleiman Al-Herbish. Over the past 16 years, Herbish has realized great achievements for the fund, doubling the fund's lending operation.

OFID provides financing to build essential infrastructure, strengthen social services delivery and promote productivity, competitiveness and trade. OFID's work is people-centered, focusing on projects that meet basic needs - such as food, energy, clean water and sanitation, healthcare and education - with the aim of encouraging self-reliance and inspiring hope for the future. —KUNA

