

## Local

# 11th International Invention Fair in the Middle East opens in Kuwait

Most important in Middle East, one of the world's top five exhibitions

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the 11th International Invention Fair in the Middle East (IIFME) kicked off in Kuwait late Sunday. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah represented His Highness the Amir at the annual event.

In a keynote speech, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah said he was proud to represent His Highness the Amir during the opening of the 11th fair, which was organized by the Kuwait Science Club for years. He regarded it as the most important fair in the Middle East and one of the world's top five exhibitions, drawing representatives of 43 countries, along with GCC invention officials. He urged Kuwaiti young people to capitalize on this year's gathering and to carry on excellence and distinction in order to better serve their own nation under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

Then, Chairman of the Kuwait Science Club Talal Jassem Al-Kharafi addressed the event by voicing pleasure to welcome 43 countries to the annual fair. He thanked the participating inventors for hailing Kuwait and His Highness the Amir for patronizing the fair. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R. Silverman said: "I am very pleased to be here as the US ambassador. We like to think that the United States is a center for innovation but what's important this evening and in the coming days is that Kuwait is the center for innovation around the Middle East and especially here. So having the invention fair, the 11th one now, is extremely important."

"I was just speaking with the organizers of this conference and I look forward to hearing about the competitors for the Best Invention and seeing them awarded on Wednesday. But it's not just the people that you are seeing here who brought their inventions but particularly the young audience here in Kuwait and throughout the Middle East to encourage people to be interested in the sciences and to want to bring innovation to Kuwait and the Middle East and throughout the world," he added. "So this is really the message going out to every school in Kuwait (I hope from this conference) and I want to congratulate all the organizers and I want to thank the corporate sponsors and others for pushing this. This is the future of any country. I don't care whether you export oil or you export



Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah delivers a speech.

something else. We all have to diversify our economies and I know that Kuwait is trying to do that, wants to do that and this is part of diversifying the economies, so this is critically important to the future economy of Kuwait," the ambassador noted.

He went on saying: "The last thing I want to say is that we, at the US embassy are working directly with the government of Kuwait, with the Ministry of Information and the National Library to revise legislation that protects what we call Intellectual Property so everything that's created in those rooms, all the inventions, if they create it, they own that idea, they can market that idea, they can commercialize it and not fear that it will be stolen by someone else which is what's very important."

"So we are looking forward, hopefully, in the next couple of months to a strengthening of the laws here, which will not only encourage these young people that I was telling you about who want to innovate and who want to be entrepreneurs but also to encourage further foreign investment in Kuwait as well," he concluded. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) Inaugurates the 11th International Invention Fair in the Middle East. — Amiri Diwan photos



Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in a group photo with participants.

## Australia, Kuwait keen on bolstering ties: Ambassador

**KUWAIT:** Australia and Kuwait are keen on boosting bilateral relations on all possible domains, said Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Jonathan Gilbert Sunday. During the celebrations of the Australian National Day at the embassy, Ambassador Gilbert said that the two countries have great cooperation within the commercial, educational and food security levels. He added that the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), which has around 4,000 registered Kuwaiti students, is another indication of the strong relations. On the commercial level, Ambassador Gilbert said that Australia was the suitable partner for Kuwait in the area of food products especially with the increase of agriculture exports. He affirmed that Australia was keen on covering the food security needs of Kuwait for the long term.

Ambassador Gilbert touched on the security and military cooperation between Kuwait and his country, affirming that both countries were keen on peace and security in the region and the world. The diplomat also expressed his pride in Australian troops' participation in



KUWAIT: Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Jonathan Gilbert (left) and Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas Reem Al-Khaled cut the cake during the celebrations of the Australian National Day at the embassy. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

the 1991 liberation of Kuwait from the Iraq invasion of 1990. Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas Reem Al-Khaled attended the festivities at the Australian embassy. — KUNA



A general view of the audience.



Ambassador Gilbert and Assistant Foreign Minister Khaled tour an exhibition held on the sidelines of the ceremony.

## Kuwait keen on boosting relations with India: Jarallah

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah lauded strong historic bonds linking Kuwait and India. "The Kuwaiti-Indian relations are deeply-rooted and date back to many decades when Kuwaiti merchants' trips to India to sell their commodities which were a source of income to Kuwaiti people," Jarallah told reporters on the sidelines of his participation in the Indian embassy's celebration of India's National Day on Sunday. This participation shows eagerness on keeping these strong bonds with India, he said. He pointed out that Indians were making up the largest expatriate community in Kuwait.

"They are working with Kuwaitis to develop and upgrade Kuwait," Jarallah said. "We have great relations in all realms." On the political level, he noted that the joint political coordination committee was meeting regularly and the officials of the two countries are paying reciprocal visits to Kuwait and India with an eye to take bilateral relations to new heights. He unveiled that the officials of both countries were working to better regulate contract-



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah (right) and Ambassador of India to Kuwait Jeeva Sagar cut the cake during the Indian embassy's celebration of India's National Day. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

ing with Indian workers and to overcome any impediments in this regard. — KUNA



A general view of people in attendance.



A group photo of guests at the event.