



'IBTIKAR AL-KUWAIT' HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

By Nawara Fattahova

Ibtikar Al-Kuwait for Innovation held an awards ceremony on Thursday at the Gulf University for Sciences and Technology (GUST). During the ceremony, the organizing committee announced the three winners on the local level in both the high school and intermediate school categories. Twelve innovative projects participated in this competition.

The Ibtikar Al-Kuwait competition was first launched in 1999 with participants only from Kuwait, and later expanded to include other GCC countries in 2011. In 2014, the competition transformed into a part of an initiative to develop the scientific abilities of female students in Kuwait's public schools, with the intention of training them to participate in the competition.

Opportunity

The Ibtikar initiative gives the girls an opportunity to express their skills through their inventions. "Tonight we are celebrating the creativity and innovations of the participating girls from Kuwait schools, and the winners announced today will compete with GCC participants in the final stage. Today, we have reached the halfway stage of this year's competition. We have the opportunity to see their inventions, which expresses the combination of education with thinking, skills with analysis, and ideas with applications. Their inventions show how an idea can be transferred into reality. Their inventions serve the community and solve problems of people. In addition, it also highlights the ability of women and girls to positively develop the community," said Sheikhha Fadiya Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah,

founder of Ibtikar Al-Kuwait, during the awards ceremony.

The competition is growing and developing every year. "This year we added intermediate schools that are participating for the first time in this competition. Through this activity, we aim to empower Kuwaiti women, especially with the difficult situation of the region and particularly the drop in oil prices. So we should focus on training girls. I would like to thank HH the Amir for supporting this competition," she added.

"There are many examples of young ladies who had leading roles in different situations, which reflects their strong will and hard work to achieve their goals. And tonight, we are witnessing women excelling in the field of innovation and creativity, which is the weapon of the 21st century. Through

Ibtikar Al-Kuwait, we encourage innovation and creativity from the early grades," concluded Sheikhha Fadiya.

Innovation

Dr Donald Bates, President of GUST, noted that the Ibtikar competition is hosted and partially sponsored by GUST. "Ibtikar means innovation, and innovation with science and technology makes a perfect match. When this university was founded in 2002, it had a vision to become the place where upcoming generations could build their futures through pathways that are increasing in importance - science, technology, innovation and creativity," he pointed out. "Today we are honoring an exceptional collection of students who are putting together the building blocks of a better tomorrow. I commend each of

you on your hard work, determination and will to find solutions to everyday problems," added Bates.

General Director of the initiative Dr Fatma Al-Hashim said that through this initiative, we can support youth and help them spend their free time in useful activities. "This initiative made the girls express their creativity and ideas through the inventions they presented. This competition encourages girls to learn and invent. It also proves that inventing is not limited to men only. I hope that their ideas and inventions will be realized in projects, from which the government will benefit," she stated.

A short documentary about Ibtikar was presented during the event, which was followed by awarding not only the winners, but all the participants in this competition, including the girls and their supervising teachers.

KFH PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL OPEN DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the national open day for people with special needs organized by Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem's Committee for people with special needs, as part of the bank's social responsibility and its interest in supporting this segment, while contributing in helping people with disabilities integrate into the community.

KFH participated in this event for the second consecutive year. The event aims at improving skills of handicapped people who showcase their projects and demonstrate their hobbies and talents. This open day is associated with exhibitions to increase awareness, not to mention competitions and valuable prizes.

It is noteworthy that KFH is keen on participating in different social activities emanating from its endeavors to achieve the social responsibility, while reinforcing the social values that comprise an impetus towards positive social environment, thus paves the way for comprehensive development.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's Committee praised KFH's efforts in supporting the segment of disabled people, and in recognition of its participation in the national open day.



I MISS YOU KUWAIT!

By Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Major General Mohammad Ashab Uddin, ncd, psc(Retd)

After my tenure as Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait as I leave, my feeling and emotions are many and multidimensional. I will always remember beautiful Kuwait and its heart touching aspects.

- The warmth of bilateral relation between the two countries and its people.
- The reminiscence by people of Kuwait about coalition support in Gulf war and liberation of Kuwait and participation of Bangladesh Armed Forces.
- The Diwaniya and its unique environment and associations.
- Frankness and traditional Arab hospitality of the people.
- The HH Amir's humanitarian and charismatic approach for the world and special feeling for Bangladesh
- My farewell 'calls on' and warmth of H.H. the Amir, H.H the PM, H.E. the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and other colleagues and friends of diplomatic corps, and Kuwaiti friends.
- The making of Kuwait green efforts and its sand dunes.
- The warmth of the Bangladeshi expatriates and their dedication, sincerely law abiding approach and efforts for the development of Kuwait and making the bondage and relation between two countries.

I am leaving with contentment and hope and pray for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the Kuwait. At the same time request and welcome you all to visit our 'Golden Bangladesh-A country of hope and aspiration'. Almighty Allah gives us all to support and help each other all the time.

Allah Hafez



FOKE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of Kannur Expats Association in Kuwait (FOKE) conducted its 10th anniversary celebration-"Kannur Mahosalvam" on 5th February 2016 at Indian Central School, Abbasiya with a wide variety of programs.

Programs started at 10 am with competitions like fancy dress, drawing, mehndi, cooking etc and winners were honored during a public function later.

The public function started with a silent prayer which was followed by Kuwait and Indian National anthems. The meeting was presided over by Jithesh P, FOKE President. The event was inaugurated by lighting the traditional lamp by the Indian Embassy Second Secretary A K Srivastava. FOKE General Secretary Biju Antony welcomed the gathering and the guests.

K S Jayamohan, Managing Trustee, HOPE Charitable Trust, Pilathara, Kannur, Kerala was selected for the prestigious Golden FOKE Award for his tremendous contribution in the field of health and the award was presented to Jayamohan by Jleeb Al-Shouyoukh Police Officer Raed Al-

Mutairi during the function.

The personalities honored during the functions for their tremendous contribution in social activities in Kuwait were Hamza Payyananur - Metro Medical

Center and Nazar - Frontline.

FOKE honored all former presidents and general secretaries and also other important contributors to the growth of FOKE at this function.

Felicitations were rendered by media person Sajeev K Peter, Hamza Payyannur and FOKE Vanithavedi Chairperson Bindu Rajeev. Program Geneneral Convener Vijayesh Marar delivered a vote of thanks.

FOKE Patrons G V Mohanan and Jaya Shankar, FOKE Joint Treasurer Sabu T V, Vanithavedi Gen Convener Leena Sabu and Master Adivath Suneesh-Balavedi were others who shared the dais.

The main entrance was beautifully designed like Kannur Fort. The cultural program started with a 'goshayatra' to bring all the cultural vibrancy of Kannur to Kuwait with colorful programs. The soul of Kannur 'Theyyam' was brought live to Kuwait. Thousands of people attended the event and enjoyed the programs.

The highlight of the event was the musical extravaganza performed by Unni Menon, well-known playback singer of South India, Kannur Abaidh, famous map-pila pattu singer, Sumi Arivind, playback singer and Preethi Warrior, Star Singer fame. They enchanted the audience with their dazzling performances.



WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net

Czech embassy opens visa application center

The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait is pleased to announce the opening of the Visa Application Center in Kuwait City. Starting from November 15, 2015 the visa applications can be submitted at the Joint visa application Center in Kuwait.

The Address is: VFS Global, Czech Republic Visa Application Center, 1st floor Al-Banwan Building, Ali Al-Salem Street, Al-Qiblah Area, Kuwait City

Submission of Applications: 9:00 - 16:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Passport collection time: 16:00 - 17:00 (Sunday - Thursday) Further instructions you can get from the website: www.vfsglobal.com/Czech/Kuwait or on call line: 00965 22971114

Note: Applicants need to come in person to submit the visa application at the Czech visa Centre. The Embassy of Czech Republic in Kuwait reserves the right to invite the applicant for a personal interview.