

Local

Customs' new app improves control at checkpoints

Govt looks forward to similar achievements at other institutions: Minister

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) launched a new application to improve control at checkpoints at ports and borders. The launch ceremony of this application was held on Sunday at the customs headquarters in Shuwaikh. "This is a new phase of achievement of GAC. The electronic services provided by GAC improve customs work, and we look forward to similar achievements at other public institutions," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh.

Director General of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi said 2018 will be the year of economic and security achievements. "Our strategy is based on attracting suppliers and simplifying their procedures, storing their goods, and easy release of their goods. This will result in increasing customs income without increasing the fees paid by citizens. As more services will be provided, more goods will arrive, so customs income will increase," he noted.

GAC launched a package of new electronic services during the ceremony. "These services will cause a quantum leap in customs work. It includes a new website on the latest international standard that includes all related information and activities, in addition to laws. It will allow individuals and companies to get their customs work done online. Furthermore, we also finished work on the control room, which provides support to all customs centers with inspection, security, customs information and easy communication with field teams and other public authorities," added Jalawi.

The control room will operate 24/7 through monitoring cameras at the land, sea and air customs ports. "This room is one of the main pillars of customs work in Kuwait, which deals quickly with all complaints and calls received in order to maintain the safety of our country," he explained.

More electronic services

'Masdar' is a new application for smartphones that allows fast communication with the public, answering their questions and providing information. In order to protect information, we also launched a disaster recovery center, which will ensure protection of all informa-



Director General of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi speaks during the ceremony.

tion and data in case of natural disasters," concluded Jalawi. Deputy Chairman and CEO of Global Clearing House Systems Tareq Al-Sultan noted that the biggest challenge facing the government and the private sector is how to change the work environment and trade over borders into an attractive component for foreign and local investors. The government has taken many important decisions within the past few months and I believe that their positive results will be seen soon," he pointed out.

"Global Clearing House Systems' future plans focus on improving the performance of work environment and simplifying trade through borders. This is done by depending on the latest technology, which will change logistics work in general in Kuwait to support economic interests," he added. Talal Al-Eidan from GAC

explained the professional and accurate work of the control room. "It is connected to 160 cameras at all ports of Kuwait. All ports are monitored and the system tracks all trucks, ships and airplanes after leaving the port. We cooperate with various authorities including the minister of interior, which we contact immediately if any truck changes its route, for instance. We also have plans to install 65 more cameras at the Nuwaiseeb and Salmi borders," he noted.

“2018 to be year of economic and security achievements”

Autonomous vehicles to be available in Kuwait: Official

DUBAI: Kuwait will be capable of hosting self-driving vehicles thanks to an advanced road scanning system set to be launched by Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) for the first time in the Gulf region. PACI Deputy Director General for information systems and technology Mansour Al-Metthen said that PACI has recently complemented the implementation of Lidar, a highly accurate road and street scanning system, inside Kuwait.

In remarks to KUNA at the 37th GITEX Technology Week Exhibition in Dubai, he said the system also allows the inspection of the length, width and height of surrounding buildings to allow for the future usage of autonomous cars. The new system depends on field scanning, using specialized vehicles, that roam the streets to specify all of its dimensions, as well as a 360 degree photographic survey of all the country's roads, he added.

This will give Kuwait a "distinguished status" in developed transporting technology, he said. This system is a brand new one in the region and is still under primary examination before being officially introduced by the end of this year, including developed tools that allows all for the state's institutions and ministries to benefit, especially the Municipality, Interior Ministry, and Ministry of Public Works, he said PACI is also working on "Kuwait Finder" project that works on inspecting the traffic jam updates, side by side with the "Lider System" which offers high definition photos of Kuwait's streets from all directions. This will lay a solid base for launching the self-driving cars, he said.

PACI will also launch a new project during the upcoming weeks regarding the statistical information, as they will be reachable by public through smart phones and tablets, Metthen added. The statistical information system will offer accurate numbers of the population, and the most populous areas, along with social status information, and all this info would be easily accessed through smart phones and tablets as well, he said. PACI has lately offered an electronic signing service that connects between the civil ID and the official signature of the users, which allows them to conduct commercial and banking transactions electronically. The Authority signed with the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) a memorandum of understanding last September, that allows PACI to be a pioneer in initiating such service. — KUNA



DUBAI: PACI Deputy Director General for information systems and technology Mansour Al-Metthen poses with other officials at the 37th GITEX. — KUNA

Conference highlights int'l maritime law

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The international convention on the law of the sea and coastal and maritime surveillance is the main theme of the Offshore Patrol Vessel's Middle East Conference being held from Oct 9-11, 2017 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa. This is the 6th edition of this conference that is supported by Kuwait's ministry of defense and the Kuwaiti naval force.

Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah, Commander and Chief of Kuwait Naval Force, said the Arabian Gulf has an important strategic location for its countries and the rest of the world, as it's one of the most important routes connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. "Gulf oil and gas passes through it to the rest of the world. GCC countries along with Iran and Iraq have 45 percent of the world's oil reserves," he said during the opening ceremony of the conference yesterday.

Epicenter of wars

This region is also an epicenter of wars and conflicts. "The wars that took place in this area had a great economic impact on the entire world. The main reason for these wars was breaking the international law of the sea by these countries, especially the identification of territory and waters of these countries. Also, some conflicts are still going on due to security crimes committed in the seas, especially maritime piracy and trafficking of



KUWAIT: Senior state officials attend a ceremony hosted by the General Administration of Customs (GAC) to launch their new application. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Talal Al-Eidan from the General Administration of Customs gives a demonstration about the features of the new application.



KUWAIT: Maj Gen Khalid Abdullah, Commander and Chief of Kuwait Naval Force (left) speaks during the conference. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodhr listens to an explanation while touring an exhibition held as part of the conference.

drugs, weapons and humans. All these crimes have a negative effect of the security and economy of these countries," added Abdullah. The correct application of the international law of the sea will prevent the GCC region from witnessing more conflicts. "Understanding the law and applying it will strengthen stability in our region, and all countries should adopt this idea by forcing the application of the law and the international treaties of the United Nations, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We invite experts from the field to share their opinions about this law," he said.

More successful

Rear Admiral Ahmed Al-Teneiji, Former Chief of Naval

Staff, UAE Navy and Chairman OPV Middle East, noted that this conference is getting more successful every year, and this year there are around 30 companies participating. "We have chosen the main subject of this year's conference the international law of the sea due to its importance for countries and individuals. There are many small fishing and tours boats that are not aware of this law, so they get in trouble in territorial waters. Some countries also arrest them as they exploit fishermen's lack of knowledge of the laws," explained Teneiji. Lectures and discussion panels presented by experts from the field from different countries are on the conference's agenda, along with an exhibition by participating companies.

Korea Navy Cruise Training Task Group visits Kuwait for the first time

KUWAIT: On the occasion of 38th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) Cruise Training Task Group (CTTG) is set to visit Kuwait for the first time. Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Kang Gam Chan DDH (Destroyer Drop Helicopter) and Hwacheon AOE (Auxiliary Oiler Expanded) are set to enter Shuwaikh port on Oct 15th.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait Yoo Yeonchul commented on the visits by saying, "I am quite pleased to see that the two Korean military ships, Destroyer Kang Gam Chan accompanied by the support military vessel Hwanchun, will visit the Shuwaikh port of Kuwait from October 15th to 18th this year."

The visit is the first of its kind in the history of Kuwait-Korea bilateral relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1979. Therefore, this will set a new horizon of our two countries' cooperation in the field of defense, enhancing our bilateral relations to a new level. So far, every year, two Korean military officers have been joining the advanced command and staff course at the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College of the State of Kuwait.

Furthermore, in April this year, Brigadier General Adil



Ghanem Al-Roujaib, Commander of the Kuwait Military Police, visited the Republic of Korea to discuss ways and means for military cooperation for the first time since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1979.

During their four-day visit to Kuwait, there will be a wide range of events such as onboard reception, cultural performance, a defense exhibition promoting Korea's cutting-edge defense technology, and so on. "Taking this opportunity, it is my wish that the most advanced military technology of South Korea will be well introduced to Kuwait, which will lead to further military cooperation between our two countries," the ambassador said.

In relation to this, International Tri-Service Defense Exhibition in Kuwait will be held from December 12th to 14th this year. The Korean side will participate in this event, promoting further way for more military coopera-

tion between our two countries. "I expect that cultural performance at Jaber Al-Ahmad Culture's Concert Hall is also exciting event during the Korean Navy Ships' visit to Kuwait," the envoy said.

The soccer match between Korean midshipmen and Kuwaiti servicemen will be another event to deepen the friendship among military men between our two countries. There will be a special event for the award in our appreciation to Korean War Veteran, James Craigs, residing in Kuwait now, who served the United Kingdom's army and joined the United Nations forces from 1950 to 1951 during the Korean War.

"As the saying goes 'friendship is the only unsinkable ship,' our friendship between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Korea will be more strengthened and forever through this opportunity of the Korean Navy ships' visit to Kuwait," the ambassador concluded.