Photo of the Day

KUWAIT: Sunset at Shuwaikh beach. — KUNA photo

Kuwait supports Arabic language project in Belgium: Ambassador

Project run by the Free University Brussels for children of immigrants

BRUSSELS: The Ambassador of Kuwait to Belgium, the European Union, Luxembourg and NATO, Jasem Al-Budaiwi, has announced a 'generous donation' by the State of Kuwait to support the Arabic language project run by the Free University Brussels (VUB) for children of immigrants. Speaking at the graduation ceremony for the children learning Arabic, Saturday evening at the VUB, Budaiwi thanked the VUB for organizing this Arabic language project. "I have two messages to give to you. First I thank the parents of the children for encouraging them to follow the Arabic language classes, their mother tongue," he said.

"Secondly, I will like to convey to you a good news that the State of Kuwait this year will also make a generous donation to support this program," stated Budaiwi. His announcement was greeted by a big and long applause by the large gathering present at the ceremony. He said that the State of Kuwait has been helping this project since last year when it was launched.

BRUSSELS: Ambassador Jasem Al-Budaiwi (right) and VUB vice rector Sonja Snacken. — KUNA

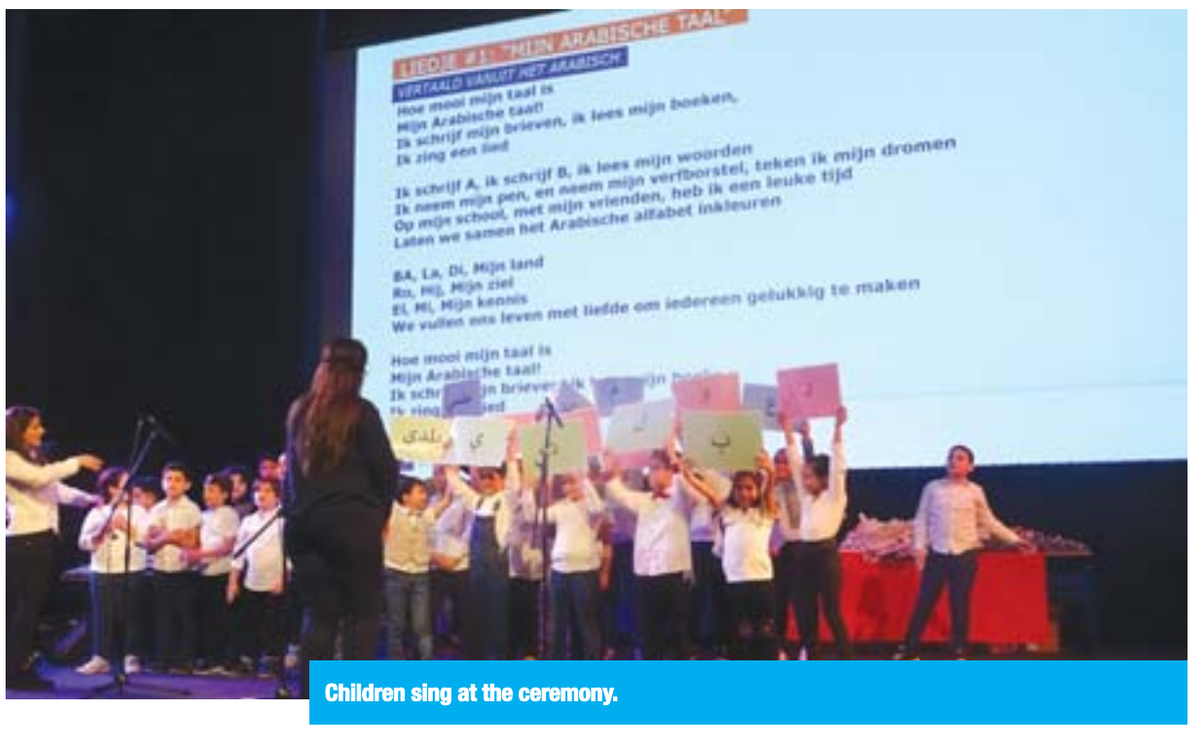
Budaiwi also explained that this support comes under the variety of programs Kuwait provides to the international community. "Supporting Arabic language for children of immigrants in Belgium is an important step to make sure that these immigrants do not lose their identity as Arabs. We need to support them, we need to stand by them to make sure that this language is really maintained and flourishes. Kuwait has so many humanitarian programs and activities and this generation (of children) is really part of this," he said. In her address at the ceremony, Sonja Snacken vice rector of VUB for international relations, noted that last year 164 children participated in the Arabic language project and this year their number has grown to 300, while another 300 are on the waiting list. She appealed to Arab countries to continue their support to this important project to teach Arabic.

300 children participating, 300 more on waiting list

Furthermore, Snacken praised Kuwait's backing to the project. "I think this is a great gesture because one of the big problems we have is to be able to continue this project and to continue to support the teachers who are professionals in teaching the Arabic language," she said. "So we are very grateful for this support in order to continue this project," she added.

Snacken said this is a project from the VUB in Brussels but they are trying to extend it to other cities as there is a lot of interest in other towns in Belgium. She explained that they had to develop a specific curriculum for the children because it is different from teaching Arabic in Arab countries. At the end of the ceremony, Budaiwi distributed certificates to the children who wore T-shirts gifted by the Kuwait embassy in Brussels.

The pupils sang songs in Arabic. The ambassadors of Jordan, Morocco, and Lebanon in Belgium also addressed the ceremony and underlined their support to the project. There is a large immigrant community from Morocco living in Belgium. —KUNA



Children sing at the ceremony.

'Learning is a Lifelong Journey' kicks off today

KUWAIT: The first 'Kuwait Education Forum' (Q8EDU) kicks off today at Al-Taj Ballroom - Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait. Organized by NoufEXPO, the event is held under the motto of "Learning is a Lifelong Journey". It takes place under the auspices of Dr Hamed Mohammed Al-Azmi, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education. The first day of the forum includes a main discussion panel entitled 'the future of education in the age of information', featuring educators from Kuwait and Egypt. Several worksheets on ways to develop education today are also set to be presented today.

High school graduates in Kuwait and their parents can visit Q8EDU's exhibition booths of participating institutions and universities, which include, from Kuwait, Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Arab Open University - Kuwait Branch, Canadian Algonquin College in Kuwait, Kuwait College for Science and Technology, Globe for Training and Consultancy, and Professional Consultants Club. In addition, the following institutions are participating from Egypt: Cairo University, Aswan University, Banha University, Menoufia University, Tanta University, Sadat University, Swiss Canal University, and The October 6 University. The Education Sector of Akhbar Al-Youm will also display their education services at their booth.

EQUATE recognizes new interns

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, celebrated the graduation of 12 Kuwait University students from its annual internship program that provides soon-to-be graduates with professional development and hands-on practical experience in the petrochemical industry as part of EQUATE's commitment to supporting local education programs.

Speaking at the ceremony, EQUATE's Group Global HR Director Mohammad Al-Sharhan, said: "Through our continued collaboration with Kuwait University, we aim to continue playing a positive role in developing a generation of professionals who will lead the sustainability of EQUATE, the national economy and the entire industry. We congratulate every one of our graduating interns and we look forward to seeing them progress in their careers."

In addition to receiving recognition for their achievements, the interns presented case studies to demonstrate the technical competencies they acquired after spending three months at EQUATE's industrial complex and headquarters in Kuwait. Since launching the internship program in 2000, EQUATE has trained hundreds of interns from various universities and majors, such as engineering, accounting, finance, business administration, chemistry and environmental sciences.