

What's On

# KCST aims to become specialized university with hi-tech programs

By Faten Omar

Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) a private university located in Kuwait's Doha district, was established with the purpose of providing internationally-recognized undergraduate and graduate degree programs in various fields. Kuwait Times spoke with Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of KCST, to learn more about the college and what it offers to students to qualify them to be future leaders and entrepreneurs with the needed expertise.

"KCST was licensed by an Amiri decree in 2008 by the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait. It was established with the purpose of providing internationally-recognized undergraduate degree courses in science and technology. But it only started its degree programs in 2015-2016. We started with 340 students in 2016, and now we have more than 1,000 registered for the next semester," he said.

Al-Begain noted that KCST aimed to become a specialized university with hi-tech engineering programs to satisfy the Kuwaiti market. "We started in 2016 with three programs: Bachelor in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electronic and Communications Engineering," he said. He stressed

that the programs were set up with academic consultancy provided by the world-renowned Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), where this partnership augments the scientific strength of the university and ensures that future developments follow education standards comparable with IIT-D.

"We will also cooperate with City, University of London Cass Business School to open a faculty of business management. We will offer degrees in digital business, energy management and entrepreneurship. This will allow students to get a better job," he said. Al-Begain revealed that the college is planning to expand. "KCST has applied to the Private Universities Council (PUC) of Kuwait for approval to add more new engineering programs including Civil Engineering with environmental and infrastructure specializations, Mechanical Engineering including robotics and medical, Electrical and Industrial. We choose the needed program but not in the traditional way, to serve what matters to Kuwait."

He stressed that most of the students go through a foundation year that was designed based on the British and Indian IIT-D curriculum, which has become very successful. "In addition, We are going to run a program that will qualify students for a guaranteed acceptance to study in top British uni-



Professor Khalid Al-Begain

versities after passing that program. Also, we are running a pre-master's program for people who want to continue their master's degree in the UK," Al-Begain said.

Regarding scholarships, he said "high school students with 95 and above GPA will get a 50 percent discount to encourage them, as our goal is to have the best students. Also, students who are already

studying in universities with a high GPA (3.5-3.67) get a 20 to 50 percent merit scholarships." According to Al-Begain, the university campus has a 520-seat auditorium, lecture theatres, as well as many lecture rooms and laboratories. "In our next expansion, we will build an indoor sports center as well as additional sports facilities," he revealed. "We have 12 successful research projects funded by KFAS. We have a policy here, that every professor who gets a funded project from KFAS gets an additional fund from the university to support them to involve students. Also, we have 13 scientific, cultural and art student clubs to cover all areas including photography, robotics and more," Al-Begain added. In order to follow up its graduates and communicate with its students, Kuwait College of Science and Technology has established an alumni club for graduates in order to get their feedback or suggestions to improve the university or continued advice on career development. He concluded by saying that KCST is establishing a unique facility in the university called the innovation lab, which linked to the international FabLab network managed by MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms in the US. People can apply for a training course that will be available not only for students but for the entire community.



The management of Flow House Kuwait organized the 2nd GCC Surf Competition with 30 participants from all over GCC. Media personnel, athletes and sports officials were present at the event.

## PUBG MOBILE launches Gameplay Management pilot across Middle East

PUBG MOBILE is working to support a sustainable digital lifestyle by launching a new 'Gameplay Management' system to encourage players in the Middle East to enjoy a balanced PUBG

MOBILE experience. The system will be piloted across the UAE, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Qatar, before being rolled out across the entire region, PUBG MOBILE will continue to assess players' needs to adjust and enhance Gameplay Management as required.

The Gameplay Management is a system of reminders and checks for players to ensure that they enjoy the game in a sustainable and balanced manner. It empowers the gamers to take control of their digital lifestyle while playing the game online. All players will need to confirm their age to activate the Gameplay Management when they login for the first time, with players under the age of 18 having to acknowledge a gaming advisory before they can start the game.

As part of its commitment to encouraging sustainable digital lifestyle, PUBG MOBILE has created a notification system for younger players to help them better monitor and manage their time spent playing the game. If accumulated gameplay is between 4-6 hours, players under the age of 18 will be notified of total time spent on the game. If gameplay exceeds six hours, the system will temporarily suspend access, encouraging players to take 15-minute breaks every two hours before resuming the game.

"We want to ensure that players enjoy the game in a balanced manner. The Gameplay Management will help players of all ages, but particularly younger players, make informed choices in managing their time spent playing the game. We are committed to doing all we

can to support our PUBG MOBILE fan community in the Middle East as we meet our commitment to continue to provide a positive interactive entertainment experience", said Herman Zhao, Director of PUBG MOBILE Operation Team in Middle East and North Africa region.

The system will be introduced to other international markets in the coming months, making PUBG MOBILE one of the first interactive entertainment providers to deploy a gameplay management system on a global basis. PUBG MOBILE's openness to engaging with local players, parents, and e-sport communities to further enhance the Gameplay Management is testament to the fact that it is devoted to providing a better gaming environment and user experience.