

Local

Kuwait eager to develop economic legislations, diplomat tells UN panel

Kuwait affirms readiness to improve people's lives: Diplomat

Gulf countries mark GCC red crescent Day

RIYADH: Arabian Gulf countries celebrate today the GCC Red Crescent Societies' Day. In March of 2017, Gulf humanitarian officials decided to dedicate the day to celebrate the societies' relief aid efforts. A number of festivities and activities will be held all over the GCC region during the celebrations. The GCC Red Crescent Day continues this year to focus on the humanitarian efforts in the war torn country of Yemen. Although the conflict in Yemen continues to preoccupy people with destruction, famine, and displacement of families, GCC countries took charge in providing urgent aid to Yemeni people through humanitarian and development packages totaling around \$22 billion. Such vital assistance has strengthened Gulf States' charitable role and humanitarian work on both the official and popular fronts, which is a continued measure that helped to heal the wounds of those who are distressed.

GCC countries have provided Yemen with around \$11.5 billion in development aid since November 2006, and another 10.4 billion from 2015 to 2018. The Gulf Red Crescent Societies played a major role in alleviating the suffering of Yemeni brethren through providing them with a number of vital projects that helped them in their daily lives and met their basic needs. According to statistics issued by the GCC General Secretariat in September 2018, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have provided \$1.25 billion, or 42.2 percent of the global humanitarian response to Yemen, while the global humanitarian aid estimate reached \$2.96 billion in 2018. Since 2006, GCC countries have shared development assistance to Yemen, with Kuwait totaling around \$709.4 million, the UAE \$2.9 billion, including \$1.5 billion since 2015, and Saudi Arabia nearly \$5 billion.

Oman has provided \$100 million, Qatar \$1 billion, and Bahrain \$4.5 million. In terms of humanitarian assistance, Gulf countries provided humanitarian assistance since 2015 and until September 2018 another generous sum. With Kuwait providing

\$350 million, Saudi Arabia with \$8.4 billion, including an exemption for health and education fees for Yemenis inside Saudi Arabia, Qatar provided \$419 million, with UAE providing \$1.3 billion, and Bahrain with \$1 million. Furthermore, Gulf countries' aid and grants to Yemen have varied in all areas, including food and relief assistance, humanitarian needs, health, education, electricity, water and shelter projects.

The GCC countries have also been quick to rescue those affected by hurricanes through operating emergency air and land relief bridges to help those affected in Yemen, which played a decisive role. In 2019, GCC countries took part in the Geneva conference to provide humanitarian funding to the situation in Yemen. The Gulf countries provided \$1.7 million with Kuwait contributing around \$250 million while Saudi Arabia and the UAE offering each an identical sum of \$500 million. The event gathered around \$4.2 billion in aid from participants.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Vice President Anwar Al-Hasawi said that Kuwait has always been helping those in need globally, without discrimination. Kuwait extended a helping hand to the Yemeni brothers to alleviate their suffering, which according to the United Nations, the crisis in Yemen has become the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, where about 22 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, Hasawi explained. He added that is why His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has swiftly contributed with \$100 million to improve the situation there in Yemen.

Hasawi noted that the Kuwaiti aid covered various aspects such as medicine, food, as well as education from building or renovating schools, paintings, school supplies, and water and electricity projects. Providing his input, head of the Yemeni Higher Relief Committee Abdulraqeab Fattah lauded the GCC countries for their humanitarian put for Yemen, saying that it has an impact on somehow elevating the dire situation of Yemenis suffering from war. The Yemeni legitimate government and the GCC countries are working closely to provide necessary humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen who are suffering from a humanitarian crisis started by the Houthi militia. — KUNA

NEW YORK: Kuwait affirmed continuous efforts to develop legislations on commerce, economy and law in accordance with international standards. The remarks were made by Kuwaiti diplomatic attache Rehab Al-Farhan yesterday, during the UN General Assembly's sixth committee's discussion on a report by the UN Commission on International Trade Law. Kuwait is set to execute vital projects to turn the country into an economic and financial center, as part of the 'New Kuwait Vision 2035,' she said. The country had also set a plan to engage the private sector in the development plan, in a joint partnership with the public sector. The authority on joint private and public sectors projects is tasked with monitoring the execution of projects and evaluating the financial part. Through engaging the private sector in the plan, the authority aims to encourage competitiveness in mar-



Rehab Al-Farhan



Abdullah Al-Sharrah

Meanwhile, Kuwait assured its permanent support to initiatives and measures taken by world nations to develop their living standards through innovative strategies and plans. This came in a speech delivered by the member of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to the UN, second secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah, before the meeting of the second committee of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss cooperation in the field of development between countries of the south.

"Cooperation between countries of the South has contributed to changing dynamics of international cooperation through meeting the needs of developing countries and the effective partnership that has proven merit in light of the decline of North-South and triangular cooperation," he said. He confirmed that the South-South cooperation is complementary, not a substitute for any kind of develop-

ment cooperation due to its voluntary and participatory nature, with regard to official development assistance pledged by developed countries. The meeting comes after 40 years since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action issued by United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held in the Argentine capital in 1978, he explained.

Sharrah also stressed that Kuwait has always been a supporter of the process of joint cooperation. Since its independence, Kuwait has recognized the importance of development in the southern region and the need to support it by all available means. This was the reason for the establishment of Kuwait Fund for Development, which has consistently supported development projects in developing countries, he explained. — KUNA

Plan to engage private sector in development

kets and creativity, Farhan added. The authority had announced several projects on energy, water, sewage treatment management, education, health, communication, real estate and others, she noted.

Ready for the Beach ??



SHENZHEN, China: A group photo of Arab media representatives with Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei. — KUNA

China's Huawei wants to leave its tech mark in Kuwait

SHENZHEN, China: Chinese telecoms equipment giant Huawei said yesterday it hopes to contribute towards Kuwait's development plans, particularly projects dealing with high-tech smart cities and public services. Huawei has joined forces with a number of reputable companies on a marquee Kuwaiti project to develop the Gulf state's eastern islands, the global tech firm's founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei told a gathering of Arab journalists in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. He pinpointed His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to China last year as the catalyst for Huawei's foray into development projects in Kuwait. "We look forward to working with Kuwait to help the country bring its goals and ambitions to fruition," Zhengfei said, pointing out that the telecoms giant is excited about displaying its next-generation tech knowhow in the Gulf state. As part of plans to transform Kuwait into a global technology hub, he said that Kuwait was among the first countries to embrace Huawei's 5G technology, touted

as the "next generation" of mobile communication, which was the result of a deal signed between both sides. Working with Kuwait has been a "productive experience," he added, describing the market there as significant and fast-growing, highlighting that 5G technology could help spark a digital renaissance in countries eager to explore the breakthrough. He urged oil-rich Gulf nations to make the transition towards a more digital-based economy, warning that the age of oil would "inevitably come to an end." On US sanctions that threaten to disrupt Huawei's smartphone and network equipment businesses, Zhengfei wanted the mobile network to eventually make its way into the US, hoping that early-stage talks with American telecoms firms would allow the company to license its 5G network technology to them. Huawei's sales growth has largely remained unaffected after the world's largest telecoms equipment provider was placed on a US blacklist over national security concerns, banning it from buying American-made parts without a special license. — KUNA

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