

Local

US envoy marks int'l education, global entrepreneurship weeks

KUWAIT: The US Embassy in Kuwait marked International Education Week with an event on Wednesday at the creative arts studio Yadawi, located in Kuwait's historic Bayt Al-Othman Museum, to promote international education and exchanges between the United States and Kuwait. The gathering also coincided with Global Entrepreneurship Week, a week-long celebration of innovation and entrepreneurship. US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina L Romanowski gave opening remarks at the event, which included nearly 50 Kuwaiti graduates - entrepreneurs, artists, and more - from various US universities in attendance.

"As someone who did their graduate and undergraduate studies in history and international relations, I know that education and exchanges can play a transformational role in international relations because they help foster cultural understanding. At the end of the day, it's the people-to-people ties and networks that support strong relations between our countries," Ambassador Romanowski said.

"During my time as Ambassador in Kuwait I have met so many successful Kuwaiti men and women of all ages who graduated from US colleges and universities," the Ambassador added. "Kuwait has a long history of sending students to the US for their studies, going as far back as seven decades."

Ambassador Romanowski highlighted the release of the 2020-21 report from the International Institute of Education, a global non-profit that creates and implements international education programs and conducts related research.

"The latest report from the International Institute of Education covering academic year 2020-2021 was just released, and although there was a drop in the number of international students going to the United States due to COVID-19, including from Kuwait, we still



US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina L Romanowski attends the event.



A general view showing people in attendance.

had around 7,000 Kuwaiti students in the US in the last academic year," she said. "As we find ways to live, work, and study during the pandemic, we have found ways to continue to safely bring international students to America."

To inspire more Kuwaiti students to study in the United States, Ambassador Romanowski also announced the continuation of an embassy grant, the Future Creatives Mentorship Program, to Shahad Bishara, founder of Kuwait-based art consultancy Visual Therapy. The program connects high school students in Kuwait with established creative professionals from different industries within the arts community in Kuwait. The program is part of wider efforts to empower and inspire young artists and nurture the creative community.

"Careers in the creative arts are not always as well-understood compared to others, but I believe that they are some of the most entrepreneurial in nature. The US Embassy is proud to partner with Visual Therapy to help fund this unique program," Ambassador Romanowski said.

"By connecting students with successful artists from a variety of fields, all of them graduates from schools in the United States, we hope to inspire the next generation of Kuwaiti artists and entrepreneurs and provide them with mentorship opportunities to succeed both creatively as well as professionally and consider the United States as a destination for future studies," the US Ambassador added.



KUWAIT: A group photo taken during the 'Kimchi Table 2021' event at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

Korea embassy hosts 'Kimchi Table 2021'

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait in association with the Korean Food Promotion Institute organized a Korean food contest under the title 'Kimchi Table 2021' at its premises on Wednesday. The contest was held in Cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), and with sponsorship of Qatar Airways and Safir Hotel.

Delivering welcoming remarks on this occasion, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait Chung, Byung-ha attended the event, while Mohammad Redha, Representative of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters also attended. The Embassy invited 10 judges to the contest who have special knowledge and experience in Kimchi to ensure fair and professional assessment of the dishes.

Six contestants, comprising famous hotel chefs and social media cooking influencers, took part in the contest after passing through the preliminary screening process. The con-

testants, who were divided into two groups, prepared several variant fusion dishes using Kimchi. Videos of the contestants were screened after the speeches, adding to the sense of pride and enthusiasm in the contest.

At the end of the contest, the panel of judges selected two winners, one from each group. The winners are Ramu Naidu from the hotel chefs' group and Mimi Murad from the Instagram influencers' group. The winners were offered two round-trip tickets to Korea presented by Qatar Airways in addition to giving them the chance to attend a Korean cooking class organized by Korean Food Promotion Institute.

Kimchi is preserved vegetables seasoned with unique spices and fermented seafood that are stored for a specific period of time before being eaten. According to historical records, Koreans used to make Kimchi and eat it even before 760 AD. Kimchi is a unique Korean food that is deeply related to the identity of Koreans to the extent that UNESCO inscribed Kimjang, an activity of making and sharing Kimchi on its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013. Recently, Kimchi is admired as a healthy food across America, Europe and several Asian countries along with expansion of Hallyu wave.

Kuwait, Thailand sign diplomatic visa exemption deal

BANGKOK: Kuwait and Thailand signed an agreement on Wednesday on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports, the Thai embassy in Kuwait announced. Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mohammad Husain Al-Failakawi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Thailand, signed the agreement between the government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the State of Kuwait. The agreement is an important milestone for Thailand and Kuwait relations which will commemorate their 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations in 2023, the embassy said in a statement to the press yesterday.

On this occasion, the Permanent Secretary reiterated the opportunity to expand and strengthen cooperation between Thailand and Kuwait in various fields, such as hospitality sector, energy, food and agriculture, as well as the new technology such as internet of thing (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.

The Permanent Secretary also pointed out that the Thai private sector has been paying more attention to the potential of Kuwait and is ready to increase its investment in Kuwait. Similarly, Thailand wishes to encourage companies from Kuwait to explore trade and investment opportunities in Thailand. This agreement will, therefore, play a crucial role in facilitating and enhancing cooperation between both countries in order to achieve these goals, he said.



BANGKOK: Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mohammad Husain Al-Failakawi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Thailand, are seen after signing the agreement.