

Local

Zain's 'Generation Z' 2023 graduate program to focus on everlasting change in workplace

Al-Kharafi: To support Zain's 4Sight growth strategy, embracing change rather than fearing it, is key to its success

- Generation Z will learn and apply 'empowerment, advocacy, and courage to engage'
- Six graduates to focus on 'youth, inclusion, corporate wellness and innovation'

KUWAIT: Zain announced the selection of six talented Kuwaiti nationals to undertake the company's highly sort-after annual graduate program cycle for 2023. This year, the 'Generation Z' program is an evolution of the successful 'Z Twenty Two' (Z22) program undertaken in 2022 and other similar graduate programs Zain has implemented since 2016.

Generation Z remains geared towards enhancing the skills of fresh graduates and looks to cultivate internal entrepreneurs and innovators who already possess an entrepreneurial mindset to support Zain's 4Sight profitable growth strategy.

Additional new themes for this year include Empowerment, Advocacy, and Courage to Engage in alignment with Zain's recently revamped inclusion competencies. This progression is in harmony with the new generation's desire to be heard, challenged, and leave an everlasting mark in the workplace.

Zain's graduate program has built up substantial recognition and standing in Kuwait and indeed across the region. Competition for places in the program is fierce, with the Generation Z 2023 program attracting applications from a total of 300 candidates. Of these, 85 were invited for first-round interviews; 20 for second round; and just 12 were shortlisted to undertake a week-long assessment. Ultimately, six candidates were selected to participate in the year-long program.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "To support the continued success of Zain's 4Sight growth strategy, embracing

change rather than fearing it, is key to its success. As such, it takes young talent, or "new blood" like the incoming Generation Z participants to help keep us at the cutting edge of innovation, by being courageous and agile in identifying evolving opportunities."

Al-Kharafi continued, "I'm extremely impressed by the caliber of incoming participants and wholeheartedly encourage them to make the most of this opportunity to super charge their careers and play their future role in taking Zain to new heights."

This year, Generation Z will adopt a project-based format, following a 'learn then apply' methodology. Each quarter, the participants will focus on one of four topics, namely, Youth; Inclusion; Corporate Wellness; and Innovation. The development and deliverables will be centered around this approach, with the graduates applying what they have learnt during the quarter.

The "Generation Z" program seeks to foster talented individuals with the mindset of creativity and innovation, with the long-term aim of them playing a key role in supporting the company's growth strategy, which has recently gained tremendous momentum in the core telecom business as well as in multiple promising new areas including Fintech, Esports, the DizleeAPI platform, Infrastructure sharing, as well as ZainTech's many digital transformation offerings for governments and enterprises covering areas of managed cloud services, Big Data, Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Drones and



KUWAIT: The six talented Kuwaiti nationals of the program's new edition.

Robotics to name a few.

It is planned that all six 'Generation Z' participants, namely Abdullah Al-Zaid, Lina Shammas, Muneera Al-Jeeran, Noor Al-Musallam, Abdullah Al-Awadi and Ismail Dashti are recruited once the program is completed end of 2023. Of the five participants in the Z22 program in 2022, four were

recruited as full-time employees to Zain. The Generation Z 2023 graduate program remit falls under one of the pillars of Zain's Corporate Sustainability strategy of 'Build the Youth of the Future' and the Diversity & Inclusion strategic pillar of "Zain Youth" (ZY) that fosters the growth of youth employees.

Kuwait Astronomical Society receives govt recognition

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and State Minister for Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Al-Baghli issued a ministerial decision to recognize officially the Kuwait Astronomical Society.

Head of Kuwait Astronomical Society and astronomer Adel Al-Sadoun, said that the society was established to gather people who share an interest in the study of astronomy and discuss astronomical topics while sharing knowledge and resources.

He affirmed that the Kuwait Astronomical Society aims to generate astronomical culture among social groups through various visual, audio, and print means, noting that the society will seek to create a generation interested in astronomy and appreciating its role in their lives, along with attracting specialists to be members and providing possible facilities to raise their cultural and scientific level.

Sadoun affirmed that the society will coop-

erate with similar associations and organizations, universities, academic institutes, and schools inside Kuwait and beyond to achieve common goals, adding "The society will contribute to research and scientific studies on local and international astronomy. Also, the society will be updated on the news of astronomers around the world as it is keen on issuing scientific books, pictures, and videos on astronomy, in addition to translating astronomical books, magazines, articles, and scientific research."

He revealed that the Kuwait Astronomical Society will build a database and implement various astronomical activities such as astronomical observation camps. It will endeavor to attract people who have an interest in astrophotography and taking photos of celestial bodies and analyzing the data given, whether obtained by the members of the society or available by observatories or satellites around the world.

The society aims to hold seminars, lectures, and astronomical lessons and establish and



Adel Al-Sadoun

organize astronomical conferences in which Arab and international bodies, associations, and organizations can participate. "The field also needs an annual astronomical calendar, so we will issue an annual calendar for astronomical phenomena," he stated.

"We will build a fixed and mobile astronomical observatory to monitor various astronomical phenomena, such as observing the sun, stars, galaxies, and celestial bodies, and invest and market it in organizing events, activities, and publications. In addition, we will import scientific materials that will contribute to achieving the goals of the association," Sadoun pointed out.

The astronomical society also will have educational programs for the public and may have access to telescopes and other equipment for members to use. It will be a presence on social media where it will share information and updates about events, meetings, and astronomical news.



CSC to hold 11 programs in February

KUWAIT: During the month of February, the Civil Service Commission will organize 11 training programs for middle, supervision, specialized, upper and executive jobs.

The training program includes preparing newly-admitted employees, updates on the civil service system, the rights of employees, increasing integrity and combating administrative and financial corruption, institutional loyalty, working on team spirit, creative vision when making decision, as well as strategic planning for sustainable development, the skills of preparing and writing reports, writing administrative meeting memos, advanced techniques in investigations and conflict, administration of priorities, the art of controlling work pressure, the art of public speaking and governance in a quality methodology.

The CSC has clarified through its account the dates and timeframes of all programs according to their job position. The CSC has contacted everyone who intends to participate in the published programs to quickly send the application for nomination in the CSC to take necessary procedures. The details of the plan can be reached by scanning a barcode attached with the published announcement on the CSC official website on Twitter.

Gold prices cross \$1,900 per ounce

KUWAIT: Gold price in Kuwait has exceeded the 1,900 barrier for the first time in 10 months, coinciding with US data that indicates a decline in inflation rates. A report issued on Sunday by Dar

Al-Sabaek Company pointed out that gold hovered to \$1,920 per ounce on Friday. Meanwhile the US consumer prices grew 6.5 percent in line with the expectations of inflation rates decline.

The report showed two more reasons for gold prices' incline, firstly, the US monetary policy that helped in this increase, and secondly is the rise in the Michigan index that measures US consumer rates with benefitting from investors' expectations towards the Federal Reserve System and continuation of slow inflation. —KUNA



Al-Bassam lights up nights of Arab Theater Festival

CASABLANCA: Osama Al-Jamei, an actor and production manager of the show (i-media) of Tunisian origin, expressed his pride in participating in the play and working alongside the able writer, director and actor Suleiman Al-Bassam, considering that the director's keenness to choose actors from different Arab and for-

eign countries gave the show a distinct character. The performance of the play was a great interaction on the part of the audience, who filled the sides of the Mohammed VI theater and applauded for a long time for the writer, director and actor Suleiman Al-Bassam, who illuminated with his enjoyable show the nights of the Arab Theater Festival held in Casablanca during from January 10 and 16 January, with the participation of about 400 playwrights from Arab countries, including the State of Kuwait, which he represented.

A group of playwrights and artists, including director Suleiman Al-Bassam, head of the Artists and Media Syndicate, Nabil Al-Failakawi, and head of faculty members at the Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts, Khalifa Al-Hajri. —KUNA



LOYAC launches 'Kontinue' program for social work

KUWAIT: LOYAC institution has hosted international professor Dr Phillip Kim, in an inaugural program called "Kontinue." He led the organization's workshop during the first week of the program. Dr Kim is an expert in the field of business from Babson College for Business in the United States.

This program comes as a result of a collaborative initiative by the National Bank of Kuwait, Zain and Agility that supports young men and women from 17 to 30 years of age who aspire to turn their innovative ideas into reality. The program also responds to the aspirations of entrepreneurs for developing their projects with the aim of serving the community.

It also serves those wishing to hone their skills in the field of entrepreneurship, which contributes to

enhancing their career path, and it also provides the possibility of participation, whether as an individual or as a group under the idea of one project, provided that each member of the group completes the application to join the program.

"The young entrepreneurs participating in the program are fully qualified to tackle complex problems and provide innovative solutions to improve our communities and our well-being. I would like to thank LOYAC Foundation and sponsors of the program for their efforts to train and support those who want to make a positive social impact through their innovative projects. We look forward to seeing the fruits of these projects," Dr Kim said.

Head of training and development department, Eman Al-Omar said: "The program team has ensured to launch this program to support the social ideas of young people. Moreover, the experience that the participants will gain from the program will be very beneficial in the future, especially since there will be many social benefits for them."

Program consultant, Ghalia Al-Tawaree said: "The program is not unique because it is presented



KUWAIT: Dr Phillip Kim (right) during the inaugural session of the program called "Kontinue."

by a leading college, but because it could achieve financial profits for participants after they turn their dreams into reality." The program will last for seven weeks and will be held every Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5 pm to 8pm until February 21.



Munhaaj: 18,000 needy families will benefit from coupons

KUWAIT: The head of the administrative council at Munhaaj Al-Salaheen Society, Abdulmehsen Al-Mutairi has announced that an agreement has been reached between the society and the defense ministry with the support of the general secretariat of the endowment ministry to provide electronic purchasing coupons for needy families. This will be at the cost of KD 260,000 for a total of around 18,000 families.

"We appreciate the generous and continuous support from the general secretariat of the endowment ministry for standing by all charitable societies. Munhaaj Al-Salaheen has ensured that 90 percent of Bedoon families will benefit from the decision, and the rest will be for other residents in Kuwait," Al-Mutairi said.

"After comparing prices for the first time in cooperation with defense ministry society, we found that the society provides lesser prices than cooperatives and markets, but products at the same quality. Therefore, we have decided to cooperate with defense ministry cooperative for future projects," he concluded.