

Local

Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center honors mothers of differently abled children

Center holds 'The Best Mother Award' event 8th year in a row

By Ghadeer Ghloum

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of the chairwoman of the Kuwaiti Foundation for Disabled Children, Sabeeka Saad Al-Jasser, an event was held by Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center on Wednesday at Grand Hyatt Hotel — 360 Mall. The event honored mothers of disabled kids from Kuwait, GCC countries and other countries for winning Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center's award. The award was established on the Jan 1, 2013 and launched on March 19, 2013, to coincide with the date of Mother's Day. The award rewards mothers who take care of differently abled kids. The goals of this event are multiple. It sheds light on the parents of disabled people and shows their important role in our society. It also supports mothers' role in the society and presents them as role models, encouraging and acknowledging mothers' efforts with their differently abled kids and bringing mothers together to highlight their role in alleviating differently abled people's suffering.

The awards were given to the winning mothers in accordance with certain standards, including the center's nomination of the winning mother, besides that the mother has to have a son or a daughter that has disability, she has to have the quality of self-learning, her disabled kid should not be less than 10 years old, and she has to be known for participating and supporting the differently abled community.

Al-Kharafi Activity Kids Center rewarded 22 mothers at its 8th year of celebration. Kuwaiti winning mothers are: Hanaa AbdulRahman Al-Zawawi, Sawsan Taha Salman Dawoud, Jehan Khalid Al-Enzi, Ezdihar Ahmad Al-Kanderi, Mariam Nasser Al-Khuder, Nuriya Jassem Al-Shimali, Bedoor Faraj Mutabagi, Hanadi Ahmad Al-Saleh, and Eman Yousef Al-Refai.

Alongside, other winning mothers from different countries include: Adaletkaranhan from Turkey, Feilina Muhammadfeisol from Malaysia, Salwa Al-Shawashi from Tunisia, Marwa Khaled Al-Kareem from Lebanon, Hussah Dakheel Al-Hamad from Qatar, Fatma Mohammad Al-Jaberi from Oman,



KUWAIT: Winning mothers and event organizers.

Kifaya Mohammad Abdulqader from Jordan, Sayeda Mohammad Hassanein from Egypt, Nada Mohammad from Emirates, Faten Abdulbadea Alyafi from Saudi Arabia, Eman Abdulsahab Ahmad from Bahrain and Shahila Malik from India.

During the event, Aisha Al-Salem, the secretary general of the award, said that the event is to welcome mothers from the Arab world and to honor them for their relentless work without expecting anything in return. She also clarified that the objective behind rewarding the winning mothers is not to

favor them over other mothers, but to present them as role models and representatives of mothers' endless compassion and kindness.

Additionally, Al-Salem expressed her gratitude to several groups such as the volunteering youngsters and the support of different people of the society, whose continuous efforts made the annual celebration successful. She praised Zain, the strategic sponsor of the celebration, for its continuous support and prompt delivery in various services. She also commended other companies.



Speakers address a press conference.



Participating mothers



Zain Kuwait's Chief Enterprise Business Officer Hamad Jassem Al-Musaibeh and Secretary General of the Award Aisha Al-Salem.

Netherlands, Kuwait to expand commercial, climate cooperation

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Dutch Ambassador Laurens Westhoff said Kuwait and the Netherlands will further enhance their longstanding commercial relationship based on friendship and mutual trust for the benefit of the two countries and a stable and secure world. The remarks came at the reception held Tuesday by the Embassy of the Netherlands to celebrate the birthday of King Willem Alexander at the Netherlands Residence Garden.

"King's Day in the Netherlands is a confirmation of the strong bonds between the Dutch Royal family and its citizens. This year's official theme will be 'we are all Kings and Queens'. King's Day is inclusive and egalitarian like the Netherlands is inclusive and egalitarian," Westhoff said, explaining the meaning behind the cele-

bration of the king's birthday. Westhoff indicated that Kuwait and the Netherlands are discussing issues like food security and climate change, both of which require new partnerships to tackle. "Therefore, we are developing, together with research institutes KISR, KFAS, and Kuwait University and also with Shell Kuwait, new branches to our relationship," he said. He added that in 2024 the two countries will mark 60 years of diplomatic relations. Both will celebrate their shared values and interests, as well as their commitment to the multilateral system.

He affirmed that Kuwait and the Netherlands will further enhance their longstanding commercial relationship based on friendship and mutual trust for the benefit of the two countries and a stable and secure world.

The Dutch ambassador pointed out that Kuwait and the Netherlands share many values. "Being relatively small countries, with large and powerful neighbors, both our countries embrace the principle of an international rules-based order. Many times, Kuwait and the



KUWAIT: Ambassador Laurens Westhoff cutting the cake with Mohammad Yaqoub Hayati.

Netherlands have stood shoulder to shoulder in promoting and defending the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of internationally recognized borders," he said.

He revealed that KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will soon expand from six flights per week to daily direct flights to the Netherlands, adding that bilateral relationship is growing from strength to strength.



Women represent 35% of workforce in Kuwait banking sector

KUWAIT: The role of Kuwaiti women in the banking sector reflects their effective and vital role in economic life countrywide, as women represent about 35 percent of the workforce in Kuwaiti banks while occupying 26 percent of leadership positions in the banking sector. As International Women's Day falls on March 8 annually, KUNA sheds light on Wednesday on the economic role of citizens in the business environment, especially female entry into banking six decades ago, according to data from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwaiti banking sector, while five decades have passed since assuming the first supervisory position in the sector.

Ever since the national banking work began in Kuwait at the beginning of the 1950s and with the growth and development of business, the banking sector encouraged women working in local banks, giving them the opportunity to lead. Nasima Al-Rifai was the first Kuwaiti woman to manage a branch of a local bank, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), as this branch was inaugurated in 1972, and at that time it was reserved for women, afterwards she gained the expertise that qualifies her to assume this position after joining NBK in 1964.

The banking services provided to women in Kuwait continued after the estab-

lishment of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and the rest of the Kuwaiti banks that competed with each other to provide banking services to women and to draw them in to work for them and benefit from their creative energies in the banking business. In accordance with the directives of CBK, local banks have signed many agreements concerned with empowering women, including a deal signed by Gulf Bank in 2015 as the first bank to support and sign a UN deal concerned with equality between men and women and the empowerment of women in the work sector. CBK is one of the leading institutions in the field of empowering women and providing opportunities for career growth, in addition to the bank's continuous directives regarding interest within this as this is highlighted by women assuming leadership positions.

Regarding supervisory positions at the bank, women assume about 41 percent of the total supervisory positions, while the number of women working for the bank reached about 545 employees, which represents 58 percent of its workforce. The presence of women was not limited to specific jobs, but rather the banks encouraged them to develop and advance while providing them with opportunities to assume executive, leadership and supervisory positions, as well as giving them the opportunity to have an active presence in the boards of directors. CBK's statistical data indicates that women occupying leadership and supervisory positions in the local banking sector amounted to about 998 women, repre-

senting about 26 percent of the total leadership positions in this sector with the total amount is about 3,849 jobs, and the number of women employees in the banking sector amounted to about 4,819. Efforts towards empowering women in Kuwait began over 40 years ago, however the past two decades have witnessed intense efforts to expand women's participation in public work, represented in obtaining their political rights, which paved the way for them to enter parliaments, contributing to the legislative role, becoming several ministries and assuming many other positions such as executive positions, whether in the government or private sector.

Kuwaiti women are pioneers in the social, political, intellectual, cultural and sports fields, holding leadership positions in the fields of medicine, engineering, law and auditing. Also, Kuwaiti women worked as university professors and recently assumed judicial positions. These steps taken by Kuwait to empower women in various fields are consistent with the fifth goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as this also comes within the framework of Kuwait Vision 2035, with the aim to transform the country into a regional leader in the financial, cultural and institutional fields by 2035. The Kuwaiti government aims to enhance women's participation in the labor market in a way that ensures accelerating the empowerment of women in government positions and achieving the goals of the country's development plan by raising the percentage to about 35 percent of the state's general leadership positions. —KUNA

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