

Local

Media specialists discuss strategic cooperation to counter terrorism

The role of media in the fight against terrorism

By Ghadeer Ghloum and KUNA

KUWAIT: A team of specialists has been assigned to follow up on the role of Arab media outlets in combating terrorism, as part of a joint media strategy to keep pace with the media changes and the evolution of digitization. During their 24th meeting on Sunday, which took place during the 16th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council in Kuwait, organized by the communication ministry, the team discussed the strategies developed and prepared by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), commissioned by the General Secretariat of the Arab League in 2015, along with the updates since then amid media innovations.

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Media and Communication Sector of the Arab League Ambassador Ahmed Rashid Khattabi said this meeting is dedicated to studying the role of media in the fight against terrorism. He expressed his gratitude to Kuwait, represented by the ministry of information, for holding this meeting. He also highlighted the state's role in supporting Arab countries' unity to uplift the Arab world and activate and connect it to issues that the Arab world is facing, such as terrorism.

In this regard, the technical secretariat generalized the document that NAUSS prepared for member countries to improve, influenced by regional and country experiences to professionally deal with this problem that is going beyond killing and threatening innocent victims to draining finances, investments and production, and hindering developmental projects of Arab countries and targeting its civil safety and security.

NAUSS mentioned these strategies have been formed to adapt to ongoing social media developments and adherence to professional standards, while also taking into consideration the strategies in



Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Media and Communication Sector of the Arab League Ambassador Ahmed Rashid Khattabi. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

combating terrorism globally as well as political, economic and security shifts to implicitly update these strategies. The strategies are built on six points, starting with 'Response and Denial', in directing media responses to events linked to terrorism through updating media tools to negate inflammatory hearsay to be more fixed in news reporting to prevent these organizations from elucidating their messages to the public.

'Awareness and Prevention' aims to solidify cultural awareness that understands and refutes all forms of terrorism and leans towards ethics of tolerance and accepting others to prevent any form of extremist content, false news and misleading information via the Internet. 'Digital cooperation and Social Responsibility' encourages cooperation between the media and government authority associated to civil society to better encompass the media with proactivity and complementary social responsi-



KUWAIT: A team of specialists meet to follow up on the role of Arab media outlets in combating terrorism.

bility between the media, public and the private sector to denounce terrorist activities in highlighting the dangers of the ideologies fueling these actions.

'Endorsement and Support' supports efforts of the security services through the media in the context of combating terrorism in providing media coverage of activities and events of agencies, to better support the rights of the victims of terrorism

through media coverage, as well as giving consideration to the privacy of victims and their families.

'Capacity Building and Financing' aims to train Arab media employees to specialize in security media with the help of academic institutions to develop training programs and build the capabilities of the media networks to better strategize their analyses through modern methods.

In my view

Getting out of economic crises



By Muhammed Al-Muthafar

local@kuwaittimes.net

Governments are always seeking ways to develop their economies, enacting necessary laws and issuing executive decisions to encourage investment. However, such actions alone are insufficient for achieving economic development. Building and educating the workforce, as well as creating the motivations that enable individuals to be effective in the economic community, are more important than enacting laws.

Citizens, whether investors or consumers, are the foundation of the economy. Sufficient awareness must be provided to citizens about the importance of investment, trade methods, crisis management and dealing with crises. Recent global crises, such as the coronavirus pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, demonstrate the need to prepare society to withstand such crises by training and developing individuals, so they can navigate and recover from these crises successfully.

Through the experiences gained from studying and analyzing finding appropriate solutions to get out of economic crises, we found the solutions are as follows: (1) Enhancing the role of the national private sector in economic activity. (2) Supporting and localizing national industries to rely on local products. (3) Announcing a program for private sector participation in state-owned assets.

For individuals, we find appropriate solutions to get out of economic crises are as follows: (1) Preparing a studied plan and a timetable to get out of that crisis. (2) Thinking more than once when buying real estate, cars or otherwise. (3) Buying local products. (4) Never borrowing from banks at the time of crises.

If we follow these steps, we will have made it easier for ourselves many problems that result from economic crises or at least reduce the risks of slippage during grinding economic crises by exerting effort, necessary care, good reading of the situations facing us, reducing spending on urgent matters and rationally distributing income to requirements. If we maintain these things, we will have achieved something very important towards getting out of crises.



KUWAIT: German Ambassador Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz poses for a group photo with the media personnel.

Kuwait, Germany share strong ties

KUWAIT: In an exclusive introductory meeting with the press on 12 March, German Ambassador to Kuwait HE Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz, a seasoned diplomat with years of regional experience as Ambassador to Oman and Deputy Ambassador to Riyadh, briefed media representatives on Germany's relations with Kuwait and shared his thoughts on how to further strengthen them in coming years.

"I had the honor to present my letters of credence to HH the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on 7th March 2023. Working to further deepen the relations between our countries will be my privilege", said the Ambassador. "Kuwait and Germany have shared

strong bilateral ties since Kuwait's independence. Building on this solid foundation of shared values and interests, my priority is to expand the band width of our relations further, to exploit the full range of our bilateral potential".

Ambassador von Reibnitz pointed out climate change as the most pressing global issue: "Climate change is real, it is here - the current effects of unabated global emissions remind us to join ranks and intensify our battle. Germany will remain a leader. My government will host the ninth international energy transition conference in Berlin from 28-29 March 2023 - this year under the motto "Energy Transition - Securing a Green Future", in the run-up to COP 28 this fall.

"At a time of both great opportunity and great uncertainty in the energy sector, the forum brings together policymakers, business and innovation leaders from across the globe to realize the full potential of a global energy transition," said the Ambassador.

Challenges facing autistic patients

By Ghadeer Ghloum

KUWAIT: Autism is a spectrum that makes people think quite differently than others. Hence, dealing with their lives and socializing with others becomes an uneasy task that needs assistance. To further understand autism, Kuwait Times spoke to Dr Moudi Abdullah Al-Ajmi, Specialist at Autistic Behavior School, for more information on autism and autistic individuals.

Kuwait Times: What are the challenges that people with autism mostly confront in their life?

Dr Moudi Al-Ajmi: One of the prominent obstacles that people with autism confront is deficiency in social skills, including the ability to recognize and respond to the emotions of other people, read nonverbal clues and navigate social rules. Problems with language development and communication are common obstacles faced by adolescents with autism. These challenges are sometimes intricately entangled with issues related to socializing, because a significant portion of human socialization is related to verbal and non-verbal communication.

Students with autism may have trouble figuring out what their senses are telling them, so they may avoid or seek out sensory input. Some students will find it hard to finish tasks or plan ahead, and others may find it hard to break out of a pattern of thinking to look at a problem in a different way. This is because executive functioning may be hard for them. Students with autism may have trouble with their motor skills, which may take a lot of effort or concentration and make it hard for them to pay attention to what is being taught.

Kuwait Times: What are the challenges that specialists face with their autistic patients?

Dr Al-Ajmi: Those who take care of autistic indi-

viduals face some challenges. Children who suffer from autism spectrum condition exhibit a wide variety of symptoms, the most prominent of which are behaviour that is repetitive and agitated as well as persistent impairments in communication. Specialists encounter a variety of obstacles, including those related to personal connections, professional strata, financial balances and, most crucially, a lack of service availability and management procedures.

Kuwait Times: Is autism determined at birth?

Dr Al-Ajmi: Just because you have autism does not mean you also have another condition or disease. It indicates that your brain functions differently than the brains of other people. It's something that comes naturally to you from birth. It's possible that you'll discover the signs of autism while you're very young, or you will not notice them until you're much older. If you have autism, you will always have autism. It is a permanent condition. Some persons require assistance to successfully complete particular tasks.

Kuwait Times: Can autism be cured?

Dr Al-Ajmi: Autism is not a medical illness that can be treated or "cured", as the term would imply. All attempts at treatment lie in raising the level of skills in autistic individuals, and many people with non-severe autism cannot notice any disorder. So you will find a child gifted in a hobby or sport, and maybe superior to their peers in the fields of mathematics and science. Some of their problems may lie in their unwillingness to communicate with others, or excessive nervousness in some situations that we see as normal. Autistic patients refuse to be intruded into their circle, and their integration into any routine is very difficult and requires a lot of training.



Dr Moudi Abdullah Al-Ajmi



"This year's conference tackles the biggest challenges in the energy transition - such as energy security, decarbonization, green hydrogen, energy access and security risks emanating from climate change".

"We are also keen to participate in the economic diversification of Kuwait (Kuwait Vision 2035). This is shaping up to be a task of strategic proportions. German companies stand ready to contribute when called upon. They have left their mark on Kuwait's project landscape time and again, more recently in the energy sector, as supervisors of the new Umm Al Hayman waste water plant and as project consultants at Kuwait International Airport."

German engineering companies and scientific institutions were also involved in the flagship "Shagaya" Renewable Energy project. "I see potential in these and many other segments of the Kuwaiti economy", stated Ambassador von Reibnitz, "and we stand ready to partner with Kuwait for a diversified, prosperous economic future."



Kuwait's FM meets Omani counterpart

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday met with Omani counterpart Badr Al-busaidi at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat. The two sides reviewed the distinguished relations between the two brotherly countries and ways to develop them to achieve benefits for the two countries. They also discussed their hopes for the success of the work of the ninth session of the Omani-Kuwaiti Joint Committee hosted by the Sultanate of Oman, stressing the importance of raising the pace of bilateral cooperation in various fields. The two Ministers also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common concern. Sheikh Salem arrived in Muscat - leading Kuwait's delegation to the ninth session of the joint committee. —KUNA