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Dasman Diabetes holds retinopathy workshop

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute, in cooperation with the health ministry, recently organized a diabetic retinopathy workshop for two different groups of general practitioners from the ministry's primary health care division. The workshop will contribute to the development of ophthalmology services and care in addition to raising the level of treatment services provided to patients.

Diabetic retinopathy, a common occurrence in diabetics, could cause serious diabetes complications which may lead to vision loss. It occurs due to high blood sugar levels feeding the cells in the rear of the eye, known as the retina, which if left untreated can lead to blindness. The two-day workshop dealt with several topics, including risk factors and signs for diabetic retinopathy, how to diagnose the condition, the stages of development of retinopathy, reading retinal examinations and latest recommendations for this disease.

KRCS to inaugurate 16 stores in Palestine

KUWAIT: A delegation of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) started a two-day visit to Palestine on Saturday to inaugurate a number of Kuwaiti-funded projects and visit local institutions. Locals applauded the visitors at Ariha crossing before they proceeded to Ramallah city where they instantly met Chairperson of the Palestinian Red Crescent Dr Youness Al-Khatib and a number of officials from the association.

Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, the KRCS Chairman, said in a statement to KUNA that the delegation came to Palestine in response to an invitation from the Palestinian Red Crescent, adding that the delegation would inaugurate 16 commercial stores in Jerusalem - renovated with support from Kuwait Chamber of Industry and Commerce. On Sunday, they will visit headquarters of the local Red Crescent institution for teaching the deaf, examine warehouses and institutions affiliated to the Palestinian Red Crescent and open a ward for children intensive care at the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah - built with donations from a Kuwaiti citizen. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: People watch the dancing fountain at Al-Shaheed Park in Kuwait City, on March 17, 2023. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat.

British Council looks to revive Kuwait's UK alumni network

'Legislation issues discourage UK universities from establishing local branches'

By Khaled Al-Abdulahdi

KUWAIT: The British Council is looking to revitalize its role and raise the profile of UK alumni in Kuwait, said the council's Country Director Anthony Skinner. "I'm proposing to bring together alumni from similar specialties and support them to deliver events to reach out to other UK alumni and connect them with fresh graduates. I think it will grow our alumni and give our existing alumni ways to contribute," said Skinner at a UK alumni meeting held Wednesday, March 15, and sponsored by the British Council.

The British Council was first established in 1934, opening its first office in 1938. It's the oldest council organization with over 100 countries and 6,000 employees globally. The council operates in three key areas: education (connecting with alumni), helping governments improve the quality of English teaching, as well as creative economy.

Skinner said he was looking to "refresh and rebalance" the council's plans going forward. "In Kuwait, we have been doing a lot of creative economy, making the UK a main creative partner for Kuwait. We are going back to the higher education institutions to establish partnerships between private sector universities, Kuwait university and the UK."

Skinner addressed the struggles expatriate alumni face when looking for career opportunities in Kuwait. He said he hoped the alumni network initiative would "help new graduates and give them more purpose." "I'm hoping to have the alumni gain a bit of structure," he said.

The education ministry, the council and the UK government are very keen to see the alumni network grow, said Skinner. "We are going, in the next 18 months, to raise the profile of UK alumni. The bigger the community the stronger we will become."

In terms of establishing a British university in Kuwait, Skinner said it was "not impossible" but the country needs to "work" on its profile before that happens. "The population of students in Kuwait and legislation issues discourage big UK universities to come. I'm hoping to bring British universities with public and private universities to hold a joint initiative," he said. "My role is to establish connections and networks between the UK and Kuwait, as individuals, companies, or institutions, regardless of their situation."

Ghazala Mahadik, a chemical engineer who graduated from Bath University, told Kuwait Times: "Being a UK alumnus is prestigious and amazing. I am really honored to be here today and meet Mr Skinner. He told us about new prospects for UK alumni in Kuwait. It will be wonderful working with him and other UK Alumni for the improvement of the community."

Mahadik said she would love to volunteer with the council's alumni board. "Some of us who are here are driven and want to help out. We can encourage other alumni to come forward because the education that we got in the UK has given us a lot of value, and we are who we are because of that. So, it is really important for us to give back," she said.

Kamal Al-Shirazi, a mechanical engineer and UK alumni board member, said he was looking forward to working with Skinner and helping him with his initiative to rebuild the UK alumni network. "Hopefully, we will come up with new events and ideas to guide UK alumni. This will help attract new alumni and ensure they benefit from joining the network. We are looking forward to building a bigger network."

Shirazi said there's need to "present the alumni programs to a broader audience especially new UK graduates and show them the benefits of joining the network and working with other UK alumni. I think it's important to expand the alumni network so we can access more people."

"I'm especially keen on the idea of creating sub-



KUWAIT: The British Council Country Director Anthony Skinner speaks at the event.



Ghazala Mahadik, Bath University alumna, speaks at the British Council UK alumni event.

groups (from similar specialties) which Mr Skinner mentioned. This will help graduates find an environment to which they can relate," Shirazi said.

Skinner said any income that is generated through the teaching center operations of the British Council is reinvested back into the council's network in order to sustain the council globally. "That is why we have a teaching center because no government in the world can sustain an organization the size of the British Council. We are actually a self-sustaining organization under our charitable and non-profit organization status in the UK."



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KUWAIT: Two participants display artistic pieces at the exhibition. — KUNA photos



Tens of visitors enjoy the exhibit and the moderate weather.

Young Kuwaitis show innovations at weekend bazar

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti innovators and merchants showcased their products and works at the "Bugsha market" bazar this weekend. Ali Wahidi, one of the founders of

the bazar, told KUNA that the old term "bugsha" was revived to signal the desire to bring the Kuwaiti heritage to life. Wahidi said the activity is sponsored by several national companies and entities, namely the National Bank of Kuwait and the telecommunication company Zain, that seek to support the youth. Rasha Al-Fahad, a partner in the enterprise, lauded the participating young people who contributed with diverse and vibrant products. Adlah Al-Baghli, a participant, said she has taken part with fabric and leather bags, decorated with drawings depicting the national heritage. — KUNA