

Google Cloud key for Kuwait's digital transformation: Official

Cooperation first of many with large-scale companies

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: Kuwait has been undergoing a digital transformation recently, fueled by the government's commitment to modernizing the country's infrastructure and improving the lives of its citizens. One major step of this transformation has been the implementation of cloud services across various sectors of the government. The implementation of cloud services is a key aspect of the state's digital transformation plan, which aims to create a knowledge-based society, where information and communication technologies are used to improve the quality of life of Kuwaiti citizens and businesses.

Cloud services also have the potential to provide greater access and enhanced development for educational and health resources, as promised previously during a media roundtable with Google Cloud in Kuwait. The long-term benefits of increased efficiency, productivity and innovation make it a worthwhile investment. As Kuwait continues to expand its technological capabilities, it will be well positioned

to become a leader in the region's digital landscape.

To look further into cloud servers and their impact on improving citizens and residents' life quality in Kuwait, Kuwait Times interviewed Dr Ammar Al-Husaini, Deputy Director General at the Central Agency for Information Technology. "We all agree that cloud computing is one of the main enablers of digital transformation, which is about providing better services to citizens and users. Therefore, our role as the Central Agency for Information Technology is to make sure we provide the right infrastructure and the right systems, in order to provide citizens and residents of Kuwait better services. Google Cloud, other hyperscale cloud services, and in general, all technologies are enablers. In the end, all we are looking forward to is to basically provide better services for people who live in Kuwait," he said.

Implementing cloud-based systems has been instrumental in creating a more efficient and responsive government in the state. By moving government services to cloud-based platforms, citizens can access services online, making the process much



Dr Ammar Al-Husaini

quicker and more convenient. With e-government services, citizens and residents of Kuwait will be able to make payments online and access important documents anywhere and at any time. As a result, this will reduce the need for in-person visits to government offices, thereby eliminating long queues and wait times.

Moreover, Kuwait's potential for digital transformation is not stopping at this point. "Google Cloud is our first agreement, and there will be other agreements with other big companies to support Kuwait's digital transformation. We did not only choose Google, but Google is our first deal and it will be followed by other agreements," Husaini said.



Implementing Google Cloud services across various sectors of the government has been a major step in the country's digital transformation. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Committee tasked with encouraging youth to work in private sector

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Cabinet approved, in its meeting held Monday, forming a committee tasked with creating job opportunities for national cadres at the non-government agencies. This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting held at Seif Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet decided to task the Public Authority of Manpower - in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as the relevant bodies - to study legally and financially handing out social allowance to the owners of microenterprises and to present to the Cabinet, within a month a report about the necessary appropriate steps and procedures that encourage youth to work in the private sector, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel said after the meeting.

This shows the Cabinet's endeavors to achieve its vision and plans aimed at increasing the national work force at the private sector and providing them with incentives to join the non-government agencies, he said. The step also seeks to find new job openings



KUWAIT: Cabinet issued a decision to task committee with creating job opportunities for youth in the private sector during its meeting Monday. — KUNA

to the Kuwaiti youth and enhance innovation and competitive work, he noted.

The Cabinet was also briefed on the recommendation of the Economic Affairs Committee on a draft law approving the amended final account of the State's financial administration for the fiscal year 2021/2022, and the

Cabinet decided to approve the draft law and submit it to His Highness the Crown Prince, in preparation for its referral to the National Assembly. On regional and international political affairs, the Cabinet expressed its sincere congratulations to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his re-election as the

Details on the committee:

- The Public Authority of Manpower, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as the relevant bodies were designated by Cabinet for the task.
- The committee will study the legal and financial aspects of giving social allowance to the owners of microenterprises and find ways to create job opportunities for youth in the private sector.
- The Cabinet's decision came following a request from First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to pay an allowance to microentrepreneurs.
- The committee will submit a report within a month from May 29 with the necessary appropriate steps and procedures that encourage youth to work in the private sector.

country's leader for a third term in office. The ministers wished President Erdogan every success in his mission, and further success and prosperity to Turkey and its people. — KUNA

News in Brief

Mubarak Al-Rashidi's murder suspect gets longer detention

KUWAIT: The court has renewed the detention of the man accused of killing Mubarak Al-Rashidi for a month. Public Prosecution has charged the man with premeditated murder, a more stringent charge compared to his previous charge of kidnapping. The man had denied murdering Rashidi during the prosecution's investigation. The case has preoccupied Kuwaiti public opinion since Rashidi went missing in Kabd region last March. Officers from the Criminal Security Sector found Rashidi's body on Sunday in Salmi desert area after a long search operation lasting 74 days. The man charged with murder has been a suspect since the beginning, sources said. So far, the man in custody remains the only suspect in Rashidi's murder. This could change pending the results of an investigation being carried out by Egyptian authorities into an Egyptian national who witnessed the crime. There is a possibility that other accomplices will emerge after the completion of the investigations and collection of evidence.

Teachers to be honored for COVID-19 years

KUWAIT: Kuwait Teachers Society plans to host a ceremony to honor teachers for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years, who were never honored due to the COVID-19 closures. The matter was discussed during a recent meeting with the Education Ministry's Acting Undersecretary for Educational Development Dr Ghanem Al-Sulaimani, the society's president Hamad Al-Houli said on Tuesday. "It is imperative to honor distinguished teachers for their efforts in helping elevate students' academic gains," Houli said, adding that ministry officials have been very cooperative with the society's idea of honoring the teachers.

Biometric scan center launched for oil sector

KUWAIT: A biometric scan center for oil sector employees has been opened to help staff members save time and effort, the Union of Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries' employees announced Tuesday. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saoud Al-Sabah, CEOs of KPC subsidiaries and Interior Ministry officials attended the opening ceremony for the center, the union's president Mohammad Al-Otaibi said. Otaibi expressed gratitude to First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Interior Ministry officials for their efforts that led to opening the center "which will be of much help for oil sector employees who can visit the dedicated center instead of going through overcrowded centers around the country."



KUWAIT: Participants in a seminar of fake accounts organized by KUNA. — KUNA photos

Everyone responsible for combatting fake accounts: Experts

KUWAIT: Participants in a seminar organized by KUNA on fake or anonymous accounts on social media, their impact on society, public opinion, and ways to confront them, recommended on Monday to bolster efforts to confront and curb rumors. Hosts in the session, which was attended by KUNA Director General Dr Fatima Al-Salem, and Ministry of Information Assistant Undersecretary for the Press, Publications and Publishing Sector Lafi Al-Subaie, called for the importance of obtaining information from its official sources, in addition to monitoring the concerned agencies in the country for everything that is published on social networking sites, particularly in terms of false information.

The speakers, which also included representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the National Guard, and Kuwait Red Crescent Society, explained that confronting fake accounts is everyone's responsibility, represented in the commitment of individuals not to publish any false information without verifying its official source in order to avoid legal accountability. Subaie stressed on the Ministry of



Lafi Al-Subaie

Information's keenness to confront fake accounts and take all measures with media outlets that raise rumors and false news.

He added that the ministry has licensed 554 social media accounts publishing news and is in the process of regulating what gets published through them and setting various regulatory conditions in case of violations.

Colonel Othman Al-Ghareeb from the General Department of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior said that the department's role lies in raising awareness of the dangers of cybercrime and its impact on society, underlining the ministry's keenness to confront fake accounts. Ghareeb stated that the ministry is working to educate individuals



Othman Al-Ghareeb



Ammar Al-Sarraf

about the importance of obtaining information from official sources in the country, such as the Ministry of Information and KUNA.

Acting Head of Support Services at the Department of Electronic and Cybercrime, Lt Col Ammar Al-Sarraf said that fake accounts may serve specific agendas, so people should avoid interacting with them and ensure they obtain information from reliable official sources. Sarraf said anyone who encounters a fake account spreading false information can confidentially report them to the department through WhatsApp or email. He stressed the need to ignore fake accounts that spread rumors and avoid providing them with information, as "it is possible to be deemed an accomplice if you provide these accounts with defamatory or liable information." — KUNA

- The Ministry of Information licensed 554 social media accounts publishing news and is in the process of regulating what gets published through them and setting various regulatory conditions in case of violations.
- **Lt Col Ammar Al-Sarraf:** Anyone providing fake accounts with defamatory information could be deemed an accomplice.
- **Lafi Al-Subaie:** People must avoid publishing false information without verifying the source to avoid legal accountability.
- **Colonel Othman Al-Ghareeb:** The Ministry of Interior is planning educational campaigns to raise awareness of how to best deal with fake accounts.