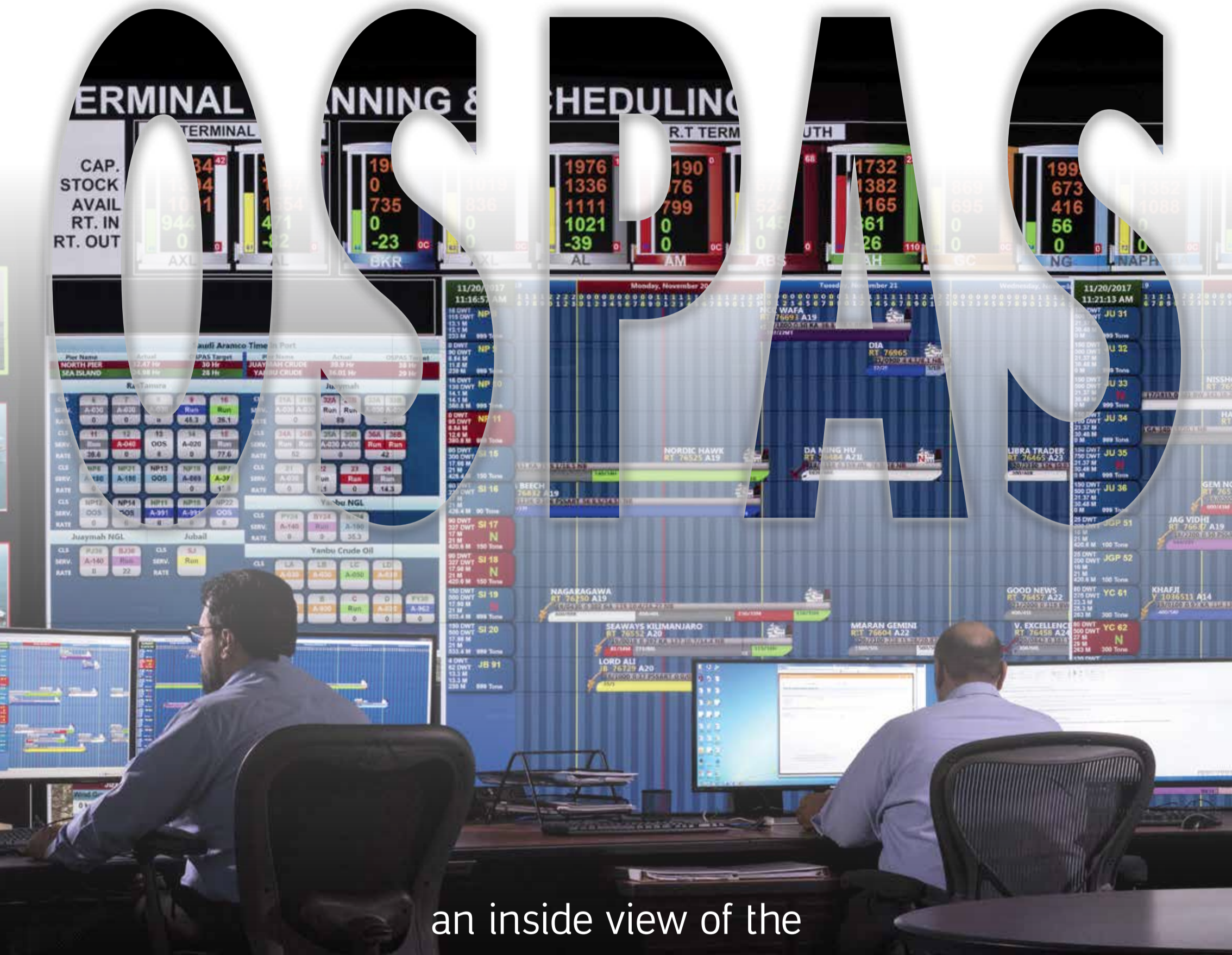


the arabian sun

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a weekly Saudi Aramco publication for employees



an inside view of the
nerve center of Saudi Aramco operations

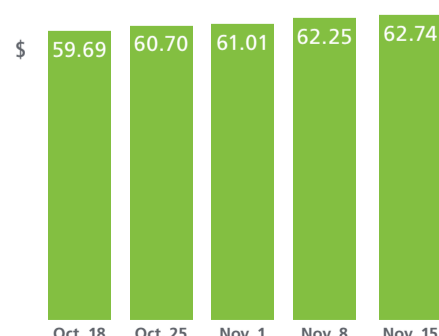
see pages 7 to 12

70 years of
AramcoWorld

AramcoWorld is
recognized for
excellence again.
see page 2



OPEC basket
five-week price trend 2019



Saudi Aramco
by the numbers

more than
60,000

remote terminal units collect data in real time from across company facilities, which is overseen by IT's Real Time Systems Division, allowing the company to respond to needs rapidly and with agility.

70 years of telling good stories

AramcoWorld team wins nine first-place awards

Houston — It was a record-breaking year for *AramcoWorld* at the 2019 Folio: Eddie and Ozzie Awards Gala, held recently at New York's Hilton Midtown, just blocks from where the magazine was founded 70 years ago this month.

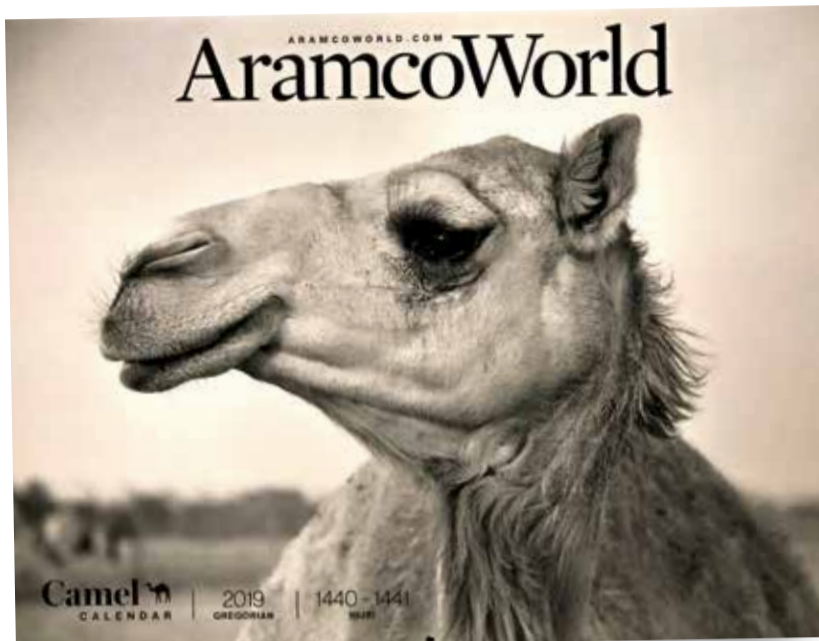
AramcoWorld took home a total of a nine first-place awards, as well as a number of honorable mentions for editorial and design excellence — four more awards than last year — buoyed by multiple wins by its strong digital presence and multichannel storytelling.

"The number and breadth of these awards is fantastic — a great reflection of the dedication to mission by our editorial staff, our expert contributors, our contractors, and very importantly the company that, as publisher, is supporting bridge building stories across more and more diverse channels," said *AramcoWorld* editor Dick Doughty. "It's a lot like what the Aramco communications staff was doing in 1949, looking to connect people, using an idea for a newsletter named *AramcoWorld*, only a lot bigger now."

growing our digital channels

The publication's digital-first strategy came out a clear Folio: winner with three awards for overall online experience. The *AramcoWorld* app won first place for design and an honorable mention for editorial, and the magazine's website earned a first place in editorial.

"Our digital efforts are exciting as we continue to grow our channels," said Johnny Hanson, digital media editor, noting this year's nearly 20% digital audience growth. "We realize the importance of this space and continue to expand it. What we produce is out of the love of



AramcoWorld won two first-place awards for its 2019 calendar featuring photos of the camel in historic and modern roles, as well as an honorable mention for the accompanying edition devoted to the influence of camels on global cultures.

what we do for our audience, and to receive awards for it just makes it more special."

camels come out on top

Camels came out on top, too. *AramcoWorld* won two first-place awards for its 2019 calendar featuring photos of the camel in historic and modern roles, and it received an honorable mention for the full Nov./Dec. 2018 issue — a theme devoted to the influence of camels on global cultures.

"The theme of camels was a natural one for us because of how important they have been — and continue to be — for many of the cultures we represent," said assistant editor Alva Robinson.

What attracted the most awards — four in total — was the magazine's May/June

2019 cover story and online video on the astrolabe, a medieval astronomer's tool developed in the Middle East whose "apps" aided navigation and celestial reckonings.

Both the article and video earned firsts in instructional/how-to categories, and the video landed an honorable mention in overall best video. The article's three-page graphic novel by former ASC summer intern Ivy Johnson took an honorable mention in illustration.

In 2018, *AramcoWorld's* "FirstLook" won a first-place award, and this year it took home two. This photo oriented, full spread department opens the magazine to inspire and set a tone for the whole issue.

Three feature stories took prizes: The July/August 2018 cover story on health educator Edna Adan, "Somaliland's Mid-

wife," won first place for profiles, and a feature from the same issue, "The Fragile Songs of the Sumatran Rhino," won a first place as well. An honorable mention went to the January/February 2019 "David Dorr's Window East" — the story of the only known travelogue of the Middle East by an American slave.

It's in the overall editorial excellence category, however, that Doughty says Folio's recognition means the most. As it did last year, *AramcoWorld* earned an honorable mention. The contest's judges look at "every detail" of three full issues, says Doughty, and "score you according to how well they think the magazine fulfills its own mission statement. We're here to discover and explore how our cultures have fed each other, informed each other, made each other better, from the earliest times to right now, and these recognitions ultimately reflect the people and the company who make it all possible."

Al Ayyam Al Jamilah wins, too

Al Ayyam Al Jamilah, the company's semi-annual magazine for the global annuitant community, tied for first place in editorial excellence. The winning story — "103-Year-Old Retiree Recalls Old Places and Faces" — ran in its Spring 2018 issue and it was written by the magazine's editor, Art Clark.

"It was delightful to be able to reintroduce retiree Johnnie Merritt to the Aramco community," said Clark, adding that Merritt went on to attend the 2018 annuitants' reunion in Austin, Texas.

your voice

life calamities: is there an effective way to deal with them?



by Zaid Mohammad Basalama
Dhahran
Zaid.Basalama@aramco.com

From time to time, I receive inspiring WhatsApp messages that advise me to enjoy life and not waste my energy on overreacting with anger and rage about whatever obstacle appears to be disrupting my own personal journey.

Usually, these WhatsApp optimistic messages cite quotations from great philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, researchers, spiritual leaders, and other prominent personalities. Their messages are meant to be uplifting, looking to lift the mood of the recipients.

And while they may lift our spirits, we must still learn how to navigate life's unexpected challenges. It is best when we can learn how to take it as easy as possible, accept that these misfortunate events and adversities have happened, and pray with an open heart and soul that God's plan is in action.

Indeed, sometimes there are events that look bad at first, but later turn out to be a blessing. In reality, the way people adapt and react to personal and broader calamities in their lives can generally be broken down into two approaches.

The first approach is to program yourself to accept these calamities with an open mind, heart, and controlled your temper, vowing to yourself that whatever comes out of this calamity, you will peacefully accept it with coolness and rationalization.

This positive approach has been medically and physiologically proven to produce less anxiety, anger, rage, health hazards and problems, and more of an inner-peace feeling. This also leads to clear thinking, enabling the individual to make reliable decisions — as it has been said that a positive attitude leads to a positive outcome.

Note that adapting this mindset does not mean the impact of this calamity will totally cease to exist, but it can decrease its impact, allowing a person to better control their emotions and overall temperament.

The second approach involves overreacting aggressively with temper, resentment, and high tension. Such reactions can prove to be explosive and even cause health problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and anxiety.

Those who give in to such emotion are prone to making regrettable decisions while in this state of mind. Negative reactions or thoughts typically add no value toward solving the problem or making it go away. In fact, they usually make things worse.

I am no expert in the field, but the school of life has provided me plenty of opportunities to try both approaches — the proactive and the negative.

My own personal experience has shown me that the positive and more comforting approach generally yields better results. And still, it's important to note that nobody said it would be easy to embrace, master, and apply this option. A change in behavior can be difficult, and requires persistence and patience, but the end result is worth the effort.

You definitely need to work on it, you have to practice, and do self-convincing and programming to restrict your anger, rage, and negative emotions. It can require extreme determination, but it can also eventually become part of your default personality.

security for a new era

ninth ASIS conference hears of security industry's technological transformation

by Eamonn Houston

Bahrain — Technological advancements have transformed the global security landscape, a top security professional conference was told recently in Bahrain.

The ninth American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) Middle East Security Conference and Exhibition was held in Bahrain under the patronage of HE General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and drew together security professionals from across the world.

Some 28 well-known government and business leaders, as well as security experts, gathered at the event to share experiences and views around 10 streams, including critical infrastructure protection, the deployment of Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) technologies as enablers, cultural and hospitality security, and cybersecurity.

technologies

Exhibitors showcased the latest products and cutting-edge technologies, such as UAVs and marine protection, over several areas.

In a keynote address at the event's official opening, Aali M. Al-Zahrani, Saudi Aramco's executive director of Safety and Industrial Security and senior vice president of Region 12 ASIS International, singled out the most notable modern security-related developments.

Significant emerging threats and risk profiles, coupled with technological advancement and the transformation of the security, topped the agenda for security industry professionals, Al-Zahrani said.

"For this reason, the theme of this year's event is "Industrial Revolution 4.0 Enabling Security," where we will focus on the current technological advancements that can address evolving security risks and challenges."

Al-Zahrani said the development of IR 4.0 technologies such as cyber-physical systems, Internet of Things devices, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, has created a major paradigm shift in the physical security industry.

pivotal role

"Technologies will continue in the years to come to play a positive and pivotal role in every aspect of our lives, and security is no exception," he said.

But Al-Zahrani also sounded a cautionary note saying, "Having said that, with the rosy picture comes the gloomy one as well. If the



In his keynote address, Aali M. Al-Zahrani speaks on the most notable modern security-related developments. Al-Zahrani was just one of several high-level industrial security officials and subject matter experts to play a key role in the ninth American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) Middle East Security Conference and Exhibition, which was recently held in Bahrain. (Photos: Abdulaziz Al-Moaiweed/IMPD)

same technologies fall in the wrong hands with bad intentions, they can create devastating results."

He referenced recent "serious" security attacks that targeted critical infrastructure in the energy sector.

Al-Zahrani also noted that with these new risk profiles and technological advancements, the conversation around managing risks in an agile and volatile environment has become paramount.

"It is imperative to not only view security as a concept or a cost center, but more importantly, as a value added business practice and enabler for economic growth," he said.

Continuous collaboration between governments, regulators, operators, communities and industry leaders is essential in

meeting the new challenges of a modern technology led world, said Al-Zahrani.

ASIS Middle East 2019 is the only Middle East security conference and exhibition led by critical asset operators and owners, including Saudi Aramco, SATORP, SASREF, SABIC, Sadara Chemical Company, Saudi Electricity Company, and STC Specialized.

'transformation journey'

Saudi Aramco's general manager of Industrial Security Operations (ISO), Abdullah A. Al Ghamdi, delivered a keynote address on the third day of the conference and gave a presentation about Saudi Aramco's security "transformation journey" over the years.

Al Ghamdi said the goal of Industrial Security in the company is "to make Saudi Aramco the most secure place to live and work," adding that the company accomplishes this through an integrated approach of qualified staff, comprehensive procedures, and the application of the latest technologies.

Saudi Aramco's first Security organization was established in 1973, and since then it has continued to grow and evolve as the company expanded its operations. In essence, Industrial Security now is not just an individual sitting at a post and checking people, said Al Ghamdi. It is a highly technical organization using numerous engineering and science disciplines to conduct its business in the most cost-effective manner, Al Ghamdi noted.

"The most important and most precious assets are our people, and we give our employees the greatest attention — starting from the selection process, and ensuring they are provided with proper training and continuous development throughout their career with the company," said Al Ghamdi. "We find investment in our workforce is good business and key to our success, resulting in significant advancements and business improvements."

Al Ghamdi shared with the conference



It is imperative to not only view security as a concept or a cost center, but more importantly, as a value added business practice and enabler for economic growth.

— Aali M. Al-Zahrani

examples of technologies currently used by Saudi Aramco ISO and said the company will continue to seek and deploy the latest technology products to keep ahead of the curve.

Risk assessment and management processes to determine the required protection for facilities were also highlighted by Al Ghamdi as an essential process for all industrial security organizations. He also shared examples of collaboration with local authorities and government security forces, which he said is crucial to ISO success.

In his closing remarks, Al Ghamdi highlighted that ISO is playing a major role in security and the Kingdom's Vision 2030 by creating job opportunities for the Saudi population, and "is also enabling women in our business" in the process.



Saudi Aramco employee Ahmed A. Al Shaiji earns Eastern Province Best Driver Award

Driving in Saudi Arabia has become the most recognizable topic associated with injuries and fatalities.

Saudi Aramco's Information Technology Engineering Department (ITED) recognizes the importance of this topic, and recently conducted a safe driving campaign under the theme of "Are You Fit to Drive?"

The Eastern Province Best Driver Award program is a key component of the campaign, which was designed to spread awareness of the need for an ongoing commitment to safe driving.

A number of employees participated

in the driving competition. Ahmed A. Al Shaiji, a systems analyst with ITED, was selected as one of the recipients for the Ideal Driver Award, which is organized by the Eastern Province Traffic Safety Council and Ministry of Interior — Governor of the Eastern Province. The initiative has been undertaken under the patronage of HRH Prince Saud bin Naif Al Sa'ud.

"It was a real honor to be one of the winners of the Ideal Driver Award in the Eastern Province," said Al Shaiji. "It is a real motivation to keep safety on the road as a way of life. Also, it is part of the culture at Saudi Aramco to promote

and emphasize safety, as it is one of the main corporate core values of the company."

During the ceremony recognizing the achievement, His Royal Highness congratulated the winners and encouraged them to continue to be role models with regard to traffic safety. He then awarded the winners with certificates and medals.

According to the Secretary of the Traffic Safety Committee, the total number of participants in the Ideal Driver Award competition for the past year reached more than 7,500, with 25 winners in three different categories.



ahead of the water scarcity challenge

leading the charge for using produced water



“Companies in the region are all in agreement that we all need to put our hands together to see how the challenge of produced water can be turned into an opportunity in a region where water is really scarce.

— Hani Al Khalifa

Muscat, Oman — Produced water opportunities and challenges, as well as reuse applications, in the oil and gas industry was the primary focus of the Produced Water Middle East 2019 Conference and Exhibition recently held in Muscat, Oman.

Organized by the Produced Water Society Middle East and hosted by the Oman Water Society and supported by Petroleum Development Oman and the Ministry of Oil and Gas, the conference was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

working together to create opportunities from challenges

Fahad M. Al-AbdulKareem, general manager of Southern Area Oil Operations (SAOO), shared Saudi Aramco's successful strategies toward produced water, including its approaches toward human capital, innovation, and technologies — all of which have played a major role in putting the company ahead of the challenge and transformed produced water into a resource.

These comments were echoed by Saudi Aramco's Hani Al Khalifa, who is president of the Produced Water Society's (PWS) Middle East Chapter.

“Companies in the region are all in the agreement that we all need to put our hands together to see how the challenge



Fatima Alfadel presents a paper about possible reuses of livestock water through produced water characterization.



Fahad M. Al-AbdulKareem speaks about some of Saudi Aramco's successful strategies toward produced water at the Produced Water Middle East 2019 Conference and Exhibition recently held in Muscat, Oman. These have included approaches toward human capital, innovation, and technologies — all of which have played a major role in putting the company ahead of the challenge and transformed produced water into a resource. (Photos: Samer Hadad)

of produced water can be turned into an opportunity in a region where water is really scarce,” Al Khalifa said. “We hope through this event, the collaboration will see the light between users and technology providers.”

shifting perceptions of produced water

PWS president Lisa Henthorne said one of the main objectives is to raise the feasibility of produced water in the region and the issue of treating it, shifting the perception of it to more of a resource than simply waste.

“There is a need for a paradigm shift on looking at the water as a resource at the same time minimizing the cost to the oil companies,” said Henthorne, who added the use of produced water has increased over the past decade. “We are getting better, but there is a lot more to achieve.”

our practical applications in the field

Rohit Aswani, who is with SAOO's Technical Support Department, delivered

a best practices technical presentation on “Optimizing Produced Water Rejection Systems in SAOO,” which is an established initiative ongoing at SAOO with the goal of improving the efficiency and economics of these high power consuming systems.

Fatima Alfadel, a lab scientist with our Research and Development Center, presented a paper about possible reuses of livestock water through produced water characterization. The presentation concluded that the concentration of chloride, sodium, and calcium ions falls within the accepted range in about 40% of the collected samples.

Another presentation, delivered by Majed AlJeshi of the Process and Control Systems Department, tackled the topic of “Examined Mixed Flow Hydrocyclone to Debottleneck Water Handling Challenge at a Gas-Oil Separation Plant.”

The paper highlighted Saudi Aramco's efforts in piloting and exploring the latest technologies to ensure produced water quality. The successful project achieved 20 parts per million oil in water and 60% separation efficiency.

Terminal Operations helps shape global industry standards at forum

Shanghai, China — Saudi Aramco's Eastern Region Terminal Operations Department representatives, led by Terminal Operations manager Abdulmohsen S. Al Rabeeah, and accompanied by Saudi Aramco Port captain Salah S. Al Ghamdi, attended the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting earlier this month in Shanghai, China.

During the meeting, Al Rabeeah was

named as a member of ExCom, a senior strategy and policy making committee of the OCIMF. This accolade is a significant accomplishment and reflects Saudi Aramco's determined, active, and effective involvement to support the OCIMF vision and work with the OCIMF General Purpose Committee, Ports and Terminal Committee, Offshore Marine Committee, and regional forums.

The OCIMF is a globally recognized organization, with members from ma-

major oil companies and terminals, which consults closely with the International Maritime Organization and other regulatory bodies — both regional and national — as a trusted knowledge partner addressing the principal objectives of a safer and cleaner industry.

ExCom membership allows Saudi Aramco to contribute to, and help develop, recommended standards that will serve as global, fit-for-purpose, technical industry benchmarks.



Abdulmohsen S. Al Rabeeah

‘Cybersecurity in the Age of Digitalization’

IT event examines security issues with the Internet of Things upon us

by Michael Ives

Dhahran — With an estimated 10 billion devices expected to be connected online by the end of next year, the securing of the Internet of Things is truly upon us.

To keep up with this evolving trend, Information Technology (IT) recently organized a cybersecurity technical exchange under the theme of “Cybersecurity in the Age of Digitalization.”

This year’s exchange engaged 1,600 attendees over two days through a range of hands-on workshops, technical presentations, and cybersecurity challenges that sought answers to a number of today’s digital challenges, including finding the balance between ease of use with security and privacy.

Topics addressed over the two days included the integration of IT and operations technology, the latest threats to 5G telecom networks, and how artificial intelligence and machine learning can contribute to cybersecurity. Hands-on workshops included how to master forensic analysis on Android devices and learning how to protect your home’s smart devices.

In delivering opening remarks, Yousef A. Al-Ulyan, vice president of IT, highlighted how digitalization is changing the way we live, work, and conduct business.

Welcoming delegates, local and international expert organizations, Al-Ulyan observed that with the exchange, Saudi Aramco is bringing people and organizations together in partnerships to encourage the sharing of lessons learned and developing initiatives to keep business and people safe.

“With the integration of intelligence data, digitalization is changing the shape of the industry,” Al-Ulyan said.

“We are now at a point where the physical and digital have merged, requiring businesses to have cybersecurity measures across all facets of their operations.”

He highlighted that while digitalization is bringing enormous benefits, it also presents significant risks that need to be mitigated. These range from personal privacy to the possibility of damage to production infrastructure.

Al-Ulyan also highlighted that Saudi Aramco is a founding member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Center for Cybersecurity, and is also a member of the Gulf region’s oil and gas cyber threat and intelligence sharing committee.

“Locally, we also have three key initiatives,” Al-Ulyan said.



Wael M. Alagi, an Information Technology (IT) systems analyst with the Information Protection Department, demonstrates interactive content to Yousef A. Al-Ulyan, vice president of IT, and other members of IT management in the exhibit area. (Photo: Mayameen AlHamoud/MPD)



Mohammad A. Al Mohsin, a senior operating systems specialist with the Computer Operations Department, participates in the technical panel session that addressed a variety of cybersecurity and digitalization topics. (Photo: Ding/MPD)

The Energy Industry Consortium for Intelligence Sharing brings together 14 regional energy companies to limit the impact of cybersecurity threats by sharing intelligence of imminent or ongoing cyberattacks.

In addition, Saudi Aramco established a Chair of Cybersecurity at King Fahd University, and also set up a local chapter of the Information System and Security Association to bring information professionals together.

“We are also working closely with Dammam and King Faisal universities to encourage greater participation of women in cybersecurity,” he said.

Al-Ulyan highlighted that all of these forums, including the exchange itself, are designed to facilitate networking among professionals to enable shared learning, knowledge exchange, and to stay informed about that latest trends in digitalization and cybersecurity.

‘overcome new challenges’

“Cybersecurity operations need to organically evolve to be able to overcome new challenges introduced by the digitalization technologies,” said Basim A. Al Ruwaih, manager of the Information Protection Department.

He added that developing talents in cybersecurity is a key element to enable corporate readiness in the era of digital transformation.

At the start of the exchange’s second day, Khalid S. Al-Harbi, Saudi Aramco’s acting chief information security officer, observed that we are now witnessing the fusing together of the digital, physical, and biological worlds, and in that context cybersecurity at the company is a strategic priority. Echoing Al-Ulyan’s remarks, Al-Harbi noted that along with the great opportunities that digitalization delivers, they also bring with them great risks.

“To combat these risks, we must embed security at the heart of all designs,” he said.

With digitalization offering many new untapped opportunities, Al-Harbi went on to point out that only by joining forces can we maximize its potential. This was evident across the two days of the exchange, where academics, professionals, and leading cybersecurity experts joined together.

Delegates included representatives from seven Saudi universities, 25 Saudi organizations and businesses, and 23 regional and international organizations. With 34 technical sessions, the conference covered the full gamut of cybersecurity topics.

range of quizzes and challenges

Not only did the event enable deep col-



With the integration of intelligence data, digitalization is changing the shape of the industry.

— Yousef A. Al-Ulyan

laboration, but delegates were also encouraged to test their skills against each other in a wide range of quizzes and challenges. On the first day, three Saudi university students defeated all participants in a cybersecurity quiz, claiming first, second, and third place in a test of knowledge and speed.

Imported especially for the event from the Netherlands, delegates also had a chance to experience the challenge of a cybersecurity themed escape room. With only 10 minutes to beat a number of quizzes and challenges, the room tested the delegates’ ability to quickly and calmly address a range of situations to earn their freedom.

Industrial Security Operations event promotes excellence, best practices

Believing in the leading role Saudi Aramco has as a reference for best-in-class practices for national companies supporting the evolution of the Kingdom, the Industrial Security Support Department (ISSD) recently hosted the first Security Excellence Forum.

The purpose of the forum was to exchange knowledge and best practices, and to identify benchmarking opportunities.

“Collaboration is key in driving Security Excellence standards in the region,” ISSD manager Adel F. Al-Wuhaib said in delivering opening remarks at the event.

An overall overview of Industrial Security Operations (ISO) was delivered by the host of the event, ISO Academy administrator Mohammed Al-Ghamdi. Following

that, eight presentations were delivered by ISSD subject matter experts — each with different focus areas, and each promoting various ISO best practices.

The event was also attended by Operational Excellence Department manager Mohammed A. Al-Zaid, who emphasized the leading role that Safety and Industrial Security is proactively playing to promote excellence.

Participants in the first Security Excellence Forum recently gathered to exchange knowledge and best practices, as well as identify benchmarking opportunities.



O&BS unearths creative talent in Best Video Clip Competition



The 12 finalists of the O&BS Best Nature Clip Competition display their certificates. Standing behind them are members of the O&BS leadership team, and the finalists' general managers, and department managers.

“O&BS continues to uncover its employees' hidden talents through these competitions — talents that could otherwise lay dormant during day-to-day work activities. It was a pleasure to compete in a competition designed to highlight the Kingdom's vast natural beauty, while at the same time, tap into the employees' creative aptitude.

— Faisal Almobarak

Dhahran — Operations and Business Services (O&BS) has a unique approach when it comes to engaging employees and unearthing the hidden talent within its organization.

It organizes competitions that O&BS employees can enter as individuals on an equal footing without having to follow the usual hierarchical procedure of first obtaining management permission.

Building on the success of its previous six competitions, including Best Presenter, Best Speechwriter/Speaker, Best Photographer, Best Voiceover, Best Presentation Designer, and Best Infographic Designer, O&BS recently launched the Best Video Clip Competition. Employees could enter their video clip submissions, under the theme of “Nature of Saudi Arabia.”

The competition consisted of two rounds. The first round was judged by a panel of experts selected from diverse areas in Saudi Aramco, including representatives from the Media Production Department and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The 12 highest scoring clips were selected to advance to the final round.

the winners

The finalists were Ibrahim Sarhan, Talat Salameh, Philip Hilton, Turki Bafakieh, Ahmed Asiri, Abdulaziz Alanazi, Ali Alsemail, Mohammed Alzahrani, Nasser Al Dosary, Nawwaf Shammari, Sultan Absi, and Faisal Almobarak.

The final round was judged by the O&BS leadership team, including senior vice president Muhammad M. Al Saggaf and administrative area heads, along with Christopher Boland, a subject matter expert from EPD.

First place was awarded to Almobarak for his stunning clip “Wonders of the Red Sea.” Sarhan placed second with “Attack of a Cloud,” and third place went to Asiri for a breathtaking clip of his village titled “Wadi Al-Silil.”

“O&BS continues to uncover its employees' hidden talents through these competitions — talents that could otherwise lay dormant during day-to-day work activities,” said Almobarak, delighted with his achievement. “It was a pleasure to compete in a competition designed to highlight the Kingdom's vast natural beauty, while at the same time, tap into the employees' creative aptitude.”

The talent that came to light as a result of this O&BS initiative was remarkable. Judges said they “enjoyed the opportunity to

be part of this event” and were impressed by the “creativity of the O&BS employees' entries.”

A ceremony was held for the top 12 finalists, during which they received certificates from Al Saggaf. The Fire Protection Department was also recognized for having the highest number of participants, and the department's manager Al Badr M. Jannah was presented with a certificate of appreciation. The three winners also received their awards as well as prizes.

The success of the competition and enjoyment of participation was evident as expressed by Asiri.

‘very proud’

“It was great having the opportunity to share God's creation of my beautiful village,” said Asiri. “I am very proud of this great organization for the opportunity to participate. It all started with an immediate supervisor who had given me full encouragement to show off my talents.”

This seventh O&BS competition successfully met its objective of discovering individuals within the organization with talents in filmmaking. In addition to having the opportunity to meet the O&BS leadership team during the final round, the finalists were rewarded with an opportunity for their video clips to be showcased throughout Saudi Aramco.

O&BS will continue to seek hidden talents by hosting many more competitions in the near future.



Faisal Almobarak, the first-place winner, gives his acceptance speech at the Best Video Clip Award ceremony.



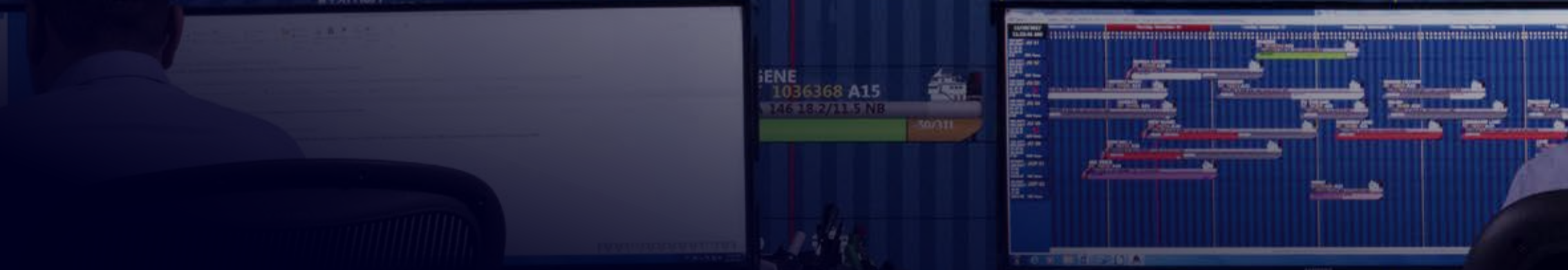
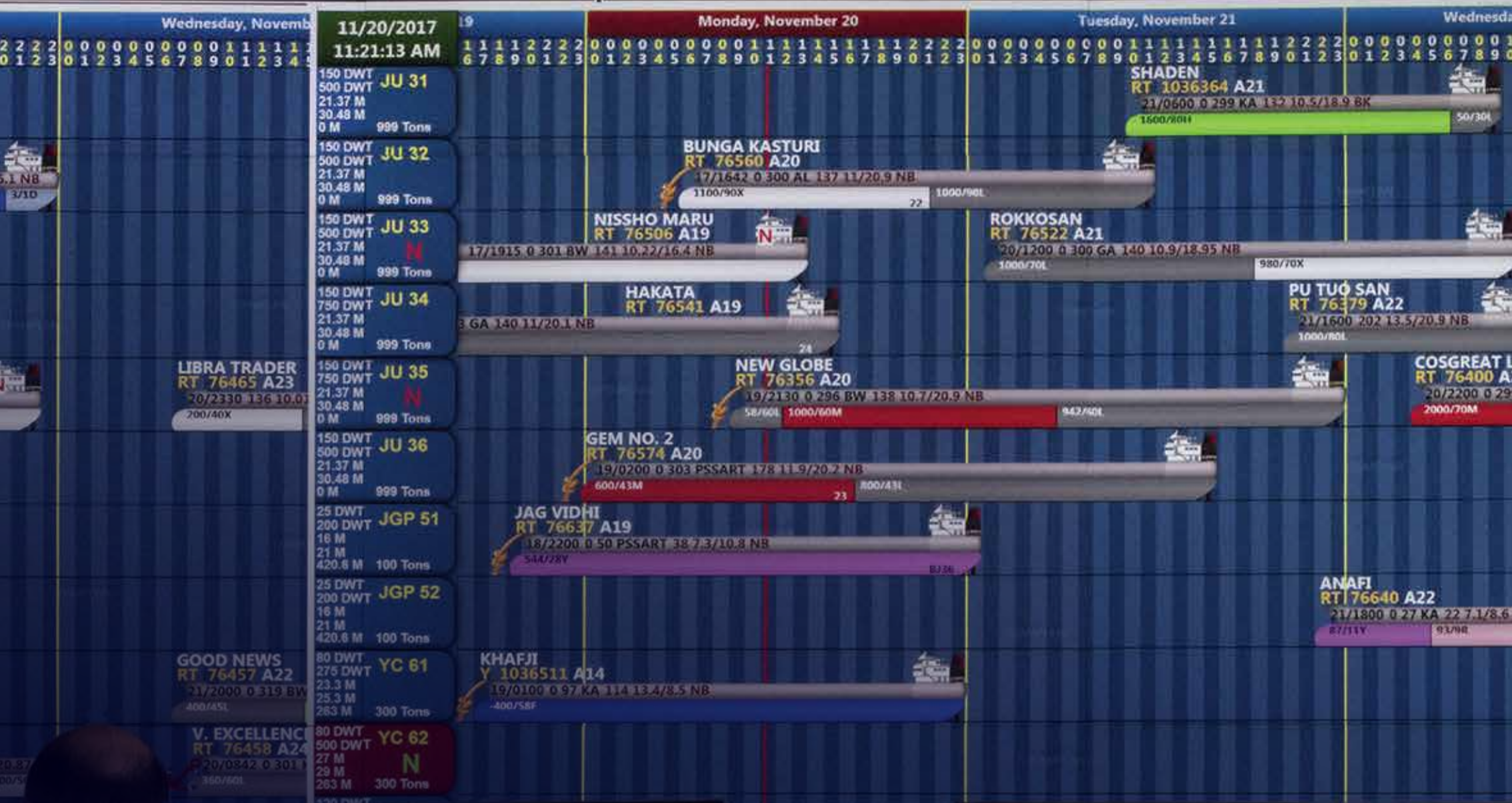
watch the clips

To see the winning clips, check out this link on ShareK:

https://sharek.aramco.com.sa/orgs/300029571/Pages/OBS_Best-Nature-Clips_Finalists_Page.aspx



The O&BS leadership team, led by O&BS senior vice president Muhammad M. Al Saggaf, the finalists' general managers and department managers, top 12 finalist and O&BS P&PMD manager, watch the video clips of the 12 competition finalists during the recognition ceremony.



reliable delivery to the Kingdom, to the world

The Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAS) manages the Kingdom's hydrocarbon supply chain and is renowned for the consistent excellence of its people and state-of-the-art technology.



reliable delivery to the Kingdom, to the world

reliability key performance indicator: exceeding 99%

by Jamsheed M. Din

(Photos: Hatim Oweida and Moayed Al-Qattan/MPD)

Dhahran — In the winding corridors of the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAS), a series of picture frames adorn the hallways.

Cataloged for intriguing eyes are royal visits, inaugurations, and aerial views of Saudi Aramco's mega-facilities.

Did you know?

At the corridor's end is a lone framed poster. It comprises an absorbing illustration in the shape of a tree — designed to draw your eyes and invite interest. Above it, there is the following statement:

Did you know?

In over 85 years, Saudi Aramco has never missed a shipment to a customer for operational reasons.

The frame's location is by no means random. For the regular stream of foreign dignitaries and global CEOs who visit OSPAS, it's the last image and words they read before they set foot in

the Operations Control Center (OCC) — an arena that brings those very words to life.

All of this eloquently conveys the core mission of OSPAS — to deliver premium hydrocarbon products in a timely fashion, optimally, safely, and in an environmentally responsible manner to local and international customers through the talent of its people and leveraging state-of-the-art technology that maintains a resilient system, and maximizes revenue.

OSPAS manager Mohammad A. Mulhim explains the complexity and immense responsibility involved.

"In OSPAS, we develop reliable supply plans whereby we look into the demand for Saudi Aramco products in the local and global markets, and then set the production target for every single Saudi Aramco facility," said Mulhim. "While this might appear a straightforward task, in reality it is not.



Mohammad A. Mulhim

"This is largely due to the complexity and the large size of the Saudi Aramco supply network — a network that encompasses highly integrated facilities in the sense that how one facility is operated will have a chain effect for the rest of the network. This brings me to the point of optimization. Our supplies must be optimized to ensure that no one single product is produced at levels that are too high, or too low."

reliable supplier

Khidr S. Al-Ghamdi can see it all. Every drop of oil, every vapor of gas. Every pipeline, every processing plant. Every refinery, every tanker, every destination.

His desk is prime real estate. Within his entire field of vision is a panoramic tapestry of changing electronic data.

It's a captivating sight. This is the life cycle of the Kingdom's hydrocarbons portfolio — laid bare, in real time.

As a shift supervisor at OSPAS, Al-Ghamdi's eyes feast each day on a panoply of numbers and graphics displayed on the 150 screens that seamlessly amalgamate to form the giant video wall within the OCC.

With its combined 196 million pixels, the video wall has the ability to



As a shift supervisor, Khidr S. Al-Ghamdi plays a crucial role in ensuring that Saudi Aramco's hydrocarbon network runs smoothly and that products are delivered on time and on spec.



dazzling array of data

The ability to respond with such rapidity and agility lies in the phenomenal data collection exercise that is overseen by Information Technology's Real Time Systems Division (RTSD).

By utilizing a cutting-edge supervisory control and data acquisition system, more than 60,000 remote terminal units collect data in real time from all company facilities, including pipelines that stretch for thousands of kilometers. The information is relayed to hundreds of communication lines that transmit the data to company servers.

GPS timing is used to ensure the real-time data is as timely as technically possible. The data is then transferred to projectors, which project the information onto the 150 stitched screens that bond to make the video wall.

"The system is a one-of-a-kind in the world," says Abdulmajeed Alabdulhadi, an IT Applications Systems specialist with RTSD.

The group is responsible for managing the data that resides on the video wall. That includes monitoring communications with the field and overseeing the thousands of data points — ensuring no disruption occurs in data transmission — the lifeblood of the Operations Control Center.

Abdulmajeed Alabdulhadi speaks with other RTSD team members Salem Al-Harhi and Osamah Al-Ghamdi, who are responsible for managing the information that resides on the video wall.



play havoc with the senses. While comprehending its capacious width and height, intrigued eyes are simultaneously overwhelmed by a data onslaught that can leave an onlooker in a state of both awe and reassurance.

To invest in such a complex data repository on an unmatched scale is a statement of intent from Saudi Aramco. It's a practical realization of a promise to deliver the Kingdom's hydrocarbon products to customers wherever

they may be — on time and on spec.

For OSPAS, the OCC is just one physical manifestation of that pledge. Another is the strategically seated planners who scan the screens watching eagle-eyed for any disruption in plan-

ning schedules.

The major functions of OSPAS are to develop reliable supply plans, coordinate Saudi Aramco and customers' facility shutdowns, coordinate operations along the hydrocarbon supply chain, monitor and follow up on supply and demand plans, and coordinate corporate contingency response.

OSPAS engineers and members of the Information Technology's Real Time Systems Division (RTSD) ensure that the information, data, and schedules are running on plan. Collectively, they are making sure that local and global economies are reliably powered by the Kingdom's hydrocarbon products.

"It's the result of a robust system that incorporates short- and long-term contingency plans and incredible technology," says Mulhim. "At OSPAS we know the Kingdom and the company are relying upon us to get this right. We make sure we do."

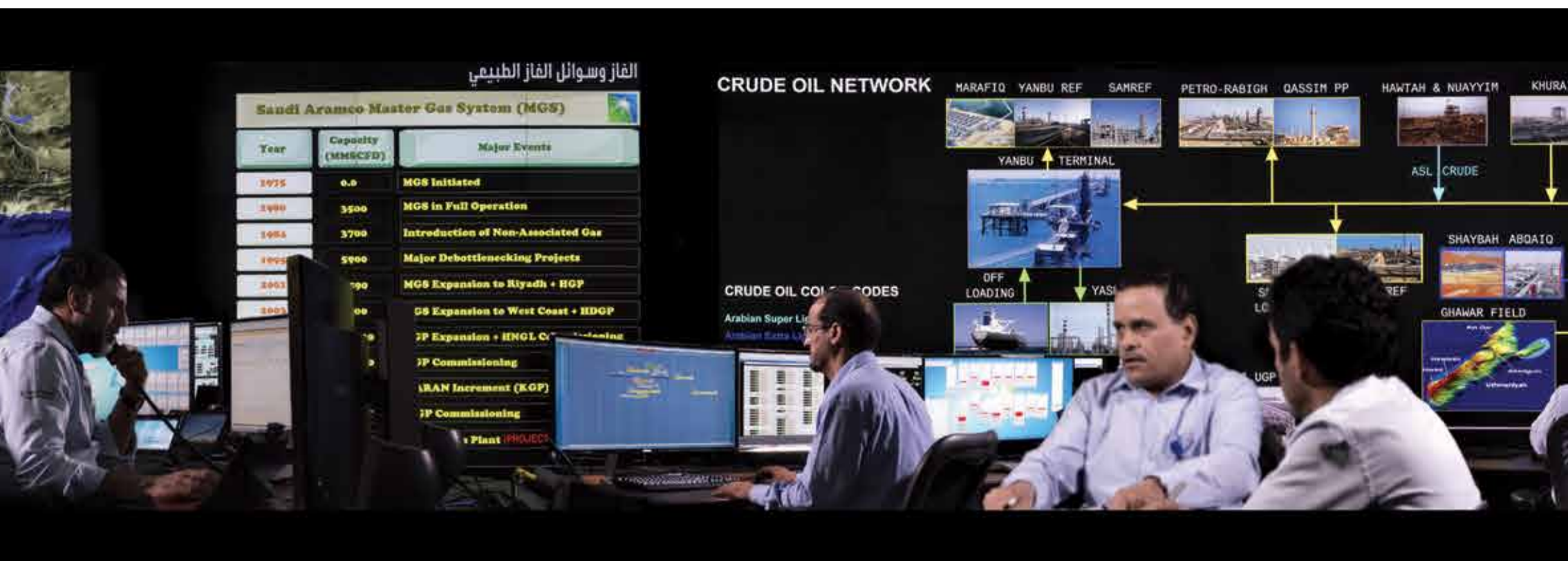
commitment

OSPAS' system of ensuring this commitment is never disrupted involves a complex planning and scheduling operation that spans the oil network, gas and NGL network, refining and distribution system, and terminal network.

The results of this labor are the myriad of data and charts that grace the OCC's video wall.



From left, Hmoud A. Ghamdi, Mohammed O. Subaii, and Majed J. Otaibi discuss OSPAS operations in the OCC. In the background, the video wall displays the intricate details of the crude oil network. OSPAS planners and engineers develop reliable supply plans, coordinate Saudi Aramco and customers' facility shutdowns, coordinate operations along the hydrocarbon supply chain, monitor and follow up on supply and demand plans, and coordinate corporate contingency response.



In the OCC, the video wall offers a comprehensive overview of Saudi Aramco operations. In real time, data is collected from more than 60,000 remote terminal units at company facilities, which is transferred to projectors that display the information onto the 150 stitched screens that make up the video wall.

To the untrained eye, the projected data is untenable, yet to OSPAS engineers and planners, the numbers represent a continual daily digest of Saudi Aramco's integrated operations.

The OCC's DNA is its stream of precise data, fastidiously managed. It provides OSPAS planners with a bird's-eye view of the operations landscape. It also affords them minuscule detail — nothing is missed.

"It allows us to monitor the whole hydrocarbon network from all of our regions and all our products," says Al Ghamdi.

"We have production targets to meet and customers to deliver to. From this vantage point, we can react to any possible disruptions and act immediately to ensure that there is no impact. As a shift supervisor, we are empowered to make decisions immediately."

OSPAS staff can spot any anomaly

in a company facility — be it a gas-oil separation plant, refinery, production facility, or loading terminal.

It just takes one call and production can be redirected, pipelines can be assessed, and a whole host of other actions can be executed within a few minutes.

delivering on promises

Saudi Aramco intends to become the world's leading integrated energy and chemicals company, focused on maximizing income and delivering sustainable diversified growth. This entails a diverse portfolio of products spanning both the upstream and downstream businesses.

Synonymous with this vision is a continued commitment to never disappoint customers. OSPAS and its OCC is a testament that the company delivers on its promises — and has done so for more than 85 years.



Busy at work in the OCC are OSPAS engineers Mohammed A. Alabdullatif, Saad S. Salim, and Mesfer M. Qahtani. OSPAS' system of ensuring its commitment to customers is never disrupted involves a complex planning and scheduling operation that spans the oil network, gas and NGL network, refining and distribution system, and terminal network.

4CBs in action



Collaboration

Collaboration

To ensure Saudi Aramco can fulfill its commitment to local and international customers, OSPAS must collaborate on a daily basis with all company production facilities and coordinate with distribution to ensure reliable supply.



Empowerment

Empowerment

As the eye of the storm for Saudi Aramco operations, OSPAS is empowered by the company to manage and take any necessary actions in emergency situations. Shift supervisors are empowered to make on the spot, time sensitive decisions to ensure there is no disruption to operations and supply. This could include increasing production from a facility to counter any possible loss in production from a different facility.



People Conversations

People Conversations

OSPAS communicates its expectations to its employees. Daily conference calls are held with production facilities to ensure operations are running smoothly. For OSPAS to function effectively, it is essential that all employees are fully aware of their role and contribution — an important message conveyed by OSPAS management.

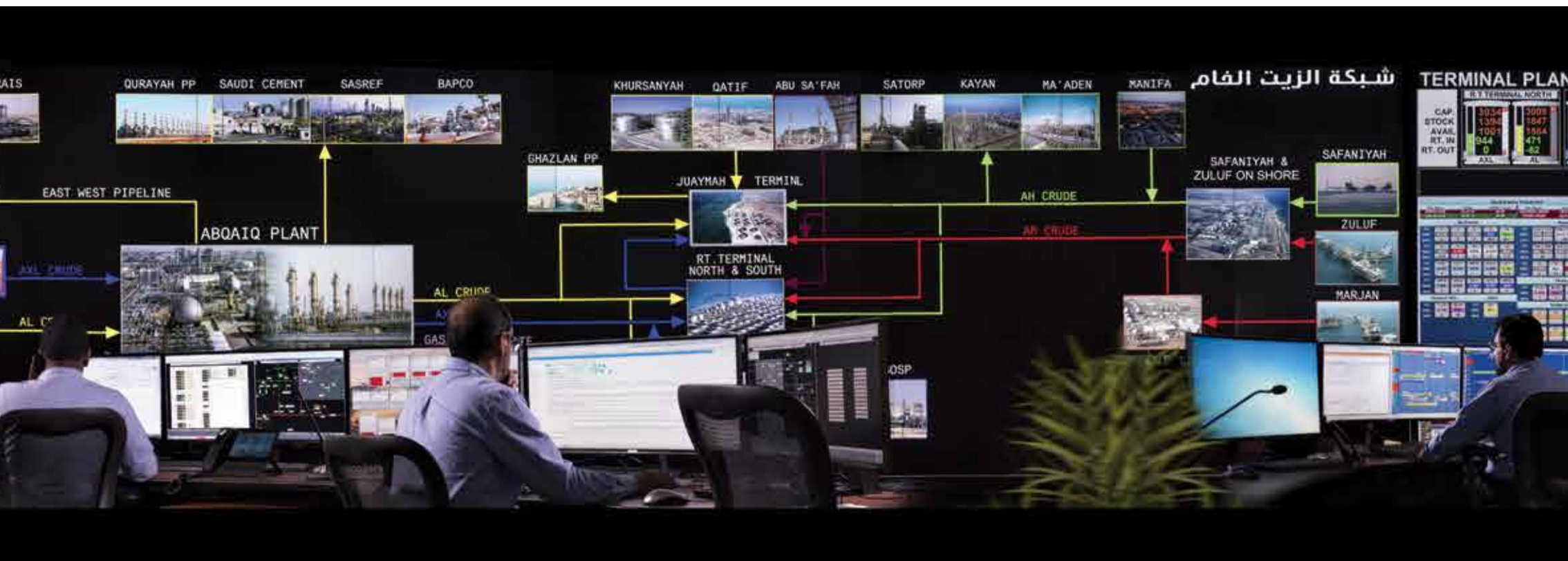


Decision Making

Decision Making

At Saudi Aramco, OSPAS is considered the nerve center. By utilizing the Operations Control Center, OSPAS engineers are able to monitor the entire Saudi Aramco network and thereby make critical decisions when needed. This decision making process is aided by the latest technology and advanced computer optimization models to ensure the most optimal decision making process is available.





Mohammed O. Al-Subaii

OSPAS works hard to ensure its planning and scheduling plans are executed in an effective manner, meeting local and international customer demand.

As general supervisor of the Oil Planning Division, Mohammed O. Al-Subaii must keep a close eye on oil scheduling and readjusting supply, if and when required. Factors that could require adjusting the schedule include ensuring safety and facilities constraints.

"Our developed supply plan is well shielded against volatility in demand or even in supply," says Al-Subaii.

With more than 20 years of operations experience at Saudi Aramco, Al-Subaii has a well-rounded understanding of the business, and is typical of the experienced

eyes that monitor the planning and supply schedule.

"We try to reach an equilibrium between supply and demand. This is a key to success for an effective supply plan and schedule execution."



Abdullah M. Bukhari

Each day, OSPAS schedules the loading and management of multiple vessels that load hydrocarbon products from Saudi Aramco terminals. For OSPAS engineer Abdullah M. Bukhari, it means ensuring the average 200 vessels a month that come to company terminals leave on time with the correct cargo.

"We look at the inventory and manage the vessels — our customers come on time and we make sure they receive their loads on time."

Key performance indicators ensure OSPAS can track its performance and there is no doubt that customer service is a top priority.

"We can change schedules to meet any eventualities. Our software and management system means we can see which vessels are arriving and when, and we can

match this with the inventories. We also know how long it takes to load the cargo," says Bukhari. "It all means that we can ensure, in a safe manner, that products are always available."

A chemical engineering graduate from a university in Japan, Bukhari's job also entails running daily reports, and he has been involved in major projects at OSPAS. As part of his training, he has also spent development assignments in the field, critical to understanding Saudi Aramco's operations.

"We also have a digitalization program where we are transforming OSPAS to adopt big data, machine learning, advanced analytics, and artificial intelligence. This is ongoing, but shows that we will stop at nothing to ensure OSPAS is at the top of its game."



Faisal J. Zahrani

Long-term planning and assessment is a key feature of OSPAS' work. In the Supply Planning and Optimization Division, it's at the heart of Faisal J. Zahrani's duties.

"We look at the supply demand balance, how much crude is produced, sales gas, refined products, and work to bridge any deficits," says Zahrani.

"We even do a 20-year outlook — we run our models and share them with management. We then give short-term and long-term recommendations."

Zahrani, a chemical engineering graduate of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), also holds an MBA. He joined OSPAS in 2008, having previously spent five years in the field. This experience helps him appreciate the

requirements in various aspects of the company's operations.

"All organizations wait for the business plan — this is crucial for their project planning. Our planning and assessments are crucial in this process. Our work touches on every aspect of the business — all the way from gas wells to export. It's a heavy responsibility and one we don't take lightly.

"We have to be flexible every day and be prepared to respond at a moment's notice to any kind of eventuality. Our teams and systems are geared up to be able to do that. That's reassuring for everyone."



With 20 years of experience within an IT capacity with Saudi Aramco, Abdulmajeed A. Alabdulhadi has been involved with the most recent updates to the Operations Control Center (OCC). With a degree in computer science from KFUPM, he was a key member of the team that over saw the introduction of the first video wall for the OCC back in 2005.

“Back then, we were using a mimic board to monitor operations. It was basic compared to what we have now, and we had to communicate via phone calls to the facilities to get information,” says Alabdulhadi.

“The video wall and supervisory control and data acquisition technology we introduced revolutionized everything and we have had subsequent upgrades. The re-

The OSPAS Refined Product Division carries out a key function in ensuring that the department optimally meets the domestic demand of refined product of the Kingdom, and in the most economical way.

“We try our best to meet OSPAS’ objectives — all in a safe and timely manner through deployment of a talented workforce, and advanced technologies,” says division head Ahmed M. Al-Gusaier.

A chemical engineering graduate from KFUPM, Al-Gusaier joined OSPAS in 1999 as a staff engineer in the Gas and NGL, Oil, and Refined Products divisions. He has held various positions outside of OSPAS at several facilities, including the Ras Tanura Refinery, the Hawiyah Gas Plant, Abqaiq NGL, and Qatif Producing.

Saudi Aramco’s domestic refineries have many customers to serve — both locally and internationally. OSPAS ensures that the refined product supply chain network can efficiently meet that demand.

This means close observation of company refinery production streams, refined product ship importations, pipeline flow rates, and forecasted demand.

“We plan, operate, and monitor the Kingdom’s needs for refined products on a daily basis,” says Mohammed S. Alduhaimi, an OSPAS engineer who works on optimizing the Kingdom’s East and Central refined products supply network by daily planning, operating, and monitoring the integrated hydrocarbon system.

“We react to the dynamic changes of

al-time data we now receive is phenomenal and is all automated. We have upgraded the hardware servers and operating systems. And we are not stopping. The Information Technology’s Real Time Systems Division (RTSD) has also worked to develop a virtualization technology and a mobile accessible platform for management. We have all the latest certified systems.”

OSPAS is the proponent for the OCC and Alabdulhadi is keen to point out the close collaboration between the two.

“The OCC is where OSPAS can visualize and see in real time what’s happening across the company. We are very proud in RTSD that we have been entrusted to ensure that the technical and data side is functioning optimally, and that all data is as accurate as possible.”

“Spending time in the field in operations really gives you a true appreciation and understanding of the scope of Saudi Aramco’s operations. It’s given me a wealth of experience that is essential to my role,” he says.

the prices of the crude-refined products to supply the hydrocarbon network with the most economical approach.

“We communicate and collaborate with all relevant entities within and outside the company to ensure the reliable and uninterrupted supply of refined products to all the regions with the Kingdom.”

A chemical engineering graduate of the University of Surrey in the U.K., Alduhaimi joined the company in 2015 working as a process engineer in Ras Tanura before joining OSPAS in refined products.

“The work here is truly exciting and rewarding — you really feel like you are making a difference — it’s a feeling of empowerment.”



Abdulmajeed A. Alabdulhadi



Ahmed M. Al-Gusaier



Mohammed S. Alduhaimi

Inspection Department builds vendors' ethical awareness

Dhahran — A total of 75 participants representing more than 30 local vendors recently attended a Quality On-Boarding and Ethical Awareness Workshop for Saudi Aramco approved local vendors in Dhahran.

The objective of the workshop was to promote a “culture of quality” and highlight company quality requirements, as well as to promote the establishment of new local business in the manufacturing sectors by maintaining a robust supply chain. Ultimately, this will contribute to the continued development of the Kingdom’s economy.

Saudi Aramco quality

As the company’s Inspection Department plays a primary role in safeguarding company assets, the workshop took the vendors through the company’s quality re-

quirements involving Saudi Aramco’s procurement process, materials procurement, material preservations, and handling and shipping. The goal of the sessions was to help ensure that purchase orders are delivered to the Kingdom’s projects and operating facilities with optimum quality.

Also, a special audit team presented on the importance of ethical awareness, highlighting how to address ethical issues and how they can affect the vendors’ integrity, efficiency, as well as market reputation. Inspection conducted an interactive workshop that allowed vendors to share their challenges, which resulted in identifying further areas of collaboration to protect Saudi Aramco’s supply chain.

Mohammed N. Al-Mulhim, superintendent of Vendor Inspection, said the work-

shop reflected Saudi Aramco’s commitment to enhance the local vendor’s quality management system, and the company’s objectives to contribute to the Kingdom’s economic development.

Al-Mulhim emphasized that “Saudi Aramco is confident in our vendors’ commitment to quality. Vendors are our success partners in this journey.”

Mohammed N. Al-Mulhim speaks at a Quality On-Boarding and Ethical Awareness Workshop for Saudi Aramco approved local vendors in Dhahran. Emphasizing that the company is confident in vendors’ commitment to quality, he added, “Vendors are our success partners in this journey.”



spotlight



The Yanbu’ Refinery Department (YRD) recently hosted a ceremony to recognize employees who have completed approximately 700 years of collective service. Abdulatif S. Al-Shami, YRD manager, provided motivational remarks to some 90 employees who were recognized. Among those recognized included: (10 years) Hamad A. Al-Alwani, Jihad S. Al-Ghamdi, Egab M. Al-Harbi, Samir A. Al-Harbi, Emran A. Ali, Abdulelah A. Al-Jedaani, Rayan M. Al-Maghrabi, Ali A. Al-Mahdawi, Mesfer M. Al-Mesheli, Mohammed F. Al-Subey, Abdulwhab O. Al-Subhi, Saad M. Al-Alwani, Abdulrhman M. Bajoh, Amer S. Istanbuli, Muath A. Al-Harbi, Mazen K. Kenji, Yousif S. Samha, Ahmed S. Skander, Mohammed A. Al-Sobhi, Ahmad S. Al-Zahrani, Haitham A. Al-Zubaidi, Nayer K. Al-Anazi, Fahad K. Al-Harbi, Nasser A. Al-Muosalad, Ahmed M. Al-Shateri, Ibrahim S. Al-Sulami, Faris O. Al-Malki, Attallah A. Al-Mubarak, Soud A. Sayed, Elyas M. Sindi, Abdullah M. Al-Ghamdi, Ahmad S. Al-Matrafi, Fares M. Al-Biladi, Saravanakumar Balasubramaniam, Mousa M. Fallatah, Bassem A. Gabra, Abdulrahman H. Al-Ghanmi, Metaeb A. Al-Saiary, Salman A. Al-Shehri, Eisa H. Al-Rasheedi, Abdullmohsen S. Al-Sohaimi, Mohammed A. Al-Shehry, and Mohammed O. Al-Haddad; (five years) Ruel G. Fernandez, Marco C. Francisco, Ferdinand R. Paralejas, Abdullah S. Al-Mrwany, Sivaprakash Sankar, Khaled M. Al-Alwani, Mahdi M. Al-Awami, Turki A. Al-Beladi, Hosam S. Al-Gahmdji, Wail S. Al-Lhaibi, Marwan T. Al-Harbi, Sami S. Al-Harbi, Ibrahim H. Al-Johani, Ahmed A. Al-Sayed, Mahmoud O. Al-Sobhi, Abdulaziz O. Al-Thomali, Feras O. Albalbisi, Ryan M. Barashi, Eduardo M. Carisusa, Abdulhamid A. Flfilan, Hossam A. Al-Ghamdi, Nasser A. Hadi, Fayez H. Al-Juhani, Jeane G. Loloy, Sheetal A. Shah, Turki M. Al-Thwuaini, Vishalkumar R. Upadhyay, Mohammed D. Al-Shehri, Moath M. Al-Zahrani, Khaled M. Al-Amoudi, Ahmed F. Dawood, Prashant R. Dhake, Swaraj Dubli, Taha M. Esaa, Hazem M. Al-Harbi, Mohammad A. Iqbal, Mohammed A. Al-Jehani, Toney K. Joy, Boris E. Alvarez, Arif J. Mohideen, Vasavkumar B. Pandya, Mohammed I. Shaker, Steven D. Skog, Yazeed A. Subaiee, Amer R. Al-Alwani, and Humead A. Sabur.



Abdulaziz F. Dulaijan, acting manager of Mega-Projects, officially inaugurated the new site office of the Offshore Projects Department’s (OPD) Project Management Team located at Tanajib Marine. The new infrastructure has offices, meeting rooms, document storage rooms, and associated facilities for up to 30 personnel, and will be utilized by OPD project teams to support the multiple ongoing projects in the Marjan and Zuluf fields.



The Yanbu’ Cluster Shared Services Department (YCSSD) has successfully achieved the International Standard of Organization (ISO) certificate 9001:2015 for its Quality Management System audited by TÜV Rheinland Arabia LLC. The achievement, valid up to 2022, is a testimonial of YCSSD’s continuous efforts to improve the quality of services provided by the Yanbu’ Refinery shop, minimize risks and system deficiencies, while also capturing opportunities by enhancing personnel competency and responsibilities.

Ithra partners with ‘Design Week’ in Riyadh and Dubai to showcase Saudi talent



With the support of Ithra, Saudi architect Shahad Alazzaz designed the Saudi pavilion, Sa'af — representing the Eastern Province with the support of Ithra — within the event's larger Abwab pavilion. Sa'af comprises a giant suspended structure composed of four different woven styles, mixing color, scale and texture, and honoring the methods used by craftspeople. The pavilion was designed to maximize interaction with the textiles by inviting people to climb up on the surface.

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) participated in a pair of major events earlier this month that focused on the unique aspects of design.

At “Dubai Design Week,” Ithra hosted the Saudi pavilion last week in the Dubai Design District. The six-day festival explores a range of design disciplines such as architecture, product design, interiors, multimedia, and graphic design, with the majority of events being free to attend and accessible for both industry professionals and the general public.

With the support of Ithra, Saudi architect Shahad Alazzaz designed the Saudi pavilion, Sa'af — representing the Eastern Province with the support of Ithra — within the event's larger Abwab pavilion. Abwab is an annually remodeled exhibition at the event dedicated to commissioning work from across the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia to promote design talent and stimulate information exchange.

Sa'af comprises a giant suspended structure composed of four different woven styles, mixing color, scale and texture, and honoring the methods used by craftspeople. The pavilion was designed to maximize interaction with the textiles by inviting peo-

ple to climb up the surface.

Rania Biltagi, head of Communication and Partnerships at Ithra, said Ithra was proud to support innovation across the design industry by hosting the Alazzaz designed pavilion.

“Ithra stands to support and promote Saudi talent and showcase their skills across leading regional and global platforms,” said Biltagi. “Dubai Design Week provides a thrilling collaborative hub bringing together the design industry and the public to experience the diverse range of disciplines firsthand.”

Additionally, Ithra presented a workshop conducted by Robert Firth, Creative Art director at Ithra, and Sultan Al-Badran, Creative Programs coordinator at Ithra's Idea Lab, titled “Potential of Things — Concrete Canvas,” which exhibited concrete canvas and explored its potential, innovation, and usage across different fields.

‘Saudi Design Week’

Prior to attending the event in Dubai, Ithra participated in “Saudi Design Week” as a strategic partner at the Riyadh Front.

Ithra's pavilion in Riyadh featured select offerings from the recently concluded Tanween creativity season festival. Saudi De-

sign Week, held under the theme “Designing Happiness,” is designed to showcase artistic and creative innovation while also highlighting the positive impact design and art have on society.

Abdullah Al-Rashid, Ithra's head of Programs, said Ithra's participation was part of its commitment to support Saudi talent and showcase creative content across local and global platforms.

“Saudi Design Week provides visitors with the opportunity to experience the societal benefit of design in an innovative and interactive way. The event, like Ithra, strengthens the Kingdom's drive for a knowledge-based economy, as well as its social and cultural diversification per Saudi Vision 2030,” said Al-Rashid.

Providing a variety of cultural and recreational activities for visitors that included workshops, lectures, and interactive art performances, this year's event also featured several new highlights from Tanween. Artwork from the “Talk Zone” artwork, which served as the backdrop from the event stage, added a unique aesthetic for visitors to enjoy.

Additionally, the event showcased an installation previously on display at Ithra

composed of colored balls that refer to the sands of the Kingdom in various forms and colors. The activities highlighted the Kingdom's rich culture within a creative and interactive environment.

Ithra's interactive pavilion at the event brought Tanween's popular offerings to Design Week audiences, including colored balls that represent the sands of the Kingdom, the popular “Glow Forth” experience, and the Tanween Challenges.

The pavilion also offered a series of challenges featured at Tanween's 2019 “Play” theme, which sought to develop skills for all age groups and interests.

Abdullah Al-Hawwas, Creative Programs coordinator at Ithra's Idea Lab, presented a workshop titled “From Science Fiction to Reality,” which explored phenomenon of the Internet of Things and how it has become an effective tool in facilitating daily tasks.

Also, Rabah Alabdulqader, Creative Programs coordinator at Ithra's Idea Lab, delivered a talk titled “Stories, Sound, and Senses in the City,” which explored the role of sound in cities, the role of the senses in experiencing urban space, and the implications that has on citizens.

communities come together to bowl for citizenship

by Maria Mirasol Manguerra

Ras Tanura — The Ras Tanura bowling alley was recently filled with fun and joy with the presence of the Saudi Aramco Ras Tanura Bowling Association (SARTBA) and Abqaiq City Bowling Association (ACBA) together with their families.

SARTBA organized the annual North and South Bowling Tournament, themed “I Bowl for Citizenship” held in Ras Tanura. The event was sponsored by Saudi Aramco's Marine Department as part of an initiative to promote social responsibility, support communities, and serve as a role model in building solid relationships.

Marine manager Abdullah O. Tewairqi, SARTBA president Rod Tomambo, and ACBA president Archie De Guzman

opened the event with ceremonial throws.

The winners of the tournament were as follows:

- **Women's High Series Handicap:** Vangie Casilla with 653 pin falls.
- **Women's High Game Handicap:** Jolze Fronteras with 231 pin falls.
- **Women's High Series Scratch:** Tess Cabais with 547 pin falls.
- **Women's High Game Scratch:** Percy Culala with 186 pin falls.
- **Men's High Series Handicap:** Nestor Villaruel with 694 pin falls.
- **Men's High Game Handicap:** Monci Regondon with 266 pin falls.
- **Men's High Series Scratch:** Rene Anil with 577 pin falls.
- **Men's High Game Scratch:** Arnold Val-



era with 218 pin falls.

- **Team High Handicap Series:** North Team 4 with 2,978 pin falls.
- **Team High Handicap Game:** North Team 6 with 1,039 pin falls.

The overall champion of the tournament

was SARTBA.

The event built stronger camaraderie, friendliness, and sportsmanship — not only among the participants — but also to the entire Abqaiq and Ras Tanura communities.

From left, Rod Tomambo, Abdullah O. Tewairqi, and Archie De Guzman throw out the ceremonial first ball at the recent North and South Bowling Tournament in Ras Tanura.



From colorful dancers to marching bands to proud Saudi nationals and Aramcons who hail from all around the globe, the SAEA 75th Festival featured a multicultural parade not seen in some time on King's Road in Dhahran. "Diversity" was the theme for this year's celebration.



paying tribute to diversity

SAEA celebrates 75th anniversary in style

by Chiara Ciampricotti laocangeli

Dhahran — The Saudi Aramco Employees Association (SAEA) recently celebrated its 75th anniversary in style, with a variety of events, booths, and a parade of 450 people winding through the streets of Dhahran.

SAEA is an unincorporated self-directed association formed under the auspices of Saudi Aramco and founded in 1944. Today, the SAEA has more than 7,000 members, and provides them with a large variety of recreational events, educational trips around the country and abroad, as well as cultural shows.

SAEA also supports and fosters other self-directed groups in sports, the arts, crafts, environment, and theater. Often working behind the scenes without great fanfare, the SAEA provides memorable moments to the lives of employees by focusing a sense of a work-life balance and uplifting families' spirits. One of the aspects that makes SAEA successful is its inclusiveness and its ability to bridge and celebrate cultural complexities.

The team organizing the recent event included SAEA board president Taha Alsafi

and fellow board members Elizabeth Zuckerman-Landa (who organized the volunteers), Lana Tayyib, Mawanda Felemban, and Anwar Fazal.

"This year, the festival success was the result of hard work of SAEA board members and the outstanding support of the Central Community Services Department. They deserve all thanks and appreciation," said Alsafi.

a melting pot of more than 90 nationalities

This year's event highlighted a theme of "Diversity." Dhahran and the company's communities are a melting pot where more than 90 nationalities live — each valuing their own differences and learning daily how to break down cultural barriers. To this purpose, 26 countries were represented by participants in national dress and carrying their country's flags in a parade that ran the length of King's Road.

"The parade idea was very exciting. We haven't had one in the community for some time," said Alsafi. "It was the highlight of the festival, with more than 450 people in

the parade and more than 16,200 visitors to the festival over the two days. The turnout was a record high for the SAEA."

Open and free to all community members and their families, organizers also welcomed 27 orphans from Dammam, who enjoyed the parade and festivities on Friday. Board members Wiam Al-Ashgar and Louise Todd coordinated community buses to pick them up and ensured that they had a great time.

Cultural diversity was represented by 22 self-directed groups in the parade, which was also interspersed with four bands that provided a touch of music and rhythm along the path from the community plaza to King's Park.

"We have been here for just over one year and are amazed to see how many cultures and countries are represented in one company," said attendee Arshad Farooq. "The best part of seeing the parade was the feeling of belonging and respect shown by others, especially the cheers from the crowd watching."

Fellow festival-goer Jiyeon Kim echoed Farooq's comments.

"I could feel their pride for their country.

I could see the respect and care for other cultures and tastes," said Kim. "Sometimes we miss our motherland, and sometimes we feel like strangers. Thanks to this festival, I realized we are never alone as long as we smile at, and get to know each other!"

two days of celebrating heritage, culture

In addition to the parade, the two-day celebration at King's Park included a variety of options, including a trio of folk performances with Colombian dancers, Azerbaijani performers, and rhythmic Ethiopian players.

Nearby, the Hangar Flyers group had a station making small foam plane gliders for kids. The Logistics Services Department offered a mini-travel show featuring airline and hotel discounts, as well as raffles.

"I love the diversity of this company. Everybody was so proud to show their country's traditional outfits. This made the Friday afternoon affair even brighter, and very lively," said participant Joe Cabrera. "This was the first time I participated, and I look forward to joining again next year."



Bouncy castles, big mascots, face painting, and henna were just a few of the many offerings at this year's SAEA Festival in Dhahran.

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture
by saudi aramco



Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure

Nov. 23, 25 10:30 a.m.



50 Thousand Photographs

Nov. 20, 23, 27 4 p.m.
Nov. 21, 22 6 p.m.



50 Thousand Photographs

In the current era, where he captures about two billion photos around the world daily, Turki lacks having one photo of his father after his family wasted all of his photos at the Burning Photos Wave that some people attended in the 1980s in the Kingdom. While searching for photos of his father, he recognizes the old man "Nasser," who owns in his house 50,000 photos of city people.

A Mouse Tale

Nov. 25, 26, 27 6:30 p.m.



Apollo 11: The Untold Story

Nov. 20, 23 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 21, 22 7:30 p.m.



Rediscovery

Nov. 20, 21, 22, 23 2 p.m.

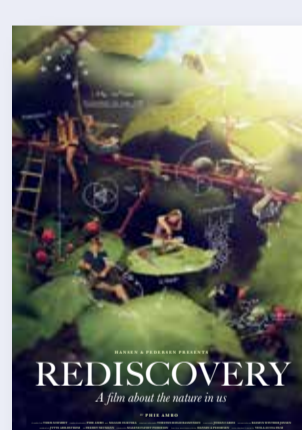


The Investor

Once the bars of jail locked behind him, Omar finds himself in a confrontation with reality, after spending a lifetime escaping to a world of his imagination, sharing a cell with a major criminal. Upon his cellmate's curiosity, Omar narrates the story of how he came to be the criminal that he is through the scheming impersonation of typical characters found in society. To escape his cellmate, Omar must carry on one last impersonation attempt to find freedom.

The Investor

Nov. 21, 22, 25, 26 4 p.m.



Rediscovery

47 children are given free reign on an abandoned construction site near the center of Copenhagen — a hidden spot where nature has long since taken over. Here, they will go to school for 10 weeks and discover how and what nature can teach them. The film is told through scenes with the children, but also with nature's voice as a continuous narrator: "For what does it mean to learn from nature?"

The True Story of King Tut's Treasure

Nov. 25, 26, 27 2 p.m.



A Mouse Tale

To save their Kingdom from evil rodents, two young mice go on a quest to a forbidden world to find a legendary magic crystal that has the power to restore order to their Kingdom.



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