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serving up sports and healthy lifestyles in Dir'iyah

Saudi Aramco provides key support as a presenting sponsor at the inaugural Dir'iyah Tennis Cup — another example of the company's commitment to sports and healthy lifestyles.

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From left, Faisal A. Al Shammari, senior admin manager of the crew, Mohammad Al Hashim of the project Inspection Department, and Salem Al Qahtani of OMPPD examine the ABHD-131 wellhead. Saudi Aramco's collaboration with the contractor to assemble and train an all-Saudi crew is in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals of creating high quality jobs for young people. (Photo: Ding/MPD)

a first for Saudi Aramco

iktva: the story of an all-Saudi team that built ABHD-131

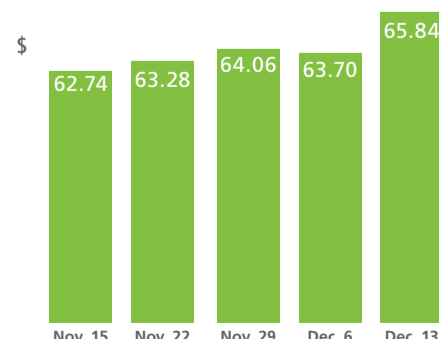
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CEO: Board, management express pride over IPO efforts

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OPEC basket
five-week price trend 2019



Saudi Aramco
by the numbers

38

meters high with a total nominal load of 60 tons, the Sour Water Stripper Column was recently replaced at the Yanbu' Refinery ahead of schedule.

CEO: Board, senior management express pride over company's IPO efforts



It has been called the 'IPO of the Century.' And it certainly took a lot of hard work.

— Amin Nasser

track the price
of our stock



Dhahran — In his update on the recent meeting of the Board of Directors held in Riyadh last week, Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser told senior management Sunday of his pride in the many people around the company who have made the company's listing of shares on the Tadawul a success.

Saudi Aramco directors, led by Board Chairman HE Yasir O. Al Rumayyan, together with many members of senior management, had the privilege of participating in the historic bell ringing ceremony to mark the start of the trading of Saudi Aramco shares on Dec. 11, said Nasser.

"It was a moment of immense pride for all of us at Saudi Aramco," said Nasser. "Indeed, it has been called the 'IPO of the Century' by some in the media. And it certainly took a lot of hard work by our IPO team, who were supported by countless in-

dividuals across all business lines."

It was an achievement that came with significant challenges. Saudi Aramco came under intense scrutiny, Nasser said, and there were many predictions of failure. Those predictions were proven wrong, as on the first day of trading, Saudi Aramco shares rose 10% — the maximum daily limit on the exchange. On the second day of trading, Saudi Aramco shares rose again, reaching SR38.7 at one point, and as a result, the company became the world's first \$2 trillion company.

Nasser said he has received many congratulatory messages from our friends and partners for Saudi Aramco's successful IPO. But while this is certainly a time for celebration, Nasser said it is also important that we as a company "remain humble and stay grounded."

"One of the reasons for our success is

also because of the fact we have benchmarked our performance against international oil companies, and each and every employee at our plants, refineries, gas-oil separation plants, and others have played an important role in making this happen," Nasser said.

"We must remember that Saudi Aramco is the world's most valuable listed company today because of the hard work of all Aramcons — both present and past. And as the current custodians of the Saudi Aramco legacy, we must also recognize that it is our responsibility to maintain the company's longstanding values of safety, integrity, accountability, excellence, and citizenship," he added.

"In other words, we must remain focused on delivering energy to the world, while also delivering value to all of our shareholders," said Nasser.

Al-Saif named to new GM position in Investor Relations

Dhahran — Waleed A. Al-Saif has been named to a new general manager position with Investor Relations (IR) at Saudi Aramco, with a focus on Regional IR and Operations, effective Dec. 12, 2019.

Al-Saif, who has been with the company more than 21 years, was previously general manager of Transaction Development under New Business Development (NBD), and was recently in charge of the execution phase of the IPO.

Al-Saif started his career with Saudi Aramco in 1998 in the Treasury organization. He has had a diverse exposure to various areas within Treasury, Controllers, and NBD. He also led the project finance teams of key strategic Saudi Aramco joint ventures, in-

cluding Petro Rabigh, YASREF, and Sadara, — as well as the Petro Rabigh IPO — and was part of a team tasked with acquiring a strategic stake in Showa Shell, Japan, among other key merger and acquisition initiatives.

Al-Saif has held several other managerial assignments, including Corporate Finance and Project Development, and Project Advisory. He has also acted as manager of Treasury Advisory, Treasury Services, Investment Management, Financial Risk Management, as well as managing director of the Entrepreneurship Center (Wa'ed).

In 2016, Al-Saif was tasked to serve as a member of the Kingdom's Debt Management Office Steering Committee, under the Ministry of Finance. In 2018, he was as-

signed as chief financial officer of PRefChem — a joint venture between Saudi Aramco and Petronas in Malaysia. He also carried out a number of assignments with outside entities, including Motiva.

Al-Saif holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Tampa in the U.S., and an MBA with a concentration on finance from the Cameron School of Business at the University of St. Thomas in the U.S.

He has participated in several executive leadership programs with the company, including the Saudi Aramco Leadership Forum and the Asia Business and Culture Program. Al-Saif also completed an Executive Program at Columbia University.



Waleed A. Al-Saif

your voice

the unlimited web is your only limit



by Ali I. Hajji
Dhahran

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There has never been a time when knowledge — be it written, audio, or visual — has been more accessible than today. This means anyone is free to embark upon projects of self-development regardless of the subject or depth of content.

This advancement in the universal availability of knowledge began in earnest when computers became affordable for individuals in the 1970s and 1980s, and were then interconnected around the world in the early 1990s. This global interconnectivity, which rendered physical distance irrelevant, crystallized into a mass of interconnected networks, or as it is commonly known today — the internet.

Indeed, the internet is nothing but individual computers that connect to each other and allow users to exchange information. If we were to choose one word to describe the 21st century, there would be no word better than "information."

Aside from being available and detailed, most of this knowledge is also free. In fact, more and more educational entities are opening their content to the public for free now, such as MIT and Harvard.

This is so important, because it is an es-

sential pillar of making knowledge available and easy to be accessed by anyone. Free knowledge makes online learning a potential replacement for paid education in terms of quality of output.

And while independent learners can obtain a knowledge base comparable to those who go through higher education degree programs, they would still be at a decided disadvantage when venturing into the job market and competing against degree holding candidates. Other than that, free learning can produce people just as knowledgeable as those who have graduated from prestigious and quite expensive paid programs.

Of course, there are drawbacks. With all of this information available to us, the challenge shifts from information being too hard to find to being too much to consume.

This imposes two main problems — namely losing focus and wasting time. When too much information is available, we can easily be distracted by another field of knowledge while trying to focus on another one. This happens to me a lot — especially in cases where online content

contains constant hyperlinks, which can carry you from topic to topic and page to page, on and on and on. This can happen continually with no limits, until you deliberately decide to stop.

The second problem is the amount of time you can waste in cyberspace. You might think I am talking about spending too much time trying to learn something irrelevant, in which case you would be right. But it is actually more than that. Time can also be wasted on social media, so much of which consists of random photos and silly videos of cats playing.

Most smartphones now come with a screen time feature that gives you a brief report of how much of your time was wasted on what, and you would be surprised that most of your time has been spent on social media outlets such as Facebook or Twitter, and YouTube.

The only way to overcome these two problems is to have a clear plan of what you want to learn, how much you need to learn, and how much time you should dedicate to it. With a clear plan and a strong will to learn, the unlimited web is your only limit.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.

serving up sports and healthy lifestyles

company sponsors first Dir'iyah Tennis Cup

by Scott Baldauf

Riyadh — Global tennis stars descended on Riyadh last week as they took to the court for the inaugural Dir'iyah Tennis Cup, held Dec. 12-14 at the World Heritage Site of Dir'iyah.

The tournament was held under the patronage of the Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, with Saudi Aramco providing key support as a presenting sponsor — another example of the company's commitment to sports and healthy lifestyles.

After the final on Dec. 14, HE Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan, Chairman of the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors, and Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, presented the trophy to the tournament winner, Daniil Medvedev — the fifth-ranked tennis player in the world. Medvedev beat Fabio Fognini 6-2, 6-2, to claim the inaugural trophy.

looking to unleash Saudis' full potential

Saudi Aramco's sponsorship of the tournament was a natural fit for the company, as we align our own efforts with those of the Kingdom to unleash the full potential of a young and creative Saudi population. The promotion of high profile sports events encourages active, healthy lifestyles, and helps to bring global communities together. And the success of the tournament is just the beginning of greater things to come.

The event, which brought together eight of the world's top 20 players, was a highlight of the ongoing Dir'iyah Season. The season is designed to be the leading sports festival in Saudi Arabia.

Last year, the season hosted the first Formula E race in the Kingdom, and this year, the season expanded with the addition of



HE Yasir O. Al-Rumayyan and Amin Nasser join Daniil Medvedev following the tennis star's victory at the Dir'iyah Tennis Cup final on Saturday near Riyadh. Saudi Aramco provided key support as a presenting sponsor — another example of the company's commitment to sports and healthy lifestyles. (Photos: Abdullah Alshammari/MPD)

three more sports — tennis, boxing, and equestrian.

Attendance at the tournament reached 8,000 spectators, and the live TV broadcast reached 16 million viewers. The Dir'iyah Season, organized by the GSA, will conclude on Dec. 21.

a major step in support of international sports

Sponsorship of the tennis tournament represents a major step for the company by supporting international sporting events such as this collaboration with the GSA. Not only is Saudi Aramco promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports, but we are also enabling our citizens to enjoy entertaining events that are happening in the Kingdom for the first time ever.

Saudi Aramco's presence was felt throughout the Dir'iyah Season. At a nearby exhibit, there were four sections that featured an overview of Saudi Aramco, as

well as zones highlighting Sustainability through Digitalization, Accelerating Human Potential, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Spectators were given opportunities to play tennis on nearby mini-courts. They could also participate in a speed-serve booth, where eager participants could compete with each other to break the serve speeds of other spectators. The winner was brought out onto the court after the final match of the day and given a prize.

young Aramcons get 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'

The tournament also provided a tennis clinic, where young players could interact with one of the top tennis coaches in the world. Thirty-five junior tennis players from the Dhahran Junior Tennis Association (DJTA) — a Saudi Aramco self-directed group — interacted with Judy Murray (mother of former English tennis pro Andy Murray), and had a two-hour tennis clinic with Ivan Ljubic, the coach of Grand Slam tennis pro Roger Federer.

DJTA members also were able to attend some of the matches and meet the players.

"The trip to the Dir'iyah Tennis festival was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for players and parents, made only possible by Saudi Aramco," said Amear Ali, president of the DJTA. "The children participated in many fun and enjoyable tennis activities. Their experience was further enhanced by the participation of No. 7 ranked David Goffin, who agreed to do a question-and-answer session with the children and take pictures. They were also to watch players train and prepare for their matches.

"This was definitely a wonderful, unique, and privileged experience for our DJTA players, which will most definitely inspire them to work harder in their tennis, strive to achieve and fulfill their potential. We were all truly honored to be invited to this prestigious event and can only hope that this opportunity presents itself again in future years."

For decades, Saudi Aramco has encouraged employees and their families to take

“The promotion of high profile sports events encourages active, healthy lifestyles, and helps to bring global communities together. And the success of the tournament is just the beginning of greater things to come.”



VIDEO

We are proud to be part of this historic tennis tournament promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.



Belgium tennis star David Goffin offers some advice to young tennis enthusiasts from the Dhahran Junior Tennis Association (DJTA). The DJTA gave 35 youngsters an opportunity to interact with the mother of tennis great Andy Murray, participate in a two-hour tennis clinic with Ivan Ljubic (coach of Grand Slam winner Roger Federer), and a chance to attend some of the matches and meet some of the players. "The trip to the Dir'iyah Tennis festival was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for players and parents, made only possible by Saudi Aramco," said Amear Ali.

part in sporting activities through the support of numerous self-directed groups and access to high quality sporting facilities and equipment.

Helping build highways is nothing new to Saudi Aramco. However, building highways with recycled plastic is a company first. The company's Consulting Services Department, in collaboration with the Transportation and Equipment Services Department, recent piloted its "Plastic Road" technology within a company-owned facility on the Hawiyah Road near Hofuf.



promoting a circular economy

Saudi Aramco deploys recycled plastic for road construction

by Waseem Khatri

Hofuf — In alignment with directives to promote the use of nonmetallic material in the construction sector, Saudi Aramco's Consulting Services Department (CSD) has piloted "Plastic Road" technology within a company-owned facility on the Hawiyah Road near Hofuf.

The project was completed in collaboration with the Transportation and Equipment Services Department (T&ESD).

It marked the first time that recycled plastic was used for road construction by the company, and in the Kingdom. The unique road was constructed on a stretch of highway owned by Saudi Aramco. This is a proven technology and has previously been applied in India and the U.K., which allows

the use of recycled plastics in roads.

Plastic waste has become a major issue in recent times, posing a danger of pollution and often ending up in landfill sites. The plastic road technology offers an opportunity to contribute toward a circular economy, and is designed to eliminate waste and enhance the continual use of used plastics to reduce pollution and carbon emissions.

Recycled plastic consists of used plastic bottles, bags, and other plastic packaging.

increase the strength of the asphalt

After being added to asphalt, recycled plastic can increase the strength of the asphalt concrete mix. The use of recycled plastic can also reduce the amount of bitu-

men used in the asphalt mix by up to 10%, making it an economical choice.

The use of plastic improves the stiffness of the asphalt mix and the durability and overall performance of the asphalt pavement, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly construction option. This also reduces the need for maintenance interventions and reduces life cycle costs. Additionally, the use of plastic can improve the performance grade of the asphalt to resist the temperature issues and traffic load experienced in the Kingdom.

The technology evaluation and implementation could not have been accomplished without the support from T&ESD. Upon completion of the pilot project, CSD acting manager Abdullah S. Al Humaid not-

ed the importance of the use of recycled material as an economical and sustainable way of modern road construction, and encouraged more of these applications to be used by Saudi Aramco and Kingdomwide.

T&ESD acting manager Sami A. Al Ajmi highlighted the importance of this technology, which will help to make better use of plastic waste and promote the concept of a circular economy in the Kingdom.

Riyadh S. Shiban, CSD coordinator with the Civil Structural Engineering Division, said, "This success story is one of many to come as we will jointly plan more technologies to deploy to support the corporate strategy to promote the use of nonmetallic materials in the building and construction sector."

Aramco engages with TU Delft students at Tech Quest to nurture the next generation of talent

by Muazzin Mehrban

Delft, Netherlands — Facing the tremendous challenge of providing energy to a growing population while mitigating the effects of carbon emissions requires the adoption of new technologies and ways of thinking that often come from outside the industry.

This was the sentiment behind Tech Quest — an incentivized technology challenge sponsored by Aramco and Yes!Delft that gave TU Delft students a chance to showcase their creativity and originality in the field of subsurface surveying.

leading tech incubator

Established in 2005 as one of the first incubators in the Netherlands, Yes!Delft is a leading tech incubator in Europe. Its mission is to support and empower tech entrepreneurs in bringing their disruptive tech innovations to the market quickly and effectively.

This is the first time Aramco has worked with an incubator to attract top young talent in Europe.

"The reason we developed this event was twofold," said Roald van Borselen, chief representative at Aramco Global Research Center-Delft. "First, to reach out and connect with the next generation, as we believe they are the key to unlocking the technologies that we require to overcome our future challenges. Second, we wanted to challenge the current best practices and to develop innovative ideas that deviate from the traditional paths."

At Tech Quest, teams of students from TU Delft — one of the top technical universities in the world and leaders in the development of seismic and non-seismic exploration methods — were introduced to the challenges facing subsurface surveying by experts from the industry who



Members of Team Peat examine possible solutions to challenges facing subsurface surveying experts during the recent Tech Quest event in Delft, Netherlands. The Aramco-sponsored program looks to bring ideas from bright students outside of the industry to solve some of its most intensive challenges.

explained the key parameters such as quality of acquired data, cost, safety, logistics, and environmental impact.

Subsurface surveys are a vital tool to help understand what lies beneath the Earth's surface without drilling or tunneling. The technology has a variety of applications from ensuring that dams, bridges, and tunnels are safe to helping scientists understand and predict earthquakes.

Teams were challenged to bring innovative ideas to the problem, including the use of Fourth Industrial Revolution solutions that considered use of autonomous and intelligent systems for aerial and terrestrial applications, as well as artificial intelligence and new sensing systems.

taking the challenge to heart

The solutions presented by the teams at the end of the event showed that students took this challenge to heart. The winner, Team Silt, presented an innovative approach to detecting underground caves by sending different resonance frequencies into the Earth and monitoring returning frequencies to identify holes and caves underground.

The first-place prize included entry to Co-Lab, a half-day workshop on entrepreneurship to meet startup leaders. This offered students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand their entrepreneurial skill set and set them on a path toward future innovations.



As an industry, we face tremendous challenges, and events like this, along with our summer internships and hosting student visits, allow us to build these vital relationships.

— Talal H. Al Marri

Talal H. Al Marri, president of Aramco Overseas, commended the students for their innovations and their commitment to studies in an inspiring speech to the attending students, referencing their importance in driving the industry forward.

Van Borselen added that the exercise gave TU Delft students exposure to the latest technologies.

"For us, it is important that we connect with that talent and tap into these new ideas. As an industry, we face tremendous challenges, and events like this, along with our summer internships and hosting student visits, allow us to build these vital relationships," he said.

read it on the intranet

Aramco India hosts forum promoting Kingdom investment



Aramco Asia-India recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSICL) on strategic collaboration and cooperation at the first Aramco India Suppliers Forum in New Delhi. Sitting (from left) are: P. Udayakumar, director of planning and marketing at NSICL; and Mohammed Al Mughirah, Aramco Asia-India president. Standing, from left, are Vijay Prakash, general manager at NSICL; HE Saud bin Mohammed Al Sati, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India; Abdul Rahman M. Hatlan, Aramco Asia SPLD director; and Abdullah Melfi, sourcing and SRM manager at Aramco Asia-India. The forum witnessed over 200 participants from government, semi-government agencies, industrial associations, and companies from India to explore ikvta localization opportunities.

'Safety Begins with You' campaign puts focus on off-the-job safety in Yanbu'



Abdulkarim A. Al-Ghamdi, Saudi Aramco vice president of Power Systems, attempts to text and drive on a simulator designed to demonstrate the dangers of such activities. It was just one of the features highlighting off-the-job safety at a campaign conducted at the Yanbu' Recreation Center.

forum highlights pipeline integrity's key role in Saudi Aramco's hydrocarbon supply chain



Pipelines general manager Mohammed A. Al-Hatlani speaks about the importance of maintaining pipeline integrity as a key component in Saudi Aramco's hydrocarbon supply system. In his opening remarks, Al-Hatlani highlighted the importance of maintaining pipeline integrity as a key component in Saudi Aramco's unparalleled hydrocarbon supply system. (Photo: Yara ZiyadIMPD)

Yanbu' Refinery highlights energy efficiency efforts as host of AEE Saudi Chapter meeting



Guests listen to Yanbu' Refinery Department (YRD) engineering superintendent Rami Al-Shafiei speak on energy performance. "The event is a testament of Yanbu' Refinery's commitment to energy efficiency and its vision and mission," Al-Shafiei said. Conducted in collaboration with the Process and Control Systems Department, YRD recently hosted the Association of Energy Engineers Saudi Chapter meeting.

sustaining Operational Excellence: hundreds gather to spread excellence sustainability culture and practices



Presenters and members of the Operational Excellence (OE) Department's leadership team answer questions during a panel session at the recent OE Exchange meeting in Dhahran. More than 240 participants from various Saudi Aramco organizations participated in the event, which served as a venue to exchange best practices related to sustaining OE and share other departments' experiences through a series of presentations and workshops.

Western Region Distribution promotes knowledge sharing, excellence at annual 'Engineering Forum and Exhibition'



Driven by the company's vision to lead the way in technology development and innovation, the Western Region Distribution Department (WRDD) hosted the "WRDD 2019 Engineering Forum and Exhibition" in Jiddah under the theme of "Knowledge Sharing Promotes Excellence." Participants, sponsors, and organizers of the event pose for a photo after the event, which sought to strengthen the communication ties between Saudi Aramco and service companies while keeping our employees in touch with the latest technologies and best practices in their fields.

workshop: safety and efficiency essential at Jazan Refinery



Participants in the Jazan Refinery Complex's (JRC) recent "Integrated Schedule and Process Safety Workshop" tackle a difficult challenge during the event. The workshop was attended by some of the most talented and diverse minds of engaged employees who diligently serve JRC in areas of Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, Loss Prevention, Planning, and Human Resources.

JHAH raises Central Area Industrial Training Division trainees' awareness of human immunodeficiency virus



Mohammad S. Al-Dhalaan, preventive medical consultant at the JHAH Disease Control and Prevention Center, delivered an enlightening presentation on the dangerous disease of HIV/AIDS with more focus on the concept of prevention. The interactive presentation attracted the attention of more than 500 trainees and staff members to this important subject.

driven to help others, Hassan M. Alzain is GCC's first Rising Environmental Health Star

by Scott Baldauf

Hassan M. Alzain, an environmental scientist with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), was recently awarded the Rising Environmental Health Star award by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). He is the first Saudi and first citizen of the Gulf Cooperation Council region to receive this international excellence award from the CIEH.

The award recognizes an individual who is a student, or in the first three years of their professional career, who demonstrates initiative and inspirational qualities in the field of environmental health.

Judges wrote that Alzain was selected because he "has demonstrated a commitment to his profession by supporting introduction of nutritional standards for the first time in Saudi Aramco, as well as supporting the development of a noise mitigation strategy from scratch for water operation facilities.

"His nomination stood out as his projects could have been delivered by a much larger organization," the judges continued, "so for this to be done by Hassan at an individual level in the early stages of his career was exceptional, and a demonstration of his passion and drive."

empowered by the company to pursue his passion

Alzain gave credit to Saudi Aramco for giving him the opportunity to contribute to environment health projects with the potential of great impact.

He also gave thanks to his mentor, Jason R. Hall, an EPD environmental scientist with over 20 years of experience in the public and private sector, who holds a membership with the CIEH.

"I have been empowered by Engineering Services through the provision of resources to implement high quality initiatives in a relatively short timespan — fast tracking my professional development and showcasing the company's great capabilities," Alzain said.

A member of EPD's Environmental Health Unit since 2017, his work has focused on environmental health assessments, and the development and management of environmental health standards in the context of the oil and gas industry. Alzain has participated in high-level Operational Excellence programs that look to minimize risks to employees' health. Among some of the initiatives he has introduced are Nutrition Fact Sheets and Traffic Light Labeling to Saudi Aramco.

about the CIEH Excellence Awards

Founded in 1883, the CIEH is a professional membership body concerned with environmental health and promoting environmental and public health standards in the training and education of environ-

mental health professionals worldwide.

The CIEH Excellence Awards are the premier international awards for recognizing and celebrating excellence and achievement in the field of environmental health.



I have been empowered by Engineering Services through the provision of resources to implement high quality initiatives in a relatively short timespan.

— Hassan M. Alzain



new system lifts, identifies top instructors

by James A. Tolland

Dhahran — The Industrial Training Department (ITD) recently held its inaugural TODS (Teacher/Trainer Observation and Development System) Awards event at the Technical Exchange Center.

This event recognized ITD's top performing instructors and instructional observers, the top performing division on TODS, and outstanding support personnel. The ceremony was open to awardees, supervisors, and invited guests from both ITD and Training and Development (T&D) management.

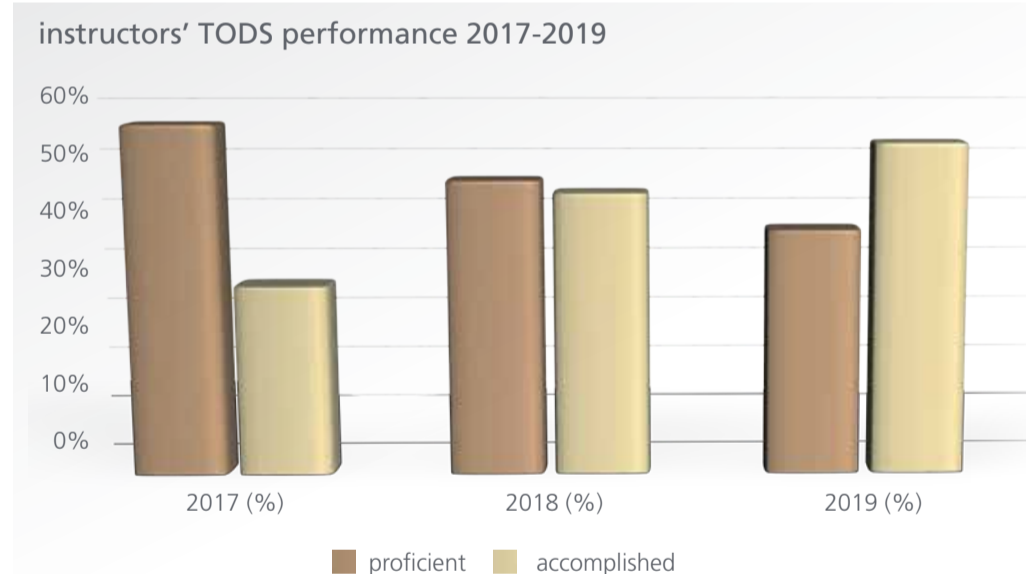
Inaugurated in August 2017, TODS is T&D's new system for tracking instructional performance and utilizing data from thousands of instructor observations to drive the instructor development process strategically and efficiently.

continuously improving the quality of instruction

TODS stands at the heart of T&D's goal to continuously improve the quality of instruction in training programs.



The overall impact of TODS can clearly be seen in the year-to-year improvement of instructional delivery.



Since its inception, more than 2,100 TODS observations have been conducted in ITD. In addition, 175 observers from ITD, T&D and non-T&D organizations have undergone a rigorous TODS Observer Certification course — an essential requirement to be a TODS observer.

TODS Observer training was successfully migrated to T&D's Staff Development Unit earlier this year. In 2019, ITD earned international recognition from the International Federation of Training and Development Organizations by winning the Merit Award for its implementation of TODS.

The overall impact of TODS can be seen in the year-to-year improvement of instructional delivery (see graph) as instructor ratings migrate to the "accomplished" range.

At the TODS Awards, Thomas A. Heenan, ITD Quality Improvement coordinator, stated that the combined experience of ITD's more than 400 instructors comprises over 5,000 years of educational

and instructional practice, and that TODS is the mechanism through which ITD can leverage that asset to heighten the impact of its many training programs.

Learning Solutions and Services manager Abdullah A. Ghabbani, representing T&D general manager Faisal A. Al Hajji, thanked everyone involved for their efforts in creating and successfully implementing the TODS system. Ghabbani emphasized that TODS is the result of a cross-functional development effort at the T&D level, and will continue to rely upon the close collaboration of departments within T&D, as it matures.

Philip H. Reeve, ITD's TODS administrator, noted that TODS makes it possible for ITD to manage the continuous development of instructors by identifying the strengths of instructors and units.

Among those recognized included 2019 ITD TODS Distinguished Teacher Award winners Paul R.W. Round, Trevor Hunt, Thomas E. Deighton, Frank T. Spencer,

Stephen I. Davey, Christopher Haworth, John John R. Montajes, and Kamel Moawwad. The 2019 TODS Distinguished Trainer Award winners were Peter M. Paulsmeir, Gundelino S. Sobrevega, Craig D. Boyd, Howard P. Andrews, Ali S. Alkhalaf, Faleh Motairy, Rosalio L. Marcos, Zane Coles, Hafzalla E.M. Elseddig, Ahmed Harazi, Kamel A. Softa, and Omar Hassan.

The 2019 ITD TODS Distinguished Observer Awards went to Abdul Ghaffar, Ayman M. Esmairan, Alan I. Baverstock, Jesse W. Treacle, and Steven Conde.

Accepting the 2019 ITD TDS Outstanding Division Award was Mohammed S. Al-Shuwaikhat, superintendent of the Northern Area Industrial Training Division.

Earning the 2019 ITDS TODS Outstanding Support Award was Shabeeb S. Shabeeb, superintendent of the Central Area Industrial Training Division, with Reeve, Heenan, Naser Husain, and Hany M. Shehebar also receiving recognition for their efforts in implementing TODS.



Naser Husain receives a special award for programming of the Teacher/Trainer Observation and Development System (TODS) from Abdullah A. Ghabbani and Salem A. Al-Shehry, Industrial Training director. Those involved with the launch of TODS were recognized, along with a number of instructors who were ranked the highest by the new system.

a towering achievement

38 meters high, 60 tons, one safe commissioning in Yanbu'

Yanbu' — The Yanbu' Refinery team recently celebrated the safe and successful commissioning of a critical milestone in the history of the Yanbu' Refinery Department — the Sour Water Stripper Column Replacement Project.

The column — 38 meters high with a total nominal load of 60 tons — is the main source of removing hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) from the sour water received from the refinery. It has a total operating capacity of 45,000 barrels per day.

Site preparation activities were extensive, as construction activities needed to be carried out in a live sulfur recovery plant rich with H₂S, with a total of 62 external pipe connections and 43 instruments.

Moreover, the team of operators and engineers had to replace the column within 22 days to avoid a total refinery shutdown. The team was able to challenge all constraints, safely complete the replacement, and successfully commission it in 17 days.

safety on-site, safety in transport

Safety was a cornerstone in every activity that took place. The job safety analysis

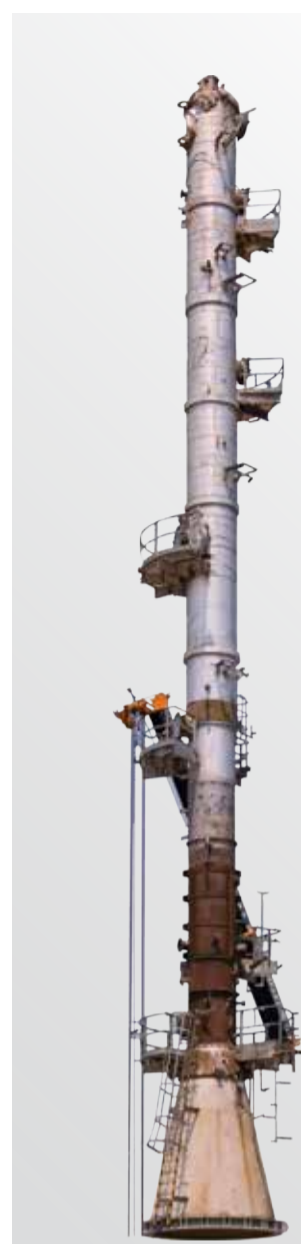
listed all activities, and the plan for their safe implementation was endorsed by all contractor parties, operations, and the compliance team. As for the lifting plan, it was evaluated by Loss Prevention and heavy-equipment technicians. All safety measures were in place to conduct the lift.

To address unknown risks and hazards, the emergency response plan included plausible scenarios, guidelines, and an endorsement from the Fire Protection team, as well as safety compliance.

The transportation of the column from Jubail to the project site took almost seven days, where the execution team coordinated with external entities such as the Royal Commission for safe passage to Yanbu'.

The column has been awarded to a local manufacturing company in Jubail as part of the iktva program, which is targeting 70% localization by 2021 in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030. The manufacturing of the column took seven months, achieving more than 1,500 safe working hours.

This project supports compliance to Saudi Aramco safety standards and enhances the reliability of the company's corporate objectives.



Sour Water Stripper Column Replacement Project

- ▶ Column stands at **38 meters high**
- ▶ Total nominal load of **60 tons**
- ▶ Manufacturing took **7 months**
- ▶ Once ready the team had only **22 days** to place the new column
- ▶ Column successfully commissioned in **17 days**

going digital: technology helps solve Land Use Permit challenge; geospatial-driven solution drives improvement

by Scott Baldauf

Dhahran — A recently launched digital solution helps the company manage our reserved lands and overcome the challenge of issuing Land Use Permits (LUP) in a timely manner.

The permits are issued by Saudi Aramco to facilitate temporary or permanent company and noncompany projects. And as location is a fundamental element of the permitting process, new advances in the field of geomatics are at the heart of this new LUP solution.

The Engineering Support Department (ESD) worked with Information Technology (IT) to incorporate the cutting-edge geospatial technology, revamping the LUP system with input from more than 10 key organizations in the company. Collaboration between all organizations led to a Geographic Information System (GIS) powered LUP system that integrates various geospatial data and tools into a single platform that efficiently initiates, reviews, and processes LUPs.

crucial process

As our portfolio of projects expands, LUPs have become a crucial process for dealing with stakeholders inside and outside of the company. Established in 1979, the LUP process facilitates and consolidates feedback from various LUP review organizations in allocating a particular piece of land for a project in terms of engineering, environmental, industrial, security and safety standards, and the company's future plans.

To facilitate a LUP, ESD helps initiators provide project site coordinates, identifies the required stakeholders whose input is required, consolidates important feedback, and notes the proximity to other company assets and facilities before issuing its decision.

Abdulaziz I. Al-Mugaiteeb, chief of the



From left, Sulaiman A. Aldaijji, Ahmad A. Abdulhay, and Khaled M. Bahnasi demonstrate the Land Use Permit system at their office in the Land Use Permit Coordination Unit of Engineering Services. (Photo by Ding/IMP)

Geomatics Services Division, praised the new LUP solution. "The LUP process is critical to Saudi Aramco operations," said Al-Mugaiteeb. "Realizing this, ESD and IT collaborated to deploy this state-of-the-art LUP system that will enhance the process and improve decision making."

ESD manager Khalid K. Al-Onaizi echoed Al-Mugaiteeb, saying the new system should expedite processes while increasing interdepartmental communication and improving efficiency. "The new system makes full use of GIS technology to help the company make timely decisions," he said.

"The new LUP system is expected to speed up the process, increase inter-departmental communication, and improve efficiency," said Al-Onaizi.

Abdulaziz S. Al Shafi, manager of IT's Corporate Applications Department, noted

the in-house developed solution resulted in a cost avoidance of \$10.4 million. "The solution, in addition to its many innovative and added value functions, will significantly optimize the time and efforts of the overall LUP process cycle," he said.

new LUP system has already showed promise

Incorporating GIS and introducing new processes has enabled ESD to cope with an estimated 120% increase in workload, compared to the average of the past five years. The new system provides LUP initiators with an advanced interactive viewer that displays essential information about specific plots of land, even before the submission of the LUP. This increases the potential approval of the request.

The new system also provides reviewers



The new LUP system is expected to speed up the process, increase inter-departmental communication, and improve efficiency.

— Abdulaziz I. Al-Mugaiteeb

with advance workflow capabilities and geospatial conflict engines to determine potential conflict with existing or future assets, which helps reduce the decision cycle time.

ESD is also introducing a new "as built" process that will capture the LUP post-construction status, which is expected to introduce more accountabilities to the process while availing unused land for use.

This new LUP system is just one of many examples that demonstrate our commitment to supporting the Kingdom's Vision 2030, even as it continues to safeguard the company's land interests.

And since Saudi Aramco has land reservations in nearly every part of the Kingdom, speeding up the company's ability to make determinations of what is an appropriate and safe use of land will maintain the company's strategic interests in land use by allowing us to make timely decisions that drive economic growth, while also providing greater diversification and the creation of new jobs for Saudis.

a first for Saudi

iktva: the story of the all-Saudi team



From left, crew members Majed M. Al Shammari, mechanical piping quality control inspector, and Mustafa S. Al-Mulla, mechanical engineer, review the quality checklist for the oil well infrastructure. To ensure quality, the crew members underwent additional extensive preparation, including a six-month training program overseen by certified personnel at the contractor's premises, and they had to be certified by Saudi Aramco's Inspection Department in their respective fields.



Left, Khalid M. Al Shammari, quality control engineer of the crew, and Abdullah Albuaynian, planning engineer of the crew, make inspection rounds on the flow lines. The Saudi crew met the quality requirements and completed the work safely and ahead of schedule due to the detailed planning, diligent execution, and teamwork spirit.

by Musherf Alamri,
photos by Ding/MPD

Abu Hadriya, Eastern Region — One of the fundamental goals in Saudi Aramco's Upstream Project Management organization is to proactively contribute to strengthening the building blocks of the local economy through iktva, while also maximizing the dependence on a competent and qualified local Saudi workforce.

Another prime example of that commitment came to fruition recently when an all Saudi crew completed the construction of an oil producing well infrastructure for the first time in company history.

"We continue striving to find ways to maximize our share in the corporate iktva target, which aligns with the promising Saudi Vision 2030 of our beloved Kingdom," said Fahad A. Al Ammari, general manager of Upstream Project Management.

"We utilized our long-term agreements, for example, in our Onshore Maintain Potential and Offshore Projects Department to implement this goal.

"This shows the commitment by Saudi Aramco Project Management to align with corporate Saudization efforts, and to find new ways to collaborate with our contractors to enhance the Saudization of the workforce," said Amin F. Ghazzawi, manager of the Onshore Maintain Potential Project Department (OMPPD). "This is an actual implementation of the alignment with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 of creating high quality jobs for young people."

an important step for Saudi Aramco

Mohammed H. Al Ghamdi, manager of Manifa Producing, said that this represents

“

This is what made us do our best and be competitive ... as we are a Saudi crew, we wanted to stand out by providing an excellent service.

— Khalid M. Al Shammari

a very important step as a department and for Saudi Aramco to support such an initiative.

The crew comprised of 78 Saudis completed all of the necessary work for the construction of oil well ABHD-131, ranging from project management and quality assurance to actual site execution, such as welding and instrumentation.

This was accomplished without adding new obligations or costs. Instead of scattering Saudi workers across different projects, this endeavor focused the manpower on delivering one product.

OMPPD collaborated with an al-Khobar-based contractor on meeting the preexisting Saudization quote by forming the all-Saudi crew.

"We put it as a challenge, that we have been constructing wells and producing oil for a long time. It is time to make sure that we depend on the local workforce," said Saleh S. Alamri, a project manager with Northern Area Oil Operations.

OMPPD, in coordination with Manifa Producing, selected the oil well infrastructure as a product due to the high demand

placed on this deliverable.

With Saudi Aramco's unwavering commitment to maintaining sufficient capacity to meet global energy market demands, there is an adequate workload to keep specialized crews engaged for the long-term in building oil well infrastructures. That makes these jobs more appealing to local talent, who are seeking to gain experience and build careers.

The endeavor started with OMPPD and the contractor listing the required composition of the team, which was multidisciplinary, ranging from engineers and foremen to pipefitters and electricians. The contractor employed college graduates and leveraged preexisting agreements with training institutions to recruit tradesman.



Aramco n that built ABHD-131



The crewmembers then underwent an extensive six-month training program overseen by certified personnel at the contractor's premises. Crewmembers learned more about their specific tasks and were given training in Saudi Aramco procedures and requirements. Prior to beginning work, each crewmember had to be certified by the Saudi Aramco Inspection Department in their respective field.

"We checked their capabilities to ensure that they can deliver something with Saudi Aramco quality and safety requirements that are in the core business of the company," Alamri said.

skilled labor a necessity

The training and certification were required due to the complexity of the tasks and quality requirements, Alamri said. The Saudi Aramco oil well infrastructure project quality index is 94%, which is higher than the industry average. This high quality requirement ensures the reliability of the infrastructure carrying valuable, but potentially dangerous, hydrocarbons for years to come.

Rigorous quality testing was conducted to ensure the deliverables met the requirements. For instance, quality assurance engineers used X-rays to check the welding between pipes because the margin of error was less than the tip of a pen. It is these high expectations that make these jobs require highly skilled trades-



From left, Wayil AlAnezi, Hussain Albu Hassan (NSH), and Ali AlAmer, are some of the technicians with the crew who installed the devices that direct power to the equipment within the oil well infrastructure. The crew composed of 78 Saudis completed all the necessary work for building ABHD-131, ranging from project management, and quality assurance to actual site execution such as welding and instrumentation.

men and engineers.

"The welders working on Saudi Aramco's hydrocarbon sites go through extensive course and shop training and testing based on scientific methods and procedures to ensure the durability and reliability of their work," said Alamri.

preparation is the key

After receiving the program and instructions from Project Management, the contracting team reviewed the drawings

and fabricated the pipes at the workshop. Then they mobilized at the site, made the required modifications, installed the equipment and materials, and ultimately conducted quality testing and completed the pre-commission procedure.

"I am very proud of my team, they all did a great job, and they showed the outcome of the training," said Ahmed S. Al Dhafeer, project manager of the contractor crew.

The Saudi crew not only met the qual-

ity requirements, but also completed the work safely and ahead of schedule, and within the allocated budget.

Khalid M. Al Shammari, quality control engineer with the crew, attributed this success to the detailed planning, diligent execution, and spirit of teamwork. The crew was very aware of the importance of their work to demonstrate that the local workforce can take on this challenge, so everyone was highly motivated to attain the common goal in a cohesive and supportive environment.

"This is what made us do our best and be competitive ... as we are a Saudi crew, we wanted to stand out by providing an excellent service," said Al Shammari.



Saudi Aramco joins other global leaders in promoting a safer digital space at WEF Center for Cybersecurity annual meeting

Geneva — As a founding member of the World Economic Forum's Center for Cybersecurity (WEF C4C), Saudi Aramco recently participated in the annual meeting on cybersecurity that was held at WEF headquarters.

WEF C4C was established with a mission to shape the future of cybersecurity and digital trust.

The center promotes global collaboration and leads global initiatives to drive positive changes and address strategic and pressing challenges around cybersecurity and cyber resilience.



The array of growing digitalization, information and operation technology convergence, and interconnectivity have heightened cyber risks and expanded the cyber threat landscape.



Khalid S. Al-Harbi speaks on cyber resilience in regard to the Fourth Industrial Revolution during a panel session at the World Economic Forum's Center for Cybersecurity annual meeting held recently in Geneva, Switzerland.

It also provides a platform to unify cross-sector efforts, including governments, business, and academia.

Saudi Aramco, represented by the Information Security Department and Information Technology, participated in the center's three-day event with the presence of global cybersecurity leaders from public and private sectors to discuss common themes around cybersecurity.

Khalid S. Al-Harbi, chief information security officer with

Saudi Aramco, participated in a panel discussion at the WEF meeting.

Al-Harbi was joined by elite global cybersecurity leaders to address strengthening cyber resilience in governments and critical national infrastructure organizations.

The panelists discussed strategic challenges and opportunities to provide an end-to-end cybersecurity ecosystem with the onset of the Fourth Industrial Revolution era.

The array of growing digitalization, information and operation technology convergence, and interconnectivity have heightened cyber risks and expanded the cyber threat landscape.

All of the experts agreed that it is paramount for organizations to ensure wise and future-proofed investments in technology. This can be achieved through the implementation of supply chain cybersecurity requirements, business use case validation, business strategic alignment, and the accommodation of technology scalability and interoperability within the organization's operations.

unifying resilience through collaborations

The importance of public-private partnerships, ecosystem collaborations, and cross-sector information sharing were recognized as strategic pillars to institute cyber resilience across the global ecosystem, and to thrive in the digital revolution.

spotlight



Recently, Saudi Aramco's Law organization held its annual Service Awards and Employee Recognition Program, hosted by Kris Koziol, associate general counsel, Transactions and Finance. Twenty-two individuals in Law were recognized for a cumulative 180 years of service, and 29 individuals received recognition in the areas of individual academic achievement and team achievements. Koziol presented each recipient with the award and his personal congratulations. Law is proud of its employees and their accomplishments, and the significant impact Law has on every aspect of the company. Among those being recognized for years of service at the ceremony were: (25 years) Hatem Rafie; (15 years) Abdulrahman Matsah, Badr Al-Assaf, Mohammed Qoqandi, and Eyad Al-Jubran; (10 years) Michael Smith and Norman Kong; (5 years) Meraj Rafathullah, Michelle Spence, Johan Gerrese, Scott Oakes, Mohammed Sindi, Abdelhadi Otain, Saleh Al-Ghamdi, Olivia Ngo, Jared Steele, Florence Merryman, James Sellers, Thomas Chung, Suzanne Moreno, Geoffrey Rogers, and Stergios Kosmidis. Those recognized for achievements included Assem Ahmadi, Abdulrahman Bajouri, Mohammed Al-Osayis, Mohammed Al-Sulaiman, Abdelhadi Otain, Majed Al-Qahtani, Mohammed Qureshi, Linda Greene, Nick Cook, Richard Hawkins, Rob Steenblik, Paul Weitzel, Matt Wright, Brian Webb, Dan Davis, Olivia Ngo, Andy Law, Mansour Al-Turki, Ibrahim Al-Howais, Hugh Hollman, Yasir Elbiali, Aaron Stonecash, Irfan Tukdi, T.J. Koons, Gareth Bahlmann, Steven Vaz, Chris Johnson, Ahmad Al-Juwair, and Jared Steele. (Photo: Ahmad El Itanil MPD)



In the spirit of our corporate value of Citizenship, and as per the OE 13.1 "Corporate Social Responsibility" process, the Yanbu' Refinery Department recently worked in coordination with Yanbu' Government Affairs to welcome 21 students and four instructors from the Madinah College of Technology. The goal of the visit was to introduce the students to Saudi Aramco operations and the labor market. The visit included a welcome by YRD management, an overview presentation, safety orientation, employment presentation, a visit to the 3-D Hub, as well as a lunch. The students were grateful to learn about the opportunities Saudi Aramco provides college graduates. Management encouraged the students to ask questions to learn more about the refinery, and after lunch, gifts were given to the guests.



Participants and organizers of the recent Charity Run sponsored by Saudi Aramco along the Dammam Corniche pose with race dignitaries following the event. This year's race saw wide participation from men and women, as well as children, as the company continued in our tradition of providing support for both charity and athletic events. (Photo: Mayameen Alhamoud/MPD)

pursue your passions with Community Education

by Chiara Iacoangeli Ciampricotti

For decades, Community Education has been a vast resource for employees and their dependents who are looking to pursue their passions.

From computer programs to the fine arts and everything in between, the Saudi Aramco program is designed to serve those who want to enhance a passion, or those who want to develop one.

With offices and facilities located at the Dhahran Middle School on Third Street, Community Education maximizes its evening capacities to deliver service 13 hours per day.

But Community Education isn't restricted to Dhahran, as the program operates in four Saudi Aramco communities in the Eastern Province.

volunteer spirit drives program

The scale of the program in each community is contingent upon the talents and volunteer spirit of its community members.

Community Education refers to a wide range of teaching methods and programs that educators use to convey their area of expertise, a sporting discipline, or personal passion. This is all done in the spirit that the community has a wide swath of



Whether it's language courses or martial arts lessons, the Community Education program strives to offer classes in a wide swath of interests — as expansive as available in the communities in which they are offered.

resources that instructors can use and improve learning experiences for participants.

Each educational session takes intense planning and time to prepare, as staff review everything from proposals to potential instructors. If a course gets the green light and enough Aramcons enroll to take it, that's where the adventure starts.

Course offerings are divided into four primary areas:

Language: Courses are currently offered in English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Italian, Turkish, and Korean.

Computer: Current courses include Microsoft Access, PowerPoint, Excel, and web development, to name a few.

Sports and Recreation: A wide array of courses are on offer, from various martial arts to fitness, and dance to rock wall climbing, and beyond.

Interests: The area with the most diverse offerings incorporates classes in makeup, fashion, knitting, psychology, business, improvisation, and stress management, among others.

instructors, students find satisfaction

In numerical terms, the classes are an ongoing success. This past autumn session, approximately 1,100 registrants participated in some 130 classes. Behind these numbers is the tireless activity of those who work in the offices to ensure satisfaction on the part of both the participants and instructors.

The Community Education team places great value in its team of instructors. In many instances, these instructors get a great deal of "occupational therapy" out of their service to the community. The administration stresses that the teaching experience enriches every person who lives it, thanks to the diversity of the instructors and participants they encounter.

For instructor Elena Deakin, this has definitely been true. An example of the exceptional talent offered through the program, Deakin has a bachelor's degree in fashion design and has more than 12 years working in the creative industry in the U.K. Offering her course over the past two years, she has found great success and satisfaction as her students have been eager to learn and branch out into additional courses



in the field of arts.

Abir Khadra, an Arabic language teacher, noted "Teaching gives me the opportunity to interact with students from different cultural backgrounds who enrich my knowledge and improve my understanding of their cultures."

Rock climbing wall instructor Taha A. Alsafi said he enjoys giving participants an opportunity to uncover a new passion. While his class regularly attracts a dozen or more participants per session, only a handful continue to climb. But, for those who do, it is highly rewarding.

"For those people who get hooked to challenging gravity, they often say they've found a new comfort zone, a self-challenge and an inclusivity with the friendly climbing community in Dhahran," said Alsafi.

The opinion of those who participate in the courses echoes these feelings.

"The teachers are native speakers, which allows you to learn the language better," said language program participant Hussain Al Zaki. "And you are able to learn more about their culture and tradition."

Another participant, Emma Buratti, praised the friendliness of the program — the instructors and students.

"Everyone is supportive and the low-pressure environment really creates an opportunity for dialog," said Buratti. "I've met most of my friends here."

The next catalog of courses for the winter session will be released on Dec. 29.

Taha A. Alsafi, center, shows proper restraint techniques while offering a class on rock climbing at the Dhahran Middle School climbing wall in Dhahran. Rock climbing is just one of the many courses offered through Community Education across four Saudi Aramco communities. (Photo: Raazia Ali)

“The scale of the program in each community is contingent upon the talents and volunteer spirit of its community members.”

Rahim's journey in the Kingdom to end after two decades

Dhahran — Born and raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and receiving his master's and Ph.D. degrees in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, Zillur Rahim started his Saudi Aramco journey in February 2000, and is now set to retire in January 2020.

Rahim originally held the position of petroleum engineer specialist, and later was promoted to the position of senior petroleum engineer consultant with the Gas Reservoir Management Department (GRMD).

professional journey

During his career with Saudi Aramco, he led the hydraulic fracturing campaign initiation team, providing his expertise in sustaining natural gas rates, improving production, and ultimate recovery with the use of hydraulic fracturing technology — in both carbonate and sandstone conventional reservoirs.

Rahim's work helped put Saudi Aramco's GRMD at the forefront of novel technology applications in the international petroleum

industry.

His many accomplishments that have added to his experience while with the company include a series of technical papers, lectures, participation in panel discussions, conducting and chairing workshops, and serving as a keynote speaker. Rahim was instrumental in sharing his knowledge by training young professionals through daily work and teaching advanced petroleum engineering courses through the UPDC.

'a great place to raise a family'

Living in Saudi Aramco's Dhahran community, he said his time has been a unique experience.

"Dhahran is indeed a great place to raise a family," said Rahim, who has been married to his wife, Nusrat, for nearly 32 years.

The Rahims have four children — all of whom completed their high school at the Dhahran Academy. Rahim credits his wife for providing him never-ending support over the years.



Zillur Rahim and his wife, Nusrat, say Dhahran is a great place to raise a family. All four of their children completed their high school at Dhahran Academy. Rahim will be retiring soon after nearly 20 years of working at Saudi Aramco.

He and his family enjoyed the opportunity to travel abroad, in addition to visiting several places within Saudi Arabia — including trips to Riyadh and Jiddah, as well as the Holy cities of Makkah and Medina. The variety of cultural offerings he and his family experienced in the Kingdom will always be treasured, said Rahim.

He added that a highly rewarding part of his life in Saudi Arabia was working in a

diverse environment, interacting with an international community, and understanding the cultural richness of different heritages.

Rahim is passionate about teaching and volunteering, and he plans on continuing with social work and exploring North America following retirement.

If anyone wishes to stay in touch with Rahim and his family, they can be contacted at abusabiq@hotmail.com.



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SR1,000

Zoom in Nature

Age Group: 7-9 years

3 to 7 p.m.
 Dec. 23 to Dec. 26

3 to 7 p.m.
 Dec. 30 to Jan. 2

SR1,000

Science Agent

Age Group: 10-12 years

3 to 7 p.m.
 Jan. 6 to Jan. 9

3 to 7 p.m.
 Jan. 13 to Jan. 16

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3 to 7 p.m.
 Jan. 6 to Jan. 9

3 to 7 p.m.
 Jan. 13 to Jan. 16

SR1,000

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Jan. 6 to Jan. 9

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Jan. 13 to Jan. 16

SR1,000

3 to 7 p.m.
 Jan. 6 to Jan. 9

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 Jan. 13 to Jan. 16

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‘Dickens’ Carol’ satisfies

Dhahran Theater Group wraps up another striking season with a Christmas favorite



by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Dhahran — Bob Crachit, Tiny Tim, the irascible Ebenezer Scrooge, and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future provided the inspiration for “The Dickens’ Carol,” the latest in a long string of successful performances by the Dhahran Theater Group (DTG).

The hard work started in January, nearly one year before opening night, and concluded the DTG’s major event calendar with a production that channeled the classic seasonal tale without pretentious edits or gimmicks. It ended with a recent eight-show run in Dhahran.

“We just had to rely on the original story as it was written by Dickens, and let it work its magic by itself,” said director and producer Manuela Odorisio Paone.

That brilliant decision ensured that audience members would feel as if they had been taken back to the past with the set location evoking the 1840s.

great performances and striking sets

The popular morality play about the mean-spirited Scrooge was brought to life by Salvatore Di Simone, who managed to go beyond the standard interpretation of the popular character. Di Simone touched the whole audience with Scrooge’s metaphorical dream path through his personal drama, recognition of his mistakes, and ultimate redemption.

Di Simone was not the only one to nail his role, as all of the 70 actors on stage managed to entertain and delight. And the production benefited greatly from the period set pieces, which were created and operated by a backstage crew of more than 60 people.

“Having the audience sit in the scene meant we needed a very realistic set — more of a cinematic set than a theatrical one,” said co-director Kim Makechnie.



“Throughout the summer, and all the way to the performance days, the crew carried out some monumental work to build and decorate one of the most impressive and realistic sets the DTG has ever witnessed.”

Among those with key contributions were props master Paul Weitzel, scenery designer Paone, architect Virginia Guerrior, as well as Bruce Schumacher and Matt Neuman, who helped realize the structure of the set. Elena Deakin, a professional costume designer, worked with the directors and costume Wendy Weitzel to more fully embrace the period.

positive feedback

The play captured the imagination of the playgoers, including Imogen Bale.

“The scope and collaboration and commitment was breathtaking,” said Bale. “It was as if everyone — cast or crew, adult or child, family, friend, or colleague — was

drawn in by the story, as if they were already a part of it.

Heath Connett, who had a small speaking part, said the support he received from his colleagues was spectacular.

“I felt the cast and crew grow together like a family, and we built this beautiful production together. It’s been both a challenging and rewarding journey,” he said.

Theater-goer Annaliese Taylor responded with a big thank you to the cast and crew. “My family and I very much enjoyed the show,” she said.

Meanwhile, cast member Ahmad Shono wrote the following:

*“This play made to gladden
By those that dared imagine
Are now forever heartened
For it almost never happened.”*

To join the DTG email dhahrantheatre-gr@gmail.com or go to the “Dhahran Theater Group: Events” Facebook page.

With 70 on-stage actors and dozens of people working behind the scenes, “The Dickens’ Carol” proved to be an audience and participant favorite.

“

I felt the cast and crew grow together like a family.

— Heath Connett

voices of Dhahran come together for SAEA’s seasonal concert

by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Dhahran — After months of practice and dedicated rehearsals, the Dhahran Community Chorale (DCC) recently conducted its annual seasonal concert at the Ad-Diwan in Dhahran.

A self-directed group that has a four-decade history in the Kingdom, the DCC is truly a part of the Saudi Aramco tradition, and the annual event is one that everyone is eager to attend, says DCC president Mark Taylor.

Comprising 34 bright voices and presented in many languages and caroling styles from around the globe, this year’s concert was like traveling to different countries and enjoying the variety of sounds for the winter season.

Directed by Chad Van Heel, the resonance of the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass performers created a beautiful harmony, while soloists Laura Weight, Marla McMaster, Primar Asuncion, Tara Van Heel, and Joy Denton accentuated the seasonal feel perfectly.



Chad Van Heel leads the Dhahran Community Chorale in its annual seasonal concert at the Ad-Diwan building in Dhahran. (Photo: Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli)

The enthralling outcome was achieved with the collaboration of instrumentalists such as piano accompanist Jaemin Yoo, and cellist Tara Bahlmann — the latter especially in the solo for We Three Kings. A strings

section with violins, viola, and cello greatly enhanced the performance this year.

The last song before the intermission, Wonderful Peace by Gustaf Nordqvist, was introduced with a touching wish from the

conductor, taking up the words of the author himself: “Be your heart touched as mine was by wonderful peace!”

The audience enjoyed listening to these traditional winter tunes and enthusiastically took the opportunity to join in the singing with the choir. The festive mood quickly spread through the hall as all celebrated another successful performance by the ensemble.

A special thanks went to SAEA volunteer board members Kashmira Baldauf and Trace Robbers.

about the director

Chad Van Heel, who is in his second season as DCC director, is originally from Minnesota and has lived in Dhahran since 2014 when he started teaching music at the Dhahran Hills Schools. His passion for music and singing started in his childhood. He was given the chance to join the chorale of the Minnesota Orchestra while studying, and he has also performed as a soloist in Cairo, Kuwait City, as well as Dhahran.



King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture
by saudi aramco

Ithra movies



in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure

Dec. 21, 23 10:30 a.m.

Abu Nasser

Dec. 18, 21 2:45 p.m.
Dec. 19, 20 6:15 p.m.

Adventures in Zambezia

Dec. 23, 24, 25 6:30 p.m.

Hatched

Dec. 18, 21 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 19, 20 7 p.m.

Robinson Crusoe

Dec. 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 5:25 p.m.
Dec. 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 6:30 p.m.

Soul: Rouh

Dec. 18, 21 8:25 p.m.
Dec. 19, 20, 23, 24, 25 3 p.m.

Vanishing Dragons

Dec. 19, 20, 21 4:15 p.m.

Wasati

Dec. 18, 23, 24, 25 4 p.m.



Abu Nasser

This documentary provides viewers a window into the life of a generation that has witnessed many social and economic changes during "The Boom" through Abu Nasser's inspirational story. Despite his struggle, he did not give up on his dreams.



Robinson Crusoe

On a tiny exotic island, Tuesday, an outgoing parrot, spends the days with his quirky animal friends in paradise. However, Tuesday dreams of adventure and longs to discover the world. After a violent storm, Tuesday and his friends wake up to find that a strange creature has washed up on their shore — Robinson Crusoe. Tuesday immediately views Crusoe as his ticket off the island to explore new lands.



Hatched

Even the smallest creatures can make a big difference in this eggs-ceptionally funny adventure! Young chicks Cluck Norris, Chickpea, and Tiny SchwarzHENegger are determined to show everyone that chickens really can fly, but when their tiny alien pal, Magic, is in danger, this young feathered trio will join efforts of their animal neighbors to save their home and friend from the "fowlest" of villains.



Soul: Rouh

After a man loses his family in a car accident, he struggles to find work-life balance while trying to protect and make a happy life for a girl — the one soul he still cares for.



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Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) is a joint stock company, with certificate of registration number 2052101105, having its principal office at P.O. Box 5000, Dhahran, Postal Code 31311, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and with fully paid capital of SAR 60,000,000,000.

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