

# the arabian sun

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a weekly Saudi Aramco publication for employees

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Rig foremen Ahmed Dellalou and assistant foreman Ahmed R. Halza use a tablet computer to access the new Drilling Rig Supply Service to verify shipment of large bags of drilling mud to their remote drilling rig near the northern Arabian city of Arar. (Photo: Hasan AlMubarak/IMPD)

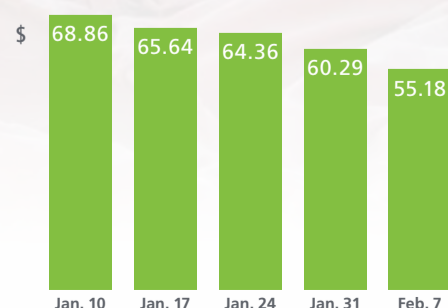


## your way out of diabetes

JHAH opens 2020 intake for proven diabetes prevention program, Tawazon.

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## OPEC basket five-week price trend 2020



## Saudi Aramco by the numbers

# 126,695

is the number of panels replaced in the Al Midra Solar Photovoltaic project.

# Tawazon: your way out of prediabetes

## JHAH opens 2020 intake for proven diabetes prevention program

by Sarah Palmer

Tawazon is a support group-based diabetes prevention program that through physical activity, diet, education, and behavior, can transform lives.

The 2020 round of the Tawazon will be the third intake for the unique John Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) program.

Tawazon was created by JHAH experts and specialists in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore, and follows evidence-based practice from the CDC\* Diabetes Prevention Program. Participants in the first two rounds of Tawazon experienced excellent outcomes in terms of a reduction in body weight and blood sugar levels.

### the hidden dangers of diabetes and prediabetes

While many people are aware that diabetes is a serious health risk, they may not know that it is possible to have prediabetes or even undiagnosed Type 2 diabetes without any obvious warning signs or symptoms.

Prediabetes is a medical condition where your blood sugars are higher than normal. It can predispose you to Type 2 diabetes, with a subsequent higher risk of developing diabetic complications such as chronic heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and early death.

The good news is these conditions can often be reversed through lifestyle and behavior changes, as well as by introducing physical activity and healthier food choices.

### take the quiz to determine your risk level

To take the prediabetes quiz to find out

توازن  
Tawazon  
Your Way Out of Prediabetes  
أوقف السكري قبل حدوثه



your risk level for prediabetes, go to [www.jhah.com](http://www.jhah.com). Knowing your risk level can empower you to reverse prediabetes and to prevent Type 2 diabetes in your future.

Your quiz results will also indicate if you are eligible for the Tawazon program and you can immediately complete the online application.

To access the Tawazon prediabetes quiz, visit [www.jhah.com](http://www.jhah.com) or scan the QR code.

### a program designed to help you reach your goals

Tawazon's targeted measurable outcomes include:

1. Losing between 5% and 7% of your body weight

2. Maintaining 150 minutes of moderate physical activity per week.

Over the course of six to nine months, candidates receive 12 sessions with a lifestyle coach, along with four supervised physical activity sessions with a personal trainer to try to reach these goals.

The program is designed to help participants adopt a moderate physical activity program. Along with diet and exercise support, Tawazon provides a supportive team of health coaches, nutritionists, case managers, Primary Care physicians, and fitness coaches to help participants improve their quality of life.

Tawazon is run in groups of 20 to 25 participants. Session times will be based

around the needs and preferences of each particular group.

### Tawazon eligibility

The program is available to Saudi Aramco adult employees and their eligible dependents (18 years of age and older) who:

- Have a body mass index higher than 25
- Are diagnosed with prediabetes or are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes
- Registered to receive care with JHAH.

Eligible Saudi Aramco employees and their dependents are invited to register for health care at JHAH. Visit [Saudi Aramco MyHome>MyInformation>MyFamily](#).

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## your voice

# My Saudi Aramco Journey shaped by The Sun, Aramco World



by Batool Khalaf  
Dhahran

[Batool.Khalaf@aramco.com](mailto:Batool.Khalaf@aramco.com)

My Saudi Aramco story began long before I joined the company. As a young girl, I recall the anticipation of my father bringing home *The Arabian Sun*, *Aramco World*, and other company publications, and how they helped shape my understanding not only of the company and its business, but the world at large.

I still remember how my dad used to point out to me emerging women leaders in the company, and how inspiring it was as they climbed the corporate ladder. It became my dream to one day follow in their footsteps.

This led me to join Saudi Aramco. My first "job" came when I volunteered at the Saudi Aramco hospital as a patient record organizer while I was a sophomore in college. It was my first time working in anything resembling an office space, and the experience changed me. I got the chance to meet people who later became good friends and mentors, and they helped shape my personality that later guided me through my career.

I also got a chance to take my first

leadership courses and that, too, left a lasting impact. I was so grateful to have this experience early in my career, as the timid girl disappeared and a confident young woman ready to work to reach her potential replaced her.

When I returned to school, my work experience gave me the confidence to lead different student organizations and become a mentor myself. Later, when it was time for me to do my co-op training, I decided to try Saudi Aramco, especially since it would bring me close to the Eastern Province where my parents lived.

Nervous at first, those nerves disappeared after I was accepted into the program. From there, it only got better as my program was extended from seven months to a year.

And this changed me, too. It showed me how capable I was, how much I enjoyed the work environment, and cemented the fact that Saudi Aramco is truly home.

There were challenges, too. After completing the program, it took some

time to get converted into an employee.

At first, I felt discouraged, but eventually, as I sought out more opportunities, all was well. I helped start two Toastmasters clubs to teach public speaking and leadership skills to women (at the al-Khobar Chamber of Commerce) and youth (in the Dhahran community).

This was all volunteer work, but it inspired me to volunteer at Ithra. Even though I was not officially employed, I was so busy and close to the Saudi Aramco work environment, it felt as if my dream of being an employee here had come true.

And then, after perseverance and lots of faith and hard work, it did as a job offer came through. I gladly accepted, even completing my master's degree while with the company, and I have never looked back.

Now I am learning and navigating this journey one step at a time. The biggest lesson I have learned on my journey is to never give up, be resourceful, and forge your own path, persevere, and always move forward — no matter what.

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

# walking the walk in renewables

**Dhahran** — Saudi Aramco's Power Systems Renewables Department recently celebrated the completion of its Al Midra Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Replacement Project with a recognition ceremony at the Technical Exchange Center.

The project replaced 126,695 panels with more advanced thin film panels in what is one of the world's largest PV solar car parks. The car park covers an area equivalent to 12 standard soccer fields, providing shade for 4,500 vehicles, and has the capacity to generate 10.5 megawatts for the power grid that feeds administrative buildings and office complexes.

Power Systems vice president Abdulkarim A. Al-Ghamdi said the project served as a reminder that the company has deployed renewable energy technology for decades.

"Saudi Aramco has coexisted with re-

newables alongside its operations as renewables made good business sense by freeing up natural resources for better economic use," said Al-Ghamdi.

He congratulated the team members from Power Systems and other departments, as well as contractor companies, for the safe and successful completion of the project.

"This gathering celebrates not only the completion of the project, but also the accelerated schedule of this project that enabled our teams to reduce the execution time from 22 months to eight months only, with zero lost time incidents," said Al-Ghamdi.

## overcoming challenges with planning and problem solving

Project manager Abdulaziz A. Al-Abdul-

gader said the project presented a number of challenges, requiring extensive planning and problem solving.

To meet the company's strict requirements for workplace safety, team members identified a major challenge of working at extreme heights in a busy office area, with open traffic, and during harsh weather conditions. The team ensured that a Saudi Aramco Loss Prevention engineer was assigned full-time during the initial phase, and part-time during construction. Additionally, two company safety engineers maintained daily checklists to ensure close supervision.

To fill the knowledge gap for workmanship in solar panels among the contractors' workforces, the team utilized the experience of Saudi Aramco's Power Operations and senior Renewables technicians, who

conducted workshops and training sessions for contractor staff.

In addition, strict adherence to the Kingdom's Saudization laws was applied, ensuring that contractors hired qualified Saudi engineers for the duration of the project.

Al-Ghamdi extended his thanks to the contractors of the project.

"While weather proved a significant challenge for crews working throughout the project, the technicians reached high levels of efficiency, removing as many as 4,500 PV panels per day, and installing up to 3,200 new PV panels per day."

Replacing 126,695 deteriorated PV panels with more advanced thin film panels was a huge task, requiring 208,134 man-hours by Saudi Aramco and contractor employees.



**126,695**  
panels

replaced with more advanced thin film panels

**4,500**  
vehicles

receive shade from the car park covers in an area equivalent to 12 standard soccer fields

**0**  
lost time incidents

during a project that was scheduled to take 22 months to complete, but took only eight months

**10.5**  
megawatts

can be generated from the panels for the power grid that feeds the Al Midra administrative buildings and office complexes

## Finance, Strategy and Development conducts first senior vice president Youth Town Hall powered by YLAB



(Left) Abdullah Aljarallah, a table facilitator at the Challenges into Opportunities workshop, said, "It was a fruitful session where teams of multidisciplinary FS&D employees were empowered to conduct root cause analysis and propose feasible solutions to common shared challenges, and then share best practices." (Photos: Mohammed AlShaikh/IMPD)

(Right) Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh takes questions and answers from FS&D young employees during the recent Youth Town Hall.



by Reema S. Sharaf

**Dhahran** — More than one in three employees in Finance, Strategy and Development (FS&D) are 35 years old or younger, and with that in mind, the service line recently teamed up with the Young Leaders Advisory Board (YLAB) to conduct its first ever town hall event.

Sponsored by Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh, FS&D senior vice president, the event featured the theme "Engaging Minds, Empowering Success." The goal of the event was to engage the young employees through a variety of critical topics and expose them to important concepts and information.

The town hall also provided a platform for the young employees to interact with management and strengthen relations with colleagues from different admin areas.

### challenges, aspirations, and the future direction of FS&D

The event opened with a question-and-answer panel with Al-Dabbagh. YLAB's Sarah Shabib facilitated an open discussion, as the

young employees directly engaged Al-Dabbagh, addressing challenges, sharing aspirations, and discussing FS&D's future direction.

The town hall also featured thought provoking presentations, including:

- "The Future of Finance" by Norah I. Alabdulkareem and Saud K. Almaghlouth, who focused on the digitalization of finance-related processes
- "Data Leakage Prevention" by Amir M. Houtan, who sought to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our data.

Meanwhile, a "Challenges into Opportunities" session helped identify key challenges and their root causes as the employees were split into teams that were asked to propose potential solutions. The YLAB team then prepared a report on the findings and proposed solutions by the employees for further consideration by the company.

Saud Al-Mansour from YLAB also conducted an interactive session that tested the youth's knowledge of the company's history, current plans, and future direction. Employ-

ees Musaad K. Alagil, Abdullah Subaie, Mohamed Elsafty, Abdullah Khamis, and Fahad Aldosari were recognized for best answering the questions.

### a positive experience

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

"I enjoyed the whole event, especially the open question-and-answer panel with the senior vice president," said participant Shouq AlHamoudi. "He was transparent in answering our questions, and spoke from his own experiences, which left a real positive impact on us."

Abdullah Aljarallah, a table facilitator at the Challenges into Opportunities workshop, said, "It was a fruitful session where teams of multidisciplinary FS&D employees were empowered to conduct root cause analysis and propose feasible solutions to common shared challenges, and then share best practices."

Shabib, who was a member of the town hall organizing team, said she believed the

event resonated with the young employees in the organization.

"People enjoyed having an opportunity to learn about the big picture and engage with Mr. Al-Dabbagh on a more casual level," Shabib said.

In his speech, Al-Dabbagh noted that motivation is a complex term with many aspects.

"Let me ask each of you: 'What motivates you individually?' Motivation is not a one-size-fits-all, and we should work to be positive catalysts to the best of our capabilities," he said, adding that everything FS&D employees do on a daily basis is responsible for the overall success of the organization.

"When tackling any challenge, no matter how big or small, approaching it with drive and ambition is essential. Employees should be agile in seizing opportunities, while being conscious of relevant risks. Being engaged and motivated will unleash employees' potential, and that will allow the company as a whole to achieve great success," Al-Dabbagh concluded.

# communicating in a complex world

## identifying trends for effective communication

by Scott Baldauf

**Dhahran** — Saudi Aramco hosted a workshop for communicators and subject matter experts on how to address the challenge of operating and communicating in a challenging and changing business environment. The workshop, “Global Insights Briefing: Communication in a Complex World,” was organized by Public Affairs, in partnership with Strategy and Market Analysis, the British think tank Chatham House, and Control Risk.

The goal of the event was to provide communicators and other business professionals with the key insights, findings, and ideas they need to help Saudi Aramco to adapt and achieve its strategic objectives. The workshop was held at a time of significant challenges, such as climate change and business volatility, and promising opportunities, such as game changing technologies that will transform the way we do business. Key topics included global trends, international society perspectives, top risks for 2020, energy transition, and climate change communication and impact.

### exploring global trends

In his opening remarks, Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib, general manager of Public Affairs, said that Saudi Aramco communicators are tasked with telling crisp, compelling, and impactful stories about Saudi Aramco’s strategies, operations, and achievements, but this task is made more complex by the role that emotions rather than facts plays in public discourse.

“Telling the truth well is one reason we are here today,” Al-Dhubaib said. “This workshop is designed to make our jobs a



Professor Paul Stevens gave an insight into energy transition and climate change during his session at the workshop. (Photos: Ahmad El Itani/MPD)

little easier and our efforts a lot more effective, by exploring the communication environment in which we operate, and identifying the trends that will be shaping the perceptions in the future. This is a day to learn to think, to reassess and reenergize our efforts. And I encourage you to use the knowledge and insights that will be shared today in your work tomorrow.”

### significant challenges lie ahead

Robin Niblett, director of Chatham House, gave an overview, “Global Trends and Responses: An International Society for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The challenges are significant:

- Nearly one-fourth of the world’s population lives in a fragile environment, in terms of security, economics, and war
- There is persistent inequality, with 7/10 of the constant economic inequality
- Protectionism is rising around the world, with national leaders building barriers to commerce and trade
- There is growing citizen distrust in the system of democratic governance, with recent polls showing 51% are dissatisfied with how democracy works.

And yet, Niblett said, the foundations for building a better world still exist. He pointed to the rapid pace of technological change, with the internet expected to reach 65% of the world’s population in 2025, up from 47% today. The global economy continues to grow at 3%. In a changing environment, “empowered actors” like Saudi Aramco, can play a pivotal role in a sustainable way by providing energy that can lift



Keen to take advantage of the expert speakers, there was no shortage of questions from an eager and engaged audience.



Chatham House director Robin Niblett gave a thought provoking overview on current global trends and the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

people and nations out of poverty and contribute to prosperity.

Professor Paul Stevens, a distinguished fellow in energy, environment and resources at Chatham House, expanded on this overview theme in his two presentations. One was called “Oil and Gas Industry Insights, Energy Transition and Climate Change,” and the second was called “What does the Energy Transition mean for International and National Oil Companies?”

In the afternoon, Sorana Parvaulescu, a partner for Control Risk’s Middle East office, gave a presentation on the top geopolitical, strategic and economic risks for 2020 in the Middle East region, and partner Dane Chamorro, head of Control Risk’s Asia Pacific office in Singapore, considered the risks that exist in the fast-growing economies of Asia.

### communicators gain crucial insights

Alya N. Sairafi, head of PR at Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV), said the discussions at the workshop would help her to communicate more effectively about SAEV’s role in supporting innovative technologies.

“The event was very insightful and gave us a glimpse into the trends of the future, and how the decisions we make today have the potential to solve the problems of the world tomorrow.”

Lindsey J. Bard, a writer-editor for the Loss Prevention Department, said she appreciated the discussion about the role of technologies in the energy industry.

“We have done a lot to develop and implement new technologies in many of our departments, and all of that helps us make safer systems and cleaner products,” Bard said, “and we need to communicate these successes better with the world.”

Jerome E. Castex, a human resources generalist of the Corporate Applications Department, appreciated the discussion into the potential disruptions that might come from the growing trend of automation in industries.

“As someone in HR, I’m sensitive to the fact that the number of industrial robots could double from now to 2025. The Bank of England estimated that 15 million jobs could be lost in England due to robotization. I’m interested in how our societies will carry these technological evolutions and their social implications,” Castex said. “What kind of policies will our various countries make to deal with that? These subjects are very relevant.”

“

This workshop is designed to make our jobs a little easier and our efforts a lot more effective, by exploring the communication environment in which we operate and identifying the trends that will be shaping the perceptions in the future.

— Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib

“

The global economy continues to grow at 3%. In a changing environment, “empowered actors” like Saudi Aramco, can play a pivotal role in a sustainable way by providing energy that can lift people and nations out of poverty and contribute to prosperity.



Founded 100 years ago, at the end of the devastating First World War, the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs (also known as Chatham House) was formed with a mission “to build a sustainably secure, prosperous, and just world.”

To meet this mission, Chatham House employs some of the world’s top academics and subject matter experts to engage governments, the private sector, and civil society, in frank and open debate on some of the most challenging issues and trends in global affairs. Chatham House holds about 300 private and public events each year to generate ideas that reinforce their mission, ideas that create peaceful and thriving societies, sustainable and equitable growth, and accountable and inclusive governance.

Famous for promoting open discussions, Chatham House is well-known for its “Chatham House Rules,” which allows participants to discuss the content of ideas from a Chatham House hosted meeting, but not the identity of those who attended.

“Chatham House is about ideas,” said Robin Niblett, director of Chatham House, during his visit to Dhahran. “It’s about coming up with ideas that can take the world to a better place.”

# looking to lead with a culture of innovation in Manifa

by Mohammed Homoud

**Manifa** — Enriching research, innovation, and technology help Saudi Aramco maintain its position as a global leader and a reliable source of oil and gas, contributing to the development of the Kingdom's economy, and preparing the workforce for the future.

That spirit is certainly embraced in the Manifa Producing Department (MPD), which has sought to meet corporate strategies with an innovation program that addresses culture, leadership, resources, innovation management, rewards, and metrics.

The department employs an active innovation program, which guides employees on an innovation journey that fosters creativity and highlights their performance, and in turn, improves operations with cost saving techniques.

That strategy has produced real results. In 2019, MPD was the top-ranked department companywide in the innovation program. That was achieved by applying best practices such as selectively assigning effective Idea Management Committee members, applying an effective evaluation process, measuring performance, creating a comprehensive innovation guideline, rewarding innovators, and conducting special awareness sessions.

"I'm sure the motivated team will maintain this level and achieve even higher," said MPD manager Mohammed H. Ghamdi, who encourages MPD's focus on increasing implementation levels and deployment of resources to improve the facility's performance in various aspects.

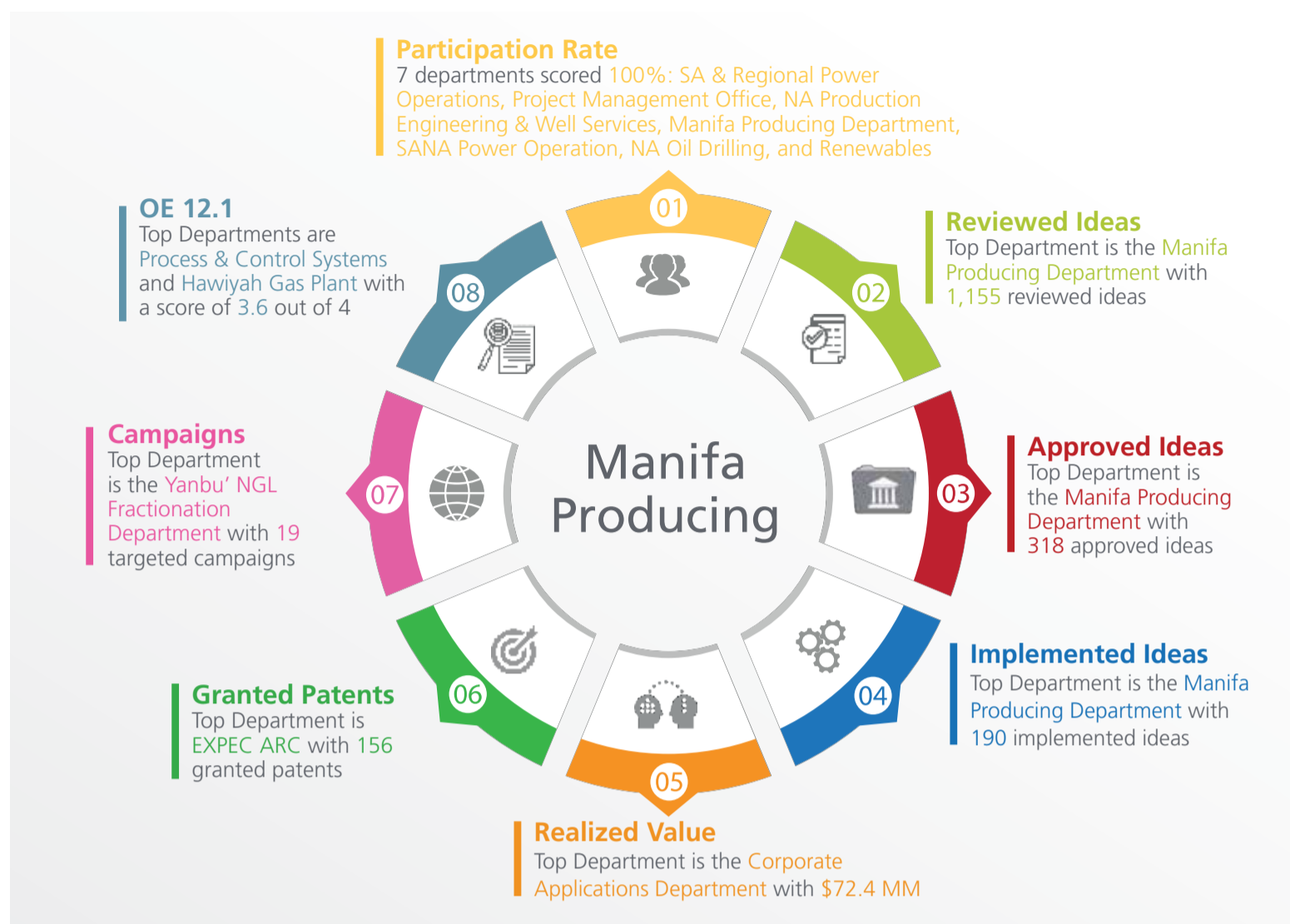
These successes were quantified in the quarterly report, including MPD's:

- 1,155 reviewed ideas
- 318 approved ideas
- 190 implemented ideas
- 100% participation rate through internal and external awareness sessions and training.

## success stories

### • Manifa Emergency Shut Down (ESD) Bypass Dashboard

An in-house developed ESD bypass dashboard, which was created by using data link software through a Plant Information



system to monitor all Manifa CPF ESD bypasses that support generating a report automatically, viewing historical data, and verifying the compliance of the ESD bypass requests.

Idea owner Mohammed A. Al-Homoud, said, "The idea was designed by using a clustering method where it minimized the load of the program by 96%, where the report can be generated within a very short period time."

### • WAVE Software for Better Reliability

WAVE is a new intelligent software developed in-house by using Visual Basic for Application language to transform the method for submitting vibration requests from manual logs to digitalized forms through a centralized application that is capable of

generating vibration reports and extracting the vibration history of the equipment through an engine search.

"This is part of our digital transformation initiatives that we will keep focusing on to enhance and improve our processes at MPD," said idea owner, Sadiq M. Al-Halal.

### • Enhancing the Stability of Manifa Crude Oil Production

A logic modification was deployed to avoid crude shipping pump trips during miscommunication, image updates, and maintenance or unexpected errors in the related control processor. The modification was to change the type of pulses between the Distributed Control System to the Motor Control Center, which eliminates the initializing mode from stopping the critical

pumps. This innovative idea has the potential of providing a significant cost saving, and was recognized by the Corporate Innovation Board as one of the top five ideas in the third quarter of 2019.

The technical team responsible for the "high-impact" idea included Al-Homoud, Mamdouh Luwaif, and Mohamed Salem.

MPD is continuously looking for ways in which to boost their efforts and embrace opportunities to sustain and enhance operations through implementing new innovative ideas and deploying new technologies. The department's Innovation Committee will continue to conduct awareness sessions and campaigns to maintain and improve the innovation culture throughout the organization and the company as a whole.

## N-Gage: young leaders come together to offer fresh perspectives to HR challenges

by Shaistha Khan

**Dhahran** — Employee engagement.

Diversity and inclusion.

The future of the workplace.

Agile Leadership.

These were just a few of the key topics discussed at the recent Human Resources (HR) Youth Summit 2020 organized by N-Gage, a consulting body of young HR professionals who seek to bring a fresh perspective to the challenges of the admin area.

The main objective of the summit was to provide opportunities for young HR employees to network and engage with leaders.

### accelerating development through collaboration

Nabil K. Al-Dabal, HR executive director, spoke about Saudi Aramco's preparations for the future and how the company is working to meet the demands of an ever-evolving workplace and the Fourth Industrial Revolution — where current jobs will be augmented, and new ones will be created. This, he said, will require employees to adopt the practice of life-long learn-



For hands-on experience with upcoming technology, HR professionals try out the Google Title Brush, a 3D painting virtual reality application. (Photo: Ding/IMP)

ing and self-development.

By partnering with top business schools, working with oil and gas peers to promote diversity and inclusion, and accelerating the development of leadership from a young and diverse talent pool, Al-Dabal emphasized how this preparation was actively occurring in every part of the HR or-

ganization.

This was echoed by Mohammad Shabib from the Organization Consulting Department (OCD), who shared HR's transformation strategy as Saudi Aramco continues to evolve in the post-IPO environment.

HR leaders Haithem Al-Balawi from the HR Systems Support Department (HRSSD),

Nayef Otaibi from OCD, Najwa Azaimi from Regulatory Affairs, Nazar Buijan from HR Policy and Planning, and Reema Siyam from Management and Professional Development shared their experiences in a panel discussion and welcomed questions on challenges in HR, partnering with business lines, and the digitalization of HR functions.

### 'What Employee Engagement Means to Me'

There was also a video competition titled, "What Employee Engagement Means to Me," which was won by Ranem Al-Anazi from OCD and Rasha Al-Rabeh from Personnel. Teams from HRSSD and OCD won second and third place, respectively.

Overall, the summit proved to be a tangible representation of the company's firm commitment to supporting and engaging talent, with special emphasis on the unique and valuable perspective of the youth.

The N-Gage organizing committee noted that the biggest success of the summit was having the voices of the youth heard and acknowledged.

For more information, email [ngage3@aramco.com](mailto:ngage3@aramco.com).

# Drilling Rig Supply Service system IR 4.0 solution enhances drilling

by Scott Baldauf

(Photos: Hasan AlMubarak and Moayed Al-Qattan/MPD)

Located 110 kilometers from the nearest city, Arar, and nearly 1,000 kilometers from Dhahran, on a flat, wide open plain of rocky desert, rig foreman **Ahmed Dellalou's** drilling operation is in as remote an area of northern Saudi Arabia as one can be.

Dellalou's drilling operations depend on a steady flow of materials and tools — drill bits and pipe casings, bags of cement, and barrels of chemicals — and even a short delay in receiving them can mean a costly shutdown.

To further enhance its system of calling for supplies for the company's onshore and offshore rig operations, the Drilling and Workover (D&WO) Services Department has rolled out a new automated Drilling Rig Supply Service (DRSS) system.

Where a few years ago he might have put out a request for supplies with a phone call or a fax, Dellalou can now make his requests through the SAP system, accessing everything from a single nail to wellheads and casings from more than 200 service companies, and tracking their delivery in real time.

"The new system is fantastic," said Dellalou — one of three Saudi Aramco employees at the rig. "If we lived in Dammam, and we needed something we could get it in a day. Here, there are no suppliers nearby. But still, yesterday I ordered a drill bit



Nayef K. Al-Ghafel

through the automated DRSS, and today I got it."

## digital transformation

**Nayef K. Al-Ghafel**, manager of D&WO Services, said the new automated system is just one of many ways in which Saudi Aramco is undergoing a companywide digital transformation to take advantage of the automation technologies that have come from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0).

Since the initial rollout of the DRSS last May, Al-Ghafel said stakeholders and contracting partners have rapidly seen the benefits, including:

- Elimination of long-lead accruals
- Acceleration of payment process
- Adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRS)
- Immediate reflection of the cost of business invoices
- Greater data security

Dispatchers at Tanajib Marine Department inspect pipes before shipment to offshore drilling rigs. In the month of September alone, Tanajib dispatchers shipped 8,941 line items to drilling rigs in the Gulf.



Employees at the Tanajib Marine Department prepare pallets of chemicals to be shipped to offshore drilling rigs. The chemicals are just one of the many different types of supplies that can be requested through D&WO Services' new Drilling Rig Supply Service.



Wijdan K. Tarabzouni



Ali O. Yahia



Bader M. Modhhi

"By rolling out the new automated DRSS, we have been able to streamline the call outs of materials and services to our drilling operations," Al-Ghafel said. "The main objective is to make sure our systems meet, and exceed, the IFRS. But there are other benefits to the system. We can see an accurate reflection of our costs — in real time — our dispatchers and foremen can track the materials from service companies to the wellsite, and our vendors can receive payment in a timely manner."

## how it started

One of the main drivers for the digitalization project was the dramatic increase in drilling activities across the Kingdom over the past few years. Today's drilling rig fleet numbers more than 250, and shows every sign of continuing to increase.

Keeping track of expenses for each well, therefore, has become crucially important, said **Wijdan K. Tarabzouni**, an auditor with D&WO's Internal Compliance Group. By late 2017, D&WO stepped up to support the Accounting Policies and Systems Department (AP&SD) in a collaborative effort to review the process for well accounting. Possible solutions that would mitigate specific issues were identified and evaluated.

As the representative for D&WO, Tarabzouni teamed up with **Naumaan A. Khan** from AP&SD and **Ali O. Yahia** from Information Technology (IT) to develop the requirements and scope that supported system enhancements for a more efficient way of processing the booking of services. By introducing the system enhancements, well costs could be posted on a real-time basis, significantly reducing manual interventions in the recording of financial transactions.

**Bader M. Modhhi**, Drilling IT and Communication Group leader, said there are 164 service vendors who deal with Drilling Operations and 204 active service contracts. All of these contract service pay items, Modhhi adds, are populated in the new DRSS call out system, which the vendor can easily pick up when services are requested.

Modhhi's team, including business analyst **Fahad S. Alotaibi** and materials controlman **Nocarlo D. Gaela**, worked closely with IT to create tools to improve system

Supply ships load up for supplies at the Tanajib Marine Department. The new DRSS system allows D&WO Services to meet demand for drilling supplies, to keep rigs operational on a 24-hour-a-day basis.



# operations onshore and offshore

Rig foremen Ahmed Dellalou and assistant foreman Ahmed R. Halza inspect drill bits shipped to their remote drilling rig near the northern city of Arar. In remote areas far from Dhahran, the new DRSS system has helped to avoid downtime that can come when key supplies run out.



usability and optimization, and meet the needs of D&WO and service providers.

"We strive to provide solutions to our customers that make their jobs easier and safer, and allow them to be more productive," said Yahia, the assigned project manager from IT. "It gives us great pride when we see our solutions helping organizations achieve their goals of digital transformation."

With the rollout of the new "Services Accruals Accounting" SAP process, D&WO is acting as a pioneer among Upstream organizations for streamlining activities to the required IFRS.

"We can make sure that the services are completed on a timely basis, and that providers are paid in a timely manner," said **Hatem M. Al Saggaf**, a superintendent with Drilling Rig Services. "And we can give our management timely information on what the costs of services that must be paid by Saudi Aramco."

Another advantage of the new system is to link the service companies' market share distribution, and workload will be distributed among service providers automatically



Fahad S. Alotaibi



Nocarlo D. Gaela



Hatem M. Al Saggaf

considering cost and companies capabilities.

As section head of DWO Logistics and IT Communication, **Balaj S. Al Otaibi** said, "I am proud that the new call out application will provide a huge benefit to the company. We are the focal point section providing support for the application. It's an application that will make Saudi Aramco and the service company the best partners in business."

**Abdullah A. Al-Subaie**, D&WO audit coordinator, said the process of requesting services from contractors was redesigned

to increase the effectiveness and improve the accuracy and timeliness of service job charges to the well accounts.

"This is a significant and unique achievement at the company level, allowing the system to capture service charges as soon as the service job is completed and accrue the charges directly to the well accounts, providing better financial information on which to base management decisions," Al-Subaie said. "Phase 2 of this automation project is to enhance the service charge invoice verification and approval process."

**Abdullah Y. Muhaisen**, supervisor for Drilling Supplies and Services, said, "The new DRSS system is a customized SAP solution using the workflow and the approval process to confirm/approve, the call out service request. By having such a system, DRSS can provide accurate data on a real-time basis."

## Tanjib logistics hub

With his large computer screen and a window view of a vast paved yard piled high with drilling pipe and other materials and supplies, **Nassir M. Binmodhhi's** desk looks like a command center. Binmodhhi is supervisor of the Offshore Drilling Dispatchers Unit in Tanjib, which is responsible for keeping 56 offshore rigs in the Northern Area — including Manifa, Safaniyah north and south, Hasbah, Arabiyah, Zuluf, Karan, Abu Safa, and Marjan — supplied with everything they need to keep operating, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The task is more difficult than it sounds. With new batch drilling, 22 of those 56 drilling rigs are actually drilling eight wells at a time, which effectively multiplies the number of supply orders by eight times. In the month of September alone, the Tanjib dispatch unit shipped 8,941 line items to drilling rigs in the Gulf. It's a task that Binmodhhi says has become much easier with the new digitalized system.

With the DRSS system, D&WO serves as a model for organizations in the company that interact with vendors and service providers, but also sets a high standard of accountability as the Kingdom's economy transforms under the ambitious Saudi Vision 2030 plan.



Balaj S. Al Otaibi



Abdullah A. Al-Subaie



Abdullah Y. Muhaisen



Nassir M. Binmodhhi



At the Nariya Bedouin market members of the SAEA visiting group were able to shop for a variety of traditional items ranging from tent equipment to terracotta vases.

# a place where tradition reigns

## SAEA sponsors daytrip to Nariya's Bedouin market

by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

**Nariya** — Two buses full of eager Aramcon tourists recently made their way along desert highways for a trip to the community of Nariya. Located about 150 kilometers from Jubail, the city is well-known for its traditional Bedouin market.

The trip was organized by the Saudi Aramco Employees Association (SAEA).

Despite today's modernity, the market hasn't lost much of its distinctiveness. It is still a world not affected by the passing of time. Here, tradition reigns supreme.

Colorful booths appeared, and the welcoming vendors invited us to visit their iconic displays, booths, and shops. The nomadic shop owners are accustomed to living in tents in the desert that allow them not only to cope with the searing temperatures of summer, but also mitigate the chilly winter nights. And the sight of them gathered in the marketplace gave visitors an authentic taste of the Kingdom.

Indeed, in the market, the Bedouin business owners were selling everything one would need for dealing with this kind of life



— tent equipment, raw wool carpets, cushions (which, when placed on the ground, act as sofas), curtains composed of long strips of colorful fabric, coffee pots and pots for cooking, as well as terracotta vases to hold water.

This is also a popular stopping place for camel farmers, with a variety of goods on-

fer, including camel saddles, traditional heavy sleeping bags, traditional padded coats, craft boxes, and tin cans for camel milk.

### a little something to eat and wear

The Bedouin market offered unique food items such as dates, honey, and spices.

During the visit members of the SAEA experienced the warm hospitality of the bedouins as they browsed the many items on sale.

One of the things that struck us most was the dried cheese shaped like a white biscuit with a strong savory taste. They were stacked in boxes under the sunlight that infiltrates through a thick net to prevent contact with insects.

Just on the opposite side of the road, there were butcher shops selling fresh camel meat that could be seen hanging from the ceiling through the windows.

We experienced the warm hospitality of the Bedouins, as we were invited to wear their traditional elegant dresses and to sit on their sofas to enjoy a spiced coffee.

After this pleasant shopping, we hopped on the bus again to visit an amazing restaurant on the beach. Under the sunlight, we had a fantastic Lebanese open air lunch. Each table allowed everyone to converse, get to know each other, and share the cultural diversity of Saudi Aramco.

The unique offering was organized by SAEA board members Louise Todd and Trace Robbers, who chaired and organized the trip, with Deidre Robbers from the SAEA office also assisting.



After an eventful day, on the return from Nariya, the SAEA group took time to stop in Jubail and enjoy a nice meal.

## Aramcon claims first place honors at the first GCC IEOM Conference

by Dalia Darweesh

**Riyadh** — Abdulaziz S. Alzahrani from the Organization Consulting Department (OCD) recently won first place in the graduate paper competition during the first GCC Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management in Riyadh.

Fifteen papers were presented at the conference, with the authors taking part in the prestigious Graduate Paper Competition.

The conference's goal is to provide researchers, academics, and practitioners with an opportunity to exchange new ideas within the field of industrial engineering and operations management.

During the competition, Alzahrani's paper presented a model that can be used to assess staffing requirements for a fire station, focusing on the difficult task of balancing the cost of additional resources and

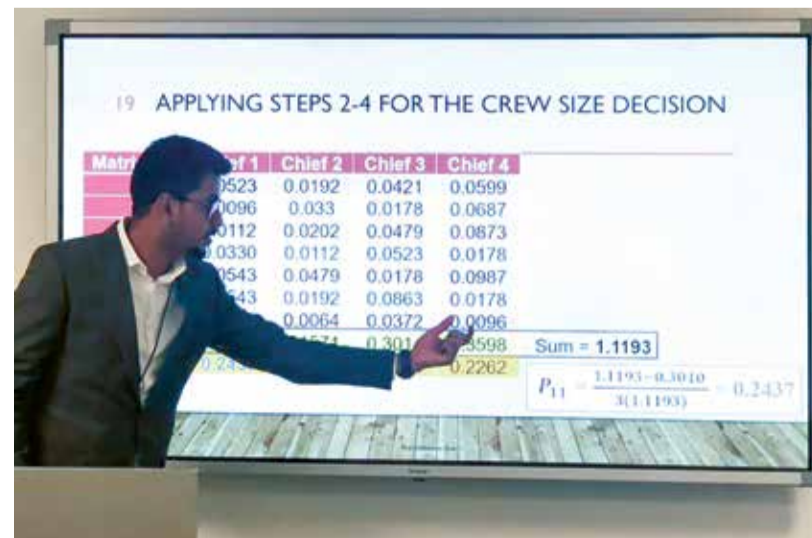
the risk of not having an effective response force for a given incident.

It also integrates a novel method to analyze operational requirements (such as the number of firefighters and firetrucks) to reach consensus on a group decision. Alzahrani, an industrial engineer and a workforce optimization consultant with OCD, said, "The concept and analyses laid out in the paper could be applied to other business applications and others, not related to firefighting."

### achievements and recognition

"Abdulaziz's impressive research and analytical capabilities have delivered a highly valuable piece of intellectual property and thoughtful leadership," said OCD manager Nayef S. Al-Otaibi.

The quality of the analysis and findings of the paper were recognized by two en-



Aramcon Abdulaziz S. Alzahrani's paper on assessing staffing requirements for a fire station earned him first place in the graduate paper competition during the first GCC Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management in Riyadh.

tities — the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals Student Forum, which awarded Alzahrani the "Excellence in Ac-

ademic Research" award, and the *Theory and Decision Journal*, which accepted the paper for publication.



# read it on the intranet

## Northern Area Oil Operations young professionals discuss innovation and key behaviors at annual PDP Forum in Ju'aymah



Participants in Northern Area Oil Operations' annual PDP Forum pose with members of the organizing Northern Area Youth Committee and Dawood M. Al-Dawood, NAOO vice president, and other members of management. With NAOO having more than 75% of its employees under the age of 35, the theme of this year's event was "Thriving for Success," highlighting the importance of going above and beyond to achieve success and excellence. (Photo: Moayed Al-Qattani/MPD)

### Offshore Projects Department uses talk-show approach to engage employees in key career discussions



Organizers and members of management pose together with employees who participated in the recent employee engagement event sponsored by the Offshore Projects Department. The event featured a presentation style/talk show format and three characters — a newcomer, a mid-career employee, and a seasoned leader — to better engage employees.

### Project Management Open Day recognizes contributions and exceptional performance



Fahad E. Al-Helal encourages Project Management to keep up the professional and timely execution of work during the recent Project Management Open Day in Dhahran. The event not only highlighted past successes over the past year, but also set the course for the year ahead. (Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD)

### Shaybah Producing Department continues commitment toward knowledge sharing, employee development with Maintenance and Reliability Seminar



Participants and organizers of Shaybah Producing Department's (SyPD) recent Maintenance and Reliability Center pose with Khalid H. Al Jamea, SyPD manager, following the event. Featuring the theme "Challenges and Solutions in Maintenance and Reliability," the event offered an opportunity for maintenance professionals and subject matter experts to gather and share knowledge and industrial best practices, and to explore solutions for the industry challenges.

## King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture by saudi aramco



# Ithra movies

### in cinema

#### Father and Son

Feb. 12, 13, 14, 15 4:30 p.m.

#### Ithra Heroes Adventure

Feb. 15 10:30 a.m.

#### The Cave

Feb. 15 noon  
Feb. 17, 18, 19 4:30 p.m.

#### The Son of Bigfoot

Feb. 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 4:20 p.m.  
Feb. 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 6 p.m.

#### Zero Distance

Feb. 13, 14 7:30 p.m.



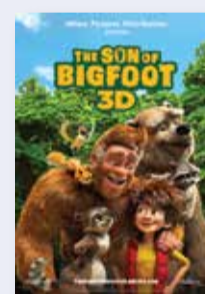
#### Father and Son

Living by a river, a father and son sit side by side to catch fish and make a penny every day. When the son, Ca, contracts a serious illness, his father must get into the funds to pay for his expensive treatment. Will the father be able to catch enough fish to save his son's life?



#### The Cave

The Cave is an exploratory film where microbiologist Dr. Hussam Zawawi and speleologist Dr. Francesco Sauro take us on an expedition to produce new scientific research for "A Study of Microbes in Caves."



#### The Son of Bigfoot

A teenage boy sets off on a journey to find his missing father, only to discover that he's actually Bigfoot.



#### Zero Distance

A photographer faces his questionable past when he finds a picture of a dead body on his apartment floor, and his pistol missing a bullet.



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# the arabian sun



## Nariyah: full of tradition

SAEA sponsors daytrip to Nariyah's bedouin market.

see page 8

## Aramcon Alfaraj strives to return to international competition

by Ching Yeh

In the workplace, Abdullah M. Alfaraj might seem like just one of hundreds of engineers who works at Saudi Aramco. But he's got a superpower many of his co-workers aren't aware of.

Alfaraj is a top-ranked tennis player who is gearing up in preparation to re-enter the Davis Cup ranks while also broadening his horizons by embracing a new sport — beach tennis.

### working hard to return to the top

Training and practicing after work each day in hopes to be selected into a four-member team representing Saudi Arabia in the International Tennis Federation's 2020 Davis Cup, Alfaraj is laser-focused on his goals.

"My goal is to get back to playing Davis Cup, try to break into the ATP rankings, and play more international events," said Alfaraj, an engineer from the Exploration and Oil Drilling Engineering Department who is currently on a one-year assignment with the Drilling Technical Department.

The ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) rankings are a worldwide benchmark for men's tennis based on points accumulated on identified international tournaments and tours.

Alfaraj, one of the four players represented Saudi Arabia in 2016 Davis Cup, is confident he has a good chance to do it again. "I believe I can get selected for this year's Davis Cup," said the 28-year-old tennis star.

Playing in the 2016 Davis Cup was "one of the most glorious moments in my life. I felt a lot of pride and many mixed emotions that I cannot describe," he said.

### work-life-tennis balance

One of Alfaraj's greatest challenges has



Abdullah M. Alfaraj poses with HRH Prince Saud bin Nayif, Governor of the Eastern Province, and other members of the 2016 Davis Cup Tennis Team. Alfaraj hopes to return to Davis Cup competition this year.

been striving to improve his game while working a full-time job. "It's hard to improve while working" as to compare with other athletes who are able to dedicate their time in tennis, he said.

To maximize the results from his limited time actually playing the sport, he has made changes to the ways he practices. He and his coach analyze how he plays, and then they make detailed plans on how to improve. He frequently plays competitions with players from other Saudi leagues, all while paying attention to nutrition, sleep, fitness, and strength.

"Tennis is a mental and physical sport, which involve lots of strategies, tactics, and reactions. Often, practice and matches are very different," said Alfaraj, who won the championship for the Saudi Grand Tournament 2019 and is the No. 1 ranked tennis player in the Kingdom.

### a lifetime of preparing, and a new sport

He started playing tennis at 6 years old with his older brother Ali under the encouragement of their father. His first championship in his first tournament at age 10 was the turning point in setting his path for tennis.

He was invited to join the Saudi national team after winning that first tournament and has continued with the national team in the U14, U16, and U18 age groups, participating in various local and international tournaments.

After more than two decades of playing tennis, he recently expanded his prowess to a new sport — beach tennis, a game that combines the elements of tennis and beach volleyball. He and his tennis partner, Zaki Al-Abdullah, recently won first place in Saudi Arabia's first official beach tennis tournament held in al-Khobar at the end of 2019. The beach tennis tournament was organized by the Saudi Tennis Federation in an effort to promote the new sport in the Kingdom.

"I like the game," he said. "It's different. It was more relaxed, because it was at beach. There were DJs, music, cheers, and all kinds of noise."

"It's easier for us tennis players to prepare for beach tennis," Alfaraj added.

The sport is played, often in doubles, by using beach tennis paddles and low-compression Stage 2 "orange" tennis ball on sand courts the same size as beach volleyball courts.

### Saudi Aramco plays a supporting role

Thanks to Saudi Aramco, he was able to



Abdullah M. Alfaraj's tennis career kicked off with a victory in his first tournament at the age of 10. He has been competing at a high-level ever since.

flourish in his profession as an engineer and a top tennis player.

Alfaraj earned a scholarship to study at Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2008. His supervisors and managers allowed him the flexibility to take leave for tennis tournaments and training programs, and recognize his achievements in tennis.



Beach tennis is the Saudi Aramco engineer's latest find. He and his tennis partner, Zaki Al-Abdullah, recently won first place in Saudi Arabia's first official beach tennis tournament.

