

the arabian sun

February 19, 2020 | Vol. LXXV, No. 8

a weekly Saudi Aramco publication for employees

UAV technology for safer operations and a greener environment

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) not only helps the company better monitor difficult-to-reach areas, but also reduces the risks to employees who respond to emergency incidents.

see page 5



8

Livesaving Rules

The Loss Prevention Department goes the extra mile to deliver critical safety messages to company contractors, using past incidents to determine what needs to be said, and then delivering the messages in a variety of languages to make sure those messages are understood.

see page 6

iktva coming of age with eye on partnership opportunities

see page 3



Iktva has transformed the dynamics of the Saudi Aramco supply chain with a drive for locally produced products and services.

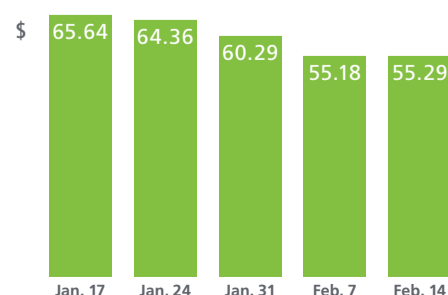
a taste of Vietnam

Ithra's first Cultural Day Festival proves to be a big success as participants get a flavor of Vietnam food, clothes, music, and more.

see page 9



OPEC basket five-week price trend 2020



Saudi Aramco by the numbers

468

investments from more than 25 countries have been collected through the company's iktva program, which has brought an estimated \$6.5 billion into the Kingdom.

your 2019-Novel Coronavirus questions answered

Is it safe to receive a letter or a package from China?

Yes, it is safe. Receiving a package or letter from China will not put you at risk of contracting the new coronavirus. Coronaviruses do not survive long on objects such as letters or packages.

Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?

The novel coronavirus can be contracted by people of all ages. However, older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions, such as diabetes, appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

Is there a vaccine?

At this time, there is no vaccine for novel coronavirus. However, there are efforts being made to develop an effective preventive treatment.

Is there a cure for novel coronavirus?

At this time, treatment consists of supportive care for the symptoms of novel coronavirus. There is no specific medicine to cure novel coronavirus.

Who is at high risk, and what to do?

The current epidemiology identifies individuals who have recently traveled to China, or who have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with novel coronavirus.

If you fit the description above, and within 14 days you develop flu-like symptoms such as a high temperature, sore throat, coughing, or breathlessness, seek medical assistance. Call the JHAH Nurse Care Line (800-305-4444, option 3) to speak to an experienced health care professional, or contact your registered health care provider.

Outside of clinic hours, please go to the Emergency Department.

You can visit JHAH.com for novel coronavirus updates and health education material, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @JHAHNews.



World Health Organization

Stay Healthy While Traveling

If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share your travel history with your health care provider.

2019-nCoV Coronavirus

مركز جونز هوبكنز
أرامكو الطبي
Johns Hopkins
Aramco Healthcare

Get the latest news from JHAH



Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Get the latest travel recommendations, find out who's at risk, view the types of coronaviruses, and get insights from Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare experts.

GLOW offers college prep courses

Get a head start on college by registering yourself or your dependents for the Golden Learning Opportunities from Within (GLOW) Spring 2020 college prep courses.

IELTS

SAT

GMAT

GRE

Register at <http://glow.aramco.sa>. Seats are limited, so register now to ensure your placement in the program.

For further information, please email the Training and Development Customer Care Center at tdcsc@aramco.com.

Registration ends



Feb. 23, at 4 p.m.

Courses begin



March 1

Location



Dhahran



Powered by GLOW (Golden Learning Opportunities from Within)



your voice

hiding behind the mask called judgment



by Nagy Awad
Dhahran

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

Those people who greet you or smile when they pass by in the company corridors, even if you do not know them, are very positive.

But sometimes you may meet people who don't even look at you. Someone might describe them as unsociable or unfriendly. In fact, I immediately feel upset when someone stereotypes people on only assumptions, suspicions, or simply, wrong judgments.

The human brain often tends to laze about thinking, forming new ideas, or working on developing old ones. At those times, they look for what they have in the past, and use the codes and symbols of information they already had that they thought were usable — no matter what their position or situation is now.

These codes, known in psychology as Heuristic, are the mechanism by which people resort to solving problems and making decisions quickly and efficiently. In many cases, it can lead to the commission of cognitive biases, through which we resort to the release of judgments on people and things around us.

How many times have you seen a person and judged them for their clothes, nationality, or even their laughter? If someone laughs loudly, they be considered a showoff, and if they laugh quietly, they may be considered shy. If they laugh constantly, they are silly.

I was once resentful of a person who was absent from work and did not accomplish something that needed to be done, until I found that his daughter was sick with cancer and went to treatment.

I was surprised another time when I passed by a nearby house and found small cups next to the door, until I found cats and birds eating and drinking as the owner was putting food and water out for them.

We all hold in our hands invisible knives capable of hurting others, and we may even harm the closest people to us.

I think that to judge someone, you must have complete information about their past, present, and future. Since you often know only a small part of the present, there is no way to have a proper judgment or form a full vision of it.

Maybe the person you think is unapproachable just wants to talk to someone and open up to share their thoughts or concerns. So be careful not to hide behind a mask called judgment.

iktva coming of age with eye on partnership opportunities

by Eamonn Houston

Al-Khobar — As the final preparations for the iktva Forum and Exhibition 2020 are being made by teams from a group of Saudi Aramco organizations at the Dhahran Expo, there is a firm belief among all involved that the signature localization program event will attract thousands of visitors representing key local and international companies.

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Saud bin Naif Al Saud, iktva 2020 is being held over two days on Feb. 24 and 25, and will see thousands of decision makers and suppliers' representatives converge on Dhahran Expo, where they will be exposed to the ever-growing business opportunities afforded as a direct result of the program.

They will be treated to an intense program of panel discussions, workshops, seminars, and keynote addresses.

The forum is being conducted with companywide support and collaboration, across all business lines, including Technical Services, Corporate Affairs, Upstream, Technology Oversight and Coordination, Finance, Strategy and Development, Downstream, and Operations and Business Services — all coming together in preparation for this year's iktva Forum and Exhibition.

They have worked hand-in-hand contributing tangibly on all aspects required to make this year's event a success — logistics for site preparation, identification of business opportunities, and active engagement of the participants on the technical aspects, as well as identifying and developing business opportunities.

Iktva is a story of tangible value creation resulting from the joint effort of all organizations within Saudi Aramco and a cornerstone of the company's strategic intent.

working toward the 70% goal

The stated goal is to localize 70% of Saudi Aramco's procurement spend, while raising energy-related exports to 30%, and create thousands of jobs for young Saudis.

To showcase the iktva success story and fuel the program's momentum, the forum will engage Saudi Aramco's partners and key energy sector decision makers globally on a variety of levels with technology and innovation very much at the forefront.

Mohammad A. Al-Shammary, vice president of Procurement and Supply Chain Management (P&SCM), describes iktva as "a holistic and collective" pathway to localization, Saudization, improving research and development, and the nurturing of local subject matter experts, in addition to promoting the Kingdom as an export hub."

"We have made great progress so far, achieving 56% iktva levels as of 2019, but it does not stop there. Everyone in Saudi Aramco, in collaboration with our suppliers, will keep the momentum going to achieve our target of 70% while driving excellence, efficiency, and competitiveness of our supply chain," Al-Shammary added.

The iktva program evolved over the years to accommodate what motivates the suppliers and contractors to excel and make it a successful program.

"This is the iktva program's fifth event and a way to celebrate our success with our partners in localization," says P&SCM general manager Nassir S. Al Yami.

"Iktva has transformed the dynamics of the supply chain. New capabilities have al-



goods you can export
trade with three continents from a global hub

أرامكو السعودية
saudi aramco

iktva
local focus, global vision

ready been deployed and more are in the pipeline," Al Yami added.

"Iktva has attracted more than 468 investments from more than 25 countries with an estimated capital investment of \$6.5 billion," says Abdullah B. Al Thaaly, manager of the Industrial Development and Strategic Supply Department.

"This reflects the appetite of investors to be part of this transformation and have a presence within the Kingdom," Al Thaaly explained.

The iktva Forum and Exhibition 2020 is an opportunity for Saudi Aramco's partners to "get together" and take stock of the positive impact of the program. The two-day forum provides a platform for companies interested in establishing operations in Saudi Arabia to engage with the Kingdom's energy sector stakeholders and key suppliers.

The event brings together a broad spectrum of local and international investors to explore investment opportunities. Experts and specialists from various industries and companies contribute to dynamic panel discussions, presentations, workshops, and seminars.

On top of that, the forum brings together an enablement ecosystem represented by government entities with many programs designed to drive, support, and accelerate investments and operations in the Kingdom. During the 2018 iktva Forum and Exhibition, more than 4,000 participants representing 1,000 companies from 40 countries attended.

The event also offers an opportunity for collaboration and engagement between companies in the energy sector supply chain. Attendees have an opportunity to interact with a range of companies who have either established operations in Saudi Arabia, or are in the process of doing so. Many of Saudi Aramco's major suppliers are present, and are themselves driving the localization of their own supply chains.

investment opportunities

The iktva forum and exhibition provides a

platform for companies interested in establishing a presence in the Kingdom, and for existing companies with expansion plans, with many investment opportunities presented during the event.

"We also share our commitments to the Kingdom and Vision 2030, by explaining our efforts to diversify and localize the energy sector," says Al-Shammary.

"The main object of this event is to deliver the strategic message of the company to our partners. The event is very much a vehicle of communication," Al Yami added.

The 2020 iktva forum will engage visitors in multiple investment opportunity workshops. A total of 12 investment opportunity sessions and 23 seminars will be held.

"This year's iktva event will present more than 170 investment opportunities with an estimated annual market size of \$14 billion," said Al Thaaly.

focus on cutting-edge tech

This year, the forum and exhibition will use cutting-edge technologies to showcase the iktva journey and provide an overview of the industrial parks, anchor projects, and training institutions that will equip young Saudis with the skills necessary to transform the Kingdom's economic landscape.

Iktva 2020 will include an "Opportunity Zone," which will enable subject matter experts to share their stories, market their services, and offer a valuable chance to network with the energy sector's big hitters.

Innovative products that have found their way to market will also be celebrated, products that range from UAVs to mini-robot inspection submarines.

Companies that have excelled and demonstrated excellence over a range of categories will also be recognized in an award ceremony.

"We also focus on rewarding excellence in our partner companies. Iktva is a national event — and actually a global event — with the top CEOs in the energy sector in attendance," Al-Shammary adds.

“Iktva has attracted more than 468 investments from more than 25 countries with an estimated capital investment of \$6.5 billion.”

— Abdullah B. Al Thaaly

Water Arabia 2020: a technological road map toward sustainability

by Musherf Alamri

Al-Khobar — More than 1,260 professionals, engineers, and academics participated in Water Arabia 2020, which was held recently in an al-Khobar area hotel.

Organized under the patronage of HE Abdulrahman A. Al Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, Water Arabia is dedicated to discussing the latest trends in water, wastewater treatment, and conservation — a very important topic for the Middle East region, which has some of the most arid landscape in the world.

Saudi Aramco, represented by the Utilities and Facilities Services Department, was the diamond sponsor.

The sixth edition of the Water Arabia Conference and Exhibition featured three keynote speakers, three workshops, 39 exhibitors, and nine posters from five universities. There were 37 technical presentations divided into three tracks — advanced water desalination technologies, wastewater treatment technologies, and special topics.

“Innovative Water and Wastewater Technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0)” was the theme for the event, which was organized by the Saudi Arabian Water Environment Association, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the International Desalination Association.

commitment to investment and water conservation

Saudi Aramco Community Services acting

The event featured a number of speakers from Saudi Aramco, including:

- **Mohammed A. Al-Mugahwi**, of the Abqaiq Plants Operations Department, spoke about “Utilization of First Pass RO Reject in Backwash for Multimedia Filters”
- **Rakan W. Banna**, from the Sea Water Injection Department, presented on “3-D Printing for Sand Filter Laterals”
- **Mohammad S. Alajaji**, with Abqaiq Plants Operations, spoke about the “Abqaiq Plants Water Treatment Program Assessment”
- **Mansour Kashir**, from the Environmental Protection Department, spoke about “Best Environmental Practices to Reduce the Impact of Unconventional



Mohammed A. Al-Mugahwi of the Abqaiq Plants Operations Department speaks about the “Utilization of First Pass RO Reject in Backwash for Multimedia Filters.” The sixth edition of Water Arabia Conference and Exhibition featured three keynote speakers, three workshops, 39 exhibitors, and nine posters from five universities.

executive director Nabeel I. Al-Afaleg said Saudi Arabia has taken major strides in water management and conservation. Al-Afaleg underscored the huge investment that the Kingdom has made in building water infrastructure and implementing conservative programs.

Al-Afaleg pointed out that Saudi Aramco continues to be a leader within the region for water conservation. In 2019, 80% of

Gas Development in Arid Environments”

- **Saud A. Abudaly**, from the Sea Water Injection Department, presented on “Expanding the Envelope of Nonmetallic for High-Pressure Applications”
- **Ridha H. Abbas**, of the Sea Water Injection Department, delivered a presentation titled “Sinking Groundwater Cost of Energy at Saudi Arabia”
- **Mahmoud A. Alkahlout**, from the Riyadh Refinery Department, spoke about “Chlorine Dioxide Effectiveness on Microbial Corrosion — A Case Study.”
- **Faisal B. Al-Mutairi** from the Mechanical Services Shops Department delivered a presentation titled “Sustainable Industrial Wastewater Treatment System for Reusing Purposes.”



Rakan W. Banna of Saudi Aramco’s Sea Water Injection Department presents on “3-D Printing for Sand Filter Laterals.” Water Arabia featured 37 technical presentations divided into three tracks — advanced water desalination technologies, wastewater treatment technologies, and special topics.

the sanitary water generated in Saudi Aramco communities was treated for reuse, illustrating the company’s commitment for sustainability.

“While we are making tremendous progress in water sustainability, the urgency remains for all of us to continue our efforts toward exploring innovative solutions, finding enabling technologies, and expanding economic renewable energy resources,” he said.

While promoting conservation and raising awareness about the importance of personal accountability in water and food security, IR 4.0 technologies will be key to dealing with water scarcity, Al-Afaleg said.

“The day is coming where our growing industry and agriculture will be supplied with a more sustainable source of water, and as a result, the Kingdom’s precious groundwater will be preserved,” he said. “Actually, this is no longer a vision. It is becoming a reality. We in Saudi Aramco do not consider wastewater a disposable commodity, but a resilient resource with which to supply our industrial facilities.”

National Water Strategy a road map to a sustainable sector

HE Abdulaziz Al-Shaibani, Deputy Minister for Water Affairs, Ministry of Environ-



While we are making tremendous progress in water sustainability, the urgency remains for all of us to continue our efforts toward exploring innovative solutions, finding enabling technologies, and expanding economic renewable energy resources.

— Nabeel I. Al-Afaleg

ment, Water and Agriculture, spoke about the National Water Strategy, which is in line with Saudi Vision 2030. The strategy provides a road map toward a sustainable sector that will preserve and grow the Kingdom’s water resources, while also contributing to economic development.

John Trofatter, a WEF board of trustees’ member, gave an overview of the organization, and how it supports water professionals. He underscored the importance of the circular economy toward achieving sustainable water resources.

The former president of WEF and a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mohamed Dahab, delivered a keynote speech about “Water Scarcity in the MENA Region.”

Manifa Producing develops intelligent dashboards in-house

by Mohammed A. Homoud

Manifa — Saudi Aramco is on a digital transformation journey, which is part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0), leading to an exponential positive change in automation, reliability, compliance, and optimization.

And that is certainly the case within the Manifa Producing Department (MPD) as the Manifa engineering team is working diligently to make sure that the digital transformation journey is active and accelerated.

The corresponding impacts of the transformation, such as cost saving and compliance, are achieved by tightening the variance between target and actual by providing a real-time monitoring tool and taking advantage of soft sensing concepts.

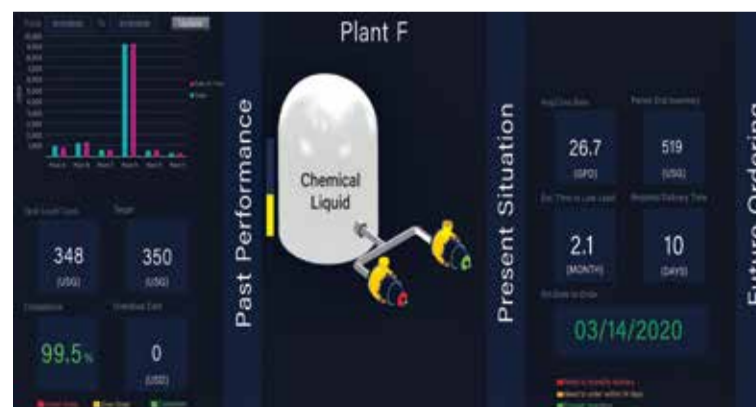
Several opportunities have been identified in the areas of automation, fast tracking, efficient control of chemical injection, chemical inventory, accuracy, and budget

control.

In 2019, MPD developed six intelligent dashboards — two related to chemical monitoring, two related to enhance rotating equipment reliability, and two related to operation safety. They were developed by applying the IR 4.0 components, which are collecting data while also applying advanced analytics and programming techniques to transform them into monitoring and planning tools.

The journey started with an in-house developed chemical dashboard, which monitors more than 50 injection systems by analyzing and filtering more than 1,000 pieces of data through an innovative algorithm. This achievement required more than 400 engineering hours to be developed and deployed.

The chemical dashboard consists of three sections: (1) past performance; (2) present situation; and (3) future predictions. More-



The Manifa Producing Department developed six intelligent dashboards, including an in-house developed chemical dashboard, which monitors more than 50 injection systems by analyzing and filtering more than 1,000 pieces of data through an innovative algorithm.

over, the dashboard has several other features such as historical performance trends of each system. Also, it is connected to lab sample results to identify areas of optimization and compliance.

Another powerful dashboard is the one related to switchover planning, monitoring, and reporting. This initiative has resulted in

an increase of 45% in compliance.

All of the innovations carried out were developed in-house. As a result of the efforts exerted by the team, the ideas have been shared in several venues and one dashboard was recently presented at the International Petroleum Technology Conference 2020.

UAV technology for safer operations

advanced technologies lessen logistical challenges in the field



Unmanned aerial vehicles provide vantage points and access to facilities that are extremely difficult and less safe for employees.

Dhahran — Technology and training go hand in hand at Saudi Aramco, especially when it comes to safety and environmental protection.

The Inspection Department (ID) works diligently with Information Technology (IT) to prepare its workforce for emergency incidents that can occur in the line of work, including fires, spills, or pipeline leaks. And though it may seem difficult to curtail the threat to workers in such situations, the company has taken a bold step forward with the utilization of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.

how UAVs make emergency response safer

Through the use of live video streaming during an emergency response to incidents, risks associated with the distance or remoteness of a scene are greatly mitigated. Historically, a response to incidents in these areas created logistical challenges that were not only costly, but also posed a greater risk to individuals as they needed to traverse difficult areas

and sometimes great heights to apply potential solutions.

Consequently, with the use of UAVs with high-definition long-range cameras, radiometric thermal imaging, and advanced sensors that can provide high-quality images, videos, and thermal profiles, these risks are lessened.

The dual thermal and optical cameras mounted on UAVs are essential for emergency response. Instead of sending in first responders, a drone can scan the area to locate hot spots on the ground.

When used with zoom or infrared cameras, the drone can detect people in adverse and other low visibility scenarios. For this reason, UAVs are key enablers to access an incident's aftermath damage condition, plan recovery operations, and perform search and rescue activities faster to keep responders and employees away from danger.

IT system analyst Haitham Ghawji said, "Using UAVs to replace the physical inspection of the vast fiber optic cable networks and communications towers

sprawling across the Kingdom will prove to be very effective in terms of time, cost, safety, and resources required."

safer, faster, and more cost-effective solutions

To meet business needs, ID has expanded the UAV fleet by 20 units.

Bader A. Busbait, ID manager, and Robotics and UAV Track champion, said: "This expansion is part of Saudi Aramco's strategy to accelerate the adoption and deployment of UAV and robotics technology to address corporate challenges and introduce new improvement opportunities."

Adel S. Doulab, Area IT Department (AITD) manager said, "Integrating a UAV platform with an IT infrastructure will provide unified end-to-end live video streaming services, facilitate a real-time decision making process, and enable an agile response during incidents."

training UAV pilots with best-in-class methods

In a successful partnership with AITD, ID organized an UAV training and certification program for 14 IT candidates to be certified UAV pilots. The two-week extensive training and certification program covered the required knowledge, testing, and hands-on skills to operate UAVs safely and effectively inside facilities.

With competent and highly qualified instructors delivering the two-week training program, participants spent time in classrooms, had learning hands-on flying sessions, and taking practice examinations. The employees successfully passed the certification exam and are now certified UAV operators — Pilots in Command — prepared with the skills and knowledge required to operate UAVs safely and effectively.

expanding capabilities, enhancing services

Soliman A. Al-Walaie, a senior consultant and Robotics and UAV Track technical leader, noted such technologies are only the beginning. "Artificial intelligence, data analytics, and the Internet of Things are becoming an integral part of the next-generation UAVs that will substantially expand capabilities, applications, and enable fully



autonomous and remote operations," Al-Walaie said.

ID transferred seven UAVs to AITD to be used for live video streaming to the Saudi Aramco Corporate Crisis and Continuity Management Center in the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department during corporate emergency situations. This partnership enables IT to continue to provide critical services using UAV technology integrated with IT infrastructure.

Advanced technologies are essential, not only for AITD and ID departments, but the company in general. And as distance, difficulty, danger, and quick response remain persistent challenges in the energy industry, Saudi Aramco will continue to strive to find solutions to such scenarios. Technological advances and artificial intelligence will always contribute to the success of the company.



Saudi Aramco has taken a bold step forward with the use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology, which provides responses to fires, spills, and leaks that can be difficult to curtail and threaten the well-being of employees and workers. To meet business needs, the Inspection Department has expanded the UAV fleet by 20 units.

قواعد السلامة الرئيسية

اتبع أساسيات السلامة بشكل صحيح

Lifesaving Rules

Safety — Get the basics right

زندگی بچانے کے اصول
حفاظتی تدابیر کے بنیادی اصول جاننا لازمی ہے

Mga patakarang pangkaligtasan

Kaligtasan - Makuha ang mga pangunahing kaalaman

जीवन-रक्षक नियम

सुरक्षा - मूलभूत बातें सही से जानें

安全救生规则

安全 - 做好基本安全工作



Obtain a valid work permit when required



Verify isolation before starting any work



Obtain authorization before entering a confined space



Use required fall protection equipment when working at heights



Follow all traffic safety rules



Obtain authorization before starting excavation activities



Use the required personal protection equipment for your job



Position yourself in a safe location

Lifesaving Rules

campaign launched by Loss Prevention Department

The Loss Prevention Department (LPD) launched a year-long companywide safety campaign focused on the company's Lifesaving Rules — a set of rules to prevent eight safety actions that accounted for 90% of hazardous incidents over the past 10 years.

To cement the company's role as an industry leader in the areas of safety, and in a first for the company, this critical safety information is being communicated in a range of different languages to ensure these rules are understood and embraced.

Saudi Aramco has some of the most rigorous safety requirements and practices in the industry, and from its earliest days has recognized that safety is not only critical to operational success, but also to the protection of its people and assets. Through the decades, the company has continually challenged itself to develop the standards, technologies, and engineering guidelines to ensure a safe working environment.

However, safety practices are only as effective as the people who follow them, and this was the key focus for LPD when Aali A. Al-Zahrani, executive director of Safety and Industrial Security, launched the department's safety campaign centered on the company's "Lifesaving Rules."

using past behaviors to set a safer course

Staying safe at work means practicing positive safety behaviors, and while LPD recognizes that some work situations are more hazardous than others, it also recognizes that practicing safety behaviors is ultimately an individual responsibility. This led to the implementation of the company's Lifesaving Rules in 2018.

Providing insight into the rules, Ghassan G. Abulfaraj, manager of LPD, explains, "Saudi Aramco developed a comprehensive set of rules to ensure that work activities are carried out in a safe and sustainable manner. Following an in-depth review of past incidents, we identified that the majority of fatal incidents were caused by a failure to comply with eight specific rules. We call these the Lifesaving Rules."

Interestingly, the rules are not new to the company and have long been established in Saudi Aramco's safety standards, General Instructions and the *Safety Handbook*. LPD realized that the best way to effect positive change was to narrow the focus on the basics, while ensuring that all employees and contractors are made aware of the rules, and align to them.

Doing so not only ensures the safety of personnel, but also ensures smooth and efficient business operations.

safety in any language

To ensure that the campaign resonates with as many people as possible, the department decided to steer away from the norm of only releasing materials in English and Arabic and instead opted to include a number of additional languages, including Tagalog, Mandarin, Urdu, and Hindi.

"In LPD, we are always looking at ways to improve the way in which we do things," said Abulfaraj. We knew that many of our workforce, including contractors, might struggle to understand English or Arabic, and so we took the step to bring them critical safety information in their mother tongue. This is our way of saying that we will do anything in our power to ensure that we provide our proponent partners with the necessary tools to go home safely every day."

To ensure as wide of a reach as possible, LPD area offices will be working with proponents across the Kingdom to train the workforce using a number of multilingual educational training videos and materials.

ensuring our people get home safe

Speaking to the effectiveness of the Lifesaving Rules, Ali S. Al Ajmi, general manager of the Safaniyah Area Producing Department, says, "The Lifesaving Rules concept has proven to be highly effective in driving our corporate safety value. We have built a solid platform to make our company safer and more sustainable."

Adel O. BenDuheash, manager of the South Ghawar Producing Department, adds, "The Lifesaving Rules are more than a set of guidelines; it is a decade's worth of data highlighting the exact areas where improvement is needed. These rules are in place not only to improve our safety performance, but to ensure that our people go home safely to their families every day."

Launching the campaign, Al-Zahrani said, "The Lifesaving Rules help to remind us how we can make significant improvements, while also urging us to renew our commitment to safety excellence."

For more information related to the Lifesaving Rules, please visit the LPD website, or click the campaign promotional banner on your MyHome page.

“

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— Ghassan G. Abulfaraj



a new era of financial reporting

first Saudi Accountants Forum talks to technology, transparency

by Abdulrahman Abuljadayel

Riyadh — As Saudi Arabia marches toward boosting economic growth and attracting new investments, the importance of streamlining accounting practices, committing to transparency, and the best financial reporting practices is greater than any other time in the country's history, **Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh**, Saudi Aramco senior vice president of Finance, Strategy and Development, told attendees at the first Saudi Accountants Forum (SAF) held recently in Riyadh.

In delivering in the keynote address, Al-Dabbagh noted that the Kingdom has made historic progress in these areas in recent years — particularly after the Council on Economic Affairs and Development launched the Financial Sector Development Program to establish a more diversified and effective financial sector.

Al-Dabbagh called for a paradigm shift in the Kingdom's accounting profession in line with changes in financial reporting standards, investor expectations regarding



Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh speaks on the importance of streamlining accounting practices, committing to transparency, and the best financial reporting practices as Saudi Arabia marches toward boosting economic growth and attracting new investments. Al-Dabbagh was a keynote speaker at the first Saudi Accounting Forum held in Riyadh. Saudi Aramco was a strategic partner of the forum. (Photos: Mohammed AlShaikh/MPD)

transparency in reporting, code of ethics for officials and accountants, as well as the digital technology revolution in finance and accounting.

Referencing recent successes such as the company's listing on Tadawul, he said, "Whether we represent the public or private sector, and whether we are managers, financial officers or auditors, each of us assumes an important role to make capital markets a success."

first-of-its-kind event focuses on Vision 2030 goals

Conducted under the auspices of HE Majid A. Al-Qasabi, the Minister of Trade and Investment, the three-day forum was the first of its kind in the Middle East, providing a unique platform for accounting firms, professional bodies, regulatory and control bodies, and public sector and business enterprises to conceptualize how the accounting and auditing profession can contribute to the realization of Saudi Vision 2030.

The event sought to recognize modern trends in accounting and accounting information systems, while also addressing challenges faced by digital technology revolution and sharing global best practices in accounting and corporate excellence.

transparency critical to promote investment

The event featured eight sessions and 47 speakers, along with global and local experts discussing investment opportunities

and the future of the accounting and auditing professions.

In a session titled "The Role of Financial Information in Enhancing the Investment Environment," **Musaad A. Al Sayouhi**, Saudi Aramco's acting general manager of the Planning, Budgeting, and Performance Management Center, outlined the impact on local and global investment sectors after the company's recent partial listing on Tadawul.

Al Sayouhi also discussed the expected rate of investment and comparisons between Saudi Aramco and other leading international oil companies and non-oil companies.

He urged participants to follow Saudi Aramco's financial reporting example to better serve investors, which in turn will serve the Kingdom's and corporations' interests as well.

As part of the session, participants discussed the important role financial information plays in promoting domestic and boosting foreign investment, as well as the high level of transparency required and how that affects the accounting profession.

technological revolutions in the finance sector

The impact of technology should consider not only in how it relates to applying accounting and auditing procedures, but also how standards are applied and how they are used in the application of standards, said **Faisal H. Al Homodi**, coordinator of Saudi Aramco's Financial Systems Division.

Al Homodi joined other participants in reviewing the challenges faced by financial managers in the new technology era and best practices.

Saudi Aramco also participated in the forum's exhibition, with **Bader H. Alduways** from the FSD Business Academy briefing visitors to the booth on the company's history in accounting, academy activities,



Al-Dabbagh called for a paradigm shift in the Kingdom's accounting profession in line with changes in financial reporting standards, investor expectations regarding transparency in reporting, code of ethics for officials and accountants, as well as the digital technology revolution in finance and accounting.

training and development efforts, as well as scholarships for accounting students entering the company.

As a strategic partner of the forum, Saudi Aramco — under the umbrella of the academy — delivered a workshop on a variety of accounting, finance, and economic topics throughout the event.

Leading the way was academy president **Burhanu Deen Jayah**, who participated in a session titled "Education Outcomes and Labor Market Requirements: Reality and Ambitions," which highlighted that the demand for training is expected to increase threefold in the coming decade.



Yousef A. Al-Yousef from Saudi Aramco delivers his presentation about one of the professional scientific workshops within the program of the FSD Business Academy, which was presented on the sidelines of the forum's activities.

Yanbu' Refinery wins three global awards for Asset Integrity Management System

Yanbu' — The Yanbu' Refinery Department (YRD) recently won three international awards from the Institute of Asset Management in London.

YRD won first place in the Best Team Achievements category, and second-place recognitions in the Best Project Achievement and Customer Services categories.

an accelerated Asset Integrity Management System (AIMS)

YRD has established and implemented an accelerated transformation road map to deliver a comprehensive AIMS program in a professional manner in an accelerated time frame.

The work included developing a strategy for asset management implementation



Yanbu' Refinery Department employees pose with Abdulatif S. Al-Shami with recognitions the department received from the Institute of Asset Management in London. The team won first place in the Best Team Achievements category, as well as two second-place recognitions.

across multiple disciplines (mechanical, electrical, civil, instrument, rotating, automation, etc.), forming a team of subject matter experts, and delivering training and awareness for all stakeholders all in align-

ment with corporate requirements.

Governance procedures were developed and approved for the entire AIMS program reporting system, and key performance indicators were established. A continuous

improvement process was also developed and implemented.

Change management, risk management, and failure investigation processes were integrated into the AIMS program requirements and procedures.

Team members attended and gained certification with the Institute of Asset Management in asset integrity management.

ISO certification 55001

YRD was also awarded ISO certification 55001 in Asset Management. YRD manager Abdulatif S. Al-Shami expressed his sincere appreciation of YRD employees for their continuous assistance and efforts that led them to this important achievement.

fishing for a solution

preventative biological control measures implemented in Ras Tanura to keep potential mosquito problems at bay

by Rod Tomambo

Ras Tanura — In the area behind the Ras Tanura Elementary School, extending all the way to the Hobby Farm area, there exists a permanent ponding of water covering about 5,000 square meters in total.

These ponding areas increase dramatically during the rainy season, which lasts from October to March. Such areas can be potential sources of pests — especially mosquitoes, which may threaten the health and wellness of camp residents, employees, and nearby communities.

first assessment, then control measures

Mosquito control begins with an accurate and thorough assessment of the problem through surveys, and it then turns to measures best suited to control the situation. Control measures may include one or a combination of techniques, including habitat modification, control of adults via ultra-low volume or pesticide spraying, larva control via pesticides, application of insect



A Ras Tanura Pest Control crew collects fish on the golf course area inside the Najmah community. The practice of transferring the fish from the golf course area to ponding sites has proven successful, as the fish feed on mosquito larva and pupae.

controls to curb the problem of the ponding areas becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes. These biological controls come in the form of fish species, *Aphanius dispar* and *Poecilia sp.*, which have been caught from the golf course creek inside the Najmah Camp.

These fish, released into the ponding areas at least once a month or more frequently during the rainy season, feed upon mosquito larva and pupae, thereby restricting the insect's population growth. And while most of the fish that have been released complete their life cycle, it is worth noting that no mosquito breeding has been found where the fish population has been released.

This practice is an answer to one of the company's goals to contribute to sustainable environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

Also, through the use of a biological control to reduce the mosquito population in the ponding areas, the need for pesticides has been eliminated, which has reduced costs, and is also environmentally friendly.

growth regulators, and the use of biological control.

When modern pesticides were first introduced for the control of public health pests in the middle of the 20th century, some thought the perfect solution had been discovered. Unfortunately, despite some success, pesticides ultimately proved to be

a less than perfect solution for long-term mosquito control.

In an effort to provide sustainable and environmentally friendly pest control methods, the Residential and Recreation Service Division has pushed the practice of integrated pest management.

One such method is the use of biological

read it on the intranet

Yanbu' Lab achieves ISO 45001:2018 Standard for occupational health and safety management system



Members of the Yanbu' Laboratory team celebrate with management receiving the ISO 45001:2018 Standard for an occupational health and safety management system accredited by the British Standard Institute. The achievement is a testament to the Yanbu' Laboratory's continuous efforts to improve occupational health and safety, eliminate hazards, minimize risks (including system deficiencies), and capture opportunities by enhancing personnel competency.

upgrade of Learning Management System earns company 'Best User Experience Transformation' award in Dubai



Abdullah A. Ghabbani, acting director of the Learning Services and Solutions Department, center, is joined by, from left, SABA Customer Success manager Roy Nour; Technology Learning Solutions Division administrator Wajih Malibari; Hugo Roso, Learning Solutions consultant; and Christian Foerg, general manager (EMEA) of SABA; at the SABA Awards 2019 held in Dubai. Saudi Aramco's Learning Management System recently earned international acclaim when the company won the "Best User Experience Transformation" award at the SABA Awards in Dubai.

spotlight



The Accounting Policies and Systems Department recently recognized employees who have worked 20, 15, 10, and five years for the company. In a ceremony presided over by department manager Abdulaziz A. Al-Ruwaii at Sunset Beach, the following employees were recognized: (20 years) Khalid I. Mayber, and Mazin A. Awami; (15 years) Ahmed Humaid, Osama A. Saeed, Abdullah R. Noaimi, and Wasim N. Abbas; (10 years) Muneer M. Nasser; (five years) Mohammad Alsadka, Carson E. Ammons, Dibyo Chakraborty, Darrell R. Connolly, Mark C. Evers, Ranjodh S. Hayer, Nauman A. Khan, Abdulbasit A. Meah, Imraan Mohamed, Michel Parent, Hayden R. Ponsford, Zahir Rashid, Mohammad Z. Sabri, Muhammad (Rizwan) Sharif, Brian A. Skelton, Johan Van Der Merwe, Jeffrey Wilkins, Paul C. Wilson, Ahmed M. Yafai, Bandar M. Alghannam, and Talal A. Althukair. (Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD)



Vietnam Cultural Days concludes with over 45,000 visitors Ithra celebrates first edition of biannual Cultural Days Festival

Dhahran — Dumplings were steamed, rice hats were made, acrobats leaped across the stage, and, finally, the last Dragon Parade marched through the plaza.

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) has concluded its inaugural Ithra Cultural Days Festival, highlighting Vietnamese culture from Feb. 3 to Feb. 15. The all-encompassing program enthralled and enriched visitors with an authentic Vietnamese experience.

The first edition of the program, which will be held twice a year featuring various countries, was deemed an unqualified success, and organizers were delighted to collaborate with the Vietnamese embassy on the event. Organizers said the cultures of Saudi Arabia and Vietnam were expressed and celebrated in new and exciting ways.

They were particularly happy to see the more than 45,000 visitors who attended the event connect with Vietnamese culture, which has been Ithra's goal from the beginning — celebrating diversity and presenting cross-cultural experiences.

Ithra's mission is to provide global experiences to audiences through purpose-driven

programming, and to build cultural bridges between the Kingdom and the world. Vietnam Cultural Days, he said, was everything organizers hoped it would be.

The program featured more than 30 chefs, musicians, artisans, and artists. Not a single creative stone was left unturned as Ithra transformed its entire campus into a Vietnamese cultural oasis.

Authentic Vietnamese costumes and sculptures were on view around the plaza. Visitors were also thrilled by the AO Show — an action-packed acrobatic contemporary circus depicting the story of Vietnamese village life among the country's racing urbanization.



From food to fashion and entertainment to crafts, the first Ithra Cultural Days Festival featured something for everyone — even a Vietnamese Dragon Dance. More than 45,000 visitors came to the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture over the 13-day event.

Abqaiq backs 1 Million Trees Program with another round of plantings

by Remberly Lugo

In support of the Kingdom's ambitious environmental stewardship initiative to plant 1 million native trees in Saudi Arabia by 2025, Saudi Aramco started the 1 Million Trees Program in 2018.

The Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department has helped support that effort by planting 127,300 trees in 2018, and additional 123,800 trees in 2019. The Abqaiq Residential and Recreation Services Division has successfully completed the first phase ahead of schedule, with 160,000 trees being planted at various locations, including Abqaiq, 'Udhailiyah, Hawiyah, Abqaiq Safari, and 45 school locations.

The second phase is at 20% completion, and is expected to be achieved this year.



Work continues in Abqaiq as the Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department continues to play its part in helping the company achieve its 1 Million Trees Program goal by 2025. The department planted 127,300 trees in 2018, and 123,800 trees in 2019, with a second phase expected to be completed later this year. (Photo: Hussain Aujaime)

King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture by saudi aramco



Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure

Feb. 22 10:30 a.m.

The Cave

Feb. 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 4:30 p.m.

The Son of Bigfoot

Feb. 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 4:20 p.m.
Feb. 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26 6 p.m.

Zero Distance

Feb. 20, 21, 24 6 p.m.
Feb. 22 noon
Feb. 26 4:30 p.m.



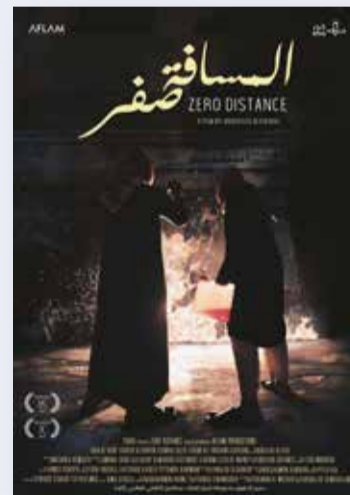
The Cave

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.



The Arabian Sun is a weekly publication issued free of charge by the Corporate Communication Support Department for Saudi Aramco employees.

North Admin Building, Room AN-1080, C-05A, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Telephone (013) 876-0374
Email: publishing@aramco.com
ISSN: 1319-156X
Articles may be reproduced provided The Arabian Sun is credited.

Publishing director: Meteb F. Al Qahtani (A)
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Designer: Husam Nasr.

Articles and coverage can be requested through the company's CRM system.
Correspondence may be addressed to the editor, North Admin Building, Room AN-1080, C-05A.



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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