

the arabian sun

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a weekly Saudi Aramco publication for employees

CEO: our heroes are an inspiration to all

Recognizing this unprecedented moment in history, Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser expresses his appreciation for the company's employees — from plants to refineries to offshore locations to pipelines and terminals and elsewhere — telling them, "I am pleased the entire Saudi Aramco family has come together to coordinate our response to support the many heroes who remain essential for our business."

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physical distancing

so how far is far away enough, and other strategies and actions to take to prevent the spread of COVID-19

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Country-Western Star Coming Soon

Kenny Rogers, one of the top names in country and western music, will perform in the Aramco communities under the



sponsorship of the AEA. Rogers has headed his own groups and also performed with the Bobby Doyle Trio and the New Christy Minstrels. In 1966, he formed the First Edition which became an instant success with appearances on more than 70 TV shows. Rogers had his own show, "Bullin' on the River," for a number of years. His recently released single, "Lucille," is riding high on the British charts. Rogers will open in Ras Tanura on June 30 followed by performances in Alqaqia on July 6 and in Dhahran on July 7. Further details on show time and tickets will be carried in next week's Arabian Sun.

Kenny Rogers' connection to Aramco

Country music crooner Kenny Rogers passed away last week at the age of 81, leaving a trail of fans who fondly remembered his performances — including a series of concerts at Aramco communities.

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six appointed to vice president positions

Nabil K. Al Dabal, Fergus I. MacLeod, Abdullah M. Al Mansour, Nabil A. Al Nuaim, Oliver G. Thorel, and Aali M. Al Zahrani were all recently appointed to vice president positions by the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors.

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six appointed to vice president positions



Nabil K. Al Dabal



Fergus I. MacLeod



Abdullah M. Al Mansour



Nabil A. Al Nuaim



Olivier G. Thorel



Aali M. Al Zahrani

The Saudi Aramco Board of Directors recently appointed six vice presidents at its meeting earlier this month.

Among those named were Nabil K. Al Dabal, (vice president of Human Resources); Fergus I. MacLeod, (vice president of Investor Relations); Abdullah M. Al Mansour, (vice president of Pipelines, Distribution and Terminals); Nabil A. Al Nuaim, (vice president of Community Services); Olivier G. Thorel, (vice president of Chemicals); and Aali M. Al Zahrani, (vice president of Safety and Industrial Security).

The appointments will officially begin April 1, 2020.

Nabil K. Al Dabal

Before being appointed vice president of Human Resources, Nabil K. Al Dabal served as executive director of the admin area since December 2018. Previously, he was acting head of HR.

Prior to this, Al Dabal had been general manager of Training and Development (T&D) since January 2015, after taking on a leadership role with the organization the previous year.

As general manager of T&D, Al Dabal was responsible for the design and delivery of corporate education, as well as T&D programs for the company's industrial, administrative, and professional workforce.

He had previously served as managing director of (BV) Aramco Overseas Company (AOC) in The Hague from May 2011 to April 2014, with strategic responsibility for Saudi Aramco downstream joint venture investments, project support, and supply chain management activities throughout Europe, the Asia Pacific region, Africa, South America, and the Middle East outside of Saudi Arabia.

Al Dabal, who holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Northrop University in the U.S. and an MBA from the University of Hull in the U.K., began his career with Saudi Aramco as a communications engineer in 1991. He eventually took on a supervisory position before becoming an engineering specialist in May 1998.

In June 2002, Al Dabal was named manager of Computer Communications Engineering and Technical Support. He went on to hold managerial positions with several organizations, including the Ras Tanura Refinery, Consulting Services, and Facilities Planning.

In August 2006, Al Dabal was assigned as manager of the Inspection Department, where he remained until moving to AOC in 2011.

Al Dabal has completed a number of executive leadership programs, including the University Executive Program from the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Fergus I. MacLeod

Fergus I. MacLeod has been appointed vice president of Investor Relations, having

previously held the position of executive director.

MacLeod joined Saudi Aramco in May 2017 as the company's first Head of Investor Relations.

MacLeod began his career in the energy industry as a management trainee with Shell in 1982, before moving into investment banking in London in 1986 with J. Henry Schroder Wagg.

MacLeod was head of Global Oil & Gas Equity Research at Deutsche Bank Wood Mackenzie in Edinburgh from 1990 until 2000, where he led a team of analysts in the U.S., Europe and Asia, and worked on a number of major initial public offerings.

After a period running his private advisory firm, MacLeod returned to the energy industry in 2002, when he was appointed as head of Investor Relations at BP, a role he held for 11 years. He worked on a variety of major transactions, joint ventures, and planned mergers. MacLeod also was responsible for the establishment of BP's Competitor Intelligence organization.

In 2011, MacLeod was appointed as BP's Head of Strategy and Planning to lead the redefinition of BP's strategy following the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

From 2013-16, he was the lead adviser to Rolls-Royce plc on investor relations and the communication of strategy.

MacLeod holds a bachelor's degree from Oxford University in the U.K. in politics, philosophy, and economics. He is a member of the U.K. CFA Society.

Abdullah M. Al Mansour

Before being appointed vice president of Pipelines, Distribution and Terminals, Abdullah M. Al Mansour previously served in the position of executive director of the admin area since December 2018.

Prior to this, Al Mansour had been general manager of Pipelines — a position to which he was named in January 2017.

Before that assignment, he had been manager of the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAS) — a role he held since November 2013. Prior to moving to OSPAS, he had been manager of the Yanbu' NGL Fractionation Department since June 2012, following an assignment as manager of the Terminal Maintenance Department.

Al Mansour, who completed a bachelor's degree in applied mechanical engineering in 1990 from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, joined the company in 1993 as a staff engineer in OSPAS.

He has filled many professional and leadership roles over his career with the company, including working as a performance improvement consultant and planning analyst in Corporate Planning, among other functions.

In April 2002, Al Mansour was assigned as the OSPAS general supervisor of the Terminal Planning Division, and then in May 2003, he began several assignments, including general supervisor of the OSPAS

Oil Division, marketing manager in Crude Sales and Marketing, and operations superintendent at Shedgum Producing in the North Ghawar Producing Department.

In July 2010, Al Mansour became the superintendent of RT Terminal Operations, before being assigned as the Terminal Maintenance manager in July 2011.

During his career, he also served as acting manager of the Yanbu' Refinery, Crude Oil Sales and Marketing, and Central Region Distribution.

Al Mansour has completed a number of executive leadership programs, including the University Executive Program at IMD, and the Advanced Management Program.

Nabil A. Al Nuaim

Before being appointed as vice president of Community Services, Nabil A. Al Nuaim served as executive director of the admin area since January 2018. He is also currently the chief digital officer for Saudi Aramco.

Prior to January 2018, Al Nuaim served as head of Transaction Development and was responsible for executing joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, as well as third party and other transactions.

He has over 26 years of experience in oil and gas, renewable energy, power industries and investment management — both in Saudi Arabia and abroad.

In July 2015, Al Nuaim was appointed president and CEO of Aramco Asia, managing and overseeing Saudi Aramco's business in the Asia Pacific region while also serving as board chairman of Aramco Asia-Japan, Aramco Asia-Korea, Aramco Asia-India, and Aramco Asia-Singapore. He also served on the boards of S-Oil (Korea), Showa Shell (Japan), and FREP (China), and currently is on the board of Marafiq.

Al Nuaim worked with several Chinese entities to sign agreements during president Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia in January 2016, and during the visit of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman, to China in March 2017.

Al Nuaim has held managerial posts with Saudi Aramco's International Operations, Environmental Protection, Corporate Planning, Refining Operations, Power Systems, Engineering Services, and Procurement and Supply Chain Management. He also undertook duties as director of Kingdom Economic and Energy Analysis, director of Kingdom Energy Strategy, and chief of energy research at KAPSARC.

Al Nuaim holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in electrical engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, and Texas A&M, respectively. He also obtained an MBA from MIT Sloan Business School.

Olivier G. Thorel

Olivier G. Thorel has been named vice president of Chemicals. Thorel previously has been holding the position of executive

director of the same organization since January 2018, when he joined Saudi Aramco.

Thorel joined Shell in France in 1990, and held various positions in the Chemicals business in manufacturing, sales, marketing, supply chain, and as global general manager — based in France, the Netherlands, and London until 2006. He then led the global base oil business, and thereafter became vice president of supply, distribution, and pipelines for Shell in North America, based in Houston.

For four years before joining Saudi Aramco, Thorel led various parts of the Shell Chemicals business as vice president of Global intermediates, and then vice president of Shell Chemicals Asia, Ventures and New Business Development, based in Singapore.

Thorel graduated in 1988 from Ecole Polytechnique (science and economics) and holds a master's degree in finance from Universite Paris-Dauphine. He completed an executive MBA at INSEAD in 2002.

Aali M. Al Zahrani

Before being appointed as vice president of Safety and Industrial Security, Aali M. Al Zahrani was named executive director of the same organization in January 2019.

Al Zahrani had previously been general manager of Industrial Security Operations, a role he took on in July 2016, following a successful acting assignment in that position commencing in 2015.

Prior to that, Al Zahrani completed an assignment as acting general manager of Public Affairs, following a series of assignments as manager of both Abqaiq Plants Maintenance and Operations departments. He had previously been manager of the Sea Water Injection Department — an assignment that followed a supervisory role with the same organization.

Al Zahrani began his career at Saudi Aramco in 1991 with the Maintenance Engineering and Fault Analysis Group, after completing a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

He took on assignments with various facilities in Abqaiq, as well as Maintenance Engineering, before joining the Operations Engineering System Support Unit, where he carried out supervisory and superintendent duties until taking an assignment as assistant to the executive head of Southern Area Oil Operations in January 2007.

Al Zahrani completed an Internship Development Program in the U.S. in 1994 with Emerson — specialists in manufacturing electronics and control systems. He attended the Executive Management Program at INSEAD Business School in 2011, and participated in the Asia Business and Culture Program in China in 2012.

In 2019, Al Zahrani became a board member of the Saudi National Security Services Company.



CEO: Aramco's heroes are an inspiration to all



Amin Nasser is joined by other members of management during a recent visit to control facilities in Khurais. The president and CEO noted that the same resolve shown by employees in the face of last year's attacks on our facilities is the same he is seeing now by Aramco's companywide as they respond to the threat of COVID-19. "Our people across company facilities are highly motivated to succeed now more than ever," he said.

Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser expressed his appreciation for the company's employees who are working safely to maintain the company's preeminent position as the world's leading energy company.

With the onset of the COVID-19 virus around the world, business continuity has been an issue for industries and sectors.

At Saudi Aramco, however, many employees are working around the clock to ensure business continuity, safe operations, and community well-being, Nasser noted in a weekly call to company management.

"This health crisis is something that the

world has never experienced before, and we are all having to react to highly complex, fast-moving developments. I am pleased that the entire Saudi Aramco family has come together to coordinate our response to support the many heroes whose work remains essential for our business of reliably and safely supplying energy to the world," he said.

He highlighted the dedication of health care colleagues at Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare to tackle COVID-19, as well as employees in the field, at company plants, refineries, and other locations offshore and at pipelines and terminals.

Referring to them, Nasser said: "I want to say that what you are doing is essential beyond measure. Your example is inspiring the rest of the Aramco family."

But in doing so, he emphasized the company is sparing no effort for everyone to have a safe and healthy working environment, with extensive sanitization efforts and health protocols being reinforced and continually tested.

Stressing that people are the priority, Nasser said team spirit is vital to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and that success will depend critically on individual actions toward hygiene, safety, physical distancing,

and caring for others.

"Our strong work ethic, and our deep-rooted culture of resilience and agility is helping us tremendously at this time. I witnessed that when I visited our plants and facilities recently and the spirit and strength of our colleagues is truly inspiring," said Nasser.

He said he saw similarities to how employees responded to the September attacks on Abqaiq and Khurais to recover and fully restore production.

"Our people across company facilities are highly motivated to succeed now more than ever."



Amin Nasser got an up close look at the many precautions the company is taking at facilities throughout the Kingdom and in remote areas such as those found offshore in the Arabian Gulf.

Physical distancing reduces the transmission of COVID-19

During these difficult times we should take physical distancing seriously and encourage each other to follow the recommended guidelines



Avoid arranging playgroups for your children



Contact your physician online or book a MyChart Video Visit



Order your groceries online



Spend quality time one-to-one at home



Use staircases instead of elevators



Reschedule unnecessary home improvements with contractors



Don't be embarrassed to let people know you are physical distancing



Avoid unnecessary appointments



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If you are coming from an area with reported cases* of COVID-19
OR you have had contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19

You should:

Self-isolate for 14 days from the day you left the country or had contact with the ill person.



Home-isolate



وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

* The list of affected countries as defined by MOH available on JHAH.com/covid-19

مركز جونز هوبكنز
أرامكو الطبي
Johns Hopkins
Aramco Healthcare



نحن نهتم
We Care

If you develop any of these symptoms:



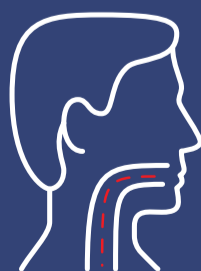
Fever

or



Difficulty Breathing

or



Sore throat

or



Cough

You have to:



Wear a mask

+



Call

937 MOH & JHAH
for JHAH-registered patients
800-305-4444/3

800-305-4444 | www.jhah.com

the big clean



Community Services and Office Services clean up to prevent Coronavirus transmission



Special cleaning crews visited not only office areas, but also community areas that receive heavy traffic, including playground equipment.



One of the best ways to combat transmissions is to ensure colleagues and workers are showing no sign of infection. With this in mind, crews this week began taking the temperature of employees showing up for work at the company's main offices, turning away anyone with a raised temperature — one of the signs of potential Coronavirus infection.



A cleaning crew member in full protective gear gives an office desk the full sanitizing treatment — from phone to desk and beyond, everything gets a solid cleaning.



Teams from the Office Services and Central Community Services departments go from cubicle to cubicle distributing safety kits to office workers in Dhahran. The kits, which include a personal bottle of hand sanitizer, carry the slogan "Take precautions, be safe."



One of the best ways to prevent the spread and contracting Coronavirus is the liberal use of hand sanitizer. Dispensers have been placed throughout common areas and hallways, and even in elevators now. (Photos by Ahmad El Itani/MPD)



A worker sanitizes a bench in an office common area. Benches are one of the critical areas cleaning crews are focusing on, as the Coronavirus is believed to survive on such surfaces for some time — especially indoors.

Yanbu' NGL Fractionation wins the golden Shaikh Khalifa Excellence Award

Yanbu' — The Yanbu' NGL Fractionation Department (YNGLFD) was recently recognized for its Operational Excellence efforts by winning the golden category of the regional 2019 Shaikh Khalifa Excellence Award (SKEA).

The award is based on the globally respected European Foundation of Quality Management models and criteria.

Suleman A. Al Bargan, vice president of Domestic Refining and NGL Fractionation, Mohammed S. Al-Ghamdi, YNGLFD manager, and the department team accepted the award, which recognized the department's ability to foster a culture of excellence and high quality in its systems and among its employees. The award recognized YNGLFD as a pacesetter in excellence throughout the

Kingdom.

"The award represents another step in Saudi Aramco's march toward achieving its vision of becoming the world's leading and integrated company in the energy and chemical fields, and this is reflected in the operational performance of all company's facilities, the efficiency of its employees, and their dedication to work, which led to achieving such good results," said Al-Bargan, who added that YNGLFD's achievement further confirms the effectiveness of its systems that have unleashed "the capabilities of the people of the country" in its dedication and competence at the highest levels.

Al-Ghamdi added companies are measured on their ability to innovate "and effectively implement Operational Ex-

cellence programs that enable them to improve their financial efficiency and increase their reliability to survive and compete at all levels. This award is a testament to the capabilities of YNGLFD employees in achieving continuous excellence and the pursuit of the best in all fields."

The recognition is one of a dozen prestigious awards YNGLFD has earned over the past few years.

The department was the first Saudi Aramco organization to win this prestigious regional Golden Award, which enables individuals and companies in the Gulf countries to improve their performance and their ability to compete and achieve a global position for the business community as a whole.



Suleman A. Al Bargan, Mohammed S. Al-Ghamdi, and members of the team from the Yanbu' NGL Fractionation Department pose with the Shaikh Khalifa Excellence Award the department received for its Operational Excellence efforts.

working from home no obstacle to excellence for company employees

by Michael Ives

In this unprecedented time of COVID-19, all across Saudi Aramco, the company is sparing no effort to keep people safe and well — at work, at home, and in our communities.

This crisis is something that none of us has seen before, and the company is doing all it can to protect the Aramco family. For many colleagues, reporting to their usual place of work remains essential.

For example, this includes our health care colleagues at Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare who are on the front line of COVID-19, as well as our people who work across our facilities and operations, continuing to reliably supply our global customers.

With physical distancing a key tool in the fight against COVID-19, increasing numbers of eligible employees are working from home, in line with government instructions, with managers directed to ensure their business continuity plans continue to put people first.

Working remotely must be agreed by department management, including assurance that an employee has the right tools to carry out their role. In the majority of cases, this will include at a minimum a company laptop equipped with VPN functionality, which enables safe and secure access to the company network.

If unsure, employees are recommended to discuss their individual IT requirements with their computer services liaison. Additional tools include Skype for Business, which is now available on company laptops and includes phone and video conferencing facilities.

With all the digital tools now at our disposal, with appropriate preparations, colleagues are able to work seamlessly from home.

how to work safely from home

It is essential that before working from home that employees take the following steps:

- Ensure that you have safe and secure access to the company network, including at a minimum a VPN and Skype for Business equipped laptop, as well as access to



any additional tools required to carry out your role

- Obtain department management approval that you can work remotely
- Take measures to ensure your remote working arrangements provide a safe, secure, and healthy working environment
- Whether working from home or in your normal place of work, observe recommended sanitization protocols and recommendations on social distancing.

leading virtual teams

To help our people adjust to virtual workplaces, the Human Resources' Leadership Development Division has been looking at global best practices from organizations like Harvard and MIT to develop a webinar called Leading Virtual Teams.

Experts in virtual workplaces have been advising professionals and leaders to keep a few things in mind.

First, ensure productivity doesn't drop during this period. Employees want to

stay busy regardless of their work location. An easy solution is to start the day with a brief Skype for Business video team meeting to discuss the plan for the day. In a virtual workplace, your timelines might be shorter, so you might also check in at the end of the day to see everyone's progress. Also, dress for success. Put on your normal work attire when working from home, this will send a powerful message to your brain that it's time to work.

Second, employees must ensure their individual engagement. It's easy to skip collaboration opportunities since employees are not in one location, but it is still important to hold brainstorming sessions, project updates, or reviews virtually. Doing so will ensure everyone stays connected and focused on key tasks. And don't forget to celebrate quality work, especially when it's done virtually.

Lastly, it's important to ensure everyone's wellbeing. When we don't see each other every day, it's easy to lose focus on each

other's health and wellbeing. Schedule a five-minute individual Skype video call to check on people and ensure they are doing well.

And in a virtual workplace, we don't walk around as much, so make sure you step away from your computer and stretch periodically. And if anyone would like to continue their professional development during this period, the Leadership Center will be offering many of its one-day professional development programs in a virtual format to specifically address virtual workplace best practices. This is a great time to continue your development, even at home.

Regardless of working location, Saudi Aramco is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of every colleague, their families, and their community. By following proper guidelines, including individual actions on hygiene, safety, and social distancing, we will all be doing our best to protect ourselves and each other.

As an extension of the company's efforts to increase physical distancing, some employees have been directed to work from their homes. The Human Resources' Leadership Development Division has developed a number of recommendations, including regular electronic communication emphasizing collaboration, preparing the same as if you were going into the office, and making sure to occasionally get up from one's workstation to stretch.

PE-TDP: meeting our need to develop specialists

The need to adapt quickly in a continually changing business environment accelerated by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) has never been more important in the energy industry.

Developing specialists able to navigate this environment is just as critical.

by Shaistha Khan

Dhahran — Petroleum Engineering and Development (PE&D) vice president Nasir K. Al-Naimi recently hosted a ceremony to recognize three graduates from its flagship Petroleum Engineering Technologist Development Program (PE-TDP).

Designed to provide qualified professionals the opportunity to become renowned technologists within their chosen specialties, PE-TDP is aligned with Saudi Aramco's business needs and allows it to develop subject matter expertise in critical areas.

It does this by requiring participants to publish technical reports and papers, complete business assignments in different organizations that are closely related to their specialty, and undertake a graduation project that demonstrates their expertise in their chosen specialty.

Since its inception in 1997, the program has graduated 45 professionals, who are now serving the company in various technical and managerial positions.

new focus areas as specialties

In opening the event, Waleed A. Al-Mulhim, chief petroleum engineer and TDP chairman, highlighted the program's track record of nurturing talents and enabling them to become specialists. He also emphasized the program's ability to adapt to the industry's latest needs.

Al-Mulhim also stressed the need for new topics on sustainability and IR 4.0.

"With adaptive and new specialties, the oil and gas industry has increased its focus on sustainability and the environment," he said. "We are looking at minimizing emissions and reducing our carbon footprint, and with IR 4.0, we are looking at how technologies can be ad-



The program enables candidates to tailor and take ownership of their development.

— Bander N. Al-Ghamdi



The program helped me to develop three important characteristics — tenacity, agility, and the desire to seek out professional development opportunities.

— Talal S. Al-Mousa



In six years in PE-TDP, I have gone through the steepest learning curve of my life.

— Majed N. Al-Rabeh

young professionals.

"Having worked with six different organizations during my time in the PE-TDP, all assignments had a road map and were tailored to equip me with knowledge in my focus area," he said. "The program enables candidates to tailor and take ownership of their development."

Talal S. Al-Mousa from the Northern Area Reservoir Management Department graduated with a specialization in reservoir management of intelligent fields. Al-Mousa's graduation project included developing an artificial intelligence approach to estimate recovery efficiency.

Al-Mousa authored and coauthored five papers, chaired technical symposiums, and as part of his doctorate dissertation work on artificial intelligence, he published as a book.

"The program helped me to develop three important characteristics — tenacity, agility, and the desire to seek out professional development opportunities," Al-Mousa said.

Majed N. Al-Rabeh from the Production and Facilities Development Department graduated with a specialization in advanced well completion. Al-Rabeh's graduation project included developing best-in-class practices for advanced well completions.

"In six years in PE-TDP, I have gone through the steepest learning curve of my life," said Al-Rabeh, who authored more than 10 technical reports, filed three U.S. patents, delivered four advanced completion courses, and won a Society of Petroleum Engineers award.

"The PE-TDP provided a rare opportunity to study the deployment of the most advanced well completion systems of the world. It significantly enhanced my technical skills, as well as my communication skills, as I was regularly presenting to committees of technical experts," he added.

reflecting on their journey

Bander N. Al-Ghamdi from the Reservoir Description and Simulation Department graduated with a specialization in gas reservoir modeling, with a focus on compositional simulation.

Al-Ghamdi, whose graduation project included conducting studies on fluid flow to improve accuracy and understand numerical performance associated with complex phase behavior, called the PE-TDP the most intensive and advanced development program of his career. By the time he graduated, he completed five major projects, authored nine technical papers, filed two U.S. patents, chaired several technical events and conferences, and mentored seven

opted to the business.

"These specialties fit naturally into the PE-TDP, and as an integral part of our efforts, we engage PE-TDP specialists in these new focus areas," Al-Mulhim said.

He further highlighted that many in the program already have experience in IR 4.0 solutions through their work in artificial neural networks, artificial intelligence and data analytics, therefore the groundwork has been laid.

Congratulating the three graduates and all who have been involved with the program, Al-Mulhim encouraged young engineers to consider joining the program to continue its legacy of building technological excellence and expertise.

Qurayyah inaugurates first Toastmasters club



Members of the newly established Qurayyah Toastmasters Club (QTC) pose earlier this year with members of management from the Qurayyah Sea Water Injection Department (SWID) following the organization's first meeting. SWID management is providing full support for the QTC such as sponsoring the SWID employees' membership and other logistics.

by Sharib A. Khan

The Sea Water Injection Department (SWID) recently inaugurated the Qurayyah Toastmasters Club (QTC) at the Operation Support Building in Qurayyah. The event was well attended by many SWID employees and dignitaries, including Saudi Aramco Toastmasters club senior officials from Dhahran.

Abdullah Al Aqeel, acting SWID manager, emphasized that Toastmasters is a friendly opportunity for learning. Noting that People Conversations and Empowerment are

two of the company's Four Critical Behaviors as key to achieving our goals, Al Aqeel said, "I am confident that you all will agree that the Toastmaster idea is worth pursuing and it will motivate employees by giving them confidence to face the critical issues."

"We also have the capability and the talent to nurture and continuously improve communication and leadership skills and build on them. Therefore, our collective enthusiasm and participation in the program are vital for the success of the QTC," Al Aqeel added.

Joining Al Aqeel was distinguished Toastmaster Soliman Almadi, who emphasized the importance of employee development through the art of speaking, listening, and thinking. Almadi reiterated that Toastmasters provides a positive, helpful, and supportive learning environment for all of its members.

The event was a success, with many interested SWID employees queuing up to join the QTC, which will be part of Toastmaster Area 54 under the Division M Toastmasters International organization.

SWID management is providing full support for the QTC such as sponsoring the SWID employees' membership and other logistics.

The QTC, which will be holding its weekly meeting during the lunch break each Wednesday, is open to all SWID employees regardless of their role in the department (i.e., engineer, operator, maintenance technician, etc.)

Also, the QTC board will be organizing many workshops, such as the newly launched Toastmasters "Pathways" in the future.

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Toastmasters opens new club in Qurayyah

The Sea Water Injection Department recently inaugurated the Qurayyah Toastmasters Club at the Operation Support Building in Qurayyah.

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Abqaiq Nature Reserve is first of its kind in Eastern Province

by Ahmad Tamimi

The Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department (SA/CR CSD) recently took steps to join a worldwide conservation program by developing the "Abqaiq Nature Reserve" — a safe haven for Saudi Arabia's native plants and animals.

Located close to the Abqaiq Cricket Field,

the project was developed with the support of the Environmental Protection Department and the Saudi Wildlife Authority.

giving back to nature

The site of the project was developed by a team from across SA/CR CSD divisions working on a single vision to create an area within Abqaiq that gives back to nature.

The project went through several stages — from the planting of fauna and flora to the introduction of native animals.

Completed in four detailed phases, the project included providing a treasury water pipeline for irrigation of 2,100 local trees, providing bird shelters, and preparing and filling the lake with water and fish. Educational and informational signs about the

plants and animals were also installed.

The sanctuary has a visitor's center and a nature friendly walkway that will be used for educational purposes during school and community visits and environmental campaigns.

Also, late last year, four gazelles were released into their new sanctuary, representing the culmination of the project.



The Abqaiq Nature Reserve, developed by the Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department, looks to provide a safe haven for the Kingdom's native plants and animals. From gazelles to reptiles to various forms of fish, plants, and flora, the reserve also has a visitor center that will be used for educational purposes and school visits. (Photos: Ibrahim Khayyat)

country music crooner Kenny Rogers passes; once played at Aramco



Kenny Rogers, who died last week at the age of 81, was once brought to the Kingdom by the Aramco Employees Association to play for employees and dependents here.

The country music world mourned last week with the news that legendary singer/songwriter Kenny Rogers passed away at age 81.

Known globally for such hits as "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town," "Lucille," and "The Gambler," Rogers also had a connection to Aramco and the surrounding community. Rogers was a rising solo performer when he came to the Kingdom to perform in July 1977.

The shows, which took place at the company communities in Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, Dhahran, and 'Udhailiyah, cost SR10 and saw sold-out shows of hundreds.

Sponsored by the Aramco Employees Association — the precursor to today's Saudi Aramco Employees Association (SAEA) — Rogers performed in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, and Abqaiq.

The performance came in a golden age of

such concerts sponsored by the AEA. And while the organization often welcomed a variety of popular acts to the company communities, Rogers is often remembered as the biggest name to perform.

And while the SAEA is less focused on bringing in acts with such global recognition as Kenny Rogers, it remains a key supporter of entertainment and culture in the company's communities.

"The Saudi Aramco Employees Association has always been committed to bringing its members and the Saudi Aramco community at large exciting cultural entertainment and fun family trips and activities, as well as concerts and musicals," said SAEA president Taha Al-Safi, who noted that the association likes to promote local community talents through activities. "SAEA will continue to serve as one of the key community recreation promoters in

Other acts brought to Saudi Aramco through the employees association in the mid-1970s and early 1980s included, among many others:

- Barbara Mandrell
- Jerry Lee Lewis
- The Silver Convention
- B.J. Thomas
- Jerry Van Dyke
- The Unknown Comic (of "The Gong Show" fame)
- Stars on Ice
- Los Angeles Ballet
- Michael Marlin, a fire-eating juggler known for his word wizardry.

Saudi Aramco."

Rogers reportedly passed away from natural causes under hospice care at his home in Sandy Springs, Georgia, in the U.S.



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