

# the arabian sun

June 3, 2020 | Vol. LXXV, No. 22 | a weekly Saudi Aramco publication for employees



## Ithra brings 'Id happiness to homes

Parade rolls through Eastern Province neighborhoods.

see page 15

## focusing on what matters

OGCI and its member companies reiterate continued efforts in combating climate change.

see page 3



# from concession to IPO, Aramco marks 87<sup>th</sup> year on its journey of Excellence

From 1933 to present day, Aramco's remarkable journey from an exploration effort to the world's most profitable company has been unprecedented, and it began with the signing of the Concession Agreement.

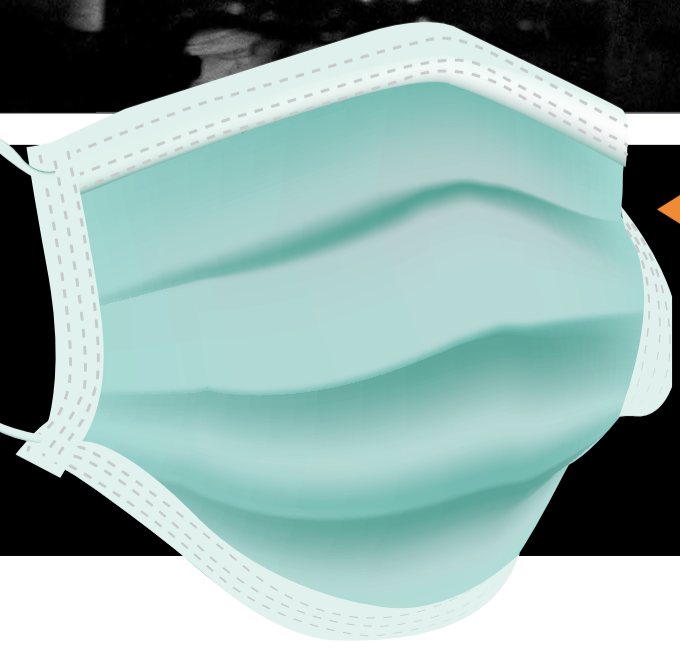
see pages 8 and 9



أرامكو السعودية  
Saudi Aramco



أرامكو السعودية  
saudi aramco



## Do Your Part by Wearing a Mask in Public

Controlling COVID-19 is in our hands, and we should do whatever it takes to stop its transmission.

**maintain physical distancing**  
of 2 meters at all times



# Aramco's Gretchen Gillis voted American Association of Petroleum Geologists president

Aramco's **Gretchen M. Gillis** was recently voted president-elect of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) for the 2020-21 term. She will assume the role of AAPG president for the 2021-22 term.

Gillis is a geological consultant with Aramco Americas, a wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Aramco.

A member of AAPG since 1990, Gillis is the fourth woman to be voted president-elect in the 103-year history of the association. AAPG is currently one of the world's largest geological societies with approximately 30,000 members in 129 countries.

## a focus on mentoring, young professionals, and the underrepresented

Gillis has served the geosciences community and industry with distinction — with a focus on mentoring students and young professionals, advancing women and others underrepresented in the field; and supporting the association's publications and scientific mission.

Through the years, she has served on and chaired numerous AAPG committees,



I want to foster the preeminence of AAPG in energy geoscience to serve our profession and society while maintaining the highest ethical standards of professional practice. These core principles are as important today as they were when AAPG was formed in 1917.

— Gretchen M. Gillis

including those responsible for the AAPG Annual Conference and Exhibition Technical Program, AAPG publications (such as the *AAPG Elected Editor*), AAPG Women's Network, and AAPG Public Outreach. Gillis is a trustee associate of the AAPG Foundation, which promotes the geosciences by funding initiatives that support the preser-

vation of data and career enhancement for geoscientists.

To further support the world's next generation of geoscientists, Gillis has worked with geologist colleagues from Saudi Aramco as judge and volunteer for the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Program — an international competition for geoscience grad-

uate students held in conjunction with the AAPG annual conference.

## past awards and future plans

AAPG honored Gillis with the AAPG Distinguished Service Award in 2011, and the AAPG Honorary Member Award in 2018. Gillis holds a Master of Arts in geological sciences from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Bachelor of Arts in geology from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

"It will be an honor and privilege to serve as the AAPG president-elect," Gillis said. "I want to foster the preeminence of AAPG in energy geoscience to serve our profession and society while maintaining the highest ethical standards of professional practice. These core principles are as important today as they were when AAPG was formed in 1917."

Aramco Americas president and CEO Mohammad S. Alshammari commented: "On behalf of Aramco, I would like to congratulate Gretchen on becoming president-elect of this world-renowned organization. We are proud of her accomplishments to support AAPG's mission to advance the geosciences, bringing people together to promote growth and opportunity — which align with Aramco's imperatives as well."

# witnessing history

## Toastmasters District 79 crowns champion

by Sabal S. Almadi

It has been a historic year for Toastmasters of Saudi Arabia, District 79, as its annual Saudi Arabian Toastmasters Annual Contest 2020 moved to cyberspace this past weekend, with more than 300 members gathering, listening, participating, and cheering on others over Zoom.

The highlight of the event was the International Speech competition.



Rafiq Ahmed

This year, Rafiq Ahmed from Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare captured top honors in the Kingdom, with retiree Nazeer Alqasem of Saudi Aramco Toastmasters clubs earning second place. Also, Sara Alkazzaz won second place in the

Arabic language contest. With the victory, Ahmed now joins finalists from all around the globe in a competition to crown 2020's World Champion of Public Speaking.

## a number of firsts

There were plenty of firsts during the conference, with addresses by the conference chairman, District 79 director, past director, as well as Soliman M. Almadi, Saudi Aramco Toastmasters Club adviser, who emphasized the value of the Kingdom's Toastmasters clubs in promoting quality, winning championships, and producing leaders at the district level while being an engine of growth and excellence.

The District 79 Arabic Ladies Forum, headed by director Jamila M. Abulebdeh,



For the first time ever, Toastmasters District 79 conducted its entire annual meeting digitally, from the business meeting to the International Speech competition to other events, such as the Arabic speech contest.

also held its first virtual forum, which was planned, organized, executed, and attended by women only. "This is just a confirmation of what women can do when they face challenges, a unique experience that revitalizes our life, thoughts, and sharpens our skills," Abulebdeh said.

Also, the first educational session was held by Past International president Mohammed Murad, based in Dubai, who said the online meeting is a blessing that should be cherished. Murad went on to discuss the Toastmasters International's values — integrity, respect, service, and excellence — and how to reflect and improve ourselves.

Other highlights of the three-day event

included:

- Keynote speaker Ed Tate
- Arabic speech contest
- The traditional Banner Parade
- Recognition of those who earned the Distinguished Toastmaster title
- Release of the e-magazine, which included over 70 articles from members covering various topics
- District 79 Executive Committee meeting

## officers elected

Another highlight of the event was the District 79 Council Meeting, in which elections were conducted for the next district director, program quality director, and oth-

er key positions. Two Saudi Aramco employees landed significant leadership roles.

Rami M. Aljawad was elected District 79 program quality director. Aljawad, who will serve over the coming year, highlighted a complete plan that will bring quality to new heights across all clubs in the district.

Meanwhile, Salem H. Abdullatif will serve as director of Division M, which covers all of Saudi Aramco's Toastmasters Clubs. "Division M is one of the strongest divisions in the Kingdom, and we will focus more on quality and expanding the Toastmasters' membership base so other employees can benefit," said Abdullatif.

## inspiration for the year ahead

There is no doubt that District 79's annual conference will always be remembered as historic, thanks to resilient and reliable leaders and members who overcame challenges to conduct a successful event.

As the International president Deepak Menon said during the conference, "Let the fire of passion for Toastmasters make you the flame that leads the world from darkness to light." Indeed, District 79 members strive to be the light even in the darkest of moments; their passion sparks the drive in them and allows them to radiate positivity no matter the external circumstances. Toastmasters will continue to raise generations of leaders and communicators in a safe environment that promotes the writing of speeches, the developing of confidence, and the enhancement of networking skills and sense of community.

For more information, go to [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org), or search Toastmasters on the ShareK website.



## an open letter from the CEOs of the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative focusing on what matters

The unprecedented challenges the world is facing force us all to sharpen our focus on what matters. Our immediate priority as CEOs is to do everything we can so that our people and communities are safe and capable of confronting the pandemic effectively. We will work to help the world recover from the economic shock of this crisis that has undoubtedly hit some more than others, yet impacts us all.

We have heard concerns that this crisis may push oil and gas companies — and governments around the world — to delay climate action. The reality is that rather than shifting our priorities, the COVID-19 crisis is further crystallizing our focus on what is essential: health, safety, and protection of the environment while providing the energy and vital products that society needs to support economic recovery.

Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) members' shared mission since our formation in 2014 is to act collectively in combating the climate challenge and to accelerate the global response to the risk of climate change even as we support economic growth. We are dedicated within OGCI and in our own companies to maintaining this mission.

Climate change is a reality facing us all that requires a consistent and dedicated approach. The most successful responses to this pandemic around the world reveal how collaboration and solidarity are essential when facing global issues. This serves to reinforce the value of our collective effort to address the climate challenge through the collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and the broader population.

Advances in technology, more effective policy, and infrastructure investments will all be needed to address the scale of climate challenge.

For its part, OGCI and its member companies reiterate our continued efforts and pledge to:

- Accelerate emissions reduction efforts in our own companies, such as through continued reductions in methane emissions. We are taking action in our individual companies to sustain investments and technology development in low carbon solutions so that we can continue to meet OGCI's collective, as well as each companies' specific, climate commitments.

- Continue to support the development, implementation, and scale up of innovative low carbon solutions in oil and gas, other industries, and commercial transportation through OGCI Climate Investments, our \$1 billion-plus climate investments fund.
- Advance opportunities to scale up commercially viable, environmentally responsible, and safe carbon capture, use, and storage in close collaboration with Clean Energy Ministerial countries to decarbonize multiple industrial sectors, and through OGCI Climate Investments.
- Continue to support governments as the design efficient policies that can accelerate energy transitions while stimulating economic growth, working in particular with our partners such as the International Energy Agency, the Clean Energy Ministry, and the Global Methane Alliance.

With the whole world cooperating — one region, one country, one community after another — to contain the pandemic, we have seen the importance of innovation, collaboration, and courage to progress toward a healthier future for all. As all eyes look for the most effective approaches to emerge from this crisis, you can count on us to do our part. We will continue to work with others to support economic recovery and to transition to a healthier lower carbon future.

**Amin Nasser**, Saudi Aramco  
**Bernard Looney**, BP Plc  
**Mike Wirth**, Chevron Corporation  
**Dia Houliang**, CNPC  
**Claudio Descalzi**, Eni S.p.A.  
**Dear Saetre**, Equinor ASA  
**Darren Woods**, ExxonMobil Corporation  
**Vicki Hollub**, Occidental  
**Roberto Castello Branco**, Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.  
**Josu Jon Imaz**, Respol S.A.  
**Ben van Beurden**, Royal Dutch Shell plc  
**Patrick Pouyanné**, Total S.A.

COVID 19  
Responsibility

# He thought he was just giving some feedback.

Ahmed was eager to share ideas with Khaled on how to enhance their presentation and wanted to meet in person. He hadn't been feeling all that great lately and figured it was work stress.

But Ahmed was already showing symptoms of the virus. His nearness to Khaled and his casual, poorly covered cough put his colleague at risk.

## Never let your guard down.

Because it's not only about you. It's about everyone's safety.

Unsafe personal behaviors can destroy lives. Do your part to keep us all safe.



Maintain a **safe distance** of at least **2 meters** from others.



**Cover your cough or sneeze.** Use a **tissue** and dispose of it responsibly. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your **upper arm**.



Recognize symptoms if you have a **fever, cough, and difficulty breathing**, call your health care provider immediately.

[saudiaramco.com/en/covid](https://saudiaramco.com/en/covid) | Help desk 87-COVID (013-872-6843) | JHAH 800-305-4444 (Option 3)



## understanding the Coronavirus impact

# moving forward on mobility while driving the transport industry toward a new normal

by Mohammed Masrahi and Cristina Vasquez  
Global Analysis Department

In the second part of the series understanding the Coronavirus impact, we will explore how ride-sharing has been affected by the virus outbreak. As people return to work after weeks of lockdown measures, the need for transport will be inevitable, prompting users to question safety and availability of modes of transport.

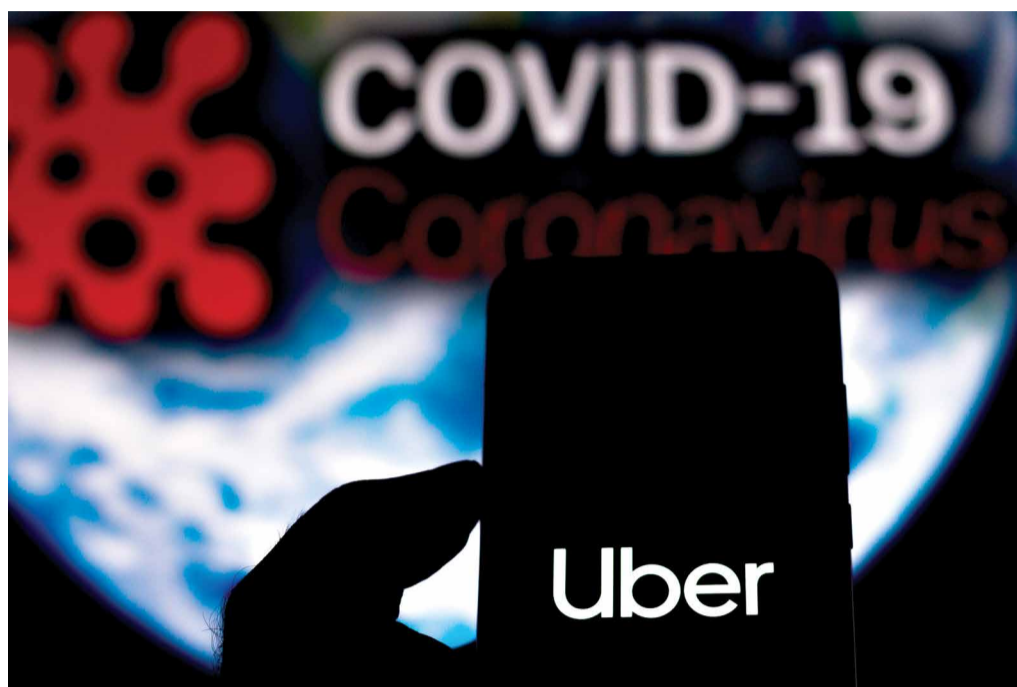
Ride-sharing had seen a surge in past years, as flexibility and convenience changed the way riders experience transport. Instead of ownership, service-based consumerism unleashed this new sector's popularity.

People that struggled to move and commute from faraway locations were able to experience a ride by a simple click in a mobile app. Increased ride-sharing usage affected revenues for traditional car transport providers, including failed public transport systems and unionized taxi companies.

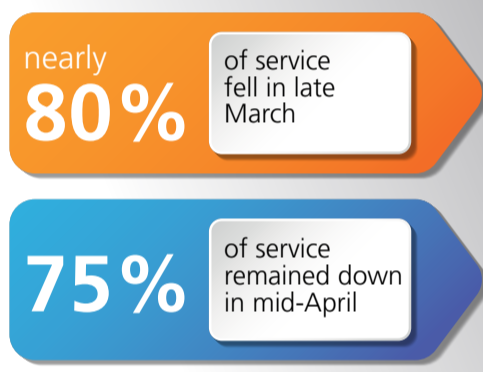
The whirlwind effect that ride-sharing had on demand for transport was unbeatable, but nonetheless, companies providing the platform service were already struggling to make a profit and had countless mounting legislative actions against their business.

### tough financial times for Uber and Lyft

Amid the current circumstance, ridership has been severely affected, thereby causing ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft to experience harsh financial consequences. Lyft reported that its service fell nearly 80% in late March and



### Lyft reported



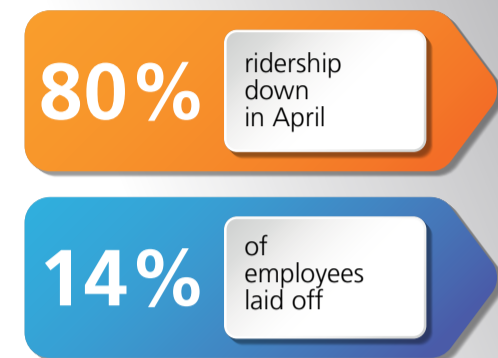
remained down 75% in mid-April. As passengers cautiously began to ride later in April and early May, ridership recovered only slightly and was down around 70%

year-over-year.

In the latest quarterly results, Lyft mentioned that Q1 2020 revenue was \$955.7 million compared to \$1.017 billion in Q4 2019, with a net loss of \$398.1 million vs. \$356 million in the previous quarter. Lyft announced an aggressive cost reduction plan that includes a 30% executive pay cut, 10% employee pay cut, and a layoff of 17% of its workforce.

Similarly, other ride-sharing providers have announced a dramatic impact on their businesses. Uber's ridership was down by 80% in April, and it has laid off 14% of its employees. While Uber Eats, Uber's food delivery service went up in some locations, the service has been shut in many locations outside the U.S. due to poor economics.

### Uber reported



### behavioral impact as well

Other ride-sharing companies such as Didi (China) and Grab (Southeast Asia) have also been affected. Grab CEO Anthony Tan recently mentioned that despite the hailing platform taking a beating, the current crisis will allow the company to serve its communities better by focusing on food delivery, insurance, and e-payment services. In Singapore, GrabCare allowed health care workers to secure a ride-on-demand to and from hospitals at any time of the day, with over 2,000 drivers registering for this initiative.

As governments around the world lift restrictions, COVID-19 may impact consumer practices, including and not limited to not sharing a ride with strangers, booking rides just for themselves or altogether purchase their own vehicle. The trend will yet have to be unveiled in the next few months as vehicle sales data is released.

In Strategy and Market Analysis, analysts will continue to monitor changes in mobility trends to understand the overall impact on transport oil demand.

## Visualization Center expands capabilities, helps out in a crisis

by Gehan Mufti

One year after its launch, the Visualization Center, operated by the Office Services Department (OSD) has added a number of new, specialized programs and systems.

"Over the past year, the Visualization Center has developed further by updating and fine-tuning the supporting systems to meet customer demand and enhance the quality of services provided," said Ahmed A. Alzahid, OSD manager, who further noted that the center's advanced capabilities has allowed it to also act as a COVID-19 Support Center.

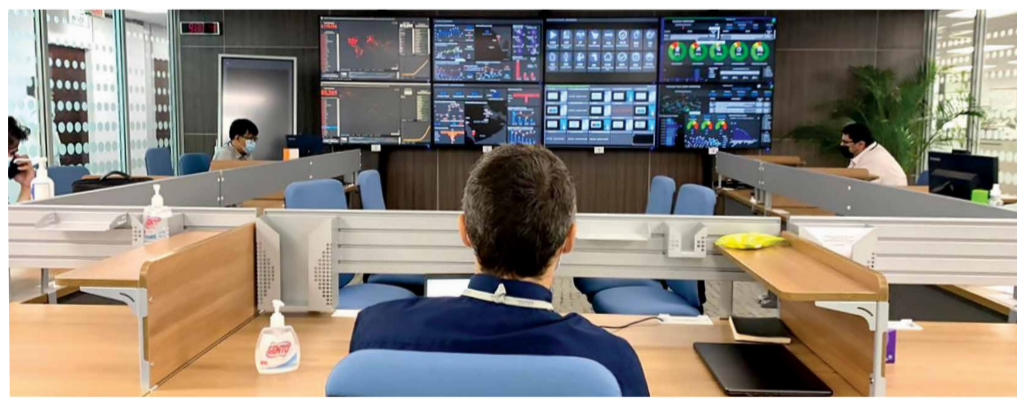
The center, which acts as a tool to monitor, analyze, and generate reports for OSD operations to identify areas of improvement, is manned by specialized analysts and consists of eight digital display screens. The screens use real-time tracking systems to manage six programs and three reporting systems.

All reports — daily, weekly, and monthly — are extracted, analyzed, and shared with management to ensure seamless operations, and the continuity of quality service.

### What does the center offer?

Among the center's many features are:

- **Automated Real-Time Office Space Tracking System:** By tracking data about office space usage, the system monitors office space and identifies unused office space for con-



The Visualization Center features eight digital display screens that manage six programs and three reporting systems. During the pandemic, it has been converted into a COVID-19 Support Center with screens displaying updated international and local reports and statistics of Community Services' efforts to mitigate the impact of the virus.

solidation and reassignment. This has resulted in significant cost avoidance.

- **My OSD:** The program logs and categorizes daily operations, gathering data that is shared with management to highlight areas requiring attention. The data is also used for benchmarking against similar entities.

- **CRM Monitoring System:** This in-house dashboard not only tracks requests, but also analyzes customer satisfaction and categorizes feedback, providing reports for management. So far, delayed CRMs have decreased from 10% to 7%, and customer satisfaction rates have risen from 8% in

2018 to 92% in 2019.

- **Mobile Inspection System:** The system allows inspectors to digitally log examinations, points of concern, and areas inspected digitally in the field. The information, instantly reflected on the center's dashboard, allows continuous monitoring of data and more immediate response.

- **Conference Room Reservations:** Reservations, use, and no-shows are monitored and logged at the center, allowing the center to track and identify those who abuse the system so corrective action can be taken.

- **E-Banner System:** Able to broadcast

announcements on 41 lobby screens at various Saudi Aramco facilities, it can now be monitored in real time. In case of downtime, operators can take immediate action.

- **Mail Services Delivery Dashboard:** The system tracks mail from initiation to point of delivery, flagging delayed parcels and providing root cause analysis.

- **Community Services COVID-19 Center:** The center has been acting as a hub displaying the latest reports and statistics of the pandemic, as well as preparedness, contingency, mitigation, and response plans to community needs. The center takes calls on a dedicated line about suspected cases in our facilities, ensuring immediate and proper action.

### innovation and transformation

As a true example of innovation, the Visualization Center has proven to be an instrumental means of increasing efficiency, safety, and customer satisfaction, ensuring that office users are provided with the finest quality of services.

"The Visualization Center has advanced from a monitoring hub for OSD online channels to a center for comprehensive data analysis and reporting," said AbdulAziz Alsaad, the center's supervisor. "Here, the data plays a major role in helping management identify areas of improvement and aid in decision making."

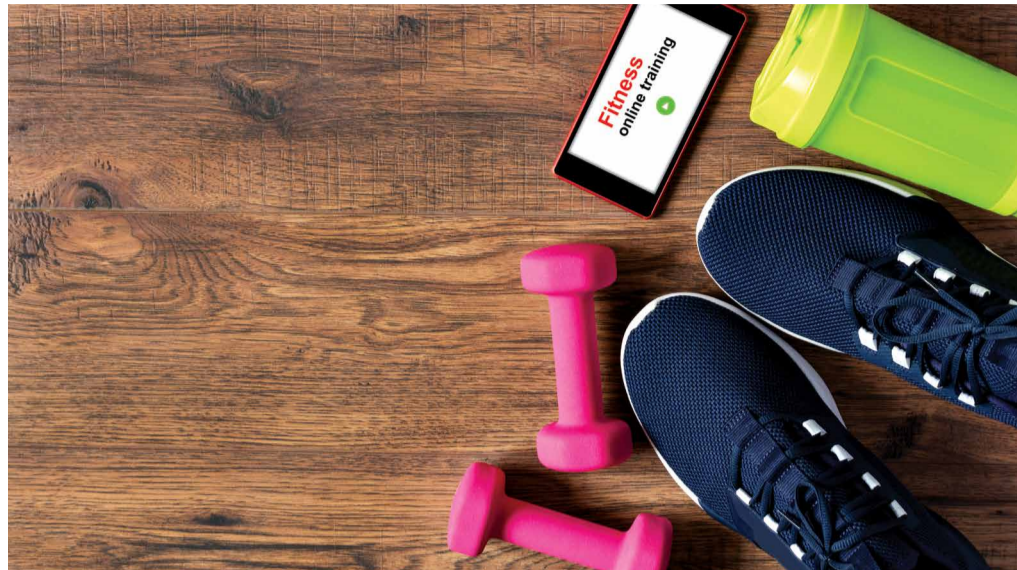
# using Skype for Business to help get fit

by Darren Hammond and Charmain D. Ford

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to keep individuals at home, it is crucial that people remain physically active to stay healthy and happy.

Two of the most important benefits of physical activity are managing anxiety and boosting immunity. With this in mind, Saudi Aramco's Northern Area/Western Region Community Services Department (NAWR CSD) introduced a new initiative — the Online Fitness Streaming Platform — during Ramadan.

The decision to create online classes was a big opportunity for advancement in terms of using technology to provide fitness training to individuals and families during these challenging times. "This initiative enables company employees to engage in fun and effective fitness classes online," said Abdullah S. Al Shemaly, NAWR CSD acting manager. "It is in line with CS



strategies to lead in digitization and maximize in resource utilizations."

## a connection to employees, dependents, and more

Over the month of May, there was great interest, with approximately 3,207 people participating.

RT Recreation Services fitness instructors led the Online Fitness Streaming Platform workout through Aramco's Skype for Business application. A variety of fun and engaging fitness classes were offered to fit both male and female employees.

The goal was to deliver a 15 to 30 minute well-being class providing light move-

ment exercises and stretching. Currently, there are three daily classes (9 a.m., 5 and 9 p.m.) from Sunday to Thursday, including a well-being class and boot camp-style classes.

The well-being classes were designed to provide light movement and stretching to loosen muscles, improve motion in joints, and prepare participants for the day ahead. The boot camp classes were designed to improve exercise capacity, endurance, and strength through a variety of exercises.

Health and fitness are an important factor in an individual's well-being, and NAWR CSD, through the RT Recreation Services Unit, are glad to contribute in this capacity. The Online Fitness Streaming Platform provides dynamic and interactive streaming online fitness classes to boost employee morale and wellness during the pandemic period and will continue thereafter.

Sustaining some level of activity during this period is not only beneficial physically but mentally also. We encourage individuals to use this time to keep active, stay motivated, and be safe.



This article is part of the COVID-19 well-being campaign.

## your voice

# following grandpa's example — make the most of life



by Reva Tharwani  
Dhahran

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

My grandpa was one of the best people that I knew. He would wake up every morning with a smile on his face and made it his mission to fill every day with joy and happiness.

In the town where my grandparents lived in Alabama, there was absolutely nothing for us kids to do. One day, my grandpa decided to drive my cousins, aunts, and uncles three hours to the nearest arcade. The arcade wasn't big, but it had bumper cars.

The arcade employee was surprised to see my grandpa in line with my cousins and me. "Sir, are you sure you want to do this?" she asked.

My grandpa nodded with excitement. So picture if you can a 60-year-old man in a bumper car going crazy as he drove into all of us. Yep, that was my grandpa.

Later that evening, we all went into the town plaza to get some ice cream. There was a street performance, and dancers were dancing to some of my favorite songs, and my grandpa volunteered to join

them. The crowd cheered.

On Dec. 23, I was home on school break and excited that our family would gather to celebrate the holidays, make hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies, and sing Justin Bieber's Christmas album at the top of our lungs. Unfortunately, Dec. 23 was one of the hardest days I have ever experienced.

About 4 p.m., my grandpa told me he was heading out to run some errands. Consumed with my phone, I quickly waved goodbye and watched him leave the house wearing a traditional navy Pakistani outfit with a plastic bag in one hand and his water bottle in the other.

The rest of the day is a blur. My grandma's phone rang, and she picked it up. Her face immediately went blank, then she ran out the door. Nervous and scared, I called my mom, my aunt, and finally reached my dad in Saudi Arabia to explain what happened. I had a bad feeling, but I didn't want to believe it.

Three and a half hours later, everyone

was home — everyone except Grandpa. I looked at my grandma's face, and that's how I knew. I never thought that I could cry that much.

If there is anything that I learned from his passing it is that life is precious, that today's opportunities might not be available tomorrow. My grandpa lived every second with a sense of happiness and spontaneity. He showed me how to not care about what other people say, and to do what makes you happy. It's a lesson I will cherish forever.

No matter how old you are, make the most of your life.

Be kind to people. Try your best in everything. Challenge yourself. Visit loved ones. Tell the people that are important to you that you love them.

Be there for your friends when they are going through hard times. Help people. Be a good citizen. Live everyday with the intention that this is going to be the best day.



COVID-19  
special edition



- > results, results, results
- > sticking together, to stay apart
- > entertainment - virtually
- > the impact of your donations



COVID 19  
Response

now's the time to

# stay family fit

Explore ideas to engage your body, mind, and spirit.

When staying at home, it's easy to find yourself slipping into a sedentary lifestyle. But did you know that only 30 minutes of daily aerobic exercise reduces stress and helps you sleep while improving heart health?

There's no need for a gym or any fancy equipment to start a well-rounded fitness routine. To find some great fitness apps and other resources to help get your body moving, browse our Well-being site.



Exercise



Productivity



Edutainment



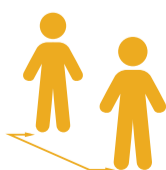
Healthy Diet



Self-care

We've compiled an extensive list of best-in-class resources in five categories. Discover items of interest for you or your family.

To start exploring, go to [saudiaramco.com/en/news-media/covid#chapter2](https://saudiaramco.com/en/news-media/covid#chapter2)



Maintain a **safe distance** of at least **2 meters** from others.



**Rub hands** with sanitizer for a minimum of **20 seconds**.



**Greet people** with a **wave** instead of a handshake.

\* Some sites are not available via the company network. All well-being information is accessible from your home computer or mobile.  
[saudiaramco.com/en/covid](https://saudiaramco.com/en/covid) | Help desk 87-COVID (013-872-6843) | JHAH 800-305-4444 (Option 3)



# It is said that every journey begins with a single step. For the company that would become Saudi Aramco, that single step was the signing of the Concession Agreement at Kazam Palace on the outskirts of Jiddah on May 29, 1933.

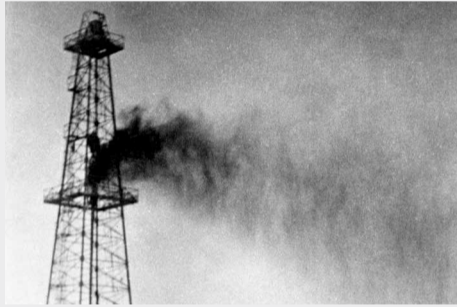
87 years of unparalleled excellence

## Aramco's journey began with Concession,

### The Birth of Arabian Oil

1933

Oil concession agreement signed with Standard Oil of California, who created the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (CASOC) to manage the concession



1938

Oil discovered at Dammam Well No. 7



1939

Oil exports begin

1944

CASOC renamed to the Arabian American Oil Company



King Abdulaziz visits the D.C. Scofield

### Expansion

1949

Oil production hits 500,000 bpd

1952

Aramco headquarters moved from New York City to Dhahran

1958

Oil production exceeds 1 million bpd

1965

Oil production exceeds 2 million bpd



### Making a name for ourselves



## May 29, 1933, concession is company bi

by Kyle Pakka

The principal characters in the second great drama of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Saudi Arabia (the first being the unification of the Kingdom under Abdulaziz Al-Saud) gathered in Jiddah in February 1933.

On one side were the representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a newcomer to the world of sovereign nations; on the other, the representatives of an American oil company.

Today, 87 years later, it's easy to forget that the outcome of the final scene was unknown to the actors at the time. They came together to negotiate the opening of the Kingdom to oil exploration, and this they accomplished, after intense labors.

The cast of Saudi players included Shaikh Abdullah Al-Sulaiman, the Minister of Finance and the second most influential man next to the King. Acting on behalf of Standard Oil Co. of California (Socal) were Lloyd N. Hamilton,

40, a lawyer and land-lease expert; Karl Twitchell, a mining engineer who in 1931-1932 had scouted for water and mineral resources, including oil, in the Kingdom; and Harry St. John B. Philby, unofficial adviser to Abdulaziz beginning in 1917 and a resident of Jiddah since 1925, now also under contract with Socal to act as liaison.

The Hamiltons — Lloyd and his wife, Airy — and the Twitchells — Karl and his Irish-born wife, Nona — arrived in Jiddah on Feb. 15, 1933. The Twitchells were among the handful of Americans with any experience or knowledge of the Arabian Peninsula, and they helped the Hamiltons navigate the formalities of Saudi hospitality and culture.

Shaikh Abdullah arrived from Makkah by car four days later, and in a sign that indicated the urgency and importance of the task at hand, the first negotiations got under way that evening. The stage was set for nearly four months of nego-

tiation.

Wallace Stegner, in his book *Discovery!* (Beirut: 1971), describes the critical last stages: "(The) conference and arguments went on — May 14, May 16, May 18, May 23 — with the tough bargainers Shaikh Abdullah, Fuad Hamza, (deputy foreign minister), sometimes Yusuf Yasin, always the interpreter Najib Salha. The government steadfastly clung to its wish to be paid in gold and its insistence that the initial loan be repayable out of only 10% of royalties.

Socal, though it consented to make the initial payment in gold, insisted that it must be protected from having to buy further gold at premium prices in case the gold embargo persisted, and that the first loan must be repayable more promptly than 10% of the purely hypothetical royalties would do it. ...

"Warily the duelists fought it out until, on May 29, Shaikh Abdullah signed the Concession Agreement at Kazam

Palace on the outskirts of Jiddah. It became effective on July 14 by publication in the official government journal. The terms were below those which the government had first proposed, but well above what Socal considered justifiable for a mere look at a wildcat prospect. ...

"The company would begin exploration within three months and keep at it until it started drilling or gave up the concession. It would start drilling no later than three years from the effective date of the concession and drill until it gave up or developed commercial production, which was defined as 2,000 tons of oil per day. ... The agreement was good for 60 years. ...






"What Hamilton had thought might take a few weeks had taken three and a half months. After (Hamilton) had signed the agreement with Shaikh Abdullah, the Hamiltons left Twitchell to look after details and took several weeks' vacation in southern Europe, winding up in



Becoming effective on July 14 of the same year, the signing launched the company's remarkable advance on history, allowing it not only to become a major international force, but to eventually become the world's most valuable business.

And while the signing of the agreement was historic, the importance of the event pales in comparison to what transpired since that day in 1933 and today — a path of unparalleled growth and development that not only helped Saudi Arabia realize the bold vision of King Abdulaziz, but also continues to help the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman, today realize the ambitious Vision 2030.

# still reaching new heights decades later

	A global company	Transformation
 <p><b>1971</b> Oil production averages 4.5 million bpd</p>	<p><b>1989</b> First international downstream joint venture in the U.S.</p>	 <p><b>2011</b> Sadara Chemical Company formed</p>
<p><b>1976</b> Aramco becomes the world's leading oil producer in terms of volume produced in a single year</p>	<p><b>1991</b> First downstream venture in Asia (South Korea)</p>	<p><b>2015</b> SATORP and YASREF refineries online</p>
 <p><b>1977</b> Berri Gas Plant inaugurated — the first facility to come online in the Master Gas System that was designed to use the Kingdom's natural gas resources to power local industry</p>	<p><b>2009</b> Petro Rabigh, first petrochemical plant, begins production</p>	<p><b>2017</b> Saudi Aramco acquires full ownership of Motiva</p>
<p><b>1980-1981</b> Saudi government increases its participation interest in Aramco's crude oil concession rights, production, and facilities to 100%</p>		 <p><b>2018</b> Saudi Aramco acquires full ownership of ARLANXEO</p>
<p><b>1988</b> Saudi Aramco officially established</p>		<p><b>2019</b> Saudi Aramco lists shares on Tadawul, marking its entry as a publicly listed company</p>  <p>watch the countdown to a listing video</p>

## birthday: the signatures that started it all

London about the first day of July. While they were traveling, six copies of an 'impressive piece of paper,' in both English and Arabic, went back and forth across the ocean and received the signatures of many people. ...

"Less than three months later, the first oil prospectors arrived in Jubail, but it took two years of surveying, exploration and groundwork before the first well was drilled, in April 1935, and it was three more years before Well No. 7 produced oil in commercial quantities, in March 1938."

The curtain had fallen on the drama of the concession signing, but another great drama was about to begin. None of them knew it for certain, but they all may have suspected it — the agreement they had just signed would lead to the discovery of the greatest energy reserves in the world and the rapid transformation of Saudi Arabia from desert Kingdom to world-class nation-state.



Shaikh Abdullah Al-Sulaiman, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance, and lawyer and land-lease expert Lloyd N. Hamilton, acting on behalf of Standard Oil Company of California, sign the agreement that opened the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to oil exploration.

# masks on: protecting yourself and others

by Janet Pinheiro

Simply saying “hello” is seldom sufficient in Saudi Arabia.

With many cultures traversing the Kingdom’s vast horizons since ancient times, greetings are often a mini celebration.

At Aramco, we delight in generously welcoming each other, catching up on almost as many matters as there are dates in al-Hasa.

The age of COVID-19 obliges a new approach to the time-honored Saudi social etiquette, but what remains unchanged is the enthusiasm in our hearts.

Aramco requests everyone wear facemasks in all company workplaces and public places, maintain a 2-meter physical

distance, and practice good hand hygiene to protect you and others against the spread of coronavirus.

During this time, our individual actions are for the greater good and for the benefit of others.

## minding your responsibility manners

What defines Aramco as a company is our behavior as we go about discovering, recovering, processing, and shipping hydrocarbons to the world.

While many of us have continued to be present on the front line, others will be returning to the workplace after working from home.

In the age of COVID-19, a return to the workplace brings behavioral responsibilities to protect yourself, your work colleagues, and the community.

Working for a world leading oil and gas company, Aramco men and women exemplify a commitment to safety, and by following safe coronavirus etiquette, we can protect ourselves, and each other, from the hazards of the virus.

## facemasks an old wisdom

For centuries in the Middle East, people traditionally used scarves to protect themselves from sunburn, dust, and sand.

This wisdom is returning to modern workplaces to help protect us from

COVID-19.

“Covering your mouth and nose with a facemask is a good way to prevent spreading anything that you may unwittingly be carrying, and will help stop you from touching your face — one of the ways that the virus is transmitted,” said Environmental Protection Department Workplace Environment Division general supervisor Saleh Y. Al Qahtani. “Facemasks are particularly important when it may be difficult to maintain physical distance in public areas where you may be near people.”

Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Health has advised that wearing masks is a way to help flatten the COVID-19 curve.



## COVID-19 workplace etiquette is not standoffish

**Smile with your eyes:** “Emoting” in a facemask is not difficult as a bighearted smile shows in your eyes. Also, you can add to your masked greeting with a subtle hand gesture or elegant nod of your head.

**Social distance does not separate hearts:** An ancient proverb claims “Absence makes the heart grow fond-

er.” You can still catch up with one another virtually using Skype and mobile phones.

**Eating and drinking at a distance:** You can eat and drink safely by sanitizing your hands after removing your facemask, following the physical distancing guidelines, and wearing your mask as soon as you finish.

**Meeting together but apart:** Speaking up can be harder in a virtual meeting. Good manners for virtual

gatherings include everyone taking a turn to introduce themselves. With each agenda item, each attendee has an opportunity to comment — pre-reading the information sent in advance means you will be ready to chime in. Before the meeting closes, everyone has a chance to say if they have anything else to add.

## make or buy a reusable facemask

Help our health care workers and the

environment by either making your own cloth facemask or purchasing a reusable mask.

Do-it-yourself masks prioritize stocks for health care professionals and the vulnerable, whose lives may depend on ready access.

It is easy to make your own facemask. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>.

## market matters

# global analysts, publications note steep drop in energy investment

In a new monthly column, we take a look at what global energy leaders are saying in regard to the current state of the global energy market.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released its annual World Energy Investment report, which claims that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing the biggest fall in global energy investment in history. The organization believes this will deeply impact energy security and slow the planned transition to clean energy.

Analysts and publications are increasingly focused on the future of oil demand and speculating on pricing as oil begins a slow recovery from its historic crash, following decreased demand due to the pandemic.

“Does the pandemic crisis deepen or weaken our commitment to the ambition we set out in February?” asked BP CEO Bernard Looney. “For me and for the (BP) board, it deepens it, and it can accelerate our transformation.

“Being consistent with the Paris goals is not just about emissions; it’s about a company’s overall contribution to getting the world to net zero,” Looney said, as quoted in the Evening Standard, reiterating the company’s climate goals during its first virtual annual general meeting. “That includes activities such as advocating for net-zero, and includes engaging with trade associations to make sure our

views on climate change are clear.”

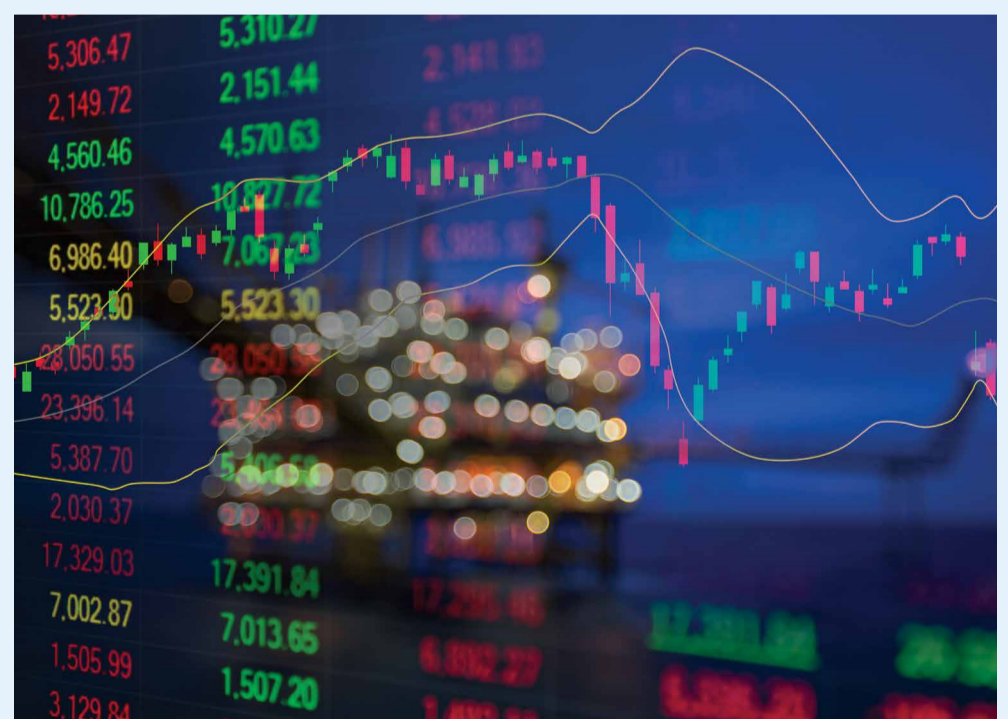
Faith Birol, IEA executive director, noted in CNBC, that the plunge in global energy investment is deeply troubling for a number of reasons. “It means lost jobs and economic opportunities today, as well as lost energy supply that we might well need tomorrow once the economy recovers,” Birol said. “The slowdown in spending on key clean energy technologies also risks undermining the much-needed transition to more resilient and sustainable energy systems.”

## a slow but steady recovery

Commentators and top-tier publications have noted that oil has begun a slow but relatively steady recovery from its historic crash, which was caused by decreased demand and altered lifestyles to combat COVID-19.

OPEC producers have expressed confidence that the market is stabilizing as demand shows tentative signs of picking up as some economies ease lockdowns. This helped oil surge about 80% in May. The IEA sees oil consumption eventually rebounding past pre-virus levels due to the combination of economic recovery and lower oil prices, even as some argue that the virus will shift patterns of consumption.

“Global supply is still heading lower



In its recently released annual World Energy Investment report, the International Energy Agency claims that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing the biggest fall in global energy investment in history. However, commentators and top-tier publications have noted that oil has begun a slow but relatively steady recovery from its historic crash.

while demand is rising,” Bjarne Schiel-drop, chief commodities analyst at SEB AB, said in *World Oil*. “This all lays the groundwork for higher prices down the road.”

Meanwhile, John Kilduf, founding

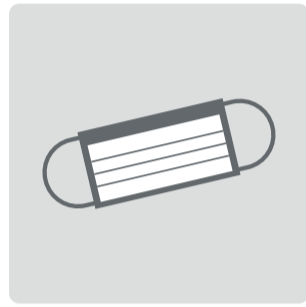
partner of Again Capital, as quoted by Bloomberg, noted that the global market is starting to tighten. “You’ve got constrained supplies in the face of a bit of a rebound, at least in demand, and that is a recipe for higher prices,” he said.

# How to safely remove and dispose of facemasks and gloves.



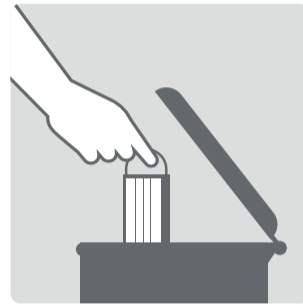
**Step 1**

Remove the mask by the straps — do not touch the front of the mask



**Step 2**

Used masks should be treated with extra precaution.



**Step 3**

Keep COVID-19 contained- Only dispose of the mask in a closed and plastic lined bin.



**Step 4**

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 40 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



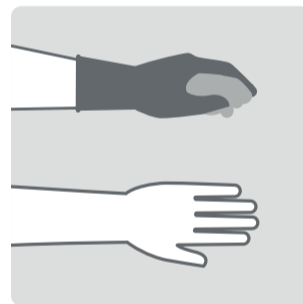
**Step 1**

Pinch and hold the outside of the glove near the wrist area.



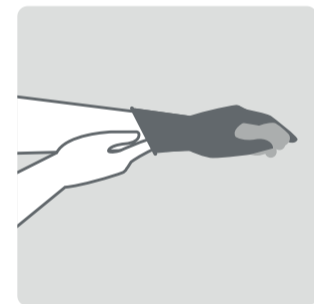
**Step 2**

Pull downwards and remove the glove inside out.



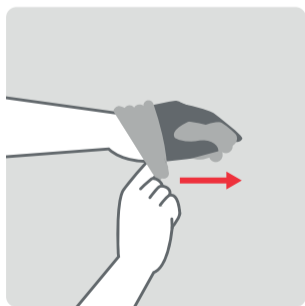
**Step 3**

Hold the removed glove with the gloved hand.



**Step 4**

Slide fingers under the remaining glove making sure not to touch the outer surface of the glove.



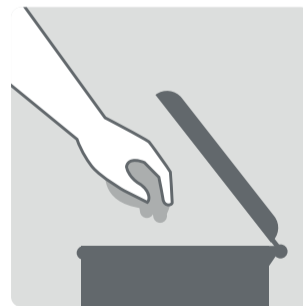
**Step 5**

Remove the glove by pulling inside out taking care to not to drop the first glove.



**Step 6**

Used gloves should be treated with extra precaution.



**Step 7**

Keep COVID-19 contained. Only dispose of the gloves in a closed and plastic lined bin.



**Step 8**

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 40 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



# working together against the spread of COVID-19

In this COVID-19 pandemic, we are all on the front lines. Every time we maintain physical distance from other people, wash our hands, avoid large gatherings, we are defending people, our communities, and our operations from a virus that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives globally.

Defending and protecting people is something the company, and specifically its Industrial Security Operations (ISO), is very familiar with. And the best defense against the spread of COVID-19 comes when our security personnel work together with employees, contractors, and community residents, sharing personal responsibility for the health and safety of all Aramcons.

"On the front lines, we will succeed in protecting the company's employees and assets," says ISO shift supervisor Hwaizi Al-Qahtani. "Critical to all of this is the close cooperation of our people in communities and facilities across the Kingdom."

## unique challenges

Since the first reported case in late February and as the virus has spread, Aramco has adapted operations and practices to protect our people and assets.

One way it has done this has been an initiative to secure, install, and man thermal screening at various locations. The thermal



Aramco has adapted operations and practices to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic such as thermal screening and physical distancing protocols.

cameras can identify individuals exhibiting high body temperature across masses of people simultaneously and seamlessly, without delay or close contact.

But this is just one of many ways Aramco has worked to protect people. The unique threats posed by COVID-19 has demanded a flexible response, and those in ISO have assumed additional roles that are critical in our fight against the virus.

In addition to thermal screening efforts,

access control procedures have been enhanced to ensure that proper physical distance is maintained to arrest the spread of the virus.

Also, new regulations mandate that all buses accessing our facilities must operate at 50% capacity and ensure proper distance is maintained between passengers.

As far as pedestrian access, physical distancing is enforced through queuing procedures that involve floor markings and the

creation of more than one queue to prevent congestion.

## safety of security personnel

Also, Aramco is upholding its duty to protect the people who are protecting its people.

"The first and most important order for ISO has been making sure that our security men remain safe," says Abdullah A. Al-Ghamdi, ISO general manager. "This is why working with other organizations and government agencies has been critical to establish proper safety measures that allow security men to strike a balance between protecting the company's assets and protecting themselves.

"Several security procedures have been modified, such as access control, inspection methods, and visitors' registration, to ensure that the proper distance is maintained and to minimize high touch-point surfaces," he adds.

Aramco has also provided the required protective gear such as masks and gloves to every security man in the field.

Furthermore, to guarantee proper incident handling, special personal protective equipment with face shields and isolation gowns has been acquired for possible emergency scenarios.

# going to great lengths to ... safely get employees where they need to be

by Shaista Khan

**Dhahran** — For Aramco, the health and safety of its employees and dependents is a priority. In the face of a global pandemic, it is even more imperative to ensure business continuity while adhering to these values.

This is especially true when it comes to the critical task of getting employees to their place of work. Much of this falls upon our Transportation and Equipment Services, Marine, and Aviation departments, which have enacted a number of practices and procedures to ramp up employee safety in this critical time.

So even as travel restrictions begin to ease, Aramco continues its long-standing commitment to safety that it has maintained throughout the pandemic, ensuring the continued safety and well-being of our people.

## services on the ground

With over 500 buses, 12,000 vehicles, and 300 taxis, it is no small task. The company transports employees and dependents millions of kilometers annually to and from work, schools, and various locations.

At the onset of the pandemic, an analysis of routes and services helped identify

alternative sources of service, redistributing assets and resources (based on criticality of facilities), and availing additional resources where needed.

With approximately 13,000 bus passengers daily, Transportation has employed thermal screening, monitors their health, and disinfects buses three times a day.

To enforce physical distancing, capacity has been reduced to 50% — 20 passengers per ride, and one passenger per row. Additionally, facemasks are distributed on each trip, and hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed on every bus.

A "no contact" key handling system has been implemented at U-Drive facilities, and keys are sanitized after each trip. Also, to ensure minimal contact between Transportation staff and employees, car sharing rides in the Core Area can be booked through an app.

Meanwhile, a COVID-19 Transportation Contact Center facilitates transportation for employees and their families arriving from out-of-Kingdom as part of the Kingdom's repatriation efforts. The center plays an instrumental role in transporting employees and their families home from quarantined locations.

## getting there by air

With a fleet of 17 airplanes and 25 helicopters, the company supports a variety of onshore and offshore operations. Normally, Saudi Aramco transports about 14,600 passengers weekly. However, during the pandemic, restrictions have been employed.

All nonessential travel on company flights has been discontinued, and the number of flights to high-risk areas has been reduced. Currently, Aviation transports about 6,000 passengers per week to critical locations, such as Shaybah.

The company also conducts thermal screening and requires declarations from employees that they have not had COVID-19 symptoms or traveled to high-risk areas over the previous 14 days. In ad-



Whether it's ensuring physical distancing on buses, disinfecting passenger jets between flights, or standing at the ready to diagnose and treat offshore employees suffering from potential COVID-19 symptoms, the company is working diligently to get employees to their place of work safely and efficiently.

dition, to enforce physical distancing, markings have been employed at counters and waiting areas.

All air terminals, planes, and helicopters are also disinfected and sanitized regularly, and employees must wear facemasks while en route. Those who have been previously quarantined are not allowed to fly until a medical report is provided.

Meanwhile, occupancy is limited to 40% of capacity (or 67 passengers on aircraft), with empty seats and rows in between. In addition, meals and refreshments on flights have been suspended, and flight crews remain the same on all routes to eliminate the possibility of cross-contamination.

## safely by sea

The Marine Department also supports critical offshore operations with over 300 vessels and 7,000 employees and contractors.

During the pandemic, it has employed

a series of risk management and business continuity programs while addressing pandemic challenges through such actions as introducing hand sanitizers, conducting awareness sessions, implementing strict protocols for access, employee monitoring, and developing emergency response plans, as well as continuous sanitization of all facilities. Additionally, the load factor on tax vessels was reduced to 40% of capacity.

To provide effective emergency response arrangements, the company has mobilized a dedicated vessel, *Rawabi-1*, that provides medical evacuation and transfer of COVID-19 offshore cases to the nearest onshore facility designed to test and treat such patients.

All of these efforts — whether by land, air, or sea — have demonstrated strength and resilience in the face of adversity, allowing us to sustain the delivery of hydrocarbons despite the multifold challenges the pandemic has presented.

“All air terminals, planes, and helicopters are also disinfected and sanitized regularly, and employees must wear facemasks while en route. Those who have been previously quarantined are not allowed to fly until a medical report is provided.”

# our innovation shines at Hart Energy awards

Saudi Aramco has demonstrated its leadership role in Upstream technology development, garnering six awards in five of the Special Meritorious Awards (MEA) for Engineering Innovation from Hart Energy, an industry best.

Established in 1973, Hart Energy's MEA have been described as "the industry's most established and widely respected engineering awards program."

Our engineers and scientists received the reputable awards in the categories of exploration/geoscience, drill bits, improved oil recovery (IOR)/enhanced oil recovery (EOR)/remediation, intelligent systems, and water management.

## the winners

Four of the six winning technologies were products created by EXPEC Advanced Research Center and address field challenges along the Upstream value chain: exploration, reservoir engineering, drilling, and production.

• **SpiceRack for the Exploration/Geoscience Award:** EXPEC ARC, in collaboration with Seabed GeoSolutions, is developing an innovative autonomous, highly productive, fully robotized,



and cost efficient solution for seafloor seismic acquisition.

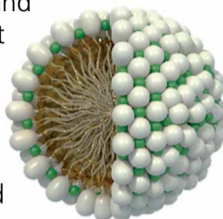
• **Ultrastrong Catalyst-Free PDC Bits for the Drill Bits Award:** A technology strives to develop strong and durable drilling bits capable of drilling



harsh and abrasive formations. This technology is being developed in collaboration with Chengdu Dongwei Technology Ltd.

• **Nano-Encapsulated Reservoir Chemical Treatments for the IOR/EOR/Remediation Award:** A sus-

tainable, economically and operationally efficient technology platform for target delivery of chemical treatments to only "where they are needed" downhole and deep in hydrocarbon reservoirs.



• **Acoustic Oil-Water-Fines Separation for the Water Management Award:** A low energy, intervention-less innovation for downhole and surface oil-water-fines separation focused on reducing water cuts and produced water volumes from mature reservoirs.

The fifth winning technology is Gum-



The EXPEC Advanced Research Center addresses challenges along the Upstream value chain with innovative technologies.

boNet, a technology platform developed by DataGumbo, a U.S.-based startup partly owned by Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV), the venture capital investment arm of the company. The technology received the Intelligent Systems Award recognizing its Blockchain platform, which enables the automation of contract execution and payment in the oil and gas sector, combining Internet of Things data, smart contracts, and distributed ledgers, and using a network of oil field service participants for assets and material tracking.

The MEA program also recognized the FiberLine Intervention System for the IOR/EOR/Remediation Award. This technology, a collaboration between EXPEC ARC and

Well-SENSE Technology Ltd. (a company that is also partly owned by SAEV), provides a low cost solution for data acquisition from production and injection wells with no major interventions to regular operations.

## awards a testament to our leading role in Upstream R&D

These winning solutions exemplify the quality of research undertaken by our engineers and scientists, and is a result of the company's vision and long-term investment in Upstream R&D.

"The honor that comes with receiving these highly reputed awards provides a solid foundation that shows Saudi Aramco's leading role in oil and gas technology," said Ashraf M. Al-Tahini, EXPEC ARC manager. "It serves as a driver for achieving higher levels of excellence by delivering cutting-edge solutions to our Upstream operations."

SAEV creates value relying on internal resources collaborating with external opportunities.

"By joining forces with EXPEC ARC and other technology pockets in the organization, we are able to expand the company's reach for technology by seeding cutting-edge development work through equity investments," said Majid A. Mufti, Corporate Venturing Department director.

# Fire Protection Department holds its first innovation hackathon

Dhahran — According to the findings of a World Economic Forum "Future of Jobs" report, the top three skills needed to thrive at the workplace in 2020 are complex problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity. To enhance these skills and find innovative ways to solve operational challenges, the Fire Protection Department (FrPD) earlier this year hosted its first hackathon.

The hackathon is designed to harness these skills and talents to bring forward creative solutions to challenging issues.

More than 130 FrPD employees came together to brainstorm ideas, propose solutions, and solve real-life operational challenges.

"I encourage everyone to capitalize on our strengths, to identify challenges that we face, and how technological tools are used to make a difference," said Albadr M. Jannah, FrPD manager. "Your breakthrough ideas these days make a difference in the future of Saudi Aramco and the future of the fire industry."

Jannah highlighted examples of what innovation can look like in the FrPD, such as having a mobile command center as opposed to a control center away from the incident location, and looking at the possibility of robots being deployed in operations, etc.

## time to get creative

The daylong event featured participants identifying and evaluating solutions, competing in challenges from five innovation tracks: effective and reliable FrPD, way of life, FrPD and surroundings, FrPD sustainability, and digitalization.



Some of the more than 130 Fire Protection Department employees take part in an exercise in the department's first hackathon held earlier this year. The event was designed to harness the skills and talents to bring forward creative solutions to challenging issues.

"You will have the chance to abandon typical thoughts and tap into creativity," hackathon organizer Shahd O. Telmessani told participants. "Now is the time to show the FrPD what you are capable of."

With the help of subject matter experts and a facilitated design thinking workshop, teams moved on to the prototyping stage where they presented their concept in front of a panel of judges. The top three winning ideas were selected based on four criteria: originality and creativity, alignment with FrPD vision and mission, addressing the challenge, and technology adoption.

Aali M. Al Zahrani, vice president of Safe-

ty and Industrial Security, recognized and awarded the winners in the presence of other members of management.

## top three ideas

• **Resource and Asset Management System:** Meshari M. Alabdulrhman, Abdulelah Y. Qahtany, Jeff D. Parsons, Abdulrahman M. Alsulaimani, Mohammed A. Saeefan, and Abdullah A. Hamoud won first place for developing an innovative system that fosters better management of FrPD resources. Using a database and dashboard, FrPD equipment can be monitored and maintained in a timely manner. Also, manpower

certifications and licenses, fellowship status, and record of major fires the employee has participated in can be accessed through this system.

• **Water Management System:** Hatim A. Alshammari, Omar F. Alhaidan, Mohammed F. Harbi, Abdullah S. Alaryani, Emad A. Alharbi, and Michelle A. Jafary won second place for developing a system that will reduce the amount of water wasted during flow tests. The system has a sensor to indicate the quality of the water and a special hose that is flexible enough to not affect flow readings. The hose directs water to the nearest drainage system and is controlled by automatic valves. In case of emergencies, water can be directed to a nearby pool that has sensors that measure water quality and quantity so it can be sent back to the fire storage tank.

• **MyDash:** Mohammad S. Barogaan, Sarahan A. Bahish, Mohammed A. AbuHussain, Craig R. Aznoe, Saleh A. Harthi, and Eid B. Hajri won third place for developing myDash, which would empower employees with information they need to advance their career — from training opportunities to physical fitness status. Course eligibility, out-of-Kingdom program requirements, and steps to progress in their Individual Development Plans would also be displayed. Additionally, the consolidation of this information will allow management to create reports to help determine performance and eligibility for the training of each group. The dashboard would also boost employee engagement, physical fitness statistics, and assist management in guiding employees along their career paths.



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)  
Editors: Jamsheed Din, Todd Williams  
Editorial staff: Jeff McCoshen, Musherf Alamri, Eamonn Houston, Scott Baldauf, Shaistha Khan and Dalia Darweesh.  
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.



# the journey of safe turnaround and inspection

## mitigating risks, supporting safe maintenance activities across Aramco

With all machinery, maintenance is key to retain safe and smooth running. It is no different for hydrocarbon, chemical, and utility plants and equipment, which undergo planned maintenance and inspections to remain in a safe operating condition.

In the oil and gas industry, these are known as turnaround and inspection (T&I).

### mitigating risks of T&I

Historically, there have been serious incidents during T&I in the industry, especially during the shutdown and startup phases — the times when a plant or system is brought offline for inspection and before being reinstated after maintenance checks are complete. The BP Texas City Refinery fire in 2005 claimed 15 lives and resulted in 180 injuries from a startup incident post T&I.

T&I risk mitigation was brought under key review in 2017 when Saudi Aramco's Loss Prevention Department (LPD) established the LPD T&I Support Unit to integrally assist proponents throughout the process.

"As a company, we looked at how we could enhance the way in which T&I were planned and executed to reduce the potential for incidents," said Zaher M. Al-Tayeb, head of LPD's Safety Compliance Division.

Changes were both procedural and collaborative. The Corporate T&I Manual was intensively reviewed, resulting in a more clarified and detailed process in which LPD was a mandatory rather than an optional presence.

The existing process included three stage gates representing planning, preparation, and readiness, each of which had to be completed before the next gate could be approached.

"The addition of a fourth gate representing safety was a significant enhancement to the process, and ensured no work could begin until T&I preparations, including safety mandates, were verified as complete," said Mark Fields of LPD's Safety Compliance Division.

With procedural change came collaborative change and a renewed focus that is as much on proponent engagement as procedural compliance. "The strongest way we



Turnaround and inspection ensure critical inspection and maintenance work is carried out for continued safe operations. Since the introduction of a specific unit to assist in performing the critical function, Aramco has seen a marked improvement in turnaround safety performance across the whole of the company, resulting in zero significant incidents or injuries.

can enable proponents to achieve safety excellence in their own environments is by working with them together as a partnership," said Al-Tayeb.

### a new level of support by LPD

The new level of support has not gone unnoticed, and proponents have welcomed LPD's much-increased involvement and support in the T&I process.

The unit consists of seven T&I groups, each assigned to LP Area Divisions and handling T&I activities in those areas. Between 300 and 400 turnarounds are completed every year, some of which are total refinery shutdowns, which is when the entire refining process is brought offline for

inspection.

These are scheduled by the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAS), which ensures the global and home market supply is covered by other plants so supply continues uninterrupted. Most T&I occur under equipment inspection schedules, which is when specific sections of a plant or equipment are taken offline for inspection according to industry regulated timescales, resulting in an ongoing inspection process for the T&I Unit throughout the year.

Logistics and manpower planning is neither simple nor quick. Working closely with the proponents and OSPAS, the T&I Unit plans their schedule to encompass all up-

coming company T&I 12 to 18 months in advance. Large T&I commonly require 24-hour manning by T&I engineers with a focus on being in the field, especially during high-risk activities and pre-startup checks.

T&I remain a critical part of asset integrity. Enhancing procedures and improving engagement has brought results.

"In the past three years, we have seen a marked improvement in turnaround safety performance across the whole of Saudi Aramco, resulting in zero significant incidents or injuries," said Al-Tayeb. "It's a very positive achievement, and shows how much progress can be made when risks are identified and collaborative steps are taken to mitigate them."

## T&I virtual technical exchange looks to convert challenges into opportunities

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt everywhere, including maintenance activities and turnaround and inspection (T&I), which consequently requires new approaches to our business in both the short- and long-term.

To address some of these impacts, Corporate Maintenance Services (CMS) conducted a virtual technical exchange for subject matter experts in early May to share their thoughts on the topic. Using Skype for Business, CMS saw 234 participants engage in the exchange, which featured the theme "Converting COVID-19 Challenges to Opportunities in T&I Planning and Execution."

CMS director Eyad A. Al-Basrawi opened the first-of-its-kind virtual technical exchange by emphasizing the importance of maintenance, reliability, and asset integrity, even in difficult times by converting pandemic challenges into evolving best practices.

The event featured a number of experts speaking on a variety of topics, including:

- **Abdullah A. Al-Ghanim** from the Area IT Department on "The COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus"
- **Anas S. AlbuZaid** on "T&I Challenges and Solutions at the Safaniyah Offshore Producing Department"

- **Dahem A. Al-Hajri** from the Manifa Producing Department on "Safe and Successful Completion of Gas-Oil Separation Plant T&I"

- **Jesus Docabo Pereira** from Loss Prevention on "COVID-19 Health, Safety, and Environment Considerations for T&I"

- **Jonathon L. Miller** from CMS on "T&I Group Virtual Migration as a T&I Business Continuity Response to COVID-19." Miller also discussed the virtual peer review process and spot checks, as well as the use of online schedule assistance.

- **Pravinkumar Patil** on "Hawiyah NGL Plant Gas Treat T&I Challenges"

- **Johann De Leon Chediak** and **Basil A. Milibari** from the Jazan Refinery Maintenance Department on the "T&I Scheduling System"

- **Ahmed A. Al-Kholy** from the Ras Tanura Cluster Shared Services Department on "J85 Visbreaker T&I Critical Path Scope."

An online Skype survey at the close of the event showed strong satisfaction with the new exchange platform, as it allowed a broad sharing of important information. In closing, Saleh Al-Zahrani thanked participants and organizers, urging further use of technology mediated solutions and process adaptation.



# everybody loves a ...

Ithra driven to bring 'Id celebration to homebound in Eastern Province neighborhoods



Residents in al-Khobar, Dammam, and Dhahran respond to the first-ever 'Id parade organized by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) over the holiday. The seven-hour Ithra parade featured decorated wagons making their way through different neighborhoods in al-Khobar, Dhahran, Dammam, Sihat, and al-Qatif over the course of four days, from May 24 to 27. (Photos: Ahmed AlThanilIthra)

As part of its 'Id al-Fitr celebrations, the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) launched a roaming cultural parade through the neighborhoods of the Eastern Province.

A first-time initiative, the seven-hour Ithra parade featured decorated wagons making their way through different neighborhoods in al-Khobar, Dhahran, Dammam, Saihat, and al-Qatif over the course of four days, May 24-27.

The parade consisted of four wagons that traveled to more than 34 neighborhoods in the Eastern Province in a bid to bring the homebound public neighborhood

celebrations to be enjoyed from the comfort of their own homes in times of physical distancing. As Ithra stands in solidarity with national efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, the parade sought to boost public moral amid these times of public closure, as well as to connect and engage the public through art and culture during the 'Id.

### floats feature various 'Id themes

Each parade float featured different celebratory themes

and traditions. The first float, the "Ardah Wagon," showcased the traditional Saudi *ardah* dance.

The second float, the "Candy Wagon," hosted colorful mascots waving to crowds at home.

The third float, the "Theater Wagon," displayed a variety of musical performances by local musicians.

And the fourth float,

the "Fisherman Wagon," symbolic of prominent Eastern Province culture seafaring traditions, featured maritime-themed music.

Ithra is a creative and cultural destination striving to ignite cultural curiosity, explore knowledge and inspire creativity through the power of ideas, imagination, and innovation. Ithra champions Saudi culture on the world stage and delivers contemporary, historical, and traditional global culture experiences to local audiences.



## Ithra's outstanding content featured in 'What's Up' digital quarantine

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) and its many online cultural activities were recently highlighted in the June 2020 edition of the Theritage Concierge's online magazine "What's Up."

The interactive PDF's Quarantine Lifestyle third edition featured a short biography on Ithra, its physical offerings, and a link to a 3-D virtual tour, as well as another link to a promotional YouTube video. Listed in the magazine's Museums section, Ithra was joined by a number of other cultural outposts, including the J. Paul

Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the National Gallery in London, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Tokyo National Museum in Japan, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The magazine, which was specifically developed with the homebound in mind as its audience, features a number of categories, including Museums, Travel from the Sofa, Online Classes, Apps, For the Little Ones, Well-being, Read-On, TV Series & Movies, and more.

Also highlighted was Ithra Connect, the online initiative designed to give users ac-

cess to a broad swath of digital content that was launched in response to the COVID-19 virus. The magazine provides a direct link to the Ithra Connect portal, which in turn provides access to talks, webinars, interactive journals, blogs, a free online library and a YouTube channel that is rich with art, culture, and creative content from Ithra's museum collection, creative season "Tanween," kids programs, and more.

The first edition of The Quarantine Lifestyle reached more than 5 million people from over 100 countries.





# make it real

In our Kingdom, thousands of diabetics cannot afford a simple device that monitors their blood sugar levels, essential for treatment management.

**You can help.**



**x2** You donate. We match.  
Our impact multiplies.

Please contribute to one or more of three charitable causes:

## Social

- Orphans
- Widows
- Prisoners' Families

## Medical

- Blood Sugar Monitoring Devices
- Dialysis Machines
- Cancer Patients Support

## Educational

- Education Supplies
- Virtual Learning
- Educational Programs

Each cause benefits those in need. Whichever you choose, your donation will be matched 100% by Saudi Aramco.

Contribute today through MyHome.



تبرع الآن  
Donate Now  
CSR@aramco.com

