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in this issue

against stiff competition Aramco wins IoT World Award

The only oil and gas company shortlisted from the hundreds of nominations for Internet of Things World Award recognition, Aramco wins with EXPEC ARC's Camera-Based Well Space Out technology.
see page 3

CTO talks sustainability and the future of Aramco

Aramco chief technology officer Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter speaks about our strategy of reducing emissions, technology we've created to achieve that, and how the company will look in 50 years.
see page 5

start to finish: 10 million reasons to celebrate safety in Hawiyah

For nearly two full years, crews on the Hawiyah Gas Plant worked day in, day out without injury, accumulating 10 million safe man-hours.
see page 2

Extraordinary Ordinary #everyday campaign puts real, positive face on the region

A new social media movement looks to capture moments the news media often miss — images of what it's really like to live and work in the Middle East.
see pages 8 and 9

everyone's behavior matters



if you have a **fever, cough, or difficulty breathing**, avoid coming to work and call your healthcare provider immediately.



Maintain physical distance by **keeping a distance of 2 meters** from others.



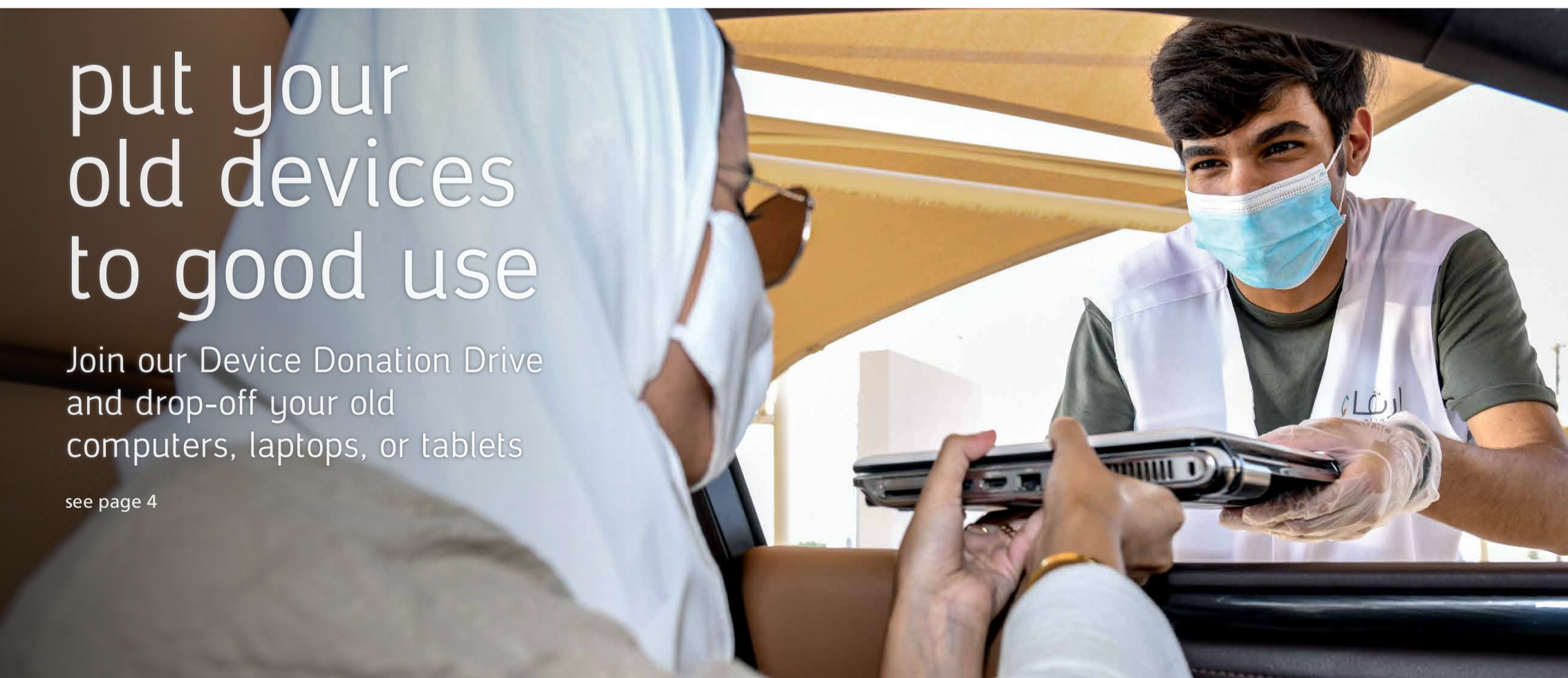
wear face masks in the workplace at all times.

see page 3

put your old devices to good use

Join our Device Donation Drive and drop-off your old computers, laptops, or tablets

see page 4



Faisal A. Al-Hajji appointed as executive director of Community Services



Faisal A. Al-Hajji

Dhahran — Faisal A. Al-Hajji has been appointed as the executive director of Community Services, effective September 1, 2020.

Al-Hajji joined Saudi Aramco as a participant in the College Degree Program for Non-Employees (CDPNE) in 1992, beginning a career that took him on a journey that would see him serve in a variety of leadership roles.

Early in 1998, Al-Hajji took the role as an operation engineer in Southern Area Oil Operations, moving within various operations engineering units in 'Uthmaniyah, Hawiyah, and Mubarraz, followed by a position as foreman for Oil and Gas Operations in the Haradh Producing Department in 2003.

Between 2003 and 2008, Al-Hajji worked as an engineer in various roles, including project management senior

engineer on a variety of projects, including the Khurais mega-project. He was part of the commissioning team. Later, Al-Hajji was appointed as head of Engineering, Maintenance and Operations for the Khurais and Central Arabia Fields, ensuring reliable, safe, and environmentally compliant maintenance and operations for the world's largest oil field.

In 2010, Al-Hajji joined Corporate Planning, where he served as a coordinator for the company's business plan. In 2011, Al-Hajji became an assistant to the executive head of the Upstream Planning and Performance Management Department.

In 2014, he took his first acting manager position with Planning and Performance Management, when he was appointed as manager of the Business

Service Line with Upstream Planning and Performance.

In 2016, Al-Hajji became chief operating officer of Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH).

In 2018, Al-Hajji was appointed acting general manager of Training and Development, a role that became permanent in January 2019.

Before his present appointment with Community Services, he served as acting executive director.

Al-Hajji has completed various high-level leadership training courses over the years. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arizona, and is a graduate of several advanced management programs, including the Columbia Business School, the Wharton School, and the Oxford Energy Seminar.

a huge achievement in safety workers record 10 million safe man-hours in record Hawiyah Gas Plant expansion project



Members of the Gas Plant Projects and Hawiyah Gas Plant (HGP) departments join vendor Snamprogetti in celebrating the completion of the HGP expansion project with 10 million safe man-hours.



The expansion project will provide additional processing capacity of 1.070 billion standard cubic feet per day (Bscfd) of gas to efficiently meet the Kingdom's energy demand and will raise the total capacity of HGP to about 3.70 Bscfd, making it one of the largest gas plants in the world.

by Ahmad Al-Qudaihi

Hawiyah — Aramco's Gas Plant Projects and Hawiyah Gas Plant (HGP) departments recently celebrated the completion of the HGP expansion project with 10 million man-hours without injury since construction works began in October 2018. This achievement was realized as part of the efforts made by the company's various departments to ensure a safe working environment for all its employees and contractors taking part in the project.

Eyad Gartly, acting manager of the Wasit-Jafurah NGL Fractionation Project Department, commended the continued coordination and collaboration across organizations, as well as the team spirit among all participating departments that contributed greatly to this accomplishment.

Rashed Al-Dossary, HGP manager, em-

phasized the workforce's critical commitment to safety rules from the very start of the project until completion, noting only by elevating safety among all considerations is such an accomplishment realized.

To conclude the event, Ali Al-Shehri, manager of the HGP expansion project said the achievement is a true testament of the commitment to a culture of safety — one of our core values. He noted that the main objective has always been to implement the project without injury or damage.

The expansion project will provide additional processing capacity of 1.070 billion standard cubic feet per day (Bscfd) of gas to efficiently meet the Kingdom's energy demand and will raise the total capacity of HGP to about 3.70 Bscfd, making it one of the largest gas plants in the world.

everyone's behavior matters

wear a mask, keep your distance, and stay home if you have symptoms

One thing that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is that our health as a community depends on the behavior of each and every individual. Each of us has a responsibility to maintain the behaviors that have kept us and our families safe through the past few months, and now that most of us have returned to our offices, we must maintain this responsibility to keep ourselves and our colleagues safe.

The company is doing its part, carrying out intensive sanitization in our workplaces, maintaining physical distances between workstations, and checking temperatures of employees at security gates. But the hard-fought battle against COVID-19 doesn't stop there. We all have a role to play in keeping our colleagues,

our communities, and our operations safe.

Although the vast majority of employees are adhering to COVID-19 safety regulations, it only takes one careless action to endanger the health of many.

Recognize symptoms of COVID-19. If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, avoid coming to work, call your health care provider immediately.

For the foreseeable future, these safe behaviors that were outlined by the Ministry of Health in coordination with Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare, will be a part of our daily lives. Failure to abide by them will be treated as violations.

So the message is clear — for all of our sakes, keep your distance, wear a mask, and stay safe.



➤ **Recognize symptoms:** if you have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider immediately.



➤ **Wear a face mask:** it is mandatory that all employees, contractors, and SMPs wear protective face masks in the workplace at all times.



➤ **Maintain physical distance:** keep a distance of 2 meters from others.



➤ **Wash your hands:** wash your hands with soap and water for 40 to 60 seconds.



➤ **Don't touch your face:** avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



➤ **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.



➤ **Stay informed:** follow the healthcare provider's advice. Avoid rumors and the spread of incorrect information in social media and the news.

against stiff competition Aramco wins IoT World Award

Aramco was recently awarded the Best Internet of Things (IoT) Energy Deployment Award at the virtual IoT World Awards ceremony, one of the largest IoT conferences and exhibitions in the world, and a top event on the technology calendar at Silicon Valley, California, in the U.S.

Aramco was one of 80 companies and the only oil and gas company shortlisted from more than 600 nominations, and a winner in one of the 16 categories with its "Camera-Based Well Space Out" technology.

standing tall against stiff competition

Aramco went head to head with specialized companies competing against technology giants such as Amazon, IBM, Dell, Siemens, Belkin, Schneider Electric and tech companies funded by Google and Microsoft.

Ashraf M. Al-Tahini, manager of the EXPEC Advanced Research Center (ARC), weighed in on this major achievement, saying "competing and winning against major technology companies on their own turf means we are heading in the right direction."

Al-Tahini further added that "the award is part of a firm commitment by EXPEC ARC to build a sustainable, world-class digital ecosystem at Aramco that can stand tall not only among energy companies, but also among all industrial and technology sectors worldwide."

The patented Camera-Based Well Space Out system was developed by EXPEC ARC in collaboration with Drilling and Workover (D&W) and Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV) invested company FogHorn Systems.

This first-ever field deployment of an edge-based IoT platform on a drilling rig in Saudi Arabia utilizes camera-based analytics to provide the operational crew an advanced control that allows a prompt automated response to a blowout preventer shut-in request.

SAEV CEO Mahdi F. Al Adel said, "We are delighted that our investment into FogHorn Systems has helped catalyze the cooperation between EXPEC ARC, FogHorn Systems, and D&W, enabling a successful development and deployment of technology in our upstream business."

proof is in the digital transformation

This technology was conceived as a proof-of-concept for the

Drilling at the Edge (DATE) program in EXPEC ARC. DATE is a major technology initiative where the people, algorithms, data, machines, and processes existing on a drilling rig, (i.e., at the edge) are coordinated around real-time information to accelerate decision making and optimize operations.

Nasir K. Al Naimi, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development, said, "This award recognizes Upstream Digital Transformation strategy to develop and utilize new technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of our operations." Al Naimi also added that "being recognized at this forum is a testament to our commitment to develop and deploy technologies that may, at first glance, appear to be far-removed from the global Upstream energy sector."

The technology was also awarded the 2019 Middle East Oil and Gas Technical Innovation of the Year award, and was selected as a finalist at both the 2019 IoT Global Awards and the 2020 Global Energy Awards.

EXPEC ARC is expanding its DATE IoT portfolio by developing new initiatives here in Dhahran and at its global research centers. Leveraging advancement in DATE processing technology empowers not only the drilling industry, but also the petroleum industry in making time-sensitive, critical decisions in real-time, in the field, closer to operations.

Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, senior vice president of Upstream, said, "We look at our investment in the digital transformation of oil field operations as a necessity. Our Upstream digital ecosystem helps us secure our competitive advantage and ensure that we are well equipped for future challenges. It is one more tool we use toward maximum optimization and value creation."



المواطنة
العطاء المجتمعي
Citizenship
Community Giving



he can't learn at home

without the right tools

Put your old devices to good use and help schoolchildren in need.

School kids in the Kingdom can't attend virtual classrooms or perform their studies if they don't have the tools.



Drop Location



Join our **Device Donation Drive** and drop-off your old computers, laptops, or tablets. We will be collecting your donations next to Al Midra Gate, during business days only from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., from Sunday, September 6, to Thursday, September 17.

In collaboration with:



www.ertiqa.org



donating devices for A+ remote learning connecting in-need school students to virtual education

by Janet Pinheiro

Dhahran — It is back to school for Saudi students, but with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, students must attend classes virtually from their homes.

Unfortunately, not all students have access to remote devices.

To support access to virtual schooling, Aramco has invited employees to donate their used or old devices for restoration into remote learning devices for in-need school students across the Kingdom.

In addition to the computers, laptops, tablets and other devices gifted to the "Device Donation Initiative," the company is also donating thousands of new devices.

The campaign is expected to enable thousands of students in need to attend virtual classes and perform their lessons.

Omar T. Bader, acting director of Corporate Citizenship, said the initiative reflects the company's vital role to support our communities, especially those who are in need.

"Citizenship is a firm principle through which the company seeks to devote the necessary resources and capabilities to serve the community," said Bader. "For our school students to attend lessons remotely from home, they require a device, and through this initiative, Aramco is encouraging its employees to actively engage in a pressing community need.

"Through our people, we are demonstrating our spirit of compassion and generosity during a time when it's needed most," he said.

giving to keep communities safe

Aramco's citizenship strategy includes creating opportunities for employees to contribute toward resolving community needs, and Corporate Citizenship Strategy and Communication acting supervisor Rehab Makhloog said the device donation campaign was a seamless way for employees to get involved.

"Aramco has made it quick and easy for its people to donate a device that will go into a student's home so they can continue their learning," said Makhloog.

"Our people's generosity will have a big impact on making sure in-need school students can learn at home with the right tools to access remote learning," she added.

After sanitization, used devices are either rebuilt for provision to school students across the Kingdom, or utilized for spare parts.

"Keeping communities safe during the pandemic is a top priority for Aramco," Makhloog noted.

empowering people to protect the planet

Reusing devices is a win-win for both education and the environment, as recycling reduces our environmental footprint.

Whether it is a laptop, desktop, printer, smartphone, or peripherals such as mice, keyboards, monitors, or webcams, most devices are welcome, no matter the device



Aramco employees are helping in-need school students across the Kingdom to access virtual schooling by donating their used or old devices at dedicated drop-off stations located near the Al Midra Gate in Dhahran. (Photo: Ding/MPD)

age or condition.

Older machines will be used as spare parts, and any unused parts will be discarded in an eco-friendly way to reduce landfill.

device drop-off location and instructions

The campaign is being run in cooperation with the Charitable Society for Rehabilitation of Computers, "Ertiqa."

Ertiqa, the only charity recognized by Microsoft for qualifying devices in the Middle East and North Africa, is an approved charity to collect digital donations from govern-

ment agencies, adopting the concept of preserving digital grace and donating used computers.

Donated devices will be received through Sept. 17 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on business days, devices can be dropped at the dedicated drop-off stations located near the Al Midra Gate in Dhahran.

Donors are asked to place their device for recycling inside a disposable bag or case, along with a piece of paper with their full name and phone number.

To protect privacy, all data on all devices will be wiped to be nonrecoverable.

WIRED

CTO talks sustainability and the future of Aramco

Aramco chief technology officer Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter speaks with *Wired* magazine about our strategy of reducing emissions, technology we've created to achieve that, and how the company will look in 50 years.

W: What is Aramco's broad strategy on reducing emissions?

AOK: We believe that sustainability is a core part of our business today. We are investing, looking at sustainability as being compatible with our industry. And that's our focus: How do we make sustainable, but also business decisions that are profitable as well. So our focus has always been on developing new technologies that can change the equation, and making sustainability a good business practice. We spend about 30% of our research dollars on sustainability technologies that range from crude to chemicals all the way to carbon capture, and sequestration and conversion of CO₂ to value. So we have a broad range of research efforts. And the goal of those research efforts is to make sustainability good business.

W: How much of an impact have those initiatives had?

AOK: I'll speak about the past. This is not new for Aramco; we have been investing in sustainability in different forms. Sustainability today means, for example, a reduced carbon footprint. But in the past sustainability, for us, meant reduced environmental impact in a much broader sense.

A perfect example is our stranded gas program. In the 1970s, Saudi Aramco was the first major oil company to capture stranded gas, which was being released and burned — which was the economic, good decision at the time — and invest in new technologies that converted that stranded asset into value. That converted it to chemicals (that helped produce the feedstock that) created one of the largest chemicals businesses in the world — SABIC. That was done by taking natural gas that was flared, and investing billions of dollars to collect that gas, and then using very unproven technologies to convert that gas into chemicals.

That's the way we look at CO₂ today. We see it as a waste product that is environmentally harmful. And we would like to see it turned into a product of value, and convert it to create greater bottom-line value. And that's why we look at ways of utilizing that CO₂ waste product. We have a lot of research projects right now. One takes CO₂ and converts it into polymers. And that's being scaled up as we speak — we're commercializing that technology, and we have products in the market today on a

small scale, and we hope to scale that up, and make it larger.

W: Are any of those technologies proprietary to Aramco?

AOK: We have a number of in-house proprietary technologies that we are developing today, in collaboration with partners in many cases. With these kind of high-risk technologies, it serves us well to collaborate, and to share the burden or the risk.

(One) example is completely proprietary — the mobile carbon capture. We have pioneered the ability to capture CO₂ on board vehicles, and then take that CO₂ and utilize it, either in conversion to valuable chemicals, or into other uses such as cement and concrete. So those are the kind of technologies we're adopting and developing.

Going back to the history of Aramco. We've captured our methane for years. And that's actually contributed tremendously to reducing our overall carbon footprint relative to the industry. Saudi Aramco has the lowest carbon footprint per barrel in the world, at 10.2 kilograms of CO₂ per barrel of oil.

W: Obviously there are some less favorable headlines in terms of Aramco being "the world's biggest polluter."

AOK: We take exception to that, because we don't see that at all. Quite the opposite: we see ourselves as the world's biggest energy supplier.

If you look at things purely in a linear sense, which is basically that we take resources, we make them into products which are consumed, and burned perhaps, and the waste product CO₂ is emitted into the atmosphere — that looks like, basically, an incompatible business model, given the carbon constraints that the world has committed to. If you look at that in a linear way ... then yes, you will come to the same conclusion that there is no "clean" future for oil.

But we look at it much differently; we look at it as a circular economy, which we feel has not been emphasized enough. I mentioned the circularity of methane, for example, where we take methane rather than burning it, and convert it, over the last 40 or 50 years, into valuable products. And we think that the same can happen with CO₂.

W: A lot of people accuse big oil companies of greenwashing. What is your response to that, and in 50 years' time will you have proved those doubters wrong?

AOK: I believe our environmental track record has been one of the best in the world in terms of, as I've mentioned, flaring and efficiency. And our carbon footprint today is the lowest in the world [among] many major national oil companies, by far — I'm not talking about 1 or 2%. ... There is a huge opportunity for those best practices to be adopted by others, so that we can really have a dramatic impact on the industry's overall emissions. We have to be part of the solution. We are the drivers of much of the world's energy, and if we don't take this seriously, it won't change. If we're not on side, the energy transformation will not happen as efficiently or as fast as it could.

W: Paint a picture of how Saudi Aramco will look in the year 2070.

AOK: We see chemicals as a huge future for us, and we see a large share of our oil going into chemicals in the next 50 years. ... I believe we are also going to be big in hydrogen (and) we are going to see a much larger role for carbon capture and utilization in our industry. I think we are the best placed to do that — we have the technology, we have the talent, the people, that knowhow ... We believe we are going to be part of that transformation; we are going to be a much more diversified business — it's natural that we will be. And we still feel that there will be a large market for hydrocarbons, but they will be sustainable hydrocarbons that have to be coupled with stationary carbon capture, mobile carbon capture, and ultimately, direct air capture.

“

We see chemicals as a huge future for us, and we see a large share of our oil going into chemicals in the next 50 years. And we still feel that there will be a large market for hydrocarbons.

— Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter



See full article



driven to discovery

Aramco geophysical consultant wins global award for integrating AI into exploration efforts

by Janet Pinheiro

Dhahran — Tackling challenging research into reservoir monitoring has earned international recognition for EXPEC Advanced Research Center senior geophysical consultant Daniele Colombo.

One of the world's largest professional geological societies, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, has awarded Colombo this year's "Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award." The annual award recognizes a singular achievement in petroleum geoscience research.

Included in Colombo's acknowledgment was his work into reservoir monitoring with 3-D surface-to-borehole electromagnetic (EM) techniques — a waterflood monitoring technology developed by Colombo at EXPEC ARC, and protected by international patents owned by Aramco.

Colombo describes reservoir fluid movements as intricate.

"It is actually really difficult to remotely sense how fluids in oil and gas fields are moving," he said. "Fluids leave extraordinary signatures when we measure them with electromagnetic methods."

Colombo says there are many important aspects to consider when performing geophysical monitoring.

"The fluids dynamically change due to production, and we strive to maintain our knowledge of the reservoir's movement with remote geophysical tracking sensing," he noted.

using artificial intelligence for integration

Behind receiving the award, Colombo cites his passion for integrating geoscience data as the future for better petroleum exploration, and reservoir monitoring and management.

Data, generated using EM and sound



One of the world's largest professional geological societies, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, has awarded Aramco's Daniele Colombo this year's "Robert R. Berg Outstanding Research Award." Included in Colombo's acknowledgment was his work into reservoir monitoring with 3-D surface-to-borehole electromagnetic techniques — a waterflood monitoring technology developed by Colombo at EXPEC ARC. (Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD)

waves, is combined to create the framework for monitoring reservoir fluids.

Colombo advises collaboration to integrate all these data sources together.

"Reservoir monitoring and management comes from several different sources of data," Colombo said. "Taken individually, the data does not typically explain the whole situation."

Colombo has been investigating quantitative multiparameter inversion techniques for the past 20 years. He advises that data integration is the key future opportunity in reservoir studies, "whether through integration of conventional methods, or through machine learning techniques."

"The specific challenge of fluid monitoring also represents a big opportunity for electromagnetic-based methods, as well as

for seismic integration and joint inversion," Colombo said. "Currently, I am working on borehole sensor development based on capacitive electric field measurements, and fiber optic EM measurements, for permanent installations in the reservoir."

"That work doesn't happen accidentally or alone," he added.

standout Aramco success

When asked about the most notable work he has been part of at Aramco, Colombo says the surface-to-borehole EM experiment was monumental.

"It took several years of preparation, simulation studies and engineering developments for the source and receivers before implementation in an active well," Colombo said, adding that what helped was the



The more difficult the challenge, the more interesting the problem to solve.

— Daniele Colombo

accurate simulations performed. "We spent a large amount of time analyzing all the variables before conducting an experiment that had never been tried before."

Also pointing to the outside-of-the-box Aramco technology "pQC" for near surface seismic analysis, Colombo said this is performed in a fraction of the time needed by conventional approaches to enhance imaging deep into the subsurface.

also a company honor

Colombo, an Italian native and graduate of Universita' degli Studi di Milano who joined Aramco 12 years ago, said he was both honored and humbled to receive the award.

"It really is recognition toward the Reservoir Multiphysics Team in EXPEC ARC, and the many impressive fields managed by Aramco."

For Colombo, his passion for geosciences, and especially geophysics, equates to enduring personal drive, "The more difficult the challenge, the more interesting the problem to solve."

meet FiRAs

Finance digital transformation continues as robotic assistant looks to streamline more mechanical tasks

Dhahran — FiRAs has joined Finance.

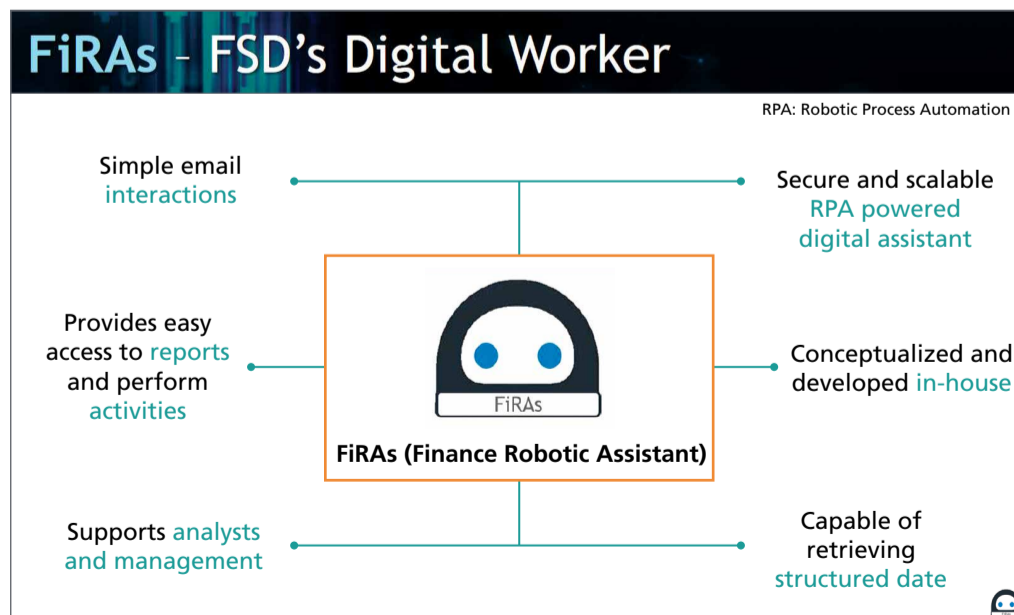
And employees in all business lines are seeking FiRAs' help to access key reports.

Finance Strategy and Development (FS&D) recently welcomed FiRAs (which stands for Finance Robotic Assistant) as its first digital employee. A secure and scalable robotic assistant, FiRAs automates repetitive manual activities such as monitoring financial data updates, extracting and emailing reports, among others.

The solution is conceptualized and developed by Digital Finance Office (DFO) staff using the recently established Robotic Process Automation infrastructure by Digital Transformation (DT) and Information Technology (IT).

Presently, FiRAs is capable of:

- Extracting and emailing business plan reports to all planning and project management analysts and chief position holders
- Reconciling master data such as planning hierarchies, and notifying changes appropriately



- Monitoring financial data access controls, and notifying management.

FiRAs was launched in late August and within a week of the launch, the robotic

assistant provided more than 300 reports to more than 120 users via email.

FiRAs benefits include **security** (real time authorization checks and audit trail),

efficiency (replacement of time-consuming system activities with emails) and **reliability** (reduced human intervention for reports).

Musaad Sayouhi, general manager of the Planning, Budgeting and Performance Management Center, said that "FiRAs will be a key contributor to raising FS&D's digital maturity." Sayouhi further emphasized that FiRAs was built with security in mind.

As one user noted: "FiRAs is a novel concept that lets me access key business plan reports securely round the clock. On several occasions, it has saved me the effort of logging in outside working hours to check on the status of the business plan."

Another noted, "FiRAs is a great idea that will save a lot of time and be a valuable asset to supervisors."

You can get started with using FiRAs by sending a blank email with subject "firas" to g-firas@exchange.aramco.com.sa. For further details, contact the DFO (email group: DFO Team) within the Business Intelligence Solutions Department.

ready & able

playing our part in protecting the marine environment in the Red Sea

by Muhammad A. Saber

Jazan — Protecting our environment is everyone's responsibility, and Aramco takes its accountabilities seriously.

Working with the Ministry of Energy and key government and industry organizations, the company recently participated in a major oil spill drill off the coast of Jazan.

With safety and preparedness, the overarching themes, the drill was designed to enhance safety and protection of the Red Sea environment. The General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection (GAMEP) chaired the drill with more than 20 pivotal government and industrial organizations in support. These stakeholders included members of Aramco's Marine, Aviation and Government Affairs Departments, which all contributed in their own area of expertise.

Such expansive drills allow participants to demonstrate and observe live time conduct of spill response operations and analyze how to best coordinate and integrate with a wide array of agencies. Furthermore, drills of this magnitude broaden the national capabilities in effectively eliminating or reducing the overall impact of potential oil spills on economic and ecological systems.

This specific scenario was in response to a hypothetical crude oil slick drifting from the South Red Sea toward Saudi waters. In response, the company dispatched three dedicated Marine Department op-



(Below) The Midyan and Maridive 7000 deploy a boom during drill activities in the Red Sea; (above) Aerial support provided by Aramco aviation approaches the Maridive 7000 during the simulation; (right) crews deploy a boom into the waters as employees in Aramco's Marine Department play a critical role in the oil spill drill; (below) a containment boom and skimmer are deployed as part of the multi-agency drill conducted recently near Jazan.

erated oil spill response vessels, which provided a vast expanse of containment and recovery equipment.

Additional oil spill resources were mobilized from other areas to enhance Jazan capabilities and support the response efforts to the "simulated" large spill, which included Aviation's air tractor for aerial dispersant spray. Meanwhile, the Marine Regional Oil Spill Coordinator-Red Sea and the deputy manager of Government Affairs-West Province were in attendance at the GAMEP Emergency Command Center.

Offshore response activities were observed by management and representatives from across Aramco's Industrial Services, including acting executive director Fahad M. Al-AbdulKareem.

"Given the Marine Department expertise in coordinating mega oil spill drills such as the one conducted in the same area in January 2019, the company again demonstrated its unmatched oil spill response capabilities, earning the trust and recognition of key government authorities," Al-AbdulKareem said.

The company's participation was highly commended.

Marine acting manager Aziz S. Al-Qarni concurred, stating that "the drill demonstrated the company's proven leadership in oil spill preparedness and response capabilities."



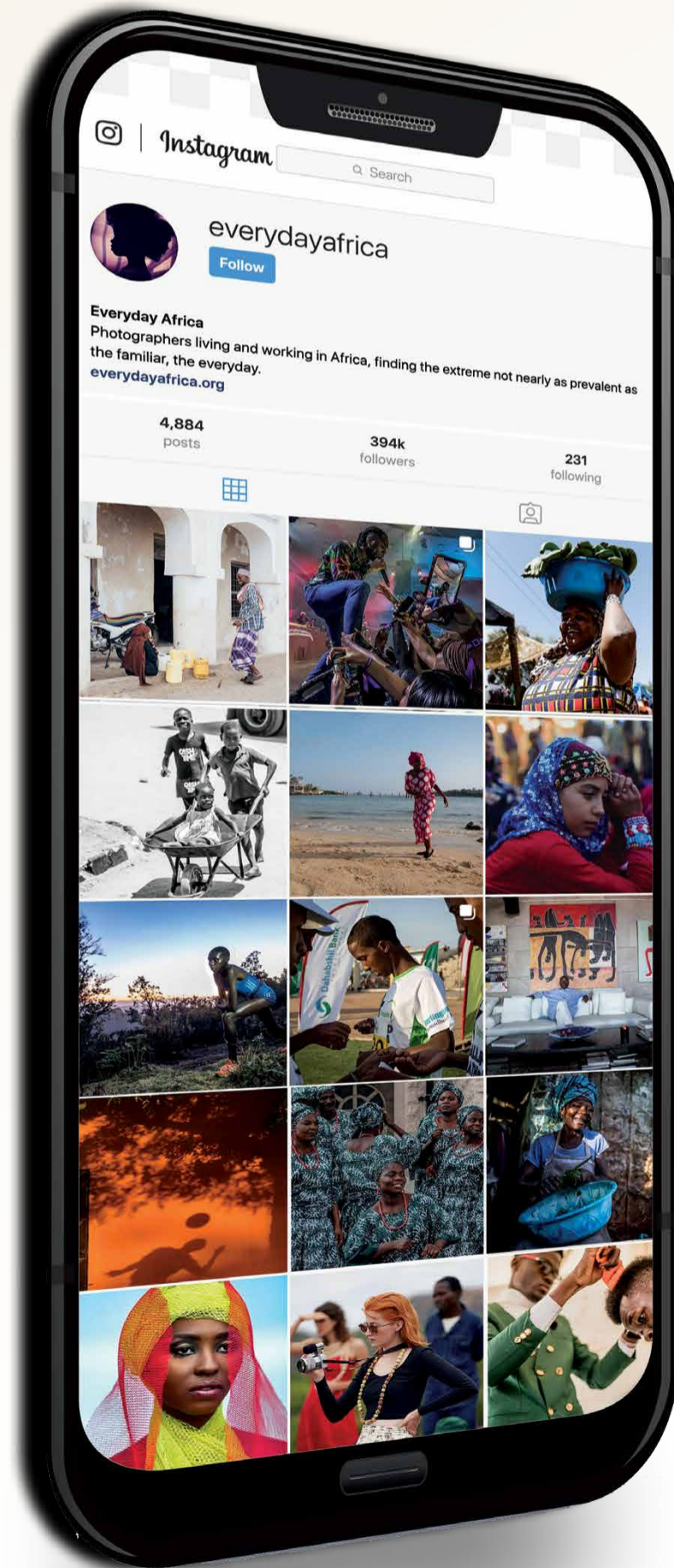
The Extraordinary Ordinary

#everyday

by Mae Ghalwash Reprinted from May/June 2019 edition of AramcoWorld



To read more AramcoWorld stories, download the newest version of the AramcoWorld App at the Apple App Store and Google Play.



Jefferson Middle School Academy students pose with Everyday Projects co-founder Austin Merrill, at the opening of the exhibition "Everyday DC" at Pepco Edison Place Gallery in Washington, D.C. The students were among 150 who documented daily life in the District of Columbia in what is now a three-year-old annual educational and photographic event.

When picturing the Middle Eastern and Muslim worlds, it can be difficult to see beyond news images covering politics and crises. And yet, every day — literally — dedicated photojournalists, eager to tell the whole story of those lands, are doing just that on Instagram.

Through accounts like @everydaymiddleeast, @everydayafg (Everyday Afghanistan), and @everydayamericanmuslim, scores of photographers are posting pictures and videos that capture moments that news stories simply don't have room for — the day-to-day situations of life, be they joyous, harsh, traditional, provocative or just plain mundane. The images are extraordinary in that they capture the ordinary — like the photo of female university students in Iraq crowding a vendor to purchase schoolbooks; the shot of children flying through the air on the swings of a handmade carousel in Afghanistan; and the image of a family in Saudi Arabia sitting down to a holiday meal in their backyard.

@everydayafg
Gorgeous! Wish it brings more people to the region

The founders and curators of the feeds present day-to-day situations they envision will help break down stereotypes through images of relatable human situations. This, they hope, will diminish fear among cultures and promote mutual understanding.

@everydayasia
Not sure I'll ever get to see this in person, so thanks for sharing

"The problem with stereotypes is not that they are entirely false or inaccurate, but that they are incomplete," says Austin Merrill, co-founder of The Everyday Projects, a nonprofit that houses the Everyday feeds, adding that the problem with traditional news coverage is that "it doesn't have room for everyday life."

Merrill, who was based in Cote d'Ivoire first as a journalist for The Associated Press and later as a volunteer with the Peace Corps, started the first Everyday account on Instagram, @everydayafrica, in 2012 with Peter DiCampo, then a freelance photojournalist based in Ghana, who had also served in the Peace Corps. Their goal, Merrill says, was to counterbalance the typical news stories from Africa — that they were also reporting — on war, famine, and disease. "Those stories were important," he says, "but we still felt like we were just piling on" to a crisis-oriented image of the continent.

Using iPhones, the pair began to document daily scenes around them and post their pictures through @everydayafrica. The account grew in popularity — it currently has 395,000 followers — and soon Everyday feeds began appearing from other places around the world.

"We weren't sure how to react" to the copycat accounts, says Merrill, "but then

we realized that it was exactly what we wanted. We wanted people to take the concept and apply it to the part of the world they lived in. It's more exciting to see where it will go rather than be over-protective of the idea."

@everydayafrica
Powerful words, beautiful photos.

It was so exciting that the pair began helping some of the other founders. In 2014, they worked with Instagram to bring the heads of several Everyday feeds to New York's annual Photoville photography festival, where they exhibited images, and two days later, agreed to join forces.

"We started The Everyday Projects as a nonprofit because in bringing all of these like-minded communities together, we saw the potential to use photography to combat stereotypes and disrupt media-driven media clichés worldwide," Merrill says.

The Everyday Projects is now an umbrella for 51 feeds from "Latin America to Asia, Australia to the Middle East, and Mumbai to the Bronx," according to its website, as well as topic-based accounts that include @everydayclimatechange, @everydaymigration, and @everydayextinction. The Everyday Projects has its own Instagram account, @everydayeverywhere, and it hosts a blog called Re-Picture. Merrill and DiCampo have started a curriculum for U.S. secondary schools that teaches about visual literacy and how to debunk stereotypes internationally. No one is paid. Each of the feeds and accompanying activities is a project of passion.

@everydayafg
Happiness in her eyes

Each account is independent, with its own curators and photojournalists, and they at times overlap. To become contributors, photojournalists must apply through the separate accounts. Amateur photographers may have their photos considered for reposting by adding the hashtag of a particular Everyday account.

At least 11 of the accounts focus on Middle Eastern lands or Muslim majority societies, and each has anywhere between 2,000 to 160,000 followers. True to the Everyday goal, the accounts feature barrages of universally relatable images, proving both commonalities and differences between cultures. Like the innocent love between a boy and his pet shown in an image from @everydaymiddleeast of a young Palestinian hugging



his blue-collared white dog on a beach in the Gaza Strip. Or, the photo on @everydaypakistan featuring a father capturing a phone picture of his smiling son standing in the splashing surf of a beach in Pakistan.

For Afghan photojournalist Farshad Usyan, who photographs the hardest of news stories for Agence France-Presse, @everydayafg offers the freedom to document the human stories beyond the violent images typically expected from his homeland. "News organizations are focused on hard news. Sometimes even five deaths are not news for agencies. While in my work, every individual and every feeling matters," says Usyan, a top contributor and curator of the feed since 2015.

@everydayegypt
Such marvelous images of strong, beautiful women.

Meanwhile, Jiddah-based photojournalist Iman Al-Dabbagh has earned a name on @everydaymiddleeast for her intimate images from Saudi Arabia, especially of women. Her pictures bring viewers into homes, living rooms, feast-laden tables, and backyards. She shows lighthearted pictures of little girls playing at a street festival, loving couples and mothers in sundresses cooing their babies. Her women are active: athletes stretching before a marathon; a group biking through Jiddah; a young woman riding a horse on a carousel, her young face framed by perfect brown curls.

"I wanted to show the world what I grew up with, as opposed to what's in the media," Al-Dabbagh says.



Zoshia Minto, a wedding photographer based in Maryland, launched @everydayamericanmuslim in late 2016, after being inspired by @everydayrefugees (which is independent of The Everyday Projects) and the storytelling power of its photographs. Her hope is to similarly serve her American Muslim community. "I wanted to show everyday life of Muslims in America, just to balance what we see in the media, to offer a different perspective," she says.

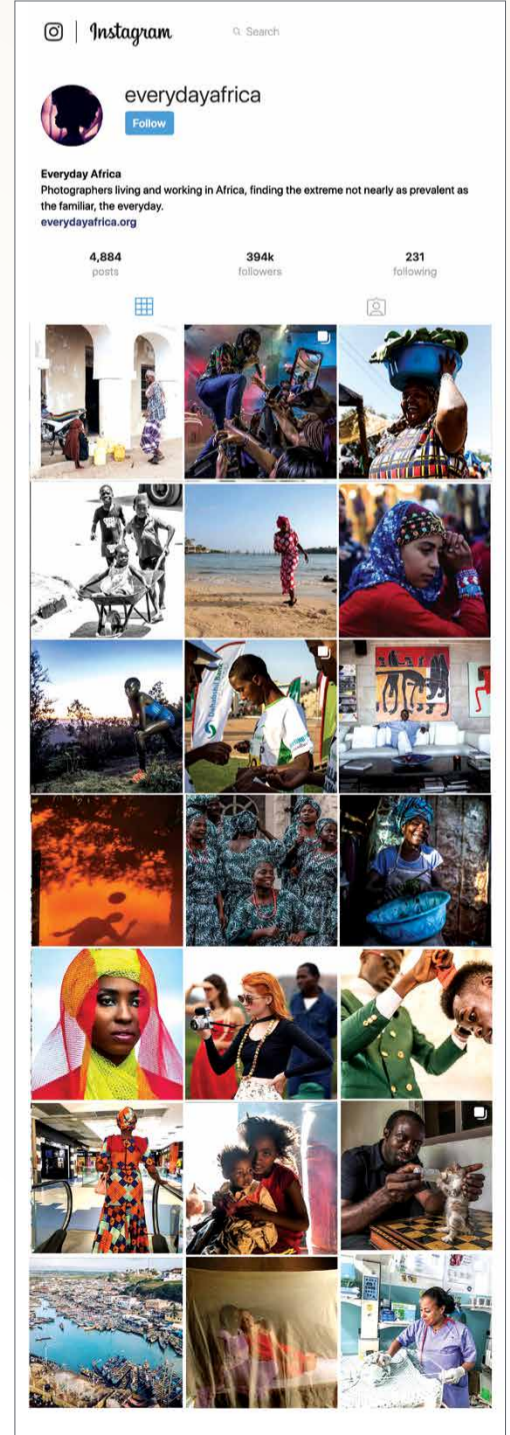
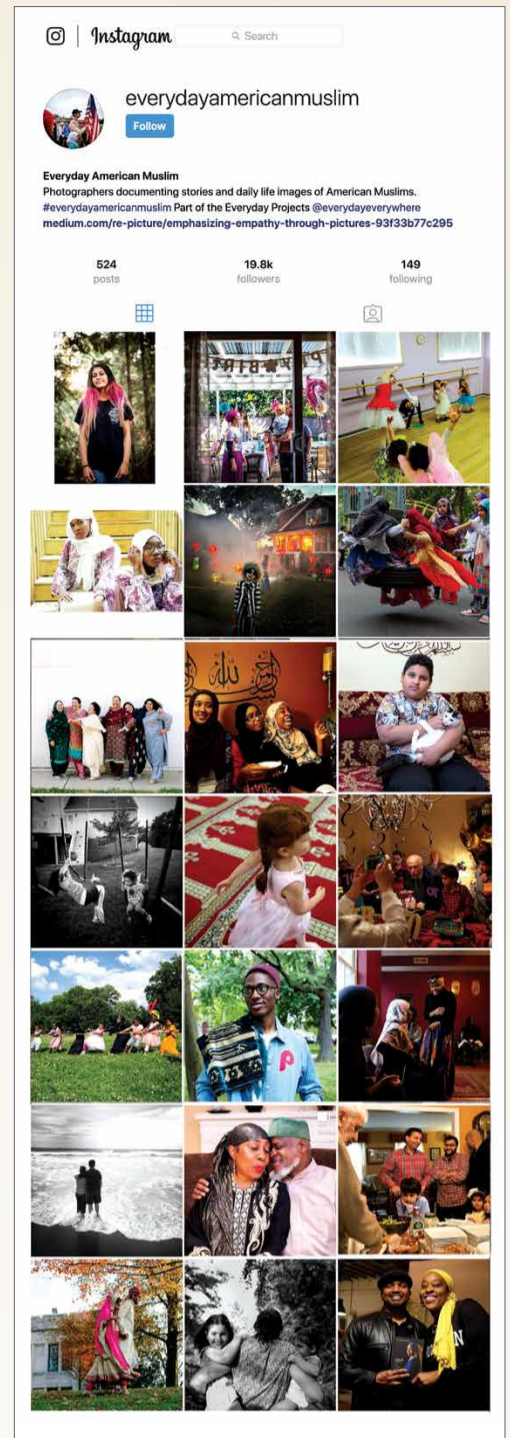
@everydayamericanmuslim
Love the joy on their faces!

Minto also uses the feed to create dialog within the Muslim community itself. She explains that American Muslims of immigrant backgrounds often view African American Muslims as outsiders. By including a plethora of images of African American Muslims, she hopes the feed will show the community's diversity and thereby increase communication.

The account @everydayamericanmuslim shows families on camping trips, at potluck parties, trick-or-treating, and praying in mosques as their children play alongside. It also shows portraits of women as fashionistas, athletes, professors, rappers, and entrepreneurs. One woman is a kickboxer: she sports a soft, pink headscarf and matching pink boxing gloves.

Minto says her hope "is that anyone looking at the images can find something in common in them."

Finding similarities between cultures is exactly what Merrill and DiCampo were aiming for. Through so many day-to-day images, "we can celebrate the commonalities," says Merrill. "It should make us understand each other."





"Student film" winners: from left to right: first award: Owdah; second award: First of Rajab; audience award: Red Circle.



it's a wrap

Ithra-hosted virtual Saudi Film Festival concludes with awards



The sixth Saudi Film Festival, hosted by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts in Dammam and supported by the Ministry of Culture's Film Commission, concluded on Sept. 6 with 13 awards given in the categories for Feature Films, Documentaries, and Student Films.

The six-day festival was broadcast live on YouTube due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Audience members were able to view live broadcasts of panel discussions with directors, and also had 24-hour access to 53 films. In addition, the festival received 177 scripts and gave awards to the top four of these scripts.

transforming an industry

Launched in 2008, the Saudi Film Festival has become the Kingdom's top showcase for talented Saudi filmmakers and a boost for the Kingdom's burgeoning film industry. Promoting creativity and entertainment is among the key goals of Saudi Vision 2030, spurring job growth, innovation, and the diversification of the Saudi economy.

Since its inception, Ithra has been a leading force in this social transformation, hosting film premieres and other

film festival by the numbers

Filmmakers
40 Males | 13 Females
Scripts
137 males | 40 females

programming. Ithra is also one of Saudi's leading film production houses. Its support of the growing Saudi film industry has given rise to multiple productions that have received accolades and awards at prestigious local and international film festivals. Several Ithra-produced movies are now being streamed via Netflix to viewers around the world.

To date, Ithra has produced 20 films that have received 15 local and international awards.

While 2020 has been a challenging year, as cinema halls around the Kingdom remain closed out of concern for health and safety, Ithra continues its support of local cinematic content creation by partnering up again with the Saudi Film Festival and screening original films.

"Film has been a bright point for Ithra, and the Center has absolutely been a launching point for the Saudi film industry," said Hussain N. Hanbazazah, acting director at Ithra.

Ithra's cinematic initiatives include regular meetings of the Ithra Film Society and the Saudi Film Days contest, a competitive platform for local cinematic production where works of the winners are made into reality.

"The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) works to enable creativity in the Kingdom and develop local content to rise to international standards in its continuous support for arts, especially cinema, with the sixth Saudi film festival being held virtually for the first time" said Abdullah K. Alrashid, division head for Programming at Ithra. "From this festival, we seek to lead the future of the Saudi film industry by providing a space for beginners and professionals, and creating an interactive environment for the exchange of ideas among creative people in the field of cinema, by developing the Saudi film industry and enhancing the cultural movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the most prominent local and international directors as well as artists."

For more about the Saudi Film Festival, Ithra's film programs and movies at the Ithra Cinema, visit www.ithra.com.

winners

long scripts

- first award: Scenarist
- second award: Eyal Qrayyah

short scripts

- first award: Screaming
- second award: Qumbar

student film

- first award: Owdah
- second award: First of Rajab
- audience award: Red Circle

documentary film

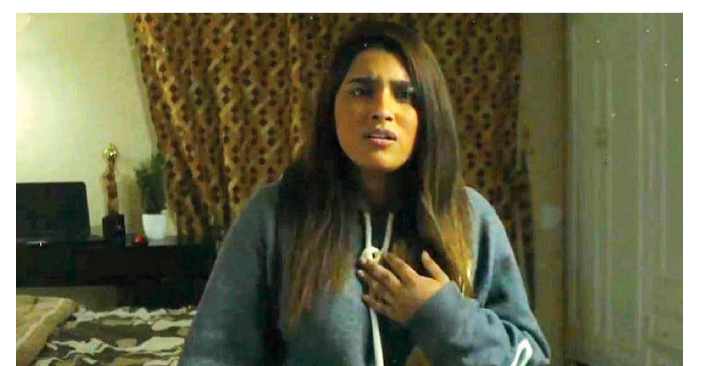
- first award: The Village
- second award: Hawas (Senses)
- audience award: Talal in Dakar

feature film

- first award: And When Do I Sleep?
- second award: Lumières
- audience award: Hajb (Blocked).



"Documentary film" winners: from left to right: first award: The Village; second award: Hawas (Senses); audience award: Talal in Dakar.



"Feature film" winners: from left to right: first award: And When Do I Sleep?; second award: Lumières; audience award: Hajb (Blocked).

made in the shade

Tree House Park a symbol of where community meets the environment

Abqaiq — Abqaiq, Aramco's first community, was founded in the 1940s. Since then, many things have changed, but at least one thing that remains is a tree that was planted when the community was founded.

The tree, the oldest in the community at about 80 years old, recently received some attention at the hands of Aramco staff.

To acknowledge the long history and the environment of the camp, a tree house was built around the tree. This tree house will act as a symbol to show that the community and the environment are as one, with the park in the surrounding area being renamed to "Tree House Park."

A beautiful plaque has been installed next to the tree house that visitors can read on their passing.



This tree was planted in 1940 when the Abqaiq community was first founded and a tree house was built in recognition of this being the oldest tree in Abqaiq.

This park will now be known as "Tree House Park".



Left: Staff from Abqaiq Community Services install the tree house plaque at the new Tree House Park area. The tree is the oldest in the Friendly City, having been there for about 80 years. Right: With a new plaque recounting its history and a new tree house from which it takes its name, Tree House Park pays tribute to Abqaiq's commitment to community and the environment.



photographic memory

A 1979 aerial view shows Aramco's three administration building sections, connected to the brand-new 10-story towers. Eight of the 10 floors housed 2,000 employees from 29 departments and divisions. Nearly all of Aramco's computer systems were operated from the towers. All of Aramco's oil, gas, and electrical dispatching was done from the second floor. A large circular dispatch display board enabled operators to see the board from their consoles. (Photo: G.R. Hunter)



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the arabian sun



Tree House Park: where community meets the environment

see page 11

beautification bounty 2,000 colorful trees planted in Abqaiq



Crews in Abqaiq plant colorful trees as part of the community's beautification efforts. Recently, Aramco planted about 2,000 trees in the Friendly City in an effort to beautify the community, as well as help boost oxygen levels, provide shade, reduce temperatures, and mitigate sand movement. (Photos: Ahmad Z. Tamimi)

by Stuart Reid, Abdullah A. Alsaad and Hussain A Aujaim

Abqaiq — Aramco cares about the environment, especially in the communities in which it works.

We show this in numerous ways, one of the most recent being in tree planting efforts in the Southern Area.

Trees are an important part of every community, our streets, parks and backyards are lined with trees that create a peaceful and pleasing environment. In

line with improving the quality of life in Abqaiq by bringing natural elements and by following strategic plans, such as identifying the right location, right plants, the Abqaiq Gardening Unit in the Southern Area/Central Region Community Services Department has planted more than 2,000 colorful trees and shrubs. These well-planted trees and shrubs, such as Bougainvilleas, Acacias, and Jetrophas, will give the community a new, fresher look.

In addition to the benefit of beautification, these planted trees will be part of Abqaiq's history and reflect its culture. As trees help boost oxygen levels in the air, they help create a healthier environment, and also aid in creating an environment for better moods and improved productivity for residents and visitors.

Also, in a place such as Abqaiq that is surrounded by the desert, trees help cool temperatures and minimize sand movement.

trees beautify golf course, open areas

A wonderfully large golf course that runs through the core of the community and plenty of open space provided ideal locations to plant trees. Management worked closely with the Ain Nakhl Golf Club self-directed group officers and golf consultant to determine the best locations to plant trees that would not only improve the environment, but would also improve the quality of the golf course.



Niagra's grandeur

Niagra Falls cuts an imposing figure in this photograph taken by Ghaida Ayidh. Ayidh, who works in Dhahran as a planning and performance analyst in International Operations, captured the image while on vacation in the U.S. Ayiah has been with the company since 2009.