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a weekly Aramco publication for employees

Company rolls out 2021-23 Business Plan

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Saudi Aramco 2020 Annual Excellence Awards

Saudi Aramco
2020
Annual
Excellence Awards

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relax, recharge

Company facilities offer ideal setting to recharge and relax

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Aramco continues progress in digital transformation with SAP strategic alliance

Dhahran — Aramco announced a strategic alliance with SAP Saudi Arabia earlier this week to expand the digitalization of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. The agreement with SAP is another step in Aramco's digital transformation journey, paving the way for further integration of new technologies in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

The SAP ERP system will deepen the deployment of innovative Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) technologies, including cloud-based services, embedded analytics, mobility, machine learning, artificial intelligence, advanced analytics, and Internet of Things solutions.

By extending the strategic alliance with SAP Saudi Arabia, Aramco's contribution to the in-Kingdom business ecosystem will be enhanced through job creation, training and by localizing supplier services and R&D. In addition to enabling greater efficiencies, SAP's Data Center in Saudi Arabia will offer new cloud solutions to Aramco and other companies.



Ahmad A. Al Sa'adi joins Yousef A. Al Ulyan, Aramco vice president of IT and Ahmad Al Fifi, SAP Middle East North Africa senior vice president and managing director during the signing ceremony.

Ahmad A. Al Sa'adi, Aramco senior vice president of Technical Services, said, "We are committed to our digital transformation program, which is improving our ability to meet the needs of our customers around the world and setting a new standard for technology deployment in our industry. Technologies and solutions within digital transformation

initiatives will touch all facets of our operations. This is just one more example of how we are applying best practice in this space and embracing IR 4.0 solutions. It is an important milestone on our digital journey and also contributes to our iktva target."

Luka Mucic, member of the Execu-

tive Board of SAP SE and chief financial officer, said, "In 23 years of strong collaboration, Aramco and SAP have become strategic partners. With numerous co-innovation initiatives, we have jointly introduced oil and gas best practices, enhanced business operations, and expanded the horizon of opportunities in this industry. Aramco has taken the next step on their digital transformation journey toward becoming an intelligent enterprise, implementing S/4 HANA and the Business Technology Platform among others."

SAP's new platform will serve the entire Aramco organization, supporting the company's Digital Transformation Program and enabling new processes for a majority of the company's enterprise applications and solutions. The new architecture leverages emerging technologies that will propel Aramco into a new era of intelligent enterprise. Benefits include faster processing, intuitive user experience, real-time reporting, integration with cloud solutions, and system consolidation, which reduces total cost of ownership.

Aramco to establish Cybersecurity Chair at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University

Dhahran — Under the patronage of HE the Minister of Education Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Shaikh, Aramco and the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University have jointly signed an agreement to establish the "Aramco Cybersecurity Chair at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University." The agreement was signed by Aramco's senior vice president of Technical Services, Ahmad A. Al Sa'adi, and HE Dr. Abdullah Al-Rubaish, president of Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University.

The objective of establishing the Aramco Cybersecurity Chair is to strengthen the collaboration with the university in this important field and to enhance the level of cybersecurity education, awareness, and research and development. In addition, the Chair will support



academic research and development in cybersecurity covering new domains such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, operational technology security, security analytics, and others.

Al Sa'adi stressed the importance of such collaborations, noting: "Aramco is committed in the development of national competencies and capabilities that can cope with the current challenges in cybersecurity by collaborating with leading academic institutes. This agreement is the first step toward a long collaboration with the university to enhance cybersecurity education, research and development."

The signing ceremony was attended by Yousef A. Al Ulyan, Aramco vice president of Information Technology; Basim A. Al Ruwaih, manager of Aramco's Information Protection Department, and Khalid S. Al-Harbi, chief information security officer.

Al-Ulyan highlighted the continuous effort by Aramco to build collaborations with academic institutions in the Kingdom to strengthen cybersecurity education and awareness.

"Aramco has a long and rich history in similar collaborations with national academic institutes. Establishing this Chair is one example of how the company is reaching out to national universities to strengthen local capabilities in cybersecurity," Al Ulyan added.

Your voice



By Ricardo Baclig
Dhahran

ricardo.baclig@aramco.com

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

Life is like a book, one chapter at a time

Life is like a book; it has chapters and pages that we have to go through. We can't skip it; that's how life works. We have to read each line and meet every character to understand the message it wants to convey. But then we will not enjoy all of it, as there are some parts that we don't want to read. Just like when COVID-19 suddenly struck — the world was in pandemonium and brought almost everything to a halt as it changed not only the world's economy, but also how we work inside and outside of our niches.

In some part, it will make us cry. Some of us have lost loved ones, separated from their families and friends, and some have unfortunately been laid off from their work as most companies had to reduce the number of

employees to maintain their business, or like others, just went bankrupt.

And how we all wish to skip this grim reality. But no matter how painful it is, we have to keep going and just move to the next chapter of our lives, bit by bit.

Somehow, in some way, we find heroes. Like the day when Ithra honored the so-called "modern heroes" with more than 10,000 Saudi medical personnel, security forces, educators, and others being honored for their unprecedented efforts during this challenging time. For sure, this chapter of our story will linger on and will be remembered until the end of time.

There's also a part where we feel victory, such as the successful com-

pletion of Aramco's share acquisition of a 70% stake in the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation with a total price of SR259.125 billion (\$69.1 billion) from the country's Public Investment Fund. This is one of the chapters that we don't want to end, as it boosts our morale and continues the relentless battle against our unseen enemy. But this is not how life works, because in reality, it's not always a happy ending. It has to rise and fall like a melody of a song.

Stories keep the world revolving and each of us have our own story to tell. It is up to you how and what you will write on each page in your journey. Live your life and make every chapter of it worth remembering!

Business Plan: CEO expresses gratitude for hard work



Amin Nasser and members of senior management addressed employees remotely across various locations during the virtual Business Plan Roadshow last week. Above right, Nasser also addressed employees via a video message.

Dhahran — Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser gave employees from across the Kingdom an in-depth look at the 2021-2023 Business Plan last week, and expressed his gratitude for their hard work and sacrifices during a very challenging year.

“Our board is very pleased with what you have accomplished this year,” Nasser said. “They are very confident in our ability to position the company for a post-COVID future. Once again, you have proven that there is no challenge we cannot overcome when we work together as a team ... as colleagues ... and as Aramcons.”

The global pandemic was just one of many challenges the company faced this year, Nasser said. Other challenges include the economic fallout from the pandemic, volatile oil prices, and both physical and cyber threats. Nasser said Aramco employees can take pride in their resilience to provide the world with energy and products that countries require to rebuild and prepare for a post-COVID future.

The 2021-2023 Business Plan was approved by the Board of Directors at a recent meeting, and in a series of virtual roadshows, Nasser discussed the plan with employees in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Jazan, Riyadh, Abqaiq, ‘Udhailiyah, Yanbu’, and Jiddah.

In his discussion with employees, Nasser mentioned that Aramco plans to play a bigger role in enabling a low-emission future.



Employees listen remotely to the Business Plan presentation.

“We are not” moving away from oil and gas, Nasser said. “Because we recognize that, for generations, oil and gas have helped raise living standards around the world. And they are expected to continue to be essential to meeting global energy demand for many years to come.

“Indeed, we are in a strong position going forward as an oil company, but also as a bigger gas and chemicals player, and as a truly integrated energy company.”

Call to action

In his talk with employees, Nasser urged employees to focus on three things to ensure our business is truly sustainable.

“First, we need to maintain a proper perspective,” Nasser said. “While the current pandemic has caused the worst economic crisis of our lifetime, we need to remember that others before us also faced difficult challenges. They succeeded because they

adopted a ‘nothing will stop us’ attitude. We must do the same.”

Second, Nasser said we must all remain resilient. “I know COVID hasn’t made life and work easy. We also all know that it isn’t over, yet. But I firmly believe it will be contained, eventually.

“Restrictions are expected to be eased. Travel is expected to open up. Economies are expected to recover. Oil demand is expected to rise again. But whatever comes our way, we must remain united and resilient, while not becoming complacent.”

Pride in resilience

Finally, Nasser said, we should continue to take pride in what we do.

“Our industry has done a lot to enable global prosperity,” Nasser said. “Likewise, as a company, we have made significant contributions to the Kingdom and to improving the lives of billions of people around the world. And I am proud to be working for Aramco today.

“Indeed, all of us should be proud to be working for a company that is working at the speed of science to enable a sustainable future for all,” Nasser added. “To everyone, let me say thank you for your personal sacrifice and professional resilience to overcome the challenges we have faced.”

In each of the roadshows, the CEO took questions from employees to explain the company’s long-term strategy for 2021 and beyond.

“2020 was an exceptional year for Aramco as it showcased our ability to perform at best despite the pandemic challenges. Scaling up IT capabilities to support uninterrupted operation during lockdowns, working with local suppliers and contractors to maintain robust supply of materials and services, and providing world-class engineering support to deliver rapid response while fending off the countless cyberthreats are some of the achievements by Technical Services. I am confident of the talent and expertise of our teams to deliver our Business Plan ambitions and drive performance to new highs.

Ahmad A. Al Sa’adi,
senior vice president
of Technical Services

“In Downstream, we continue to expand and further integrate across the hydrocarbon value chain. Our ongoing synergies with SABIC, initiatives to streamline our refining portfolio, growing trading business and expanding our drive into renewables are a few activities we intend to undertake during the Business Plan.”

Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani,
senior vice president
of Downstream

“Once again, our employees were able to rise to the challenge, ensuring business continuity and exceeding stakeholder expectations through some of the toughest circumstances. This Business Plan will continue maximizing shareholder value and providing us with the flexibility required for effective response to unexpected future events. Aramco’s culture of excellence and resilience is the foundation of our success and made possible by the exceptional talent of our people and our relentless focus on prudent financial planning, efficiency, and people development.”

Khalid H. Al-Dabbagh,
senior vice president of
Finance, Strategy and Development

“The 2021-2023 Business Plan is a testament to Aramco’s strength and ambition to thrive despite the challenges and uncertainty ahead. Law will continue to play its critical role as a key partner in supporting the company’s initiatives and programs during the Business Plan, as well as protecting its interests and assets.”

Nabeel A. Al Mansour,
senior vice president and
General Counsel, Law

“HR&CS has and will continue enabling everything Aramco seeks to achieve. During the 2021-2023 Business Plan, we will expand talent development programs and advance our diversity and inclusion agenda to ensure readiness of our employees for sustained success. We will deploy the latest digital solutions, and optimize our costs to deliver safe, reliable, and complete services that earns our customers’ highest satisfaction.”

Nabeel A. Al-Jama’,
senior vice president,
HR and Corporate Services

“Growing our crude and gas production while constantly looking for ways to lower our cost of production safely and reliably is at the heart of what we do. Our resilience in the face of adversity continues to be tested and we are confident of the capability and resolve of our people to always prevail.”

Nasir K. Al Naimi,
acting business line head,
Upstream

Employees from Southern Area Oil Operations listen to the Business Plan roadshow. The roadshow was held virtually with different locations across the Kingdom.





Unplug, relax, recharge

A day in the Aramco community

By Rawan Nasser

Dhahran — Aramco facilities are known for being the greenest and most colorful in the Kingdom. The credit goes to the great efforts of Community Services (CS), who year after year try to find new ways to spruce up the Aramco communities, keeping them fresh, groomed, and aesthetically pleasing.

This year, CS has invested in creating more spaces and experiences for employees to immerse themselves during their time of leisure giving them a chance to recharge and return to their daily routines with a bounce in their step.

“In Community Services, our primary goal is improve our employees’ quality of life and well-being,” said Faisal A. Al-Hajji, executive director of CS. “By focusing on this important goal, we are delighted that we have been able to offer our employees and their dependents facilities like Abqaiq’s Heaven, the Dhahran Nursery, and various outdoor dining options at different locations, to name a few. These exciting new additions are also in line with Aramco’s contribution toward its green communities and supporting biodiversity.”

Facilities of joy

In Dhahran, cheerful greetings during the crisp mornings can be heard in the outside seating area of the Starbucks across from the library, and at noon-time, when employees begin trickling into Kings Park to reserve outdoor seats at Carleton Café, now renamed “Habak” restaurant. It is the same friendly crew, but they are now serving fresh Lebanese cuisine from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day. Habak is now available in Ras Tanura and Abqaiq as well.

The King’s Park area itself has been completely transformed into a mini oasis of beauty, where visitors can take a stroll or enjoy their meals from the Tandoori House at a newly created outdoor terrace to the sound of soothing fountains and the chirping of birds.

Weekend attractions

The same attention to detail can be observed at the Dhahran Nursery, where



each area is a zone for learning and relaxation. Local farms are hosted in the nursery to sell plants and pots for great prices, and the new Pattis France offers a unique dining experience for guests as it is nestled snugly among the greenery and exotic flower beds.

The Abqaiq community now has one of the most enchanting havens for animals and plants that were brought from around the Kingdom. Open during the weekends, Abqaiq’s Heaven provides visitors with a host of attractions as well as outdoor seating areas, a food service station, and a coffee stand.

The design of the Abqaiq facility utilizes natural and recycled materials, all planned and executed by the Southern Area CS team. Bamboo shoots cover the huge birdcage, which houses a delightful assortment of birds, a crafted wooden house shelters the precious eggs of ducks and geese, and chopped tree trunks are used as walkways and flower pots.

Nearby is the Abqaiq “Nature Reserve,” which was also recently inaugurated as a sanctuary for wildlife such as



Arabian sand gazelles, ostriches, dazzling birds, and more than 2,000 trees. Guests can visit the fenced reserve and enjoy observing and learning about the animals in their natural habitat.

Bookings to the Dhahran Nursery and Abqaiq facilities must be made ahead of time through the Health Passport application.

Responding to community needs

Certain facilities are popular among Aramcons, especially during good weather. Considering the precautions

that have to be taken to ensure the safety of all guests, CS have been monitoring the utilization of facilities and finding ways to decongest busy outlets.

“Our rigorous monitoring of consumer behavior through our control center has helped us better respond to the customers’ needs so they can enjoy the facilities provided by the company safely,” said Shatha A. Al-Baadi, head of CS Customer Relations. “The Health Passport application is also being utilized to manage the utilization of these areas.”

CS is carefully expanding its offerings and adding new experiences for employees and their dependents. Al-Baadi said that some areas are more popular than others are, which is why they have been investing in raising awareness of all available venues for their customers to enjoy with their families.

As a new year approaches and the winter season raises our spirits and invigorates our zest for life and the outdoors, the Aramco communities offer many activities that are only a booking or a car ride away.



2020 Saudi Aramco Excellence Awards

Honoring excellence

Aramco’s president and CEO Amin Nasser has saluted the efforts of 236 employees, part of 19 companywide teams during a challenging 2019.

Held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Excellence Awards honored the commitment of teams and employees from across the company.

Achievements

The awards recognize new achievements — the creation of new technologies, systems, or business solutions that make a difference for the industry.

Addressing the awardees, Nasser singled out 2019 as a year of “examples of excellence.”

“There was the heroic response to attacks on Abqaiq, Khurais, and Shaybah — and the skillful restoration work,” Nasser said.

“There was our historic IPO and our record-breaking bond issuance.”

Nasser pointed to several cost-saving initiatives, including a digital hackathon to seed and nurture innovation.

Other examples of excellence, he said, include the commercializing



Amin Nasser addresses winners during a video broadcast at the virtual event.

of tight gas “in the sands of South Ghawar.”

Carbon intensity

“We have also been maintaining our leadership in carbon intensity and using our project management skills to create the Kingdom’s Dubai Expo Pavilion,” he said.

Crude-to-chemicals technology, the number of patents granted, and talent-development partnerships with global institutions were key highlights of the awards ceremony.

“All of these examples of excellence have one thing in common. They are all based on the outstanding efforts of the 236 people we honor today,” Nasser said.

Chapter of excellence

Awardees included the Abqaiq Plants Crisis Management team, the Abqaiq

Plants Restoration team, and the Khurais emergency response teams, who rallied to both plants with exceptional courage after unprecedented attacks.

The restoration projects that followed attacks on Shaybah, Abqaiq, and Khurais were also honored in the 2020 Excellence Awards.

The success of Aramco’s Unconventional Resources organization was praised for the first tight-sand play in South Ghawar.

The divestment of the Jazan IGCC plant project marked the largest divestment of Aramco’s existing power assets to a joint venture, achieving the company’s strategic goal of capital efficiency.

Transformation

The company’s continued commitment to mitigating climate change and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions was also recognized.

Aramco’s Digital Hackathon — the first of its kind in the industry — took huge strides in accelerating the company’s digital transformation.

Addressing the winning teams, Nasser noted the central role they played in maintaining excellence across the company.

“For your contribution to another chapter of excellence for our great company, I thank you,” he said.

“All of these examples of excellence have one thing in common. They are all based on the outstanding efforts of the 236 people we honor today.”

— Amin Nasser



see winners on pages 6-8

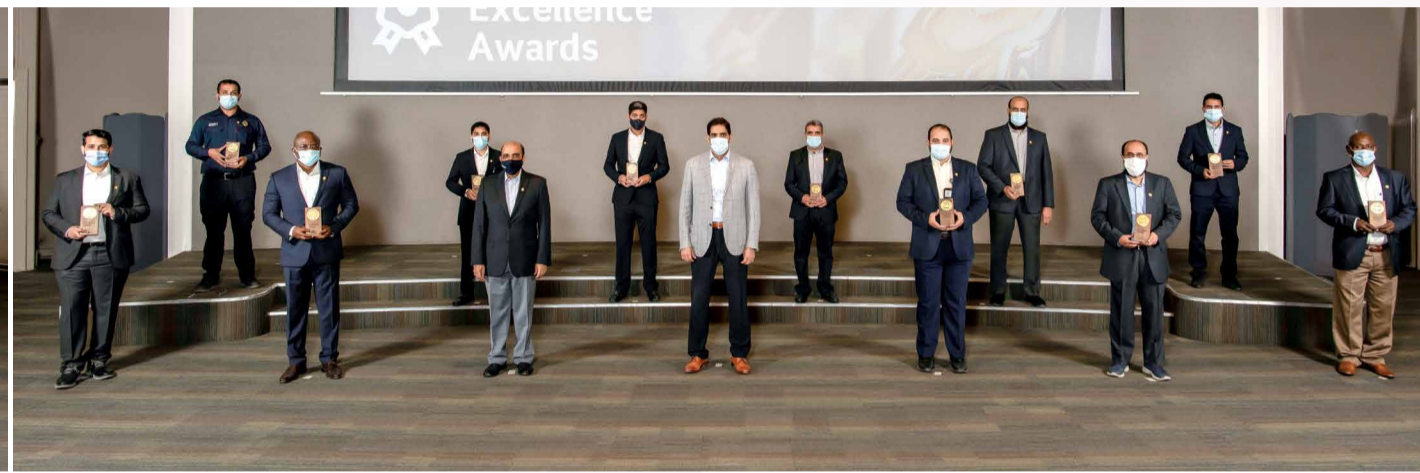
Abqaiq Plants Crisis Management



Khurais Crisis Management



Abqaiq Plants Restoration Efforts



Khurais Restoration Efforts



Shaybah NGL Crisis Management



Shaybah NGL Restoration Efforts



Discovery and Commercialization of the 1st Tight Sand Play in South Ghawar



Divesting Jazan IGCC into a JV with Air Products & ACWA Power



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management



Inaugural Bond Placement



IPO Execution Team



 Saudi Arabian Refineries Company (SARCO) v. Saudi Aramco (Team)



 Leadership in U.S. Granted Patents



 Partnering with Global Business Schools for Leadership Development




 Accessing Hydrocarbon Resources in Crucial Areas



 Establishment of the First Product Development and Innovation Garage in the Kingdom



 First Deployment of the Saudi Aramco "Thermal Crude to Chemicals" Technology



 Saudi Aramco Digital Hackathon



 Dubai EXPO Pavilion: Agility to Achieve Project Management Excellence



This photo of the Dubai Expo team was taken in 2019 prior to COVID-19 restrictions.



Aramco finds efficiency in aluminum tankers

Dhahran — In December 2020, the Domestic Sales and Logistics Department (DS&LD) completed an initiative to replace the carbon steel tanker fleet with more fuel-efficient aluminum tanks. These tankers are utilized to transfer refined products between Aramco’s domestic bulk plants.

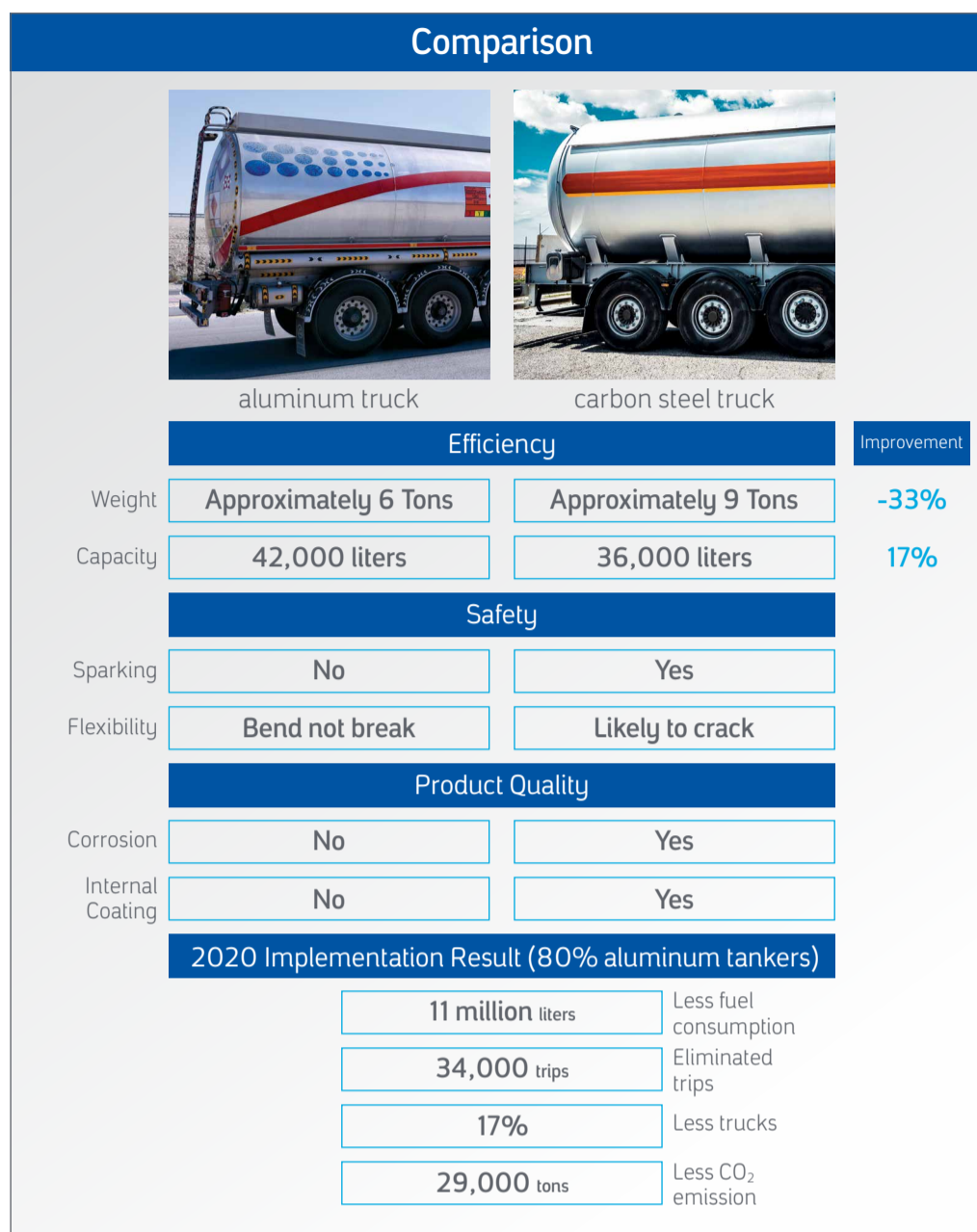
Through collaborative efforts with technical, operational, and administrative organizations, DS&LD was able to incorporate the aluminum tankers mandate in the new hauling contract signed in 2015. Aramco has coordinated a review of aluminum tanker specifications by qualified inspection agencies. Following testing in a pilot phase, the aluminum tankers were found to be safer, more efficient, and of higher overall quality.

Ahmed A. Al-Subaey, vice president of Marketing Sales and Supply Planning, highlighted that “The journey of the aluminum tankers is part of Aramco’s commitment for local hydrocarbon business to improve efficiency and safety, as well as protecting the environment. Close collaboration and alignment with our contractors have led to this successful journey and the reduction of trucks on the road, overall fuel consumption as well as the total emissions.”

Speaking of benefits, in 2020 alone, at the 80% implementation phase, the conversion to aluminum tankers resulted in the elimination of roughly 34,000 trips on the roads by hauling trucks while delivering the same quantities, along with the related loading and offloading activities. By converting to aluminum tankers, Aramco was able to reduce the haulers’ fleet size by 17% where aluminum tanks can carry more product volume, saving the consumption of 11 million liters of diesel fuel and reducing carbon emissions by 29,000 tons over the same period.

This is in addition to the fact that aluminum alloy is nonsparking, which reduces the likelihood of tanker fires caused by sparks. Unlike their carbon steel counterparts, aluminum tankers don’t require an internal coating to transport hydrocarbon products, such as jet fuel. The material is much more flexible and resistant to corrosion, which helps protect the integrity of refined product cargo and avoid cracks and leakage.

Based on its experience, Aramco has contributed its technical expertise to support the establishment of aluminum



“The journey of the aluminum tankers is part of Aramco’s commitment for local hydrocarbon business to improve efficiency and safety, as well as protecting the environment. Close collaboration and alignment with our contractors have led to this successful journey and the reduction of trucks on the road, overall fuel consumption as well as the total emissions.

— Ahmed A. Al-Subaey

“The success factor for completing the aluminum tankers’ journey is the collaboration among our team and hauling contractors. They were determined to achieve the target for each milestone and when achieved, it motivated the team to achieve the next target. When we look at the target number during 2020, there are 34,000 less trips as a result of implementing the aluminum tanker program. The reduction in the number of trips has led to a reduced number of trucks on the road, meaning less fuel consumption.

— Khaled S. Al Shammari

tanker standards and specifications. By participating with government entities, the company has also assisted in estab-

lishing uniform procedures for inspecting and accepting aluminum tankers in Saudi Arabia — and contributed to local content in creating two local manufacturers in addition to a list of accept-

ed international companies who meet established market requirements.

Khaled S. Al Shammari, manager of DS&LD, highlighted that “The success factor for completing the aluminum tankers’ journey is the collaboration among our team and hauling contractors. They were determined to achieve the target for each milestone and when achieved, it motivated the team to achieve the next target. When we look at the target number during 2020, there are 34,000 fewer trips as a result of implementing the aluminum tanker program. The reduction in the number of trips has led to a reduced number of trucks on the road, meaning less fuel consumption.”

The five-year plan to replace Aramco’s carbon steel tankers took into consideration the readiness of manufacturers and hauling contractors to meet the company’s targeted conversion timeline. To date, Aramco has added 3,390 aluminum tankers to address local transport needs for gasoline, diesel, jet, and kerosene fuels between its bulk plants. As of December 2020, the conversion to aluminum tankers is now 100% complete.



Aramco's Badr M. Burshaid recognized by PMO Global Alliance



Dhahran — In November, Badr M. Burshaid, was honored with the prestigious 2020 Project Management Office (PMO) Leader of the Year Award from PMO Global Alliance, which is the world's largest community of PMO professionals. This award rep-

resents a significant recognition for demonstrating top global leadership qualities.

This is the first time this award has been presented to a leader from Saudi Arabia or the Middle East. Burshaid was announced as the winner from a pool of over 300 PMO leaders from 64 countries around the world, in recognition of outstanding performance.

Aramco vice president of Project Management, Abdulkarim A. Al-Ghamdi, said, "This prestigious global award reaffirms the eminent status of Aramco's PMO as a center of excellence, enabling organizational learning at multiple levels, as well as the consistent delivery of capital projects that meet their cost and schedule targets."

The PMO Global Alliance focuses on PMOs and professionals. It was created by PMO leaders who wish to ex-

change experiences and knowledge to achieve better results within their PMOs.

This achievement is attributed to the entire Aramco project management community, a clear example of a good and structured companywide methodology used to manage successful project execution.

Executive director of Engineering Services, Motaz A. Al Mashouk, said, "This prestigious global award reaffirms the eminent status of Aramco's PMO as a center of excellence, enabling organizational learning at multiple levels, as well as the consistent delivery of capital projects that meet their cost and schedule targets. The recognition accorded to Badr, as leader of the PMO, underscores an unmatched commitment towards building capacity in people and systems, as well as a relentless drive for best-in-class performance."

Abqaiq Plants win Global Business Continuity Award

Aramco's incident response and restoration management of the global oil system has been recognized by the international business community and received a world-class accolade.

Turning a horrendous incident last year into a success story was attributed to the employee's capabilities, facilities design, and the well-established system in place that paid off immensely.

Following the incident, the Continuity Insurance and Risk Organization awarded a robust business-continuity system executed by a number of Aramco entities, including Abqaiq Plants, the Fire Protection Department, Industrial Security, Loss Prevention, Project Management, Community Services, and Engineering Services and Government Affairs, with this year's prestigious Global Business Continuity Award 2020.

The Abqaiq Plants entry, one of nine finalists selected from dozens of entries, was announced as the winner at a virtual ceremony.

Business continuity in the face of adversity

Despite the attacks that ignited 16

hydrocarbon fires in different locations in the live pressurized facility, Aramco personnel managed to complete the total isolation and depressurization of the facility in a safe manner. All fires were extinguished within seven hours, ensuring the safety of all plant personnel and the population of the surrounding area, and the plant's partial capacity was quickly restored within 48 hours. Normal capacity followed within 10 days to ensure the stability of global energy supplies.

Remarkable response

What makes the emergency response to the Sep. 14 attacks more remarkable is the fact that for the first time in the Abqaiq Plants' 70-year history, emergency responders managed to implement a total shutdown of the intricate and complex facility in a safe manner.

To perform a total shutdown of the facility, the emergency response plans addressed the requirements and provided necessary tools to perform the complex shutdown procedure. With multiple raging fires in a live hydrocarbon facility, Abqaiq Plants managed to safely isolate the entire facility in less than an hour

because of a reliable emergency shutdown system that played a major role in controlling the incident and preventing its escalation.

"Effective business continuity management was a result of the well trained employees and the robust and resilient design of our facilities," said Southern Area Oil Operations vice president Khaled A. Al-Buraik.

"These tools, coupled with the proactive investment made in response to systems such as a state-of-the-art emergency control, allowed for a decisive response in exceptionally challenging circumstances, and a safe and successful subsequent restoration of production," he added.

World-class resilience

Investment on the employees' development, training and certifications, vigorous planning and preparation through the emergency response plan, frequent practice by plant personnel on emergency plans activation, annual comprehensive assessment, and alignment with other systems such as emergency preparedness, contingency plans and enterprise risk man-

agement, among other best practices, all played a part in crowning Abqaiq Plants at the top of the business continuity world.

"Responding to an incident of this magnitude safely and immediately is clear evidence of Aramco's unceasing focus on well trained personnel to operate these facilities and a well-designed system," said acting business line head of Upstream, Nasir K. Al Naimi.

"This award is a recognition of the preemptive business continuity plans and facilities that are in place, to ensure the safety of our people and facilities, as well as ensuring that we remain a reliable global energy supplier," he added.

"This award is a direct result of astonishing collaboration and competence across the company, and I am proud of the global recognition being bestowed on Aramco."

Abqaiq Plants is the first finalist from Saudi Arabia to win the Global Business Continuity Award, an annual worldwide award in its 24th year, which is considered the world's most prestigious business continuity award.



Don't lose sight of safety.
 COVID-19 is still a threat.
 Never let your guard down.

The Mu'allaqat: Making a mark on millennials



Dhahran — On the occasion of the International Day of Arabic Language last week, Ithra and *Al-Qafilah* Magazine are preparing to publish and launch “The Mu’allaqat for Millennials” on Jan. 2, 2021.

The Mu’allaqat are 10 pre-Islamic poems famous for the richness and beauty of their language, and are considered among the finest pieces of Arabic prose ever written.

The new book explains the 10 Mu’allaqat in Arabic and English, and their history in literature, in addition to focusing on the life and

artistic status of the poets who composed the verses.

The publication of the 500-page book is a result of a joint cultural initiative with *Al-Qafilah* magazine.

Leading global academics were used to translate the book into English in a style that would resonate with younger audiences. The book also explains the meaning of the verses within their historical context.

The production of the book contributes to bringing one of the most

important creative works in the history of Arabic literature to new audiences. It celebrates the human, aesthetic, and philosophical values contained in the Arabic language, which adorns the poems of the Mu’allaqat.



Scan the QR code to see the announcement about the book launching event and date.



Photographic memory

In 1978, the Dhahran Health Center's blood bank became one of the few blood banks outside the United States to be accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks. It was granted the accreditation after a comprehensive on-site inspection by the association, which took place in October 1976. It has renewed its accreditation every two years since, the most recent being May 2008. In the photo are Dr. Bernard F. Mann, then-chief of Pathology Services, and Kiruba Harris, blood bank supervisor, analyzing a blood sample.



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the arabian sun



Arabic poetry for millennials

The translation of the famous Al Mu'allaqat poems for millennials opens a door into the rich poetic past of the Arabic language.

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The first virtual art exhibition

By Venetia Harwood Pearce

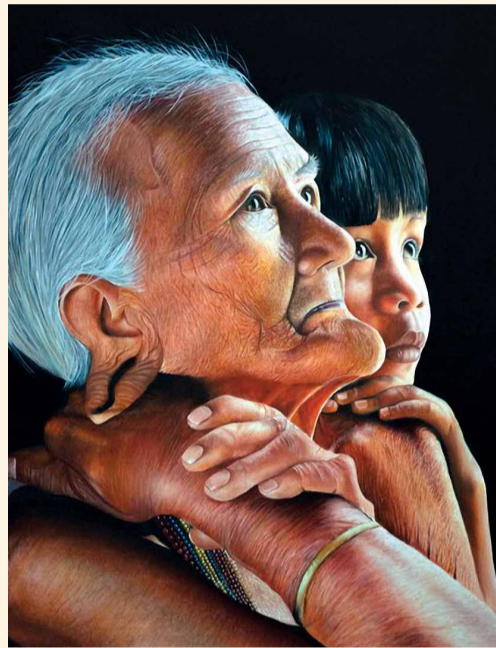
Ras Tanura — Every year, with the help of the Ras Tanura (RT) Recreation Services Unit, we hold an art exhibition in the Najmah community. More recently, we extended this to include a separate Children's exhibition, which has now become part of our calendar.

This year has been somewhat different, as we know, but I felt it was still important to showcase the artwork that our local artists take the time and trouble to create and to celebrate that talent. Therefore, a virtual exhibition was the only option.

I had no experience of setting up a virtual gallery and first had to research and test suitable software.

It was surprising to find just how few platforms there are to host online exhibitions; many were out of our reach financially. Google offers a free platform, but you have to apply and wait for a reply; I'm still waiting.

Others limit the number of artworks you can display. I found a virtual space, where you can "walk" around, but its complexity meant it would



prove to be far too time-consuming to work with. Eventually, I used an online portfolio and spent many, many hours trying to figure out how to put it all together.

The Children's exhibition came first, and we had a good registration response with 48 exhibitors and 135 pieces of artwork, all highly imaginative and demonstrating creativity beyond their

years. The winner of the Best in Show Award was Max Breuer for his outstanding comic book "War and Peace in Survival."

The Desert Sky (adult) exhibition drew 22 exhibitors and a total of 141 pieces of artwork. The winner of Best in Show was Tanvi Patel with her oil painting entitled "Remember Me."

All winners of the Children's Exhibition received a rosette as a prize.

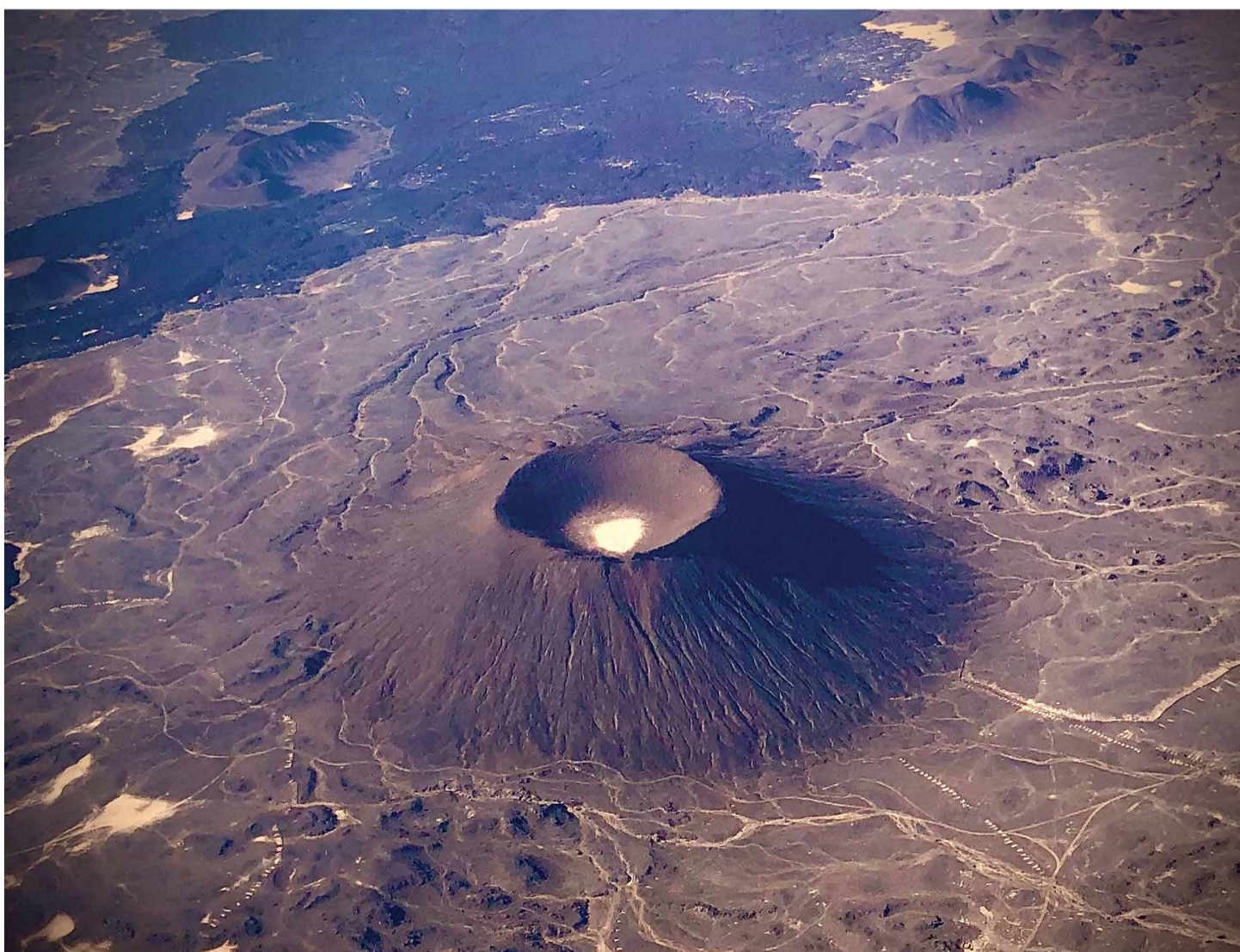
Abdulrahman Aljafari, supervisor of RT Recreation Services, said: "It is wonderful to see so many artists participate in the Art Exhibition during this COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to find a creative outlet as this can play an essential role in helping us all to process what is going on around us."

Although it was wonderful to be able to host these exhibitions virtually, there is no real substitute for being able to see the art in person. It is hoped therefore that we can display the artwork from both exhibitions in February 2021, in the White Sand Lounge as usual.

Thank you to all who entered and made the exhibitions possible.

Desert Sky — Winners List 2020

- **Oils:** 1st Place — "Remember Me" Tanvi Patel | 2nd Place — "Dean in London" Venetia Harwood Pearce | 3rd Place — "Unbreakable Bond" Tanvi Patel | Highly Commended — "Shamal 1" Amanda Malan
- **Acrylics:** 1st Place — "Daily Routine" Monica Umare | 2nd Place — "Picking Dates" Tina Kirkland | 3rd Place — "When Trees Dream" Erik Melver
- **Watercolors:** 1st Place — "Mirror Lake" Douglas Le Croy | 2nd Place — "Equinox" Douglas Le Croy | 3rd Place — "Habitat" Douglas Le Croy
- **Pastels, Pencil, Pen & Ink, Mixed Media:** 1st Place — "Revival — Vintage Hair Lounge" Harold Pearce | 2nd Place — "Ford Mirage M1 at Le Mans" Harold Pearce | 3rd Place — "Awesome Two-some" Prasanna Imandi
- **Photography:** 1st Place — "Pilgrim" Eric Tepner | 2nd Place — "Rahima Couch 3" Eric Tepner | 3rd Place — "Vatican Bramante Staircase" Claudine Drummond
- **Other Fine Crafts:** 1st Place — "Those Sour Grapes" Shamim Shahzad | 2nd Place — "Women Going to the Pond" Monica Umare | 3rd Place — "Link Necklace & Earrings Set" Venetia Harwood Pearce.



Volcano from the sky

Javed Ismail took this photo of Jabal Qidr, a stratovolcano north of Madinah over 2,000 meters above sea level this December. The volcano last erupted in 650 AD/29 AH, and Ismail captured the image using his iPhone X. Ismail, who has been with the company for 13 years, is a senior geological consultant with the Exploration Resource Assessment Department.