

Chamber honors members and sponsors at milestone anniversary

AmCham Kuwait celebrates 40 years of excellence at annual gala dinner

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9: The American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a grand gala dinner at the Four Seasons Kuwait, uniting government officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of the AmCham community to honor four decades of collaboration, partnership, and impact.

The evening began with a captivating performance by a traditional Kuwaiti band performing the stick dance, followed by welcome remarks from Paola de la Roche, Executive Director of AmCham Kuwait, who invited attendees to leave messages on the commemorative 40th Anniversary Canvas and capture memories at the event's photo booth.

Mr. Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, delivered opening remarks reflecting on the Chamber's journey since its founding in 1985 and expressing gratitude to members, staff, the board, and sponsors for their support.

Dr. Rawda Awwad, President of the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Diamond Sponsor, shared:

"At AUK, we're building the people who will walk across the bridges that AmCham has built between Kuwait and the United States. For over forty years, AmCham has connected ideas and industries; at AUK, we prepare the graduates who will carry that partnership forward. When business and education work together, we create more than opportunity; we create continuity, understanding, and progress."

The gala honored AmCham Kuwait's valued sponsors and partners:

- Diamond Sponsor: American University of Kuwait (AUK)
 - Platinum Sponsors: KGL – Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company and KRH
 - Gold Sponsor: Gulf Insurance Group (GIG)
 - Silver Sponsors: Al Tamimi & Company, Kuwait Chemical Travel Company (KCHC), and Saudi Arabian Chevron
 - Travel & Tourism Partner: IFA International Travel & Tourism
 - Hotel Partner: Four Seasons Kuwait
 - Strategic Partner: Zone Kuwait Company
- 40th Anniversary Excellence Awards**



Leaders, diplomats, and sponsors gather to mark milestone anniversary.

Presented by Paola de la Roche and Dr. Arezou Harraf, Vice-Chair of AmCham Kuwait, the awards recognized members and partners who have made significant contributions to AmCham's mission. Awardees included:

- 1) More Than 15 Years of Membership:
 - American University of Kuwait
 - Citi
 - EY
 - Saudi Arabian Chevron
 - Equate Petrochemicals
 - KGL
 - KRH
 - Raytheon RTX
 - Al Mulla Behbehani Motor Co.
 - Boeing Company
- 2) Founders and Honorary Members Award:
 - Mr. Fred Shuaibi

- Mr. Jafar Behbehani
- 3) Most Supportive Raffle Sponsors:
 - Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons
 - Union Trading Company (UTC)
- 4) Travel and Tourism Partner of Choice:
 - IFA International Travel & Tourism
- 5) Champions 2025:
 - KGL
 - KRH
 - Lockheed Martin
 - Saudi Arabian Chevron
- 6) Pillar of Legal Support Award:
 - Al Tamimi & Company
- 7) Business Council Partner:
 - British Business Forum
 - German Business Council Kuwait
 - Portuguese Business Council Kuwait

- Indian Business Professionals Council Kuwait
- Lebanese Business Council Kuwait
- Canadians in Kuwait
- 8) Printer of Choice:
 - Platinum Printing Press
- 9) Trusted Visual Media Partner:
 - Dights Event Management Company

A highlight of the evening was the raffle, showcasing the generosity of AmCham Kuwait's sponsors and partners. Attendees had the chance to win a variety of prizes, including vouchers from Best Al Yousifi, dining and experience vouchers from Crowne Plaza Farwaniya, exclusive dining experiences from Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, a selection of dining and activity vouchers from Holiday Inn Salmiya, a hotel stay and theme night experiences from Hyatt Regency Al Kout Mall, home appliance vouchers from Union Trading Company (UTC), lifestyle and shopping vouchers from Alshaya Group, premium gifts from Desert Star Trading Co., snack boxes from Kitco Company, shopping vouchers from Monoprix, beauty vouchers from Polish & Puff Beauty Salon, and the grand prize round-trip ticket to the United States courtesy of IFA International Travel & Tourism. Winners were celebrated on stage alongside representatives from each sponsor.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Arezou Harraf thanked all members, sponsors, and partners, emphasizing that AmCham Kuwait's success over four decades has been built on collaboration, inclusion, and shared purpose. Attendees were invited to leave messages on the 40th Anniversary Canvas, creating a lasting keepsake of this milestone celebration.

About AmCham Kuwait
 Founded in 1985, AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. The Chamber advocates for American interests in Kuwait and promotes collaboration, dialogue, and growth across the business community. For more information, visit www.amchamkuwait.org or follow @abck1985 on social media.

Other Voices

Khaled Montasser – the doctor of minds

By Ahmad alsarraf

Dr. Khaled Montasser, who closed his clinic to dedicate himself to a higher calling, is regarded as one of the best challengers of rigid mindsets dominating various religious and media platforms in Egypt.

Known for his sharp logic, clear arguments, and ability to counter destructive and regressive voices, Dr. Montasser was recently confronted by a preacher who demanded that he stop discussing religion and return to his medical practice.



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Dr. Montasser's response (paraphrased) was, "The esteemed scholar asks me to devote myself to medicine, ignoring the fact that neither he nor any other religious figure in Egypt has fully committed to their known religious duties. Instead, they dominate the media, issuing pronouncements on every subject, from astronomy, medicine, physics, sports, fashion, and genetics, to sanitation, in-vitro fertilization, bestiality, infant marriage, and even suspended pregnancy."

He said he closed his dermatology clinic more than three years ago to dedicate himself to addressing questions, enlightening minds, promoting scientific thought, combating superstition, and protecting vulnerable patients from exploitation. He also criticized the pressure some religious figures exert on the public, referring to them as "brokers of heaven", which is the title of one of his most famous books.

Dr. Montasser explained that he realized curing millions of people with mental and intellectual issues had become more important to him than treating ten or a hundred skin conditions. Preserving the nation's intellect is more vital than caring for physical skin. While a thousand doctors could treat dermatology patients more effectively than he could, many intellectuals have neglected their duty to enlighten minds, confront the spread of ignorance, and engage with religious thought, fearing a loss of popularity, lack of public support, and the discomfort of stepping outside the safety of the herd.

Dr. Montasser said that he, since closing his clinic, has written a novel aimed at exposing and unmasking the Islamist movement, and affirmed that he will continue to be a chronic headache for all religious charlatans and purveyors of superstition until the torch is passed to a worthy successor among the thousands of young people.

In response to their demand that non-religious figures focus solely on their medical research, one must ask - if Dr. Magdi Yaacoub, Dr. Mohamed Ghoneim, or Dr. Mohamed Aboulghar had written the same critiques as Dr. Khaled Montasser, would they have been accepted and implemented simply because these doctors are fully devoted to their scientific work?

The truth is revealed. Most religious figures aim to monopolize the field for themselves. Simply put, Dr. Montasser's writings challenge and unsettle them, and they do not know how to respond. As usual, they resort to direct accusations of atheism, insults, and slander against those who oppose them.



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Kuwait innovators plug into global accelerator program

SACGC talent gains exposure, investor insights

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 9, (KUNA): Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity said that 10 Kuwaiti innovators were heading to Silicon Valley, San Francisco, to join in the accelerator program Plug and Play, powered by SACGC - a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The ten-day program provides the participants with a chance to share experience with entrepreneurs, experts, academics and investors from around the globe to empower innovation in corporations, startups and universities, said a SACGC statement on Saturday.

The program fosters the skills of partners through brainstorming ideas about the models of businesses, the strategies of investment attraction, and adequacy of products to markets, notably the US market.

The partners are expected to demonstrate their projects in such areas as education, health, food and water security, energy, environment, AI, and digital transformation to decision-makers and investors on Demo Day, or the final day.

Expressing its best wishes for the participants, the SACGC reaffirmed commitment to helping the national cadres have access to the global markets, and opening new horizons for innovation.



SACGC photo Kuwaiti innovators participating in the Silicon Valley 2025 Accelerator Program in San Francisco.

Continued from Page 1

HH Sheikh Nasser

recognition of his tireless efforts to strengthen relations between Kuwait and Japan.

His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed is among those to whom honors comes, not those who seek them.

Women empowerment

30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which together constituted a qualitative leap in the empowerment of women at both the national and international levels.

Sheikha Jawaher noted that Kuwait has been progressing in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the formation of the National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, chaired by the Foreign Ministry and with the participation of relevant national entities, adopting a comprehensive institutional approach to enhancing women's role in prevention, protection, participation, and decision-making.

She added that recent years have witnessed pioneering achievements for Kuwaiti women in various fields, having joined the military and police forces, assumed leadership positions in the diplomatic corps, and contributed effectively to the fields of economics, science, technology, and engineering.

Sheikha Jawaher emphasized that these steps reflect Kuwait's commitment to the principle of equal opportunities and gender equality, and translate the strategic objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035, which considers women's empowerment a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

She commended the ongoing technical cooperation between the Foreign Ministry and the UN's ESCWA in supporting the work of the National Committee and developing the proposed national action plan.

Sheikha Jawaher affirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening partnerships with UN organizations and relevant national entities to develop policies that are more responsive to the needs of women and society.

She also affirmed that this workshop represents an important step towards preparing a comprehensive national action plan for implementing Security Council Resolution 1325, reflecting the unique nature of the Kuwaiti experience and its commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, noting that empowering women in Kuwait is an investment in the country's future, stability, and social security.

Kuwait, Iran

environmental management and renewable energy projects.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said the bilateral meetings he held during the summit aimed to boost joint cooperation on environmental and climate issues.

He clarified that these meetings were a "great chance" to share views on key issues such as switching to clean energy and international commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

Kuwait's participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) is part of its ongoing efforts to support

international efforts to address the challenges of climate change and achieve sustainable development, and to reaffirm its commitment to responsible environmental policies in line with the United Nations' climate and clean energy goals.

Nationality of

A Cabinet decree annulled the citizenship certificates of seven individuals and also revoked the citizenship of those who acquired it through them, in accordance with Article 21-bis-A of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 on the Nationality Law and its amendments.

Also, the Higher Committee for Citizenship Verification issued a decision revoking the citizenship of a woman, based on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments.

Flights back

Bahrain, on Sunday.

Official spokesperson of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Abdullah Al-Rajhi confirmed that the airport resumed takeoffs and landings, following the stabilization and general improvement of weather conditions throughout the country.

Al-Rajhi stated that the safety of passengers and aircraft is the top priority of the DGCA, stressing that all the necessary operational measures are being taken in coordination with other concerned authorities and airlines to ensure the highest standards of air safety. He reiterated that the operational situation at the airport is stable and flights are operating as scheduled in coordination with the airlines and other concerned authorities.

Earlier, the DGCA announced that horizontal visibility dropping below 100 meters due to dense fog led to the diversion of several flights to neighboring airports.

Meanwhile, weather and environmental forecaster Issa Ramadan revealed on his account on the 'X' platform that the type of fog that formed Sunday was dense radiation fog, which mostly affected coastal areas with high humidity and light westerly winds. He added "it is expected to form intermittently over the coming days, particularly at night and in the early morning, depending on humidity and calm wind. Radiation fog is the most common type, forming on clear, calm nights when the earth radiates heat rapidly, cooling the air in contact with it. If the air is sufficiently humid, water vapor condenses, forming fog. This often occurs in the early morning hours and usually dissipates after sunrise."

'Ban on cash

regulate the movement of funds in the sector and transform it into a regulatory system.

Mohammad Al-Rashed, CEO of Qasr Al-Sabaik for Precious Metals, praised the decision, asserting that it is a vital step, which increases confidence in the market, protects consumers, and raises standards of integrity in the gold trade. He pointed out that obligating companies to use electronic payment methods aligns with the efforts of the State to combat

money laundering and develop the business environment.

He emphasized that the gold sector requires the highest levels of accuracy and reliability, and that the decision contributes to raising market efficiency and investor confidence. He affirmed his commitment to implement the directives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Central Bank of Kuwait, indicating that he has adopted electronic payment systems for years, affirming the principle of transparency and enhancing trust.

He stressed that the decision puts the Kuwaiti gold market on the cusp of a more transparent and regulated phase, bringing it closer to the advanced Gulf experience in regulating precious metals trading. He said the market is now preparing for a new commercial environment governed by the banking system, which will provide stronger consumer protection and limit irregular transactions.

He confirmed that the decision is in line with modern Gulf policies on comprehensive electronic oversight of gold trading. He revealed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted the 'UAE Gold Chainlink System' in 2022, a system that mandates electronic tracking of payments to ensure transparency, while Saudi Arabia implemented a stringent electronic system to closely monitor cash transactions, with the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority announcing electronic monitoring of gold transactions and mandating shops to use non-cash payment methods. He added the Capital Market Authority in Oman has emphasized the prohibition of cash transactions in the precious metals trade, in support of financial oversight and to prevent tax evasion.

Family basis of

According to Al-Huwailah, the digital challenges are now affecting the structure and stability of the family, including changing patterns of dialogue within the family and the emergence of what is known as 'digital silence' between generations due to the excessive use of technology and social media. She also mentioned the risks associated with cybersecurity and the impact of digital content on the values and traditions of Gulf society.

She called for turning these challenges into an opportunity to strengthen family communication, develop emotional intelligence, and improve dialogue skills among all family members. She underscored the importance of utilizing technology as a tool for empowerment, not isolation, by employing it in education, training, and the development of human skills through effective partnerships between educational and media institutions, civil society and governments.

She confirmed that Kuwait continues its national and regional efforts, in line with the directives of its wise political leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, aimed at consolidating family values and strengthening social cohesion.

Moreover, Director General of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs Mohammad Al-Obaidli pointed out that rapid digital transformations present Gulf families with challenges that impact identity and social cohesion. He stressed the need to develop flexible and innovative social policies, which keep pace with these changes.

Will tourist

Al-Furaih urged Kuwait to invest in land outside Kuwait for the establishment of farms for cattle and broiler chickens, as well as other food processing and industrial facilities.

He said this approach could create opportunities to diversify national revenue streams and help control price increases.

Al-Furaih also recommended that Kuwait acquire large tracts of land in countries suitable for wheat cultivation, such as Egypt, Russia, or other Asian nations, to produce wheat for the country.

He further emphasized the importance of supporting small business owners, particularly those in manufacturing, to reduce reliance on imports.

Also, economic expert Lawyer Athbi Al-Tahnoon stated that the significant rise in gold prices this year has contributed to a decrease in purchasing power for the majority of consumers.

He highlighted that global economic and political conditions have affected not only Kuwait but many other countries as well.

Lawyer Al-Tahnoon believes the decline in consumer spending is temporary and is expected to rebound with the implementation of decisions related to foreign investment and other upcoming measures aimed at improving the economic situation.

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