

LOCAL

University's commitment to social responsibility and youth development

American University of Kuwait concludes sponsorship for KON program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 23: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) successfully concluded its academic sponsorship of the KON program, organized by LOYAC for social entrepreneurship. In line with the University's commitment to social responsibility and youth development, the program was hosted on AUK's campus.

The KON program, in collaboration with Babson College – a leading institution in social entrepreneurship, caters to youth aged 12 to 16 and provides training to equip students with the tools and resources to achieve their goals, showcasing their projects by the end of the program.

Amal Al-Binali, AUK's executive vice president, expressed her pride in the University's continued academic partnership with LOYAC, "AUK and LOYAC are proud academic partners for the second year of the Kon Social Entrepreneurship Program. We share the belief in empowering young individuals to create positive change. We also recognize the urgent need to address environmental and social challenges and firmly believe that entrepreneurship can play a significant role in finding innovative solutions."

Commenting on the program and its alignment with AUK's values, Eng. Mayce El Mostafa, a judge panelist for the KON program and director of the AUK Campus Services Department, said, "The Kon Program's focus on skill development, personal growth, and community engagement perfectly aligns with AUK's values of holistic education and community service. It is inspiring to witness our campus become a hub where young individuals thrive, develop leadership skills, and make meaningful contributions. We applaud LOYAC's dedication to fostering socially responsible leaders, and we eagerly anticipate the continued success of the Kon Program within our University's nurturing



Group photo during the closing ceremony.

ing environment."

AUK remains committed to supporting initiatives that encourage

young learners to continue their education and acquire the skills needed to make a positive

impact on their communities. This academic partnership reflects the University's dedication to serving

society by creating an inspiring environment for youth to learn, think, and become.

Kaspersky reveals top four email scams targeting people in Kuwait

Q2 2023 sees 49% increase phishing detections in comparison with Q1

DUBAI, Aug 23: Kaspersky experts have outlined top four email scam themes and tactics currently prevalent in the Middle East, Türkiye, Africa region (META). These scams highlight different social engineering techniques used by cybercriminals, however the objective remains the same, which is to entice unsuspecting victims and steal

their personal and financial information.

Phishing remains the most common type of social engineering attacks. According to the Spam and Phishing in 2022 report, Kaspersky's anti-phishing system thwarted over 500 million attempts to access fraudulent Web sites globally in 2022. In Kuwait, we see that this type of threat is growing over time: Q2 2023 saw (49% increase) phishing detections in comparison with Q1.



KUNA photos

Acting Director of Kuwait University, Dr. Fayed Al-Dhafiri, inspects the admission and registration hall in Sabah Al-Salem University City.

Kuwait University effectively caters to educational requirements of students

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 23, (KUNA): Dr. Fayed Al-Dhafiri, currently serving as the Acting Director of Kuwait University, has reaffirmed the university's capacity to effectively cater to the educational requirements of its students. This affirmation was delivered via an official press statement by Dr. Al-Dhafiri on Tuesday.

The statement was made during his inspection tour of the admission and registration hall at the University City in Sabah Al-Salem. The purpose of this visit was to closely monitor the ongoing registration process for incoming students, ensuring the smooth progression of their enrollment procedures,

while also attentively addressing any concerns raised by the students.

During his visit, Dr. Al-Dhafiri highlighted the continuity of the registration process and underscored a notable surge in the demand for various academic courses. He emphasized the university's proactive readiness to adequately fulfill the academic needs of students well before the commencement of the upcoming academic year. The institution is committed to ensuring that students' requirements for courses are met promptly and efficiently.

Dr. Al-Dhafiri extended his commendation to the dedicated personnel of the Deanship of Admission and

Registration for their efforts in facilitating the enrollment process. He extended warm wishes to the students, hoping that the upcoming academic year would be one marked by remarkable achievements and educational advancement that align with the high standards of Kuwait University.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Dhafiri expressed his anticipation for the forthcoming academic year to be characterized by exceptional academic and pedagogical endeavors. He attributed this expectation to the collective hard work and dedication of the academic faculty, the supporting staff, and the entirety of Kuwait University's employees.

The four email scams described further disguise themselves to have come from trusted sources, tricking their recipients into opening the emails, clicking on malicious links or downloading harmful attachments.

Undelivered parcels: Exploiting human curiosity, many people have received emails and text messages from postal and courier services providing links to confirm payment or to unsubscribe. Clicking on these links redirect individuals to a fake page that steals sensitive information.

Know Your Customer (KYC): Cybercriminals have been posing as prominent banks, requesting people to complete KYC verification to comply with financial regulations or avoid suspension of transactions. The objective here is to exploit human fear by highlighting words such as "urgent" in the email to manipulate victims. The format and design of the email, and the KYC link appear to look authentic to visually trick people.

Unusual email account log-in activity: These fake alerts flag false sign-in/log-in activity into an individual's email account and provide a link to report the user. The email includes sign-in details such as country, IP address, date and browser which make the alert appear legitimate and cause worry. Coupled with the travel season, this scam theme can increase the cybercriminal success rate.



Yamout

Free money: These fraudulent emails play on elements of human greed and curiosity. Cybercriminals attempt to convince people to open a malicious email attachment related to money deposits. In reality, the attachment is an HTML page that redirects the victim to a fake Microsoft Outlook page to steal email credentials.

The above tactics are known as social engineering techniques. Social engineering is a manipulation technique built on how people think and act. This involves an email or text message pretending to be from a trusted source. Once a cybercriminal understands what motivates an individual's actions, they try to exploit their lack of knowledge and manipulate their behavior to meet the end goal.

"There is no aspect of our life that cybercriminals cannot exploit. Human behavior and emotion is no exception. These scams are a result of manipulation based on fear, curiosity and greed. The key takeaway is to pay attention to basic details in emails before responding, even if they are from trusted sources, because one wrong click can lead to harsh consequences," commented Maher Yamout, Lead Security Researcher at Kaspersky.

To safeguard yourself against such scams, Kaspersky experts recommend the following:

- Take a closer look at the sender's name and email address before replying to emails.
- Look out for typos in the body of the email and subject line.
- Use a good spam filter.
- Secure your device with trusted antivirus software such as Kaspersky Premium to help monitor your email box and block phishing attempts.
- Give yourself time to think before being pressured into replying to an email.
- If doubt persists, contact the concerned authority to reconfirm the request.



Dr Abdullah Al-Sabah with Dr Adarsh Swaika.



Dr Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah posing for a photo with Navy personnel.

Preparations in progress for future joint exercises between Kuwait and India

Indian envoy, Rear Admiral hold reception onboard INS Visakhapatnam

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 23: The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika and Rear Admiral Vineet S. McCarthy, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet held a reception onboard the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Visakhapatnam, Monday, evening.

The guest of the evening Kuwait's Undersecretary of Defense HE Dr Abdullah Meshal Mubarak Al-Sabah, emphasized that the visit of the Indian warship destroyer, INS Visakhapatnam, to Kuwait signifies the profound and longstanding relations between the two nations. He expressed optimism about the future development of maritime and defense collaboration between Kuwait and India.

Dr. Al-Sabah, while attending a reception on board the Indian destroyer, highlighted that the visit concluded with naval military drills. He disclosed that preparations are in progress for future joint exercises and knowledge exchange initiatives between the two countries.

Brigadier General Salah Al-Sala, the representative of the Commander of the Naval Force, echoed the sentiment of cooperation. He revealed the existence of numerous joint exercises and agreements between the naval forces of Kuwait and India. He also mentioned the Kuwaiti Navy's frequent request for specialized training courses from India.

Addressing the audience the Indian envoy expressed his gratitude to Defense Undersecretary, for his "gracious presence as the Chief Guest for this evening's reception onboard Indian Naval Ship Visakhapatnam" – the indigenously built flagship carrier of Western fleet named after a historical city and naval base on the eastern coast of India.

Dr Swaika also took the opportunity to express his deep apprecia-

tion and profound gratitude to the leadership, the Government and the people of the State of Kuwait, for their steadfast commitment to the close and friendly relations between India and Kuwait.

The Indian envoy reminded that "dhows and ships have historically been the main driver of the strong and intense people to people ties between our two countries. Not only did our Kuwaitis friends in the 19th and early 20th century went to India on dhows and boats with Arabian horses, pearls and dates and brought back textiles, timber, spices etc, they laid the foundation of our strong bilateral ties."

"What could be more poignant a fact than that the Indian rupee was the legal tender in Kuwait for over a century till 1961. It would be no exaggeration therefore to say that India and Kuwait are natural allies and true partners."

"This could be seen in our multi-faceted bilateral relations over the years -- be it energy, trade, infrastructure development, medical cooperation, people to people exchanges, or defense cooperation and security. The large and vibrant Indian community in Kuwait is a manifestation of our close people to people linkages," he said.

It cannot be a more proud moment for me to see this majestic Indian Naval Ship berthed in Kuwait. The presence of the Western Fleet Commander onboard the ship shows the importance we attach to the growing defence ties between India and the State of Kuwait.

He went on to say, that the "Defense cooperation constitutes a significant element of our shared strategic vision for the region. The bilateral defense engagements have seen a noticeable upswing in

the recent past with an increased frequency of Indian Naval ship visits facilitated with active support of the State of Kuwait.

"We will remain ever grateful to our Kuwaiti friends for their assistance in establishing the Sea-Air bridge between India and Kuwait in 2021 for supply of liquid oxygen during the second Covid wave. These naval engagements have assisted us in promoting understanding and furthering inter-operability between the two friendly navies."

"The Indian Naval assets," he said, "have been increasingly deployed in recent times to address the maritime concerns of the region."

This is in addition, to the Indian Navy being involved in assisting countries in the region with Hydrographic Survey, Search and Rescue and other such capacity building and capability-enhancement activities.

During the three days of port call, both sides participated in various training interactions onboard and at the Naval base to understand the operational procedures of both sides besides the high level meetings/interactions. This unique exposure and interaction between the two Naval forces has given them meaningful insights into the working aspects of each other, Dr Swaika said.

INS Visakhapatnam which arrived at Al-Shuaikh Port for an Operational Turn Around visit on August 19, 2023, is the lead ship and the first of the Visakhapatnam class stealth guided missile destroyers.

The event was attended by ambassadors of several countries, Kuwaiti and Indian dignitaries, officers and crew members of INS Visakhapatnam, friends of India in Kuwait and media.