



A group photo from the event.



H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, (fourth from left) the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria being presented with a plaque.



Some of the IWG guests at the event.



Some photos from the event.



Photos by Iehab Qurtal

Event showcases rich culture, heritage and beauty of Bulgaria

IWG Kuwait hosts enchanting Bulgarian Cultural Day

By Suzan Nasser
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The International Women's Group in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria, hosted a captivating Bulgarian Cultural Day on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, the President of IWG and the spouse of the Bulgarian Ambassador, graciously welcomed esteemed guests and members upon their arrival.

The event was inaugurated with Mrs. Laila Boulos, the Public Relations Coordinator, introducing H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In his address, Ambassador Dimitrov expressed his immense joy at being part of this event, especially during a time when Bulgaria and Kuwait were celebrating the remarkable 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to IWG for hosting this Bulgarian Cultural Day, considering it an

outstanding opportunity to showcase some facets of his country's rich culture and traditions.

Ambassador Dimitrov emphasized the longstanding history of friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and Kuwait, with culture playing a pivotal role in this relationship. Over the years, cultural exchange has encompassed exhibitions, participation in cultural festivals, concerts, collaborative efforts between libraries and museums, student exchanges, and various other activities.

The Ambassador also acknowledged the significant role of women, stating that, as guests of an association that unites women from diverse backgrounds, he couldn't help but highlight the vital role of women in Bulgarian society. He commended Bulgarian women for their active involvement in all aspects of life and their role as true custodians of Bulgarian cultural and spiritual traditions.

Highlighting Bulgaria's historical and cultural heritage, Ambassador Dimitrov noted that the Bulgarian state has flourished in the Balkans for over 14 centuries, with its traditions influenced by a myriad of civiliza-

tions and peoples, including ancient Thrace, Greece, Rome, and the Near East. Many Bulgarian sites and traditions have earned recognition on UNESCO's world heritage list, alongside the country's natural beauty, which draws millions of foreign tourists each year.

Progress

In conclusion, Ambassador Dimitrov took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to H.H. the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the third anniversary of his assumption of office. He also expressed his wishes for the continuous progress and prosperity of the State of Kuwait, its wise leadership, and its friendly people.

Following his speech, Mrs. Polina Dlamini, Vice President of IWG and spouse of the Ambassador of Eswatini, presented an honorary shield to the Bulgarian Ambassador and his wife, Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, as a token of appreciation for organizing this special day and for introducing the attendees to the cultural richness and beauty of Bulgaria.

Throughout the event, a short film showcased Bulgaria's diverse natural and cultural heritage, historical landmarks, breathtaking mountains, lakes, caves, mineral springs, and exciting adventure tourism activities.

The audience was treated to a mesmerizing harp performance by Mrs. Violeta Shabanliyska, featuring compositions by Bulgarian composers.

The event also featured a visual display of hand-crafted cultural items and traditional rituals that were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017. Traditional Bulgarian folklore costumes, known for their uniqueness, were also on display.

To tantalize the taste buds, the chefs at the Crowne Plaza Hotel prepared some famous Bulgarian dishes, all served in an ambiance filled with Bulgarian traditional music.

As a delightful conclusion to the Bulgarian Cultural Day, attendees had the chance to participate in raffles offering precious prizes generously provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria.



AUK students at Dartmouth.

AUK goes global with its International Programs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) continues to demonstrate its commitment to offering a unique and globally competitive educational experience. The University's dynamic International Programs facilitated the placement of eight students who were chosen by the International Programs Selection Committee. Six of the selected students spent their summer at Dartmouth College and two students went to George Washington University in the USA.

Four of the students were selected for the Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange Program, securing positions closely aligned with their individual academic pursuits and career aspirations. Mariam Shehadeh pioneered to undertake an internship at Dartmouth's prestigious Thayer School of Engineering; Marina Ayoub and Lea Calingasan interned at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business; while Lolwah Salem also pioneered to intern at the



AUK students at George Washington.

Dartmouth Center for Social Impact.

Embarking on the Dartmouth-AUK Summer Student Exchange Program were two students, Ahmed AboElhiba and Aiza Hussain who described their experiences as a convergence of their interests and an invaluable journey of self-discovery.

Noora Al-Sabah and Reem Qasem

also spent their summer in the US at George Washington University where they enrolled in courses to broaden their knowledge and enhance their expertise.

The International Programs at AUK partners with top universities worldwide to provide students with the opportunity to take their education

overseas to study and intern. The international exchange is also reciprocal whereby AUK is the only private university in Kuwait that also welcomes international students seeking to further their academic and professional pursuits.

AUK cultivates dynamic international partnerships and collaborations with renowned global institutions, expanding the academic and professional horizons of its students whilst also pushing the boundaries of education on a local and global scale.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw