

## Program sheds light on recent events affecting Middle East

# AUK hosts multi-speaker event with Sciences Po and KFAS

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: In collaboration with the Sciences Po Kuwait Program and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), the Departments of International Relations and Social and Behavioral Sciences at AUK held an informative multi-speaker event titled, Transnational Issues in International Relations which aimed to shed light on different topics that have affected the Middle East recently. The event was moderated by Dr. Roman Kulchitsky, chair of the International Relations and Social and Behavioral Sciences Departments at AUK and was attended by the University's students and faculty members.

The first speaker was Dr. Dawn Chatty, anthropology professor at the University of Oxford. Dr. Chatty's presentation entitled, Forced Migration: Changing Concepts of Belonging and Identity, Citizenship, and Denationalization. Her presentation began with the history of forced migration after World War II. Dr. Chatty described that period as a "Modern Humanitarian Era" when



Dr. Roman Kulchitsky, chair of the International Relations and Social and Behavioral Sciences Departments at AUK, Dr. Dawn Chatty, anthropology professor at the University of Oxford, Dr. Pete Moore, visiting professor at Paris School of International Affairs, Dr. Tamirace Fakhoury, associate professor of political science and global migration and refugee studies at Aalborg University.

the UN agency for refugees was founded to aid displaced people and migrants through various international covenants, laws, and treaties. Supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN

Refugee Convention and other supporting treaties contain articles that ensure that everyone can leave and return back to their own country as well as obtain asylum in other countries. Dr. Chatty also emphasized the powerful role of activists in supporting refugees and promoting their human rights. "In many countries of Europe and throughout the world, individuals and solidarity networks have begun to emerge to help forced migrants and people who have lost protection of their own country," Dr. Chatty affirmed.

The next speaker, Dr. Pete Moore, visiting professor at Paris School of International Affairs started off his presentation on international relations by first explaining conflictual events in the Middle East. In his presentation, Dr. Moore discussed the conflicts of the Middle East that had foreign intervention, and noted that the duration of these conflicts were the result of many variables. "The Middle East in some way is unique because of what is considered the

permeability of borders in the Middle East," Dr. Moore said. He then discussed how the militarization of Western foreign powers in Middle East conflicts also had impacts in the west, suggesting an increased use of domestic force within Western nations. He cited some of the recent national responses to the Black Lives Matter movement as an example of increased domestic militarization.

The final speaker, Dr. Tamirace Fakhoury, associate professor of political science and global migration and refugee studies at Aalborg University introduced her topic, Pandemic Borderscapes and Governance: Mobility and Rights, and demonstrated how governments draw on the pandemic to implement strict rules and policies by limiting people's mobility and rights. She supported her argument with the worsening conditions in Lebanon due to the pandemic. "Covid-19, in fact, became one of the pivotal factors that enabled the Lebanese government to further escape its

responsibilities and obscure accountability and cascading crises, whether we are talking about the financial collapse or Beirut blast," Dr. Fakhoury said.

The event concluded with a Q&A session where students and faculty presented their questions and engaged in intellectual discussions with the speakers.

Science Po is a renowned research university specialized in the field of humanities and social sciences based in Paris, and KFAS is a Kuwaiti private non-profit organization that aims to support progress and advancing sciences and technology. Working together, the two institutions – through the Sciences Po's Kuwait Program – support a range of initiatives in the fields of research, teaching, and academic events, with special emphasis on studying the Middle East and Gulf region. The AUK Department of International Relations continues to support student learning inside and outside the classroom by offering discussions of regional and local issues.



Writers' Forum Kuwait members photo from the virtual meeting.

## Group marks India's Independence Day

# Patriotism echoed at Writers' Forum meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Writers' Forum Kuwait, an August group of multilingual poets and writers from India, residing in Kuwait, met for their monthly meeting on the virtual platform of zoom on Friday, Aug 27. The evening was a special one as it was an evening dedicated to the celebration of the 75th Independence Day of India.

The members greeted each other with much fervor and patriotism. The general secretary of the forum and compere of the evening, Mrs. Nazneen Ali, started the day with a patriotic couplet that filled the atmosphere with respect and love for the Nation. She invited the President of the forum and Urdu critic, Mrs. Maimuna Chougle, to preside over the day's proceeding while Hindi poetess Mrs. Anupama Chaturvedi was requested to be the Chief Guest of the day.

While Patriotism was at the core of most of the recitations; colors of creativity, reality, love, life and humor were also witnessed in the meeting.

The meeting commenced on a high note with Mrs. Nazneen Ali wishing everyone on the occasion of the Independence Day. She recited a ghazal in Urdu that mesmerized everyone. Urdu ghazals are usually a combination of independent couplets where each couplet may express different feelings and convey different message. She was followed by Umesh Sharma who also showcased his extraordinary writing skills through a ghazal. The session of ghazals continued with Urdu poet Sayeed Nazar reciting another remarkable ghazal that was much appreciated.

### Message

The feeling of patriotism reached its heights by a patriotic poem 'Ti-ranga' by Mrs. Kalpana Shah. While Dr. (Mrs.) Radhika Guleri Bhardwaj was successful in spreading the message of living life with zeal during this current tough time of the pandemic, Mrs. Kamla Prakash touched a sensitive issue of the loneliness of an old aged mother. An entirely different aspect was well touched by Sunil Sonsi through his motivational poem. Ameeruddin Ameer recited a poem dedicated to one's life partner, bringing out the importance of family relationships. Mrs. Kavita Sarvesh entertained everyone with her imagination on a very simple yet interesting subject of 'the cap of a pen'. Member Mohan Singh recited a poem with beautifully woven words on the importance of smile composed by his daughter Mrs. Parmineer Kaur.

Subsequent to all the beautiful renditions, the Chief Guest of the day Mrs. Anupama Chaturvedi appreciated all the poets in a unique way by rewarding their own couplets in their praise. She then shared a poignant story depicting the reality of life and the complexity of relations that some people face in a marital relationship.

The meeting reached its benchmark with a patriotic poem by the President, Mrs. Maimuna Ali Chougle. In her presidential remarks, she wished that India reaches new heights every day. She also wished that the poets of the Forum and all other fellow Indians who are away from home will continue to love both the countries that they are associated with; their motherland



Chief Guest of the event, Indian Ambassador H.E. Sibi George virtually addresses the audience.

### Indian poets regale

# IMA Kuwait organizes online Mushayera - Kavi Sammelan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: "Providing avenues to our poets, artists and young talents to showcase their skills and artistic acumen is an important interval," said H.E. Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Kuwait, to the audience attending an online "Mushayera - Kavi Sammelan" in his inaugural recorded speech. The honorable Indian Ambassador appreciated and congratulated Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait for organizing this timely virtual event to mark the 75th Independence Day anniversary and 60th anniversary of India Kuwait Diplomatic Relationship. He further said, "Urdu language has contributed immensity in promoting Indian values, patriotism and spirit of universal respect and brotherhood".

He also appreciated the IMA role in helping fellow citizens during this COVID-19 pandemic time. It is reminded that IMA Kuwait, with coordination with Indian Embassy and different Welfare Organizations of Kuwait under the umbrella of the Ministry of Awqaf Kuwait, has helped out more than 4,500 suffering families.

The aid consisted of the basic needs like food, clothes, medicine, arranging airfares from Kuwait to India, and monetary aid also. He also urged the community to participate in various programs organized by our Embassy.

An overwhelming audience attended to listen poetic acumen in Hindi and Urdu languages from eminent Indian poets living in India and Gulf countries (Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia) with enormous enthusiasm and enjoyed the poetry presented in Hindi and Urdu.

India and the land where the live and work - Kuwait.

The meeting concluded with Mrs. Nazneen Ali congratulating all the members for yet another successful

languages.

Indian poets residing in India and Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Kuwait participated in this Kavi Sammelan. Eminent Indian poets Dr. Ved Prakash Shukla - "Sanjar" (Kanpur), Jaleel Nizami (Hyderabad), Dr. Umair Manzar (Lucknow), Dr. Ganesh Gaekwad, "Aghaz" (Buldhana), Sarfaraz Bazmi (Madhavpur, Rajasthan) Dr. Tariq Qamar (Delhi), Amer Azmi (UAE), Iftekhar Raghib (Qatar), were the guest poets. Eminent Poet of Kuwait Dr. Amer Kidwai presided the event. Well known poet in Kuwait literary circle, Masood Hassas convened the program marvelously. Shamvil Parvez, an orator and well known speaker the President Indian Muslim Association IMA Kuwait also recited his poetry.

The event commenced with recitation with translation of Quranic verses by Master Abdur Rahman. National Anthems of both countries; Kuwait and India (recorded by Children Circle - IMA) were presented by the technical team. The audience stood in respect of National Anthems.

Nazeer Ahmed, Coordinator Urdu Literary Circle -IMA Kuwait welcomed the Guests and audience. Advocate Mohammed Faheem Ahmed, the event organizer, gave a brief introduction of the Chief Guest H.E. Sibi George, honorable Ambassador of India to Kuwait and requested the IMA technical team to play his recorded inaugural speech. Irshad Hussain gave a brief introduction of IMA in metaphorical Hindi language. The program ended with vote of thanks by Nazeer Ahmed.

evening. All the members hoped that the pandemic and the related restrictions might end soon and wished to meet physically next time if the regulations in the country permit.

GUST's new building will also be home to a new selection of majors for its Graduate programs such as a Masters in English, Accounting, Computer Science, Public Relations, and Information Systems Management. It also intends to add more Bachelor's degree Programs, increasing the already diversified list of majors that the university offers. Majors such as Cybersecurity, Data Science, Political Science, Comparative Cultural Studies, Mathematics (education), Science (education), Entrepreneurship, and Analytics of Supply Policy and Economics. All these additional programs are put in mind with the intent to invest in Kuwait's youth and develop the country's future leaders.

GUST also announced at the press conference, the recipients of its fully sponsored Graduate Scholarship, Haya Al-Wuhai and Bader Al-Sharhan, who both received a full scholarship to continue their education at the University of Edinburgh. The Graduate Scholarship is awarded to distinguished students and offers a full sponsorship of their graduate and post-doctoral studies from a list of various universities in the United Kingdom. Upon completion of their graduate degrees both students have the opportunity to engage in an academic teaching role at GUST.

The criteria to become a potential candidate for the scholarship includes holding a Kuwaiti citizenship, being at least 28 years of age, currently holding an undergraduate degree from GUST, and at least carry a B+ or a 3.30 GPA score. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a strong command of the English language, and meet all academic requirements of the concerned universities.

GUST's campus is currently home to a number of recreational and academic facilities all with the intent of nurturing Kuwait's youth and preparing its future leaders. The new strategic development plan and building are a testament to GUST's dedication in bringing the best learning environments to its students and in return potentially rewarding them with grants such as the Graduate Scholarship and an opportunity to teach at GUST. The strategic plan is a testament to GUST's long-term vision to become one of the leading universities in Kuwait and in the region.

## Project entails a new academic building

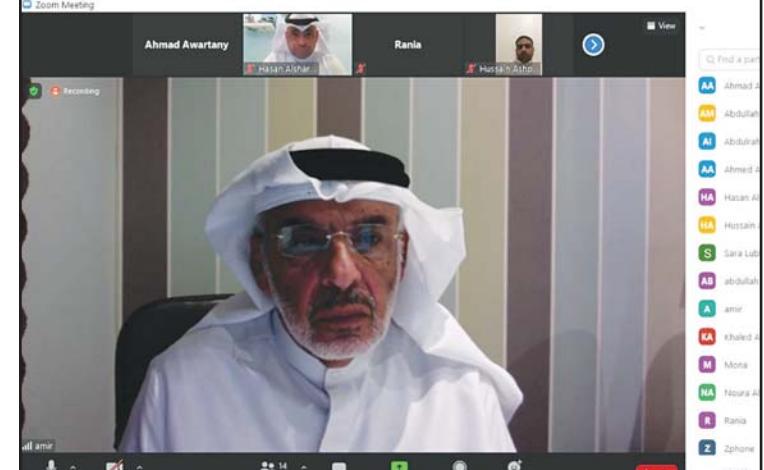
# GUST launches development plan



Nawaf Arhamah Arhamah and Dr. Nader Al-Jalal mediate between Haya Al-Wuhai and Bader Al-Sharhan.



Graphic picture of the part of building to be constructed.



A Zoom photo from the workshop.

## Four companies take part

# PACE & KIF host workshop

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Professional Advancement and Continuing Education Center (PACE) at GUST hosted an Insurance Liability workshop in collaboration with the Kuwait Insurance Federation (KIF). This marked the third workshop PACE has held with KIF on insurance liability and included four Kuwaiti insurance companies including Wethaq Takaful Insurance Company, First Takaful Travel Insurance Company, Bahrain Takaful Insurance Company, and KFH Takaful. The workshop took place between May 30 and June 3 via Zoom.

Participants from all four insurance companies participated and took courses that discussed insurance liability for both insurance and reinsurance companies. There were five sessions total that ran for four hours per day and upon completion participants received a certificate for attending and completing the course. A total of 10 participants took part in the course, all members of the four collaborating institutions.

Senior Manager of Professional Development & Community Services, Muhammad Awadallah said "Hosting such a vital course is an important part of GUST's community outreach. We are proud to host the Insurance Liability course with Wethaq Takaful, First Takaful, Bahrain Takaful, and KFH Takaful."

PACE recently hosted a course with Kuwait Insurance Federation (KIF) titled "Integrated Insurance Training Program" which also offered insurance training courses. This course is the third edition and is testament to GUST's continuous effort to offer courses for industry professionals. PACE offers preparatory exams for the CFA, CPA, CMA, and GMAT, but also offers other courses such as Healthcare Management, Project Management, and a General English Program.