



Photos from the International Women's Group's 35th anniversary celebrations.

Event highlights members' legacy and leadership

## IWG-Kuwait celebrates 35 years of cross-cultural empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, May 23: The International Women's Group (IWG) celebrated its 35th anniversary with a spectacular event that brought together members, dignitaries, and its leaders in a grand celebration of the organization's enduring legacy of empowering women and fostering international connections. Held on the evening of May 19, 2024, at The Crowne Plaza, the event was a resounding success, highlighting the achievements and contributions of past and present members.

The evening commenced with Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, spouse of the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria and IWG President for 2023-2024, warmly welcoming the Honorary President of IWG, H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Badar Al Muhammad Al Sabah, along with five former IWG presidents.

The VIPs entered to the sound of uplifting music. The audience greeted the five distinguished IWG presidents with enthusiastic applause as they took the stage, each adorned with a sash symbolizing their leadership and contributions to the organization.

### Milestones

The formal program was emceed by Mrs. Layla Boulos, who introduced the Honorary President H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Al Sabah and the former presidents: Mrs. Jasmin Shuhaijar, Mrs. Rima Khalidi (Palestine), Mrs. Ghada Shawky (Egypt), and Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova.

Following the introductions, Mrs. Dimitrova delivered a heartfelt welcome speech, highlighting the significant milestones achieved by the IWG over the past 35 years. She spoke of the organization's role in uniting women from diverse cultural backgrounds, emphasizing the importance of mutual understanding and support.

"We are reminded of the remarkable journey that began three and a half decades ago," said Dimitrova. "In 1989, IWG began as a small group of visionary women, headed by the spouse of the then Ambassador of the Netherlands, Mrs. Hanneke Veling, may her soul rest in peace. Those energetic ladies planted the seeds of initiative and laid the foundations of



Honorary President of IWG, H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Badar Al Muhammad Al Sabah.

this group, which has overcome the challenges of time and grown stronger with each passing year."

She extended sincere compliments and blessings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and congratulated His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on assuming his duties at the head of the new government, wishing him success in his mission.

Mrs. Dimitrova emphasized the dedication of IWG members, stating, "IWG owes its remarkable viability and success to you, dear members, to your commitment and dedication. You are the core of IWG, and with your enthusiasm and creativity, our group will continue to pursue its noble objectives of promoting cultural exchange and friendship."

She also expressed special gratitude to Honorary President H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Bader Al Mohamed Al Sabah for her continuous support. "We are immensely happy that Her Excellency has joined us today for this celebration," she said.

Furthermore, Mrs. Dimitrova thanked the Kuwaiti institutions, civil society organizations, and private entities that support IWG's initiatives, as well as the diplomatic missions and international organizations

accredited to the State of Kuwait for their ongoing cooperation. She also expressed appreciation to the media and press for their support.

In turn, H.E. Sheikha Hanouf Badar Al Muhammad Al Sabah, addressed the group saying: "For many years, Kuwait has welcomed people from all over the world. This brings together a richness of cultures that strengthens our nation. The International Women's Group celebrates this by bringing women together from different backgrounds to share their stories.

By learning from each other, we gain a deeper understanding of the world and appreciate the beauty of our differences. This welcoming spirit is what makes Kuwait such a special place."

The celebration then continued with a historical video featuring several former presidents, representing the Netherlands, Malta, Pakistan, Italy, Palestine and Egypt; past underscoring the international and interconnected nature of the group by bringing voices from around the world to the event.

### Presentation

To mark IWG's Coral Anniversary of 35 years, Dr. Shaker Hamza Al Hazeem from KISR delivered an enlightening presentation on Kuwait coral, followed by an award ceremony recognizing his contributions. The audience was then treated to a special video showcasing a dive conducted by Diver 36 to display the IWG banner underwater.

A commemorative song especially written for IWG's 35th anniversary was sung by member Mrs. Shireen Hattar, accompanied by musician and composer, Mr. Joudat Marshash. The duo's songs, with lyrics displayed on stage and screen, resonated with the audience, and the rest of the musical performances added a lively and festive atmosphere to the evening. Both artists were later honored with special awards for their contributions.

In a special segment, three outstanding IWG members – Mrs. Jasmin Shuhaijar, Mrs. Vera Al Mutawa, and Mrs. Farah Attai – were recognized with special awards for

their exceptional dedication and service throughout the years.

Mrs. Dimitrova then took the stage to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Polina Dalmini and Mrs. Saia Berdibay. She also expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the remaining seven ladies of the Executive Board: Mrs. Veera Al-Mutawa, Mrs. Farah Attai, Mrs. Kamelia Al-Mutawa, Mrs. Aziza Khan, Mrs. Layla Boulos, Mrs. Manar Alamat and Mrs. Afi Khan for their unwavering support and tireless dedication.

### Vision

The evening then proceeded to the announcement of the new IWG board. Mrs. Dimitrova introduced Mrs. Polina Dalmini, spouse of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Eswatini, as the new president, along with three vice presidents: Mrs. Rana Abu Shakra, spouse of the Ambassador of Jordan; Mrs. Laura Duclaud, spouse of the Ambassador of Mexico; and Mrs. Baigalmaa Bayantsagaan, spouse of the Ambassador of Mongolia. Mrs. Dalmini shared her vision for the future of the IWG, promising to build on the strong foundation laid by her predecessors. She also expressed her gratitude to the Executive Board and members for their trust and support.

The celebration culminated with a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony featuring Sheikha Hanouf and both the outgoing and incoming boards. The specially designed cake was a highlight, immensely admired by all.

The evening ended on a high note with a special raffle for members. The event concluded with a sumptuous buffet dinner prepared by the chefs of The Crowne Plaza, accompanied by live music, allowing guests to continue celebrating and networking in a festive atmosphere.

The 35th anniversary of the IWG was a testament to the strength and solidarity of women leaders and members who have contributed to the organization's rich history. It was a night to remember, filled with reflection, recognition, and anticipation for the future, with all attendees wishing for many more years of growth, mutual understanding, and community.



Group photo of attendees.

### Dr. Fridon empowers students

## Dartmouth prof shares research skills at AUK

KUWAIT CITY, May 23: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) recently hosted Dr. Fridon Shubitidze, a distinguished professor of Engineering from Dartmouth College, for a series of insightful talks and workshops.

In one session exclusively for the College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS) faculty, Dr. Fridon delved into the multifaceted use of electromagnetic fields and waves in both geophysical exploration and medical advancements. He highlighted the potential of his research in these areas, sparking enthusiasm among attendees.

Students enrolled in the Signals and Systems course also had the privilege of attending Dr. Fridon's lecture, titled From Maxwell's Equations to Sensing Technologies. This educational talk served as a bridge between theoretical concepts and practical implementations, inspiring future engineers and scientists.

Continuing his contributions, he shared his expertise in grant proposal writing during a workshop organized by the Office of Research and Grants (ORG). Faculty members gained valuable insights into crafting successful proposals, drawing from Dr. Fridon's extensive experience in securing funding for research projects.

Equally significant was the enlightening research talk featuring Dr. Fridon as the keynote speaker. During the talk, he



Dr. Iyad Abu Doush and Dr. Fridon Shubitidze.

unveiled his groundbreaking research in developing advanced sensing technologies capable of detecting subsurface targets, spanning from unexploded ordnances to underground utilities.

Dr. Fridon's accolades, including the 2019 Medal of Honor from the President of Georgia, underscore his remarkable contributions to science and technology. His workshops not only equipped the AUK community with valuable skills but also reaffirmed the University's commitment to fostering research excellence.



A photo from the event.

### 130 students participate in the contest

## Brainobrain hosts 3rd National Abacus Competition in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 23: Brainobrain hosted the 3rd National Abacus Competition "Brainobrainfest 2024" on 27th April 2024 at International British School, located in Fahheel, Kuwait. This abacus competition is designed based on skills and mathematical ability assessment to bring out the talents within the kids. It was graced by Arul Subramaniam, Technical Director of Brainobrain International and Falah Al-Dihani, General Manager, Sridhan General

Trading & Contracting Company.

This year, approximately 130 students participated in a thrilling 3 minutes abacus competition and 25 students, who have already completed Brainobrain abacus program have attended Brainobrain graduation ceremony. The kids participating in Brainobrain competition solves sixty mathematical calculations within 3 minutes. The elder kids derive answers through mental arithmetic skills whereas the junior kids derive

the answers using the abacus tool. The winners were classified into three categories: Champions, Gold toppers and Silver toppers.

Brainobrain's Advanced Abacus Skill Development Programme for 5-14 years children is designed to tap the hidden potentials of our young children, thus empowering the future-leaders and young-genius in them.

Brainobrain Course mainly focuses on developing the Brain Skills,

Life Skills and NLP Skills through carefully crafted syllabus and modules. Brainobrain is empowering the young geniuses of 75+ countries through 975 franchise centres. It has transformed the lives of more than 400,000 children worldwide through its high-quality programmes.

To know more details about Brainobrain Abacus Classes:

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