

Ambassador Lamsal highlights investment summit success

Nepal-Kuwait investment program promotes bilateral trade

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KUWAIT CITY, July 4: The Embassy of Nepal in Kuwait hosted an interactive program under the title 'Export Promotion and Investment Opportunities in Nepal' on Wednesday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This was to strengthen bilateral trade relations between Nepal and Kuwait, engaging key stakeholders to explore investment prospects and gain insights into export promotion trends.

Addressing the gathering, His Excellency Ghana Shyam Lamsal, Ambassador of Nepal to Kuwait, extended gratitude to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their steadfast support, which has bolstered the Nepal-Kuwait relationship.

Highlighting the significance of the Third Nepal Investment Summit held in Kathmandu last April, Ambassador Lamsal noted its global impact, attracting over 2,500 participants, including 800 delegates from 50 countries.

The summit showcased 152 projects, with 19 seeking expressions of interest and 9 undergoing market sounding across various sectors, demonstrating Nepal's commitment to attracting diverse investments.



Photo during the event.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Ambassador Lamsal emphasized the potential for expanding bilateral trade between Nepal and Kuwait, noting Nepal's exports of woolen carpets, silk shawls, and cotton textiles, and its imports of mineral turpentine oil, petroleum products, and household appliances from Kuwait. Efforts to enhance trade relations are ongoing, promising mutual economic benefits.

Beyond economic opportunities, Ambassador Lamsal highlighted Nepal's geographical diversity, from the lush plains of the Terai to the majestic Himalayas, including Mount Everest (Sagarmatha).

He underscored Nepal's rich cultural tapestry, comprising over 100 ethnic groups with unique traditions, languages, and arts, and its exemplary religious tolerance.

In conclusion, Ambassador Lamsal portrayed Nepal as not merely a destination but an invitation to experience its natural beauty, cultural diversity, and spiritual tranquility.

He invited investors to explore sectors like renewable energy, tourism infrastructure, and technology, promising supportive government policies and economic growth opportunities in Nepal's strategic position between India and China.

He concluded by affirming Nepal's role as a gateway for regional trade, facilitated by ongoing infrastructure developments and trade agreements, offering favorable conditions for business expansion in manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

First session focuses on integrity in workplace

'NBK Aspire' summer internship program kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, July 4: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has kick started 'NBK Aspire' Summer Internship Program for 2024, targeting students between the age of 14 and 18 years attending high school, college, or university, as part of delivering its social responsibility towards the youth and students.

The bank hosted the first training session, which started on June 30 and will continue until July 11, focusing on topics related to integrity in the workplace, in cooperation with Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority 'Nazaha', whose representatives lectured the students about its work nature.

The program's curriculum for this year is divided into 4 two-week sessions, which include training courses and workshops delivered in cooperation with Creative Confidence. The first session scheduled from June 30 to July 11, 2024 focuses on integrity in the workplace, whereas the second session scheduled from July 14 to 25 includes trips to NBK's different divisions. The third session is from July 28 to August 8 addresses cybercrime and the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign by familiarizing students to cybercrime and how to protect themselves from financial fraud, and finally the last session from August 11 to 22, 2024 focuses on training, development and sustainability.

The program also includes a set of training and study materials that include working group mechanisms, creative thinking, optimal self-expression, customer-dealing skills, as well as service quality concept. This aims to qualify and empower students, and to provide them with the opportunity to benefit from the advanced, up-to-date training and academic materials provided in the program. These courses



Photo during the event.

also include tours for participants to give them a closer look at the work mechanism in the bank's divisions and branches.

On this occasion, Asmaa Bin Hussain, Senior Officer - Public Relations at National Bank of Kuwait said: "The goal of 'NBK Aspire' is to encourage students during their summer vacation to receive training and engage in the banking business experience. It also reflects the bank's steadfast commitment to deliver its social responsibility by empowering and upskilling the young generation to play an active role in the future."

"In light of the program's resounding success over the past years, NBK always seeks to enhance its content with the aim of developing participants' personal skills, such as training on presentation skills, and devising

solutions for problem solving," she remarked.

On his part, Ahmed Al-Othman, Senior Media Specialist at 'Nazaha', mentioned that the Authority was established as part of the international commitment under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), highlighting a number of Nazaha's goals and competencies according to its Establishment Law No. (2) of 2016.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hussein Al-Sabbagha, Chief Specialist at 'Nazaha', reviewed the concept of integrity and the principles to achieve it. He touched on the ways to practice integrity in education with a direct message to the student group, highlighting the dangers of educational corruption and its impact on the educational process and its outcomes.

It is worth mentioning that NBK

shows steadfast dedication to supporting the youth and students and developing their skills and experience through the most advanced training programs, which translates in upskilling and qualifying them to actively contribute to the success of public and private sector institutions in the future, thus promoting sustainability among national human resources.

Since founding, NBK has fostered corporate social responsibility culture as a cardinal principle for serving the community at large. To this end, it contributed large investments in social support, and introduced many meaningful programs in areas including education, healthcare, training and recruitment of national talent, social support and welfare programs as well as environmental and sports initiatives.

Up to 10% cashback on intl transactions

Warba Bank launches summer cashback campaign in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 4: Warba Bank is pleased to announce the launch of its anticipated summer cashback campaign, which runs from June 13 to August 31, 2024. This exclusive offer presents distinguished customers rewards of up to 10% cashback on eligible credit and prepaid card transactions made abroad, making it the most generous cash back program in Kuwait.

In this regard, Muhannad Borhama, Director Product Development and Customer Segments Department, explained that the campaign aims to enhance the added value of the holders of these cards, by providing valuable rewards on daily international operations, whether dining in restaurants and cafes, enjoying visiting tourist attractions and amusement parks, purchasing medical supplies, or by using private and public transportation services, as clients can earn cashback on a wide range of eligible transactions this summer. Noting that Warba Bank continues its distinguished cashback program, which rewards its eligible clients with cashback rates of 3% and 6% and a maximum of KD 500 per month, according to the special terms and conditions. During this summer, and through this campaign in particular, clients can obtain additional percentages, bringing the total return percentage to 10% and a maximum of KD 600 per month! The campaign also includes Visa Signature and Visa prepaid cards for the first time, World MasterCard, and World Elite MasterCard.

The commercial categories selected in this campaign are food and beverages, theme parks, pharmacies, and private and public transportation, noting that all (eligible) international personal transactions are counted within the cashback, regardless of their value.

Borhama further said: "We are excited to launch this exceptional opportunity for our clients to increase their rewards while spending their summer vacations outside Kuwait, which enhances their experience with unprecedented cashback on most daily transactions, and that Warba Bank always provides innovative financial solutions



Muhannad Borhama

that add real value to clients' lives."

After the end of the month, the refund amounts are deposited in the form of points in the clients' digital "wallet" within the Warba Bank application, where they can exchange the points into cash amounts or exchange them for other exclusive offers. Warba Bank encourages all clients to take full advantage of this limited offer and enjoy a rewarding summer with eligible credit and prepaid cards from Warba Bank.

He stated that the eligible clients are classified based on their salaries and deposits in the Bank, starting with the W segment who have a monthly monthly earn between KD 500 and less than KD 1,500, and the Priority Banking segment, whose monthly income ranges from KD 1,500 to less than KD 2,500 KD, and Royal Banking segment who have a monthly income of KD 2,500 or more, as well as private banking clients. Clients are also classified based on total deposits in the Bank.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leadership position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Focus on joint research projects

AUK ORG & USM sign MoU to boost research collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, July 4: The Office of Research and Grants (ORG) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) have taken a significant step towards strengthening international collaboration in the field of research and education with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU aims to enhance cooperation in scientific studies and research development. This collaboration seeks to broaden the scope of knowledge and establish a framework for joint research initiatives between the two institutions.

Under the MoU, both parties have agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in various areas, including joint research projects and the organization of research workshops. These initiatives are geared towards fostering innovation, sharing expertise, and addressing global challenges through collaborative research efforts.

Commenting on the significance of the MoU and its caliber, Dr. Iyad Abu Doush, ORG director, stated, "We are excited to embark on this collaborative journey with USM. This partnership opens doors to new opportunities for knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary



Dr. Iyad Abu Doush

collaboration, ultimately driving innovation and societal impact."

The signing of the MoU marks the beginning of an exciting chapter in the collaboration between USM and AUK. By leveraging their respective strengths and expertise, both institutions aim to foster innovation, promote academic excellence, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge on a global scale.

AmCham Kuwait's Women in Business Focus Group hosts its second 2024 Diversity & Inclusion Diwaniya

KUWAIT CITY, July 4: The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Kuwait's Women in Business Focus Group hosted their second Diversity & Inclusion Diwaniya of 2024. The event featured a dynamic discussion on capacity building and mentorship best practices, with notable attendees including several leading professionals, NGOs and industry experts.

Dr. Areezu Harraf opened the event by emphasizing the importance of developing impactful initiatives through the series of Diwanis. The discussion explored how to synergize mentor-mentee relationships and identify skill gaps to ensure effective mentorship. Dr. Harraf highlighted the need for mentors who complement the mentee's skill set and strategic positioning within organizations.

Key Discussions and Insights:

■ **Effective Mentorship Matching:** Key speakers highlighted the importance of scientifically and objectively matching mentors and mentees based on career stages, goals, and skill needs. They discussed the use of assessments and psychometrics to ensure compatibility and success.

■ **Structured Programs and Training:** Participants emphasized the need for structured mentorship programs with defined timelines, regular meetings, and clear agendas. Training for both mentors and mentees was identified as crucial to clarify expectations and enhance the relationship.

■ **Awareness and Accessibility:** Increasing awareness of mentorship resources within organizations and forming partnerships with NGOs, embassies, and professional networks to expand access, especially for under-



Photo during the event.

represented groups, was strongly advocated.

■ **Evaluation and Sustainability:** The necessity of establishing metrics to measure the success of mentorship programs, continuous review, and iteration based on feedback was discussed to ensure long-term effectiveness.

■ **Distinction Between Mentorship and Coaching:** Clarifying the differences between mentorship and coaching, and providing guidance on when each is appropriate, was considered essential for effective career development.

Participants from the UNDP discussed the organization's mentorship programs with the private sector and the importance of value-added relationships. The U.S. Embassy's representatives also shared the State Department's approach to mentorship amidst

the unique challenges of a hybrid work structure. Finally, private sector entities highlighted their flash mentorship program aimed at providing access to higher-level executives.

The discussion concluded with action items to enhance mentorship programs. Clear criteria for mentor-mentee matching based on career stage, goals, and skill needs should be established, with the potential implementation of assessments to ensure compatibility. Training sessions for both mentors and mentees are essential to clarify expectations and best practices. Structured programs with defined timelines and agendas will maintain focus and progress, supported by digital platforms for analytics and data collection. Increasing awareness of mentorship resources

within organizations and through partnerships with NGOs, embassies, or professional networks will expand access, especially for underrepresented groups. Regular evaluation and iteration of mentorship programs based on feedback will ensure sustainability and effectiveness. Distinguishing between mentorship and coaching, and adapting programs to fit cultural and organizational contexts, are also crucial for success.

Dr. Harraf concluded the Diwaniya by reiterating the need for measurable initiatives and continuous improvement to ensure mentorship programs lead to tangible outcomes. The event underscored the importance of mentorship in career development and organizational growth, setting the stage for future impactful discussions.