

‘Sharbaka’ aims to innovate and push forward novel ideas and content

American University of Kuwait alumnus presents project at Tanween exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) alumnus, Hamad Al Mujeem, was chosen to participate in the Tanween exhibition and conference organized by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) in Dahrnan, KSA.

Al Mujeem, who graduated in the spring of 2022, submitted his project “Sharbaka” to AUK’s annual capstone exhibition, where it was later selected and showcased again at the Tanween Exhibition alongside other capstone projects submitted from leading universities in Dubai, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Sharbaka, an Arabic term for a musical structure known as Idiophones (self-sounding instrument), is a Kuwait-based independent magazine featuring regional music and art, as well as a platform for curated Gulf music. The magazine aims to innovate and push forward novel ideas and content that speak to a generation of Arab Gulf creatives and creative communities abroad interested in the vernacular, culture, sound, and content of all art.

Accomplishments

Expressing his gratitude, Al Mujeem reflected on the experience, “I want to express my deep gratitude to professors Rita and Ramy for always supporting me, even when I was at my lowest academic level. The amount of development that went into the capstone included in-depth research on Kuwaiti sea music and conversations with experts like Nabel Shuail who clarified misunderstandings about Kuwaiti record labels. I was pleased to discover that Tanween had selected my thesis project out of the many that had applied. In essence, AUK has been one of my greatest accomplishments by that reason I could never compare it to most other aspects of life.”

Professor Rita Merheb, assistant professor of graphic design, supervised the progress of the Sharbaka project and attended the Tanween exhibition and conference in Ithra. She explained why participating in this exhibition was very important for Hamad, the Department of Graphic Design, and the University in general, “Taking part in such an important international conference and exhibition, especially since our department is relatively new, serves as a testimony to our students’ hard work. It also gives the Department very good exposure in the region, and it puts us on equal grounds with other, much older and well-established art and graphic design departments in the region.”

Chair of the Art and Graphic Design Department, William Andersen, stated, “I’m very proud of all of our graduating students’ creativity and hard work, especially after a return to exhibiting their capstone projects in-person for the first time in two years. Hamad Al Mujeem’s capstone project stood out for its intelligence and passion. I congratulate Hamad and wish him a bright future.”

AUK’s graphic designers have a wide perspective that reflects the principles of practicality and resourcefulness that the University engrains in its students.



Sharbaka project displayed in Tanween exhibition.

CBK issues directives to local banks on sustainable financing guidelines

Directives includes defining three sustainability criteria

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: In light of the increasing interest in sustainable financing, and within the framework of the Central Bank of Kuwait’s direction to support the concept of sustainable development, and to take steps to promote and implement sustainable financing in the banking sector in light of the New Kuwait 2035 vision on achieving sustainable development, the Central Bank of Kuwait issued its directives to local banks on guidelines on sustainable financing, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The directives included defining the importance of sustainable financing, defining the three sustainability criteria, which are environmental, social, and governance standards, and finally the most important principles and basic directives that banks should take into account with regard to sustainable financing and sustainability factors.

Important principles

The most important principles and basic directives that local banks should take into account with regard to sustainable financing and sustainability factors focus on the following:

- Include environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors in the bank’s governance and risk management strategy, so that it includes elements of sustainable financing, taking into consideration setting clear objectives for the bank under the umbrella of sustainable financing.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister Bader Al-Mulla during his visit to KNPC.

Clean Fuels project achieves leap in oil sector: Kuwait Oil Minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Oil Minister Bader Al-Mulla has affirmed that the Clean Fuels project has achieved a quantum leap in the oil sector and provided further profitable opportunities to purchase products at global markets.

This came in Al-Mulla’s news statement to KUNA after the minister paid an inspection visit to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC). It is the first visit of Al-Mulla since he was named oil minister.

- Include elements of sustainability in what can be considered sustainable products and tools according to what is issued or issued from approved standards that can be used to determine the character of sustainability.
- Paying attention to issuing financing products and tools that are compatible with green financing activities and other projects that have benefits for

- both the environment and the climate.
- Supporting financial inclusion in general and facilitating access to financial services.
- Enhancing the bank’s environmental, social and corporate governance performance by providing new and innovative financial solutions and banking products, and supporting sustainability in all of the bank’s activities.

- Laying down the necessary basics for defining the risks of climate change, and encouraging the financing of projects that contribute to positive participation in issues related to aspects of climate change.
- Raising awareness and developing the capabilities of the Bank’s employees and training them in order to deepen their knowledge of the means of applying sustainable financing.
- Applying the principle of sustainability to the bank’s operations and internal activities by measuring the carbon footprint resulting from buildings and branches, improving waste management, adopting water and energy efficiency standards, and adopting environmentally friendly buildings that reduce electricity consumption.
- In cases where lending and investment decisions have a substantial impact on environmental, social and corporate governance, banks take into account the necessary considerations when studying and analyzing these cases and taking the appropriate decisions in their regard.
- To emphasize the importance of financial stability within the framework of directives related to sustainable financing, banks take into account the essential impact of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) standards on banks’ performance and financial stability; governance failures and poor risk management were key factors that, in combination with other factors, contributed to the global financial crisis in 2008.
- Emphasizing the importance of transparency with regard to the guiding principles of sustainable financing, banks issue annual reports on sustainability (the “sustainability report”), or include in their annual reports that are published on their websites a special section on sustainability, which explains the bank’s activities in matters of environmental impact and social and economic, in a way that enables stakeholders to assess the level of sustainability of the bank during the reporting period.

Adaptation actions introduced

Adapting to climate change in the world’s ‘hottest sea’

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: To support action on marine and coastal aspects of climate change in Kuwait and across the Gulf region, the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) have published three reports providing advice on adaptation actions to build climate resilience in fisheries, corals, and coastal desalination plants.

The Gulf, the world’s hottest sea, is becoming ever hotter as a result of climate change. This is damaging biodiversity and threatening coastal cities and communities. Climate adaptation actions are important because even if all carbon emissions were to stop today the world, and the region’s sea, will continue to become hotter. This will cause losses of coral reefs, declines in fisheries, and will threaten coastal cities and industries like desalination plants due to sea level rise and increased cyclone and storm risk.

When world leaders met this month at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt they discussed the importance of reducing greenhouse gasses to keep global temperature rises well below 2oC, and ideally below 1.5°C, but they also discussed the global goal on adaptation. This seeks to help countries introduce adaptation measures and build resilience to climate change.

Future impacts

It is important to predict the future impacts of climate change so that targeted adaptation actions can be introduced to build the resilience of economies and natural ecosystems to the dangerous impacts of climate change.

The ROPME Adaptation reports are the latest outputs from the Regional Action Plan on Marine Climate Change that ROPME has been conducting with scientists from the UK’s International Marine Climate Change Centre based in Cefas and scientists across the gulf

region. The Regional Action Plan has been developing understanding on the impact of marine and coastal climate change on the region’s society, economy, and biodiversity.

The Regional Action Plan found that:

- The effects of climate change, including rising temperatures and sea-levels, are already occurring across the ROPME Sea Area and are projected to accelerate in future.
 - Climate change and other human impacts are causing degradation and loss of critical habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, salt marshes, and sea grasses across the region.
 - Climate change will lead to a decline in fisheries, which are an important source of food across the region.
 - Coastal storms and cyclones are predicted to become more intense causing significant risks to coastal communities, industry, and infrastructure from storm damage and coastal flooding.
 - Increasing water temperatures may lead to an increase in phytoplankton and jellyfish leading to harmful algal blooms that can block desalination plants and coastal industrial cooling systems.
 - Blue carbon ecosystems (such as sea grass beds) need protecting to continue absorbing CO2 from the air. These ecosystems also support climate change resilience by providing coastal protection and supporting productive fisheries.
- Climate adaptation actions are an essential part of the global response to climate change and can deliver multiple benefits. Examples of adaptation actions proposed for the region include protecting and restoring mangroves and coral reefs to improve coastal protection for areas vulnerable to flooding. In addition, these actions will support biodiversity and fisheries productivity. Active restoration of corals through coral gardening and breeding of resistant corals can also improve the resilience of the region’s corals to climate change.

Japan Embassy & Japanese Society organize beach cleanup drive

Japanese Society holds 22nd ‘Operation Turtle’ campaign

By Mujahid Iqbal

KUWAIT City, Nov 23: The Japanese Society held the 22nd edition of its beach cleanup campaign ‘Operation Turtle’ on Saturday at Shuwaikh Beach. Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari, Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority Abdullah Al-Zaidan, Board Member of Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) JenanBahzad, Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Boy Scouts Association Hussein Al-Maqseed and its Secretary General Ibrahim Al-Eid, Public Relations Officer at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Hanan Al-Ibraheem and scores of volunteers took part in the cleanup drive.

Volunteering event

“It is great pleasure for me to kick off this year’s “Operation Turtle” beach cleaning campaign organized by the Japanese Society. Thank you very much for making time to participate in this volunteering event with the same goodwill to clean the beach so that we can see turtles come back to this beach. My special thanks go to those who cooperate with us every year: HE Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Director General of Environment Public Authority (EPA), Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Kuwait Boy Scouts Association,” Ambassador Yasunari said.

“This event was initiated by Japanese Society in 2000 and, as such, symbolizes the longtime friendship between Japan and Kuwait. Japanese and Kuwaiti people, and maybe people from other nationalities. The young and the elderly work together shoulder to shoulder for environmental protection,” he said.



Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari.



Abdullah Al-Zaidan, Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority



Jenan Bahzad, Board Member of Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS)



Top & above: Some photos from the event.

Photos by Mujahid Iqbal