



Flowers Park

Netherlands biggest trading partner of Kuwait in EU

Dutch, Kuwait have maintained bilateral ties for over fifty years

KUWAIT CITY, April 29: April 27 is the actual birthday of King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. That day is celebrated as the National Day. Unlike other countries' national days, April 27 is not about showing patriotism with military parades and the like, or even to show royal loyalty. It is about friendship and unity, often with folkloristic activities. Everyone can participate in its own way. If you wish, it is enough to simply throw on an orange T-shirt and join the crowd.

The Netherlands and Kuwait have maintained excellent bilateral ties for over half-a-century. In fact, in 1756 a Dutch explorer was the first European to visit Kuwait looking for trade opportunities, and drafting the first written records about Kuwait in the Western world.

Today, the economic ties between our countries remain strong. For the past decade, Netherlands has often been the biggest trading partner of Kuwait in the European Union. Business and economic activities have an impressive diversity: energy, health-care, agriculture, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fresh food, flowers and infrastructural projects. For all Kuwait's ambitions, the new airport, a new seaport and a complete new city: Holland is the most obvious partner for Kuwait's visionary Agenda 2035.

In addition to the similarities of the geographic locations our both countries share, small amid big and powerful neighbors, we each do everything to maintain peaceful relations and play the role of mediator. We are both big humanitarian donors. Our similarities and our excellent bilateral relations allow us to discuss a wide range of matters in the political, economic and multilateral and cultural spheres.

This year a special situation unites us: both the Netherlands and Kuwait have a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Representatives of our two countries are literally sitting shoulder to shoulder in the Security Council. Kuwait held the presidency of the Council last February, and in March it was the Netherlands turn to hold the presidency. Our countries are collaborating closely for a better world and relentlessly working to put issues we both consider important on the agenda.

The year 2018 will witness here in Kuwait that we call the 'Nexus' which stands for 'Connection' in Latin. Nexus is a modern concept within circular economics that posits the connection between: 1) water, 2)

food, and 3) energy. Holland is expert in these fields, and the combination of these three is vital in securing a sustainable food production system, worldwide but in particular also for Kuwait and the entire Gulf-region.

The whole world is facing the consequences of global warming, a growing population, and depleting natural resources. The Netherlands, with half of its surface under sea-level, has been in an eternal battle with water. The diligence and perseverance of the Dutch nation has made it a leader in building storm surge barriers and handling water infrastructure.

Kuwait is also facing the challenge of water, but different from the Netherlands it is about scarcity, with all its consequences for living conditions, food-security. With little water it is hard to become self-sufficient in food production. Dutch agricultural engineers developed production methods that require a minimum of water use. We are eager to share this with Kuwait. You will see and hear about many Dutch companies and scientific institutions involved over the coming years.

The number of visa applications received by the Embassy have doubled in the past three years. Many Kuwaitis are visiting Holland as tourists. Most tourists in the Netherlands focus on the capital - Amsterdam. However, there is much more to see in our small country.

Another great city is The Hague, where the Dutch parliament and government is settled. The Netherlands is also well known for its cheese. A visit to one of the Dutch cheese markets in Gouda or Alkmaar cannot be missing during a visit to the Netherlands.

Besides the amazing cities, the Netherlands has also beautiful nature. A visit to the Keukenhof is absolutely a must. Keukenhof is the largest public garden in the world with more than 700 varieties of tulips. Last but not least, visiting the Netherlands is not complete without a visit to the windmills of Kinderdijk. The 19 Kinderdijk's windmills are the largest surviving concentration of windmills in the Netherlands.

The Embassy of the Netherlands is looking forward to further promote relations between the two countries in many different fields. Most important are people to people contacts. We are pleased to have a growing number of Kuwaiti students at our universities. Also, the next generation in our two countries are getting along very well. So, the cordial, historic and economic ties between our countries will be preserved for many years to come.

FM, Chinese official focus on developing bilateral relations

Saudi princess hails Kuwaiti women as unparalleled

KUWAIT CITY, April 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks Sunday with Chinese President Xi Jinping's special representative Yang Jiechi, focusing on developing bilateral relations.

The discussions between the Chinese official, who is on an official visit to the country, and the Kuwaiti foreign minister also included issues of mutual concern and the latest political happenings around the world.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled went on to host a luncheon in honor of the Chinese official and the delegation accompanying him.

The encounter was attended by a bevy of Kuwaiti diplomats and senior foreign ministry officials.

Meanwhile, the numerous achievements of Kuwaiti women have not only put them on a pedestal but serve as a precedent for others to follow, said a Saudi princess on Sunday.

The women of Kuwait have risen to the upper echelons of society, the honorary chairperson of the Jordan-based organization Etama for Training and Development Princess Deema Al-Saud emphatically told KUNA.

The Saudi princess, who had just participated in a recently-concluded conference over women and social responsibility, explained that the purpose behind the organization is to allow women the chance to translate their thoughts into actual success stories.

"We are not asking for gender parity, rather, we are looking for justice and respect," she stressed. Princess Deema revealed that the organization has partnered with various institutions from across the world to help further its agenda, which, in a nutshell, is to help women get their businesses started.

As an advocate of women's rights, the Saudi princess has won numerous accolades, including being named as the British Board's ambassador of noble intentions and peace.

Furthermore, delegations from parliaments or shura councils from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries arrived in Kuwait Saturday to participate in a two-day meeting of Gulf Parliamentary committed tasked with relations with the European parliament, due Sunday.

Al-Dustour news network said the delegates from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The committee's first meeting was held in Doha in October 2015.



Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, founder and chair of the board of trustees of AUK with Philip Hanlon '77, President, Dartmouth College.

'Relationship enhances AUK's vision'

Dartmouth, AUK extend partnership

WASHINGTON, April 29, (KUNA): Leaders of Dartmouth College and the American University of Kuwait (AUK) met this week to extend their institutional partnership for another five years with an agreement that deepens and expands the academic experience on both campuses.

Founder and chair of the board of trustees of AUK Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dartmouth during a ceremony hosted by President Phil Hanlon '77.

It was the fourth such agreement between the College and AUK, which has had a 15-year partnership.

Vice-president for admissions and public affairs at AUK Amal Al bin Ali, and Director of the Kuwait Cultural Office in Washington DC, Dr Asael Al-Awadhi, participated in the ceremony.

"We recognize that the young people at our institutions — the world's future leaders — face unprecedented challenges and unlimited opportunities," said Hanlon on this occasion.

He added that "the liberal arts training they receive at Dartmouth and at AUK will prepare them to meet those challenges and boldly pursue those opportunities as they work to advance knowledge for the betterment of humankind." For her part, Sheikha Dana said, "we are really proud to be associated with Dartmouth and honored to have your commitment to our growing

ing liberal arts university halfway across the globe." She stressed, "our biggest challenge is to lead and not to follow as we adapt to the inevitable changes in our societies." "In the 15-year partnership between the two institutions, Dartmouth has provided advice on curriculum planning, faculty hiring, and research collaboration," Sheikha Dana noted, who was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Dartmouth in 2017 in recognition of her commitment to liberal arts education.

"We look forward to continuing our cooperation with Dartmouth, a partner in our evolution and in our ongoing efforts to establish a liberal arts culture in Kuwait's higher education. Dartmouth has educated us and has educated our community in the meaning of the liberal arts," she remarked.

Hanlon and Sheikha Dana acknowledged Dale Eickelman '64, the Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations emeritus, as the driving force in establishing the partnership.

Eickelman participated in the ceremony as the relationship coordinator of the Dartmouth-AUK partnership, a position he has held since the program's start in 2003.

"I want to extend my special thanks to Dale Eickelman for his 15 years of collaboration in developing the partnership," Sheikha Dana said. "His insight into our reciprocal complex cultures has

been instrumental in creating a common ground on which we've shared our liberal arts vision and built our partnership." Established in 2003 as an independent, private, coeducational institution, AUK, Kuwait's first and only liberal arts university, offers a liberal arts education based on an American model developed as a result of AUK's long-standing collaboration with Dartmouth.

Dartmouth and AUK faculty and students have traveled between campuses to participate in cross-cultural internships, fellowships, and research. Dartmouth and AUK are now developing a for-credit academic exchange to complement the existing non-credit, experiential learning internship, Eickelman said.

For her part, Dr Al-Awadhi affirmed that this agreement between Dartmouth and AUK "is a great successful example for the bilateral relationship and the US in higher education." "This relationship enhances AUK's vision to provide high quality of education to produce future leaders and innovators for the Kuwaiti society," she remarked.

Before the signing ceremony, Sheikha Dana and the AUK delegation met with Daniel Benjamin, the Norman E. McCulloch Jr Director of the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, and Dickey program directors to discuss collaborative opportunities including the development of a Center for Gulf Studies.

News in Brief

Media dept deny audio clip: Public Relations and Media Department denied recent audio clip circulated on social media claiming that security operatives had released some motorists earlier arrested in Sabahiya area for reckless driving after blocking the road to a support patrol team affiliated to Ahmadi Command.

Statement described the report as unfounded and without truth, indicating all suspects arrested in connection with the case remain in custody for investigation, and that Criminal Security Sector will pursue and arrest the person who recorded and circulated the clip for spreading false information.

Custom foil smuggling: Customs officers at Shuwaikh Port foiled an attempt to smuggle 3,948 bottles of imported alcohol carefully hidden inside two containers declared to be carrying cement from an unnamed Gulf country.

Security sources said customs officers suspected the two containers which had a single bill of lading declaring goods inside the containers to be cement. However, they discovered the containers had modified compartments in which bottles of alcohol were hidden, as they passed through the scanner. The officers sort assistance from the firefighters to open the consignment. One of the containers contained 1,968 bottles, and the other 1,980 bottles.

Securitymen launch probe: After a video of some individuals behaving in an immoral manner in Kuwait went viral on social media, securitymen launched investigations to find these individuals and recently arrested them, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, General Department of Public Relations and Security Media affirmed that Ministry of Interior took such a step as it will strongly confront any activities that do not conform to the religion, culture and education of Kuwait. It urged all citizens and expatriates to cooperate with security authorities and inform them about such cases by using the hotline number 112.

Kuwaiti injured on head: A Kuwaiti was rushed to a hospital with a deep cut on his head, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the man was injured after he lost control of the vehicle and crashed in a metal barrier on the Salmi road due to poor visibility caused by sandstorm Thursday evening.

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