Eighty years ago, King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Al-Sa’ud turned the valves to allow oil to flow on the tanker D.G Scofield, setting in motion a new era of prosperity for Saudi Arabia that continues today. 

see page 5

Supply Chain Control Tower
a transformative initiative

From left, the Supply Chain (SC) Control Tower Team of information security analyst Mohammed Zarea, SC Control Tower leader Rami Amri, and business system analyst Abdulelah Sufyani conduct a live business analysis using the rich analytics provided by the SC Control Tower. The SC Control Tower is an integral part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution Digital Transformation Center, where disruptive technologies and advanced analytics are leveraged to transform Saudi Aramco’s supply chain toward digitized operations and provide end-to-end value chain visibility.

see page 5

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) earns three awards for its peerless programming, including a gold for “Best Use of Audio Branding,” a silver for “Best Visual Identity from the Education Sector,” and a Bronze for “Best Creative Strategy” with Tanween.

see page 11

OPEC basket
five-week price trend 2019

<table>
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For the first time ever, Saudi Aramco is using an off-grid hybrid photovoltaic solar power system to power remote gas wells in the Kingdom’s North, and the results are impressive — both environmentally and in terms of efficiency.

see page 9

CEO shares highlights of London Board of Directors meeting
The Saudi Aramco Board of Directors approves the company’s First Quarter Consolidated Interim Financial Report for 2019, hears updates from its various committees, reviews its successes from the first quarter, and more as president and CEO Amin Nasser shares highlights from last week’s meeting in London.

see page 2

Ready & Able strives for inclusion
Recognizing the importance of a diverse workplace, Saudi Aramco’s Women Development and Diversity Division conducts “Ready & Able: Introduction to People with Disability Inclusion.”

see page 7

Ithra earns kudos at Transform MENA Awards
The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) earns three awards for its peerless programming.

see page 11

Saudi Aramco by the numbers
more than 1,200 students throughout the Kingdom have graduated from STEMania — Saudi Aramco’s award-winning program that introduces science, technology, engineering, and math to girls 7 to 15.
CEO gives highlights of Saudi Aramco
Board of Directors meeting in London.

by The Arabian Sun staff

Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser provided key highlights of the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors and its committee meetings held last week in London during his weekly call with management Sunday.

On May 2, the Audit Committee reviewed and endorsed the company’s First Quarter Consolidated Interim Financial Report for 2019. The committee reviewed the 2018 investment performance of Saudi Aramco benefit plans and then approved an amendment to the company’s Investment Policy Statement for one of the benefit plans.

**committee updates**

The Risk and Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Committee also met and received an update on the company’s Enterprise Risk Management framework. It received a deep dive presentation on one of the company’s top corporate risks, and then reviewed the company’s HSE Scorecard for the first quarter of 2019, containing performance indicators with respect to certain health, safety, and environmental metrics and targets.

The Compensation and Nomination committees also met the same day to address a number of agenda items.

The following day, the Board of Directors received updates on several of transactions, initiatives, and projects that the company is currently pursuing. The Board approved the company’s First Quarter Consolidated Interim Financial Report for 2019, reviewed the company’s Interim Accountability and Financial Condition Report, and endorsed the company’s Corporate Strategy and Investment Plan for the period 2020-2029. In addition, the Board approved the May Expenditure Request and reviewed a status report on 2019 Capital Budgets.

**cybersecurity and appreciation**

On May 4, the Board participated in a discussion on “Cybersecurity in the Age of Digitalization, and Global/Regional Geopolitics.”

The reports, presentations, and briefings were received very well by our directors led by H.E. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Board Chairman, Nasser said. He added that the Board is very appreciative of the company’s accomplishments in the first quarter and also noted the success of our inaugural bonds program in April.

Board members expressed their support for the company’s plans and programs as Saudi Aramco continues to pursue strategies to grow and expand across the value chain.

Also, Nasser spoke on behalf of Saudi Aramco management in giving his best wishes to employees and their families for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Nasser reminded management that the company’s annual Ramadan donation campaign will be announced shortly, and he noted that this year employees will have more than one charitable cause that they can choose to support. Nasser also urged employees to keep safety in their hearts and minds more than ever — at work, at home, and especially while driving.

**more alternatives in the new age of education**

by Cristian Alberch

As parents, we will go to any length to make sure our children get the best education to prepare them for adulthood and working life.

The average yearly tuition fee to study for an average degree in an average university in the U.S. is $35,000 per year. That is $140,000 for the privilege of obtaining an average four-year degree. This does not include other essential student costs such as accommodation, transportation, books, etc.

In my case, where I have three children that I hope will all go to university, this adds up to $420,000 on tuition fees alone. That is a sobering thought.

That said, it may still be worth paying up if this investment will ensure a bright, secure future for your children — and perhaps this is what colleges are selling to us parents to justify their fees.

However, my personal experience from my time at university left me a little confused as to the point of taking notes from a professor writing notes on a blackboard. It seemed like we both wished we were elsewhere.

Did the university provide return on investment? Absolutely! The degree was free to my parents as it was paid courtesy of the U.K. government at the time (year 2000). Universities fees since then are no longer paid by the government, following a trend worldwide of the increasing number of universities, variety of degrees, and increase in fees.

Over the last 30 years, tuition fees have tripled in the U.S. (taking into account inflation). In the same time span, the number of college graduates has increased by 50%, so not are only college degrees becoming massively more expensive, but they are also becoming more common.

The world that our children will grow up in, and the job skills required to succeed, will be unrecognizable from the present, and it seems to me that the current emphasis on traditional university degrees is misplaced. The ability to learn and adapt should be valued above all else, as professions evolve or become obsolete.

When I started in engineering, the expert knowledge resided in books and subject matter experts with prestigious university degrees. This is no longer the case, as much of the knowledge resides on the internet. The advantage lies not in what you know, but learning the skills and the tools to use the knowledge.

With the advent of online learning platforms such as Udacity, Coursera, edX, and Udemy, we have the ability to customize learning to fit each individual’s needs and desires, providing highly engaging best-in-class content for a tiny fraction of the cost. These online platforms should not be confused with traditional e-Learning platforms. These online platforms provide interactive, skills oriented content, provided by the world’s leading industry and academic institutions in a highly engaging manner.

My 9-year-old daughter is now learning to draw Japanese cartoon characters online with Udemy, my 12-year-old son is learning to code very simple games on Scratch with Udemy, and I’m carrying out my professional development in data analytics with Udacity.

University is so much more than passing exams and learning to derive Fourier transforms. It is learning to become independent — both academically and personally. The social skills learned during university are invaluable on a personal level and at the workplace, and I still hope that I will be able to save enough to put my children through university.

However, it may be time to rethink the highly expensive degrees and post-graduate degrees from Ivy League universities and business schools’ MBAs, when the skills can be obtained online at a fraction of the cost.


By Scott Baldauf

Dhahran — Representatives from a number of Downstream organizations, as well as domestic and international joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries, gathered at the Technical Exchange Center in Dhahran recently to participate in the Global Downstream HSE Forum.

The two-day event featured leading global experts in health, safety, and environment (HSE) and was attended by Abdulaziz M. Al-Judaimi, senior vice president of Downstream with Saudi Aramco, and his leadership team.

More than 175 attendees from the Kingdom, Europe, and Asia participated in the forum, which was itself a testament to the importance of the Downstream business line as the company’s fastest growing sector.

Among the companies represented were Sadara, YASREF, SAMREF, ARLANXEO, SASREF, LubRef, SATORP, Sinopac, S-Oil, Saudi Refining, FREP, Motiva, PetroRabigh, and PRefChem, as well as strategic partners Ashomo, Tihama Power, and the Power Cogeneration Plant Company. The forum was organized by Majed A. Al-Ouais, Marcus J. Griffin, and Roger L. Bredsen with HSE Downstream Excellence.

**Good safety is good business**

In his welcoming remarks, Al-Judaimi drove home the importance of remaining vigilant on safety issues — both for the company and for its employees.

“Good safety is good business,” Al-Judaimi said. “Safety is one of our core values, and we strive to embed a safety first mindset in our employees and contractors. We want to ensure that safety is not just a standard, but an integral part of our business culture. We are seeing good results.”

Al-Judaimi noted that Downstream has seen steadily improved performance on HSE matters in recent years, and pointed with pride to the fact that Downstream has the highest level of job control in the company, with a rate of 85%. But he added that “safety is something that has no end. It is a journey.”

Al-Judaimi added: “We are very proud of all that has been achieved, and look forward to doing even more to ensure that everyone continues to work in a safe environment, and gets home safe too. Ensuring safety practices on- and off-the-job helps uphold our standards of excellence.

“We must all remain vigilant, at all times, at all sites,” he added. “Because safety has a huge impact on the bottom line. But more importantly, safety also has a huge impact on human life.”

In a panel discussion with the Downstream leadership team, senior executives spoke of how an HSE focus is integrated into all levels of operations and they also took questions from the audience.

Among the panel participants were Power Systems vice president Abdullah M. Al-Ghamdi, Domestic Refining and NGL Fractionation vice president Suleiman A. Al-Bargan, Marketing, Sales, and Supply Planning vice president Ahmed A. Al-Subayee, and Environmental Protection Department (EPD) manager Omar S. Abdulhamid.

**an array of topics**

The remainder of the two-day forum included presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics, touching on a number of common issues and risks facing the Downstream industry.

**‘good safety is good business’ Downstream puts focus on health, safety, and environment**

by Scott Baldauf

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by Julie Springer

**Dhahran —** The first Saudi Aramco Investment Forum was recently held at the Technical Exchange Center.

The event, sponsored by New Business Development (NBD), Saudi Aramco Energy Ventures (SAEV), and Wa’ed, brought together representatives from across the company, including Upstream and Downstream, to discuss how investment groups in the company can improve collaboration.

The event also helped to educate Saudi Aramco investors on corporate strategy and market outlook while increasing awareness of — and collaboration among — various Saudi Aramco investment vehicles, with the ultimate goal of driving synergies across Saudi Aramco investment vehicles for greater value creation.

“Considering the aggregate number of investments, along with the various forms of investment transactions and amounts that we have disposed directly or through the investment arms, Saudi Aramco stands as an active commercial player,” said Majid A. Mufti, director of Corporate Venturing with Saudi Aramco.

“Such a forum that brings in the collective wisdom of the various groups is an important and necessary encounter to harness and align such efforts,” he added.

Topics included information on global markets, big data, and investment vehicles. Two brainstorming sessions on cooperation and collaboration were also conducted.

**collaborative and informational**

Presentations were given by Mohammed S. Hajaj on behalf of NBD, Bruce D. Niven of SAEV, Khalil A. Shafee of Wa’ed, Feda A. Tawajry from the Global Analysis Department, and Timothy J. Polega of NBD.

“The investment forum was a great platform for exchanging ideas and lessons learned to pursue the business development in a more effective manner,” said Salem M. Al Zahani, director of Origination for NBD.

“A lot of the forum brought together investment groups from all over Saudi Aramco and provided a platform for mutual awareness and collaboration.”

Key takeaways from the event include the importance of cross-representation on investment committees, the need for outside speakers to discuss the global economy, the creation of a lessons learned system for referral on past performance of investments, and the development of a tool to track all investments across the company.

**by Aman Khan**

**Dhahran —** The Technical Services Professional Academy (TSPA) has completed its first delivery of the in-house developed CHE 152 Accelerated Development Program for Young Engineers (ADPYE) in refining.

Sixteen process engineers from Saudi Aramco refineries in Yanbu’, Riyadh, and Ras Tanura (RT) successfully completed the program.

Twenty instructors from Engineering Services, joined by field engineers from RT Refinery, delivered the five-week training program.

The program consists of all the core refining process operations, including crude unit distillation, catalytic reforming and isomerization, naphtha hydroisomerization, diesel hydrotreater and hydrocracking, hydrogen plant, aromatic processing, IGCC, gas treatment, and the sulfur recovery unit.

In addition to the core refining processes, the program covers the engineering foundation required for major static and rotating equipment, process tools, and safety systems.

The objective of the program is to accelerate the development of young engineers from dependent employees to fully functioning independent contributors.

As a fully in-house developed program, it is tailored to reflect the company’s refining challenges, ensuring that participants spend the majority of their class time in classroom activities and exercises designed around the refinery process engineer’s work tasks.

Subject matter experts from the Process and Control Systems Department (P&CSD) Downstream Process Engineering Division, Gas Processing Unit of Upstream Process Engineering Division, and Process Automation Division; Refining and Chemicals Facilities Planning Division of Facilities Planning Department, as well as Domestic Refining and NGL Fractionation (DR&NGL) admin area field engineers, worked closely with TSPA program developers, following the course’s robust development process.

This process not only develops technical instructional content that is participant-centric and application-oriented, but also utilizes the company’s Four Critical Behaviors and five core values to develop responsible, accountable, and high-performing engineers.

Yahya Q. Al Dahghiri, superintendent of Human Resources Development with DR&NGL, addressed the participants and reflected on the need for an engineer to be a lifelong learner.

“It might take new engineers many years to gain the knowledge and skills covered in these five weeks,” said Al Dahghiri. “This is a good start, but you’re responsible for utilizing it effectively.”

He went on to add that the future will expose them to engineering challenges as part of their daily work. Participants have the opportunity to prepare for these challenges in the safe environment of the classroom, and it requires their full participation — mindful of how they can implement these skills in their own work.

As part of the program launch, chief engineer Jamil J. Al-Bagawi and Menahi M. Al Utaibi, Engineering manager at RT Refinery, stressed that the success of any training program is only measured through the application of the knowledge and skills gained during the program to the work environment.

They urged participants to get as much out of the program as possible, with the necessary goal of improving their own performance when they return to the job. Graduates were told that they are responsible for solving the challenges they will face when they return to their respective organizations. They were urged to start planning for that now.

As part of the program’s classroom application, the participants were trained up to propose a change in process as a final project. The project required participants to demonstrate the skills learned during the program through the development and defense of a business case for a panel of evaluators on the last day of the program.

The business case articulated the team’s conceptual design, process calculation, and economic analysis.

The evaluation panel consisted of Ahmad S. Al Bunajian from the Downstream Process Engineering Division of P&CSD, Gonzalo Martinez and Jorge Delgado from Refining and Chemicals Facilities Planning Division of FPD, and Aman Khan from TSPA.

“boosted my refinery knowledge”

Mahmoud A. Alkahkout, an engineer with the Riyadh Refinery Department/Operations Engineering Unit (OEU), was thankful to all the personnel who put the time and effort to make CHE152 such an impressive program.

“I have waited four years to have the opportunity to take CHE152, but it was worth waiting,” said Alkahkout. “CHE152 has boosted my refinery knowledge, and even broadened my thoughts to new technologies and petrochemical processes. I have gained more confidence in monitoring, troubleshooting, and problem-solving at my plant. I absolutely recommend CHE152 to my peers.”

Ahmed F. Al Dawood, an engineer with Yanbu’ Refinery Department/OEU, recognizes the accelerated development program as an excellent and very beneficial program for any process/operations engineer with one or two years of experience.

“The program covered all aspects of refining and excelled in integrating the course material with existing Saudi Aramco refineries and joint ventures,” said Al Dawood.

**the learning continues**

Although the training program has concluded, the learning continues. The participants must demonstrate that the skills learned and practiced during the training are transferred to the job, and describe the outcomes of their on-the-job application as part of a business application submission, to be concurring with their management.

TSPA evaluates the business applications and selects the high-performers for an annual recognition event.

This training program provides comprehensive coverage of the awareness and foundation-level competencies required in 14 Competency Maps (C-Maps) at the admin area level, 13 C-Maps through the Specialists Development Program, and two C-Maps at the corporate level.

TSPA is well-known among Saudi Aramco’s professional, providing more than 160 technical courses for engineers in more than 12 disciplines. TSPA is an internationally accredited training organization, serving more than 6,000 engineers each year.

For more information on this program or any other TSPA course offering, employees may reference TSPA’s Sharek webpage.
prosperity continues to flow

by Scott Baldauf

Dhahran — Saudi Aramco’s Procurement and Supply Chain Management (P&S&C&M) recently unveiled its Supply Chain (SC) Control Tower — a strategic initiative designed to transform the supply chain process and to identify and address supply chain disruptions before they impact company operations.

an early warning system

By integrating leading edge tools such as procurement and supply chain management solutions, analytics and reports, the SC Control Tower is already substantially improving the ordering and delivery of equipment and materials. It serves as an early warning system for changes in supply or demand. It’s a decision support center with visualization tools to analyze and plan, and is also an intervention control center, with triggers to assure prompt response. Additionally, it serves as a center for automation and continuous improvement to fine-tune and regulate the supply chain process.

Providing greater visibility of supply chain challenges and real-time information at hand, decision makers will be empowered to ensure that customers in the company’s various operations lines can get the materials and equipment they need, when they need it, at the right price.

“The P&S&C&M Control Tower delivers immediate and sustainable value to the company through measurable improvements in cost, delivery, and localization, and is a trending technology. The Supply Chain Control Tower is a critical component to the CEO’s vision to transform Saudi Aramco to be the most digitized energy company by 2022,” said Mohammad A. Al Shammary, vice president of P&S&C&M.

like an airport control tower

Wajdi M. Al Mugbel, manager of the Supply Chain Policy and Systems Department, said the SC Control Tower plays the same role for supply chain as an airport control tower serves at a busy international airport.

“Imagine a control tower at a busy airport in the U.S., and there are 2,000 airplanes in the sky and some of them are waiting for their turn to land,” Al Mugbel said.

“There needs to be someone tracking those flights, so they can safely arrive on time. With this SC Control Tower, we are monitoring, evaluating, interacting with customers and suppliers — all to create an efficient supply chain for the company.”

Like an aviation control tower, the SC Control Tower gives better visibility to identify potential issues in the procurement and supply of materials needed to support the company’s operations. By carefully monitoring procurement orders already placed, and those expected into the future, SC Control Tower personnel can use leading edge decision support tools, including artificial intelligence and predictive analytics, to identify and address supply chain disruptions before they impact company operations — substantially improving supply chain performance.

better decisions, better cost control

Enhanced visibility of supply chain problems or opportunities will also give the company the ability to avoid costs, reduc- ing investments in inventory and oversupply and bringing even more sustainable value.

Providing that end-to-end visibility of the company’s supply chain — through real-time data on large screens — empowers operational decision makers to add unprecedented value through integrated triggers and alerts to identify disruptions, powerful analytical tools, and access to information to address issues in real time.

The SC Control Tower is an integral part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution Digital Transformation Center, where disruptive technologies and advanced analytics are leveraged to transform Saudi Aramco’s supply chain toward digitalized operations and provide end-to-end value chain visibility.

Eighty years ago, on May 1, 1939, Saudi Arabia’s founder King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Al-Sa’ud personally turned the valve that allowed oil to flow into the tanker the D.G. Scofield, anchored off Ras Tanura

With the turning of his hands, King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz connected Saudi Arabia to the industrialized world. It was a major event for the Kingdom. The royal companies and guests of the King numbered nearly 2,000 people and they had traveled in more than 400 cans from Makka, Jiddah, and Riyadh. For several days, 350 tents were erected near Dhahran for events, tours, dinners, and speeches.

The visit — the first by King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz to Aramco — was a truly epic event. When Dammam Well No. 7 had struck oil in commercial quantities one year earlier, no infrastructure was in place in order to ship oil to global markets.

Ras Tanura, with its deep water and sheltered bay, was identified as the perfect location to receive tankers. Pipeline and storage tanks were built, along with other required infrastructure.

The King arrived in Dhahran on April 28 and was welcomed by two days of banquets and inspections. He also personally received in his great pavilion tent all of the women and children. At Ras Tanura on May 1, telegrams of congratulations were read, gifts exchanged, and King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz opened the line through which wealth, power, and global responsibilities would flow into his young Kingdom.

Now 80 years on, approximately one out of every eight barrels of oil around the world is produced by Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom is a leading economic nation and a member of the G20.

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Now 80 years on, approximately one out of every eight barrels of oil around the world is produced by Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom is a leading economic nation and a member of the G20.
Saudi Aramco promotes nonmetallic materials within the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers

by Isaac Aguilar Ventura

As part of Saudi Aramco’s advocacy efforts to promote the use of nonmetallic materials in the oil and gas industry worldwide, Saudi Aramco Engineering Services is leading the effort to create the first nonmetallic material standards committee within the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP).

Composed of the world’s main oil and gas producers, the IOGP includes British Petroleum, Shell, Total, ExxonMobil, Equinor (formerly Statoil), Saudi Aramco, Royal Dutch Shell, Total, ExxonMobil, and others. Collectively, IOGP members produce 40% of the world’s oil and gas.

Among the goals of the IOGP is to develop standard practices for continuous improvement in several sectors relevant to the industry, including materials and corrosion. In two separate meetings with representatives of the IOGP — one held in Houston in the U.S. and the other in Oslo, Norway — Jamil J. Al-Bagawi and Nonmetallic Engineering Division coordinator Waleed L. Al Otaibi shared their significant experience with polymer and composite products that Saudi Aramco has utilized in its operations, such as reinforced thermoplastic pipe and reinforced thermosetting resin pipe.

Corrosion in oil and gas operations is generally caused by water, carbon dioxide (CO2) and hydrogen sulfide (H2S), and can be aggravated by microbiological activity. The cost of corrosion is very high. Deploying nonmetallic materials in economically and technically feasible applications combats corrosion.

During the most recent assembly in Oslo, Al Otaibi presented to IOGP members the Saudi Aramco nonmetallic roadmap, experience, and collaboration opportunities. He highlighted that Saudi Aramco envisions polymers and composites to be the leading growth segment among materials — not only for our industry, but the company is also quickly gaining ground in other sectors such as building and construction, automotive, and packaging. The main advantages of these materials include the immunity to corrosion, ease of installation, and favorable life cycle cost benefits.

In addition, polymers and composites hold a strategic importance for oil and gas producers because the raw materials used to fabricate them are part of the industry’s value chain.

“The engagement with the IOGP members generated great discussion and questions about the various nonmetallic applications,” said Al Otaibi. “It was clear that Saudi Aramco is in a leading position when it comes to nonmetallic products deployment in oil and gas applications. The IOGP members were impressed by our deployment roadmap, accomplishments, structured approach, and looks forward for this collaboration.”

Why nonmetallic?

Corrosion in oil and gas operations is generally caused by water, carbon dioxide (CO2) and hydrogen sulfide (H2S), and can be aggravated by microbiological activity. The cost of corrosion is very high. Deploying nonmetallic materials in economically and technically feasible applications combats corrosion.

Saudi Aramco has committed to drive domestic value creation and maximize long-term economic growth and diversification to support a rapidly changing economic environment.

four agreements

The four agreements, signed by senior management of Saudi Aramco and four pump suppliers — Flowserve Corporation, Sulzer Ltd., The Weir Group PLC, and ITT Inc. — will provide for the supply of centrifugal pumps used in a wide range of fluid movement applications, including for water, sewage, petroleum, and petrochemical pumping.

Under the agreement, the four suppliers are expected to build or expand their local manufacturing capabilities throughout the eight-year agreement duration of the CPA.

Technical Services senior vice president Ahmad A. Al-Saadi presided over the signing ceremony, with Procurement and Supply Chain Management vice president Mohamad A. Al-Shammary signing the agreement with the four suppliers.


Waleed Al-Otaibi, third from right, was among those who participated in the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP)’s Materials and Corrosion committee meeting in Oslo, Norway. In two separate meetings with the representatives of the IOGP — one held in Houston in the U.S. and the other in Oslo, Norway — Jamil J. Al-Bagawi and Al-Otaibi shared their significant experience with polymer and composite products that Saudi Aramco has utilized in its operations, such as reinforced thermoplastic pipe and reinforced thermosetting resin pipe.

another milestone

“Today, we are here to celebrate another milestone in the localization journey in support of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030,” Al-Shammary said. “We must continue to work together to make these long-term agreements a win-win for all of us. Establishing enough local capacity is a crucial part to make the agreements successful and to ensure Saudi Aramco’s projects run smoothly without any disruptions.”

By prioritizing procurement of materials from local manufacturers, Saudi Aramco’s iktva program drives increased investment, economic diversification, job creation, and workforce development within the Kingdom. By 2021, Saudi Aramco aims to achieve 70% localization of all spending, create thousands of skilled jobs, with the potential to increase the high-value exports of Saudi energy sector products.

These latest CPAs will further enhance the company’s strategic sourcing support and commitment to empower local companies. The centrifugal pumps that will be procured locally have an average life span around 20 years, however, Saudi Aramco has similar pumps that have been in service for more than 40 years. Creating strategic localization relationships with our key suppliers helps Saudi Aramco to mitigate operational risks and reduce life cycle costs.
The Arabian Sun
by Hanoof Alseleem

The half-day session provided participants with a better understanding of people with disability inclusion, while providing practical tools that can be implemented immediately. The workshop was open for voluntary registration to all employees across various business lines to bring more awareness on how to be more inclusive of all members in the organization, giving suggestions as to how to interact with PwD, as well as understanding barriers that prevent achieving disability inclusion in the workplace.

fostering inclusion

Opening the event, Nabil K. Al Dabal, executive director of HR and the sponsor of the workshop, reminded attendees that the focus of Saudi Aramco has always been around its people, and the company’s success is a testament of that commitment to employees. "Looking at the future, the company is continuing and putting more focus on its people and their concerns, inclusively people with disabilities, as all pillars of success evolves around them, and we aim for some positive changes to be the role model for the country when it comes to caring for those special people." Al Dabal further stated that, from a commercial point of view, data has shown that missing-out on any area of the human aspect, particularly people with disabilities, can result in decreases in profit and performance opportunities. Al Dabal thanked Community Services as they responded very positively on surveying buildings that needed accommodations for PwD, as well as providing priority lanes for them to have proper access to facilities. Personnel and HR are also developing a special GI for special needs people, and have recently introduced a new policy of reducing working-schedule hours as people with special needs can now opt to work for four, six or eight hours per day — following the best universal practices.

Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is also taking major steps in this area and making noticeable progress on accommodating their facilities and policies to pave the way to a more inclusive environment. The interactive workshop fostered open communication for over more than participants from inside the company and JHAH to understand the concept of PwD inclusion in the workplace and its importance, acquire knowledge on barriers to inclusion and how to eliminate them, and increase the engagement and maximize the contribution of diverse individuals as well as accommodating their needs. Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 emphasizes the importance of providing proper education and job opportunities for PwD. Saudi Aramco is also taking progressive steps toward fostering an inclusive work environment, and the workshop represents that commitment. "It is very important to be inclusive in our community and workplace, and inclusion starts with the right attitude," said Wael S. Alamri, program lead of Disability Inclusion within WD&D. "The population of PwD is huge — 1.3 billion worldwide. Imagine the great social and economic benefits if we all become inclusive and tap into such vast resource of human capital. "Saudi Aramco is taking the right step by addressing PwD matters with its employees and encouraging the efforts to be more inclusive, and thereby, utilizing the significant pool of PwD talent.”

'raise awareness'

"People with disabilities is a very sensitive subject, so I thought participating in the workshop could raise awareness and I can take that back with me to my department," said Danah A. Alruwaii, a workshop participant with the Community Services Technical Support Department. "I can get answers to the sensitive questions that normally people may not want to ask What was great about this workshop is that it was presented by someone with a disability so we could all hear what he has to say from his point of view, and I hope to attend more similar workshops in the future," said Alruwaii. Another participant, Abdulbaset A. Alomary with the Personnel Department, also shared his thoughts about the workshop. "I participated to reflect new ideas on hiring people with special needs to my department, and I found more than what I was searching for as the discussion started and ideas started floating," said Alomary.

Nothing encapsulates the impact of this workshop better than a statement by Mark Morley, a specialist in International Media Relations. "My father is a paraplegic and therefore I grew up understanding disability from my very earliest memories," said Morley. "I believe that the workshop captured each and every important aspect in the work of fully and properly integrating people with disability into the workplace.”

workshop: resilience key to crisis management, continuity

by Scott Baldauf

Al-Khobar — Saudi Aramco’s Corporate Emergency Management and Continuity Department (CEMAC), under the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAD), recently held a Crisis and Continuity Management Workshop for joint ventures and subsidiaries to align crisis management practices and frameworks as a step toward greater resilience.

The event was attended by more than 200 representatives from 37 domestic and international subsidiaries and joint ventures.

accelerating resilience

In aligning our business continuity and crisis frameworks, CEMAC is playing a key role in accelerating resilience across the joint ventures and subsidiaries as Saudi Aramco moves to become the world’s leading integrated energy and chemicals company. The workshop provided a platform to examine crisis and business continuity opportunities to coordinate in future business continuity and crisis management development to work toward implementing effective risk management measures.

Mohammed O. Al-Subai, then acting OSPAS manager, commended delegates for working to enhance our organizations’ resilience — both individually and collectively.

Recognizing that this cannot be achieved individually, he urged all to embrace collaboration and partnership opportunities.

pillars of resilience

The pillars of resilience, Al-Subai noted, are enterprise risk management, emergency and crisis management, as well as business continuity management. He encouraged delegates to use the workshop to learn from each other and deepen their knowledge of the company’s practices in order to achieve the objectives of the workshop.

Richard Reed, head of CEMAC, noted the importance of CEMAC’s vision for resilience in protecting Saudi Aramco’s interests against direct losses and subsequent interruptions that may result from crisis situations.

Reed highlighted the company’s long history of ensuring delivery to its customers — both domestically and internationally — the result of extensive operational contingency planning and effective response capabilities. By working collaboratively and aligning practices, he said, delegates will be better prepared to build on their company’s reputation for reliability, adapt to the challenging global marketplace, and integrate new innovative ideas to drive continuous improvement.

CEMAC’s mission

CEMAC’s well-defined mission serves as a template for the delegates of joint ventures and subsidiaries, responsible for implementing the Business Continuity and Crisis Management strategy. This CEMAC mission includes:

• Leading in the development of programs that preserve the continuity of company operations
• Ensuring that crises are managed effectively through active engagement with internal and external stakeholders
• Providing support to the company’s executive during a crisis

Reflecting the diverse audience, delegates were presented with a range of presentations including enterprise risk management, the process of building business continuity plans, and effective crisis management at operational and strategic levels, managing public relations during a crisis, and cybersecurity. Delegates were also given a tour of the OSPAS Operation Coordination Center, acknowledging the maturity of Saudi Aramco’s approach to business continuity and crisis management resulted in a series of initiatives to work together on areas of common interest.
Industrial Security gives homeowners a ‘secure’ peek at the future

by Musheer Alamri

Dhahran — From intelligent cameras to smart locks, the second Home Security Campaign organized by Industrial Security in the Al Midra gallery recently highlighted best practices in securing residential properties.

Visitors learned about the latest methods to secure their homes through interacting with Saudi Aramco subject matter experts and representatives from the industry, said Adel F. Wuhaib, manager of Industrial Security Support Department (ISSD).

“The campaign is an opportunity for us to share some of our in-house expertise with the community and have conversations about the latest technologies for home security available in the local market for consumers to empower employees to find the best way to provide security for their homes,” Wuhaib said. “This is in line with the company’s citizenship value.”

four focus areas

The event featured a knowledge booth staffed with subject matter experts from Industrial Security who provided visitors with an overview of home security, said Rayyan M. Alorini from ISSD. The key focus was on four areas:

• Intelligent internal and external surveillance cameras, which only record when the sensors detects a relevant motion in the area instead of continuously capturing footage. This reduces the storage requirement, while making the review process easier and more efficient. Visitors were advised to first do a camera coverage test prior to installing surveillance systems.
• Motion or glass break sensors for those not wishing to install indoor cameras for privacy concerns. When an intruder breaks into a home, those sensors, which are connected to a security system, will alert the user or sound the alarm depending on the setting.
• Smart locks, which are convenient and secure, as they can be opened through a fingerprint or a mobile phone. These locks, which cannot be picked like conventional ones, are also more convenient for home-owners because they do not have to worry about carrying — and in some instances, losing — the keys.
• Vehicle tracking systems to alert car owners if drivers are not following traffic safety rules.

better information for better solutions

The knowledge booth allowed visitors to gain an understanding of the latest methods to secure their homes so they can prioritize their needs and select the most suitable solution, said Majed N. Alshalaan, who works with ISSD.

The event also included booths for home security solution providers based in Saudi Arabia offering special offers and discounts for the visitors to get an overview of the local market. The highlights included a smart camera that has facial recognition capabilities that can allow homeowners to program the security system to open the door via the smart lock for certain people. Visitors also learned how the coverage of the surveillance system can be expanded via using wide lenses.

Aramco shapes transport conversation during SAE High-Efficiency ICE Symposium

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia — Internal combustion engines (ICE) still dominate the transportation sector, yet advancements in technology and manufacturing are pushing the limits of internal combustion engines. Internal combustion engine development is continuing to evolve, using a variety of strategies to simultaneously improve performance and fuel efficiency. Advanced fuel technologies and direct injection, for example, are being used to improve engine performance and fuel efficiency.

Aramco’s presentations at this year’s SAE High-Efficiency ICE Symposium included technical papers and posters on gasoline direct injection, high-pressure direct injection, and multi-point injection systems. Aramco’s research on gasoline direct injection (GDI) engines and fuels working in a holistic way is gaining significant attention.

In his presentation, “Pathway to 50% Brake Thermal Efficiency: Gasoline Compression Ignition,” and technical paper (SAE-2019-01-1154), Sellnau showed test results on an engine with fuel efficiency over 43% with ultra-low emissions of NOx and particulate emissions.

Mark Sellnau, principal engineer with the Aramco Research Center-Detroit, spoke during the session titled “High Efficiency Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Symposium. Further development of high-efficiency engines utilizing widely available fuels is an attractive option to reduce emissions faster and affordably.

Detroit — Raising the efficiency of engines in passenger vehicles and heavy-duty trucks has Saudi Aramco focused on the creation of an automotive technology portfolio with the power to substantially reduce the carbon dioxide (CO2) footprint of internal combustion engines (ICE), a significant source of emissions.

Prior to the start of this year’s Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) World Congress, Aramco participated in the High-Efficiency Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Symposium. Further development of high-efficiency engines utilizing widely available fuels is an attractive option to reduce emissions faster and affordably.

Mark Sellnau (center) and Xin Yu from the Aramco Research Center-Detroit visit with Gustav Nyrenstedt, Ph.D. candidate, from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology during a symposium break. A collaboration between Saudi Aramco’s Research and Development Center and the University’s Clean Combustion Research Center addresses fundamental and applied aspects of fuel combustion in engines.
unconventionals turn to solar power for remote wells in Kingdom’s North

by Basil H. Al-Dossary

Turaif — Five years ago, Saudi Aramco committed itself to supply the required fuel gas to the new Saudi Electricity Company power plant and to the Ma’aden Phosphate beneficiation plant at Wa’ad Al Shamal Industrial City in the northern region of Saudi Arabia. It was an ambitious commitment, given that the company would need to explore and master one of the newest and most difficult segments of the oil and gas business: unconventional gas. The work execution program to deliver these commitments was divided into Phase I and Phase II.

In May 2017, the mechanical completion for the Phase I unconventional gas facility in the Kingdom was completed. Designed to be cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, the 79 million standard cubic feet per day gas production facility is processing gas from 10 unconventional wells near the northern city of Turaif, and then the gas is shipped through pipelines to key customers, including the Saudi Electric Company’s 1 gigawatt power plant at Wa’ad Al Shamal and Ma’aden’s phosphate plant.

thinking outside the box

Effort was then focused on delivering Phase II, which is composed of four facilities. The system’s design concept is to achieve the lowest capital cost system that is safe to build and operate, as the unconventional gas wells have a shorter life cycle. The first facility was mechanically completed on December 2018.

But to remain competitive, it is critical to constantly think outside the box. So when wells were found to have good promise but were further away than anticipated, the team opted to hook up the wells using an off-grid hybrid photovoltaic solar power system to power the remote gas wells in the Jalamid Field in the Al-Jouf area of Northern Border Regions in Saudi Arabia.

This was a remarkable achievement for Saudi Aramco because it is the first time in the history of the Kingdom that well sites have been powered by solar energy. This is a departure from regular practices of self-produced electricity that relies on transmission via overhead lines.

The photovoltaic solar and battery system equipment is specified and designed as modular — standardized to be relocatable to other new gas wells.

a portable, cost-effective solution

Utilizing off-grid photovoltaic solar power and battery systems is a cost-effective solution to power remote unconventional gas wells with energy storage to supply power continuously for five consecutive days with no sunlight.

The photovoltaic solar power system has a charge controller system output of 48VDC and has a nominal distribution system voltage of 480Vac, 3-Phase, 60Hz. The installed off-grid hybrid photovoltaic solar power system has a footprint of 42 meters by 114 meters, with 100kW PV modules, 190kW of VRLA battery, and a tilt angle that is adjustable between 35 and 45 degree PV arrays (oriented facing south). The system has a five-year life cycle for the battery and 20 years for other components, with a redundant power configuration utilizing multiple inverters. They have five days autonomy and a 150 kilo-volt ampere mobile backup generator.

other benefits

Some of the major benefits include, but are not limited to, reusability for the other well sites, ease of mobility to other remote locations, an improved schedule impact on projects, independent power generation that is not dependent on power line grids, less down time and maximum guarantee of gas production, complete elimination startup requirements in the case of fuel for power generation, and general cost savings associated with deployment and operations.

This project has demonstrated that solar power has a wider use in the development of Saudi Aramco projects in the Kingdom and reflects the company’s commitment to protect the environment and preserve the Kingdom’s natural resources.

As a technology leader in the industry, it is another opportunity to showcase Saudi Aramco’s depth of knowledge and commitment in this field.

Giant solar panels were recently employed in the Kingdom’s North to power well sites in the remote Jalamid Field in the Al-Jouf area. The system is portable and provides independent power with minimal down time to better serve the company’s gas production efforts.
The tide of opportunity for Saudi Arabian girls and women has been steadily rising over the past few years. But during STEMania graduation days, that tide feels more like an unstoppable tsunami of service as students from different schools come together with their mothers to celebrate the giant leaps they made in the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM).

STEMania is, of course, Saudi Aramco’s award-winning program that introduces and teaches girls aged 7 to 15 about the awe and wonder of STEM. It motivates the next generation of females, while also providing the building blocks for a technical generation to be successful with modern skills in our fast-paced 21st century work environment. Since January 2019, the program has graduated over 1,200 students throughout the Kingdom. More than 570 of those students from different schools in the Eastern Province and al-Hasa recently came together in two separate STEMania graduation events.

inspiring STEM stories

At Saad National School in Dammam, future scientists, technology experts, engineers, and mathematicians began their evening by dressing up as engineers before one of them delivered the opening address.

The ceremonies were initiated by introducing the audience to the STEMania program and it was explained how it aligns with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030. She elaborated on the program’s importance in the students’ lives and how it improved their skills in different STEM fields.

Director of the school, Rowdah Almishari, followed up by welcoming all attendees and explaining how the school values and supports the use of technology as a way of preparing students for the future workplace.

After a reading from the Holy Qur’an, the national anthem was played and representatives from Saudi Aramco and the Ministry of Education shared some insights on the success of the STEMania program.

An inspirational message from Halah Alwasidani, a highly successful accountant from Saudi Aramco, left the students enthralled as she recalled how her father supported and encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a scientist.

This was echoed by Aram Alayhya, as she also shared how she loves being a business analyst at Saudi Aramco.

In a heartwarming address, one mother spoke about how STEMania has helped her daughter to be more creative and curious about the world.

A short video was then shown, featuring highlights of the work done by students during the program.

The highlight was undoubtedly when some of the students shared their own experience of the program. Especially endearing was the confidence that even the youngest girls displayed as they spoke about the positive effect the program had on them personally.

“I always wondered how phone applications were created and designed and I asked myself if I could one day create my own application, said 13-year-old Mojo- od Al-Atta. “At STEMania, we managed to transfer our simple ideas into reality by creating our own application. One day I hope to create applications that will be used around the world.”

Asma Bakhashab is the mother of two girls in the program.

“I noticed a big change in my two daughters’ personalities after they joined STEMania,” said Bakhashab. “They would come home and continue discussing what they experienced and learned in the program. They enjoyed it so much that they even signed up as part of the presentation team for the graduation ceremony.”

student invention

At the 20th Intermediate School in al-Hasa, the ceremony started with an impressive opening as students presented themselves and their inventions fluently in both Arabic and English. The audience was moved by the ability of these children in articulating how they will create the future they would like to see through being innovative in the fields of STEM.

After the ceremony, the audience was taken on a tour of all the projects as the makers stood by to explain their innovations.

volunteers and feedback

Running a program like STEMania requires a huge team that works endless hours behind the scenes, and fittingly, both days were brought to an end by thanking those people and honoring them.

Feedback from graduates was overwhelmingly positive.

“I used to hate programming and computer subjects. Since my friends encouraged me to participate in STEMania,” 13-year-old student Raghad Alyami said with a big smile. “The method of teaching encouraged me to think more and ask more questions, and now I love programming. I want to be a mechanical engineer like my brother and work with him to open our own company.”

“Thank you Saudi Aramco for this amazing program. We need more programs like these in our country,” said the mother of one of the students.

For more information regarding this inspirational program, please contact gha- da.thukair@aramco.com

STEMania catches on, graduate over 1,200 students

May 8, 2019 | the arabian sun

by Badea A. Jambi

Dhahran — A graduation ceremony was held recently at North Park to recognize 11 new technical specialists who have completed Saudi Aramco’s Specialist Development Program (SDP).

The ceremony was attended by Yousef A. Al-Ulyan, vice president of Information Technology, as well as chief engineer Jamal J. Al-Bagawi.

The newly minted specialists represent petroleum operations, gas technical operations, oil technical operations, and security.

The graduates covered a broad cross-section of technical specialties, including protective coating, reliability engineering, electrical inspection, petrochemical, business intelligence, systems administration, data networking, project control, as well as hydrocarbon conversion and petrochemical research. This year’s graduation marks a significant milestone for the program, celebrating more than a decade of success.

specialists leave their mark

In delivering the keynote address Al-Bagawi — SDP board chairman — congratulated the specialists and reflected on the impact the SDP has had over the years.

“With the success of this program is evident from our engineers’ technical progression,” said Al-Bagawi. “It is reflected in the significant contributions made by previous SDP graduates, now our company’s leading specialists, who continue to spearhead our unmatched capital program, support our expanding operations’ asset base national-ly and internationally, and implement new technologies and innovative solutions.”

Al-Bagawi went on to highlight the SDP’s role in developing the technical expertise required to lead the digital transformation of the company’s operating facilities and to safeguard the company’s IT infrastructure and security.

The program provides a structured professional development path in technical specialties — a path that includes internships, advanced degrees, and relevant certifications.

To qualify for graduation from the program, a candidate must demonstrate a significant contribution to the company’s technical operations.

a specialist’s journey

Rakan S. Bialas, a petrochemical specialist with P&CSD, shared his personal experiences with adversity and challenges to reach the professional achievement embodied in his SDP graduation.

He spoke of the example set by his father, the son of illiterate parents who himself reached the highest position an employee could reach — a success story that inspired him to commit to the same endeavor in his own career.

Joining Bialas (petrochemical) in successfully completing the program were Hassan S. Al-Sagour (protective coating), Khalid A. Al-Jabar (reliability engineering), Riyad A. Al-Awad (electrical inspection), Abdulrahman M. Hajjar (business intelligence), Al Alaa N. Tashkandi (ERP systems administration), Majed A. Al-Sahl (ERP systems administration), Mohammed H. Suwaimil (system administrator), Hasan M. Al-Fareed (protection and control), and Saad A. Al-Bogami (hydrocarbon conversion and petrochemical research).

For those attaining the coveted specialist title, the chief engineer announced the establishment of the Advanced Professional Development Program, which extends the technical job ladder beyond specialist to senior consultant, and to principal professional — the highest technical position available in the company. This program seeks to retain technical expertise in the technical job ladder by opening up further career aspirations to those candidates who have already successfully completed the SDP.

The SDP currently has more than 139 technical specialties being pursued by more than 400 enrolled participants from eight admin areas. Since the program’s inception, more than 348 participants have earned the specialist designation.

The program is administered by the Technical Services Professional Academy and is governed by the SDP board.

Rakan S. Bialas shares his personal experiences of adversity and the challenges he faced in completing the Specialist Development Program. Bialas was one of 11 Saudi Aramco employees who were recognized during a recent ceremony held in Dhahran. (Photo: Abdullah AlAhmari/MMPC)
Ithra unveils towering ‘Source of Light’

by Ithra Communications Team

Giuseppe Penone speaks during the unveiling of the Source of Light at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra). The 90-foot tall artwork consists of three towering bronze trees that “grow” from the base of the Source — the physical core of the building — which marks the symbolic location near where Saudi Arabia first discovered oil in 1938. (Photo: Ahmed Al Thani)


“I am delighted to have master Giuseppe Penone’s iconic work, ‘Source of Light’ at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture,” said Ithra director Ali Al-Mutairi. “His poignant integration of organic systems and natural forms — including wood, stone, resin, and the human body — belies the interconnectedness between human beings and nature. This commission, the most monumental and spectacular of the artist to date, responds both to the Source and to the natural forms and sustainable materials of Ithra itself, which evoke rocks and mountain ranges. The sculpture connects the earth below with the sky above, forming a symbolic link between the land and the source of energy. “The Source of Light” emphasizes and represents the energy extracted from the earth that helps life and growth, said Penone. “It symbolizes the Source, where oil needed for the growth and development of the world’s economy was discovered. It celebrates with its own form and materials, including the gold that covers the central tree’s inner surface — the elevation of life.”

A Saudi Aramco citizenship initiative, Ithra’s iconic architecture was designed by Oslo-based architects Snohetta. The buildings form four giant high-tech rock-like structures which support one another — linking the past, present, and future. At the center lies a deep and open square well — the symbolic location of the Source, where oil was for first discovered in the region.

The journey to the Source takes visitors down a spiraling ramp that gives varying views of Penone’s “Source of Light” and provides an experience that takes one on a voyage from the collective to the personal.

A worthy work of art

“We are delighted to have master Giuseppe Penone’s iconic work, ‘Source of Light’ at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture,” said Ithra director Ali Al-Mutairi. “His poignant integration of organic systems and natural forms — including wood, stone, resin, and the human body — belies the interconnectedness between human beings and nature. This commission, the most monumental and spectacular of the artist to date, responds both to the Source and to the natural forms and sustainable materials of Ithra itself, which evoke rocks and mountain ranges. The sculpture connects the earth below with the sky above, forming a symbolic link between the land and the source of energy. “The Source of Light” emphasizes and represents the energy extracted from the earth that helps life and growth, said Penone. “It symbolizes the Source, where oil needed for the growth and development of the world’s economy was discovered. It celebrates with its own form and materials, including the gold that covers the central tree’s inner surface — the elevation of life.”

With the ‘Source’, Penone has synthesized memory and nature in dialog with architecture to inspire our consideration of what has yet to be discovered. We are honored to present such a work to the world. “Delivering remarks at the unveiling, Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib, general manager of Saudi Aramco Public Affairs, said this particular piece by Penone is a good fit for Ithra because it represents the idea that light reflects.

“I believe this is the fundamental mission of Ithra — to reflect, to understand, and to amplify the power of art, and creativity, and cultural understanding … like a powerful light-house,” said Al-Dhubaib. “Aligned with Vision 2030’s objectives for a sustainable, thriving economy and an ambitious nation, Ithra is Saudi Aramco’s largest CSR initiative … and the largest creative contribution to the Kingdom and its people. In a sense, Ithra is a lighthouse … on seas of sand. I believe this masterful creation — in this unique venue — will place Ithra with renowned international museums such as the Tate Gallery in London, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and New York’s MoMA, which have included Penone’s pieces within their permanent collections.”
Faisal Aldossary, a talented young Saudi College Degree Program for Non-Employees (CDPNE) student, was among the selected high school students who recently won the opportunity to participate at the world-renowned Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) 2018.

Intel ISEF is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. Each year, approximately 1,800 high school students from more than 75 countries are awarded the opportunity to showcase their independent research.

The winners of these events go on to participate in society-affiliated regional fairs — from which the best win the opportunity to attend Intel ISEF.

A delegation of Saudi Aramco annuitants from the U.S. and Europe visit the historic city of Jiddah during the recent Expat Reunion. Officials from the Municipality of Jiddah and the Ministry of Culture received the 50 visitors, who toured a variety of historic sites throughout the western city famous for its old buildings, traditional souqs, museums, and monuments.

A planet named after him

Aldossary’s research titled “Creating Two Novel Strigolactone (SL) Analogs (C-13 and C-26) for the Benefit of Combating Parasitic Seed Infestation” earned second place in the Plant Science category. His research was highly recognized. He also won a special award from the University of Science and Technology of China.

Aldossary was sponsored by Saudi Aramco as a CDPNE, joining the University of California-Berkeley, ranked amongst the top 10 schools in the U.S. He recently received further recognition from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which named a newly discovered minor planet after him.

In collaboration with Saudi Cancer Society in the Eastern Province, two lung cancer sessions were conducted for Dhahran IT Division employees and contractors to raise awareness about lung cancer symptoms, treatment, and early diagnosis. Here, Dr. Endaira Bu-Khamseen presents to the group of approximately 40 on the dangers of radon in the environment. A critical part of the awareness sessions was to share and promote the stories of lung cancer survivors, caregivers, and families of those who have been diagnosed with lung cancer, which accounts for 27% of all cancer deaths and is by far the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women.

Participants in the in-house developed CHE 152 Accelerated Development Program for Young Engineers pose with Jamil J. Al-Bagawi, chief engineer, Menahi M. Al Utaibi, RT Refinery Engineering Department manager, and Majed A. Al Jumah, Technical Services Planning and Performance Management Department manager. Sixteen process engineers from Saudi Aramco refineries in Yanbu’, Riyadh, and Ras Tanura (RT) successfully completed the program. Twenty instructors from Engineering Services, joined by field engineers from RT Refinery, delivered the five-week training program.
Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure
A collection of engaging children’s animations that integrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

May 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15
1 p.m.

Predator X
After a startling discovery in southern England, scientists investigate the skull of what could be one of the largest marine predators ever discovered.

May 13, 14, 15
9 p.m.

Peter Pan: The Quest for the Never Book
To get the best of the day filled with fun and folly, the traditional Pichipuck games have been organized for the Lost Boys, Native Tribes, Peter, Tinker Bell, and the Darling family.

May 13, 14, 15
11 p.m.

David Attenborough’s First Life - Part 1
David Attenborough takes a journey back in time to discover how the very first animals developed on our planet.

May 9
2 p.m.

David Attenborough’s First Life - Part 2
David Attenborough takes a journey back in time to discover how the very first animals developed on our planet.

May 1
2 p.m.

Energy Exhibit Theater

Conquest of the Skies
Evolutionary story of flight from the very first insects to the incredible array of creatures, which rule the skies today.

May 10
10 p.m.

May 9, 11, 13
1 p.m., 10 p.m.
Aramcon shares his passion for poetry at Dhahran Recreation Library

by Julie Scott

Dhahran — Playing with language is serious fun, and Scott Andrew Christensen, currently a career counselor with General Education Partnerships, recently showed young writers just how much fun it can be.

As part of a month-long celebration of “Poetry Month,” Christensen taught a series of three poetry writing workshops for children and teens at Dhahran Recreation Library. "The Power of Poetry" and "Young Poets" workshops took place late last month.

working with young people

Christensen is a published poet, author, and an experienced teacher and counselor with a passion for the writing and working creatively with children.

“What’s so great about working with young people is that they haven’t yet been reined in by strict parameters about meter and rhyming when it comes to poetry,” said Christensen. “They are uninhibited, and that lends itself to some amazing brainstorming exercises and mind-mapping games that help unleash imaginations.”

Organized by Turki Hazza, library coordinator with the Central Community Services Department, the initiative was part of the library’s mandate to deliver meaningful literacy programs for youth.

“The Dhahran Recreation Library provides many forms of interactive programs aimed at exposing literacy resources to a wide range of ages,” said Hazza. “Promoting literacy in the context of creative writing and poetry workshops goes a long way to enhancing the learning environment to the youth of the Saudi Aramco community. We are most grateful to Scott for sharing his enthusiasm and expertise with our young patrons.”

teaching brainstorming skills

During each one-hour workshop, Christensen taught brainstorming skills and helped the young poets create mind maps to build on their own writing. He explained that writing and thinking creatively means that there is no end to what one can write about, whether it be a plant, a three-ring binder, or even a cat. They all can have a story in poetry.

Part of the workshop also included listening to established poets recite poems about the natural world and then recycling photos from old issues of library magazines to generate ideas.

“I like to incorporate images into these workshops. It makes yet another connection with the written word whereby the kids tap into their creative nature through connecting various forms,” explained Christensen.

about the author

Christensen published his first collection of poetry, The Boundaries of Return, after having a number of poems published in literary journals. These poems formed the heart for the book, which was printed by U.K.-based Red Hand Books in 2014. Many of the poems have been influenced by time spent in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

“The title of the book is a reflection of my travels over the past two decades, like a migratory bird, which has a sense of its boundaries over thousands of miles, peering down for practical reasons, gazing up for inspiration,” said Christensen.

The book is available to check out from the library.

Christensen is combining his Dhahran Recreation Library poetry workshop experiences with a University of Cambridge course he is currently undertaking in the hopes of offering a Community Education creative writing course in the fall of 2019.

“I want to continue to add to the literary life of the community, alongside getting a novel into shape for publication,” Christensen admitted. “We have formed a small group of like-minded writers here at Saudi Aramco to give each other support and encouragement — the same support and encouragement Dhahran Recreation Library offers local youth.”

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