

Plan to open institute for studies in Leuven University

GCC to organise cultural heritage exhibition in Brussels



KUNA photo
The Head of Mission of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the European Union Ambassador Amal Al-Hamad.

BRUSSELS, Feb 1, (KUNA): The Head of Mission of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to the European Union (EU), Ambassador Amal Al-Hamad, said Wednesday that the mission is to organize the Gulf Cultural Heritage Exhibition at the European Parliament during the period on Feb 6-10 under the auspices of two Members of the European Parliament. She told Kuwait News Agency

(KUNA) that the exhibition will feature a number of paintings of heritage and craft tools and traditional costumes, stressing the importance of the exhibition which is the first of its kind organized jointly by the six GCC countries. The exhibition will show the striking similarity and rapprochement between GCC countries, as well as contribute to boosting the cultural cooperation between the European

Parliament and the GCC which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. On the other hand, Ambassador Al-Hamad indicated to the opening by the GCC mission in Brussels of an institute for studies of the GCC in the Leuven University soon. She explained that the institute will include a collection of books and historical publications and geographical,

cultural and other materials for reference for researchers and students. In this context, Ambassador Al-Hamad stressed the importance of the institute, which is the first of its kind in a Belgian university where the focus will be on interaction and the exchange of visits between academics and researchers, and students from both sides, and a platform to organize lectures and various activities throughout the year.

Kuwait academics hail Abu Dhabi for organising 'Global Space Congress'

Inter-Arab space co-op readies for lift off

ABU DHABI, Feb 1, (Agencies): Kuwaiti academics partaking in the Abu Dhabi's Global Space Congress, lauded Wednesday the organization of the event which will hopefully lead to the launch of several space programs in the region.

Speaking to KUNA on the sideline of the event, which began yesterday, the Kuwaiti academics said that they had participated in several workshops held on the sideline of the congress, stressing that such participation was crucial for the development of more scientific and space programs within the GCC.

Dr Halah Al-Jasser, from the Physics Department of Kuwait University (KU), said that Kuwait was keen on partaking in events promoting space programs in the region, adding that recently a Kuwaiti delegation took part in the celebrations to launch an Arab-funded satellite at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and KU were part of the team that funded the satellite project, said Al-Jasser.

On his part, KFAS official Dr Bassem Al-Faili said that he was impressed by the congress and the UAE's ability to host such grand events.

The fellow GCC and Arab country is taking the right steps towards partaking in the world's space ambition especially after it launched its own Space Agency in 2014, he said.

The Global Space Congress began Tuesday with the participation of 600 scientists, experts, and academics.

Meanwhile, tangible progress between Arab nations on space co-operation has moved up the regional agenda with sector leaders from the UAE, Algeria, Egypt and Bahrain signalling their readiness to drive the momentum at a first-of-a-kind meeting at the Global Space Congress which ends today (February 1) after a two-day airing in Abu Dhabi.

Discussing the issues impacting Space & The Arab World, the sector leaders concurred that inter-regional co-operation was essential to push forward Arab space ambitions.

Forum

Chairing the session, the first time space leaders from the nations sat together in a focussed forum, Dr Mohammed Al Ahabbi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency said: "There is a trend in the Arab world to move in the space sector and great interest in regional co-operation and we have to find ways to co-operate."

Al Ahabbi said the region has a historic legacy to uphold in delivering successful space programme. "This region has a great history in terms of science, especially in astrology. In the ninth and tenth centuries Arab scientists contributed greatly so its proper that this region can take and contribute through science and technology again. The future of space activities can contribute greatly to the growth and stability of the region."

The discussion heard of common challenges facing the Arab nations in the space arena - financing, poor public perception, human capacity building requirements and knowledge transfer - and inter-regional co-operation, said the delegates could ease the load.

Eng. Salem Humaid Al Marri, Assistant Director General for Scientific and Technical Affairs for the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre said though international co-operation in space was "now the norm" nothing concrete has been delivered in terms of regional co-operation though it had been on the agenda for some time.

"We need to see something tangible," he said adding regional co-operation could go some way to addressing the need or more youth and women in the sector, knowledge transfer and to encourage the private sector to become long-term partners.

Dr Mohammed Ahmed Al Amer, Chairman of Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority said regional co-operation was vital in addressing sky-high sector costs. "Space programmes are almost prohibitively costly and with the situation we now have in the region of financial turmoil." He added co-operation would help address some public perceptions that governments were "looking to the sky" at the expense of dealing with "issues on the ground." Dr Al Amer said perceptions had to be addressed through school, university and public pro-



From left to right: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit take part in a press conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Feb 1. The United Arab Emirates' top diplomat has come out in defense of US President Donald Trump's order temporarily barring citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering US. (AP)



UAE and S. Korean officials after signing the MoU.

UAE Space Agency signs MoU with S. Korea

UAE, S. Korea eye space collaboration

ABU DHABI, UAE, Feb 1: The United Arab Emirates, represented by the UAE Space Agency has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), defining a framework for collaboration and the exchange of information and expertise in the fields of space science, research, and technology.

The signing took place in a ceremony held at the St Regis Saadiyat Island Resort in Abu Dhabi during the Global Space Congress, the largest international gathering of space industry leaders in the Middle East.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Khalifa Al Romaiti, Chairman of the UAE Space Agency, Dr Mohammed Al Ahabbi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency, and a number of senior officials from the UAE space sector.

The Korean delegation included Dr Yanghee Choi, Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning, Republic of Korea, Park Kang-Ho, the Korean

ambassador to the UAE, Dr Gwang-Rae Cho, President of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, Korean space industries and other senior representatives from MSIP.

The MoU between the UAE Space Agency and the MSIP promotes cooperation in various aspects of space exploration, including space science, research, technology, remote sensing, and navigation. In addition to this, the MoU encourages collaboration on space policy, law, regulation, and personnel training for space activities.

Dr Khalifa Al Romaiti, Chairman of the UAE Space Agency said: "The UAE and Korea have a long-standing relationship across many fields including business, education, science, culture, and heavy industry. Korea has been a significant supporter of our space efforts since the UAE Space Agency's founding and we look forward to furthering our relationship through the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and experi-

ence in the space sector."

Dr Yanghee Choi, Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning, said: "International cooperation is essential to the space development. In this regard, the conclusion of MoU will pave the way for both countries to further strengthen their already existing cooperative relationship in the space sector and take their strategic partnership to the next level."

Dr Mohammed Al Ahabbi, Director General of the UAE Space Agency, said: "The establishment of mutually beneficial international partnerships and the exchange of scientific knowledge are key components of the UAE Space Agency's strategic vision, and the signing of this MoU is a significant step in this regard. In our view, it is extremely important that all competent entities in the space sector work together towards the common goal of enhancing the welfare of humanity, and we welcome the experience and insight our Korean peers have to offer."



Sheikh Dr Waleed Al-Rabea, Secretary-General of Islamic Heritage Revival Society with the Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during his visit to the Kuwait's pavilion at the Humanitarian Center.

National Day festivities

Heritage Revival Society head congrats HH Amir and citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1: Secretary General at the Islamic Heritage Revival Society Sheikh Dr Waleed Al-Rabea recently issued a statement to congratulate the country, its leadership and citizens as this year's National Days festivities and 11th Year Anniversary of His Highness the Amir's ascendancy to power approach in February.

Dr Al-Rabea declared that Kuwaitis are overwhelmed with the sense of belonging to the beloved country where Almighty God in His mercies guarantees the safety and security of each person. He thanked God for giving His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah the grace

to succeed in the leadership of the country, and noted his era is filled with tranquility and achievements, including the ability to eliminate crises and build the nation.

He stated the Amir protects his people while maintaining the glorious name of Kuwait in the comity of nations, affirming the political, social and humanitarian roles she plays at the global level. He observed concerted efforts the Amir exerts in the field of humanity and kindness was recognized across the world to the extent that Kuwait was selected the Humanitarian Center, while the Amir honored by the United Nation as a Global Humanitarian Leader.

News in Brief

Saudi fest hailed: The King of Bahrain Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa on Wednesday affirmed that Saudi Arabia's National Festival for Heritage and Culture (Janadriyah 31) set an example to be followed at the cultural level in the Gulf and Arab regions.

In remarks broadcast by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), King Hamad expressed pleasure for attending this annual grand festival that has become a civil tradition, an Arab and humanitarian gathering, luring elite literati, poets and researchers from various corners of the globe.

King Hamad praised diverse intellectual and cultural activities, designed to bolster the Gulf civil identity, maintaining generations' bonds with their heritage and culture. (KUNA)

Aptitude test delayed: There is possibility for the aptitude test in Kuwait University to be postponed due to several problems confronting the method of organizing the next one that the university administration has already fixed for March 25, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting informed source.

He said the concerned officials have been contemplating the postponement due to shortage of invigilators, lack of inspection apparatus and other issues, as well as paucity of fund and repeal of consultancy offices in the university by Ministry of Finance.

The source said the Center for Evaluation and Measurement at the university will present the case before the Higher Committee on Aptitude Test within the next few days, adding that the committee is

expected to deal with all problems, since it is the supervisory body.

Saudi actor's father dies:

The well-known Saudi actor Nasser Al-Qasabi has received condolences from his fellow Kuwaiti actor Abdul Hussein Abdul Redha, also known as Abu Adnan, on the death of his father who has been buried in Al-Naseem Cemetery in East Riyadh, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Several actors such as Abdullah Al-Sadhan and other citizens had attended the funeral.

A number of Saudi Twitter users posted photographs of the funeral as well as old photographs of actor Nasser Al-Qasabi and his late father.

UAE to grant visa to Russians:

The United Arab Emirates will offer Russian visitors visas on arrival in the country in a bid to boost tourism and trade, state news agency WAM reported on Sunday.

Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum has approved a cabinet decree recommending Russians be granted visas as soon as they arrive, WAM reported.

The report did not say when the change would come into effect.

The UAE, home to global tourism hub Dubai, is keen to bolster trade and tourism as visitor numbers from once core markets, including Russia, have declined due to economic slowdowns and a strong dollar. The UAE's dirham is pegged to the dollar.

Last September, the UAE granted visas on arrival to holders of Chinese passports.