

Bank Platinum sponsor of ArabNet Kuwait Conference

KFH adapts to changing needs of digital-age customers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Waleed Khaled Mandani said the Bank is continuing its efforts to provide a digital experience for a new generation of customers, providing a digital banking platform that is intuitive and simple to use, indicating customer experience will continue to evolve and Banks need to keep their fingers on the pulse and adapt to the changing needs of customers and the market.

Mandani's statement was made during his keynote speech at ArabNet Kuwait 2018 forum held at AlRaya Ballroom to explore trends in financial technology "Fintech" and the transformations created by big data, blockchain, Artificial Intelligence "AI" and the practical opportunities available for banks and financial services providers.

He added: "We have been particularly busy in the past year over all fronts: with Artificial Intelligence, we launched two major initiatives: Robotics Process Automation with Ernst & Young and AI-powered Chatbot with Microsoft Azure. With



Waleed Mandani delivering his keynote speech

Blockchain, KFH initiated a landmark agreement with RippleNet for remittance services, and the first in Kuwait successful PILOT transaction conducted recently, in addition to other initiatives to be announced soon leveraging Blockchain technology.

With Payments, KFH launched first combined Visa – Mastercard wallet in the region, Visa Checkout – first in Kuwait – card-on-file solution to simplify the checkout experience, and Centralized SWIFT network across KFH Group. With Digitization, KFH launched a branch-in-a-box technology XTM to provide round the clock service to customers, with live video interactions and transactions. Also, KFH Bahrain launched Jazeel platform that enables customers to open a banking account within minutes without visiting branches."

Challenges

Mandani reflect on the challenges ahead explaining that technology is no longer the issue: the future is here but it is unevenly distributed. He pointed out that the real issue is on finding the agility in banking in adopting the new technologies through a radical change of mindsets and skillsets in the organization, and through creating the right internal structure and infrastructure to partner successfully with Fintechs.

He reiterated that customer experience continues to be the primary force

behind most of the changes we are witnessing. The standards keep getting higher so that we need to continue coping with the global customer-obsessed institutions such as Apples, Google, and Amazon etc.

He said: "In parallel, we continue to see several trends unfolding locally, regionally, and even globally: The First trend is Regulation, where the Central Bank of Kuwait issues the regulation for Electronic Payments to put much-needed discipline in the payments world. We have also seen regional regulation come out regulating token sales, Telco/banking licensing, wallets, etc... the regulatory scene continues to be very dynamic and very pivotal in determining the direction of the markets and more importantly in protecting consumers from loose technologies. This builds more trust and confidence in digital technology.

"The second trend is Digitization: Today, we see digital go deeper with organizations into the strongholds of operations, compliance, and other back-office functions.

"The third trend is Artificial Intelligence (AI): not just with robots

winning chess or 'Go' games against humans, but in artificial intelligence starting to take a large role in the everyday tasks of work, not in factory lines but in banks, front-office and back-office.

Trend

"The fourth trend is Blockchain: not bitcoin, not litecoin, not monero... but true 'Distributed Ledger Technology'... in the past year, we have seen distributed apps, blockchain cases applied to storage, remittance, and many other exotic applications. As this technology gains more understanding of users, banks and regulators, the implementations are starting to emerge globally."

Mandani said that the last but not least trend is Payments which is much closer to consumers' everyday life, saying "we have seen significant developments in the payment space, with Contactless and NFC solidly growing in Kuwait, Tokenization becoming a standard topic in payment discussions, Apple Pay coming to the region, and hopefully soon to Kuwait and other markets in the GCC. Combined and converged wallets

launched by the local banks, not to mention the Wearable experiments. Mandani said that ArabNet forum is very significant because it forces us to take a step back and have a wider look at where we stand in our constantly changing world, and it is only in such moments that we realize how truly fast our world is changing, and how many forces are shaping the banking world.

It is worth noting that ArabNet is one of the biggest and most targeted to tech startups. It brings together top investors, and other potential partners working in the same industry in addition to entrepreneurs and financial experts.

KFH participated in the forum as a platinum sponsor. The forum includes workshops and startup battle competitions among entrepreneurs. The Startup Battle competition aims to showcase the best of regional startups to an enthusiastic crowd of investors, incubators, media and digital professionals, as well as connect entrepreneurs with the digital world. KFH offers a KFH People's Choice Start-Up Award of USD 5,000 to the winner.



A photo from the event



Waleed Al Khashti during the press conference.

Telecom firm supports initiative for 7th year

Zain partner of Youth Empowerment Symposium

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium for the seventh consecutive year. The event, which comes under the patronage of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, will be held this year at Four Seasons Hotel.

Zain's strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium since its inception seven years ago comes in line with the company's long term strategy of providing the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of Kuwaiti youth.

Waleed Al Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer, said during the press conference: "today, Zain is proud to announce its strategic partnership of the Youth Empowerment Symposium for the seventh consecutive year. Zain has always been a main supporter of this national and academic initiative since its inception, and this is our responsibility towards this vibrant segment of the community".

Al Khashti added: "the Youth Empowerment Symposium is considered one of the biggest academic programs that cater to the youth in Kuwait and even the GCC region. Every year, the symposium excels at inviting local and international experts, professionals, and pioneers in the fields of business, information technology, economics, and social media from all around the world to share their personal and professional experiences with the Kuwaiti youth who anxiously look forward to learning from them every year".

KIPCO announces sponsorship of Youth Empowerment Symposium

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: KIPCO – the Kuwait Projects Company – has announced that it will be a Strategic Sponsor of the 7th Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen). The event will be held under the auspices of H.H. the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, on November 5-6. This is the fourth year that KIPCO supports the symposium.

KIPCO and its Group companies support a number of Tmkeen activities throughout the year. This includes hosting the 'Tmkeens Program', a series of closed-door sessions where entrepreneurs can interact on a personal level with business leaders.

KIPCO and its Group companies also collaborate with Tmkeen on the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs, in its fourth edition this year. The award aims to shed light on the growing young business community, and support them through US\$ 100,000 in services provided by

Al Khashti concluded: "there is no doubt that Zain's support of this national initiative stands as an indication of the company's strong belief in the youth and the importance of their development across all fields of activity".

The Youth Empowerment Symposium, to be held 5- 6 November, provides local youth with an ideal opportunity to gain valuable insights from a number of internationally and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts. This year's speakers include Mitch Lowe, CEO of Movie Pass,

KIPCO Group in addition to US\$ 30,000 in cash prizes awarded to the top three winners. The 'Startup Battle' between the finalists will take place during the Tmkeen symposium before a live audience and the winner will be announced at the closing of the event.

Speaking at the press conference announcing the upcoming symposium, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director said: "The diversification of Kuwait's economy is the responsibility of both the public and private sectors. At KIPCO, we believe in the great opportunities that await the young and ambitious young people of Kuwait in the growing SME sector. As such, we are proud of our partnership with Tmkeen, which allows us to shed light on the talents of our entrepreneurial community and to encourage our innovative young people to set up their own sustainable businesses."

former co-founding executive of Netflix and former President of Redbox, Jason Wheeler former vice-president of Finance at Google and former Chief Financial Officer of Tesla Motors.

Zain's presence in this national event showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to be able to progress in their fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.

Ali Abdulhameed Haidar Al Tamimi wins KD 25,000

Gulf Bank announces salary draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Live on the Diwaniyat Al Yaouq & Al Ansari radio show, Gulf Bank has unveiled the name of the lucky winner of its third quarterly salary account draw of the year. Gulf Bank customer, Ali Abdulhameed Haidar Al Tamimi, has been awarded a cash prize of KD 25,000.

When informed of the cash prize Ali Abdulhameed Haidar Al Tamimi praised the salary account offer, which is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and highlighted the unique offers that are available to customers transferring salaries through Gulf Bank.

Congratulating the winner, Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank said: "On behalf of the Bank's family I would like to congratulate Al Tamimi and wish him all the best. At Gulf Bank we are committed to providing our valued and loyal customers with the highest levels of products and services, to fulfil their needs, meet their desires and when possible, help make their dreams come true."

The salary account gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest-free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and be fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers, who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw. The Gulf Bank's final salaries draw, for the large prize of KD 250,000, will be held on Feb 7, 2019.

To find out more about Gulf Bank's salary account, customers can visit one of the Gulf Bank's 58 branches, or log on to www.e-gulfbank.com. They can contact the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 or place queries through the newly launched WhatsApp service on 65805805 for assistance and guidance.

click

Latest

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languages with English translations, felicitated writers and poets for their works etc. During this journey of the Writers' Forum, Kuwait so far, many of the members have published their works / compositions. Writers' Forum, Kuwait conducts monthly meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month during which literary works composed by the members are discussed.

In order to reach out to the Indian literary person who are capable of writing poems, essays, articles, short stories on any topic / subject in any Indian language, we invite such individuals to contact following office bearers for further details.

Advisory for OCI card holders: All those having OCI Cards are required to carry both their OCI Card and passport to travel to India so that they do not face any difficulty in immigration clearance.

From October 2018, ICAO will accept only machine readable travel documents, hence, existing PIO Cards, which are handwritten will therefore, become invalid. Thus it will be necessary upon PIO Cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI Cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO Cards before October 2018 to avoid any inconvenience.

Oct 12

GKPA meeting: Global Kerala Pravasi Association (GKPA) informs that Kerala community expatriates are invited at the meeting on Oct 12 at 3 pm at Mangaf Indraprastham Auditorium. Dr Pratap

To focus on future treatments

New Mowasat to hold Int'l Symposium on Digestive Diseases and Endoscopy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Health Dr Basel Al Sabah and the presence of worldwide leading consultants in digestive diseases and endoscopy New Mowasat Hospital will hold the 9th International Symposium of Digestive Diseases and Endoscopy on Oct 13 – 14, chaired by Dr Mahmoud Omar, Clinical Director, Digestive Disease and Endoscopy at New Mowasat Hospital and Dr Jaber Al Ali Professor of Medicine – Kuwait University

Dr Mahmoud Omar stressed, "The conference will discuss the new strategies in managing Digestive Diseases". "The conference focuses on future treatment of obesity, DM and NASH".

"The Conference earned a global standard after inclusion in the Continuing Medical Education Program of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and World Endoscopy Organization as well as the European Accreditation Council for continuing Medical Education.

Under the auspices of HE the Minister of Health, Dr Basel Al Sabah. New Mowasat Hospital held the Digestive Endoscopy Symposium for the ninth time in a row on Oct 13-14, 2018 at Radisson Blu Hotel with the presence of an elite group of international figures in digestive diseases.

On this occasion, the Chairman of the Symposium Dr Mahmoud Omar, Consultant and Clinical Director of the Digestive Disease & Endoscopy at New Mowasat Hospital, stressed that the conference shows great interest in all that is new in the Digestive Tract and Endoscopy fields. That the conference will host a group of prominent consultants from worldwide.

Dr Omar pointed out that the conference will be attended by seven of the top consultants in the digestive disease where Professor Jacques Deviere from Brussels will do lecture on new obesity management by endoscopic techniques and there is a special session on challenges in managing bile duct waves and tumors.

Dr Sabine Roman from France will present cases on swallowing difficulty.

Dr Jaber Al Ali, Associate Professor of Medicine of Kuwait, Faculty of Medicine and Co-Director of the Conference will present his experience on endoscopic managing of obesity.

Dr Mahmoud Omar elaborated that the conference will be held with the participation of a group of specialized doctors in the Digestive Tract from Kuwait and the Arab world, including Dr Ahmed Alfadhly, Dr Mohamad Malik and Dr Asmaa Al Kandary, as well as Dr Metwally Afifi, Dr Mahmoud Al-Sayed, and Dr Yussry Taher from Egypt. Many others will be



Dr Mahmoud Omar

there.

He explained that the invitation is open to all doctors of the digestive system to attend the conference as well as to Pediatricians, Radiologists, Oncology and General Practitioners in different hospitals and clinics, as well as members of the nursing staff, pointing out that the presence of this group will enrich their experience and widen their knowledge, where these sessions will focus on the most significant developments in the world of the Digestive System Disease and the time needed for patients to use endoscopes either for examination or treatment.

It is worth mentioning that the Endoscopy Unit at New Mowasat Hospital offers high-quality diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy services.

We also received the latest endoscopy machine which will improve our diagnostic abilities and reliance patient care.

New Mowasat Hospital is classified among top hospitals of the private sector in Kuwait, thanks to its outstanding medical service and integrated health care. New Mowasat Hospital has recently maintained a great success after being granted the Diamond Accreditation, the highest ranking certificate of the "Qmentum International" program of the Commission for International Accreditation Canadian (ACI) with Diamond Level. The program considers the Canadian Medical Standards as a criteria model to be compared to services of different medical facilities in hospitals around the world. New Mowasat hospital also succeeded in renewing the accreditation certificate of the American Joint Commission International (JCI). These two prestigious accomplishments are yet to be added to the New Mowasat Hospital's excellent record of achievements.

Study in Canada exhibition will be held in Kuwait on Oct 24-25

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Organized by the Embassy of Canada, the 13th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour will be visiting Kuwait from Oct 24-25. Representatives of around 19 leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers and guidance counsellors to present the

advantages of studying in Canada. On Wednesday, Oct 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm, a Study in Canada exhibition will be held at Marina Hotel, Arabian Gulf St, Salimiyah for potential students and their parents to attend. For more information: please visit our website on: www.kuwait.gc.ca Or call on +965-22563025

Unnithan, (MDS, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon, Amiri Dental Casualty & Chairman of Community Welfare Committee-IDAK (Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait) will provide a detailed health session awareness on "Life Habits and Health". GKPA membership cards will be distributed and new members shall enroll on same day. Different session will also help the attendees to gain knowledge about futuristic living styles as NRIs, avoiding conflicts and legal support, said the team. For more details: Premsan: 66047317, Sreekumar:

69698951, Lineesh: 66587610, Reji Chirayath: 99670734.

Oct 19

IMA blood donation camp: In commemoration of 25 years of religious and social services in Kuwait, Indian Muslim Association (IMA) has embarked on a blood donation camp to be organized at Jubayr Central Blood Bank at Al-Jabriya on Friday, Oct 19, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

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