'Conference to focus on building foundations of creative economy'

Nuqat to hold its 'Regional Conference 2019' on Nov 20

By Cinatra Alvares
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 3: Nuqat, a leading non-profit organization for cultural development in Kuwait, announced that it would hold its 'Regional Conference 2019' on Nov 20 under the theme – 'State of the Elastic Mind: A New Mindset for Old Barriers', marking its ten-year anniversary. The ten- day event will be held in collaboration with its long-term strategic partner, Zain and hosted by Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah (DAI) at the Amricani Cultural Centre (ACC).

Nuqat was founded in 2009, a pan-Arab non-profit organization for cultural development based in Kuwait that aims to empower and sustain a collaborative community where each individual is capable of overcoming social challenges and adding value by nurturing creativity, providing inspiration and stimulating creative and critical thinking. Now supported by a robust regional network, it primarily focuses on knowledge exchange through its regional conferences and exploration sessions, works on capacity building – through workshops and creative learning programs – and benchmarking development through creating social responsibility and cultural vibrancy indexes.

Impact

Its flagship conference has become a much-awaited event in Kuwait's cultural calendar and will mark the organisation's 10-year anniversary. The conference will aim to engage attendees to find the means to understand, critique and reframe mind-sets that have shaped prevalent social structures in the Arab world to overcome obstacles.

Addressing a press conference at held at ACC on Wednesday morning, Wakim Zeidan, General Director of Nuqat, stated, "Launching Nuqat's 'Regional Conference 2019' comes as part of our regional tour to set a vision of a creative economy that is based on collaboration and creating a positive social impact." He shared that the conference will focus on building the foundations of a creative economy by exploring how to collectively rewire thinking and behaviours to conquer obstacles.

Zeidan informed that the conference would comprise of a series of lectures, talks and discussion panels conducted by thinkers, creatives, activists, and policy makers from all over the Arab world during the first three days. Following this, a number of workshops will be conducted for different age groups. The 10-day event will also feature various cultural activities on the sidelines that will include musical performances and art exhibitions.

He added, "Over the past ten years, we hosted a total seven conferences locally, which were the highlight of cultural activities in the region. Each conference explored a central idea, exposing the public to an empowering paradigm shift that positively impacted the MENA region. Conferences were then accompanied by exploration sessions that took place all across the GCC. As a result, we have amassed expertise and extensive knowledge of the region's cultural scene. This knowledge base empowers us to develop groundbreaking content for the progress of the GCC."

Contributions

Haya Al Mana, Sustainability Manager at Zain Kuwait, remarked, "I would like to start by congratulating our fellow partners at Nuqat for their 10-year anniversary. Over the past decade, Nuqat has made exceptional contributions to local and regional cultural awareness; time and time again, bringing together groups of distinguished speakers and academics to share their expertise and experiences on a variety of topics. Today, we are proud to announce the strategic partnership between Zain and Nuqat during the 'Regional Conference 2019'."

She affirmed the partnership as part of Zain's integrated strategy for social responsibility and sustainability, focusing largely on supporting innovation and stimulating creativity which was in keeping with Nuqat's overarching objective.

Nuqat's 'Regional Conference 2019' is a culmination of Nuqat's three-year research tour to understand the state of the creative economy in the Middle East. The conference will host attendees visiting from all across the region and enable them to engage in a discussion at the intersections of art, society and economics, with the aim of cultivating creative development in the Middle East.

legal clinic

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Visa transfer

My query is: I brought my family (wife and son) in Kuwait. Wife has family visa and now she received Kuwait Civil ID as well.

My son (4.5 years old) has visit visa because his passport validity is eight months (as per rule passport validity shall be at least one year).

So shall I transfer my son's visit visa to family visa?

If yes, then first I have to apply for passport renewal or I have to change visit visa to family visa then passport renewal/

Name withheld

Answer: Unfortunately, you cannot transfer your son's visit visa to a family visa. The practice of such transfers has since been stopped except for infants two years and below.

Hajj

What is the procedure to go to Hajj from Kuwait, I have been working in Kuwait for the past four years, kindly give me the solution.

Name withheld

Answer: Unfortunately, embarking on the Hajj from Kuwait as a non-Kuwaiti, is almost impossible these days as expatriates are advised to go back to their countries to embark on the holy journey.

Verification

Could you offer an opinion/ advice on the following:

I have been getting calls from persons claiming to be from various ministries, instructing that documentation is required to be verified and memberships of different groups are required, with statement of "it must be completed within 48 hours (with a high cost) or legal repercussion will follow (arrest, prison, deportation, fines, public prosecution etc.)". The calls sometimes come with the +965 prefix or as UNKNOWN, the caller states that they are from one department or other departments within various Kuwait ministries.

I have now got to the point that after all the threats, I have no money left and what pay I receive each month is sent to them.

I am at the point of going to the MOI to see if a case against these persons should be filed, however if true then the issue may get worse.

I do truly believe in my heart that the Kuwaiti people who work in the ministries would not make threats like this.

I do hope that you can advise me on this soon, as they want another amount of money. I am sorry to trouble you on this, but I may have gotten tied up in a scam.

Name withheld

Answer: In the first place you were very wrong in parting with monies to these faceless callers who are nothing but scammers, pure and simple. We advise that you put an immediate stop to such payments and also make a report to the nearest police station armed with documents concerning such payment made in the past. Granting that your documents needed to be checked should that involve paying monies under duress? Definitely not but if it turns out to be so, people involved in that must be brought to book.

Visit visa

I am an Indian and would like to bring my wife on visit visa. My salary is more than KD 1,000 per month. Under current rules, can my wife stay 90 days after entry in Kuwait without paying penalty after one month?

Name withheld

Answer: Under current rules governing visit visa your wife can stay in Kuwait for three months after entry. Indeed your children can also stay for this duration when they come in on visit visa; for other relatives the duration is one month.

Resignation

I am presently working in a private firm which executes oil and gas projects and my residency permit is valid till Aug 11, 2019.

Now I have a new offer from another company of similar type of work and I am likely to submit my resignation with my present employer tomorrow.

I would like to know the following:

1) Can I submit the resignation mentioning my last working day as Aug 11, 2019 and is it acceptable legally?

2) If in case my present employer accepts my resignation with the above requirement, is there a requirement of paying salary back to my present employer?

I request you to check and revert back at the earliest.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Name withheld

Answer: The fact that your residency permit expires on Aug 11, 2019 does not mean that your services with the company ends on that date and hence, to submit your resignation and mentioning that date as your last working day will not be legally right as you would have skipped the legally binding three months notification period prior to the resignation becoming effective. In this scenario, unless your current company is willing to dispense with the notice period, you will be legally bound to pay the company in lieu of the number of months you won't be able to work for it to serve as the notice period.

Residency

Residency (dependent visa) of my wife and child is valid till Jan 13, 2020. I am planning to send my wife and daughter end of July, as my wife goes for second baby delivery. And after delivery, she and my child will be back to Kuwait on April 2020. In this situation, I request you to clarify my following queries.

1) Can I renew the residency of my wife and daughter 6 months before its expiry (it expires on Jan 13, 2020 and I need to renew after July 13, 2019 before they travel). Please note that, I am the sponsor and my residency expires on December 2020.

2) My wife will be out of Kuwait for more than 6 months. Can I get permission for my wife and daughter to stay out of the country for more than 6 months?

Please clarify my above queries.

Name withheld

Answer: Yes, you can renew the residency of your wife and child six months before expiry according to a decision issued on July 17, 2017.

There are situations under which residents can be given permission to stay outside Kuwait for more than six months but unfortunately, we don't think your wife and child qualify to be granted such a dispensation.

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The Arab Times invites questions on all aspects of Kuwaiti law. If you face a problem, or need specific advice on any legal matter, from commercial and investment law to divorce and labour, send questions to the Managing Editor, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait, or Fax to 24818267. E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com

Travel

In this June 6, 2019 photo, Bruce Hull points to an image of his daughter on a state map as he is interviewed at his offices at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus. (AP)

Hull's artistry helps drivers navigate the state

Mapmaker brings creativity to road maps

By Julie Carr Smyth

If your summer travel plans involve traveling through Ohio and you're still a fan of paper maps, it's time you meet Bruce Hull.

He's the guy who's been injecting visual flair, handy information and a hidden bit of his own family history into Ohio's road maps for almost two decades. Hull's artistry has appeared on millions of maps helping drivers navigate the state, which has the nation's busiest highway system after California, Texas and Florida.

As a layout design artist with the Ohio Department of Transportation since 1989, Hull has creative control over the map's look and feel. He selects the images, the design, the paper, even the type of fold that's used.

"Initially, my goal was to go to either New York, Chicago or San Francisco, because those were the big advertising meccas at the time," said Hull, 60, who studied advertising at the Columbus College of Art & Design. "Then life happened."

Hull fell in love, got married and had a daughter.

He also happened to like the variety of his job in communications at the Transportation Department, putting together posters, newsletters, in-house publications and visual panels for road, rail and motorcycle maps that, back then, were assembled by an outside consultant.

Technical

In those early days, photos were black-and-white, film was developed in labs, layouts were by hand and color was added using sheets of film cut to fit. Anything resembling desktop publishing was a thing of the future.

"Nothing was ever too technical because it was just impossible to do at the time," said Hull.

The first map he designed on his own came in 2001-2002. That's also when Hull began what would become an inside joke on the maps: including a photo of his daughter.

"Because we had seat belt laws, I was looking for a stock picture of a kid in a car seat. I found one, but it was $160," he said, with an easy laugh. The department balked at the expense. "So I thought, well, I've got a 6-year-old. I'll just throw her in the back of the van and take her picture."

Ashley Hull has appeared in every state map since. Unbeknownst to most of the general public, they've been watching her grow up – in photos while camping, biking, driving or laughing with high school friends.

"She's the most famous person you've never heard of," said department spokesman Matt Bruning.

Hull acknowledges that his daughter's generation – she's 25 now – has largely abandoned printed maps. In the 1990s, Ohio printed 5.25 million maps on average during each four-year gubernatorial term. By last year, that figure had fallen to 2.25 million.

But, with a Dad who's the state mapmaker, abandoning paper wasn't an option for Ashley.

"When she first got her car, she wanted a GPS. So I said, well, you learn to read this first," he said, brandishing one of his paper road maps. "I showed her these are the interchanges, these little numbers are the distances between interchanges, things like that. In case your power dies, you won't get lost."

And those who know Ashley do recognize her from the map, he said.

Magazine

"It's not like my picture's in Time magazine or something," she said. "But it's just, it's cute to have people point out like, 'Hey I found you in this information center at this park because you're on the map.'"

If you work anywhere near Hull's heavily adorned cubicle, you also might be co-opted into helping out. To determine the fold he'll use, for example, Hull said he slaps a piece of blank paper folded in an accordion or trifold into a co-worker's hand then watches them try to unfold it. The least cumbersome fold prevails.

The process of creating a new map begins with state cartographers, who produce the actual road map. Then a host of other state departments provide content, such as lists of Highway Patrol posts or state campgrounds, and a message from the governor.

Once all that material is in hand, Hull has free rein over the remaining spaces. One year, his design resembled the front of a refrigerator packed with photos of Ohio attractions. He always works to make featured venues reflect the diversity of the state's racial and ethnic groups, its rural, urban and natural landscapes and its cultural and recreational offerings.

Another of Hull's maps featured Ohio emblems, such as the state mammal, bird, insect and flower. Other versions have featured Ohio's scenic byways and Ohio's Native American tribes.

During the state's bicentennial year, in 2003, Hull adorned the map with a timeline of Ohio history. That included another sly family reference: A photo of his great-grandmother, Sophia Mitchell, the first black woman to serve as a mayor in the state. (AP)

click

General

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● 2019 YPP Exam in Economic Affairs: JO # 116937
● 2018 YPP Exam in Information Systems & Technology: JO # 116954

Current UN Secretariat staff applying through the GtoP or GtoN tracks will find the relevant job openings through inspira, using their internal staff accounts.

Resources:

● Details on YPP, including the list of participating countries for 2019, can be found on the UN Careers Portal (YPP site – English and YPP site – French)
● YPP Communications Toolkit, which has been distributed to Member State focal points, can be found on the HR Portal (Communications Toolkit – English and Communications Toolkit – French). The toolkit contains:
— ready-to-print brochure
— overview presentation, with eligibility criteria and more information about the process
— communication templates
— informational video
● 5-minute informational video with an overview and tips for the application process (found in the communications toolkit), and on the UN Careers YouTube channel.
● Any questions beyond what can be found in the above can be directed to ypp-exams@un.org

Update for 2019:

All examinations will be administered online! The job openings contain a brief overview of this information, and more detailed information will be provided to candidates that are convoked (invited) to participate in the examination process.

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Student Visa Days at the US Embassy

The US Embassy's Consular Section will hold two Student Visa Days on July 16 and Aug 6, 2019 to support students currently studying or planning to study in the United States.

The Embassy offers student visa appointments every day. However, hundreds of additional appointments will be offered to students who apply on Student Visa Days.

Encouraging Kuwaiti students to pursue higher educational opportunities in the US is one of the top priorities of the US Mission.

Students should visit www.ustraveldocs.com to apply for their visa and schedule their interview. Student applicants should bring an original I-20 and a SEVIS receipt to their appointment.

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Visit us @https://kw.usembassy.gov

IEI Kuwait membership: The Institution of Engineers (India), Kuwait Chapter invites all its members to update their membership information for the year 2018-19 and actively participate in the chapter activities. Indian engineers residing in Kuwait are welcome to join the pool of more than 750,000 engineers by becoming corporate or non-corporate members of The Institution of Engineers (India).

IEI, Kuwait Chapter conducts many technical events for the benefits of its members. Please watch for further details in your registered e-mail or announcement in media. The chapter has science club activities for members' children, and ladies wing activities for the member's family. IEI, Kuwait Chapter has facility to register student members for AMIE Examination for those interested in pursuing career enrichment.

For more information and on chapter membership, kindly contact IEI, Kuwait Chapter on Mob: 90098667 or through email to ieikwt@hotmail.com

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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.

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