

Salma Al Hajjaj



Gulf Bank announced it is the platinum sponsor of the 2020 edition of the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) Career Fair. The two-day event, titled (Because You Deserve It), is set to take place from Feb. 12-13 at the Public Authority of Manpower from 9 AM to 2 PM, and from 5 PM to 10 PM. This marks the third consecutive year that Gulf Bank sponsors the career fair as part of the Bank's commitment to offering employment opportunities to

local youth. As a platinum sponsor, Gulf Bank's participation reflects its ongoing commitment to Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait," the national development plan that was developed by His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sponsorship of the career fair falls under the Bank's corporate social responsibility plan and is part of the Bank's social and economic sustainability initiatives. By working to support and

Gulf Bank sponsors MGRP Career Fair

empower Kuwaiti youth, Gulf Bank is working in line with "New Kuwait," which prioritizes the development of the private sector and the national economy overall. Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj noted: "We are proud to sponsor this year's Manpower and Government Restructuring Program Career Fair for the third year in a row, as the sponsorship is one of several initiatives that reflect Gulf

Bank's efforts in advancing the national economy and achieving the development goals of our country. At Gulf Bank, we are committed to our role in achieving His Highness the Emir of Kuwait's Vision 2035 and, as part of this commitment, have made it a priority to ensure job opportunities across the country. By hiring local talent, we are spearheading efforts in the private sector that contribute to a more sustainable national economy."

UAE, Saudi, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait among top 20 in annual ranking

Gulf states lead in Agility Emerging Logistics Markets Index

BAAR, Switzerland, Feb 11: Gulf countries outperform most other emerging market regions in the 11th annual Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, a broad gauge of competitiveness based on logistics strength and business fundamentals.

Business-friendly conditions and core strengths position several Gulf countries near the top of the Index, behind giants China (1) and India (2), and alongside Southeast Asian nations.

In the Gulf, United Arab Emirates (No. 3), Saudi Arabia (6), Qatar (7), Oman (14), Bahrain (15) and Kuwait (19) rank highly. Among ASEAN countries, Indonesia (4), Malaysia (5), Thailand (9) and Vietnam (11) are strong.

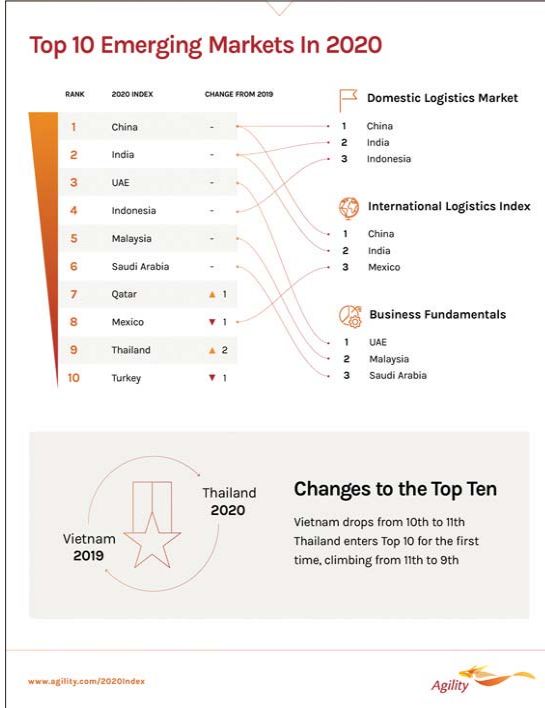
"The Gulf nations continue to diversify, making steady progress in streamlining regulation and realizing increased digital capabilities," says Elias Monem, CEO of Middle East & Africa for Agility GIL. "The entire region is growing and the outlook continues to be healthy as we enter the new decade."

Agility's annual survey of 780 supply chain professionals reveals overall pessimism about the world economy with 64% saying a global recession is likely, and only 12% of executives saying a recession is unlikely. Downward pressure on global trade volumes, uncertain growth prospects and the ongoing trade war between the US and China are driving this belief.

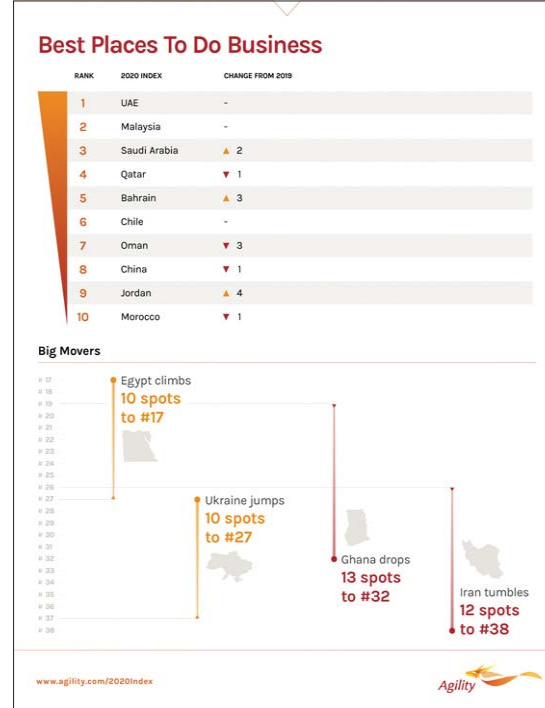
The Index ranks 50 countries by factors that make them attractive to logistics providers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, air cargo carriers and distributors. The top 10 are: China, India, UAE, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey.

China, India and Indonesia rank highest for domestic logistics; China, India and Mexico are top for international logistics; and UAE, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have the best business fundamentals.

2020 Index and Survey Highlights



China and India, atop the 2020 rankings based on their size and strength as international and domestic logistics markets lag behind smaller rivals in business fundamentals, a category that ranks countries based on regulatory environment, credit and debt dynamics, contract enforcement, anti-corruption safeguards, price stability and market access. In that area, China ranks No. 8 and India is No. 18. Survey respondents see India as the market with greatest potential over China, their second choice. In rankings of best business conditions, several countries



are making big moves: Egypt jumps 10 spots to #17; Ukraine jumps 10 spots to #27; Ghana drops 13 spots to #32; and Iran tumbles 12 spots to #38. Forty-two percent of those surveyed say a prolonged trade standoff between the US and China could benefit Southeast Asian countries, which offer manufacturing and sourcing alternatives to China. This is less, however, than 56% who said last year that Southeast Asia would benefit. Egypt, despite a brief period of social unrest in 2019, showed significant gains across all indices. On

the overall index, Egypt rose six spots to No. 20, while leaping 10 spots on the business fundamentals chart (17), six spots on the domestic opportunities index (13) and jumping five spots on the international opportunities index (23).

The top three factors that keep small businesses out of global trade are trade bureaucracy (17%), government/border instability (14%) and inability to compete with larger rivals (14%), supply chain professionals say in the survey.

Despite the belief a recession is likely, emerging markets still grew an estimated 3.7% in 2019 and are projected by the IMF to grow 4.4% in 2020. As for what is driving emerging markets growth, 23% say modernization of customs systems and processes; 18% cite increased internet penetration; 16% say modernization of logistics provider systems (WMS, TMS, etc); and 15% mention increased adoption and modernization of online payment systems.

The top five "megacity" emerging markets logistics hubs are Shanghai, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, Jakarta and Mexico City. Megacities – urban centers with populations of 10 million or more – require vast logistics support to meet domestic needs and engage in trade.

E-commerce fulfillment, in the survey, is the top choice for logistics services that are expected to maintain or improve growth, well ahead of other services such as domestic last-mile delivery and international express parcel delivery.

The countries with the least potential as logistics markets in 2020 are Syria, Iran, Venezuela, Iraq and Libya, according to the survey.

Transport Intelligence (TI), a leading analysis and research firm for the logistics industry, compiled the Index.

2020 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index: www.agility.com/2020index



Group photo of the trainees in the NBK TAMAKAN training program.

NBK & Creative Confidence launch 'TAMAKAN' program

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: NBK organized a special welcoming ceremony for the trainees. The ceremony was attended by NBK Executive Management, along with other officials from NBK and Creative Confidence.

The program runs until April, 20, 2020. TAMAKAN is a full-time commitment for 10 weeks, 5 days a week, from 8:30 pm-3:30 pm. NBK will be hosting the program which will be providing a real business challenge that participants will work on into the final stages of the training sessions.

"TAMAKAN" is an innovative training experience especially tailored for fresh Kuwaiti university graduates," said Emad Al Ablani, NBK General Manager Group Human Resources. "It aims to support young Kuwaiti graduates to develop their skills, expand their capabilities and grow their knowledge in a way that will make them compelling candidates for employment"

"NBK is looking forward to the outcome of the program and to seeing the participants moving into key leadership roles in their future."

"NBK believes that investing in human resources is investing in our future. TAMAKAN program goes along with NBK's initiatives to invest in Kuwaiti youth and support their aspirations," Al Ablani noted.

In her turn, Rana Al Rasheed – the Strategy director in Creative Confidence, said, "We are pleased to announce the kick off of this program, it is one of these initiatives that help invest and support young nationals. With NBK, we are confident that TAMAKAN program will achieve its goal and support around 30 fresh Kuwaiti graduates realize their potentials."

"32 trainees were selected from among more than 650 applications submitted", stated al Rushaid. "This stands

as an excellent indication of the youth's interest in developing their skills, in a way that will make them compelling candidates for employment".

Al Rasheed added that graduates will gain real, relevant experience and develop their skills without the commitment of a job. They will get exposed to the latest methods and tools that will help them in designing solutions and shaping ideas in any field.

NBK's sponsorship and participation in the program comes as a part of its strategic partnership with Creative Confidence. NBK is dedicated towards supporting talented young graduates and empowering Kuwaitis

TAMAKAN Program offers recent graduates a unique development opportunity before starting their first job. TAMAKAN is organized by Creative Confidence in collaboration with NBK. Creative Confidence is a Kuwaiti based consulting and training company that specializes in creativity, innovation and collaboration training.



Photo from the event

Fastest growing company in Kuwait for the year 2019

Watani Financial Brokerage wins prestigious award

KIB sponsors Forum for SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently offered its main sponsorship of the Tenders Forum for SMEs, which was organized by Emtidat Co. under the patronage of the Central Agency for Public Tenders at Shaheed Park Phase 2. The forum was attended by a number of members from the National Assembly, representatives from public and private entities, tender organizations, as well as a group of young entrepreneurs and small and medium sized business owners.

The forum featured a group of speakers who participated in four main sessions. During which, several important issues concerning SMEs were discussed, namely: a thorough explanation of Law No. 74/2019, opportunities available for entrepreneurs to bid for government

projects, as well as a dynamic debate entitled "Government support for SMEs: political courtesy or economic benefit?". Additionally, the forum discussed legislative gaps with decision-makers from the National Assembly in order to develop solutions that will help serve SMEs.

On this occasion, Deputy General Manager of Wholesale Banking – Head of Domestic Commercial Banking, Hesham Al-Mubarak said: "Our sponsorship of this forum came as part of our strong belief in empowering youth and supporting local entrepreneurs. As part of our leading social responsibility program, we recognize the importance of promoting the culture of SMEs in order to improve the local labor market and diversify the economy, as well as increasing private sector participation in boosting economic development and encouraging youth to innovate."

Al-Mubarak also noted that KIB supports Amiri and government initiatives that support SMEs across the nation, as well as endorsing Law No. 74/2019 that allows entrepreneurs to benefit from tenders won by major companies. He also pointed out that this type of law empowers entrepreneurs to be more confident in their abilities as self-employed individuals to deliver more ideas that improve their position in the market.

Moreover, Al-Mubarak added that KIB has established a special unit for financing SMEs that aims at helping young entrepreneurs understand the ins and outs of entrepreneurship. The Bank also supports and funds them in order for them to achieve their dreams, while also introducing them to possible risks they may face along their journey.

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: Watani Financial Brokerage Company (WFBC) won the award for the fastest growing financial brokerage company in Kuwait for the year 2019 for the second year in a row by International Finance one of the most prominent specialized institutions in the field of evaluating investment and financial institutions that aim to encourage honor and distinguished and distinguished in the financial sector.

The award was received by Tariq Abdullatif Al-Shehab - Vice-Chairman of Watani Financial Brokerage Company (WFBC) and Director of Watani Investment Company (NBK Capital) and CEO of the (WFBC) Qutaiba Al-Adsani - during a ceremony held in Dubai, in the presence of a crowd of senior officials, businessmen and economists and with the participation of investment sector leaders and financial in the region.

"International Finance" based its evaluation on a set of international standards, when selecting the fastest growing company at the level of the brokerage sector in Kuwait, as the Watani Financial Brokerage Company was able to win the lead in licensed financial brokerage companies after evaluating the trading activities and services provided by the company.

Al-Shehab expressed his pride in choosing "Watani Financial Brokerage" as the fastest growing company for the second year in a row, noting that winning this award confirms Al-Watani's leadership in the local market.

He added: "The fact that we obtained this distinguished award is clear evidence of the continuous success achieved by Watani Financial Brokerage Company, the steady steps it is taking and the effort of the team that has extensive experience and a record of achievements in trading operations, in addition to the wise strategy that derives from the NBK approach



Tariq Abdullatif Al-Shehab and Qutaiba Al-Adsani receive the award.

In order to achieve the best results, which reflects our clients' confidence in the distinctive trading services that we offer them.

He said: "The company continues in its relentless pursuit of development and innovation in the financial brokerage sector and in various trading activities, with the aim of providing more distinctive and professional services that establishes the company's position locally as a company capable of keeping pace with developments on the Boursa Kuwait."

He emphasized that winning this award comes as a culmination of the company's efforts to provide the highest level of brokerage services to clients, which contributed to the advancement of work in the mediation sector. Al-Shehab thanked the employees of the company for their dedicated efforts and competence, which have long distinguished the company and cemented its name and position locally.