

Supporting long-term strategy to empower world-class banking leaders

Burgan Bank concludes its Virtual Holistic Banker Program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: In line with the Bank's long-term strategy focused on investing in its human capital to empower and promote the development of the bank's talents and support the emergence of world-class banking leaders, Burgan Bank concluded the Virtual Holistic Banker Program that was launched in its initial face to face version in February 2020. It also falls under Burgan's active response to the CBK objective of preparing Kuwaiti banking professionals to assume leading executive positions in the banking sector in the future.

The Program's virtual upgraded version held in May 2021 was attended by 38 participants from different departments with an increasing participation and engagement from employees and top executives alike. The Virtual Holistic Banker Program was designed to provide participants with the opportunity to acquire the adequate knowledge that supports a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of all bank-

ing functions and roles as well as the growing interconnections between the Bank's departments. It also focused on equipping them with the key tools that add value to their current roles and enhance their professional growth and career advancement into senior executive positions.

The sessions were held in a live interview style, with the participation of several Group Chief Officers who spoke about their experience to contribute to building high-performing teams and developing new learning trails in the banking roles and functions. The program attendees took part in the discussions leading to enhancing their understanding of the Bank's activities, challenges and achievements through the shared experiences of Burgan's senior leaders. The program's sessions were recorded and uploaded on the Burgan Learning & Talent Development Portal to be shared with all staff in order to maximize the impact of the Program.



Mrs. Halah El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources & Development Officer



Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi, Unit Head - Learning & Talent Development

On-the-job rotations designed to maximize the learning and impact will follow the program's sessions. The 38 participants will take part in these departmental rotations to gain a firsthand experience through direct immersion in the division they are appointed to according to their career growth plan. The

candidates will be assigned a mentor and followed thoroughly by a talent development expert to make sure planned and targeted objectives are met.

Commenting on this program, Group Chief Human Resources & Development Officer Mrs. Halah El-Sherbini, said "The Holistic Banker concept is

a strategic initiative from Burgan aiming at preparing banking professionals to fill in the future leading senior roles in the banking sector. This live structured program is designed to provide the participants with a holistic view of the banking industry, and to support them with the knowledge and skills that would help them chart their path and goals and optimize their expertise and potential. Our aim at Burgan is to continuously support our employees to upgrade their skills, and enhance their adaptability and resilience capacities so they can be well-equipped to navigate easily in an increasingly fast paced work environment. We are thankful to all Burgan internal speakers who are diligently adding to this program's success by sharing their experiences with growing banking leaders."

Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi, Unit Head - Learning & Talent Development, said "We measure the success of our Holistic Banker Program through the increasing number of participants from

all the bank's divisions as well as the highly motivational impact of Burgan's skilled speakers who reflect our banking culture by sharing their knowledge and experiences with the Program's attendees. We are thrilled to have the support of our Group Chief Officers from various departments, who volunteered to participate actively in this program. We are also thankful to all the speakers from all levels and departments for being continuously committed to support us in delivering the Holistic Banker live sessions."

The next upgraded version of the Holistic Banker session will be held in October to support the Bank's plans to pursue the program, build on its success and magnify its impact. Relentlessly seeking to invest in its employees, Burgan Bank will continue to deliver employee-centric trainings and programs to build the most qualified teams and maintain its reputation as leading financial provider locally and regionally.

THE GUEST SHOW
CHAITALI B ROY
Radio Kuwait International English Station

Guest: **H.E. Anne-Claire Legendre**
Ambassador of France
Director: **Anees Backer**
05/08/2021 @ 10am & 10pm
93.3fm and 96.3am

The Guest Show poster

TGS hosts Ambassador of France

THE Guest Show (TGS) is honoured to present HE Anne-Claire Legendre, Ambassador of France on Thursday. An expert in Middle Eastern and North African affairs, Ambassador Legendre is a career diplomat. Throughout her career, she has broken glass ceilings while serving the cause of France and strengthening its place in the global context. Ambassador Legendre began her career in Yemen at the height of the Houthi crisis, and before being appointed to Kuwait, was the Consul General of France in New York — the first French woman to do so.

On the Guest Show, Ambassa-

dor Legendre will speak about her journey, about choosing diplomacy as a career, about gender equality, and the increasing number of French women becoming diplomats. She will speak of President Macron, a 'feminist President' who has made gender equality a key principle of governance. She will also speak about the changing nature of diplomacy especially after the Paris Accords, the relationship between the Middle East and Kuwait and the unifying role played by the very important bilateral relations between Kuwait and France.

Rehabilitation efforts ongoing

Damage from 1990 Iraqi aggression 'still visible' in Kuwaiti environment

By Mervat Abdeldayem

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): Although enormous efforts have been exerted to rehabilitate Kuwait's environment since the flagrant Iraqi aggression in 1990, scars of the destruction remain visible.

The aggressors carried out a scorched earth policy, inflicting heavy damage in the land, marine environment and polluting the air. They blew up and set afire oil wells, causing huge amounts of the crude to contaminate the ground and the sea waters, reaching deep water reservoirs.

Minister of Oil and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Fares said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) the environmental catastrophe in Kuwait, caused by the Iraqi aggression, was one of the worst calamities ever witnessed by peoples of the world.

The aggressors set afire more than 700 oil wells causing widespread contamination of the sand.

Minister Al-Fares recalled that due to the crude oil leakage, up to 300 oil lakes containing some 22 million barrels of oil were formed.

Since then, Kuwaiti authorities have embarked on a huge task; restoring the large swaths of land and sand dunes; contaminated with oil.

Restoration

"We are doing our best to finish restoration of the damaged areas by end of 2024," Minister Al-Fares explained, noting that the timetable had been set by the United Nations.

Two dumping sites for the waste have already been built. One is located in North Kuwait -- of a 1,700 cubic meter capacity -- and the other in southern Burgan field -- of a 580,000 cubic meter capacity.

So far, 2.28 million cubic meters of contaminated soil, out of the total 26 million cubic meters, have been cleansed of the oil residues.

Minister Al-Fares affirmed that pollution in the coastal regions had already been tackled, in addition to cleansing and filling craters that had been dug as part of the efforts to put out the flames at the burning oil wells, adding that these spots were restored after removing ordnance and materials that may blow up.

Kuwait Oil Company, tasked with reclaiming the sand, had inked five major deals to remedy the contamination sand in line with Kuwait Environmental Remediation Program, he said, indicating that related projects were designed to treat some 1.3 million cubic meters of soil in the north and south.

Fifty percent of the fund earmarked by the United Nations will be spent on

these projects, he said, alluding to half of USD three billion worth of the UN environmental repair fund, declared post the 1991 liberation of the State of Kuwait.

Summer of 2022 will witness launch of complementary repair projects, he disclosed, affirming that more amounts of the contaminated soil would be remediated. Elaborating, Al-Fares said Kuwait Oil Company has carried out major projects to minimize gas emissions at its installations. Moreover, it has managed industrial waste according to terms of the Environment Public Authority, in addition to establishing natural reserves.

Al-Fares affirmed that concern for peoples' health, safety, security and the environment constitute priorities as part of the strategy of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (until 2040).

Meanwhile, Acting Director General of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr. Manea Al-Sudairawi said to KUNA that KISR drew up a program post the liberation to tackle emerging pollutants.

Immediately after the 1991 liberation, the institute launched the first project to assess environmental damage resulting from the aggression, Dr. Al-Sudairawi said, indicating that the institute teams surveyed the land to assess the damage.

Re-shedding light on the invasion related damage, he affirmed that enriched uranium was used in some weapons, thus affecting citizens' health and killing some plants, in addition to deterioration of the marine life.

For his part, Dr. Mohammad Al-Saraawi, EPA's former director general, said scars of the aggression would remain visible in the short and long terms, affirming that large swaths of the land remained soaked with 20 million cm of leaked crude oil.



Pollution brought about by the flagrant Iraqi aggression in 1990 affected the environment and birds.

By Fawaz Al-Otaibi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): The anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait comes this year while a whole generation of Kuwaitis have not witnessed those painful events, but were narrated to them from different sources.

This generation of Kuwaitis have mixed feelings about the memory of the brutal Iraqi invasion on their homeland. Between sadness and pain at the beginning of the occupation and destruction, and then the feelings of joy and pride about the liberation story.

Speaking to KUNA, Saleha Al-Fadhli, the daughter of one of Kuwait's righteous martyrs, who was born in 1990, said that the brutal Iraqi invasion caused many tragedies and left an indelible mark on the soul of everyone who lost love ones.

Al-Fadhli added that her sources of information about the Iraqi invasion are different, including family stories, school curricula, such as social studies and morning radio programs, in addition to the activities of the Kuwait Martyrs Office, which deals with the affairs of the martyrs' families. She suggested the production of a "huge" international documentary film, translated into several languages, to tell the world about that important event in the contemporary history of Kuwait.

On his part, Abdullah Al-Salloum, who was born in 1990, told KUNA that the one who did not live the events of the brutal Iraqi invasion and saw what happened to the Kuwaiti people could not express his feelings towards this event "as if he saw and lived the events himself."

Recover

He added that the information he got from various sources made him know the size of the great sacrifices made by the Kuwaiti people to recover their right and liberate Kuwait from "the clutches of a brutal invasion."

Al-Salloum expressed his pride in the sacrifices of the martyrs who died in that national epic and set the most wonderful examples of national unity and solidarity against the occupier until the last day of the occupation.

Meanwhile, Omar Al-Otaibi, who was born in 1991, told KUNA that most of the historical information he has on the Iraqi invasion was taken from TV documentaries, pointing to the role of school curricula in introducing the current generation to the reality of what happened in 1990.

He added that the historical information that recounted what happened in August 1990 in Kuwait is considered "complete" and informed the current generation of what their fathers, mothers and brothers did in the face of injustice and tyranny.

He indicated that his generation, who were not present in that important event, feel proud when reading a story or seeing a movie related to the invasion, recalling the great efforts made by the Kuwaiti leadership at the time, headed by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in addition to the brothers in the GCC and Arab countries, and allies from countries around the world who supported the Kuwaiti right.

'Tragedy left indelible mark on the soul'

For his part, Yaqoub Al-Bashir, who was born in 1994, said that he drew his historical information about the brutal invasion and its subsequent effects on Kuwaiti society, from several sources, most notably talk shows and political programs, whether on Kuwait TV or other channels, and specialized books that shed light on events that Kuwait went through during the invasion.

Moreover, Abdulaziz Al-Atawi, who was born in 1992, said that there

is no doubt that the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is an important historical event and that every Kuwaiti or resident who lived in Kuwait on that day will never forget, adding that Kuwait's official channels "spared no effort in conveying historical information about the Iraqi invasion to this generation."

Al-Atawi said that due to the importance of the historical event, the state of Kuwait, after its liberation, was interested in clarifying the truth

of what happened to its children of this generation and future generations in its educational curricula and television programs.

He explained that the historical information he learned through the school curricula was not "completely sufficient," pointing out that he found more information and details when watching a number of TV documentaries in which people who were eyewitnesses narrated about that important event.

It called on importance of solving any conflict in the Middle East, especially in the Gulf region, peacefully.

China reiterates support to Kuwait sovereignty

BEIJING, Aug 2, (KUNA): China Monday reiterated overwhelming support to State of Kuwait's just causes, and reaffirmed respect to the Arab Gulf country's independence, security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We underline our firm positions regarding the support of Kuwait in all its causes," the foreign ministry said in a statement to KUNA to mark the 31st anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

It said China stood by Kuwait and rejected the Iraqi occupation, as well as launching repeated calls on the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwaiti territories.

The ministry said Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited China in December 1990 within framework of efforts to drum up international support for his country with the objective of withdrawal of Iraqi occupiers, and restoration of security and sovereignty.

Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on August 2 1990, and occupied the country for seven months before being ejected by an international coalition. The Chinese foreign ministry said relations with Kuwait dated back to 1971, and commended the strategic partnership and importance of boosting it at economic and development fronts.

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