

## LOCAL

# Smart meters 'leap' in Kuwait's vision of digitalization, energy conservation

Pre-paid meters to provide greater flexibility



Smart meters project

KUNA photos

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 1, (KUNA):** Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is a significant contributor to government's vision of digitalization and energy conservation, and the installation of smart electricity meters is a considerable leap in that regard.

Stemming from the ministry's aim of providing continuous high quality energy and straying away from an ordinary mechanism to a smart one, comes the utilization of state-of-the-art technology and information systems.

Manager of the ministry's maintenance and contract management department, Eng. Mulaweh Al-Ajmi stated to KUNA on Wednesday, that the ministry is keen on translating Kuwait's vision of digitalization into reality as it has prepared a plan to switch all ordinary meters into smart ones in the shortest possible timeframe.

Al-Ajmi added that the ministry imported around 200,000 smart meters as part of its preliminary phase.

Minister of Electricity and Minister of Social Affairs and Societal Development Dr. Mashaan Al-Otaibi had previously stated that it was expected that around 800,000 meters would be installed within two to three years.

The smart meters have the ability to improve and insure energy efficiency and find a mechanism to monitor and rapidly repair faults.

They could also raise consumer awareness in regards to consumption rates, which in return would contribute to saving energy and expenses.

The new pre-paid meters will provide greater flexibility in terms of issuing bills and facilitating payments via either ministry's website, application, or consumers' affairs centers.

Additionally, the smart electricity meters could provide the ministry with necessary information in regards to what areas are in need of current strengthening, or even building new power stations.

Due to the vitality of the project, the ministry began giving notices to investment and trade sectors in provinces of Farwaniya and Hawali in order to pay dues prior to installation of new meters, around 30,000 smart meters have already been installed in Al-Salmiya area.

There are three types of smart meters; direct meters meant for stores and large apartments, single meters meant for small spaces, and LVCT meters designed for residential plots and villas.

The ministry also plans on installing smart water meters for residential units in upcoming stages.



## ABCK-AmCham Kuwait hosts annual Thanksgiving dinner

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 1:** ABCK-AmCham Kuwait held its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23rd at the Hilton Kuwait Resort's Al Dorra Ballroom.

This Annual Thanksgiving event was sponsored by Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL), The Bridge Company, Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), and EQUATE Petrochemicals Company (EQUATE), as well as the event's Exclusive Airline Partner, KLM & Air France.

The dinner began with opening remarks from AmCham Kuwait's Vice-Chair Dr. Arezou Harraf, who expressed gratitude to AmCham Kuwait Members for their consistent support over the years and spoke about the meaning of Thanksgiving and its significance during these times.

Dr. Harraf also welcomed the guest of honor, Mr. James Holtsnider, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission to Kuwait, and thanked the U.S. Embassy for their participation in this event. Consequently, Dr. Harraf thanked the U.S. Military men and women who were able to attend the event for their service and sacrifice, as she asked for a round of applause to honor them.

Following Dr. Harraf's opening remarks, U.S. Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Holtsnider thanked ABCK-AmCham Kuwait for hosting the event and emphasized the friendly relationship between the United States and Kuwait.

Mr. Holtsnider also took a moment to thank the U.S. military service men and women in attendance, as he spoke about what the holiday meant to him and shared the spirit of gratitude with guests.

Next, Mr. Yousef Dashti (Board Member), the Platinum Sponsor's (KGL) representative, thanked

everyone for attending the event and highlighted KGL's work with the U.S. military as well as his appreciation for the service men and women for their efforts, and he thanked them for spending Thanksgiving with AmCham Kuwait.

Mrs. Paola de la Roche (AmCham Kuwait's Acting Executive Director) honored the event's sponsors as the evening proceeded, and awards were given by AmCham Kuwait's Vice-Chair, Dr. Harraf. The first award was given to the event's Exclusive Airline Partner, KLM & Air France, represented by Mr. Rajat Kumar (Country Manager) and his colleagues. The sole Silver Sponsor Award was presented to EQUATE Petrochemicals Company.

The first Gold Sponsor award was presented to Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), represented by Mr. Khaled Khoursheed (Marine & Aviation Officer), and the second Gold Sponsor award was presented to The Bridge Company, represent-

ed by Mr. Fouad Rouh (CEO), and Mrs. Dana Majthob (COO).

Finally, the sole Platinum Award was presented to AmCham Kuwait's one of three Champions and Chairman's Club Member - KGL, represented by Mr. Yousef Dashti (Board Member) and Mr. Sam Khatib (Chief Business Development Officer).

Once the Awards Ceremony was finalized, AmCham Kuwait's Vice-Chair and the U.S. Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission followed a long-time tradition and cut the Thanksgiving Turkey together, as dinner and entertainment followed.

To finalize the evening, the AmCham Kuwait team held a raffle. The raffle gifts included dinner invitations from the Hilton Kuwait Resort at their famous Teatro restaurant, fruit baskets from Del Monte Arabia, gift bags from Unilever, and the highlight of the evening - 1 airplane ticket to the U.S. and 1 airplane ticket to Europe from KLM.



Dr. Arezou Harraf, Vice-Chair ABCK-AmCham Kuwait

Mr. James Holtsnider, Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy Kuwait



Mr. Yousef Dashti, Member of the Board Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL)

Event Sponsors: KGL, The Bridge Company, Gulf Insurance Group, EQUATE, KLM



The Guest Show poster

### TGS features Dr Brett Lyons

Climate change is a major concern in the world at present. Kuwait and the rest of the Arabian Gulf is no exception. This region may face dire climate change that threatens the quality of life. It is believed that the threats will dwarf the challenges

of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Brett Lyons is the Middle East Science Lead of CEFAS, a world leader in marine science technology that collects, manages and interprets data on the aquatic environment, biodiversity and fisheries. Dr Lyons is an environmental scientist currently based at the British Embassy in Kuwait. He leads the CEFAS' Middle East marine science program, which works with partner organizations across the Gulf to tackle environmental challenges. Dr Lyons has more than two decades of planning and implementing monitoring programs for assessing the impact of human activities on the marine environment. His past experience includes sitting on National and International working groups developing and implementing marine monitoring programs, chairing the UK Government's Clean Safe Seas Evidence Group (CSSEG).

On The Guest Show (TGS), Dr Lyons speaks to Chaitali B Roy about his early years in Britain, CEFAS, its contribution, environmental challenges in Kuwait, including the adverse impact of climate change, and their new podcast 'It's Getting Hot in Here'.

## MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

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