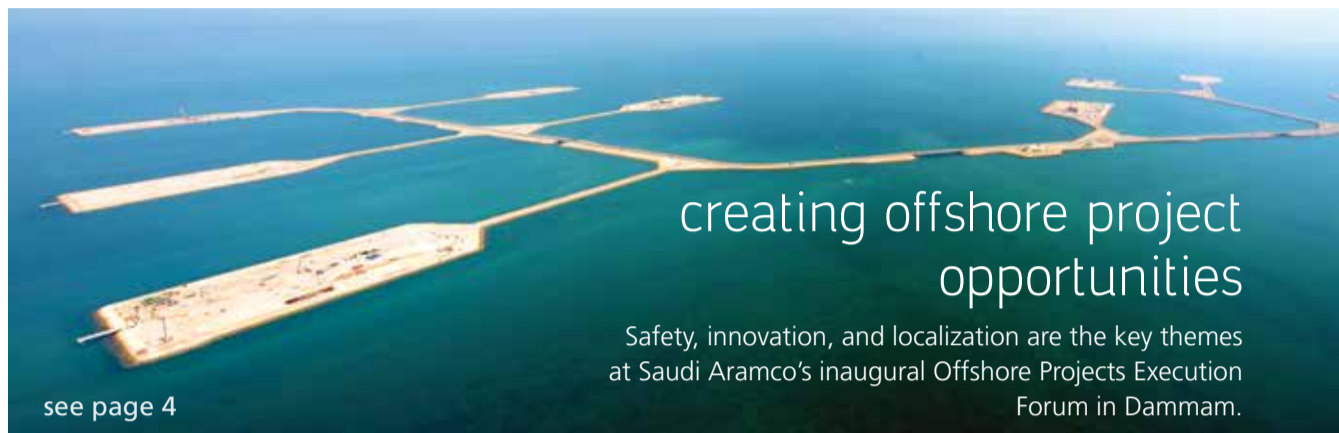




## celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity

From the red sands of Shaybah to the Red Sea coast, Saudi Aramco works hard to protect and enhance biodiversity Kingdomwide.

see page 7



## creating offshore project opportunities

Safety, innovation, and localization are the key themes at Saudi Aramco's inaugural Offshore Projects Execution Forum in Dammam.

see page 4



## the power of knowledge certification a quantum leap for knowledge management

see page 3

Participants in a recent knowledge management certification session review some of the key elements required to be an effective knowledge officer. Those who successfully navigate the course, and the subsequent business application, earn the designation of knowledge officers. The Engineering Support Department, which worked with the Technical Services Professional Academy to create the courses and designation, plans to offer five classes this year and certify more than 200 officers by the end of 2020.

## inside this issue

### inspiration from al-Jawf, a solution in Dhahran

An initiative to plant olive trees in the northern city of al-Jawf provides unexpected inspiration to solve an echo issue at the Al-Midra Support Services Building in Dhahran.

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### opening geoscientists' tool bag at Data Day



Exploration looks to raise awareness of the tools and services available to leverage the significant amounts of data the company gathers every day.

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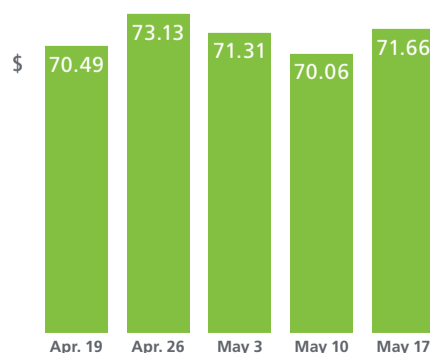
## a taste of Ramadan

The Holy Month is about prayers, fasting, and family, but food also plays a key role. Check out a handful of popular recipes that will leave your mouth watering at Iftar.

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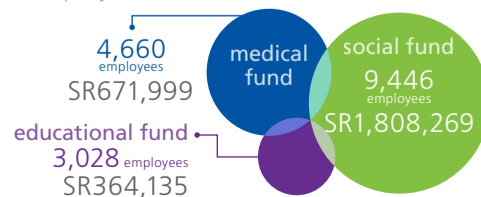
## OPEC basket five-week price trend 2019



## Saudi Aramco by the numbers

SR2,844,403

has been donated so far to the employee donations campaign (to be matched by the company).



## traffic safety program highlights common driver pitfalls



A simulated highway provides an interactive teaching platform for a recent traffic safety awareness campaign conducted by the Area Information Technology Department. The sessions, which were designed to promote a culture of safety and raise awareness of safe driving among Saudi Aramco employees and contractors, were conducted in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, 'Udhailiyah, and Abqaiq.

by Khalaf S. Al-Ghamdi

As part of the Area Information Technology Department's (AITD) continuous focus and commitment to the safety of employees and contractors, AITD recently teamed up with the Communications Operations Department to conduct multiple traffic safety awareness campaigns in Dhahran, Ras Tanura, 'Udhailiyah, and Abqaiq.

The sessions, which were designed to promote a culture of safety and raise the awareness of safe driving among Saudi Aramco employees and contractors, looked to highlight some of the most common pitfalls drivers fall into while on the Kingdom's highways.

AITD manager Adel S. Al Doulab noted that safety is at the forefront of the department's efforts and that driver safety is one of the key focuses of the department, as well as for the company as a whole.

The awareness events featured creative

demonstrations, as well as a highway simulation on printed floor sheets to emphasize the serious consequences of the seven major traffic violations, which include:

- Speeding
- Using the shoulder as a passing lane
- Stopping in the middle of intersections
- Parking in unauthorized areas
- Making a left-hand turn or a U-turn from the far-right lane
- Tailgating
- Using mobile phones while driving.

The practice of conducting safety awareness sessions at multiple locations effectively engaged the participants in all areas, spreading the safety message to all employees and contractors, and ensuring their comprehensive understanding of the various types of unsafe acts on highways that lead to accidents and traffic violations.

## with inspiration from al-Jawf, Al-Midra echo eliminated

**Dhahran** — Saudi Aramco's initiative to plant olive trees in the northern city of al-Jawf provided unexpected inspiration to solve an echo issue at the Al-Midra Support Services Building in Dhahran.

The challenge of finding a solution to the echo had been thrown to a team of 2017 interior design co-op students. They answered with a proposal to transplant an olive tree from al-Jawf to the center of the Al-Midra atrium to absorb and disperse sound.

The idea was raised by the Environmental Protection Department with assistance from the College of Architecture and Planning under Imam Abdul Rahman Bin Faisal University.

### problem solving

The initial plan to plant a tree raised a number of challenges, including ground

excavation for the roots, the impact on underground cabling, and the need for additional maintenance.

After much thought, it was decided to place a replica olive tree — 8 meters high, 5 meters wide, and with a half-meter trunk width — in the atrium. After overcoming the hurdle of getting the tree inside the building, the building occupants were pleased with the result (both visual and aural); the echo has vanished.

### training and trees

Saudi Aramco's olive tree plantation project involved providing training to 50 families and the planting of 2 million olive trees in the al-Jawf region, thereby creating a lifelong impact on the local community.

A symbol of peace and prosperity, the olive tree serves as a reminder of the many initiatives that Saudi Aramco supports, both

in-Kingdom and beyond.

The Office Services Department (OSD) places great value on the co-op and summer students it hosts each year. In addition to orienting and teaching them about OSD's various operational activities, the department empowers them to develop their own ideas and solutions, and the students have had many superb suggestions over the years.

"We are thrilled that the small gesture of planting olive trees at al-Jawf has inspired the young generation to come up with a solution to a problem at a Saudi Aramco facility," said Ahmed A. Al Zahid, OSD manager.

*The Kingdom's North provided inspiration to solve an echo issue in the Al-Midra Services Support Building. This replica olive tree now helps soak up the sound in the atrium area.*



## your voice

### crowdsourcing: digital mining of people is a great resource to build on



by Eyad Buhulaiga  
Jazan

Eyad.Buhulaiga@aramco.com

The emergence of social networks and introduction of Web 2.0 has disrupted the industry significantly, as it has moved the normal website form from being simply personal websites or a workspace where individuals share pictures and activities with families and friends into contributing to solving major problems encountered by large enterprises.

This is defined as Web 3.0, as enterprises are no longer relying on consulting firms alone but also leveraging the internal and external individuals' collective wisdom and cognitive analysis by collaborating in performing a specific task. This helps in tapping into the hidden talent within the crowd, improving the level of insight on issues and make an informed decision, which is also known as "crowdsourcing." The activities can vary from data entry, translation, basic coding, user interface design, data analytics, to even full product development. Crowdsourcing includes:

- **Crowd-labor**, including platforms

that allow for hiring skilled workers to work physically in the field, or remotely by sending the tasks and getting the final results. The task force is accountable for completing the job in a set time, and if not performed, they are not paid. Examples of these applications including Gigwalk and oDesk.

- **Crowd-innovation**, including platforms dedicated for advanced analysis and predictive modeling. Users can create their own projects, explore the projects of others, or compete in one of the many data sciences projects facilitated by apps such as Kaggle.

- **Crowd-creativity and design**, including a platform for fostering collaboration in designing new products facilitated by apps such as Quirky.

- **Crowdfunding** is another benefit that allows end users or investors to donate a specific amount of money (monthly or one-time payment) to support small- and medium-sized enterprises to fund the proposed creative and innovative ideas.

A number of such popular websites are allowing the crowds to be venture capitalists.

- **Crowd-voting** is another form of such technologies where enterprises can get feedback on the impact of deploying new policies with employees before implementation.

This has helped companies tap into talent around the world without going through the process of full- or part-time hiring or contracting. It helps companies save costs, expedites attending to urgent issues, and provides agility with the ability to scale resources up or down depending on the needs. It also helps create a closer relationship with customers and employees by giving them the sense of ownership in improving and resolving any issues.

Crowdsourcing is a great advantage in the digital era that helps in fostering collaboration and tapping into the hidden resources across the globe.

It is a technology worth exploring.

# helping the company take a quantum leap toward a real knowledge management profession

Over the past few years, a number of highly visible knowledge management projects have unfolded, and continue to unfold, across the company, including training for the development of knowledge officers who are being prepared to lead knowledge management deployment in their organizations.

Knowledge officers work for cultivate a collaborative culture and processes to capture, share, and reuse an enterprise's intellectual assets. This is crucial to enhancing operational performance, reducing repeated work, and eliminating repetitive mistakes.

Saudi Aramco chief engineer Jamil J. Al-Bagawi, who also chairs the Knowledge Management Board, believes that highly skillful knowledge officers are critical in embedding knowledge sharing practices throughout our business processes and facilitating the transformation into learning organizations.

"The Knowledge Officer's Certification course was introduced not only to improve our current knowledge workforce skills, but also as a substantial mechanism to cultivate a knowledge sharing culture and streamline its practices across all Saudi Aramco organizations," said Al-Bagawi.

## course design

Collaborating in the creation of the knowledge officers certification course were representatives from the Engineering Support Department (ESD) and the Technical Services Professional Academy.

The course is the first of its kind worldwide and is based on studies conducted by the American Productivity and Quality Center, with several knowledge management best practice companies, including many in gas and oil sector. The course design team managed to convert several case studies with proven recommendations into learning modules. The course was structured based on the knowledge officers' main functions — to promote, coordinate, and report.

Course participants were highly engaged in a wide variety of practical activities, with each activity presenting a businesslike scenario that helped them better understand the subjects and become effectively ready to apply their learning once they return to their offices.

## driving forces of knowledge sharing

Khalid K. Al Onaizi, manager of the Engineering Support Department, noted that knowledge officers are the driving forces of all knowledge sharing activities within their organizations.

Numerous requests on how to effectively deploy knowledge sharing practices to achieve Operational Excellence have been received as a result of the continuous knowledge management awareness campaigns and exhibits that were held across the company Kingdomwide.

The certification program was launched in the last quarter of 2018.

"While many training courses are meant for information or comprehension, Knowledge Officer's Certification is an application level course for which all lessons are designed for immediate application on the job," said Al Onaizi.

The three-day course consists of proven knowledge management approaches such as conducting knowledge sharing awareness campaigns, knowledge map-



Amjad Almonzer, a knowledge management officer course instructor from the Engineering Support Department, guides teams through one of the course activities. The three-day course consists of knowledge management approaches such as conducting knowledge sharing campaigns, knowledge mapping, developing best practices and lessons learned, facilitating after-project interviews, overcoming behavioral barriers, and measuring and reporting knowledge management performance. (Photos: Abdulaziz Al-Moaiweed/IMPD)

ping, developing best practices and lessons learned, facilitating after-project interviews, overcoming behavioral barriers, and finally, measuring and reporting knowledge management performance.

A comprehensive handbook contains the details of all knowledge management processes, with illustrations given to each knowledge officer for their future reference.

"Of the learning modules, best practices, lessons learned, and knowledge mapping are among the most formidable and engaging," said Asam Almansour, a course participant from the Personnel Department.

## business application and certification

After completing the course, participants are given 90 days to complete their business applications, which starts by scheduling a meeting with department managers who are primarily responsible for knowl-



Olaa Halawani, a participant in the knowledge officer course from the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra), takes the lead in explaining how to improve knowledge sharing behaviors during one of the session's activities. After successfully completing the course and the corresponding business application, participants earn the designation of knowledge officer.

ble risks of knowledge leaks due to experts walking out or improper knowledge capture. At the end, the knowledge officers will seek managers' support to effectively perform their critical role.

"Managers are the key stakeholders of the knowledge management program within their organizations. Their engagement, performance tracking, and empowerment of the knowledge officers are crucial elements to the success of the program," said Olaa Halawani, a course participant from the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra).

Upon the successful completion of a business application that requires applying all course modules in real business scenarios, the knowledge officers are invited to the nearest Knowledge Management Board meeting for recognition and the certification presentation.

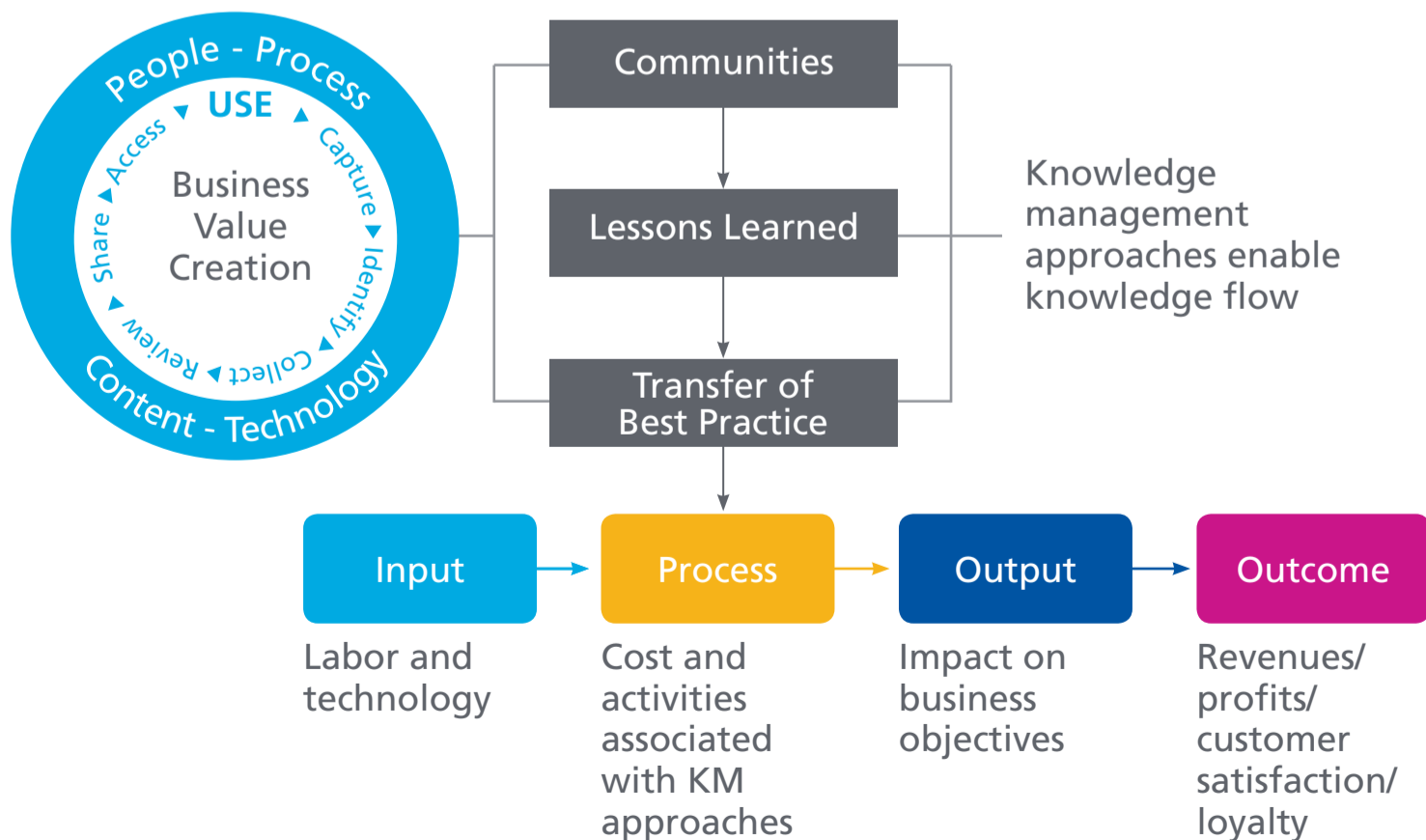
Three knowledge officer certification classes have been held — one in September 2018, another in February, and a third class last month. More than 50 knowledge officers from various departments have taken the course.

Among those graduates is Heather Bence, who is with Upstream Business Support.

"The certification course was invaluable in adding to my knowledge of knowledge management, especially through its strong focus on establishing organizational strategies and the opportunity to engage with knowledge officers from other departments," said Bence.

ESD is experiencing high demand and a waiting list for certification, with plans to deliver five classes in 2019 and certify more than 200 officers by the end of 2020.

The ambition of the course is to streamline the deployment of knowledge management practices and support the standardization of best practices through its greatest asset — its people. By empowering knowledge officers to perform their role more effectively, knowledge officer certification will help maximize the value of Saudi Aramco knowledge.



The "Value Path" links knowledge management activities and business outcomes

# creating offshore project opportunities

embracing the future, relentlessly pursuing safety and technology



(From left) Ali S. Al Ajmi, Mohammed A. Al-Qahtani, Fahad A. Al Ammari, and Fahad E. Al-Helal inspect a scale model of the Safaniyah Standardized, Simplified, and SIMOPS-capable production deck installed in the Offshore Projects Department's exhibition booth, as part of the grand opening of the inaugural Offshore Projects Execution Forum. See additional photo on page 8.

“We will not accept old construction methods, and we must embrace the future, including new vessels and new ways of working, with technological enhancements that go beyond the norm.”

— Fahad E. Al-Helal

by Michael Ives

**Dammam** — As more than 400 delegates gathered at Saudi Aramco's inaugural Offshore Projects Execution Forum, a simple — yet vast — question was posed by emcee Eman H. Alqaffas, a Human Resources generalist with the Offshore Projects Department.

“What are the next opportunities for growth, development, and prosperity?” Alqaffas asked attending delegates at the forum held at the Dammam Office Building under the theme of “Creating Opportunities.”

During the course of the one-day conference, guests were left in no doubt — Saudi Aramco's plans for the offshore fields offer enormous opportunities for organizations that can meet the company's expectations concerning safety, Saudization, and innovation.

## safety, innovation, localization

Delivering opening remarks, Fahad E. Al-Helal, Saudi Aramco vice president of Project Management, noted the immensity of the company's offshore journey. Al-Helal highlighted three key themes that encapsulate that journey — safety, innovation, and localization.

Al-Helal urged companies to be relentless in their approach to safety and said it was imperative that attendees engage with their workforce to ensure the highest safety performance.

This led into his second theme, innovation and technology, which he said should be deployed to meet the company's safety expectations. In addition, he said, “innovation and technology represent a paradigm shift, enhancing knowledge sharing and, through IR 4.0, generating enormous technological advances. Saudi Aramco must take advantage of these opportunities to execute projects safely, efficiently, and environmentally.”

## shift toward new methodologies

Al-Helal noted that with the scale and

complexity of developments, Saudi Aramco must find new ways to execute projects and work with partners to shift toward new methodologies — starting with closer integration of the supply chain into the engineering and design process.

He went on to note that with the need to install infrastructure into increasingly congested subsea areas, and with offshore increasingly busy with construction and traffic, safety remains essential.

“We will not accept old construction methods, and we must embrace the future, including new vessels and new ways of working, with technological enhancements that go beyond the norm,” he said.

Building on his themes of safety and innovation, Al-Helal closed his remarks by emphasizing the importance of Saudization, pointing out that “iktva permeates every aspect of our business.”

“We strongly believe that our offshore projects constitute golden investment opportunities, and everyone should have a chance to access this important sector to meet and exceed iktva targets and objectives,” he said.

Fahad A. Al Ammari, general manager of Area Projects with Upstream Project Management, delivered the keynote speech, highlighting the “incredible journey” offshore has been on in the past decade, which is now in record-breaking territory in terms of the number of facilities being installed to support the offshore program.

Al Ammari stressed the importance of adopting new, innovative technologies for the fabrication of offshore facilities. He expressed his appreciation to those who organized the timely forum as the company embarks on so many upcoming mega-projects.

Ali S. Al Ajmi, general manager of Safaniyah Area Producing, emphasized the importance of the safe execution of offshore projects, noting the volume of vessels operating in congested offshore fields. Al Ajmi stressed that field personnel should manage activities safely, highlighting how critical it is to handle offshore construction activities reliably and responsibly.

## nurture the industry

Offshore Projects Department (OPD) manager Mohammed A. Al-Qahtani highlighted that the forum — the first of its kind — illustrated how dedicated Saudi Aramco is to nurturing the industry in the Kingdom. This was clear as the auditorium was filled with delegates from multiple Saudi Aramco organizations, 17 offshore contractors, and two training institutes.

## showcasing capabilities

Al-Helal and other dignitaries toured an exhibition area that included 17 contractor booths, which showcased the contractors' capabilities and locally manufactured products. The subject matter experts manning the booths provided an opportunity for technical exchanges and the sharing of success stories.

In addition, the Saudi Petroleum Services Polytechnic and the National Maritime Academy showcased their contributions to industry through developing skilled personnel for deployment in various oil and gas sectors.

An added attraction was the Saudi Aramco booth. The booth exhibited a scale

model of the Safaniyah standardized, simplified, and SIMOPS-capable oil production deck module, along with a live video screen showcasing OPD's various projects.

Saudi Aramco and contractor subject matter experts also presented 16 technical papers on a range of topics, including “Smart Engineering Solutions,” “Offshore Facilities Standardization,” “Nonmetallic Applications for Offshore Facilities,” “Innovative Installation Techniques,” and “New Technologies for Offshore Applications.”

## ambitions in offshore

The sheer scale of Saudi Aramco's ambitions in offshore was brought home to all attendees when Abdulaziz I. Al Sultan, a project engineer with OPD, outlined the future workload of offshore for the upcoming five years, including the need for hundreds of thousands of tons of structural steel, tens of thousands of valves, and hundreds of kilometers of pipeline and cabling — along with an escalating number of barges and other construction support vessels.

These impressive facts clearly illustrated the opportunities that future projects could deliver to the suppliers who join with Saudi Aramco to build the many jackets and topside decks planned over the next five years.

## success stories

The company's success in overcoming challenges was highlighted by Saad N. Al-Masredi, another project engineer with OPD, who took the audience through Saudi Aramco's journey to connect a 30-inch oil pipeline from Abqaiq to the BAPCO refinery in Bahrain across the Arabian Gulf. His key message focused on the importance of forward planning, which has successfully enabled personnel and equipment to move efficiently between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Another success in the face of challenges was revealed in the presentation titled “Manifa Water Injection Pipeline Project” by OPD project manager Mohammed H. Al-Qarni. The presentation shared how smart technology was used to increase efficiency in pipe welding.

## innovative, local solutions

Engineer Ibrahim I. Alateeq's presentation detailed the success Saudi Aramco had with the local fabrication of innovative ballast modules that are used to secure subsea cabling. To date, 490 have been manufactured locally, in partnership with the National Petroleum Construction Company. These new modules offer the dual benefits of both a reduced subsea assets footprint and that they do not require additional cargo barges or vessels.

“This project streamlined the supply chain, delivered to schedule, and showed how Saudi Arabia is competitive in these markets,” said Alateeq.

## recognition

The forum facilitated a platform for all involved to exchange opinions and share success stories to improve work efficiency and reduce potential risks during the execution of offshore projects.

In the end, success was the hallmark of the forum, including rewarding a number of Saudi Aramco's offshore projects partner companies for achievements in safety, quality, iktva, and Saudization.

# Data Day opens up geoscientists' tool bag in search for key info

by Musherf Alamri

**Dhahran** — The Exploration Geospatial and Data Management Solutions Division (EGDMSD) recently organized Data Day, an event dedicated to raising awareness about tools and services available to Exploration that enable geoscientists to leverage the vast potential of data in building subsurface models and searching for hydrocarbons.

During the event, technologies related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) and their potential use in Exploration were also discussed.

## using disruptive technologies

Misfir A. Az Zahrani, executive director of Exploration, underscored the importance of data quality and data management in maximizing the potential finding and managing of hydrocarbon resources. He noted that numerous services have leveraged disruptive IR4.0 technologies in industrial settings, and that they have also touched the daily lives of people. Oil and gas companies have the opportunity to make similar strides and achieve leaps in efficiency and cost-effectiveness by deploying IR4.0 technologies such as machine learning and artificial intelligence, he said.

## so much data, so many decisions

In past years, Exploration invested significantly in technologies to gather a wide variety of data to enable geoscientists to make decisions that guide the company's upstream operations. As a result, Exploration is accumulating an enormous amount of data types every day, all of which require advanced data management techniques, Az Zahrani said.

"Data is the mine for geoscientists," he said.

The next step is to examine the available



*Turki A. Ghamdi gives an overview of the ongoing data management transformation in Exploration and its goal of reaching the highest maturity level. In 2018, Exploration invested significantly in building the infrastructure for a more mature and robust data management system, with implementation commencing this year.*

data sets to ensure that they are being utilized to the fullest potential and are accessible to relevant parties. Additionally, this review should uncover gaps in the collection processes so action can be taken to fill the void, guaranteeing our employees have the necessary input to make optimal determinations.

"We have huge amounts of data. What are we doing with it? What more can we do?" he asked.

Exploration is in the midst of a transformation in data management with a goal of achieving the highest maturity level, said Turki A. Ghamdi, EGDMSD administrator. The goal is to increase the value of the collected data and ensure that scientists can collaborate easily and more effectively while enabling the deployment of IR4.0 technologies, of which a mature data management



*Nidal S. Qadous speaks about data governance, noting that Exploration has crafted the main governance document. This should result in the breaking down of data silos and address stakeholders' needs.*

system is the foundation.

## an expanded infrastructure

In 2018, Exploration invested in building the infrastructure for a more mature and robust data management system with implementation commencing this year, Ghamdi said. For instance, Exploration scientists will be able to save their technical documents on the corporate database and visualize them instantly with online applications. This will ensure that the data and information generated is available to authorized personnel and that collaboration will be accelerated.

The primary step in this process is user engagement. Therefore, Exploration planned and conducted Data Day to encourage the adaption and diffusion of the processes and tools that EGDMSD is offering to enhance data management across the admin area.

Also, EGDMSD has a dedicated customer help desk to assist stakeholders in accessing and using the required services and tools for data management.

## presentations

Participants made several presentations during the event, including:

- **Hatim H. Gazzaz**, leader of the Geospatial Technology Group, talked about how the company is using geospatial data in exploration. Gazzaz provided an overview of the current applications, enhancements, and the future use of geospatial technologies.

- **Nidal S. Qadous**, Exploration Data Governance project leader, spoke about data governance and noted that Exploration had crafted the main governance document. This should result in the breaking down of data silos while addressing stakeholders' needs.

- **Mohammed J. Hakami**, Exploration Data Quality project leader, spoke on data quality and the role it plays in accurate decision making. He highlighted some tools that enable users to check the quality of their data.

- **Sara A. Albarrak**, Exploration Enterprise Architecture project leader, said that enterprise architecture is the blueprint for data management. Later this year, Exploration will launch its data catalog.

The event's emcee was Miznah F. Nassar, a Cartography Specialist II.

Alongside the presentations, EGDMSD hosted a number of booths to engage with stakeholders about available services and tools for data management. For instance, visitors learned about Geo-Knowledge, an in-house developed application that allows users to search, analyze, and visualize upstream data. On display was also an example of IR4.0 deployment — a 3-D printer that geologists can use to produce geological formation models.

## King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture

by saudi aramco

# BRUSH: painting a story to life at Ithra in June

**Dhahran** — As part of the upcoming 'Id celebrations, The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) will be hosting the international, award-winning art production BRUSH. For the first time in Saudi Arabia, the South Korean show will feature a beautiful children's tale, painted live on the Ithra stage, alongside live music, puppetry, and dance.

The family-friendly show is renowned for creating outside-the-box performances for children of all ages and backgrounds, inspiring children to create from their imagination. As a center for learning, creativity, and cultural interchange, Ithra is excited to bring this unique performance to audiences in the Kingdom with the aim of offering families an experience that enriches their knowledge, learning, and creativity.

The shows will run June 6-8 at the Ithra Theatre. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.kingabdulazizcenter.com/home-en/>

For latest updates on BRUSH and other events, follow Ithra on social media: Facebook (King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture), Twitter (@Ithra), or Instagram (@Ithra) #Ithra



ithra

# saving lives in the Southern Area

## company hosts Heartsaver outreach campaign in al-Hasa

(Right), for the last two days, the workshop included retiree employees and their male dependents. The workshop focused on critical first aid cases such as fainting, heart attacks, strokes, anaphylaxis, suffocation, diabetes, seizure, internal and external bleeding, bone fractures, burns, sunstroke, and how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for adults and babies.

(Far right), a young student from al-Hasa practices his newfound CPR skills with the guiding hand of a representative from Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare.



by Abdul Latif Al-Odail

**Al-Hasa** — Southern Area Oil Operations (SAOO) recently conducted a Heartsaver Outreach Campaign through the Manpower Development Division (MDD) at the Al-Hasa Community Center.

The four-day campaign targeted Saudi Aramco employees, dependents, retirees, and high school students, and sessions were held under the supervision of instructors from Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH).

A session designated for male high school students was coordinated between MDD and Government Affairs, with invitations extended to several schools through the Administration of Education.

A total of 150 students attended with their supervisors, and they were trained in accordance with Heart Association procedures to save lives at home and at school.

### learning to save lives

Abdullah Al-Mulhim, a supervisor with the Administration of Education of Al-Hasa, declared the campaign a success.

"I thank Saudi Aramco for this opportu-

nity for high school students to attend this workshop," said Al-Mulhim. "It was well organized and the instructor was experienced and conducted the workshop in an entertaining way. The objectives on how to deal with first aid cases were excellent and the students participated and interacted positively."

Adnan Al-Zoraiq, a teacher with Hara'a High School, commented, "We benefit from this awareness campaign and are very much appreciative to Saudi Aramco for their good hospitality."

Khalid Al-Mohais, a teacher with Al-Imam Jaafar Al-Sadiq High School, stated that: "The workshop was excellent and covered all the aspects on how to deal with first aid and the critical cases. Thanks again to the instructor and the workshop coordinators for their exceptional efforts and the well-organized presentations that attracted the students' attention."

"This is an excellent demonstration that met the expectations of all the attendees as per the standards of Saudi Aramco," said Ghazi Al-Rowaished, a teacher at Al-Imam Al-Nawawi High School.

### expertise shared

For the last two days, the workshop included retiree employees and their male dependents.

The workshop focused on critical first aid cases such as fainting, heart attacks, strokes, anaphylaxis, suffocation, diabetes, seizure, internal and external bleeding, bone fractures, burns, sunstroke, and how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation for adults and babies.

The workshops were presented by instructors from JHAH, as well as from MDD. They facilitated the topics and involved the attendees to participate and share stories.

MDD conducted the workshops to spread awareness for the community and to remind them how to deal with the urgent cases in a professional way.

Abdul Latif M. Al-Odail, a superintendent with SAOO Gas Operations Human Resources Development, expressed his appreciation and recognized the teamwork and the extraordinary efforts of the Health Education Unit from JHAH, Mubarraz Government Affairs, Industrial Security, and al-Hasa Community Services.

# talking strategy and security in Abqaiq



As part of the 2019 Strategic Initiative workshop, Khalid A. Al Buali — who opened the event by sharing his appreciation of employees' innovative efforts over the past year — takes an active role in one of the sessions. Al Buali encouraged attendees to continue to create new initiatives that will contribute to improving the department's performance.

**Abqaiq** — The Southern Area Industrial Security Operations Department (SAISOD) recently conducted the "2019 Strategic Initiative" workshop in Abqaiq.

The event included participation from the Safety and Industrial Security Human

Resources team. The workshop, which highlighted SAISOD's belief in the significance of establishing initiatives enhancing the provided security services, was attended by 50 employees from all age and grade code groups to have more diverse participation and increased engagement between employees and management.

### building on success

At the beginning of the workshop, SAISOD manager Khalid A. Al Buali appreciated the effort that was put in place in 2018 that resulted on the success of 17 initiatives covering Industrial Security six strategy pillars. Al Buali encouraged attendees to continue to create new initiatives that will contribute to improving the department's performance.

The workshop discussed methods to improve five major services — access control, identification and stickers, visitor offices, emergency response, and patrolling.

The workshop was positively received and the participants were glad to participate — contributing with their own ideas to help establish the department's strategic initiatives.

### meeting customers' needs and more

Buwyit H. Al-Buwaiyt, head of the Abqaiq Security Operations Division, said such workshops support the department to present initiatives with added value that meet the needs of customer.

Saeed Al-Qahtani, division head with South Ghawar Security Operations, stated that conducting the interactive workshop helps in establishing additional platforms for further communication between employees and management, allowing employees to determine the department's direction.

Khalil K. Al-Musaeed, a Planning and Performance group leader, emphasized the importance of conducting these workshops to be aligned with the department and the company's corporate plan in support of the vision of Industrial Security.

Al Buali expressed his gratitude for the ideas and initiatives that resulted from the workshop and again expressed his appreciation to the participants for their engagement in presenting many positive ideas.

green matters

# on International Day for Biodiversity, saving ecosystems to save ourselves

by Forrest Jones

Every year, May 22 is observed as the International Day for Biological Diversity, a United Nations (U.N.)-sanctioned day to promote and observe biodiversity issues.

That's a pretty broad stroke, meaning it goes way beyond safeguarding the lives of endangered animal species.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity includes ensuring sustainable agriculture, preventing desertification and land degradation, combating drought, safeguarding water resources, and providing sanitation services and energy, as well as employing the latest technology and innovation to allow for sustainable development.

It also means protecting our oceans, forests, and indigenous societies, as well as ensuring food security and dealing with climate change — the list goes on is immense, and so is its importance.

## 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'

For 2019, the May 22 theme is "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health." According to the U.N., biodiversity serves as the foundation for sustenance and nutritional well-being, acting as a "key catalyst" in transforming food systems and improving human health.

"In the past 100 years, more than 90% of crop varieties have disappeared from farmers' fields," the U.N. Environmental Program said in a statement unveiling the 2019 theme. "Half of the breeds of many domestic animals have been lost, and all of the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being fished at or above their sustainable limits."

While food variety may be on the rise (especially thanks to technology and processed foods that help expand our waistlines), the global diet — or what people actually eat — is becoming increasingly lacking in variety.

To ensure proper diet across the planet and provide nutritious meals to the global population, healthy biodiversity is a fundamental requirement.

After all, healthy ecosystems are needed to ensure healthy crop, meat, and fish offerings.

## the rich biodiversity in Shaybah

Fortunately, protecting and enhancing biodiversity is nothing new to Saudi Aramco.

Many inside and outside the Kingdom are fully aware of our work developing the Shaybah Wildlife Sanctuary, in which Saudi Aramco and partners reintroduced the Arabian oryx, the sand gazelle, and the ostrich into a securely fenced protected area spanning 637 square kilometers — an area not much smaller than the

Kingdom of Bahrain.

This project also supports 10 plant species that are able to withstand some of the most extreme conditions on Earth, while other studies have revealed that as many as 13 native reptile species, 18 mammal species, and a staggering 176 bird species might also occur within the fenced area. Add to that, the sanctuary is likely to protect 19 species that occur only in the Arabian Peninsula.

The Shaybah Wildlife Sanctuary aligns with the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity by, for example, protecting 39 species that the Saudi government has listed as being of national Conservation Priority, 40 species that are formally listed as internationally threatened or near threatened, and 92 species that are internationally decreasing.

In addition, the sanctuary aligns with the U.N. Convention on Conserving Migratory Species by creating a safe haven for up to 169 migratory bird species that potentially pass through on their epic annual journeys between their African foraging grounds and their breeding grounds across Europe and Asia.

## company's healthy ecosystems

Saudi Aramco's mission to both protect and enhance biodiversity is not limited to Shaybah. At the end of 2018, the company identified 18 sites that contain high-quality habitat that exceed the criteria to be designated as Corporate Biodiversity Protection Areas, meaning that each of these sites contains regionally or internationally threatened, migratory or endemic species.

To protect natural ecosystems elsewhere, the company continues to plant mangrove seedlings (with more than 2.2 million already planted, and that number is climbing).

Restoring mangrove forests will not only absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide (2 million mangroves will contribute to the removal of approximately 4 million tons of the gas over the lifetime of the trees, and that's the equivalent of carbon dioxide emitted by more than 820,000 cars), they nurture the sea life species needed to supply the Kingdom with healthy seafood resources. Offshore artificial reef deployments will do likewise.

## healthy living

When fresh fish and all other food and beverages arrive in company commissaries, restaurants, and other facilities, Saudi Aramco's environmental health scientists



Philby's partridge is a native to southwestern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen, one of 498 bird species commonly found in the Kingdom. Also, almost 300 species migrate through the Kingdom annually, and three major flyways intersect the peninsula, bringing birds from as far away as India, Madagascar, South Africa, Scandinavia, Siberia, and even Alaska.

ensure all products bound for human consumption are safe and come with proper nutrition labels.

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has launched a countrywide Nutrition Fact Sheets (NFSs) initiative that has become mandatory since the start of 2019. NFSs provide nutritional information on sugars, salt, fats, saturates levels, and a calorie count to allow customers to keep track of their daily needs and live healthier lives by choosing healthier items. In line with the SFDA initiative, Saudi Aramco focuses heavily on ensuring healthy eating habits and protecting all employees and their dependents, all the while tackling the problem of obesity and providing a greater understanding of nutritional values.

The company also conducts numerous food and water sampling activities to ensure health, with technology giving it ample time to pull products off the shelf that may be posing health risks elsewhere in the world.

For example, Saudi Aramco relies on a food alert system to mitigate the risks associated with an increasingly globalized food-supply chain and to provide early

our efforts to save the bees



our people's passion



warnings to the community, thereby mitigating any potential food safety impacts within Saudi Aramco commissaries and diners.

No food consumption can be truly safe without safe drinking water. The legally required Water Safety Plan — a risk-based approach to enhance the safety of drinking water supplies — is an important tool in this endeavor.

As of 2019, 100% of Saudi Aramco drinking water producers had established their Water Safety Plans, under which they conducted comprehensive risk assessments covering water production, control measures, and operational monitoring from the source to the consumer tap, thereby ensuring safe drinking water throughout company facilities.

Elsewhere, the company is working to plant 1 million native trees across the Kingdom that will not only enhance biodiversity but will also combat desertification by slowing down the advance of blowing sand.

These and other projects protect Saudi Arabia's incredible array of biodiversity, which includes 498 bird species, 117 mammal species, 107 reptile species, 2,400 flowering plant species, 266 coral-reef species, and 1,230 fish species.

To put those numbers into perspective, Saudi Arabia has more bird species per square kilometer than the U.S., Australia, or Brazil. (Source: EPD research using data from BirdLife International)

Almost 300 species migrate through the Kingdom annually, and three major flyways intersect the peninsula, bringing birds from as far away as India, Madagascar, South Africa, Scandinavia, Siberia, and even Alaska.

Some of these birds have flown more than 10,000 kilometers by the time they reach Saudi Arabia.

## what can you do?

To protect and enhance biodiversity, you can do a lot. Be sure to turn off lights, take care of leaks, toss paper plates, and take green matters into your own hands daily.

Small steps, when taken on a mass scale, can make a big difference.

So take those small steps. It's the right thing to do.

"green matters" is a regular column offered by the Environmental Protection Department highlighting challenges and potential solutions to some of the most pressing environmental issues of the day.



Among the region's more well-known indigenous reptile species is the dhub. These spiny-tailed lizards can grow up to be 76 cm long and are considered a high conservation priority in Saudi Arabia.

# Petroleum Applications Services **steps up** with **IR 4.0 solutions**



Saudi Aramco's Petroleum Applications Services Department (PEASD) recently recognized 37 professionals during its 2019 Recognition Ceremony at the Dhahran Technical Exchange Center. The ceremony covered six key areas, including Improvement and Excellence, Development, Citizenship, IR 4.0, Safety, and Collaboration. Abdallah H. Eidi told attendees, "You delivered results across the spectrum of our customer base that had a meaningful impact for our company business."

by Amell A. Al-Ghamdi

**Dhahran** — As part of acknowledging individual and team behaviors in supporting the organization, Saudi Aramco's Petroleum Applications Services Department (PEASD) recently recognized 37 professionals during its 2019 Recognition Ceremony at the Dhahran Technical Exchange Center.

"I want to thank you all for your incredibly hard work last year," PEASD manager Abdallah H. Eidi told attendees. "When I look back at 2018, I am proud of the determination to succeed that all of you have shown. You delivered results across the spectrum of our customer base that had a meaningful impact for our company business."

## a year of achievements

It was a year of achievements in line with EXPEC Computer Center's (ECC) Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) initiatives.

PEASD successfully deployed the Saudi Aramco Intelligent Rig Optimizer (SAIRO) on all live rig operations. The new smart machine-learning engine was developed

in-house to classify rig operations using surface-sensor readings to enhance drilling efficiency.

In the area of citizenship, two PEASD employees were awarded first and second places in EXPEC ARC's 2018 Upstream Hackathon. Another PEASD employee earned second place in the Wa'ed Hackathon that was held in Dhahran and further participated as a contestant in the Hajj Hackathon that was sponsored by the "Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones SFCPD" (in partnership with Saudi Aramco and Google).

The PEASD recognition program for 2019 covers six key areas: Improvement and Excellence, Development, Citizenship, IR 4.0, Safety, and Collaboration.

The awardees in each category are:

### Improvement and Excellence

Ali Taiban, Mazen Nofal, Suaheh Hasan, Ali Wuhaimeed, and Alwaleed Alharbi.

### Development

Santiago Ganis, Basel Mustafa, Khaled Nasser, and Bader Otaibi.

### Citizenship

Firas Abussaud.

### IR 4.0

Razen Harbi, Muhammad Readean, and Majed Zahrani.

### Safety

Seba Maghlouth, Razan Boodi, Hessa Alqahtani, Eman Barqi, Reem Ibrahim, Ridwan Jalali, Hussam Gharawi, Khalid Albuijan, and Khaled Hammad.

### Collaboration

The awardees in the area of collaboration are:

### Field Development Team

(Menhal Ismael, Keyang Dai, and Fouad Abouheit). The team successfully completed the project of integrated well-planning platform for field development activities, which consist of sweet-spot identification and automated well placement.

### Special Studies Team

(Hassan Husain, Obi Isichei, and Bayan Momtan). The Special Studies Team has been granted a patent to estimate the productivity index in Multilateral Completions with a successful

implementation for the novel method that resulted an actual oil gain, water reduction, and cost savings.

• **WASL-X Team** — (Mohammad Buraiq, Ghassan Zahdan, and Salim Rihabe). The team successfully completed a platform that is built on solid foundations to support all well log data types. The streamlining of the process improved the productivity of publishing, and within a couple of weeks of production usage, the backlog was reduced by 50%.

• **DrillEye Planning Team** — (Abdullah Ali, Mohammad Rabiah, Khaled Alterish, and Haroon Idrees). The DrillEye team extended the platform to include more business processes and impact more users. The team successfully completed a set of new modules to streamline the whole process.

The recognition was extended also to include the department support team of Lisa Rippin, Majd Olaqi, and Ali Bakri.

Eidi congratulated all of the awardees and wished the whole department a successful, healthy, and safe 2019.

## spotlight



Abdulhakim A. Al-Gouhi, Saudi Aramco vice president of Industrial Services, poses with other members of company management and organizers of the first Oil Spill Preparedness Technical Forum in Bahrain. The forum was held in partnership between Saudi Aramco and the British company Oil Spill Response Limited.



Fahad E. Al-Helal, Saudi Aramco vice president of Project Management, poses with other members of company management and organizers of the inaugural Offshore Projects Execution Forum at the Dammam Office Building. With a theme of "Creating Opportunities," the event focused on the critical nature of safety, innovation, and localization in the highly active energy industry.



# being ready vs. reaction

## preparedness takes center stage at Bahrain forum

by Eamonn Houston

**Bahrain** — Reaching the highest levels of preparedness and response readiness in the event of oil spills were the main topics of discussion at a recent forum held in partnership between Saudi Aramco and British-based entity Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).

The first Oil Spill Preparedness Technical Forum in Bahrain brought together regional and international experts on spill emergencies, as well as government agencies.

OSRL is the largest international industry-funded cooperative and exists to respond to oil spills wherever in the world they occur by providing preparedness, response, and intervention services.

Organized by Saudi Aramco's Marine Department, the two-day forum featured a series of presentations and workshops that shared expertise and methodologies. Speakers included Rob James, OSRL regional manager, and Mohammed Bin Daina, CEO of Bahrain's Supreme Council for Environment.

### preparedness

Abdulkhakim A. Al-Gouhi, Saudi Aramco vice president of Industrial Services, addressed the forum on the opening day, focusing on preparedness and response.

Al-Gouhi told attendees that Saudi Aramco conducts more than 150 oil spill response training exercises and drills each year to maintain the highest levels of preparedness, and to protect the Kingdom's marine ecosystem and environment.

"Despite the current high readiness level, we continuously conduct comprehensive capability assessments to evaluate existing capabilities, coupled with operational expansions and increasing activities in both the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea," said Al-Gouhi.

"More importantly, we ensure that our owned and chartered vessels are equipped with state-of-the-art oil pollution control equipment. This is evident by the deployed fleet of more than 45 vessels across the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea with such capabilities," he added.

### an exchange of ideas

Al-Gouhi highlighted that Saudi Aramco, as a leading global energy company, has the world's largest stockpile of oil spill response equipment.

Resources include three fixed-wing chemical dispersant spray aircraft, 45 anti-pollution vessels, 20,000 meters of booms, an array of oil skimmers, and more than 6,000 drums of chemical dispersant.

Al-Gouhi told the forum that Saudi Aramco is currently replacing some of its existing equipment with the latest high-tech equipment available to the industry.

"Right now, we are in the process adopting the latest skimming technology called the Floating Oil Recovery Unit, which is easy to deploy and functions well in rough water," Al-Gouhi said.

He urged those in attendance to use the forum as an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices and network.

"Supporting each other is a strength that drives us to higher levels of excellence, and more importantly, helps us to better protect the Earth's fragile environment," Al-Gouhi noted.

Khalid A. Al Mohsen, acting manager of Marine, said the work of the forum would be built upon over the coming months.

Abdulkhakim A. Al Gouhi addresses attendees at the first Oil Spill Preparedness Technical Forum held in Bahrain. Over two days, regional and international industry experts participated in workshops and shared knowledge on methodologies and emerging technologies. See additional photo on page 8.



Mahdi H. Ab Alharth gives details of early detection and monitoring of offshore oil spills using remote sensing technology during the forum. Co-organized by Saudi Aramco's Marine Department and OSRL, the two-day forum featured a series of presentations and workshops that highlighted expertise and methodologies in responding to oil spill emergencies and preparedness. (Photos: Abdulaziz Al-Moaiveed/IMPD)

"This forum has a number of objectives. One is to elevate the urgency of the matter, the urgency of the environmental protection issues, and to make it well known to our customers, partners, and neighbors," said Al Mohsen.

"On the other hand, we would also like to engage with others in the region. Obviously, we share the same concerns, so we all need to act together in order to maximize the positive impact to the environment," he added.

### innovation is key

Al Mohsen said the purpose of the forum was to talk about planning, preparedness, and response, as well as to encourage collaboration.

"This is the first forum of its kind, and we can go a little bit further later on and talk about prevention, not a response. There will be another meeting in three-to-four months so that we can focus more on the prevention measures," he said. "We will invite specialized companies and invite them to shed light on their methodologies, experience, new technologies, and expertise."

Al Mohsen noted that the forum had the participation of major regional players in oil spill mitigation, as well as representatives of government agencies.

He emphasized that because the Red Sea has 1,700 kilometers of shoreline, the deployment of resources must be strategic.

"We cannot just string our resources out along the coastline," Al Mohsen said. "We need to be careful where we locate our

strategic hubs. There are seven major hubs — three in the Gulf, and four on the Red Sea coast."

Ibrahim A. Hilal, regional oil spill coordinator for Saudi Aramco's Marine Department, organized the event with support from Fehr F. Khomais, the company's global oil spill response director.

"Saudi Aramco strives to conserve natural resources and minimize emissions and the environmental footprint of its activities through the continuous optimization of company operations and the leveraging of technology advancements and industry best practices," said Hilal.

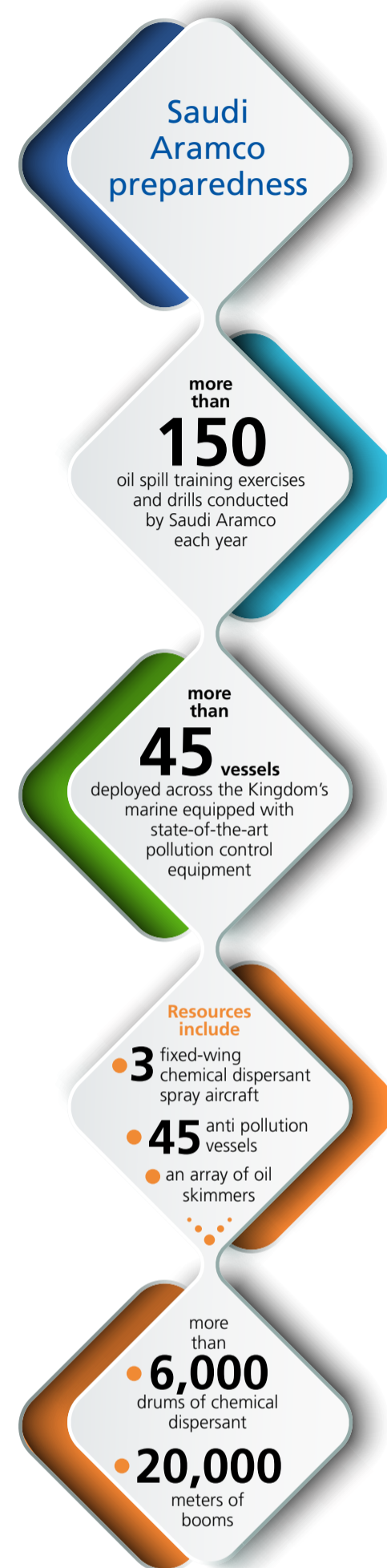
The forum, he noted, offered an opportunity for the exchange of experiences, best practices, innovative ideas, and the latest technology related to oil spill response.

"It is a good opportunity, and this is reflected through the presence of international organizations and entities, and global industry professionals," said Hilal, adding that Saudi Aramco would continue seeking out the latest technologies and benchmark its response and prevention capabilities against other leading companies in the industry.

On the first day of the forum, Ali M. Qasem, supervisor of Saudi Aramco's Environmental Engineering Division, presented the company's Oil Spill Wildlife Rehabilitation Plan, while the second day saw Mahdi H. Ab Alharth, supervisor of Base Mapping and Engineering Support, give details of early detection and monitoring of offshore oil spills using remote sensing technology.



Regional and international experts on spill emergencies listen to a presentation at the first Oil Spill Preparedness Technical Forum in Bahrain. The main topics discussed during the two-day event focused on reaching the highest levels of preparedness and response readiness in the event of a spill.



# Jiddah ITC apprentices appreciate K-9 Special Search Unit

by Usman Haroon

**Jiddah** — The K-9 Special Search Unit in the Central Region/Western Region conducts frequent K-9 demonstrations, but this year was a little extra special.

Apprentices from Saudi Aramco's Jiddah Industrial Training Center (JITC) were recently given a demonstration of a Labrador dog searching a vehicle laden with explosives. After sniffing the vehicle, the dog gave a positive indication by alerting to the vehicle where the explosives were hidden.

Subsequently, apprentices took part in a presentation with a question-and-answer session on how the dogs are trained by the K-9 team.

Prior to the demonstration, Fayez S. Al Ghamdi, team leader and supervisor of the K-9 Special Search Unit, gave an introduction about the role of the K-9 unit's duties with Saudi Aramco.

The K-9 unit happily allowed the apprentices to pet the dogs and play with them, and answered any questions they had.

Some of the apprentices were at first reluctant to go near the dogs, but their doubts were quashed when witnessing others petting them.

"K-9 dogs can sniff out explosives to save lives," said Al Ghamdi. "Each dog has between two and 10 years of service before retiring. If the dogs are healthy, employees are able to take the dogs home as pets."

## teamwork

Approximately 65 apprentices gathered outside in the parking lot to experience firsthand the teamwork between trainer Ahmed M. Wazgar, a K-9 search technician with the Industrial Security Support Department in Jiddah, and the dog.

After the demonstration, Industrial Security employee Hisham Al Ghamdi, also a K-9 search technician, gave a presentation on the K-9 unit's various functions. That was followed by a five-minute K-9 video for the guests.



Ahmed M. Wazgar demonstrates a K-9 dog's skills to apprentices at JITC prior to a live demonstration of the dog searching a car laden with explosives.

## 'lovely animals'

Trainer Sari Ali, who owns a husky and a chow chow, has trained more than 10 dogs during the past four years. He says the dogs are not dangerous and people should not be scared of them.

"There's nothing to be frightened of. These are lovely animals," said Ali. "If I have a stressful day, I go home and play with my dogs. This makes me forget my day. To be able to share my hobby with others on this day is really rewarding."

Later, Ali and two other apprentices, Hussam Al Ghamdi and Nawaf Al Qahtani, demonstrated charisma in front of a packed audience by debating for and against keeping a dog at home.

The presentation included a small quiz about K-9 dogs, which apprentices an-

swered with impeccable zest. The event concluded with a recognition ceremony of the K-9 unit and a photo opportunity.

## paws for thought

JITC principal Peter Jones showed his admiration to the K-9 unit and apprentices.

"This K-9 event was an excellent opportunity for our apprentices to witness firsthand how the K-9 unit has trained dogs to protect our communities and the company's property," said Jones. "Not enough recognition is given to the people who protect us day in and day out. This is a perfect opportunity to show gratitude to all in Industrial Security."

JITC and the K-9 unit plan to continue this rapport by making its future campaigns bigger and better.

# Dhahran bike enthusiasts welcome two-wheel dealer

by Ching Yeh

**Dhahran** — The Central Community Services Department (CCSD) has opened a bike shop in Dhahran to help serve cycling enthusiasts.

The shop, located at building 1221A Ibis St., sells bicycles, accessories, and protection gear, offers bike rentals, and provides repair and maintenance. It operates from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

To celebrate the opening of the shop, a bike festival was recently organized by CCSD to promote cycling and raise awareness for bike safety. Cyclists in the community were invited to join the festival at King's Road Park from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"We put our heart and soul into every activity and project we organize to bring people together to engage with our diversified community," said Ali S. Al-Qahtani, acting supervisor of the Dhahran Recreation Unit, and an avid biker.

## 'promote cycling and well-being'

"The bike shop saves time and hassle for residents who now bring their bikes outside for repair," said Al-Qahtani. "We want to promote cycling and well-being in the community. Providing the services associated with the sport fosters our objective."

Rubina Khan-Dharsey, a mother of two, said her children's bikes have stayed in

the garage not used because it was "an impossible feat trying to coordinate my husband's availability, prayer times, and traffic" when she tried to take their bikes outside of the camp for repair.

"This new bike and repair shop is a huge win for our community and for kids who have been waiting patiently for their folks to repair their bikes," said Khan-Dharsey.

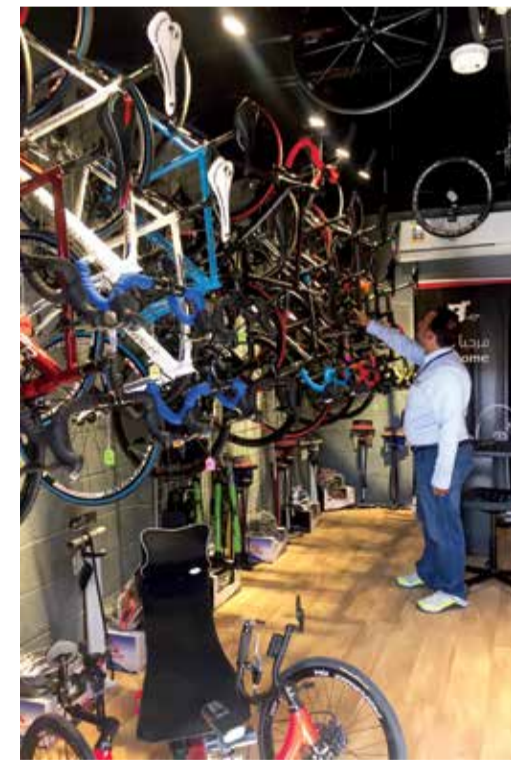
## highly anticipated

Dhahran cycling enthusiasts welcomed the opening of the shop as they "expected convenient and affordable sales and services to meet the communities cycling needs," said Christopher Walsh, president of the Dhahran Bicycle Club. "The club encourages all to shop first at the new local bike shop before considering outside options."

Cycling is not as popular in Saudi Arabia as it is in other countries, and the hope is that the bike shop will help to open the activity up to more people in the community.

"We can take the lead in promoting the sport for more Saudi to enjoy," said Al-Qahtani.

Apart from the health and social benefits of cycling, CCSD hopes to encourage people to use their bikes to commute, which could ease traffic and parking issues while also helping with the environment, he added.



Located at 1221A Ibis St. in Dhahran, the new bicycle shop in Dhahran has on offer bicycles, accessories, protection gear, bike rentals, and repair and maintenance services. "The bike shop saves time and hassle for residents who now bring their bikes outside for repair," said Ali-S. AlQahtani, who also noted the dedication the Central Community Services Department has had toward serving cycling enthusiasts in the community.

# Abqaiq horse association hosts sumptuous Chili Cook-Off

by Zoe Chiplin

**Abqaiq** — The Abqaiq Arabian Horse Association (AAHA) recently hosted its annual Chili Cook-Off, in collaboration with the Ninja Kids.

The heat was on to see who would be crowned this year's chili king or queen.

The competition was open to all Abqaiq residents and not limited to only the AAHA members. Competitors were invited to enter the competition with a homemade chili. The chilies entered could be spicy or non-spicy, meaty, vegetarian or vegan — all at the discretion of the cook.

## a twist in the competition

This year saw 11 chili entries and more than 200 community residents in attendance. In a twist to ensure that honest votes were made, cooks were asked to serve another competitor's chili.

First place in the cook-off went to Vanessa Contreras de Paz, with Huda Abdulkawy awarded second place, and Phil Yates

claiming third place.

The evening was full of activities for children to enjoy, including an obstacle course and pony rides, allowing for the adults to socialize and enjoy the evening.

Ryno Verster, the AAHA riding consultant, showcased his superb dressage skills in a dramatic musical performance on "Storm," which was certainly one of the highlights of the evening. Joining him was the head groom, Anwar Ali, who has been training with the consultant.

## AAHA summer program

AAHA board members are now busy planning for their summer programs, so keep an eye out for more information coming soon. In the meantime, for any further questions please feel free to visit and find out more about what the AAHA has to offer.

The AAHA continues to welcome new members and lessons are open to all age groups and abilities.



Crowds gather to taste the Abqaiq chefs' offerings in a variety of categories, including spicy, non-spicy, meaty, vegetarian, and vegan. More than 200 community residents were on hand to take in the festivities. The event featured a number of activities for children as well, including an obstacle course and pony rides.

# Aramcons put their talent on display in Abqaiq show

Judges work quickly to make their comments on one of the more than 15 acts that performed at the recent talent show in Abqaiq. Acts included singing, traditional dancing, musical instruments, comedy, Saudi Arabian traditional dance, and Indian classical dance.



by Nurhaina Radjodin

**Abqaiq** — The Abqaiq Recreation Services Unit (ARSU) recently hosted Abqaiq's talent in a show that featured a variety of acts.

The exciting event was held at the Deer Park with more than 3,000 people attending.

Saudi Aramco employees and their dependents were invited to enjoy the talent show and participate in various activities and games, such as mini soccer, a light-up dance floor, giant inflatable, kids play zone, and more. Food and refreshments were also

provided, such as Arabic tea and coffee.

More than 15 different acts performed in front of three judges to show their wonderful talents. Acts performed included singing, traditional dancing, musical instruments, comedy, Saudi Arabian traditional dance, and Indian classical dance.

First place in the talent show went to Saeed Al-Meeri for standup comedy. Second place was awarded to "Sa3doosh," which translated means singing with a guitar.

Shahebe Alam came in third place after performing a traditional Indian dance.

# hundreds of students share art and a recycling message

The Recycling Group in the Gardening and Sanitation Services Division of the Central Community Services Department looks to promote the concept of recycling and environmental stewardship among our youth in Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools (SAES) by organizing recycling-themed fun activities.

This year, a total of 533 SAES students between the ages of 2 and 14 took part in activities to commemorate Earth Day. Festivities included games and an arts competition.

There were 247 entries in the recycling arts competition from Abqaiq and Dhahran schools, where participants were required to design a poster that encourages recycling or create a model with recyclable materials. The winners who were chosen based on overall impression, innovation, originality, and delivery of the recycling message, received prizes and certificates.

In addition, presentations and other fun activities were conducted for 286 Dhahran preschoolers and Dhahran Daycare Center

pupils.

Saudi Aramco management extended its congratulations to all arts competition winners and thanked all of the participants for attending.

Also, appreciation was directed to art teacher Tom Rodriguez from Abqaiq School, Cristina Gonzalez and Michelle Gurule from the "Green Team" at Dhahran Hills Elementary School, Patricia Chavez from the Dhahran Daycare Center, and the Dhahran preschool, as well as all of the Saudi Aramco school principals for making their students available and providing them with the necessary support and inspiration during this event.

Art contest winners and their respective grade from Abqaiq were Callie Despain (4), Juan Carlos Minda (5), Giselle Caraballo (6), Sanubar Aliyeva (7), and Sierra Alto-Pedersen (8). Winners from Dhahran included Aya Akhras (3), Armin Hayer (3), Ibrahim Omar (2), Affan Burney (2), Andrea Liew (4), Beatrice Ann Silva (4), and Sebastian Ortiz (2).



Winners in the Recycling Group's Earth Day art contest from Abqaiq pose for a photo with art teacher Tom Rodriguez. The group received 247 entries this year from students in Abqaiq and Dhahran.



Affan Burney



Andrea Liew



Beatrice Ann Silva



Ibrahim Omar

**congratulations**  
to the winners  
from Abqaiq  
and Dhahran



Sebastian Ortiz

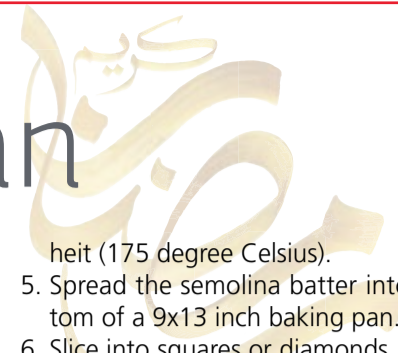


Aya Akhras



Armin Hayer

# offering up a taste of Ramadan



We all know that Ramadan is about prayers, fasting, and family, but of course, food plays a central role in activities over the Holy Month. Here are some Ramadan recipes that are delicious and certainly worth trying.

These recipes by **Munira Al Ashgar** are republished from the 2009 Dhahran Women's Group cookbook *Cuisine Caravanserai*.

## 1 | Baba Ganoush (Mutabbal)

### Ingredients:

- 4 eggplants, medium size
- ½ cup Tahini (sesame paste)
- Oil, lemon, salt, and garlic to taste
- Parsley and/or paprika (optional)

### Method:

1. Wrap each eggplant in aluminum foil.
2. Bake in a preheated oven at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for one hour or until eggplants are soft.
3. Let them cool, then peel off the skin.
4. Mash well to make a consistent paste. Add all other ingredients and mix well.
5. To serve: put in small serving bowls. Smooth top and depress center slightly. Add one tablespoon of olive oil into each bowl. Garnish with parsley and/or paprika. Use as a dip.

## 2 | Jareesh

### Ingredients:

- 4 cups Jareesh (split wheat grains), soaked in water
- 1 onion - cut in small pieces
- 1 kilogram of lamb - cut into cubes
- 10 cups water
- Black pepper, salt, and cube stock to taste
- 2 cups plain cream yogurt
- 100 grams butter
- 1 tablespoon dry lemon powder

### Method:

1. Fry onions until golden brown in color, reserve two tablespoons for topping.
2. Add lamb and fry for a few minutes. Add water.
3. When the lamb is tender, add pepper, salt, and cube stock. Add Jareesh and stir gently, on a low heat.
4. When the Jareesh is cooked, add 2 cups of plain cream yogurt and stir gently.
5. Heat butter. Pour butter, dry lemon powder, and leftover fried onions over the Jareesh.



## 3 | Al Kabsah

### Ingredients:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoon Bazar mix (special spice mix available in Middle Eastern or Saudi supermarkets)
- 1 ½ teaspoon lume aswad (powdered lime)
- 1 teaspoon cardamom
- 1 pound meat or chicken, cubed
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tomatoes - cut into small pieces
- 2 cups Peshawar rice
- 3 ½ cups water
- 4 tablespoons oil

### For garnishing:

- 2 tablespoons almonds • 2 tablespoons pine nuts • 2 onions • ¼ cup raisins

### Method:

1. In a deep pan, sauté the onion until translucent.
2. Soak the rice in warm water for 15 minutes.
3. Soak raisins in warm water for 15 minutes.
4. Add half of the Bazar mix, salt, lime, and cardamom and stir.
5. Add the meat or chicken and fry for 3 to 4 minutes; add salt and tomatoes, stir occasionally.
6. Cover the pan and let simmer on a medium heat until the tomatoes are dissolved.
7. Pour 3 ½ cups boiling water over the meat and cook over low heat until well done. Remove chicken or meat from the water.
8. Add soaked rice to the tomato and spice mix. Stir, so rice does not stick to the bottom of the pan. Boil over medium heat for about 3 minutes, then simmer on low for about 25 minutes.
9. Sauté the almonds in 2 tablespoons oil and keep aside. Sauté the pine nuts and keep aside, and finally, fry the 2 onions and keep aside.
10. Drain raisins and squeeze to remove excess water.
11. In a pan, add the raisins, the remainder of Bazar mix to the pine nuts and almond mix, and stir over low heat for 3 minutes.
12. To serve, plate the rice on a large platter and place meat on top.
13. Garnish with the nuts and onion mixture.

## 4 | Biryani Rice

### Ingredients:

- 1 whole chicken - cut into pieces
- 4 cups rice
- 2 big onions - cut into circular pieces
- 1 ¼ cup oil
- 2 fresh tomatoes - cut into slices
- 4 cubes chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- 3 pieces cloves
- 2 pieces cinnamon stick
- 4 pieces cardamom
- 2 pieces bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon chopped coriander

### Method:

1. Fry onions until brown in color, add the garlic.
2. Add chicken, tomatoes, and all other spices.
3. Cook on low heat until the chicken is cooked. Once cooked, remove the chicken and keep warm in the oven.
4. Boil the rice and when it is half cooked, add in the tomato and spice mixture.
5. Cover the pot and continue cooking until rice is completely cooked.
6. Plate the rice on a large platter and serve chicken on top.

## 5 | Basboosa

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 and ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 and ½ cup semolina flour
- 3 tablespoons flaked coconut
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 and ½ cup water
- 1 and ¾ cups white sugar
- 2 tablespoons rose water
- 6 whole almonds, split in half

### Method:

1. In a medium bowl, mix together the first set of ingredients: ½ cup sugar, yogurt, oil, semolina flour, flaked coconut, and baking powder. Set aside for 30 minutes.
2. In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, stir together: water, 1 and ¾ cups white sugar, and rosewater. Bring to a boil, and boil for 3 or 4 minutes.
3. Remove from heat, and set aside to cool. Bring to room temperature.
4. Preheat the oven to 350 degree Fahrenheit (175 degree Celsius).



heit (175 degree Celsius).

5. Spread the semolina batter into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking pan.
6. Slice into squares or diamonds, and place an almond half onto each piece.
7. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until light brown.
8. Switch the oven setting to broil, and broil until the top is golden, for 2 to 3 minutes.
9. Remove from the oven and pour rose and sugar syrup over the squares. Serve warm.

## 6 | Luqaimat

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon dry yeast
- ¼ cup warm water
- Pinch sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, beaten

### For syrup:

- 1 ½ cups sugar • 1 cup water • ½ teaspoon lemon juice

### Method:

1. Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water; keep aside for about 5 minutes.
2. Mix flour and salt. Add beaten egg and the dissolved yeast.
3. Knead well with your hands, until the mixture is very smooth. Cover and keep in warm place for 2-3 hours.
4. In a deep frying pan, pour 3 inches of oil and heat until very hot. Dip a tablespoon in cold water and then scoop out ½ tablespoon of the dough and drop into hot oil. The dough will swell and float to the top. Turn the ball to ensure that all sides are fried. Continue until all the dough is used.
5. Remove the Luqaimat balls when golden brown.
6. Meanwhile, make the syrup by dissolving 1 ½ cups of sugar in 1 cup water. Bring to boil.
7. Add ½ teaspoon of lemon juice. Simmer on low heat for 15-20 minutes. Let it cool down.
8. Pour over the Luqaimat balls and serve immediately.

## 7 | Date bars

### Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups flour
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons yansoon (anise)
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- 1 egg
- 2 cups seedless dates
- ½ cup sesame seeds
- Additional quantities of powdered: 1 teaspoon yansoon (anise); 1 teaspoon cinnamon; 1 teaspoon nutmeg

### Method:

1. Mix all the dry ingredients: flour, icing sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, anise, and nutmeg.
2. Add shortening or butter and mix well.
3. Add in the evaporated milk and eggs. Knead well with your hands.
4. Spread half the dough in a 9x13 inch baking pan, pressing down the bottom.
5. In a separate bowl, mix dates, half of the sesame seeds, and spices: anise, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
6. Spread the date mixture into the pan, pressing down lightly.
7. Spread the remaining flour dough into the pan, over the date mixture.
8. Sprinkle with remaining sesame seeds.
9. Place in a pre-heated of 350 degree Fahrenheit oven and bake for 30 minutes.
10. Cut into one-inch squares and serve.

**King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture**  
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# Ithra movies

**in cinema**

**Ithra Heroes Adventure**

A collection of engaging children's animations that integrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

May 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29 1 p.m.

**Predator X**

After a startling discovery in southern England, scientists investigate the skull of what could be one of the largest marine predators ever discovered.

May 23, 27, 28 1:25 p.m., 9 p.m.

**Peter Pan: The Quest for the Never Book**

To get the best of the day filled with fun and folly, the traditional Pichipock games have been organized for the Lost Boys, Native Tribes, Peter, Tinker Bell, and the Darling family.

May 25, 27, 28 1:25 p.m., 11 p.m.

**David Attenborough's First Life - Part 1**

David Attenborough takes a journey back in time to discover how the very first animals developed on our planet.

May 19 9:30 p.m.

**David Attenborough's First Life - Part 2**

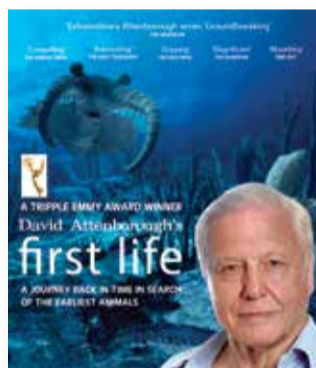
David Attenborough takes a journey back in time to discover how the very first animals developed on our planet.

May 22, 23, 24, 25 9:30 p.m.

**The Little Vampire**

The story of Rudolph, a 13-year old vampire, whose clan is threatened by a notorious vampire hunter. He meets Tony, a mortal of the same age, who is fascinated by old castles, graveyards and - vampires.

May 23, 24, 25, 29 11 p.m.



**Energy Exhibit Theater**



**Conquest of the Skies**

Evolutionary story of flight from the very first insects to the incredible array of creatures, which rule the skies today.

May 23, 25, 27, 24 1 p.m., 10 p.m.



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