

# the arabian sun

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## Aramco Trading Company opens office in Fujairah

Strategic opening of new facility in the United Arab Emirates provides center for storage and blending activities in "optimum location."

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## Volunteer spirit on display during Ramadan

The Apprentice Program for Non-Employees with Saudi Aramco's Industrial Training Department participate in food drive campaign to help the Kingdom's needy.

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# celebrating the spirit of 'Id

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## NAOO launches new integrated vessel control center

The Marine Department adopts revamped business model that enhances offshore operations, allowing for more effective utilization of vessels.

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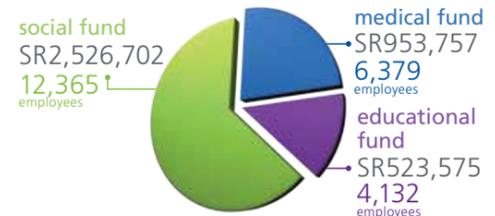
## OPEC basket five-week price trend 2019



## Saudi Aramco by the numbers

**SR4,004,034**

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



Building on the success of the donation campaign during Ramadan, we invite everyone to continue giving and have your contributions matched by the company.

# Aramco Trading Company opens Fujairah office in UAE



At the inauguration of the Aramco Trading office in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates: Mohammed Al-Mulhim, vice president, Supply and Trading, Aramco Trading Co.; Ibrahim Q. Al-Buainain, president and CEO, Aramco Trading Co.; Abdulaziz M. Al-Judaimi, Aramco Trading Co. chairman of the board and senior vice president of Downstream with Saudi Aramco, Abdulaziz M. Al-Judaimi, and ATC president and CEO Ibrahim Q. Al-Buainain in attendance. ATC's expansion plans are expected to propel the Dhahran-based company into the top tier of global fuel trading companies. The wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Aramco opened the office in the UAE's Fujairah as part of a global push into new markets to secure buyers for refined products as well as crude oil.

**Fujairah** — Aramco Trading Co. (ATC), which expects to see its oil trading volume rise to 6 million barrels per day (bpd) by next year, has opened its second international office in Fujairah with the firm's chairman and senior vice president of Downstream with Saudi Aramco, Abdulaziz M. Al-Judaimi, and ATC president and CEO Ibrahim Q. Al-Buainain in attendance.

ATC's expansion plans are expected to propel the Dhahran-based company into the top tier of global fuel trading companies. The wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Aramco opened the office in the UAE's Fujairah as part of a global push into new markets to secure buyers for refined prod-

ucts, as well as crude oil.

The new facility, Aramco Trading Fujairah (ATF), will handle all Aramco Trading gasoline and fuel oil storage and blending activities. The opening ceremony was also attended by local dignitaries, including Sharief Habib Al Awadhi, director general of the Fujairah Free Zone, Capt. Mousa Morad, managing director of the Port of Fujairah, and Capt. Salem Abdullah Al Hamoudi, director of the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone.

"We've been in Fujairah for a number of years and as our trading business expands globally — between Singapore, Saudi Arabia, London, and Houston — we

trade across different time zones, and with Fujairah as the center of our blending operations, we thought it's important to be here physically doing trading as a business in Fujairah," said Al-Judaimi. "We are very happy with the relationships here — be it with our clients, our suppliers and the government — they have been very open and have welcomed us to be here for many years."

"Aramco Trading has experienced significant growth in recent years," said Al-Buainain. "We started in 2012 with 600,000 to 700,000 bpd and now we're operating at more than 4 million bpd — and as the downstream business grows to the level that we want to reach 8-10 million bpd — Aramco Trading will grow together with that business."

"At Fujairah, we have a growing business that started with 100,000 bpd and now we have 350,000 bpd between gasoline and fuel oil. So, for this reason, Fujairah would be the optimum location that is close to our assets and close to the free zone."

The inauguration of the new office facility comes only a month after Aramco Trading announced that it had sold its first LNG cargo — the first of many more to come.

In 2012, ATC was established to market refined products, and bulk petrochemicals. Beginning with refined products from its overseas refineries in the past years, leading them to introduce trading non-Saudi crude oil in 2017 as the world's largest oil exporter successfully optimizes profits.

As the UAE's only emirate on the Arabian Sea coast, Fujairah is at the heart of the new energy corridor opening east of Suez to Asia. The emirate is already established as a world-scale storage and bunkering center alongside Rotterdam and Singapore, and is set to benefit in the next few years from plans to expand crude and petroleum product facilities to avail of the state-of-the-art physical infrastructure on offer.

## your voice

# you never know which train station stop will be the final one



by Mohammed D. Al-Yami  
Dhahran

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Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.

The train is about to arrive at its predetermined speedy and wonderful journey, with memories of access to the 1920s and '30s stations in mind.

The strange thing about this trip is that the train's captain does not know at which of the upcoming stations will be the end of his journey!

He did not receive a schedule, nor a clear map of this unique trip and there was no duration determined as well. He was only instructed to continue to lead the train until further notice!

Of course, this poor leader did not have the option of doing so, but in return he has all the right tools to reach his destination safely if he carefully follows the safety and security instructions on this journey.

The train is really speedy and passes

by the stations one by one at a glance!

The orders to stop and improvise from the cabin will come at any time during this strange journey. For the captain's lack of awareness, he doesn't have the appropriate preparations to leave his train, where he spent his life's years and lived moments of happiness, sadness, intensity, and relaxation.

During this trip, there are some signals and signs along the route to alert the captain to the existence of intersections and dangerous places, giving him the opportunity to take care and slow down. Unfortunately, most of the time, the leader passes these signals without any consideration.

The journey routes are many and varied — some are short and some are long, some are smooth and interesting,

while others are filled with difficulties and sharp twists.

The arrival stations are diverse. Some are spacious and have beautiful views of the green areas, while some are stations filled with the monsters and darkness. Arrivals to such stations may make one regret to know that this path was not the right one, and they might be standing in a very long queue waiting for another chance to take another train to another station better than this one.

This is a short journey of human life from the train ride until reaching the departure lounge. The conscious leader takes this opportunity to leave a good reputation at work, family, and social levels, and may leave a special footprint and unforgettable memories.



Hussain N. Alazmi



Talal A. Al-Mansour



Muaad I. Bilal



Talea Abu Sharara



Faisal F. Aldossary



Nader A. Alanizi



Ahmad Al Jaafer



Hassan M. Alwheeb

## NAOO young industrial employees showcase their talent

Zuhair Kaaki and Ali Almansour

**Tanajib** — Under the theme “Experience Take-off,” more than 160 participants recently attended the Northern Area Oil Operations (NAOO) Quarterly Industrial Technical Exchange workshop at Marjan Hall in Tanajib.

The workshop acts as a platform for the young employees to share knowledge through their success stories, best practices, innovative ideas, and lessons learned to establish a business network between different disciplines and facilities, while also building a wider understanding of the business processes at an early career stage.

With only six months of experience with the company, Abdullah A. Bahakeem was tasked with serving as master of ceremonies for the event. Bahakeem kicked off the workshop with words of appreciation, before highlighting the objectives of the workshop while noting the importance of safety in a safety moment.

“I believe the gathering of such talents with different disciplines and from several locations under one roof is definitely very effective when it comes to sharing our experiences, knowledge, innovative ideas, and best practices — through cultivating the sharing culture that inspire and create ways of demonstrating the young talent,” said Talal A. Al-Mansour, head of the NAOO Human Resources Development Division.

In delivering welcoming remarks, Al-Mansour also noted the importance of such an event as it builds a wider understanding of the business at an early career stage.

### safety, then development, are second to none

Ali S. Al-Ajmi, general manager of Safaniyah Area Producing, thanked the attendees as well as NAOO division heads and unit heads for their time and efforts to deliver the best training and development

to prepare and certify the employees.

“We have one task that is always in our mind, and it is how to make your life safer, more productive, and enjoyable,” said Al-Ajmi, who also took the time to have a direct dialog and interactive session with the participants.

Al-Ajmi highlighted that safety and everyone’s well-being are the most important aspects in our daily business. He indicated that it is not a proper behavior when people are over engaged with their mobiles during working hours, and putting their job safety as a second priority.

“We allow you to develop and feel a sense of empowerment and contribution, and we trust you to give your best in taking proper actions in your career,” said Al-Ajmi.

He encouraged the attendees to exert more time in training to be successful in their career and to achieve their goals.

Mansour F. Al-Dossary, Safaniyah Onshore Producing manager, encouraged the young employees to stay focused.

“Keep these three tips in mind at all times. First, the importance of maintaining workplace safety as a key factor for successful business. Second, enroll in technical courses to help you play a pivotal role in field activities, and third, collaborate with your colleagues to develop teamwork.”

### inspiring personal stories of achievement

The event was not limited to technical topics.

Muaad I. Bilal, an admin clerk with the Safaniyah Offshore Producing Department (SOFPD), shared an inspiring story of his journey with a team that emerged as winners of the Wa’ed Hackathon.

Keeping the same level of enthusiasm in the hall, Talea Abu Sharara — who graduated two months ago and works as a field service operator with SOFPD — spoke



Ali S. Al-Ajmi



Mansour F. Al-Dossary

about his triumph in the 2018 Jiddah marathon.

### sharing the knowledge and exchanging expertise

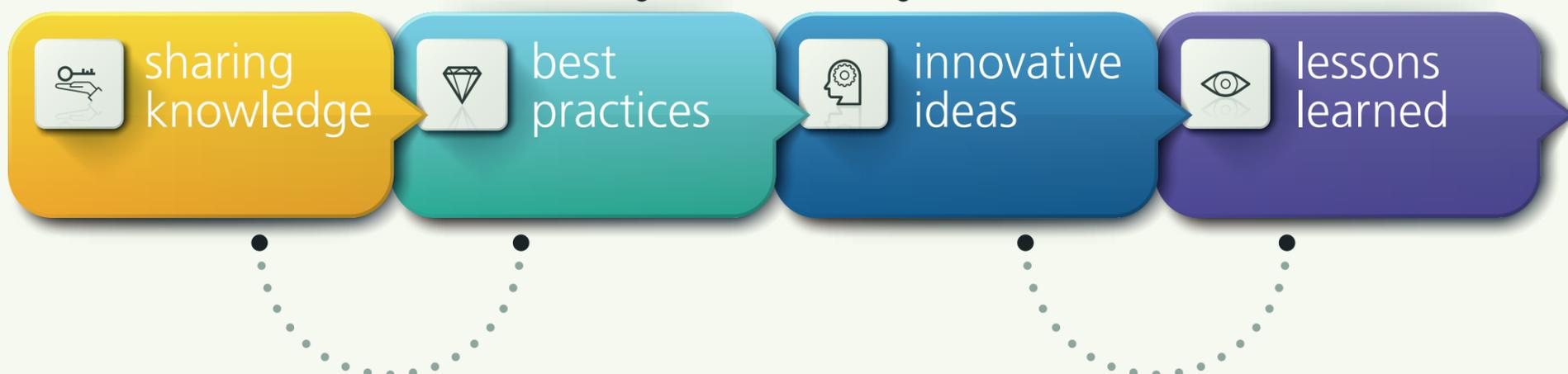
During the event, six technical presentations were delivered.

Faisal F. Aldossary, an instrument technician, presented on a new type of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) detector (electrochemical), while Nader A. Alanizi shared information on the LIP seal guide ring — a simple, yet effective, tool. Mohammed A. Alotaibi provided an overview of some of the latest inspection programs.

Ahmad Al Jaafer presented on innovative solutions for an ESD battery charger, and he was followed by Hassan M. Alwheeb, who discussed the benefits of the Asset Management System in remote fields. Hussain N. Alazmi closed the technical presentation session with an explanation of the H<sub>2</sub>S Detection System Simulator.

“The forum encouraged young employees to exert more time in training to be successful in their career and to achieve their goals.”

The workshop acts as platform for young employees for...



# improving our offshore operations with a new integrated vessel control center

by Zouhair Kaaki

**Dhahran** — Saudi Aramco's offshore operations has observed a sustained expansion during the preceding decade, and projected oil and gas production figures are set to rise by 9% and 86%, respectively, by the end of 2019.

Through the associated increase in offshore infrastructure, significant strains have been placed on the existing Marine Fleet Management model and associated facilities.

Above and beyond, Marine's operations has also seen a sharp increase in its demands due to the increase of ac-

sive action research study, the development of a field complexity index based on customer forecast, process mapping, and gap analysis. The study identified the major areas of concern, which included individual assignment of vessels, increasing demand on vessels, low vessel utilization, and escalation of cost.

The business model in use for NAOO operations was effective, but further optimization to efficiently make use of its resources was essential. A revamping of the business model in practice was completed with the adoption of a more transparent business model between NAOO

performance of individuals and departments. The implementation of the KPIs and monitoring on a regular basis of the performance indicators reflected on a high degree of utility, as well as a massive interest for performance evaluation.

## cost savings of more than \$300 million

The new operation business model was presented as the Integrated Offshore Operation Vessel Control Center (IOOVCC). The primary purpose of the NAOO Marine business model is to identify fleet optimization through a shared resource model.

The new business model provides better resource allocation and boosts utilization for operations to be aligned with Saudi Aramco's corporate objectives of maximizing profitability.

The concept of the initiative is one that will permit resource sharing between NAOO divisions. This is achieved through a unified business platform that collectively assigns marine services for NAOO divisions simultaneously, which will in effect lead to higher utilization without disrupting current flow of the operations.

In July 2018, a soft launch of the model commenced with the structure of a control tower involving seven departments was assembled to lead NAOO Marine's new business model. The IOOVCC established communication with offshore entities, sharing activities among offshore divisions, enhancing optimization, and increasing the utilization of Marine assets.

In December 2018, there was a Go-Live announcement of two major systems — the Corporate Offshore Operations GIS and IOOVCC, and the Vessel Scheduling Cockpit.

These two modules are part of the Integrated Offshore Operations Management Project initiated by SAP to accomplish much higher levels of operational efficiency. This project, when completed as planned in June 2019, will result in a cost savings of an estimated \$309 million net present value.

The Corporate Offshore Operations GIS will enable the users of the newly established IOOVCC to visualize all work order details on each well platform and gas-oil separation plant, along with assigned Marine vessel names with real-time vessel locations and order completion status.

Order data, along with the Marine vessel assignment for each order, is transferred to GIS to help users visualize work order data in a near real-time mode.

This will help planners and schedulers from all offshore producing departments to visually analyze the type of work orders and quantum of work to be executed on offshore assets along with the estimated dates of completion for each work order.

The offshore operations' vessel scheduling system has been rolled out in SAP to the IOOVCC team to help them find opportunities to utilize marine vessels more effectively by providing a complete overview of all work orders from all offshore departments, covering all processes with a complete list of Marine vessels under the custody of Offshore Producing with real-time vessel location details utilizing the new GIS capability.

excellence



A 2019 President's Excellence Award winner



Saleh A. Al Ghamdi presents on "NAOO Offshore Resources Optimization Initiatives" during a review by management of the new Integrated Offshore Operation Vessel Control Center.



A coordinated effort between the Marine Department and NAOO, the center identifies fleet optimization through a shared resource model, providing better resource allocation and boosting utilization of operations.

tivity by its proponents. This increase of motion has in return resulted in a steady growth in the forecasted services by users, including the admin area of Northern Area Oil Operations (NAOO).

The escalation of Marine resources and offshore logistics requirements, along with the complexity of offshore oil and gas fields in term of location, draft restriction, and weather factors, prompted upper management to look at streamlining the business model.

A collaboration between NAOO and Marine resulted in assigning a collective team from both Offshore Producing and Marine to evaluate initiatives that can transform the company's offshore activities into a leaner, more agile, cost conscious, risk managed, and optimized operation.

## working together for optimal logistics

In December 2016, a collective team from various NA Offshore Producing and Marine departments was assigned. The NAOO team was driven by Ali A. Al Ajmi, Safaniyah Area Producing general manager, and the Marine Department, which was run by acting manager Khalid Al Mohsen.

The team reviewed all operations and logistics practices to ascertain the optimal fleet composition and proposed a modified business model by employing certain concepts such as a compre-

hensive action research study, the development of a field complexity index based on customer forecast, process mapping, and gap analysis. The study identified the major areas of concern, which included individual assignment of vessels, increasing demand on vessels, low vessel utilization, and escalation of cost.

## beating the deadline

In June 2017, a soft launch of the project between offshore NA Gas Operations and Offshore Northern Area well service started. The supply vessels from the individual division joined the Marine Logistics Unit, turning from an asset base to service base. The Marine Logistics Unit optimized the vessel supply pattern by providing the service as required to avoid delays caused by material delivery to Offshore Producing operations.

In April 2017, while the soft launch was progressing, an Information Technology (IT) solution was developed in stages. It was one of the major challenges, as the time frame for project completion was estimated at 18 months. The IT development team's "Hydrocarbon Group Development Solution" was eager to beat the deadline, and the project was accomplished in eight months. The new SAP system went live in August 2017.

The Safaniyah Offshore Maintenance Services Division joined the service base concept by releasing its Marine asset to the Marine Logistics Unit in September 2017.

As a final point, key performance indicators (KPIs) were adopted to understand the level of fulfillment of strategic objectives reporting and transparency of results, while also assessing the perfor-

# Saudi Aramco, Harvard Business School program looks to boost company's leadership potential

**Dhahran** — In an effort to accelerate the development of the company's emerging leaders, Saudi Aramco's Management Development Division (MDD), in alliance with the Harvard Business School, recently launched the "Emerging Leader Program — Community One" for 50 participants.

The program offers nominated grade code 12 and 13 employees an opportunity to develop leadership capabilities and learn cutting-edge skills relevant to today's global business climate. It is a seven-month blended learning program in Dhahran with a mix of in-person and virtual sessions via WebEx.

The program consists of four modules, addressing such topics as strategic thinking, global perspective, relationship management, collaboration, execution, and personal leadership.

Each module features an address by the Saudi Aramco executive sponsor, Yasser M. Mufti, vice president of Strategy and Market Analysis; a virtual lecture by a top Harvard professor; and an in-person workshop with a Harvard moderator. It also includes application exercises and peer learning in teams of five.

## investing in developing leadership

The launch event featured opening remarks by Human Resources executive director Nabil K. Al Dabal, who congratulated the participants on being selected, highlighting Saudi Aramco's commitment to developing leaders and reminding the participants of the importance of taking this opportunity to invest in their leadership capability.

Al Dabal was followed by Vinay Hebbar, senior vice president of Harvard Business Publishing, who emphasized the importance of "learning agility" to leadership development success.



Nabil K. Al Dabal congratulates participants in the "Emerging Leader Program — Community One," which was recently launched in Dhahran. Al Dabal highlighted the company's commitment to developing leaders, reminding the participants of the importance of taking advantage of such opportunities to invest in their leadership capability. (Photo: Moayed Al-Qattan/MPD)

Mufti then spoke about the increasing importance of collaboration — both within and across boundaries. He was followed by moderator Robert Huasmann, who led a case study workshop.

The presentations were closed out with a virtual faculty session on "Collaborating for Competitive Advantage" with Harvard professor Jeff Polzer.

## participants praise program

The launch event, which included the module one workshop, was very well-received by management and participants alike.

"Module one of the program focuses on collaboration within teams through team exercises and discussions, and it offers great insights from the Harvard Business School faculty. Additionally, the case studies we are working on are particularly beneficial due to their relevancy to our present challenges," said participant Ghadah Hamidi.

"The Harvard-Saudi Aramco Emerging Leader Program is wisely structured and has the potential to influence future leaders of Saudi Aramco," said participant Hesham Hesham.

"The Harvard Alliance and Emerging

Leader Program is a very positive step toward developing Saudi Aramco's future leaders through participation in meaningful ways. Also, it is an opportunity to translate our passion and vision into reality," added participant Basim Harbi.

## a worthy partnership

Christian J. Hobson, head of the MDD, said Saudi Aramco is proud to be working with a university that holds such high esteem globally.

"We are immensely proud to be working with a school with an educational heritage of over 100 years old and is consistently rated as one of the top business schools in the world," said Hobson, adding that the Harvard Business School Emerging Leader Program is one of many planned interventions and connections that Saudi Aramco will have with the school — ranging from tailored programs on the Boston campus, to accessing online learning modules and case studies.

"We're looking to ensure that employees and leaders alike benefit from their exceptional offerings and teachings."

Program coordinator Afnan Abushaheen echoed Hobson's comments.

"It is such a privilege to work on this exciting initiative with a preeminent top-tier business school, partnering to accelerate the capabilities of our talent in Saudi Aramco, the Kingdom, and beyond," said Abushaheen.

Program leader Stephen McIntosh said it is a great opportunity for Saudi Aramco's emerging leaders to build a foundation of leadership knowledge and perspective that will help them throughout their careers.

"This experience is further enhanced by the launch of the community, which will continue beyond the program to provide further development and an invaluable peer network," said McIntosh.

# Aramco wins top honor for supporting next generation mobility research in Japan

Aramco was recently recognized for its extraordinary contribution in support of developing next generation mobility for the well-being of the public by being awarded the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon under the name of the Emperor of Japan.

The conferral of the Medal of Honor is in recognition of Aramco's out-of-Kingdom commitment to Chiba University in 2017 for research and development in the field of the internal combustion engine for next-generation mobility.

Aramco Asia Japan (AAJ), headed by representative director Omar M. Al Amudi, recently visited Chiba University's main campus in Nishi-Chiba, about 30 miles east of central Tokyo. The university — a national university with approximately 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students — was established in 1949 under the current format, but could date its origin back to 1872.

Chiba University is known for its unconventional approach, such as being the first university in Japan that permitted grade skipping. One of its unique academic areas is its study on the combustion engine power train, enhanced by having its own

research lab within the campus parameter.

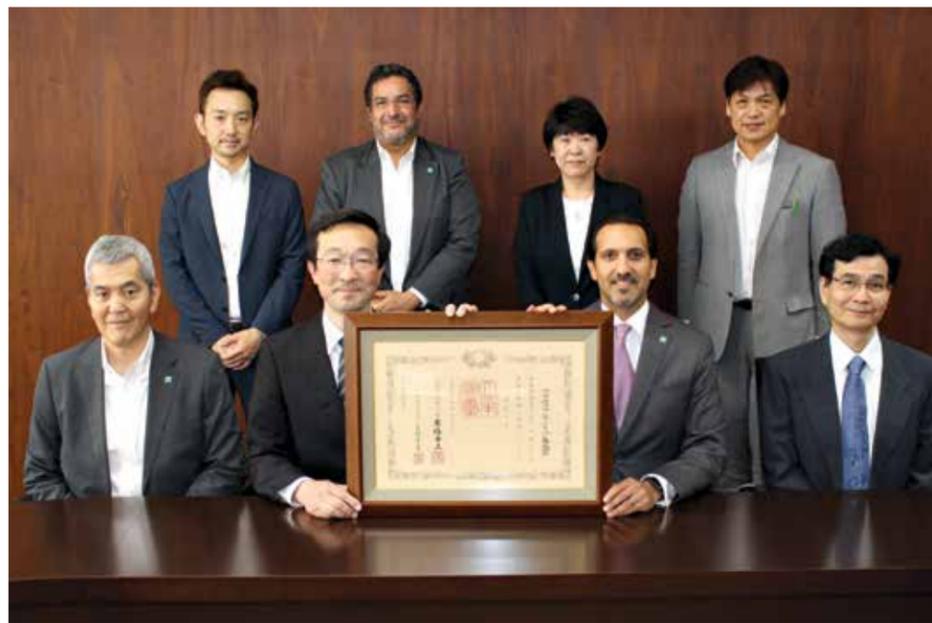
Along with the AAJ participants, professor Yukihiro Sato, the university's vice president, and Yasuo Moriyoshi, director of the university's Center for Power Source Research for Next Generation Mobility, also attended the award ceremony.

The medal is awarded to individuals and/or companies that have made exceptionally generous contributions for the good of the public, conferred after the Decoration Bureau of the Cabinet Office has screened the candidates recommended by all relevant ministries for the Imperial sanction of the Emperor.

## driving cleaner, further with less

"Saudi Aramco continues its quest for unlocking the potential of fuels to enable energy savings and emissions reductions, and it is an honor to support one of the most renowned internal combustion engine research and development institutes in Japan to achieve its goal," Al Amudi said after receiving the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon from Sato.

Moriyoshi highlighted the importance of the internal combustion engine and



AAJ representative director Omar M. Al Amudi, (seated, second from right) joins AAJ members and representatives of Chiba University for the presentation of the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon.

low octane fuel as an efficient key energy source in the transportation sector, emphasizing that fossil energy sources would

continue to be competitive with the advancement of fuel efficiency with low carbon dioxide emissions.

# 'Biggest Loser Contest'

## 2019 D&WO Health Awareness Campaign

by Najwa Sharyoufi

**Abqaiq** — As we hustle through daily life, pursuing our goals and ambitions, our health seldom comes up in the priority list. But if we really think about it, health should be our top priority in our daily to-do list.

So, to celebrate health and promote a healthy lifestyle, the Gas Drilling Engineering Department (GDED) recently recognized two employees who achieved the best results in its "Bigger Loser Contest."

The winners were Husain Buwaidi, who lost 40 kilograms (kg) in a one-year period, and Tarab Ali, who lost 28 kg in the same period. The two were recognized at the Drilling and Workover (D&WO) Gas Team's annual meeting, which was attended by D&WO vice president Abdul Hameed A. Al-Rushaid, chief drilling engineer Khalid A. Al Abdulgader, and D&WO Operations general manager Omar S. Al Husaini, as well as managers and the staff members from various departments.

### in pursuit of physical and mental well-being

A healthy lifestyle doesn't only benefit the individual, but also their families, co-workers, and society at large. Those who eat healthy foods, exercise regularly, and avoid harmful habits generally fulfill their duties at home, at work, and in society as a whole.

Well-being is more than merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It is a resource for everyday life.

One of the most effective guides for individuals to achieve a healthy lifestyle and well-being is by maintaining the recommended body weight in alignment with an individual's body mass index (BMI). However, even as fitness plans, diets, and meal programs are ubiquitous, shedding extra pounds can be difficult, especially for those juggling a busy career and family.

### a journey toward well-being

The journey toward well-being for the



The journey toward well-being for the D&WO Gas Team started following the department's annual meeting.



Husain Buwaidi

D&WO Gas Team started last year, following the department's annual meeting in January. Ali, one of GDED's drilling engineers, bravely spoke of his personal struggle to maintain a healthy weight, and his story prompted a discussion with all agreeing that a healthy workforce should be part of D&WO's initiatives moving forward.



Tarab Ali

At the suggestion of GDED manager Faisal N. Al Nughaimish, a department level contest was organized, giving the employees an opportunity to compete at achieving their desired weight goal safely and in alignment with their individual BMI.

Starting in February 2018, more than 60 enthusiastic employees based in 'Udhailiyah,

Abqaiq, and Dhahran enrolled in the competition titled the "Biggest Loser Contest." Weight measurements were recorded on a weekly basis to track progress.

Participants were advised that the approved methods of losing weight were the safe methods of healthy choices in both food and exercise. The tracking sheet was shared among the participants to encourage competition and support within the group.

### group therapy

Participating in a group challenge has advantages. The American Psychological Association has shown that social support from a peer group can help individuals lose weight, as a group setting provides greater support and encouragement among members, sharing of information to enhance progress, a feeling of shared purpose and commitment, and the lifting of individual spirits through role models.

This aspect helped some participants achieve their desired weight goal in a healthy and safe way. The combined weight loss for the department was more than 200 kg. Apart from the weight loss, the participants encouraged each other to exercise together and lead a more active lifestyle — both at work and home.

### the way forward

The GDED healthy lifestyle and well-being contest showed the potential of achieving optimum health goals in a safe, encouraging, and fun way — especially when everyone joins together as one team.

With the success of the GDED program in 2018, D&WO responded to a call by Al-Rushaid to expand the contest to all D&WO departments, as employees again compete with each other while adopting optimum fitness regimens and healthy lifestyles.

Healthy living shouldn't be a lonely pursuit. It is better together, as last year's contest proved.

## runners hit the road in Abqaiq 5-kilometer 'Fun Run'

by Shahid Shah

**Abqaiq** — The Abqaiq Recreation Services Unit recently hosted a 5-kilometer Fun Run for Eastern Province 11+ employees and their dependents.

There was a special team invited to participate — The Eastern Walking team — who volunteer their time to encourage and promote healthy walking.

The Eastern Walking team came in third out of 280 teams in the Saudi Voluntarism National Awards, which is a tremendous achievement. More than 100 participants — both young and not so young — joined the fun run to make it a great success.



Runners of varying skill levels from across the Eastern Province take part in the Abqaiq Recreation Services Unit's 5-kilometer Fun Run. More than 100 participants joined the run to make it a huge success. (Photo: Jayson Gonzales)

# ITD apprentice volunteers are key drivers of Corporate Social Responsibility

by Khaalid Dunston

**Jiddah** — On May 16, Apprentice Program Non-Employees (APNE) from the Jiddah, Mubarraz, and Riyadh Industrial Training Centers (JITC) teamed up to support Joy of Youth, a local Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) that shares Saudi Aramco's value of citizenship, and being a positive influence within communities.

Operational Excellence (OE) and how Saudi Aramco goes above and beyond to be a role model in business, economic, and social development provides the central focus of APNE participation in volunteering projects. The Joy of Youth food distribution project provides food to needy families across the country.

## Citizenship: A Saudi Aramco core value supporting OE

More than 75 APNEs and Industrial Training Department (ITD) staff volunteers and 115 Joy of Youth volunteers assembled in the three cities of Riyadh, Jiddah, and al-Hasa. Volunteers gathered at a packaging point where meals were assembled and packed in a manner that allowed for easy transportation. Volunteers then boarded buses to some of the cities' underprivileged neighborhoods and distributed meals to needy residents.

The Holy Month of Ramadan is a time for giving and character development, which leads to many charitable and volunteering activities taking place across the Kingdom. The event empowered apprentices and encouraged social responsibility and community pride.

"Saudi Aramco has a long tradition of active engagement in the community," said Ibrahim Attiah, a superintendent and ITD OE champion for corporate social responsibility. "Giving back is an important part of our values and corporate culture. Thanks to solid partnerships established with various



Apprentice Program for Non-Employees package meals for the needy before heading out to distribute them in various locations in the Kingdom.

internal and external organizations, we are able to make a difference in the community this Ramadan."

"Ramadan is definitely a busy season for our volunteer work," said Saeed Azhar, founder of Joy of Youth.

The Ramadan food distribution is primarily intended to provide essential meals to needy fasting families during Ramadan.

The group began by distributing iftar meals in Jiddah and then gradually expanded to 10 cities in the Kingdom, including: Makkah, Tabuk, al-Hasa, Dammam, al-Khobar, Hail, Abha, Riyadh, and Madinah.

Azhar, along with a group of young Saudi students in the U.S., founded Joy of Youth in 2013. The volunteer campaigns were conducted in Ohio, Virginia, Oregon, and Washington, D.C.

APNEs and Joy of Youth volunteers split

into teams to knock on doors and hand meals to passersby. All of the meals were quickly distributed, resulting in many happy and grateful beneficiaries. Children ran past each other in their haste to get a meal that contained a variety of healthy food items. By sunset, volunteers had distributed over 2,000 meals to needy residents.

"Apprentice volunteers are passionate about making a difference in their community. They have committed time outside of their training hours to participate and help organize activities to give back to less fortunate members of the community," said Khaalid Dunston, ITD OE subject matter expert. "Partnerships were forged with community assets to leverage different NGOs' best practices and ensure that volunteering opportunities for our apprentices have the greatest possible impact on the people in

our community."

"Being a part of the Ramadan meal distribution to less fortunate people in our community has been a fulfilling experience," said JITC APNE Feras Khan. "It was great to see the residents smile. Volunteering can be really hard work, but we pulled together as a team and put our best effort in to give back to those in need."

"The distribution of Ramadan meals to needy families embodies our commitment to our corporate value of Citizenship," said Muad Badran, superintendent of the Southern Area Industrial Training Division. "By delivering these meals, our apprentices are embracing the spirit of giving when they spend their time and effort to aid the less fortunate."

## Safety: Another Saudi Aramco core value

Apprentices were advised to get plenty of rest the night before the activity and observe all traffic signs, rules, and regulations. They were also reminded to watch out for other drivers on the roads.

"Through lending a hand to those who are less fortunate, our apprentice volunteers have stepped up as always to put a smile on the faces of underprivileged members of our society," said Industrial Skills instructor Abdullah Sholan, who is with the Jiddah Job Skills Training Unit. "I felt a tremendous source of pride for them and their Joy of Youth counterparts for participating in the Ramadan meal distribution initiative. These initiatives show the local community that Saudi Aramco truly cares and will lend a hand wherever and whenever we can."

Plans are currently underway to provide apprentices across ITD with volunteer training, which will establish the minimum competencies and skills they need to function effectively as part of the ITD volunteering program.

# NGPD conducts Innovation Day Campaign

by Genesis Monterde

**Abqaiq** — Abqaiq's North Ghawar Producing Department (NGPD) continuously strives to promote an innovative culture among its employees, and recently conducted a campaign to further explore the significance of innovation with more than 100 personnel and NGPD management in attendance.

The objective was to highlight the department's efforts in cultivating an innovative culture, and recognize out-of-the-box ideas that have been approved and implemented as a result of previous campaigns.

The program encourages employees to identify creative solutions that would not only address department challenges and operational issues, but the company as a whole. Participation in the campaign continues to rise every year, with approximately 100 ideas approved and implemented by the department.

Ideas that were approved during 2018 were recognized by NGPD manager Abdulaziz U. Al-Saleh, and shared within the 2018 innovation booklet.

## innovation showcased

During the event, several promising ideas were showcased.

Jasseem H. Abdullah, a machinist technician, demonstrated a "Lifting Stand for Charge Pump Mechanical Seal and Hub Removal."

Abdullah explained that there are certain issues that arise when replacing the mechanical seal. One solution to this, he said, is to fabricate an in-house developed moveable lift that can easily raise the hub and mechanical seal safely with minimal effort.

Ali Z. Haddad, a process control systems technician with NGPD, suggested the installation of a ground fault detection loop on critical plant instrumentation to detect faulty ground loops. This would serve as an early warning to prevent false plant trips due to moisture buildup inside critical emergency shutdown loops.

Another idea showcased involves enhancing the static equipment pipeline integrity and improve the life cycle by providing a corrosion inhibitor injection mechanism without the need of conventional injection system requirements.

The conventional setup is costly and imposes several challenges such as security of the equipment, regular filling, monitoring, and additional equipment to maintain. The innovative idea is to have a static corrosion inhibitor system, where a simple filling point is modified and would provide a constant chemical treatment and protec-



Members of NGPD management, including Nasser Subaie, Abdul Aziz Jurais, Abdullah Mahasher, Bandar Suhibani, Khalid Buradha, and other key personnel gather around Mohammed Basha while he demonstrates an innovative idea on Flare System Control Valves. His idea is to help minimize down equipment and loss of production, while also reducing installation time.

tion media when the well is placed online. This innovative setup does not have moving parts and will decrease corrosion and leaks on the scattered off-plot pipeline network.

In addition to ideas being presented, a representative from the Technology Management Division, Abdullah Al-Abdullah,

briefed attendees on the process and procedures involved when applying for patents and copyrights.

A third-party vendor also contributed by demonstrating advanced technologies that would be leveraged at one of the NGPD facilities.



# huge turnout for 'Id al-Fitr in communities



There was no shortage of activities for Saudi Aramco employees and their dependents to enjoy as communities throughout the area celebrated 'Id al-Fitr over the past week as the Holy Month of Ramadan came to an end.

The community of Ras Tanura (RT) was all aglow with a theme of "Glow in Najmah," with the building brightly decorated with phosphoric lighting, lamps, and reflective flags.

The first day of the festivities in RT saw several activities for youngsters, including Lego blocks, drawing and coloring, as well as interactive video games for the older children. In keeping with the theme, the Najmah Library offered several activities, in-

cluding the chance to make a glowing glass lantern.

On the patio area, there were message boards for visitors to share their kind thoughts, and the festival atmosphere was filled with characters for all to enjoy. The baseball field offered challenging games, bouncy castles, and carnival games. In the evening, an outdoor stage provided the venue for a number of games for visitors, along with interesting musical performers and dancers.

There was more of the same on the second day, with the addition of colorful kites for the children. Water activities were a big part of the third and final day, with water slides and a bevy of aqua games. All in all,

it was a fun three days for everyone who participated.

Dhahran was no different, as a multitude of activities took place at King's Road Park following 'Id prayers at al-Mujamma' mosque and a breakfast at Ad Diwan.

More than 20,000 people took in the festivities over the three days. On the final day, the Central Community Services Department held an event to celebrate the efforts of employees who worked tirelessly to ensure the enjoyment for all visitors who attended.

The efforts of Community Services and Recreation employees were also appreciated in RT, Abqaiq, and 'Udhailiyah.

In Abqaiq, buses were arranged to take

residents to perform the 'Id prayer at 'Id Musalla, which was followed by breakfast for all.

The final two days of the celebration included a multitude of entertainment activities at Red Deer Park, with more than 850 people attending.

In Jiddah, the 'Id al-Fitr program held at Central Park at the Ar-Rehab Complex included fun activities, entertainment programs, competitions, stage shows, and a kids corner.

Visitors in all the communities went out of their way to express their gratitude to Saudi Aramco employees and other volunteers who took the time to ensure that the holiday season was enjoyed by all.



# celebrating the spirit of 'Id



The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (ithra) was a hive of activity during the 'Id holiday as thousands of visitors flocked to experience the array of exciting activities on offer. From the award winning 'BRUSH' performance by Korean artists to traditional sword dance performances, there was something for all to enjoy over the festive period.



# Abqaiq champions crowned after two months of tennis

by Muhammad Imran Javed

**Abqaiq** — The Abqaiq Tennis Club (ATC) recently conducted its Southern Area Oil Operations (SAOO) VP Cup Team Tennis tournament with outstanding support from management in the club's continuous efforts to promote physical fitness, happiness, and sportsmanship.

Four teams with at least 10 players each squared off in the months-long contest, including the "White Ennisgers," "Kings Blue," "Yellow Aces," and "Grey Chargers." A total of 50 adult tennis players were accommodated during the tournament.

The heat was on and emotions were skyrocketing as the athletes pushed themselves to register their first win, as the format was set in a way that each game mattered.

Approximately 78 individual sets and more than 525 games were played between the four teams, even with players who work in remote locations being accommodated fairly.

This reflects the true representation of the Saudi Aramco four critical behaviors



*The White Ennisgers, this year's Southern Area Oil Operations Vice President's Cup winners, pose with the tournament champions trophy. They were one of four teams competing in this year's event, which saw a total of 50 athletes play 78 individual sets and more than 525 games. (Photos: Rosalio L. Marcos)*

of people conversations, empowerment, collaboration, and decision making.

In the end, the White Ennisgers earned the top spot, with the Grey Chargers taking runner-up honors.

As part of the 2019 ATC board, tournament directors Cyril A. Ohaeche and Jose L. Delgado provided a wide variety of technical, professional, and logistical

support, significantly contributing the success throughout the tournament.

## opening ceremony

The opening ceremony held at the Al-Sa'adah tennis courts featured "Citizenship and Safety First" as the main theme.

With Mohammad F. Al-Khaldi, supervisor of the Abqaiq Recreational Services

Unit presiding as the event's chief guest, the ceremony opened with remarks by Rosalio Marcos, ATC president, and was followed by kind words by Al-Khaldi. The tournament was officially opened with the monumental first tennis volley played by Al-Khaldi and Marcos.

## ceremonial day celebrations

The ATC capped the tournament in style at an award ceremony at the Oasis East-West Lounge. Carron Neil, secretary to the SAOO vice president, was the guest of honor.

Marcos delivered the inaugural speech appreciating the great support provided by SAOO management, as well as Recreation for its utmost support.

He also offered a thank-you to all the participants and visitors for their support in making the SAOO VP's cup yet another success.

This was followed by the trophy presentation to the top two placers.

The evening ended with a photo session and a buffet dinner, along with participation gifts sponsored by the SAOO.



# Dhahran swimmers capture national title in own pool



Members of the championship Dhahran Youth Swim League team pose at their own pool after earning first place in the AFSA National Swimming Championships held in Dhahran last month.

by Hassan K. Iqbal

**Dhahran** — Some 385 swimmers representing 23 teams from across the Kingdom recently competed at the Arabian Falcons Swimming Association (AFSA) National Swimming Championships in Dhahran. The event was hosted by the Dhahran Youth Swimming League (DYSL) and was the biggest championship event to date.

## hard work pays off

The championships marked the end of a trail of hard work by coaches and the more than 200 swimmers who spend countless hours training, refining techniques, and building strength and stamina. With the national championships being hosted in their home pool, DYSL swimmers were further motivated to achieve the qualifying times to participate in the competition.

In parallel to the training, the consider-

able task of hosting the event went to the DYSL board. Led by Jeremy Babbington, fellow board members Jacques Olckers, Kellie Neilson, Manar Metawea, Eduardo Del Carmen, Joe McLaughlin, Donna Sambodo, Juan Caralt, and Mary Lubbe started to draft together the logistics.

Coordination with the Central Community Services and the Dhahran Industrial Security Operations departments was critical. Both organizations went above and beyond to provide extraordinary services and support for the event.

DYSL was also fortunate to receive endorsements from Safety and Industrial Security and Industrial Services, whose contribution enhanced the safety of the athletes and their families.

## a frenzy of competition

Swimmers and their families from all over

the Kingdom descended on the Dhahran Hills pool, having pushed themselves over the past two seasons. Reaching the national finals was the pinnacle of their achievements.

With the stakes at their highest, swimmers had to rise to the occasion, composing themselves against the range of emotions.

A record-setting 61 DYSL swimmers qualified for the finals, recording a combined 236 personal best times and topping the medal count with 30 gold, 30 silver, and 26 bronze. DYSL also recognized its own swimmers, who set new national records — a major accolade and milestone for any swimmer.

## Record breakers

**Vivieene Lubbe** (7-8 Girls) 100m backstroke and 200m freestyle

**Rifqi Sambodo** (15-16 Boys) 200m butterfly

7-8 Girls 100m freestyle relay (**Charlotte Fischer, Natalie Palacios, Alyha Coulibaly, and Vivienne Lubbe**)

9-10 Girls 200m freestyle (**Kerensa Babbington, Jasmine Vaartjes, Marianna Bustamante, and Julianna Babbington**)

## awards and podium places

After event referee, Brad Neilson, along with the event organizers, tallied and verified all the results, the winners in each age group was announced, with many DYSL swimmers achieving top-six ranking and a place on the podium.

With most points overall, DYSL were crowned the top team. DYSL thanked and appreciates all board members, volunteers, coaches, parents, and most of all, the swimmers for the magnificent swimming season.

## Individual winners included

Age Group	Podium Place	Name
7-8 Girls	1 <sup>st</sup>	Vivienne Lubbe
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Alyha Coulibaly
7-8 Boys	1 <sup>st</sup>	Gabriel Caralt
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucas McLaughlin
9-10 Girls	1 <sup>st</sup>	Julianna Babbington
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kerensa Babbington
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Jasmine Vaartjes
9-10 Boys	6 <sup>th</sup>	Dev Sekar
11-12 Boys	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Felix Dorward
13-14 Girls	5 <sup>th</sup>	Raida Iqbal
15-16 Girls	6 <sup>th</sup>	Dina Haikal
15-16 Boys	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Adel Al-Sabbagh
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Rifqi Sambodo



On a diving trip to one of the Red Sea's pristine underwater environments, Saudi Aramco employee Fahad Al-Jurifani and fellow divers rescued six sharks trapped in an illegal fishing cage.

# Aramcon, fellow divers rescue six trapped sharks in the Red Sea

by Janet Pinheiro

**Yanbu'** — A diving trip to one of the Red Sea's pristine underwater spots turned into a rescue mission when Saudi Aramco employee Fahad Al-Jurifani and three diving friends ended up freeing six sharks trapped in a cage.

The four ocean lovers were on a week-end trip to multiple diving sites near Yanbu', and on the second day, their diving guide Abdulelah Ba-Shrahil took them to a new spot.

After checking and adjusting their oxygen tanks, with facemasks in place, the experienced divers plunged into the warm waters of the Red Sea, only to discover the distressing sight of a large illegal fishing cage that had trapped six small sharks and a moray eel.

## trouble on the Red Sea

Without hesitation, the group decided to

free the magnificent marine creatures by cutting an escape route into the cage.

"The sharks became terrified as we calmly began cutting lines from the cage, and they went into a frenzy to escape from us," said Al-Jurifani.

"Then they calmed down," he said. "I guess they figured out that we were trying to save them, or they lost their energy because they were trapped for a long time."

After successfully cutting a hole, the hesitant sea creatures swam out to reclaim their freedom.

After seeing a shark with a hook stuck in its jaw on their first day of diving, the group felt empowered from the triumphant rescue operation.

"We felt bad that we were unable to help the poor shark, as only a well-trained person can remove a hook," said Al-Jurifani. "Sharks are a sign of a healthy reef and freeing them made us feel good about

ourselves."

To raise awareness that diving is fun and that environmental protection is important, the drivers shared the rescue with their friends and groups on social media.

## leaving nothing but bubbles

Speaking from his workplace in Dhahran, Al-Jurifani radiates enthusiasm for the environment.

"I've been diving for three years, and love it," he said. "Underwater, I feel liberated from everything, it's so peaceful. There's no noise, and I feel like I am flying in space."

Advising that everyone should protect the planet's land, sea, and air environments, Al-Jurifani said the cycle of life depends upon all elements being healthy.

"If you disrupt one element, you disrupt the whole circle. In the diving community. We understand to leave nothing but bubbles," he said.

## Red Sea sharks

Covering a surface area of 438,000 square kilometers, the Red Sea forms Saudi Arabia's western border, and is home to rich biological diversity, including 29 known species of shark.

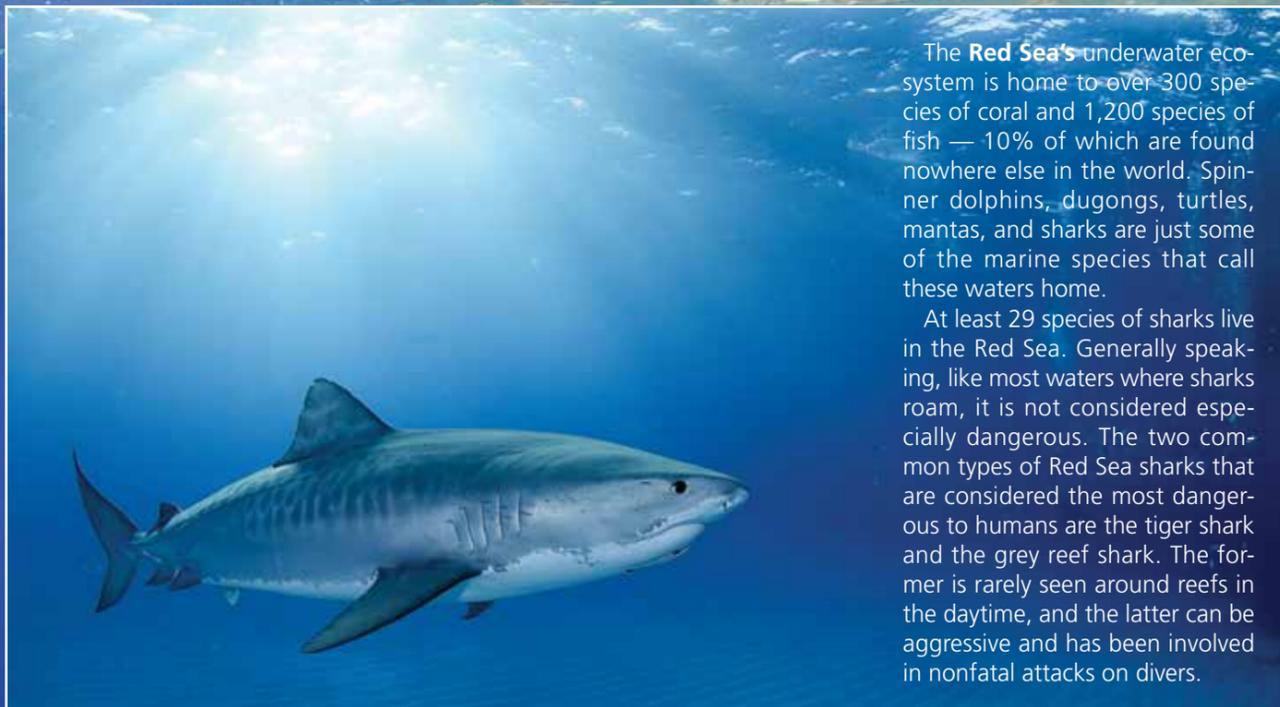
As part of its commitment to preserve and protect the natural environment, Saudi Aramco partners with the Smithsonian Institution, which researches migration patterns.

Through the partnership, the Smithsonian has attached satellite devices to Asir magpies and intends to track Arabian oryx, as well as black-tipped reef sharks in the Arabian Gulf.

Al-Jurifani is a professional development training adviser with Saudi Aramco's Management and Professional Development Department.



Keen diver Fahad Al-Jurifani, a professional development training adviser, says it is important to protect the planet's land, air, and sea environments.



The Red Sea's underwater ecosystem is home to over 300 species of coral and 1,200 species of fish — 10% of which are found nowhere else in the world. Spinner dolphins, dugongs, turtles, mantas, and sharks are just some of the marine species that call these waters home.

At least 29 species of sharks live in the Red Sea. Generally speaking, like most waters where sharks roam, it is not considered especially dangerous. The two common types of Red Sea sharks that are considered the most dangerous to humans are the tiger shark and the grey reef shark. The former is rarely seen around reefs in the daytime, and the latter can be aggressive and has been involved in nonfatal attacks on divers.

**King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture**  
by saudi aramco



# Ithra movies

**in cinema**

**Ithra Heroes Adventure**

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

June 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19 10:30 a.m.

**Singing with Angry Bird**

Five years ago, a Korean opera singer started a children's choir in a slum in India. Frustrated by the lack of support from the parents of his choir children, he decides to train the parents to sing for a joint concert.

June 12, 13, 14, 15 3:30 p.m.

**The Green Planet**

Take a spectacular journey to one of Earth's most beautiful and diverse natural habitats: The Forest.

June 15 1:30 p.m.  
June 17, 18, 19 3:30 p.m.

**Robinson Crusoe**

A daring parrot recounts how Robinson Crusoe came to be stranded on a tropical island.

June 14 2 p.m.  
June 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 5:45 p.m.

**The Short Game**

A group of seven-year-old golfing protégés battle to be the next champion of tomorrow.

June 12, 15 7 p.m.  
June 13, 14 8 p.m.

**The Sphinx Unmasked**

A leading Egyptologist cracks the 4,500-year-old mystery of who built the greatest monument in the ancient world and reveals the inspiration behind the enigmatic face of the Sphinx.

June 17, 18, 19 7:30 p.m.

**Is Sumiyati Going to Hell?**

As told through the eyes of young Layan, the story centers on Sumiyati, the family's housekeeper, and her continuous negative work experiences.

June 13, 14 7 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.

June 12, 17, 18, 19 5 p.m., 8 p.m.  
June 13, 15 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m.  
June 14 6 p.m., 8 p.m.



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