Senior management from Saudi Aramco’s Manifa Producing and the Environmental Protection departments met with King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals last week for an update on the environmental achievements and long-term conservation projects at the company’s flagship program for environmental stewardship. Reports from company and university officials show that not only has the company been able to build and operate a project capable of producing 900,000 barrels per day of oil while preserving the sensitive Manifa Bay environment, it has actually enhanced the shallow-water habitat. Dissolved oxygen rates are higher than they were before construction, making those shallow waters a healthier environment for fish and shrimp larvae. Coral reefs have grown in size and seem to be spreading onto the rocks of the Manifa causeway itself. And seagrass meadows also have increased, covering 70% more area than before construction.

“Today, we celebrate and thank all of you who contributed to the landmark of the Manifa causeway,” said Mohammad H. Al-Ghamdi, manager of the Manifa Producing Department. “Today, we can see the results. Since the construction of the causeway, marine life in Manifa has improved. Saudi Aramco’s determination to protect the environment is not lip service; it is translated into action to affirm our determination toward the Manifa marine environment.”

For years, Saudi Aramco and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals have worked together to protect the highly sensitive ecosystem in Manifa. Project designs for the creative Saudi Aramco mega-project, with its iconic causeway and islands, were developed in a unique way to protect the living creatures that make their home in the bay. A recent update session held last week at the university showed that not only has the project maintained the integrity of the sensitive marine environment (shown in inset photos), it has actually enhanced it.

For more information, visit: www.aramco.com

Syrian refugee children urgently need food, clothing, shelter, medicine and education.

Contribute now.

Visit myhome.aramco.com.sa.

Mind the children, hands of little refugees, and Saudi citizens support outside of Saudi Arabia should unity with the relevant governmental entities in their respective countries regarding the important work to be participating in this donation campaign.
a message from the president and CEO

(Continued from front page)

As we venture into 2017, each of us also has a crucial role to play in making Vision 2030 a reality that will be felt for generations to come. Let us build on the great work of 2016 as we complete our preparations to become a public company and become an even stronger engine of growth for the Kingdom. — Amin Nasser

aligning with IKTVA

Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser inaugurates the new facilities for Saudi-led oil and gas service provider National Petroleum Services (NPS) in Dammam. Nasser commented on the important role that local companies such as NPS play in localizing content and expertise, which is a key component of the Kingdom’s 2030 Vision for strengthening the Saudi economy. He expressed his appreciation to NPS’s management for their efforts in alignment with Saudi Aramco’s In-Kingdom Total Value Add (IKTVA) program.
The Arabian Sun visited with HE Abdulatif A. Al-Othman to look back on his more than three decade career with Saudi Aramco and also seek out advice he might have for young Aramcons.

by Jeff McCloskey

• From your youth, can you recall an inspirational moment, event, or a piece of advice that helped guide you along a path that saw you join Saudi Aramco in 1981 and ascend the ranks of the company?

• Growing up in the Eastern Province, one cannot help but notice Saudi Aramco and its contribution to the community, the country, and society. But I didn’t think about joining Aramco early in my career. I studied civil engineering, wanted to build my technical expertise, and never thought of an oil company to be a place where I would go and work first in my career. So I joined an engineering company and happened to be doing design work for Aramco. I developed more appreciation for Aramco by getting exposed to its project management practices and its engineering standards. After spending two years there, I decided to join Aramco.

• What major changes have you witnessed in Saudi Aramco over the years, and how do you feel these changes will equip the company for the future?

• Today, Saudi Aramco is totally different from the Aramco of the ‘40s, ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s. It has evolved by re-inventing itself to always focus on key aspects, such as excellence, stewardship, accountability, and competitiveness. Saudi Aramco grew from being an upstream company into a world-class producer of oil and gas, and a world leader in terms of partnerships. It has gone from being primarily a user of technology to becoming an innovation leader. In terms of corporate social responsibility, it has evolved from mainly looking at the welfare and the needs of the community back then to become a world leader in contributing to economic development through its carefully crafted local content program; IKTVA is a case in point. This is a company that always recalibrates and positions itself to fulfill its obligations to Saudi Arabia and the world. To me, this is really a unique aspect of Saudi Aramco.

• How pivotal do you view the company’s role in the delivery of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030?

• Saudi Vision 2030 is timely and essential for the Kingdom, and Saudi Aramco will definitely be center stage in helping to realize this vision. It looks to diversify the economy, and Saudi Aramco has long recognized the need to build an integrated and efficient value chain in oil and gas. It’s going to be a very important and exciting time for Saudi Aramco to expand and help the Kingdom in the right way, with many of the localization programs, investment attraction programs, and attracting the right industries in terms of talent and development. I believe this is the right time for us to really achieve diversification with the right trajectory. Today in Saudi Arabia, we probably have a two- or three-cylinder engine in terms of economic activities. I believe we can have at least seven or eight.

• Considering the evolving pressures against Saudi Aramco’s core business, driven mainly by climate change concerns and alternative energy technologies, how do you view the company’s long-term business capabilities to deal with this uncertain environment?

• Climate change is a global issue, and we have to be part of the solution. Saudi Aramco has embarked on many initiatives in regard to environmental stewardship with projects that follow very strict environmental standards. We have implemented technologies to achieve zero flaring and zero emissions. We have research projects on carbon capture and sequestration. But it’s a global issue, and we all have to work on it. I believe that Saudi Aramco, and Saudi Arabia, recognize there is a critical role for us to play.

• Can you single out the career highlights during your more than 30 years of experience with Saudi Aramco?

• Saudi Aramco is one of the unique world corporations that offers total value proposition for its employees. I joined Saudi Aramco as a civil engineer. I thought that for the rest of my career I would be doing civil engineering work, but I found myself engaged in refinery projects, gas gathering projects, upstream, and eventually moved into marketing, finance, and public relations before ultimately coming back as the CFO and then the senior vice president of Engineering and Project Management. I have certainly benefited from the unique development opportunities the company offers, and I am not the only one. I believe each and every Saudi Aramco employee has a beautiful story to tell.

• What advice would you give to young Aramcons in the early stages of their journey with the company?

• I believe the upside of potential for Saudi Aramco, and Saudi Arabia, is unparalleled. My advice to them is that there are a lot of things coming, and they should be a part of it. Specifically, I would recommend that young people focus on achieving mastery in their chosen field. You should have a zeal for learning where your value goes up every day. Also, be result oriented; leaders like people who can get things done. Be a team player, and don’t forget to look at the broader picture, balancing life and having fun. That’s the reward for all the hard work that you do.

The Arabian Sun visited with HE Abdulatif A. Al-Othman to look back on his more than three decade career with Saudi Aramco and also seek out advice he might have for young Aramcons.

HE Abdulatif A. Al-Othman honored in farewell recognition ceremony

by Bander Alharbi

Dhahran — Leaders from across the company gathered last week for the recognition ceremony for HE Abdulatif A. Al-Othman. Al-Othman joined the company in 1981 as a civil engineer and leaves from the position of senior vice president.

“It is difficult to believe that Abdullah is old enough to retire, he still looks so young,” said Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser. “I think he has benefited from being one of life’s optimists, a trait that has served him well.”

Nasser said that those gathered at the event that when Al-Othman joined the company in the early 1980s, it was an exciting time for the company and a period of changes that would lead to a challenging decade. It was during this period that Al-Othman worked on a range of important and complex projects, including gas gathering, the Ras Tanura refinery modernization and terminals, and the Qasim Refinery.

It was his work in these projects that would lay the seeds for his future leadership roles.

“Not only did he make a difference, but his work also brought Abdulatif to the attention of senior management and put him on a path to greater things with increasing responsibilities,” noted Nasser.

Al-Othman’s leadership positions soon followed in Contract Review, Business Analysis, and Crude Oil Sales and Marketing. He also became executive director, then vice president of Saudi Aramco Affairs. He was made senior vice president of Finance in 2005.

“He took it from essentially an administrative organization to a truly forward-thinking finance function,” observed Nasser.

“You don’t transform Saudi Aramco’s Finance Department without coming to even wider attention. And so in May 2012, Abdulatif A. Al-Othman became His Excellency, when he was appointed as Governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA).”

Nasser told those gathered at the event that when Al-Othman joined the company in 1981 and ascended the ranks along a path that saw him join Saudi Aramco in 1981 and ascend the ranks along a path that saw you join Saudi Aramco.

“With the right trajectory. Today in Saudi Arabia, we probably have a two- or three-cylinder engine in terms of economic activities. I believe we can have at least seven or eight.

• Considering the evolving pressures against Saudi Aramco’s core business, driven mainly by climate change concerns and alternative energy technologies, how do you view the company’s long-term business capabilities to deal with this uncertain environment?

• Climate change is a global issue, and we have to be part of the solution. Saudi Aramco has embarked on many initiatives in regard to environmental stewardship with projects that follow very strict environmental standards. We have implemented technologies to achieve zero flaring and zero emissions. We have research projects on carbon capture and sequestration. But it’s a global issue, and we all have to work on it. I believe that Saudi Aramco, and Saudi Arabia, recognize there is a critical role for us to play.

• Can you single out the career highlights during your more than 30 years of experience with Saudi Aramco?

• Saudi Aramco is one of the unique world corporations that offers total value proposition for its employees. I joined Saudi Aramco as a civil engineer. I thought that for the rest of my career I would be doing civil engineering work, but I found myself engaged in refinery projects, gas gathering projects, upstream, and eventually moved into marketing, finance, and public relations before ultimately coming back as the CFO and then the senior vice president of Engineering and Project Management. I have certainly benefited from the unique development opportunities the company offers, and I am not the only one.

I believe each and every Saudi Aramco employee has a beautiful story to tell.

• What advice would you give to young Aramcons in the early stages of their journey with the company?

• I believe the upside of potential for Saudi Aramco, and Saudi Arabia, is unparalleled. My advice to them is that there are a lot of things coming, and they should be a part of it. Specifically, I would recommend that young people focus on achieving mastery in their chosen field. You should have a zeal for learning where your value goes up every day. Also, be result oriented; leaders like people who can get things done. Be a team player, and don’t forget to look at the broader picture, balancing life and having fun. That’s the reward for all the hard work that you do.

HE Abdulatif A. Al-Othman, center, poses with HE Ali I. Al-Naimi, fourth from left, Abdullah S. Jumah, sixth from left, Amin Nasser, third from left, and members of senior management from Saudi Aramco during a farewell ceremony held last week in Dhahran. Al-Othman noted that every employee in the company has a beautiful story to tell on how the company had changed their life. (Photo: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD)
MaintCon recognizes Saudi Aramco’s role in laying the foundations of maintenance and reliability

Aram Al-Yahya speaks to a tour visiting the Saudi Aramco exhibit at Maintion. Al-Yahya was just one of many Aramcons who attended in support of the company’s presence at the event.

by Nagy Awad

Manama — Saudi Aramco’s presence was front and center at the 4th Middle East Maintenance & Reliability Conference (MaintCon 2016) recently held in Bahrain under the patronage of HE Shaikh Mohammad ibn Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain’s Minister of Energy.

Saudi Aramco was among the sponsors of the event that was organized by the Gulf Society for Maintenance and Reliability (GSMR) in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers. The conference brought together more than 500 oil and gas company representatives from throughout the Gulf region and the Middle East.

Saud Al-Dabal, Saudi Aramco’s senior vice president of Operations and Business Services, emphasized that maintenance is a cornerstone of all energy industries, stating that “without maintenance, a company’s facilities to train new employees cannot be preserved without maintenance.”

Al-Dabal added that no establishment can survive without maintenance and safety in place, and that our natural resources cannot be wasted. He noted that maintenance is the key to success not only in the energy industry but also in all fields. He added that no establishment can survive without maintenance and safety in place, and that our natural resources cannot be preserved without maintenance.

Al-Dabal acknowledged that a culture of maintenance is lacking in the Arab world, often leading to a waste of resources. He touched upon the way to develop a strategic plan for maintenance, indicating that it depends on several factors, including:

• Training
• Development
• Partnership
• Knowledge transfer

“Effective maintenance strategy requires a company’s strategic plans for maintenance, which have been a key driver for the company’s success,” said Al-Dabal.

Saudi Aramco has forged successful partnerships with local private and public companies and establishments, such as the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC), to support maintenance training. The company has taken part in establishing 25 training centers with a capacity that will reach 42,000 trainees by 2025, demonstrating its significant and important role in the implementation of Vision 2030.”

He added that Saudi Aramco is willing to share the maintenance knowledge it has accumulated over the years with partners, operating with everybody to spread knowledge.

In this regard, Abdulhaakeem A. Al-Gouhi, vice president of Industrial Services and head of the conference advisory committee, said the conference is the most important regional event on maintenance and reliability, serving as a venue where maintenance professionals working in industrial and government sectors can exchange experiences and expand their knowledge of the new technologies and best practices adapted to enhance maintenance efficiency. The conference also helps participants facilitate sustainable strategies for asset reliability, thereby creating added value despite the current economic challenges.

Al-Gouhi pointed out that the event attracted more than 1,000 engineers, technicians, and consultants who participated in four workshops and delivered more than 60 papers on the development of a maintenance concept that is aligned with technological advances, supports human development, and drives gross domestic product for the benefit of businesses and countries.

Saudi Aramco professionals took part in other sessions:

• Thamer Al-Anazi delivered a presentation on integrated excellence management systems in maintenance
• Khalid Al-Jabr delivered a presentation on reliability engineering applications
• Mohammad Al-Subaie delivered a presentation on domestic shipping of rotating equipment components
• Ayman Rafeeq delivered a presentation on maintenance solutions in Abqaiq

Visitors flocked to Saudi Aramco’s booth where Aram Al-Yahya of the Maintenance Solutions Division talked about the company’s various projects and the role of maintenance and knowledge transfer in their success.

Effective maintenance strategy

Muhammad M. Al Sagaf, Saudi Aramco senior vice president of Operations and Business Services, emphasized that maintenance is the key to success not only in the energy industry but also in all fields. Al Sagaf added that no establishment can survive without maintenance and safety in place, and that our natural resources cannot be preserved without maintenance.

Al Sagaf emphasized the importance of developing a strategic plan for maintenance that addresses training, development, partnership, and knowledge transfer.

“Effective maintenance requires a company’s strategic plans for maintenance, which have been a key driver for the company’s success,” said Al Sagaf.

Saudi Aramco has forged successful partnerships with local private and public companies and establishments, such as the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC), to support maintenance training. The company has taken part in establishing 25 training centers with a capacity that will reach 42,000 trainees by 2025, demonstrating its significant and important role in the implementation of Vision 2030.”

He added that Saudi Aramco is willing to share the maintenance knowledge it has accumulated over the years with partners, operating with everybody to spread knowledge.

Qualitative training

Masoud Al-Hermi, president of the Bahrain Society of Engineers, pointed out that the society has long organized specialized conferences in areas of interest to engineers such as quality and information systems. The society has entered into partnerships with several specialized establishments focusing on qualitative training that leads to business success.

Conference sessions

At the first session of the conference, Nabil K. Al Dabal, Saudi Aramco general manager of Training and Development, delivered a presentation on the importance of leadership development in dynamic work environments. He said that professional development in Saudi Aramco is not a new or temporary practice, it is in fact a long-standing practice that has existed for more than 80 years. Human capital is Saudi Aramco’s most precious asset, which is why the company is keen on investing in this asset through providing employees with on-the-job training and equipping them with the skills required to assume leadership positions.

“Seventy percent of employees’ development comes from their daily responsibilities, work, and tasks, whereas in Kingdom and out-of-Kingdom training courses account for 15% of that development, with mentorship and guidance from supervisors accounting for 10%,” said Al Dabal.

Maintenance, Al Dabal added, entails that those involved have sufficient training and hands-on experience, thereby allowing them to perform better in their jobs. He showcased Saudi Aramco’s experience in building simulation training centers at the company’s facilities to train new employees in performing efficient maintenance in real-life-like situations.
an environmental success story

by Scott Baldauf

Dhahran — Senior management from the Manifa Producing Department (MPD) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) gathered at the Center for Environment and Water at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) on Dec. 27 to get a current update of environmental achievements and long-term conservation projects on the Manifa project's flagship program for environmental stewardship.

Operational since 2013, the massive offshore Manifa field has a capacity to produce 500,000 barrels per day of Arabian Heavy crude oil, which allows the Kingdom to maintain its leading position as a global energy supplier. But what makes the Manifa project so important is the close collaboration between Saudi Aramco engineers, Environmental Protection officials, and scientists to preserve the fragile ecosystem in Manifa Bay, which is famous as one of the top fish and shrimp nurseries on the Gulf Coast.

The result of that collaborative effort was an innovative plan to reach Manifa — through building a world-class causeway, bridges, and laterals to connect the man-made islands. The computerized modeling of the 27 drilling islands, connected by a 42 kilometer causeway and 14 bridges to allow natural water circulation at Manifa Bay, has significantly contributed to enhance the natural flow of water, maintaining the bay as a perfect environment for shrimp and fish populations to grow. During the design, construction, and dredging activities on the man-made island, the Manifa mega-project as a whole followed strict environmental policies and standards in all aspects related to marine measures. This included the specific placement and configuration of causeway islands to avoid affecting the existing coral reefs, while meeting the requirements of drilling and oil production.

At the KFUPM event hosted by Alaa A. Bukhari of KFUPM’s Center for Environment and Water, the Manifa program’s achievements were celebrated with a number of presentations by Saudi Aramco and KFUPM experts. Scientists from the Marine Studies Section at KFUPM’s Center for Environment and Water also presented MPD officials with its final report on the environmental impact of the project so far.

“Today, we celebrate and thank all of you who contributed to the landmark of Saudi Aramco’s commitment to preserving the marine environment at Manifa, and other facilities was heartfelt and was a central corporate value, woven into every aspect of the way we do business.”

Ron Loughland, an environmental specialist with Saudi Aramco’s Environmental Protection Department, discusses impacts on the bird species and their habitat at Manifa during a meeting between officials from the company and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. See additional photo on page 13. (Photo: Mohammed Al Shaikh/MPD)

The results of this careful collaboration are already paying off. In multiple reports, KFUPM scientists showed how the causeway design had not only maintained but also enhanced the natural circulation of tidal waters into and out of Manifa Bay. Dissolved oxygen rates are higher than they were before construction, making those shallow waters a healthier environment for fish and shrimp larvae. Coral reefs have grown in size and seem to be spreading onto the rocks of the Manifa causeway itself. Seagrass meadows also have increased, covering 70% more area than before construction.

Far from destroying the fragile ecosystem in Manifa Bay, the Manifa causeway is showing signs of improving the habitat for the larval and juvenile shrimp and fish populations that call Manifa their home.

Celebrating a success story

The tone of the workshop reflected the academic atmosphere one comes to expect at KFUPM. For every presentation on environmental challenges, the 10-year trends in biodiversity at Manifa Bay, and Manifa’s long history and future potential as a nursery ground for shrimp and fish, there was an open exchange of views in question and answer sessions. What was clear to all was that Saudi Aramco’s commitment to preserving the marine environment at Manifa and other facilities was heartfelt and was a central corporate value, woven into every aspect of the way we do business.

While KFUPM scientists gave presentations and presented posters, showing specific data on Manifa Bay’s recovery, post-construction, Aramcon experts laid out the broader framework of the company’s environmental stewardship, including future mitigation efforts. Alaa Abu Arafah, an environmental field compliance coordinator in MPD, gave an overview of the Manifa project and the changes made to make Manifa more environmentally friendly, while Ronald A. Loughland, an environmental specialist from EPD, gave a closer look at efforts to preserve the rich biodiversity of Manifa Bay, both at sea and on land.

Khaled A. Abdulkader, a senior consultant in EPD, gave a presentation about the three layers of monitoring for compliance with strict environmental regulations, and the host of mitigation efforts made by the company — including the construction of a new fishing port at the coastal town of Dareen. Abdulkader says Saudi Aramco made many modifications to the Manifa project’s design, including removing the northwestern portion of the causeway and building bridges in other parts of the causeway to increase tidal circulation; introducing the zero discharge of drilling wastes, through cutting reinjection and “skip and ship” to safer onshore locations; and the plantation of mangrove forests, construction of shrimp nurseries, and construction of artificial reefs to encourage marine life to quickly rebound after construction was complete.

The redesign of the causeway to encourage circulation was especially successful, Abdulkader said. Initial plans for a causeway would have slowed the “flush rate” of Manifa Bay to 71 days from the 17 day natural rate before construction. By opening up the bay with the causeway and bridge design, the flush rate was enhanced to 15 days. Today, monitoring data shows the actual flush rate is 11 days, much faster than the computer models had projected.

“Manifa is a highly productive marine ecosystem, and that makes the project very challenging,” Abdulkader said. “It is good to get a chance to document all that was done to maintain a project as important as this is to the Kingdom’s economy, and at the same time protect the ecosystem at Manifa.”
Saudi Aramco shares experience at forum, highlighting women’s role in oil industry

Tokyo — Nearly 200 attendees from Japan’s oil industry and the GCC countries, with about 70% being female, recently gathered in Tokyo for the Friendship Committee for the Woman Career Development Open Forum that was hosted by the Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP).

JCCP is an affiliated organization of Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. It serves to foster the cooperation and personnel exchanges between Japan and oil-producing countries in the downstream sectors of the oil industry.

The event under the theme “Sustainable Growth in the Petroleum Industry and Women Leaders’ Business Innovation” provided an opportunity for Saudi Aramco to share its various initiatives in an effort to narrow the gender gap in the workforce through the commitment.

Saudi Aramco, in 2012, established a vision dedicated to women’s development and diversity that has a mission to provide various programs that develop professional careers for women and help them build leadership skills to elevate them to higher positions in coming years.

STEM pipeline

As one of the guest speakers, Huda M. Al-Ghoson, Saudi Aramco executive director of Human Resources, delivered a leader’s speech, walking the audience through a number of initiatives that Saudi Aramco has been introducing to narrow the gender gap in the workforce. One such initiatives — the STEM Pipeline — drew interest from the audience.

The program is designed to support development of women into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects in the early years in schools and universities before they join the workforce via outreach programs.

Al-Ghoson continued on to explain that Saudi Aramco today has five programs of different levels designed for female workers from the day she begins her career with the company, young, and junior as well as up to senior level workers.

She offered and presented the “5 Cs” — commitment, competence, collaboration, contribution, and character, all of which she considers critical for women to advance in the workplace.

“Together, We Will Be Stronger”

Kingdom and Saudi Aramco have strong presence at 5th China-Arab Energy Cooperation Conference

by David Zeng

Beijing — A Saudi Aramco/Aramco Asia delegation recently participated in the 5th China-Arab Energy Cooperation Conference and co-organized by China’s National Energy Administration (NEA) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

During the inauguration session of the conference, head of the Arab League delegation, Dr. Saleh Al-Awaji, Saudi Deputy Minister for Electricity and chairman of the Saudi Electricity Company, delivered a keynote speech during which he advocated further expansion and growth of China-Arab business and trade.

“In the coming years, the LAS will continue to support the investment of China and Arab states in the oil and gas and electricity sectors. The utilization of renewable resources will be enlarged by proper planning and the implementation of some key projects in fields of wind and solar energy,” said Al-Awaji.

“China-Arab trade and business exchanges shall be strengthened by (various) measures, including joint venture establishment, promotion of SMEs and the constant improvement of the market mechanism.”

Together, We Will Be Stronger

At the conference attended by more than 300 government officials, entrepreneurs, media professionals, and scholars from China and Arab nations, Nabil A. Al Nuaim, Aramco Asia president and CEO, delivered a keynote speech titled “Together, We Will Be Stronger,” focusing on three main themes:

• The growing strategic energy relationship between Saudi Arabia and China.
• The alignment between Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and China’s Belt and Road initiatives.

Mohammad ibn Salman ibn Abd’ Al-Aziz Al Sa’ud to China this past August again showcased the strategic cooperation between the two nations and the strong alignment between Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 and China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

During that visit, more than 20 Memorandum of Understanding were signed between Saudi and Chinese firms, with a broad scope of business, including many energy related areas.

Al Nuaim re-emphasized the alignment between the two national strategies. “Saudi Arabia is well positioned to become an important geographical hub, meanwhile, its vast resources can be used to help fuel the growth of many countries along the Belt and Road.”

Al Nuaim ended his speech by extending an invitation to our China and Arab neighbors to invest in the Kingdom. “Both our Chinese and Arab friends can count on Saudi Arabia as an important, reliable and trusted partner. Together, we can all bring greater prosperity to our countries and our people.”
The Sim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor was on display in the EXPEC ARC Steering Committee Technology Showcase in November for members of management to see. The new technology will help engineers inject stimulation chemicals deep into the well, and more stimulation means more oil production. Listening to the presentation are, from right, Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC; Nasir K. Al Naimi, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development; Mohammed Y. Al Ghantani, senior vice president of Upstream; Naji A. Al Umair, manager of the Northern Area Production Engineering and Well Services Department; and Ali M. Al Shahr, manager of the Northern Area Reservoir Management Department. Abubaker Saeed, petroleum engineer and project leader, shares some details about the tool.

**Challenge accepted**

A collaborative research and development project was started by the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team with WWT in 2013. Several concepts were tested to design and manufacture the world’s slimmiest, most compact, and most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“Major endeavors, such as the Slim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor, are representatives of the collaborative research and development projects EXPEC ARC strives to achieve — not only to address our upstream challenges but also to strengthen our industrial position as a leader in technology development and deployment,” said Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC.

**Cost efficient, maximizing production**

This new technology provides significant impact in supporting Upstream’s goal of ensuring our operators’ cost efficiency, as well as maximizing production from ERWs. The Slim High Pull Force Tractor allows reservoir engineers to have the ability to manage the reservoirs at the lateral level in terms of acidizing operations and ensuring maximum pay zone coverage. It also provides production engineers with an enabling tool to more reliably conduct intervention operations, knowing with confidence that intervention will be possible in more complex, restricted ERWs.

“One major aspect of this new technology is how it was uniquely designed to go smoothly through the smallest restrictions, then expand downhole to much bigger diameters and provide reliable and safe powerful performance in cased and open holes. This was clearly reflected in the industry record pull force and tractoring results of the field trial,” said Abubaker Saeed, the project leader and member of the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team.

**Operation**

The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.”

**Two important technology milestones**

As part of the technical exchange, the Slim High Pull Force Tractor was on display in the EXPEC ARC Steering Committee Technology Showcase in November for members of management to see. The new technology will help engineers inject stimulation chemicals deep into the well, and more stimulation means more oil production. Listening to the presentation are, from right, Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC; Nasir K. Al Naimi, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development; Mohammed Y. Al Ghantani, senior vice president of Upstream; Naji A. Al Umair, manager of the Northern Area Production Engineering and Well Services Department; and Ali M. Al Shahr, manager of the Northern Area Reservoir Management Department. Abubaker Saeed, petroleum engineer and project leader, shares some details about the tool.

**Operation**

The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.”

**Two important technology milestones**

Two important technology milestones were achieved. A collaborative research and development project was started by the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team with WWT in 2013. Several concepts were tested to design and manufacture the world’s slimmest, most compact, and most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“Major endeavors, such as the Slim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor, are representatives of the collaborative research and development projects EXPEC ARC strives to achieve — not only to address our upstream challenges but also to strengthen our industrial position as a leader in technology development and deployment,” said Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC.

**Cost efficient, maximizing production**

This new technology provides significant impact in supporting Upstream’s goal of ensuring our operators’ cost efficiency, as well as maximizing production from ERWs. The Slim High Pull Force Tractor allows reservoir engineers to have the ability to manage the reservoirs at the lateral level in terms of acidizing operations and ensuring maximum pay zone coverage. It also provides production engineers with an enabling tool to more reliably conduct intervention operations, knowing with confidence that intervention will be possible in more complex, restricted ERWs.

“One major aspect of this new technology is how it was uniquely designed to go smoothly through the smallest restrictions, then expand downhole to much bigger diameters and provide reliable and safe powerful performance in cased and open holes. This was clearly reflected in the industry record pull force and tractoring results of the field trial,” said Abubaker Saeed, the project leader and member of the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team.

**Operation**

The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.”

**Two important technology milestones**

Two important technology milestones were achieved. A collaborative research and development project was started by the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team with WWT in 2013. Several concepts were tested to design and manufacture the world’s slimmest, most compact, and most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“Major endeavors, such as the Slim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor, are representatives of the collaborative research and development projects EXPEC ARC strives to achieve — not only to address our upstream challenges but also to strengthen our industrial position as a leader in technology development and deployment,” said Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC.

**Cost efficient, maximizing production**

This new technology provides significant impact in supporting Upstream’s goal of ensuring our operators’ cost efficiency, as well as maximizing production from ERWs. The Slim High Pull Force Tractor allows reservoir engineers to have the ability to manage the reservoirs at the lateral level in terms of acidizing operations and ensuring maximum pay zone coverage. It also provides production engineers with an enabling tool to more reliably conduct intervention operations, knowing with confidence that intervention will be possible in more complex, restricted ERWs.

“One major aspect of this new technology is how it was uniquely designed to go smoothly through the smallest restrictions, then expand downhole to much bigger diameters and provide reliable and safe powerful performance in cased and open holes. This was clearly reflected in the industry record pull force and tractoring results of the field trial,” said Abubaker Saeed, the project leader and member of the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team.

**Operation**

The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.”

**Two important technology milestones**

Two important technology milestones were achieved. A collaborative research and development project was started by the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team with WWT in 2013. Several concepts were tested to design and manufacture the world’s slimmest, most compact, and most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“Major endeavors, such as the Slim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor, are representatives of the collaborative research and development projects EXPEC ARC strives to achieve — not only to address our upstream challenges but also to strengthen our industrial position as a leader in technology development and deployment,” said Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC.

**Cost efficient, maximizing production**

This new technology provides significant impact in supporting Upstream’s goal of ensuring our operators’ cost efficiency, as well as maximizing production from ERWs. The Slim High Pull Force Tractor allows reservoir engineers to have the ability to manage the reservoirs at the lateral level in terms of acidizing operations and ensuring maximum pay zone coverage. It also provides production engineers with an enabling tool to more reliably conduct intervention operations, knowing with confidence that intervention will be possible in more complex, restricted ERWs.

“One major aspect of this new technology is how it was uniquely designed to go smoothly through the smallest restrictions, then expand downhole to much bigger diameters and provide reliable and safe powerful performance in cased and open holes. This was clearly reflected in the industry record pull force and tractoring results of the field trial,” said Abubaker Saeed, the project leader and member of the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team.

**Operation**

The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“The tractor is now the world’s slimmest most compact CT tractor (2.125 inch outer diameter, 20 feet in length), and it’s a most compact, most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.”

**Two important technology milestones**

Two important technology milestones were achieved. A collaborative research and development project was started by the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team with WWT in 2013. Several concepts were tested to design and manufacture the world’s slimmest, most compact, and most powerful tractor. Throughout the past couple of years, the project progressed through a series of development and operational milestones until the recently executed field trial.

“Major endeavors, such as the Slim, Compact, High Pull Force Tractor, are representatives of the collaborative research and development projects EXPEC ARC strives to achieve — not only to address our upstream challenges but also to strengthen our industrial position as a leader in technology development and deployment,” said Ali A. Al Meshari, acting manager of EXPEC ARC.

**Cost efficient, maximizing production**

This new technology provides significant impact in supporting Upstream’s goal of ensuring our operators’ cost efficiency, as well as maximizing production from ERWs. The Slim High Pull Force Tractor allows reservoir engineers to have the ability to manage the reservoirs at the lateral level in terms of acidizing operations and ensuring maximum pay zone coverage. It also provides production engineers with an enabling tool to more reliably conduct intervention operations, knowing with confidence that intervention will be possible in more complex, restricted ERWs.

“One major aspect of this new technology is how it was uniquely designed to go smoothly through the smallest restrictions, then expand downhole to much bigger diameters and provide reliable and safe powerful performance in cased and open holes. This was clearly reflected in the industry record pull force and tractoring results of the field trial,” said Abubaker Saeed, the project leader and member of the EXPEC ARC Production Technology Team.
Driving Safety Campaign banner

Dhahran — The EXPEC Advanced Research Center (EXPEC ARC) has been actively promoting a safety culture on a variety of fronts with a focus on preventing incidents, which could cause injury, illness, or loss. Employees continuously strive to maintain the highest standards of health, safety, and environmental protection through continued implementation of ever-evolving initiatives, and the EXPEC ARC Safety Management System to ensure creative messaging reaches all employees.

Driving safety continues to be of paramount importance with EXPEC ARC employees. As part of the department’s Driving Safety Program, a Driving Safety Team was established to improve driving behaviors, reduce motor vehicle accidents, and improve driving safety performance and off-the-job. This is being conducted through implementation of the Managerial Tools to Improve Driving Safety Performance and other initiatives.

Be Alert to Be Alive

This “Be Alert to Be Alive” campaign was designed to emphasize the importance of avoiding distraction while behind the wheel. The event consisted of five sessions to accommodate all department personnel and demonstrated the effects and consequences of using social media on mobile devices while driving.

The event incorporated a driving video integrated with theatrical scenes and a moderated live debate between individuals representing two different schools of thought — one who respected the rules, and one who did not. Next, the entire audience was moved into an adjacent room where they witnessed a dramatized Emergency Room simulation with two doctors attempting to revive an injured individual with a defibrillator. With the unsuccessful attempts of the doctors, the next scenario was of a deceased body and crying family members. In a theatrical twist, the last scene was the other driver, now physically disabled in a wheelchair, expressing his sadness of killing all my loved ones, “I really received the message in a very strong way. I realized that my driving behavior may not only affect me — it affects all of my family, friends, colleagues, and all my loved ones,” said Ahmed Aloabi, a young lab technician working in the Advanced Technical Services Division. “I don’t think I’ll use my phone while driving again. I know exactly now that following traffic rules is for my own life.”

A shield was given to Dhahran Rehabilitation Hospital management in appreciation of their support in accommodating all the groups, and watches were gifted to some hospital patients for their involvement in sharing their personal accident experience.

Another initiative involved a collaborative effort between the EXPEC ARC Driving Safety team and Government Affairs that allowed young employees to visit the Dhahran Rehabilitation Hospital. The visits increased young drivers’ awareness of the impact and consequences of traffic accidents. The driving safety team solicited the participation of EXPEC ARC high-risk drivers (e.g., young employees, employees with repeat violations, etc.) for these visits, with four visits comprising 20-25 employees conducted. The visits included group discussions with patients who shared details of their traffic accidents and the long-term impacts to their lives.

Another initiative was focused on involving young professionals with the “Do you know?” campaign in which a selected young employee distributes a weekly email to all department employees to share traffic violations, along with the corresponding penalty points. The campaign looks to increase the awareness of traffic violations and the potential negative consequences. The Monthly Safety Champion is yet another program that has been implemented to involve younger employees. Nominated employees actively contribute to promoting and improving EXPEC ARC’s safety culture as demonstrated through suggestions, observations, near misses, and minor injuries.

The monthly champions provide weekly information for a selected safety topic to all department employees, culminating in awareness sessions at the end of the month.

Everyone is a leader when it comes to safety. I applaud the efforts EXPEC ARC has set forth with these initiatives to continually improve safety in general and traffic safety in particular,” said Nasir K. Al Naimi, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development (PE&D).

To improve laboratory operational safety, a Lab Safety Coordinator (LSC) Program was established to improve work practices and compliance, as well as laboratory order, organization, and cleanliness. This involved having an LSC for each of EXPEC ARC’s 63 laboratories. The implementation has resulted in improved communications for aspects related to inspections, chemical management, corrective action closure, waste removal, and risk management.

supplier safety

Safety with safety to be one of our critical corporate values, Saudi Aramco insists its suppliers adhere to our same high safety standards. Accordingly, EXPEC ARC championed a Supplier Safety Pre-Qualification Workshop with a committee comprised of the Contracting, R&D, and Loss Prevention departments. The workshop, which support contract activities in PE&D, introduced suppliers to the contractor safety pre-qualification and evaluation process, shared the safety evaluation inquiry and submittal data, and answered suppliers’ questions.

Safety is also incorporated in a variety of meetings at all levels. To improve communications, a monthly manager’s meeting was established to review corrective action status and performance indicators. Each unit has a minimum of one monthly safety presentation led by a rotation of unit team members on their selected topics. There is also a monthly safety award and recognition as part of the EXPEC ARC Awards and Recognition program.
company news

Turkish businesses company organizes onboarding orientation for contractors

by Mohammad Al-Adibah

Dhahr - Saudi Aramco recently hosted the Arabian Sun and Supply Chain Management, lauded of investments, time. They also have a positive effect on perspective, foreign companies or investors the oil and gas industry in the Kingdom. Al Abdulkarim in 2015 to fulfill Vision 2030 in terms of relying on the local workforce and prod-

amco in 2015 to fulfill Vision 2030 in terms of relying on the local workforce and productivity, which was introduced by Saudi Aramco, the General Author-

ity of Zakat and Tax (GAZT), the Ministry of Labor & Social Development, and the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA). The goal of the event was to highlight the investment landscape in the Kingdom, as well as to introduce Turkish companies to relevant laws and procedures concerning doing business in Saudi Arabia.

strong ties

In his opening remarks, Abdulaziz A. Al Abdulkarim, vice president of Procurement and Supply Chain Management, lauded the strong ties between the people of Turk-

key and Saudi Arabia. He stressed that the current investment climate in the Kingdom is optimal due to economic diversity and the transformation taking place in Saudi Arabia, in addition to Saudi Vision 2030.

The event, which came after meetings held Oct. 11 in Turkey to sign Memoran-
dums of Understanding (MoU) with Turk-

ish companies, was attended by 21 compa-

nies in power generation, construction, roads, and other sectors related to Saudi Aramco’s business. This led Saudi Aramco to attract more Turkish companies to work in the Kingdom for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Al Abdulkarim pointed out the size of spending Saudi Aramco devotes for its projects — more than $34 billion a year for facilities, construction, infrastructure de-

velopment, unconventional resources and other projects. “This event is the second step of the journey of building business relations and mutual interest that will sup-

port the company’s capital program. Since its inception, Saudi Aramco has been the lead-

er player in the Kingdom’s economy,” said Al Abdulkarim.

He explained that with the strategic transformation the Kingdom is pursuing to achieve Saudi Vision 2030, Saudi Aramco has its historical role as a leader of the na-

tional economy and social transformation. To gain these benefits, sustainability must be maintained in the innovative supply chain, which is supported by a diverse local economy.

Al Abdulkarim touched upon the In-Kingdom Total Value Add (IKTVA) pro-

gram, which was introduced by Saudi Ar-

amco in 2015 to fulfill Vision 2030 in terms of relying on the local workforce and pro-

ducts in supplying the materials needed by the oil and gas industry in the Kingdom. “Needless to say, from an international perspective, foreign companies or investors build long-term relations with companies and the Kingdom, which they work with for a long time. They also have a positive effect on these countries through training and em-

ployment of citizens, and enhancement of local workforce skills,” said Al Abdulkarim.

of investments, requirements, and more

Bandar Al-Sediri and Majid Al-Nulla, both from SAGIA, delivered a presentation in which they explained Saudi investment requirements and laws, as well as electronic channels that facilitate investors work. In their presentation, they discussed the unique geographical location of the King-

dom, which is at the heart of both the Arab and Islamic worlds and is strategically located in the middle of Asia, Europe, and Af-

rica. He further noted its utmost importance as a source of global energy, with Saudi Arabia ranking 20th among the top econ-

omies, fifth among the countries with the highest development rate, and 17th among the top exporting countries worldwide.

In addition, Saudi Arabia is placed among the best countries in terms of tax and fees on foreign investments. The King-

dom collects only 20%, thereby ranking first among many countries with foreign investments.

The presentation also provided informa-
tion about procedures on how to obtain permits, investment licenses, and visas. Abdulrahman Al-Mutiri and Hasan Al- Shaikh from GAZT gave a presentation on the tax system and Zakat payable by companies and investors. They explained the benefits provided by GAZT, which seamlessly and effectively facilitates their work in the Kingdom. The presentation addressed the self-evaluation of compa-

nies, as well as the discounts and services offered on certain items for tax and zakat payers.

Dr. ‘Amer Mas’oud from the Ministry of Labor & Social Development talked about the Nitaqat program, which categorizes companies based on the percentage of the local manpower they employ. He explained to the companies that the Ministry offers 20 services for companies according to their category in the Nitaqat program. The more advanced the classification of a company is, the more services the compa-

ny receives.

Mas’oud noted that an increasing num-

ber of jobs were granted to competent Saudis after launching the Nitaqat program and that more companies earned more ad-

vantages like being able to contract for work in varying environments and loca-

tions worldwide, especially in the Middle East and Saudi Arabia.

This event demonstrates the ongoing efforts of Saudi Aramco to strengthen communication with Turkish contracting and construction companies with which the MoUs were recently signed. I would like to seize this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the various government bodies for enriching this event with their presence and participation. I also want to thank the presenters from Saudi Aramco.” Mehmet Selcuk, a representative of the global Turkish construction compa-

ny Dorce, expressed his pleasure with the event, which will open new horizons for investment in the Kingdom. “The event was fruitful. I managed to grasp the vision of the Kingdom, and our company has the practical experience that will help realize this vision through cooperation with Saudi Aramco.”

Turkish contractors review the agenda for a recent onboarding event held in Dhahr. A total of 21 companies attended the event, with expertise in power generation, construction, roads, and other sectors related to Saudi Aram-

co’s business needs.
The GCC Lab's mandate is to provide testing, inspection, and certification services for electrical equipment. This strategic project will contribute fundamentally to the achievement of the strategic vision of the GCC in localizing electrical industries, building a knowledge-based economy, supporting research, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting alternative energy applications in line with the climatic conditions in the GCC countries.

contribution to local content (IKTVA)

The GCC Lab will bring many benefits to the Kingdom and the GCC region, including offering manufacturers and users an excellent opportunity to perform tests locally, which will reduce both cost and time, and enhance quality. The lab will serve as a specialized knowledge center that will support local industries with competitive testing and certification services, fostering innovation and quality improvements. This is an essential step toward effective localization of knowledge in the GCC countries. It will also create new high skill job opportunities in the electrical industry during all project phases (pre-design, design, construction, operation, and maintenance).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of important issues, including: the potential initial public offering (IPO) of stock in Saudi Aramco; investment opportunities for Swiss businesses in renewable and solar energy; opportunities for small and medium enterprises to supply goods and services to Saudi Aramco; and potential opportunities related to the company’s In-Kingdom Total Value Add (IKTVA) program.

Abdulaziz A. Al Abdulkarim, vice president for Procurement and Supply Chain Management, led Saudi Aramco’s delegation, accompanied by Khalid K. Al-Muhim, general manager for Government Affairs, Nassir S. Al-Yami, manager of Industrial Development and Strategic Supply Department, and Mohammed D. Al-Shammari, manager of the Contracting Department. The Swiss delegation was led by HE Thomas Aeschi, member of the Swiss National Council (Parliament) and president of the Swiss European Union/European Free Trade Association delegation. Other participants included HE Heinrich Schellenberg, Swiss Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delegation officials from the Swiss Foreign Ministry, Salah Al-Qahtani, co-chairman of the Saudi Swiss Business Council, and officials from the Swiss Parliament and Swiss Embassy.

In addition to discussing the IPO and business opportunities in Saudi Arabia, the Swiss delegation proposed that the Saudi/Swiss Business Council arrange a meeting to bring Saudi and Swiss businesses together to share business opportunities and further explore issues of mutual interest.
by Kainat Qazi

“In Saudi Arabia, 36% (of people) suffer from anxiety,” Yasmin Aljedawi explained during an inspired pitch that saw her team, Brain Balance U.K., win 3rd place at a recently concluded cross-cultural Hackathon.

Titled the “Medical Internet of Things,” the 48-hour Hackathon took place simultaneously in London and Riyadh where teams of students, individuals between the ages of 18 and 32 collaborated through live broadcast satellite to scheme technical solutions to the world’s pressing health care problems. The event was organized by Saudi Arabia’s MISK Foundation, established by HRH Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin ‘Abd Al-Aziz Al Sa’ud, with stated goals to nurture the talents of the country’s youth to spur creativity and innovation in line with Saudi Vision 2030.

Aljedawi’s 2.5 minute pitch came against 32 other teams as she led her group to a remarkable $35,000 in prize money. The computer scientist, along with her team of Rana Alhelalab and Abrar Alnasri, both Saudi medical genetics students in the U.K., developed a medical device that holds a unique function: scoring and tracking anxiety levels of the wearer.

Aljedawi works as a Petroleum Engineering systems analyst in the Simulation Systems Division.

Hackathon help and preparation

The Hackathon involved mentors who offered their expertise to all participants. Aljedawi noted that one particular service professional from Amazon helped her team zoom out and focus on the larger picture — the “why before even the how.” That advice, along with pointers given by other specialists, was instrumental in taking the concept to the succeeding stage, she said.

Saudi Aramco, too, played a vital role in helping her develop an onslaught presentation. “When I started working for Saudi Aramco, there was a very big emphasis on presentation skills. During my two years here, I’ve had the chance to present several times (and) it’s definitely increased my confidence level,” she says.

As Saudi women in specialized fields, Aljedawi’s squad reveled in breaking stereotypes held by some of her fellow competitors in London. Their success also came amid the initially demoralizing setback that saw their design initially 10 member unit be whittled down to three due to many no-shows. Despite the handicap, their subsequent “no fear” mentality certainly left a lasting impression. And that kind of grit is exactly what Brain Balance U.K. will need to take their brainschild to the next phase.

What makes the Brain Balance tool particularly useful is the constructive — and potentially life-saving advice it delivers once a diagnosis has been made. A “re-balance” score serves as a warning that a user is about to crash, and the solutions the team gives are scientific and research-based, such as exercising, meditating, and cognitive behavioral therapy. It also features connections to local trainers and therapists. Those with an “at-risk” status have a pre-determined support group saved in the app who are contacted to provide in-person relief. “Balance” users, meanwhile, are encouraged to continue the activities contributing to their relatively low level of anxiety.

“I was really shocked (when) I discovered that the kind of medications that are given for mental health problems come with huge side effects; they make one even worse and dependent on those chemicals,” said Aljedawi. She hopes her group’s creation can provide a more natural, sustainable, and low-risk alternative, as well as be a reliable tool outside of the sphere of medical institutions.

Yasmin Aljedawi, left, poses with Hackathon teammates Abdriziqi and Rana Alhelalab with a giant check representing the $35,000 in prize money they received for finishing third in a recent “Medical Internet of Things” event held in London and Riyadh. Organized by Saudi Arabia’s MISK Foundation, which itself was established by HRH Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin ‘Abd Al-Aziz Al Sa’ud, the Hackathon inspired the trio to come up with a medical device that helps individuals monitor their mental health status and provide them resources when needed.

School children receive Saudi Aramco bags as part of their participation in the Manifa Producing Department’s “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.” With a theme of “Our Planet... Our Responsibility,” more than 30 volunteers participated, including employees and contractors from Manifa Producing Department, Security, Medical, and Transportation, as well as school children and special needs workers from Nariya. See additional photo page 13.

by Kainat Qazi

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

a device to fight anxiety

The device was designed to help individuals monitor their mental health status and serves to also preempt and guide depression before deteriorating stages such as suicide, heart attacks, and digestive problems. “A lot of people who suffer from general anxiety disorder end up in the hospital after going through a really difficult situation — to the point where they crash,” said Aljedawi. “So the solution that we’re trying to come up with is to prevent such a disaster from happening, beforehand.”

The proposed wristband would include sensors that measure biometric data of anxiety indicators, including breathing, heart rate, sleep, and levels of chemicals such as cortisol and adrenaline. Through a connected mobile app, users can view these measurements over time. More crucially, they’ll be able to gauge their mental wellness through active analysis of the biometric variables that will produce one of three diagnoses: balance, re-balance, and at-risk.

Users will also be asked to complete a questionnaire measuring general anxiety disorder — the same ones found in psychiatric assessments. This is so both an accurate diagnosis can be made and the user can comfortably respond in their own time, away from the limelight of onlookers and medical practitioners.

What makes the Brain Balance tool particularly useful is the constructive — and potentially life-saving advice it delivers once a diagnosis has been made. A “re-balance” score serves as a warning that a user is about to crash, and the solutions the team gives are scientific and research-based, such as exercising, meditating, and cognitive behavioral therapy. It also features connections to local trainers and therapists. Those with an “at-risk” status have a pre-determined support group saved in the app who are contacted to provide in-person relief. “Balance” users, meanwhile, are encouraged to continue the activities contributing to their relatively low level of anxiety.

“I was really shocked (when) I discovered that the kind of medications that are given for mental health problems come with huge side effects; they make one even worse and dependent on those chemicals,” said Aljedawi. She hopes her group’s creation can provide a more natural, sustainable, and low-risk alternative, as well as be a reliable tool outside of the sphere of medical institutions.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.

Manifa Producing Department cleans up the desert

Manifa — The Manifa Producing Department (MPD) strives continuously to improve the environment at and near its vicinity, covering both offshore and onshore areas. As part of these efforts, as well as its environmental initiatives and contributions to the local community awareness, the department recently conducted the “Manifa Desert Cleaning Campaign.”

The theme of the campaign was “Our Planet... Our Responsibility.”

making the desert safer, more appealing

The cleanup initiative was launched with a goal of improving the attractiveness of the Manifa desert and raising the public awareness of the importance of keeping the desert clean. While waste is unappealing to the eyes, it is also harmful to the wildlife and environment. The message of the campaign was to educate the people that when we enjoy or use a place, it should be left clean for the other users and protect the environment.

Every year, tourists like to visit the desert but end up leaving it untidy, creating not only environmental hazards but also serious dangers to the camels, sheep, goats, and other wildlife that inhabit the area.
Abdulaziz A. Al Abdulkarim, fifth from right, and HE Thomas Aeschi, sixth from right, pose with fellow members of the Swiss and Saudi Aramco delegations during last month’s visit to Dhahran. The visit allowed the Swiss group to learn more about investment opportunities in the Kingdom. (Photo: Musleh Khathami/MPD)

HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahraini Minister of Oil, fourth from left, is joined by Nasser K. Al Naimi, Saudi Aramco vice president for Petroleum Engineering and Development, fifth from left, at the opening of the recent SPE Artificial Lift Conference held in Bahrain. Under the theme “Lift More for Less,” the event featured international and regional experts discussing the latest trends and developments in artificial lift, and included 130 papers from 46 companies and 27 countries.

Some of the participants in the Manifa Producing Department’s Desert Cleaning Campaign gather for a photo during the event. Launched under the theme “Our Planet … Our Responsibility,” the event featured volunteers from throughout the company, as well as local schools, special needs workers, and contractors.

Saudi Aramco and the Marine Studies Section of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals gather to share environmental achievements of the Manifa project. Among those pictured are, Mohammed H. Al Ghamdi, acting manager of the Manifa Producing Department, seated fifth from left, and Khalid Abdulkader of the Environmental Protection Department, seated sixth from left, and other members of the company’s Manifa team and KFUPM scientists. (Photo: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD)

A Saudi Aramco employee turns a valve at the Safaniyah Bulk Plant to let a new, low octane gas grade flow to fuel tankers. Ten years ago on Jan. 1, Saudi Aramco began supplying Premium 91 gasoline to domestic gas stations, in addition to the Premium 95 it had supplied for years. The project to add the second type of fuel covered 23 Saudi Aramco facilities across the Kingdom, including expansion and modifications at 18 petroleum bulk plants, four refineries, and one marine terminal. The entire project was completed without any impact on the facilities’ operations or their supplies to the domestic market.
Yasmin Aljedawi, a Petroleum Engineering systems analyst in the Simulation Systems Division, credits skills she developed when she first started working for Saudi Aramco to helping her and her Brain Balance U.K. team capture third place in a recent MiSK Foundation competition to create useful “Medical Internet of Things” devices.

Hackathon standout

see page 11