nourishing the young leaders of today and tomorrow
Training and education through such opportunities as the Hosted University Program’s masters of business program through the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is critical to producing the kind of leadership the company will need in the years ahead. see page 5

‘Navigator’ a reliable friend in remote areas
Driving in-house technology
see page 3

OPEC basket five-week price trend 2019

Saudi Aramco by the numbers

women are expected to be trained annually at the Saudi Aramco-sponsored Al-Ghawar Driving School, which will be open to the public.
Al-Hassa — A recently signed agreement between Saudi Aramco and Gulf Alliance will make a significant contribution to women’s empowerment and the economy of Saudi Arabia by providing for the operation of a new driving center in al-Hasa that will train 20,000 female drivers per year.

Faisal A. Al-Hajji, general manager of Training and Development (T&D), and Amer A. Belhasa, head of Gulf Alliance — a Saudi affiliate of EDI Group — signed a Memorandum of Understanding giving Gulf Alliance responsibility for operating the Al-Ghawar Driving School that will be open to the public in the third quarter of this year.

“I’m very excited to have the opportunity to do something that will have such an impact on the lives of people throughout the Kingdom,” Al-Hajji said. “Thanks to this agreement, we’ll be able to meet the high demand for quality driving instruction and provide a model of excellence for other driving schools across the Kingdom to follow.”

“The Gulf Alliance Company has been waiting for this historic moment, and we have been preparing the instructors and the driving center with the latest technology to provide our students with the best learning environment and tools,” said Belhasa. “We have many branches for our driving centers and partners worldwide, and we want to make a positive difference to Saudi Arabia and Saudi society.”

**New center to employ 200 Saudis**

The center will be equipped with 200 vehicles, 10 interactive simulators, 5 smart classrooms, a 300-seat auditorium, a day care, and a clinic. The center will employ 200 Saudis working as instructors, examiners, and lecturers, among other roles.

The facility will be a 3,500 square-meter building, and the adjacent driving course will cover 50,000 square meters. The renovation of an existing building to accommodate the facility and construction of the driving course is underway. The center will also offer flexible training hours and will accommodate students with special needs.

The driving center is named for the Ghawar oil field — the largest oil field in the world and a major source of prosperity for the Kingdom.

Proponents hope that it will also provide a wellspring of opportunity for women in the Kingdom. Increasing female participation in the economy is a priority of Saudi Vision 2030, and getting more women driving will make it easier for them to find job opportunities and balance work and family responsibilities.

**Helping empower women**

Al-Hajji said many women have benefited from the royal edict issued in 2017 giving women the right to drive.

“I know a lady who used to pay SR1,700 a month just to get to the office and back,” he said. “Her financial circumstances were not the best, so to get rid of that cost has been great for her. Now she’s driving on her own, has a car, and is independent.”

Salem A. Al Shehry, director of Saudi Aramco’s Industrial Training Department, said Saudi Aramco built the center as part of its responsibility as a good corporate citizen of the Kingdom.

“We owe this to our people and the nation,” said Al Shehry.

**Offering high quality training to the public**

The new center will provide the same high quality driver education to the general public that the Saudi Aramco Driving Center (SADC) provides to employees and dependents of Saudi Aramco in Dhahran.

Since the early 1990s, and we are very serious about continuous development and making sure we have the latest, state-of-the-art technology from all over the world applied in our driving training,” said Belhasa.

“We strive to improve with each passing day — to be better today than yesterday.”

**Saad A. Al-Hajji**

signs an agreement in coordination with Amer A. Belhasa to move forward to the opening of a new driving center in al-Hasa. The center, which is expected to open to the public in the third quarter, will have the capacity to train 20,000 female drivers annually.

**Al-Ghawar Driving Center**

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**Your voice**

Safety has always been a priority with the giant companies — especially in the oil and gas sector because of its local and global importance, as well as the risks associated with all phases of the composition of products related to oil.

Maintaining and developing the assets and human resources is a must for all layers of management, so tightening safety conditions before and after any project is stressed at all times.

The best companies, including Saudi Aramco, constantly make employees aware of the importance of the safety component. The implementation and development of safety measures also allows companies to maintain a high level of efficiency and production.

Since the establishment of Saudi Aramco, the company has adopted the role of providing educational training in both safety and security in all sectors and locations to create a certain culture among our employees.

On top of that, Saudi Aramco has also emphasized the importance of preserving the environment and contributing to its sustainability while continuing our search for new resources. The company has adopted several initiatives in this area.

Dedication to inventing methods and ideas that support the development of protection and security is an important element in the sustainability of any company.

Maintaining a focus on productivity and efficiency helps the company achieve short- and long-term goals. One of the key aspects of this is developing and retaining subject matter experts and highly trained personnel in all aspects of the company’s business.

But regardless of whether it is people working in the oil fields, an office environment, or a laboratory, among others, the elements of safety, security, and awareness of the environment continue to be a mainstay — as they should.

The provision of training courses — compulsory or optional — help to maintain this awareness, or a laboratory, among others.

The company’s experience in setting up and running SADC will be helpful as Saudi Aramco works with Gulf Alliance. Anazi said SADC went through many changes as the company discovered what worked and what didn’t work for providing driving instruction for women in the Kingdom.

Anazi said the program overcame challenges related to installing brakes for instructors on the training vehicles, among other logistical issues.

Anazi said Gulf Alliance brings many strengths to the table as a driving center operator, thanks to the experience it can draw upon as an affiliate of EDI, a UAE-based driving school company.

“Our driving center has been established since the early 1990s, and we are very serious about continuous development and making sure we have the latest, state-of-the-art technology from all over the world applied in our driving training," said Belhasa.

“We strive to improve with each passing day — to be better today than yesterday.”

Training safety-first saw
Saudi Aramco operates within many corners of the Kingdom's mighty horizons, and an innovative mobile navigation application just released by the company's technology experts assists field workers to travel to and within the business's remote locations.

Safety is the No. 1 priority when Saudi Aramco's field workforce venture across the Kingdom's remote and often unforgiving landscapes to operate the company's sites, maintain its infrastructure, or explore for hidden deposits.

A newly developed app named “Navigator” gives reliable travel directions for Saudi Aramco sites, facilities, and deposits, helping workers travel more safely and directly to the company's numerous remote places.

Drilling and Workover Services Department assistant superintendent Khalid A. Al Arfaj explains that working in a remote area has particular challenges such as vast distances and extreme weather, and serious consequences can result if you become stranded.

“There are a number of concerns when working in remote areas, and having reliable travel directions is a key way to mitigate against the risk of not reaching your destination on schedule,” said Al Ghafel. “Navigator is the latest of many initiatives Saudi Aramco consistently uses to enhance the safety of our people working in remote areas.”

works offline and online

Achieved collaboratively by the Wellsites Division, North Ghawar Producing Department, and Information Technology (IT), Navigator uses satellite-based tracking technology to provide a highly reliable and secure navigation system.

Corporate Applications Department manager Abdulaziz S. Al-Shafi said the solution was part of the continuous efforts by IT to improve the safety and efficiency of fieldwork. “Navigator reduces the chances of drivers getting lost off-road when traveling to remote facilities, bringing a positive impact to both the safety and cost of field operations. It is part of the Enterprise Mobility program that represents a cornerstone into the operations. It is part of the Enterprise Mobility program.”

The powerful native mobile navigation app combines commercial road data with Saudi Aramco’s own mapping data to search for locations, and includes on-screen routing as well as voice directions.

Describing Navigator as a great tool that is simple to use, Corporate Applications Department/Solution Services Division head Shabbab Otaibi, NGPD operations engineering supervisor, said that with Navigator installed on his company mobile phone, he no longer requires two people from Field Services to guide him through the lesser known skid roads.

“By following the app’s directions, you can quickly reach a destination, and use information on weather conditions to ensure the location is approached from the safest direction,” Otaibi said, adding that the app is intuitive to use and didn’t require any special training. “It’s as easy as using Google Maps.”

Ali A. Gamdi, a survey party chief who has been testing the app since March, concurs. “As well as directions, the app calculates distance and time, which makes you feel safer when traveling remotely. Using Navigator, we are high-tech now,” Gamdi said.

NGPD assistant superintendent Hussain Khalwani, who has worked for Saudi Aramco for 29 years, noted that Navigator was particularly useful in emergency situations. “The area managed by the North Ghawar Producing Department covers approximately 14,000 square kilometers, and Navigator assists us to go directly to where we need to be,” he said.

Meanwhile, Wellsites Division superintendent Salem D. Qahtani said their activities were expanding across the Kingdom and that utilizing technology to provide a navigation application with live updated well site data was assisting to overcome some of the challenges.

reduced environmental footprint

By assisting drivers to stay on the company’s designated roads and follow the optimal routes, the environmental impact of remote driving is reduced.

Uncontrolled off-road driving disturbs the ground, vegetation, and wildlife, and is regarded as a significant contributor to land degradation in arid regions.

secure digital transformation

Navigator is one of Saudi Aramco’s approved suite of applications, complying with the company’s strict security standards. If a device is mislaid, the company can quickly delete the data.

Development of the app is part of the company’s “Digital Transformation Program,” which looks to transform the company by 2022 into the world’s leading digitized energy corporation.

Authorized company users can request permission to access the app through the MyAccess system.
Computer Operations Department offer up a successful OE road map

Dhahran — When Saudi Aramco’s Computer Operations Department (COD) topped all organizations with a 3.18 out of 4.0 in its 2018 Operational Excellence (OE) assessment, that showed the department’s commitment to providing prompt, reliable, and world-class security standards for computing infrastructure across Saudi Aramco.

In addition to earning the President’s OE Award, COD also won the President’s Award for Safety Excellence. All of this is a testament to its ability to exceed targets on a daily basis.

What COD does

COD monitors the company’s IT infrastructure to ensure reliable and secure computing solutions and services. It also operates and manages two major data centers, and a computing hardware site — hosting vital resources that drive the company’s IT business and upstream operations. These data centers host vast computing infrastructure with thousands of systems, databases, and applications.

The Dhahran Corporate Data Center (CCD) is the largest facility of its kind in the Middle East and is calibrated to meet Saudi Aramco’s ever-expanding IT needs for the next 10 years and beyond. The CCD serves corporate customers with 6,000 square meters of computing floor space that can be expanded to meet business needs.

• Promoting OE awareness through communication meetings, presentations, OE newsletters, announcement emails, and using other mediums, as well as an OE ShareX webpage that serves as the face of COD’s OE program. Also, an OE 101 e-Learning course has been mandated for COD employees.

• Utilizing feedback tools to determine the effectiveness of OE communication and implementation Information Technology (IT) tools such as the Smart-Track application and dashboards are used to track the progress of OE implementation.

• Participating in IT OE workshops to review and improve all generic processes to breakdown silos, promote knowledge sharing, and improve cross-departmental communication.

a role model in OE

Ahmed A. Abdullatif, COD manager, reiterated the department’s commitment to OE.

“Tying in with our 2023 vision, we strive to deliver computing solutions and services to Saudi Aramco that compete with both top-tier computing service providers and are in line with the company’s strategic objectives,” said Abdullatif.

Not only has COD shared its best practices in OE through presentations for other organizations, but it has also been recognized for its OE excellence and sought after outside of Saudi Aramco. Several COD employees have been invited to speak at conferences around the world as COD continues to remain fully committed to OE, working to practice it as an inherited culture.

What COD has done

• Creating an OE steering committee to ensure effective implementation of the OE processes, allocating required capabilities and resources, resolving issues and concerns related to OE implementation, and endorsing changes to enhance the OE program.

• Developing OE and safety PMP goals for all business processes and operations.

• Building a functional-based ownership assignments for OE and safety that rely on process owners and subject matter experts, and encourages technological innovation.

• Creating a quality management team by centralizing the functions of OE deployment, process improvement, performance data management, and quality assurance.

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Hong Kong hosted MBA
nourishing the young leaders of today

The 2019 graduating Saudi Aramco cohort of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology pose with Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib (sixth from left) and head of Saudi Arabia Consulate in Hong Kong Omar bin Bakheet bin Nasser Al-Bonayan (eighth from left). The program was devised to cement cooperation and achieve academic progress over an array of subjects, including education, scientific research, technology and community services — with a top priority given to areas of energy research.

by Paul Zhang

Hong Kong — Saudi Aramco will require a “different kind of leadership” as the companystrides forward becoming more diversified, more international, and more technologically advanced than ever before, company Masters of Business Administration (MBA) graduates in Hong Kong have been told.

As part of Saudi Aramco’s Hosted University Program, the prestigious Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) conferred MBA degrees to a third cohort of 57 Saudi Aramco sponsored students who had just recently completed an intensive two-year study program with the university’s Business School.

The Hosted University Program began in 2009 and has paved the way for the company to develop the human capital needed to meet the increasing demands of an evolving industry. Since its launch, the program has seen hundreds of Saudi Aramco employees graduate from over a dozen programs.

leaders of tomorrow

The HKUST MBA program in Saudi Arabia was devised to cement cooperation and achieve academic progress over an array of subjects, including education, scientific research, technology and community services — with a top priority given to areas of energy research.

Distinguished guests at the ceremony included Saudi Aramco’s general manager of Public Affairs, Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib, professor Steven J. Dekrey, associate dean of the Digital Communications Division, told attendees that the true value of “your experiences comes only when we place our new knowledge, skills, expertise and insights at the service of our company, our community, and our country.”

Al-Dhubaib painted a picture of an ever-evolving and expanding Saudi Aramco that requires the human skills to make diversity “a strategic asset.”

He pointed to the strategic direction of a company that is engaged in leveraging the Fourth Industrial Revolution as an enabler for the creation of game changing technologies in various fields, including crude to chemicals, nonmetallic materials, engine fuel systems, carbon capture and utilization and potentially oil to hydrogen.

“Simply put,” Al-Dhubaib told the graduates, “the world demands a different kind of leadership, and that is where you come in.”

formidable challenges

“And this is why I believe the MBA you have worked so hard to earn is more important now than at any time in Saudi Aramco’s history. Saudi Aramco, as a business, is becoming more complex than ever and is facing challenges that are more formidable than ever.”

“And if we have ever needed ‘masters of business’ — that time is now,” Al-Dhubaib said.

He went on to note the need for the graduates to be “multilingual” in terms of their fluency.

He also urged the MBA graduates to drive forward and build a bright future for Saudi Aramco, by being “originators” of change.

competitive advantage

Along with the Advanced Degree Program, the Hosted University Program provides Saudi Aramco a competitive advantage in attracting and retaining human capital, as well as providing exposure to cultures and evolving markets such as the Far East.

Saudi Aramco partners with top global universities and institutes around the world to bring high quality and internationally accredited programs to local students.

These programs are designed to be business driven, cost-effective, and flexible. They provide participants with hands-on experiences enabling them to implement their research on work-related topics.

what they said

Five students, including Ahmed M. Alawi, Saeed S. Alghamdi, Ali H. Alshareef, Kunal K. Oogorah, and Brian J. Parrott answered students’ questions and reflected on their own histories with the company.

“With the goal of improving the caliber of Saudi Aramco’s future workforce, T&D’s vision and goal is to increase student enrollment in the top 30 universities worldwide, alongside increasing the number of high achievers each year,” said Al-Hajji.

He also mentioned exploring new programs offered by other top ranked universities in Europe, broadening Saudi Aramco’s academic horizons.

Al-Marri encouraged students to not only utilize existing resources and facilities, including AOC and its Technology and Engineering Division’s research resources, but also to make use of existing volunteering opportunities in Europe to help build their soft skills.

T&D: bridging minds, shaping the future abroad

by Nancy Kennedy and Ohood Almulhim

London — Training and Development (T&D) general manager Faisal A. Al-Hajji and Aramco Overseas Company (AOC) president and CEO Talal Al-Marrj recently toured several top ranked universities in the U.K. that are currently home to a number of Saudi Aramco sponsored students.

Meeting with officials from some of the world’s leading universities, including the University of Oxford and Imperial College London, the delegation discussed areas of collaboration, academic programs, and the possibility of universities delivering hosted programs to employees in Saudi Arabia.

Strengthening partnerships was the main focus of the visit, with an emphasis on building bridges with institutions positioned in the top 30 of the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings.

The delegation also met with approximately 140 students over two evenings, exchanging experiences and acknowledging their outstanding achievements.

‘think beyond tomorrow, focus on the future’

Students were urged to “think beyond tomorrow, focus on the future,” and assess how their actions could positively impact their future as employees. During the event, AOC launched a technology-based communication platform that creates a community for Saudi Aramco-sponsored students to engage with their peers and advisors, allowing for an enhanced educational experience.

Faisal Julaidan, a final year student majoring in applied software engineering, was inspired by the event. “Some things cannot be learned from books; they can only be experienced. This is what I look forward to most as I begin my career with Saudi Aramco,” said Julaidan.

The events included panel sessions where students asked questions relating to their studies, future roles with the company, and Saudi Aramco’s current and future plans and strategies. The panelists answered students’ questions and reflected on their own histories with the company.

“When the goal of improving the caliber of Saudi Aramco’s future workforce, T&D’s vision and goal is to increase student enrollment in the top 30 universities worldwide, alongside increasing the number of high achievers each year,” said Al-Hajji.

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see photo on page 8

Simply put, the world demands a different kind of leadership, and that is where you come in.

— Fahad K. Al-Dhubaib

ifi, Saeed S. Alghamdi, Ali H. Alshareef, Kunal K. Oogorah, and Brian J. Parrott claimed this year’s MBA Academic Excellence Awards for outstanding merit. Alghamdi noted that the MBA enabled him “to continue to develop my own leadership potential and provided me with the required mindset, knowledge, skills, and tools to be able to analyze business challenges, ask the right critical questions, come up with effective solutions, and make the appropriate decisions using the right framework.”

For fellow graduate Cynthia Irenua, one of the most memorable parts of the program was the interpersonal connection with fellow students.

“Saudi Aramco melted into one big and strong unit in our minds,” she said. “We began to see synergies between businesses and understand how to harness and optimize them for the common good.”
spurring creativity by recognizing and supporting the people who innovate

Riyadh Refinery brings innovation to the fore

by Maged A. Al-Zahrani

Riyadh — The Riyadh Refinery Department (RRD) recently hosted its annual Innovation Day, inviting participation from Process and Control Systems, Consulting Services, and Yanbu’ NGL and Fractionation, along with local vendors and government representatives.

The goal of the event, which featured the theme “Your Idea Matters,” was to recognize the RRD Innovation Management Committee and innovators. The event also provided a venue to showcase innovative solutions.

The event featured a showcase exhibit presented by approximately 30 exhibitors who have had their technologies deployed successfully. These innovations provided encouragement for increased engagement with the RRD Innovation Program. Among the areas showcased included value creation, electrical safety, smart solutions, process improvements, inspection technologies, plant and personal safety, and equipment solutions, 3D technologies, improving reliability, equipment extended life cycle, alarm management, and knowledge management.

More than 200 employees from various organizations attended the event, which was inaugurated by RRD manager Abdulrahman A. Al Fadhel, who emphasized the importance of innovation and invention in any organization or company.

“In any company overlooking the importance of innovation in their daily business will be left behind,” said Al Fadhel. “The markets these days are very challenging and competitive.”

He noted that 45% of innovative ideas in RRD come from technicians and operators, as they are the individuals dealing with challenges on a daily basis.

“Innovation is not optional,” he added. “It must be a priority in our business — to save time, streamline efforts, and save money.”

Mark Graner’s ‘water’ volunteer work gains recognition

Saudi Aramco’s Mark L. Graner recently received the Arthur Sydney Bedell Award for his extraordinary contributions to the Saudi Arabian Water Environment Association (SAWEA) — a Water Environment Federation (WEF) local member association in the Middle East.

Graner, who now serves as assistant superintendent for the Water and Sanitary Services Department, has been an active and contributing member of SAWEA since 2012, and a member of WEF since 2008. He has been with the company more than 10 years.

Graner, who has served two terms on the SAWEA executive board as secretary and four years a general member, was instrumental in helping establish most of the organization’s current administrative procedures.

As chairman of the Exhibition Committee for the SAWEA Water Arabia Conferences (2015 and 2017), Graner helped obtain a continuously higher number of exhibitors’ participation than in years past. These conferences were each attended by more than 1,000 delegates and over 30 exhibitors. During the 2017 Water Arabia Conference, he championed a poster contest that facilitated participation from the local universities, delivering strong results in quality and participation.

The second part of the event included knowledge sharing sessions where several presentations were given covering the history of the RRD Innovation Program, enhancements to the corporate innovation program, and innovations regarding the “Optimum Design of Steam and Power Systems.”

“RRD was acknowledged by a corporate innovation report as one of the most innovative working environments in Saudi Aramco,” said Al-Balawi. “The highly competent employees in RRD are the main success factor that contributed to this high level of excellence.”

Maher Alany, an Operations Engineering Unit engineer, presented on a process improvement titled “Salt Formation Calculation Configuration in DCS” that helps track potential problems and wash water rates to avoid forced unit shutdowns due to accumulations and blockages.

The RRD Mechanical Shop, under the theme “Made in Riyadh Refinery,” presented an innovative in-house solution regarding the safe and secure handling of heavy equipment.

The group earned an Exceptional Safety Award Recognition Program honor in 2018 for its innovative solution regarding heavy equipment transfer, and the RRD manager noted that their ideas have been great candidates for potential patent applications.

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July 10, 2019 | the arabian sun

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creating thousands of jobs and expanding capacity
Saudi Aramco awards $18 billion in contracts to increase Marjan, Berri fields’ production capacity

Dhahran — Saudi Aramco on Tuesday awarded 34 contracts with a total value of $18 billion for the engineering, procurement, and construction of the Marjan and Berri increment programs. The company plans to boost the Marjan and Berri fields’ production capacity by 550,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, and 2.5 billion standard cubic feet per day (scfd) of gas.

“These two programs will significantly enhance Saudi Aramco’s oil production and gas processing capabilities, both strengthening our position as the leading integrated energy supplier and meeting growing long-term demand for petroleum,” said Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco president and CEO. “These investments will support our continued focus on employing best-in-class technologies, well completion, and reservoir management practices. They will enable Saudi Aramco to further reduce the carbon intensity of our crude oils, supporting our strategy of reducing emissions while providing energy to those who need it.”

Saudi companies win half of the bids

More than 90 companies and institutions were invited to bid on the packages, and 16 Saudi and international companies were chosen in the fields of engineering, supply, and construction. Saudi companies account for 50% of the awarded contracts, and they are high-caliber firms that have proven their ability to handle complex projects.

Contractors working on these projects are required to maximize the procurement of material and equipment from local suppliers and manufacturers to help achieve Saudi Aramco’s In-Kingdom Total Value Add Program (iktva) goals, which are designed to increase the company’s locally sourced goods and services to 70% by 2021.

The projects are expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, supporting Saudi Aramco’s efforts to localize and create new job opportunities.

the Marjan Increment Program

The Marjan Increment Program is an integrated development project for oil, associated gas, nonassociated gas, and cap gas from the Marjan offshore field. This development program includes a new offshore gas-oil separation plant (GOSP), and 24 offshore oil, gas, and water injection platforms.

The company also plans to expand its Tanajib onshore oil facilities and construct a new gas plant that will include gas treatment and processing, NGL recovery and fractionation, and gas compression facilities. A cogeneration facility will be developed, in addition to a water desalination facility, and new transfer pipelines.

The offshore oil field development project looks to increase the Marjan field production by 300,000 barrels of Arabian Medium crude oil per calendar day (bcd), process 2.5 billion scfd of gas, and produce an additional 360,000 bcd of C2+NGL.

the Berri Increment Program

Through the Berri Increment Program, the company plans to add 250,000 bpd of Arabian Light crude oil from the offshore oil field. The planned facilities will, upon completion, include a new GOSP on Abu Ali Island to process 500,000 bpd of Arabian Light crude oil, and additional gas processing facilities at the Khursaniyah gas plant to process 40,000 barrels of associated hydrocarbon condensate.

The program includes a new water injection facility, two drilling islands, 11 oil and water offshore platforms, and nine onshore oil production and water supply drill sites.

The company’s overall maximum sustained capacity remains at 12 million bpd.

These investments will support our continued focus on employing best-in-class technologies, well completion, and reservoir management practices. They will enable Saudi Aramco to further reduce the carbon intensity of our crude oils, supporting our strategy of reducing emissions while providing energy to those who need it.

— Amin Nasser

Representatives from companies involved in the signing of 34 contracts with Saudi Aramco pose with Amin Nasser and other members of Saudi Aramco management Tuesday in Dhahran. The contracts, with a total value of $18 billion for the engineering, procurement, and construction of the Marjan and Berri increment programs, are expected to create thousands of direct and indirect job opportunities for Saudis.
a Saudi Aramco first

Jazan projects recognized for commitment to reducing hydrocarbon footprint

Barcelona, Spain — The Jazan Refinery Complex (JRC) Project recently became the first Saudi Aramco organization to win the “New Project of the Year — Embracing Excellence Award” by Sphera.

The project qualified for consideration for being a digital refinery and implementing the environmental management systems within the JRC’s integrated manufacturing operations management system (iMoms) project.

Presented during the Sphera 2019 conference in Barcelona, Saudi Aramco was singled out for recognition by more than 300 members that were charted to develop top projects in 2019. This included Chevron, BP, Shell, Total, ExxonMobil, and Repsol — all members of the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative.

Sphera is the largest global provider of Integrated Risk Management software and information services with a focus on environmental health and safety, operational risk, and product stewardship.

Saudi Aramco qualified for the award for pioneering the implementation of several digital solutions within iMoms, including an air quality management module, a wastewater management program, and hazardous waste management systems. These innovative real-time solutions have been implemented as part of Saudi Aramco’s commitment to reduce its hydrocarbon footprint and comply with the environmental regulations. In addition, the solutions provide end-users with digital mobility dashboards to provide real-time monitoring to avoid any potential environmental deviation.

traffic safety campaign looks to preserve our No. 1 asset

A young employee tries out the Seat Belt Convincer machine during the North Ghawar Producing Department’s Traffic Safety Campaign. The campaign was designed to promote road safety among younger employees.

Barcelona, Spain — The North Ghawar Producing Department’s Traffic Safety Campaign recently ended by Genesis Monterde.

Abqaiq — According to the World Health Organization, approximately 125 million people die every year due to car accidents. That’s equivalent to 144 deaths per hour and 12 deaths per minute, and Saudi Arabia has one of the highest number of road casualties globally.

To combat this and demonstrate its commitment to road safety, the North Ghawar Producing Department (NGPD) recently conducted its Traffic Safety Campaign in collaboration with the Loss Prevention Department and the Traffic Safety Signature Program. The goal of the campaign, which was attended by young employees across NGPD, was to promote traffic safety throughout its younger workforce.

“Traffic safety is the No. 1 priority of NGPD, and the company in general,” said Abdullah L. Mahasheer, supervisor of the North Ghawar Maintenance Services Division.

progress with an eye on the future

NGPD has improved significantly over the past three years, reducing traffic violations by 95% in 2018 compared to 2017. Hussain A. Al-Abdulmohsin from the Quality Assurance and Compliance Review Group highlighted key steps that helped reduce the number of violations, including initiatives to add additional bus routes, encourage employees to use mass transportation, enforcing parking control measures, and changing employee work schedules.

Likewise, Loss Prevention representative Mashhour A. Al-Shareef, also highlighted the four basic practical steps to minimize or prevent traffic incidents — slow down, wear your seat belt, don’t use your mobile phone, and maintain road courtesy.

“The campaign also offered real-life experience through the use of devices—one that simulated a rollover, and the other was the Seat Belt Convincer. About 130 young employees attended the campaign along with NGPD management and staff, along with the Quality Assurance and Compliance Group headed by Mohammed A. Hadrami.”

The campaign was preceded by a traffic safety session in conjunction with the Drilling and Workover (D&W) Services Department, which included interactive sessions, safety games, and awards.

“Oil is the most valuable asset of the company, but I would say, you, the younger generations are the most important asset to achieve the company’s goals and objectives,” said Sultan Nauryzbayev, a contractor with the D&W Services Department.

by slow down

By slowing down and maintaining a minimum speed, it increases your chances of survival.

by buckle up

Wear your seat belt at all times, as it has been proven to be the most effective way to reduce injuries and fatalities.

by stay cell free

Using your mobile phone and other distracting items is one of the leading causes of accidents and fatalities.

by maintain road courtesy

A driver’s attitude is critical in avoiding traffic accidents. Be responsible, respectful, and follow all traffic rules.
‘The Precious Quarter’
employees recognized for photography skills in Shaybah

Shaybah — The Shaybah Media Club, within the Shaybah Producing Department (SyPD), recently held an award ceremony for the winners of a photography competition conducted over three weeks earlier this year.

The competition invited all Saudi Aramco employees, and contractors to submit photographs from the Shaybah region.

Working closely with the Media Production Division in Dhafran, the club ensured compliance with the corporate GI on photographs in restricted facilities and established unbiased and fair rules for the first-of-its-kind photography competition.

More than 200 entries were received and finalists were selected by an evaluating committee, which announced the top five winners for two categories — amateur and professional. Some of the criteria used for selecting photographs included clarity, size, minimal editing, and no use of post-processing software.

amateur, professional
winners named

The theme of the competition was “The Precious Quarter of Saudi Arabia, Shaybah.”

The winning entries reflected the majestic beauty of the region — vibrant, red sand dunes, flora and fauna, community areas, and other landscapes.

In the amateur category, Abdullah A. Al-Zahrani, a Materials control man with the Utilities and Services Department, won for his photograph that features a mosque, with the characteristic Shaybah red sand dunes as a backdrop.

In the professional category, Ibrahim Yazki, a geophysicist with the Geophysical Imaging Department, was awarded first place for his photograph of the resplendent Shaybah community captured at sunset.

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The success of the competition has prompted organizers to conduct an annual photography competition. "The success of the event is unprecedented," SyPD manager Maher A. Afaf said at the recognition ceremony. "With so many beautiful photographs presented, the final selection of winners was not an easy task." The Shaybah Media Club was established in 2017 with 15 members. The club develops safety movies, booklets, posters, and promotional content to raise awareness of the Shaybah region.

Yellow Lake reservoir offers travelers natural gifts

by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Traveling is always a discovery. And while preparation often pays off, sometimes it’s enjoyable to take a trip without doing much research.

With the assistance of a satellite GPS and SUV tracks left in the sand, we arrived at Al Asfar Lake, better known as Yellow Lake. On the way there, we passed through sparse desert where tufts of grass sprouted up here and there among the white sand dunes, an occasional camel crossing our path. But when we arrived, we felt catapulted into an entirely different reality, finding it remarkable that such a beautiful place could be just east of al-Hasa, only 140 km from Dhafran.

Here, the windblown sand created a blurring effect that made this remarkable basin of water almost mystical. Created artifically by ducts that irrigate numerous palm trees of the al-Hasa oasis, the system is dependent on water extracted from aquifers and the discharge of excess water via an extensive drainage scheme to the Al Oyun and Al Safar lakes.

This system of lakes includes a large reed lake, and summer and winter lakes. The reed lake has been created by nutrient rich inflows, and the summer lake overflows into the winter lakes during periods of low evaporation and high inflows. As we approached the lakes, the vegetation changed: We found a wetland becoming more dense and saw plants along marshy areas.

Only plants that can withstand salt at their base grow here in and around the salkhas (salt flat) areas.

The reserve is an oasis for wildlife and a resting station for birds on their migratory paths between Africa and Asia. Winter birds come to the lake during their breeding season, with large flocks of birds passing twice a year, from the north to the south and vice versa. It is wonderful to spot so many species — ducks, geese, and small birds such as nightingales and sparrows — with their unusual chirps and sounds.

And not only that, but the lake has fish that can easily be observed from above, and thankfully, the lake has not been overfished.

We boldly went up the dunes, up to the highest point to enjoy the simply breathtaking view. And if you descend into the valley, you can lay down a carpet and enjoy a picnic, which sometimes attracts visitors such as small lizards to forgo their camouflage surroundings among the small rocks.

From the way the light reflects off the surface of the lake to the bevy of desert creatures who make Yellow Lake their home, it is good to remember that nature hides in enchanted places — even in an artificially created lake.

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Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure
July 11, 15, 16, 17 10:30 a.m.

Is Sumiyati Going to Hell?
July 11, 12 8:15 p.m.

so Thousand Photographs
July 10, 11, 12 7 p.m.
July 13 3:30 p.m.

Side by Side
July 10, 11, 12 4 p.m.

The Investor
July 15, 16, 17 3:30 p.m.

The Last Catch
July 15, 16, 17 6 p.m.

Energy Exhibit Theater

Mysteries of the Unseen World
July 10, 15, 16, 17 6 p.m.
July 11, 12, 13 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

so Thousand Photographs
Visitors at the Energy Exhibit are invited to watch “Mysteries of the Unseen World,” which will take them on a journey to a whole world that they can’t see with the naked eye!

The film follows the story of Adam, who at a young age, loses his father. Adam visits a photo collector who owns 50,000 photographs of the townspeople in search of his father’s photo. The visit changes Adam’s life, giving him a new perspective on all around him. The film, directed by Abduljalil Al-Nasser, was first screened at Ithra during the Saudi Film Festival that occurred in March.

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The Investor
Once the bars of jail locked behind him, Omar finds himself in confrontation with reality, after spending a lifetime escaping to a world of his imagination, sharing a cell with a major criminal. Omar narrates the story of how he came to be the criminal that he is through the scheming impersonation of typical characters found in society. The film sheds light on some true stories that occurred in Saudi society. To escape his cellmate, Omar must carry on one last impersonation attempt to impersonate to escape the bars of jail.
Abqaiq — The Abqaiq City Bowling Association (ACBA) recently hosted the 12th Southern Area Oil Operations (SAOO) Vice President’s Cup. This year’s theme was “Bowling for Healthy Living.”

Bowling enthusiasts from across the Abqaiq community banded together to compete, with the ACBA and its board members dedicating their time to make the event a success.

During the opening ceremony, ACBA president Archie De Guzman spoke on the event’s theme and reminded participants to stay active and keep bowling. Former ACBA vice president Russel Torres led the Oath of Sportsmanship before Ricardo Rafael, the eldest SAOO employee, provided the symbolic first throw to kick off the tourney.

10 teams, 10 tips

Ten teams competed in the annual tournament with each named based on a healthy tip, including Active, Care, Endurance, Diet, Positivity, Sports, Workout, Calories, Medicine, and Exercise.

Using the “No Tap” format where each bowler needs only to knock down nine or more pins on the first throw to claim a strike, the teams battled to achieve the total accumulated high score over three games.

Abdulaziz Al Eisa, acting coordinator of the SAAO Planning and Performance Management Division, emphasized the importance of healthy living and offered common tips for achieving a healthy lifestyle such as a healthy diet, and regular exercise.

“It sounds so simple, but it’s funny how hard it is to do in the current world,” Al Eisa said. “The good news is that one doesn’t have to change everything at the same time. The trick to living healthy is making small changes. Take more steps each day. Small change becomes big change — change for a better future, a better environment at home, and in the workplace.”

Al Eisa urged the bowlers to use the tournament as a starting point to live healthier, and he congratulated the tournament organizers for their successful efforts.

At the close of the evening, De Guzman expressed his gratitude to SAAO management, ACBA board officers, participants, and guests, and announced the tournament winners.

**Champion**

Team “Care” (Keshab Baruah, Christy Oanes, Alvin Ortiz, and Leo Bautista) with a total score of 5,363.

**Runner-up**

Team “Sports” (Joselito Tugano, Srini Kamalidhali, Dr. Anil Rane, and Hannah De Guzman) with a total score of 5,348.

**Individual Awards**

- Men’s “A” (high game with total score of 266): Rolando Aro
- Men’s “B” (high game with total score of 239): Abdullah Hawalah
- Men’s “A” (high series with a total score of 650): Russel Torres
- Men’s “B” (high series with a total score of 564): Archie de Guzman
- Women’s “A” (high game with total score of 321): Ritzie Hope
- Women’s “B” (high game with total score of 279): Gitika Baruah
- Women (high series with a total score of 469): Elizabeth Nwosu

A special prize for the youngest bowler went to Yahma Sonora.

**Beauty in nature at Yellow Lake**

Sometimes, the desert can surprise you. Just east of al-Hase, Yellow Lake and its vast sunlit waters is one of those places.

**Sunlight through the trees**

Furqan A. Qidwai was vacationing in Istanbul last summer with his family when he took this photo of sunlight seeping through the trees in Gulhane Park. Qidwai used his Canon Power Shot SX420 Bridge Camera with a normal zoom to capture the image. Qidwai lives in Abqaiq and works in the Media Production Department as a 3-D animator and graphic designer. He is in his sixth year at Saudi Aramco.