making history with our first earnings call

see page 2

Excelling across all metrics

- **Profitability**: $46.9 billion
- **Scale**: 13.2 mmbboed
- **Integrity**: 4.6 mmbpd
- **Reliability**: 99.9%
- **Sustainability**: 10.2 kg of CO₂ equivalent per boe
- **Safety**: 0.009 (per 200,000 work hours)

have an invention in mind? Saudi Aramco’s IT Future Center offers a platform for innovation

see page 3
CEO shares details of recent Board of Directors meeting

Boston, Mass. — Saudi Aramco’s Boston Research Center in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which is located in close proximity. Its focus is on modeling, visualization, simulation, and advanced materials.

employees thanked

Saudi Aramco’s president and CEO Amin Nasser gave details of the visit and the business discussed in Boston at Sunday’s weekly conference call.

Nasser began by praising employees who worked over various fronts during the recent ‘Id al-Adha holiday. He revealed that the Board of Directors and its committees had worked through a full agenda in Boston.

The Audit Committee, he said, had reviewed and endorsed the company’s Consolidated Interim Financial Results, covering June 30. The Risk and HSE Committee also met and received “deep dive” presentations on Top Corporate Risks, covering cybersecurity and major non-industrial incidents.

In addition, said Nasser, the committee reviewed Saudi Aramco’s HSE scorecard for the second quarter of 2019, containing performance indicators on specific health, safety, and environmental metrics and targets.

updates

On the second day of the Boston meeting, the Board had another full agenda and received updates on a number of transactions, initiatives, and projects.

Board members reviewed the company’s Mid-Year Accountability and Financial Condition Report, and endorsed updates to the company’s corporate strategy, investment plan and business plan targets.

The Board additionally reviewed an update on Saudi Aramco’s technology strategy.

The technical program also saw a presentation by Massachusetts-based Desktop Metal on its latest 3-D printing technology, and a presentation by Boston Dynamics of its advanced robotics technology.

“Overall, the board was pleased with the reports, presentations, and briefings, and was very complimentary of the company and its achievements,” said Nasser.

“The board was highly engaged with management and supportive of the company’s plans and programs designed to make us the world’s leading integrated energy and chemicals company.”

unprecedented announcement

Turning to the recent unprecedented announcement of Saudi Aramco’s half-year financial results, which were detailed in an earnings call webcast led by Khalid H. Al-Dabal, senior vice president of Finance, Strategy and Development, Nasser said the announcement has generated extensive domestic and global media coverage, including social media posts.

Nasser said the “historic” announcement had boosted Saudi Aramco’s reputation for transparency.

“This was a momentous occasion, and I would like to thank everyone, especially the team and the hard work over many months, culminating during the ‘Id holi-day.”

Nasser thanked employees who worked over the holiday, and also those that helped to make the Hajj season a success.

Saudi Aramco reports first half 2019 net income of $46.9 billion

Dhahran — Earlier this month, Saudi Aramco announced for the first time its half-year financial results.

The company’s net income was $46.9 billion for the first half of 2019, compared to $53 billion for the same period last year. Earnings before interest and tax* was $92.5 billion, compared with $101.3 billion a year earlier. Free cash flow** was $38 billion, compared to $35.6 billion for the same period last year. The capital expenditure was $14.5 billion, compared to $16.5 billion for the same period in 2018.

*Non-IFRS number

Despite lower oil prices during the first half of 2019, we continued to deliver solid earnings and strong free cash flow underpinned by our consistent operational performance, cost management and fiscal discipline,” said president and CEO Amin Nasser. “Our financial results for the first quarter of 2019, as part of our $12 billion debut international bond issuance, marked a significant milestone in Saudi Aramco’s history.

“We demonstrated our reliability with near 100% delivery on our customers’ requirements for oil and refined products, maintaining our total hydrocarbon production of 13.2 million barrels of oil equivalent per day, and an average daily crude production of 10 million barrels per day.”

―Looking ahead, we will maintain a prudent and flexible balance sheet. Our financials are strong and we will continue to invest for future growth." Most often, those who work with urgency are also maximalists. Those who procrastinate are also minimalists. The moment they get working together with such different approaches, it can create difficulties.

Employee A wants to get things done. Employee B finds the extra work too much and unnecessary. Employee A thinks the extra details will add to quality, while Employee B believes these are uncalled for. Left to themselves, the situation can escalate. Each passing moment can be precarious.

So how can you manage these guys so as to be on the same page? In cases such as this, patience really is a virtue. Ralph Waldo Emerson perhaps said it best. “Success requires both urgency and patience. Be urgent about making the effort, but be patient about seeing the results.”

I wonder why they say boxing is the sweet science. I cannot see anything sweet in reconfiguring your opponent’s face while also risking breaking your own ribs in the brutal exchange. Any-there, we can’t see a common adage in boxing that says certain styles make classic fights.

Same is true in the workplace, albeit the differences are not classic but can be problematic.

In general, workers fall either under one of two categories—urgency or procrastination. Let’s see how these two work styles collide, which surely creates differences of opinion among the actors.

Employee A has a habit of working with urgency. For him, time is of the essence.

Once he receives an assignment, his adrenaline springs him into action. True enough because without urgency, desire loses its value. But Dwight D. Eisenhower had a strong case when he opined, “What is important is seldom urgent; what is urgent is seldom important.”

Employee B has an entrenched habit to procrastinate. For him, if something is really important, it’s still important tomorrow so why the rush? You only live once so take time to smell the flowers by the wayside. English actor Christopher Parker was brilliant when he retorted, “Procrastination is like a credit card; it is fun until the bill comes.

So imagine the situation among subordinates when the boss gave an assignment to the team. Employee A acts with urgency — and expects everyone to keep pace. Employee B feels pressured. In contrast, Employee A thinks the latter is lacking on the team effort.
have an invention in mind?

Saudi Aramco’s IT Future Center offers a platform for innovation

by Scott Baldawi

Dhahran — Members of the Innovation Ecosystem Society (IES) — a professional society for entrepreneurs and inventors — are featuring some of their latest inventions at a Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) exhibition at the IT Future Center in Dhahran.

The inventions provide real case solutions and technologies that were designed, built, and tested at the center.

The exhibition, a collaboration between the IES, the IT Future Center, and the Management and Professional Development Department (M&PDD), is open for visitors from now until the end of September.

At a time of continual technological change, innovation has become a key factor for remaining competitive. Saudi Aramco, in support of the Saudi Vision 2030 strategic goal of strengthening and diversifying the Saudi economy through technology and innovation, has been beefing up its own efforts to encourage innovation at the workplace.

By highlighting the inventive talents of its young tech savvy workforce, Saudi Aramco hopes to attract and retain the talented employees who have the drive and the skill set to help us meet future challenges.

“This exhibition speaks to the fact that the company wants to be seen as a technology and innovation leader,” said Samantha Horsemann, the Human Energy Management lead with M&PDD. “For us to do that, we need a culture and a mindset that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. And the truth is that we all have the ability to innovate and contribute to the company’s future.”

robots, defibrillators, and more

The first thing you see at the IR 4.0 exhibit is “something” actually seeing you, and rolls up to greet you. It’s an Anybot. Operated by Sultan Al Duraywish, an IES member and a graduate student of industrial design from King Saud University in Riyadh, the Anybot is a telepresence robot that can carry out a number of business tasks on behalf of a human operator.

“It has sensors to see and hear those around it, and it has a screen so that people can see the face of who is operating the Anybot,” Al Duraywish said. “That means this Anybot can attend a meeting on your behalf, it can give a presentation about the IES’s latest innovations, and even roll up to greet you. It’s an Anybot.

Meanwhile, Nouf Al Qarawi, a management-board member, is assembling the digits to the hand of a 3-D printed robotic arm at the IT Future Center. Inspired by the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the participants have learned how to write their own coding for Arduino, computer control boards, and have been tasked to find potential real world applications in industrial settings.

Al Duraywish stores intently at a laptop screen, and wearing a small headpiece around the top of his head, sends signals with his brain to “push” a small graphic of a collection of cubes away from him until they become smaller on the screen. Then, with his mind, he “pulls” them back again.

By “pushing” and “pulling” the graphic, Al Duraywish is converting thoughts into digital signals on the computer, said Nabil Al Bukhait, a mentor in the Computer Applications Department. He explains how an Arduino circuit board takes those digital signals and transmits them to a mechanical switch on a valve that releases water from one tank and drains it into another.

It is proof of a concept for a technology, requested by Drilling and Workover that in the future may give operators in the field a faster and safer method of closing valves when time is essential.

Smart Mirror — your best friend

Some of the innovations, including the Smart Mirror developed by Athavan R. “Raja” Durairaj, an applications and systems specialist with Information Technology at Saudi Aramco, could easily end up as common devices in every home. The Smart Mirror is like a mirrored computer screen that uses voice recognition to receive commands, converting those commands through Raspberry Pi to carryout requests.

“You can be brushing your teeth and ask the mirror about the weather forecast, or you can ask for your agenda for the day,” said Mada Alabduljabbar, a graduate of industrial design from San Jose State University, now working at a 3-D printing company in Dammam.

But other innovations are more artistic and whimsical. Alabduljabbar shows off some jewelry she made from e-waste, including resistors, old capacitors, and even the circuit boards from old car keys or pedometers. Shouq Al Harbi, an industrial design student at Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University, gives a peek at a pair of “cyborgs” — mannequins that have been wired up with elements from e-waste donated by Aramcons.

Al Harbi is sitting on a bench, his brain connected to his computer monitor, with his brain in “push” a small graphic of a collection of cubes away from him until they become smaller on the screen. Then, with his mind, he “pulls” them back to their original size.

IES members assemble the digits to the hand of a 3-D printed robotic arm at the IT Future Center. Inspired by the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the participants have learned how to write their own coding for Arduino computer control boards, and have been tasked to find potential real world applications in industrial settings. (Photos: Nadiah Bushaidi/M&PD)
emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and career management focus of workshop in Jazan

Jazan — Team members from Saudi Aramco’s Leadership Development Department and the Career Development Division has embarked on a journey to deliver a world-class workshop event by presenting training courses on emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and career management. Recently, the Jazan Planning and Human Resources (HR) Division partnered with Leadership Development Department trainer Melyse R. Peru and career counselors Jose I. Aguilar and Syed Y. Sultan to conduct the workshop.

‘advancing our learning culture’

“This workshop was designed to strengthen our employees’ skill set, and also focus on areas where we can advance our learning culture and employee engagement initiatives,” said Jazan HR professional Ellis J. Gainey.

Colin M. Sloman, director of the Management and Professional Development Department, along with division head Rafa M. Shalabi presented the latest HR strategy initiatives to the Jazan management team that outlines the current and future vision and unimpeded direction for HR.

This new initiative was well-received by the Jazan management team as reflected by Jazan Engineering manager Hisham A. Shah.

“Strategy management and communication skills are the backbone of any vital organization and are critically needed tools for proficient and safe operations as the Jazan Complex prepares for its commissioning and startup activities,” said Shah.

accreditation shows Yanbu’ Refinery’s mastery at testing

Yanbu’ — Yanbu’ Refinery’s laboratory has managed to successfully maintain ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2017 (New Version) accreditation by the International Accreditation Service (IAS).

The accreditation journey started with the refiner’s finished product, with 37 testing methods in 2007. The lab expanded its challenges in 2011 for intermediate products with 86 testing methods, and in 2015 the lab completed 131 testing methods with 100% completion in all testing methods for all refinery, NGL, and crude product analyses.

Reassessment was conducted this past January for ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2017 (New Version) by IAS assessors from the United States with the objective of ensuring the system implementation and readiness. All of the assessors’ recommendations were taken into consideration and marked as closed. The validity of the ISO17025 has been extended to be valid until January 2021.

Such an accreditation wouldn’t take place without the continuous support and direction from management.

The ‘Yanbu’ Refinery’ laboratory is classified as a Regional Certified Laboratory Facility, which provides analytical testing support for all process facilities of the refinery, and to also support external facilities, including Yanbu’ NGL, the Yanbu’ Crude Oil Terminal, the Yanbu’ Bulk Plant, DSPAS, and the Saudi Strategic Storage Program.

As a part of the employees’ recognition and appreciation, Yanbu’ Refinery management recognized the laboratory team for its great effort, and contribution toward Operational Excellence.

Jiddah ITC drives home traffic safety message

Jiddah — A mobile safety truck was on display at the Jiddah Industrial Training Center (JITC) as part of a recent traffic safety program that took place for summer students in the Central Region/Western Region.

The goal of the three-day safety campaign was to educate and provide the students with a hands-on experience.

The students visited the truck and also had an opportunity to try a car driving simulator. There were also some interactive quizzes.

safety not just confined to classrooms

“Having the truck visit JITC is great for the summer students,” said JITC principal Peter Jones. “This is an excellent initiative. Safety needs to be implemented in practice and not just in the classrooms.”

The students and staff greatly enjoyed the experience and benefited from the fun and interesting way that the information was presented. Students took this opportunity to test their practical skills by taking turns in the car simulators, followed by interactive multiple choice questions on screens.

Senior instructor AbdulKhaleq Al Baijan was on hand to share his safety expert skills with the students to ensure they benefited from the safety campaign.

“It’s very important we get the young generation to participate in these events and teach them about safety,” said Al Baijan. “We need to strike while the iron is hot by cultivating the youth from a young age.”

Summer student Muath Al Juhani was very thrilled to be given the opportunity to test his driving skills in the car simulator. “I was very happy to get a high score,” said Al Juhani. “We as students really should appreciate Saudi Aramco investing their time and resources to have such wonderful campaigns.”

Driving the future generations

“The students really benefited from this program and many showed their appreciation for how Saudi Aramco spends time, effort, and resources to educate people on safety for all ages,” said Mahmoud Al Zoubi, coordinator of the summer program.

Members of the Traffic Safety Signature Program team were on hand to guide the students and answer their questions, which helped to create a memorable experience for attendees.
Unconventionals success driven by broader innovation strategy

by Susan Gonzalez

Denver — The next chapter in unconventionals will be written by companies who compress innovation cycle time, retain laser focus on financial metrics, and adopt a broader innovation mindset to gain a competitive edge.

That was the overriding message from the opening session of this year’s Unconventional Resources Technology Conference (URTeC) in Denver, Colorado. Aramco’s technical presence has strengthened since its participation in the 2013 inaugural conference.

At that time, unconventionals were a North American phenomenon. Aramco added the international component, signaling its pursuit of unconventionals, namely shale gas, in support of the Kingdom’s Unconventional Gas Initiative.

This year’s conference left no doubt that at the forefront for most operators was creating a “one-team” approach.

Participants in the plenary “State-of-Play in Unconventional Reservoirs: The Quest for Value” touched on increasing production rates, lowering costs, and focusing on capital efficiency to strengthen the balance sheet. Unconventional wells are known for their steep decline rates, so maximizing production rates over the life of the well is critical.

geomechanics theme

The geomechanics theme was again the largest with 10 technical sessions — three chaired by Aramco upstream personnel. Our researchers, geoscientists, and reservoir engineers presented on a wide range of nearly a dozen papers in sessions covering advanced formation evaluation, proppant placement, novel completion technologies, and geophysics.

While small- to medium-size operators in North America are credited as the unconventional’s pioneers, the rise of international shale development in countries such as Russia, China, Argentina, and Saudi Arabia has drawn notice.

“Some may say we came in a bit late but we managed to expedite our learning curve,” said Ahmed H. Mubarak, chief explorationist with the Southern Unconventional Resources, Exploration, and Appraisal Division at Saudi Aramco.

“With a comprehensive suite of logging tools we ensure optimum well placement in the target zone and enhanced hydraulic fracturing techniques are putting us among the highest percentiles of the best performing wells in North America.”

Mubarak added that a multidisciplinary “one-team” approach from the outset has allowed the unconventional’s program to advance rapidly.

Field efficiency factors, automation, and field services management are continuously monitored with nearly a dozen highly automated rigs soon to be delivered for dedicated shale gas drilling, according to Fahad A. Bani, manager of Unconventional Gas Drilling with the Unconventional Resources Drilling Department.

technical support and insight

Aramco Services Company Upstream and Aramco Research Center-Houston staff provide technical support and insight into U.S. operations for the Saudi Aramco Unconventional Resources Program. Researchers in Houston and Boston are collaborating with Dhahran-based proponents to develop new and novel unconventional technologies and practices.

URTeC attracts a broad range of specialists — geologists, geophysicists, and reservoir engineers — to address the unique challenges associated with unconventional, or shale, oil and gas production.

With a joint effort by the world’s three largest leading oil and gas professional societies — the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) — the conference remained true to its strong technical program with nearly 400 papers and over 6,000 attendees.

Panel discussions addressed emerging technology, artificial intelligence, sustainable development induced seismicity, and well integrity.

URTeC has expanded with regional conferences in North America and now goes international with an Asia Pacific URTeC scheduled for November of this year in Brisbane, Australia, in recognition of new players and emerging unconventional basins around the world.

Aramco was a diamond sponsor with ASC Upstream staff coordinating and hosting, along with support from Public Affairs and Staffing and Recruitment.

‘Enabling Excellence in Safety’

Loss Prevention event highlights results in innovation

Dhahran — Saudi Aramco’s Loss Prevention Department (LPD) recently hosted an inaugural employee engagement meeting at the Technical Exchange Center in Dhahran.

In line with the department’s objective of promoting visible safety leadership, the event proved to be an ideal opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing alongside senior management, including Aalil M. Al Zahran, executive director of Safety and Industrial Security, and Ghassan G. Abulfaraj, acting manager of LPD.

Abulfaraj congratulated attendees on their ongoing efforts, adding, “I urge all of you to keep looking for new and innovative ways to make our company safer,” he said.

Loss Prevention’s new vision: ‘Enabling Excellence in Safety’

The event’s agenda included a wide array of topics, ranging from an overview of the department and its objectives, to the efforts being undertaken to enhance its reporting processes.

Special focus was given to the recent launch of LPD’s new vision, “Enabling Excellence in Safety,” along with its updated mission to “Integrate Safety in Business, and Drive Safety Performance,” which focuses on partnering with organizations to provide effective safety solutions company-wide.

Najla A. Binnmahfood, an LPD engineer and Professional Development Program (PDP) participant, presented on “The Journey of a Female Engineer,” outlining a unique career path that has taken her from remote construction sites in Texas to three projects currently underway in Jiddah.

“Saudi Aramco has afforded me opportunities that I could only have dreamed of,” said Binnmahfood. “To be involved in world-class projects has changed my perspective on women and engineering, as well as all of the safety-related issues that need to be considered when working on a construction or field site.”

Other department achievements highlighted included the companywide rollout of the Lifesaving Rules, a new customized Existing Building Risk Indicator assessment tool, and enhancements on how the company records and reports safety incidents.

building on safety through innovation and self-inspection

Al Zahran expressed his appreciation for the department’s innovative efforts to improve safety efficiency. “Saudi Aramco is a company built on innovation, and I am pleased to see LPD embracing this,” he said. “Wherever possible, we need to look at ways in which we are doing things, and identify whether there is an opportunity to improve the manner in which we do them, to make them safer and more efficient,” Al Zahran said.

Looking toward the future, PDP participants Anwa S. Alhaider and Mohammed Al Faris updated management on the recent launch of the department’s “Young Force” initiative, which looks to harness young talent to address departmental challenges in the areas of optimization, cost saving, and marketing.

The meeting concluded with an open dialog and recognition session, which saw LPD employees engaging directly with management to discuss their successes, challenges, and potential future opportunities.

Al Zahran and Abulfaraj fielded a range of questions and topics ranging from technology’s role in the future of safety to the importance of young talent in driving the company forward.

“This meeting has been fantastic and will be the first of many,” Abulfaraj said in concluding the event. “At Saudi Aramco, we are always looking for opportunities to engage with our greatest asset — our people — and it is meetings like these that bring true engagement and great ideas to the table.”
Dubai Arabic Orchestra hosted by Ithra for the first time in the Kingdom

Dubai — In an evening that showcased the magnificence of music, the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) introduced the Dubai Arabic Orchestra — an affiliate of the Dubai Opera — to the Kingdom last week as part of ‘Id al-Adha celebrations.

In a beautiful evening titled "Tarab from the Beautiful Era," Arabic melodies hung in the air alongside the ‘Id al-Adha festivities as the band mesmerized visitors with the wonders of Gulf classics.

The musical event was part of the continuous efforts Ithra makes to showcase Saudi and Middle East culture, arts and knowledge, while building broader bridges to the world.

The evening was a triumph, receiving a huge audience of different age groups.

paying homage to Arab music

The orchestra played selected music by great artists from the Gulf music heritage such as Mohammed Abdo, Talal Al Madidah, Eid El Faraj, and Abdulrab Idriss — in addition to other songs that have been imprinted into the history of Gulf music and are still cherished to this day. The orchestra has paid homage to these songs since its founding in 2017 to keep Arab music heritage alive.

“It became vital that we affirm our Gulf and Arabian identity by singing and producing Arabic music,” said Al Faraj, founder of the orchestra. “It is the ingenuity and creativity that Arab lyricists, composers, singers, and musicians have left with us since the beginning of the last century.”

Al Faraj noted the importance of the orchestra’s contributions and its focus on the region’s heritage and art. The orchestra consists of 28 musicians, playing instruments such as the oud, qanun, ney, violin, and cello.

The performance also included three singers and a choir, while maestro Ahmed Taha led the performance.

Ithra does not only showcase regional arts, but is also considered a cultural hub as it presents world arts as well.
Dhahran — More than 30,000 people attended the King Abdulaziz World Center (Ithra) to take in the recent ‘Id al-Adha celebrations.

Ithra celebrated ‘Id al-Adha through various artistic and cultural events that were highly appreciated by the visitors.

The ‘Id programs catered to all age groups.

One of the more popular attractions was a special scientific trip with inventor and engineer Aljazri, which took visitors on a tour to the 12th century A.D., to discover his inventions and innovations, which contributed greatly to the facilitation of life in a significant era of the Islamic State.

Another major attraction was a presentation about Maryam Al-Astrulabi, who invented the Astrolabe. Ithra highlighted her contributions by presenting a short exhibition about this innovative female scientist.

**Exploratory journey**

Visitors were also given an opportunity to observe an exploratory journey inside the museum, which moved in time gradually from the present to the past in four artistic exhibitions. This started with the Saudi contemporary art (Funoon), moving on to the identity and Saudi legacy (Ajial), passing by the treasures of the Islamic culture and art (Kunooz), and ending with the natural history of the Arabian Peninsula (Rihlat).

The Cinema Hall welcomed audiences via three stations. The first station featured the film “Harg,” which tells the story of a young man meeting himself in different stages of life using a time mirror, which is the core of the film. The second movie was a documentary film telling the story of French fashion designer Christian Dior. The last of these stations was for the children, a comedy movie called “The Egg.” At the Grand Chamber, visitors could witness the artistic works of Norwegian artist Edvard Munch for the first time in the Middle East through the exhibition “Landscapes of the Soul.” An interactive component of this display allowed attendees the opportunity to select a piece of their choice to draw and keep as a souvenir, in an individual experiment enriched with beauty.

For those with a fine taste in timeless Gulf music, the Dubai Arabic Orchestra performed for the first time in the Kingdom, featuring several eternal tracks in the Arabic music. (See accompanying story for more information.)

Children had their fair share of enjoyable programs and activities to choose from, including practical experiments and scientific shows that were presented at the Energy Exhibition. A “Paper Dimensions” program allowed the children to uncover their architectural talents by designing and creating the Ithra building using paper. Other programs on offer included “Qumra,” “Wagon of Scientists,” and “Theater of the Greats,” along with many other inspiring activities.

Ithra strives to enrich Saudi society by presenting these many initiatives and quality programs that are suitable to all, based on creating special content of knowledge and offering comprehensive experiments to visitors through shows and programs. Ithra is considered a platform for creativity that gathers talents from different age groups to learn, experiment, and share ideas.
Fun for all as Saudi Aramco communities celebrate ‘Id al-Adha

Residents in Saudi Aramco communities, including Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, and ‘Udhailiyah were out in droves to take in ‘Id al-Adha celebrations last week.

In Dhahran on the first day of ‘Id, the Central Community Services Department invited employees and their eligible dependents to enjoy the hospitality that was offered following the ‘Id prayer, where Arabic coffee, dates, and various ‘Id sweets were served.

On the final three days of ‘Id, many activities were organized in the outdoor courtyard and in the indoor facilities at King’s Road Park, where the celebration was more characterized by adding a folk seating area “Al Majles,” which reminded guests of the heritage of their ancestors.

Visitors also enjoyed different traditional performances, such as folk singing, which added much joy to the festival for the more than 18,000 visitors who attended over the three days.

Acrobatic and theatrical performances, as well as live music performances, were also part of this year’s event, which also included live sand drawing works in front of the audience. Additionally, artisans and craftsmen were on hand, and food particular to the region, such as taoist bread and Arabic bread, was available.

Children’s activities included a competition that developed their skills and talents, face painting, henna art, water games and air games, in addition to electronic games in Ad-Diwan hall.

A number of cafes, food trucks, restaurants, and catering services were also provided.

The event was organized by the Dhahran Recreation Services Division, with support from Safety and Industrial Security.

‘The Waves’ in Ras Tanura

More than 4,000 people attended ‘Id al-Adha festivities in Ras Tanura (RT), which carried a theme of “The Waves.”

For the first time in RT, the main activities of the program were all conducted by the beach, with beach chairs, canopies, colorful flags, and water inflatables all in place. A unique sand sculpture that featured sea creatures was created on the beach by a talented local artist, and a number of water games for children and adults were on offer.

A fire show took place in the evening and everyone was impressed by the risky moves executed by the participants.

A variety of activities for children aged 3 and above ran in the White Sands Lounge, including booths for designing pizza, decorating cupcakes, painting, and coloring with sand.

In the Najmah Library, the children’s activities matched with the event’s theme, including one that allowed the youngsters to design and decorate a beach bag and another that had the kids decorating a seashell with colored sand.

Booths set up in the patio area included a stall for a caricaturist, and another one for sticker tattoos, while a musical band treated attendees to lovely melodies.

Everyone attending agreed the two-day festival was a special one for the community.

full slate of activities in Abqaiq

The Abqaiq Recreational Services Unit (ARSU) hosted its exciting ‘Id al-Adha celebration at Al Sa’adah soccer field and Golf Club lounge, with more than 750 people attending.

ARSU produced an evening packed full of entertainment and fun family activities such as a meet-and-greet with cartoon characters, a kids’ corner, face painting, fun bikes, games, and experiences such as virtual reality.

A number of inflatables were provided for the children to enjoy. Other attractions included a Velcro soccer target, a Velcro wall on which participants tried to stick themselves to, a mechanical bull, an obstacle course with slides, a giant ball that two people could enter and run around a designated area, and an inflatable wipeout machine in which participants had to avoid being knocked off.

Two popular food trucks were available to the visitors, and savory food provided a true taste of Arabic hospitality.

Participants praised ARSU staff for a well-organized celebration.
Abigail School

Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.0)

Eighth Grade: Sa'ada Al-Jaafar, Ayoub Al-Deeb, Princess Adeyi, Abimbola K. Alani, Mosque Almam, Rawda M. Almazroa, Sameer A. Al-Balasary, and Eshal Khurram.


Ithra movies

in cinema

Ithra Heroes Adventure
Aug. 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28 10:30 a.m.

I am Big Bird: The Caroll Spinney Story
Aug. 26, 27, 28 4:30 p.m.

Red Velvet
Aug. 23 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 24, 27, 28 7 p.m.

Hatched
Aug. 21, 22, 24 7 p.m.
Aug. 23 8:30 p.m.

Village at the End of the World
Aug. 21, 22, 24 4:30 p.m.
Aug. 23 2 p.m.

Energy Exhibit Theater

Mysteries of the Unseen World
Aug. 22 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

I am Big Bird: The Caroll Spinney Story
Caroll Spinney has been Sesame Street's Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch since 1969, and at 78-years of age, he has no intention of stopping.

Village at the End of the World
"Village at the End of the World" is a witty, surprising and feel good portrait of an isolated village of 59 people and 106 sled dogs, surviving against the odds.

Red Velvet
After a long wait, Sameer Bu Shabrain, that calm and dreamer guy, got a career opportunity that he always dreamt of in one of the prestigious companies. Unfortunately, Sameer had an accident that day because of a cold cup of coffee, which made him a focus of all eyes; that accident turns his life upside down.
Aramco Brats celebrate memories and friendships at the 17th biennial reunion

Phoenix — The word “hometown” seemed to be on everyone’s minds at the 17th Biennial Brats Reunion … in a uniquely Aramco way.

“For most of us here, Aramco is our hometown,” said Mike Simms, who graduated from 9th grade in 1978, making him AB78 in the language of Aramco Brats who identify themselves by the community and year they graduated and left Saudi Arabia. Simms served as Aramco Brats Inc. (ABI) president from 2005-2009. His father was principal of the Abqaiq School, and later worked in Personnel, and then in Abqaiq.

“We all went off to boarding schools or high schools … we went in different directions, so the reunions have become our virtual hometown,” added Marie Dunn, DH77 and ABI president from 2009-2013.

Dunn’s father Laney Littlejohn worked in Corporate Planning, evaluating capital projects and oil pricing.

This year, more than 600 Brats and family members arrived for the four-day get-together, which included an opening day social hour, a “suq”-style market of art and artifacts curated by Brats, a class outing “-style market of art and artifacts curated by Brats, a class outing

“It was a festive hometown, with hugs and tears exchanged as old friends reconnected. It was also a cross-generational event where we graduated and left Saudi Arabia. The reunions have continued because it’s a shared history with fellow Saudis and Americans and create long-lasting friendships,” said Baluchi.

“People ask me, how was it, living in Saudi Arabia? I say it was fantastic; I wouldn’t trade it for the world. Everyone wants to go back home. Everyone wants to go back home (to Saudi Arabia),” said Ghori. He acknowledged the depth of their connection with their Brat Reunion.

Ghori’s father Mohammed was a chemist and worked for Aramco for 30 years.

The reunions hold special meaning for Jenn Harbert, AB75, and Wayne Harms, her classmate. Harbert and Harms crossed paths briefly as children in Abqaiq from 1968-1971 — before Harms returned to Pennsylvania, they met again at the 2005 Brat Reunion in Houston. In 2007, they married just before the Brat Reunion in Asheville, NC.

“We have a shared history that is quite rare,” explained Harbert, who went “home” to Abqaiq during the fourth KSA Expatriate Reunion in March this year, and wrote about the experience in the spring issue of Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah, Aramco’s magazine for retirees and family members.

It is a shared history with fellow Saudis as well. Harbert’s father learned Arabic while in Saudi Arabia and developed strong friendships.

“Who else but another Brat could remember things like watching the sun rise over the jebels, shopping trips to Al-Khobar, sunset picnics at Half Moon Bay … and feeling that blast of heat as you stepped off the airplane and knowing you are finally ‘home’,” reunion organizers shared with attendees in their town hall meeting handout.

Hirath Ghori, DH74 and current ABI president, agreed.

“This year, more than 600 Brats and family members arrived for the four-day get-together, which included an opening day social hour, a “suq”-style market of art and artifacts curated by Brats, a class outing based on graduation date, an ABI town hall meeting, and gala dinner.

It was a festive hometown, with hugs and tears exchanged as old friends reconnected. It was also a cross-generational event where we graduated and left Saudi Arabia. The reunions have continued because it’s a shared history with fellow Saudis and Americans and create long-lasting friendships,” said Baluchi.

“People ask me, how was it, living in Saudi Arabia? I say it was fantastic; I wouldn’t trade it for the world. Everyone wants to go back home. Everyone wants to go back home (to Saudi Arabia),” said Ghori. He acknowledged the depth of their connection with their Brat Reunion.

Ghori’s father Mohammed was a chemist and worked for Aramco for 30 years.

The reunions hold special meaning for Jenn Harbert, AB75, and Wayne Harms, her classmate. Harbert and Harms crossed paths briefly as children in Abqaiq from 1968-1971 — before Harms returned to Pennsylvania, they met again at the 2005 Brat Reunion in Houston. In 2007, they married just before the Brat Reunion in Asheville, NC.

“We have a shared history that is quite rare,” explained Harbert, who went “home” to Abqaiq during the fourth KSA Expatriate Reunion in March this year, and wrote about the experience in the spring issue of Al-Ayyam Al-Jamilah, Aramco’s magazine for retirees and family members.

It is a shared history with fellow Saudis as well. Harbert’s father learned Arabic while in Saudi Arabia and developed strong friendships.

friends true to this day

Ghori remembers well his time playing with his Saudi playmates in the neighborhood where he grew up — friendships that remain true to this day.

Ali Baluchi, who retired as general manager of Community Services in 1990 and has led all four of the KSA reunions for retirees, sent his very best wishes to the Brats on the occasion of their 17th reunion and acknowledged the depth of their connection to Saudi Arabia.

“We see in our association with the Brats an avenue of great opportunities where we can work with them to cement a real- istic friendship between the Saudis and the Americans and create long-lasting friendship and understanding,” said Baluchi.

Residents of Saudi Aramco communities had no shortage of activities and entertainment to choose from as ‘Id al-Adha festivities were conducted last week throughout the region. see page 8