With restrictions now lifted ...
we must not become complacent in controlling COVID-19.

**Corporate Development Organization announced**

The company establishes an integrated Corporate Development organization headed by senior vice president Abdulaziz M. Al-Gudaimi to optimize Aramco’s portfolio.  
[see page 3]

**Investing in Aramco’s emerging leaders with Harvard’s help**

Operating under a strategic partnership with Harvard Business School, Human Resources recently celebrated the graduation of a program designed to enhance emerging leaders’ ability to think and act strategically, innovate, and adapt.  
[see page 4]

**Love Formula 1? It’s time for you to get in the game!**

Everything you ever needed to know about the F1 Aramco Employee League and other frequently asked questions.  
[see page 4]

**Essential oils: it’s more than a matter of dollars and scents**

Essential oils is big business worldwide, but their history has strong roots in the Middle East where they have long been used for medicinal and other reasons.  
[see pages 6 and 7]

**Moving toward a nonmetallic future:**

From King Salman Energy Park in the Eastern Province to suppliers abroad, Aramco is working globally in support of nonmetallic initiatives.  
[see page 3]

**Got imagination? Try Tanween!**

Ithra’s Tanween challenges encourage participants to think creatively while working with industry experts to design and develop projects and products that can create real outcomes in the Kingdom.  
[see page 5]

**With restrictions now lifted ...**

we must not become complacent in controlling COVID-19.

**Do Your Part by Wearing a Mask in Public**

**maintain physical distancing of 2 meters at all times**
Security officer’s instincts help save Dhahran resident from fire

by Janet Pinheiro

Dhahran — Spot-on instincts rescue lives, but Mashal Al-Shamri is humble about how his fast action prevented a disaster in the Dhahran community.

Just 30 minutes into his early-morning patrol of the Dhahran residential community in July, the valiant security officer noticed a smoldering smell lingering in the warming mid-summer air.

Al-Shamri’s instincts sparked, and despite seeing no signs of smoke, he pulled his security vehicle over to undertake a foot patrol to investigate.

“Our vehicle windows are kept open to keep all our senses alert,” said Al-Shamri. “This is part of Aramco’s training.”

911 emergency fire call

Walking to a group of units, Al-Shamri smelled the smoke becoming stronger and heard an alarm faintly ringing.

He immediately radioed in a 911 call to mobilize the emergency services.

Then going on to see what action could immediately be undertaken, he identified the smoke source as from within a unit and unsuccessfully attempted to gain access inside to where an already unconscious victim lay.

“The door was locked, and I thought people might be trapped inside, but I was calm as I knew I had called for the firefighters and that they would be on their way,” said Al-Shamri with quiet dignity.

“We remain calm; we are trained to follow procedure as our job is to help people.”

ready to respond when lives are threatened

Arriving on the scene, emergency services forcibly entered the unit.

“Fires crews responded quickly, and after immediate forcible entry, discovered one unconscious victim,” said Fire Protection Department Fire Chief Loren Fuller.

The crews removed the victim from the unit, while also confining and extinguishing the fire in the kitchen area, and handed the victim off to the ambulance team for treatment and transportation to the hospital.”

Fuller said the training and quick actions of the fire crew, along with the actions of security and medical, ensured a positive outcome that under different circumstances could have been fatal.

all in a day’s work, and more

Level-headed Al-Shamri’s deeds did not stop at the fire.

The very next day, he administered emergency first-aid to a traffic accident victim.

“I was at a traffic light when there was an accident between a vehicle and a scooter, and was able to help those involved,” he said modestly.

Appreciative of Security’s attendance at the scene, one of the traffic victims said, “Not all heroes wear capes.”

Working from home’ vigilance

Aramco’s home since 1933, Dhahran is the company’s largest residential camp and is home to about 13,500, representing most of the world’s nationalities, religions, and cultures.

Since COVID-19, residents are spending increased amounts of time at home, and Dhahran Residential Services Division administrator Saeed M. Ghamdi said, “We need to be especially vigilant about household safety.”

solid security training and operations

With assets of strategic importance to the world, Aramco operates a security van-guard comprising a 6,500-member team.

All newly recruited officers undertake a rigorous practical and academic training program of 18 months, along with numerous refresher courses, which includes fire response training.

Dhahran security work three shifts — morning from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; swing from 2 to 10 p.m.; and evening from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. — and Dhahran Community Security Operations Division superintendent Waleed B. Al-Bakhait described Me-shal’s fast action as reflective of Industrial Security Operations’ mission.

“Through qualified staff, comprehensive procedures, and the latest technology, our mission is to sustain the company’s business by protecting its people and assets,” said Al-Bakhait. “Customers are central to our focus of maintaining Saudi Aramco as a secure and happy place to live and work.”

Al-Bakhait added that all security officers know the streets in Dhahran. “We know when something is not right.”

global Twitter hack demonstrates human vulnerability in cybersecurity

by Samah S. Al Ghamdi, Dhahran, Samah.Alghamdi@aramco.com

Twitter, the famous social media platform, experienced the largest security and privacy breach in its history on July 15, 2020. The company said the hackers successfully targeted employees with access to its internal systems through a mobile spear phishing attack.

The current COVID-19 pandemic, which has many people working remotely, has created a perfect recipe for such attack. Some remote employees are overwhelmed and eager to respond to security threats, and attackers know this fact and take advantage of it.

A common mobile phishing scenario is when attackers call an individual on their mobile phones pretending to be colleagues or possibly members of the company’s security team, then send SMS including fake link that takes the unsuspecting recipient to a dangerous site. Here, they are asked to enter their credentials, which are captured and used by attackers to cause data breaches.

Studies say that people are three times more likely to respond to mobile phishing than email phishing scams because it is hard to visually and logically to double check a link. The Twitter hack was a striking reminder of how important it is to keep conversation about cybersecurity awareness and the role each person plays in protecting their own and their company privacy.

There are many lessons learned at organizational and individual levels summarized below:

• Always question everything you get, including and especially anything from your employer
• You should verify any information posted on social media, and seek out side confirmation
• Limit what you share about yourself on social media to public information that can’t be used to identify and target you in future. (Scammers are always on the look for personal data published online).

• Make providing an ongoing cybersecurity awareness training to employees a top priority.

It is not surprising to know that targeting humans is the easiest and the cheapest way to cause data breaches, and Twitter learned this fact the hard way.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.
Aramco announces Corporate Development organization

Dhahran — Aramco this week announced the establishment of an integrated Corporate Development organization to optimize the company’s portfolio.

“Corporate Development is mandated to create value, assess existing assets, and secure greater access to growth markets and technologies through portfolio optimization and strategic alignment,” shared Abdulaziz M. Al-Gudaimi, who will report directly to president and CEO Amin Nasser. The organization will become operational starting Sept. 13.

“We continue to leverage our capabilities in assessing our existing portfolio, identifying new opportunities and adapting to a rapidly evolving global landscape,” said Nasser. “The Corporate Development organization will focus on growth opportunities as we further sharpen and strengthen our strategic focus to optimize our portfolio and, in doing so, maximize value for our shareholders. It will also enhance our abilities to harness robust processes to efficiently and effectively execute our business development strategy, as well as increase our agility and ability to adapt to changing market dynamics.”

“This constitutes a refinement of Aramco’s existing corporate development model and does not represent a fundamental organizational change and will support the company’s efforts to identify the best opportunities and successfully grow and optimize its business,” he added.

The company is moving toward a nonmetallic future.

With that in mind, Aramco Americas conducted a webinar Aug. 18 to present business opportunities to nonmetallic and composite manufacturers across the U.S. in support of Aramco’s nonmetallic initiatives to promote sustainability.

This was the latest in a series of U.S.-Aramco business forums held in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce over the past few years, and the first one held virtually.

A top priority

“The company is moving toward a nonmetallic future,” said Adel AlShahrani to forum participants. “This means that manufacturers such as yourself are a top priority for Aramco. We encourage you to explore the opportunities and join us,” AlShahrani serves as manager of the Aramco Americas Procurement and Supply Chain Management (P&SCM) Department. He provided welcoming remarks along with Khush Choksy, senior vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who said the Chamber values its relationship with Aramco and works to attract U.S. suppliers to business forums to learn about collaborative opportunities.

the value proposition

Speakers from both Saudi Aramco and Aramco Americas gave presentations on the importance of building win-win partnerships.

Salem Alghamdi, with Saudi Aramco’s Sourcing and Business Development/Industrial Development and Strategic Supply Department (ID&SSD), presented the “Nonmetallic Investment Opportunity.” He highlighted Aramco’s need for nonmetallic and composite materials such as glass fiber, structural products, chemicals, insulation, and unidirectional tape. Corrosive-resistant, durable and reliable, these materials are the building blocks for a more sustainable energy future.

Halah Musbeih, with King Salman Energy Park (SPARK), spoke about the Aramco-operated industrial hub, noting that it will offer tenet companies a supportive ecosystem with a world-class infrastructure and services to match.

Nonmetallic manufacturers will be located in a customized section of the park with access to raw materials and huge market demand for nonmetallic products across the Middle East/North Africa region.

Majid Almohammed, with iktva Action Plan and Support in ID&SSD, presented on iktva, its localization goals, and the lucrative opportunities available for companies to partner with Aramco and further invest in the Kingdom — particularly in the key sectors of nonmetallic, construction, oil and gas, and offshore.

From Aramco Americas P&SCM, Myra Bozeman with Supplier Relations highlighted the process for companies to register their business with Aramco and become a qualified provider.

Sameer Yousef with Strategic Sourcing facilitated the webinar along with Liz Clark from the U.S. Chamber. Attendees were encouraged to download and access an “Expression of Interest” form posted on the Aramco Americas website. The Aramco team is already engaged with a number of nonmetallic and composite manufacturers interested in the opportunities.

forum engages U.S. manufacturers

building win-win partnerships in nonmetalics

by Judi Ottmann

Houston — Aramco is moving toward a nonmetallic future.

“Nonmetallic Investment Opportunity.” The company is moving toward a nonmetallic future.

We encourage you to explore the opportunities and join us.

— Adel AlShahrani

The company is moving toward a nonmetallic future.

We encourage you to explore the opportunities and join us.

— Amin Nasser
The 2020 season of the world’s most exciting sport, Formula 1 (F1), is well under way, and many Aramcons are following the sport as participants in the F1 Fantasy League through the F1 Aramco Employee League.

The F1 Aramco Employee League is a thrilling chance to follow each race of the F1 tour while creating your own fantasy team of drivers and constructors. As long as you stay within your $100 million budget, you can continue to make changes to your line up, and you can boost your points by using your options for Turbo Drivers, Mega Drivers, and Wildcards. If you are a member of this league and want to learn more about how to improve your skills in this exciting sport, here are a few helpful tips.

**pick a Turbo Driver**

Every race, you must select one driver to be your Turbo Driver. The Turbo Driver option will double the points scored by the selected driver, so this is a great way to boost your score. Only drivers priced at under $20 million can be selected as your Turbo Driver.

**choose carefully**

Beware, both Turbo and Mega boosters can multiply a driver’s score even if it’s negative. So if your chosen Mega drivers score a -5, that knocks 15 points off your score.

**use your Wildcard**

The Wildcard allows you to make unlimited changes to your team without penalty. You have two Wildcard plays per season — one for the European races (first eight races), and one after the European races (second eight races).

You can also play your Mega Driver boosters multiple times and try to make the most of them. Beware, a negative score will also be tripled, so think hard before making your picks.

There’s no price restriction on Mega Drivers, and you can play your Mega Driver booster multiple times and try to make the most of them. Beware, a negative score will also be tripled, so think hard before making your picks.

Nevertheless, through the efforts of many different groups and showing tremendous resilience, the 2020 cohort was able to stage a quick and effective transition to a virtual offering that delivered all of the learning outcomes expected from a traditional program.

**cohort overcomes unique challenges**

Since its inception, Harvard and Aramco have worked to ensure that participants get the full HBS experience — with the same content and structure, delivered by world-class faculty from Harvard. Nabil K. Al Dabal, HR vice president, congratulated the participants for completing the program under unprecedented and unexpected conditions.

“You now have a responsibility to pay it forward and bring these lessons to life. I hope that this program has given you the tools to further strengthen your leadership and take our company to the next level.”

Colin M. Sloman, director of the Management and Profession Development Department, highlighted that the need to adapt in a safe and convenient environment.

**participants reap experience**

Hossam K. Balbaid of the Domestic Sales and Logistics Department said that the program has been an enriching experience. “The ELP is a unique leadership development program.”

By analyzing current and relevant case studies, we were able to understand Aramco’s challenges and opportunities at individual and organizational levels.”

Hatim H. Gazzaz, acting director of the Exploration Geospatial and Data Management Solutions Division, said the program paved the way for innovative thinking. “Analyzing case studies helped us develop diverse perspectives and provided invaluable insight. The group discussions helped us understand perspectives from across different Aramco admin areas.”

The virtual capstone event concluded with a graduation ceremony, awarding the 41 graduates of the second cohort with well-deserved certificates of completion.

**get in the action**

Everything you ever needed to know about the F1 Aramco Employee League and other FAQs.

- By leveraging Harvard expertise, we have established a virtual learning experience that ensured participants growth and development journey is progressing, however in a safe and convenient environment.

- By analyzing current and relevant case studies, we were able to understand Aramco’s challenges and opportunities at individual and organizational levels.

- The group discussions helped us understand perspectives from across different Aramco admin areas.

Anlogous to your line up, and you can boost your budget, you can continue to make changes to your team of drivers and constructors. As long as you stay within your $100 million budget, you can continue to make changes to your line up, and you can boost your points by using your options for Turbo Drivers, Mega Drivers, and Wildcards. If you are a member of this league and want to learn more about how to improve your skills in this exciting sport, here are a few helpful tips.

- **pick a Turbo Driver**
  - Every race, you must select one driver to be your Turbo Driver. The Turbo Driver option will double the points scored by the selected driver, so this is a great way to boost your score. Only drivers priced at under $20 million can be selected as your Turbo Driver.
  - **choose carefully**
  - Beware, both Turbo and Mega boosters can multiply a driver’s score even if it’s negative. So if your chosen Mega drivers score a -5, that knocks 15 points off your score.
  - **use your Wildcard**
  - The Wildcard allows you to make unlimited changes to your team without penalty. You have two Wildcard plays per season — one for the European races (first eight races), and one after the European races (second eight races).

In 2020, you can stay in the action by following the sport and making changes to your team. The prices for each driver constantly changing depending on how often they’ve been subbed in and out of teams by other players. Buy low, sell high, or just revel in the fact that your chosen driver is making you a healthy profit. If you play your cards right, it means you can increase your budget to more than the $100 million limit you will start off with.

Prices are updated on an hourly basis. The F1 Fantasy site will also reflect — with either a green or red arrow — how much the price of your driver has changed, with a “sentiment bar” showing how likely the price is to change.

Visit the F1 website for more insights and up to date coverage. You could access the site by scanning in the code below.
Up for a challenge or two or six?

Ithra launches Tanween Challenges for creatives

Dhahran — Got imagination? The team at the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) want to see it in action. Ithra is pleased to announce the Tanween Challenges, a set of creativity and innovation challenges that will be featured during this fall’s Tanween Season. The challenges encourage participants to think creatively while working with industry experts to design and develop projects and products that can create real outcomes in the Kingdom.

The Tanween Challenges offer a valuable opportunity for creative individuals who wish to make a positive change within the Kingdom. The workshops and courses are offered both virtually and physically at the Center. Field experts will lend participants their support in designing, refining, and finalizing projects.

The Tanween Challenges programs will run from Aug. 27 to Oct. 21.

The challenges include:

- **Reimagining the Crafts of Saudi Arabia (Aug. 27-29)**
  Participants will develop ideas, refine their visions, and create a final contemporary product inspired by Saudi Arabia’s traditional crafts. The craft Challenge partner is Qormuz, a professional Saudi heritage product company, and the winning product will be displayed in Qormuz stores.

- **The Future of Creative Placemaking Challenge (Sept. 5-7)**
  Most of the Challenges are competitions, and the top projects will be published or featured at Tanween. In The Future of Creative Placemaking Challenge, participants will reimagine a Saudi neighborhood, address its shortcomings, and enhance its strengths. Individuals will use their creativity to transform a public area into an attractive and sustainable community space.

- **Creativity Needs You Challenge (Sept. 17-19)**
  In this challenge, participants will compete to design the most compelling single-picture ad that will advertise the benefits of a creative career to the public. Participants will work with professional copywriters and visual communication specialists to optimize their designs.

- **Cardboard Furniture Challenge (Oct. 5-7)**
  Innovative abilities will also be tested in the Cardboard Furniture Challenge, where participants will design and construct original furniture designs using only cardboard.

- **A New Outdoors Challenge (Oct. 19-21)**
  This final challenge encourages participants to develop a physical product that will connect tourists with outdoor experiences in the Kingdom. The Riyadh-based design firm Product Care will assist applicants in creating the project.

Don’t miss the chance to create and compete in the most innovative programs of the season. To register for or to learn more about the Tanween Challenges, visit www.Ithra.com.
wafting west

essential oils more than a matter of dollars and scents

by Ken Chitwood

Reprinted from May/June edition of AramcoWorld

Petite, iridescent bottles and bulk household products filled with or using pungent, concentrated, natural “essential” oils have become so common on retail shelves and websites that they are almost unremarkable features of the modern consumer landscape.

Essential oils are increasingly part of a lifestyle — such as yoga or organic foods — that appeals to young and old, men and women. As recently as a decade ago, anything infused with the sweet-smelling fragrances of essential oils may have been associated more with patchouli-redolent bohemians. But today, buying, wearing and diffusing essential oils is nearly as commonplace as the online shopping that has helped popularize them.

According to market research firm Statista, the global market value for essential oils is projected to reach $27 billion by 2022, based on estimates done before the COVID-19 outbreak. The market in the U.S. alone is currently worth $4 billion, and essential oils now help scent perfumes, soaps, cosmetics, flavorings, cleaning products, lotions, candles, aromatherapy products and even aerosols such as “Sleep Serenity Moonlit Lavender,” a therapy products and even aerosols such as “Bedroom Mist” by Febreze.

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Some representatives of Young Living and doTERRA have been active on social media claiming that blends containing clove, cinnamon bark, eucalyptus, rosemary and lemon — all traditional medicinal plants — could help “boost immune and respiratory function” and that a range of oils could “keep your family healthy and strong.”

This year, as the world faces the pandemic of COVID-19, such wellness concerns and interest in the purported healing properties of oils have sharply increased. Some representatives of Young Living and doTERRA have been active on social media, claiming that blends containing clove, cinnamon bark, eucalyptus, rosemary and lemon — all traditional medicinal plants — could help “boost immune and respiratory function” and that a range of oils could “keep your family healthy and strong.”

In all their varieties of scent, origin and use, essential oils all have this in common: They are naturally distilled by either steam or cold pressure from plants, and this includes combinations of seeds, stems, roots, leaves and blossoms.

Trygve Harris, originally from California, now lives in Oman, home to Boswellia sacra, the frankincense tree whose resin and oil once brought centuries of riches to the southern Arabian Peninsula. Founder of New York-based Enfleurage, Harris says her distillery in Oman’s capital of Muscat allows local shoppers to experience the natural method of making and using essential oils.

“When you buy an essential oil, you are buying beauty, serenity, posterity,” she says, noting that in particular, Frank — that is her affectionate nickname for it — allows buyers to connect with Oman — its history, its people, its geography, its national soul. “That’s why people come to it,” she says. “That’s why people come on pilgrimage to Dhofar. They go out and sit with the trees.”

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Looking back, it turns out that if one follows the history of essential oils
and their journeys, uses and prestige as they traveled west, it is apparent they have been deemed valuable — indeed essential — elements and accoutrements of comfort, wellness and belief in their efficacy. The earliest records of essential oils point to around 3,000 BCE when botanists and physicians in Egypt, China, and India were using essences and oils for perfumes and medicines. Actual human practice, however, probably began far, far earlier. When oils crossed into classical Greece and Rome, Greek physician Hippocrates of Kos, of “Hippocratic Oath” fame in the 4th century BCE, drew on sources from Egypt and India to document the effects of lathering patients and research subjects in oils and essences from more than 300 different plants.

Later, other Greeks produced materials on plant oils and essences, including Dioscorides who, in 70 CE, wrote De Materia Medica, whose insights informed Romans, including Galen in the second century CE, as well as later Byzantine and Arab physicians.

Following the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 CE, the oils continued to be distilled and widely used from Constantinople (now Istanbul) to Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad and across North Africa to Cordoba.

a source of healing

Preeminent among the scholars of the scientific flourishing of the 10th century was Abu-'Ali al-Husayn ibn-'Abdallah ibn Sina, who was called Avicenna in the West. Born near Bukhara, in modern-day Uzbekistan, Ibn Sina commented on the therapeutic applications of more than 800 plants, and he is often credited with the discovery of the distillation process by which essential oils are extracted still today.

In the early 13th century, Ibn al-Baytar of Damascus, author of Kitab al-jam'i li-mufad al-adwiyah wa-al-aghdiyah (Compendium on simple medicaments and food) expanded to various applications for 1,400 plants and oils, with a particular focus on the popular orange and rose waters of his day.

It was from these scholars that much knowledge of plant-based medicines, essences, and oils emanated to Europe, where often it was monks who tended to the sick with herbal extractions. Oils were burned in attempts to ward off pestilence, were carried back to Europe by returning soldiers of the Crusades, and later, Renaissance European herbalists, alchemists and spiritual leaders, all borrowed from the knowledge of Islamic forbears to begin dabbling in distilling oils such as lavender, rosemary, nutmeg and clove.

This set the stage for the Western fascination with using essential oils for aromatherapy in the early 20th century, widely credited to René-Maurice Gattefossé of France. Alongside his brothers, Gattefossé developed his method of using essential oils to aid injured soldiers during the First World War, and modern aromatherapy was born.

Of the more than 90 types of essential oils on the market worldwide, frankincense remains among the top five, and among them it is the most historically referenced. Sourced from Boswellia sacra trees not only in the southern Arabian Peninsula, frankincense can also be found in the Horn of Africa. Its sap is still tapped, collected and sold on to global markets. Valued for its fragrance, taste and remedial effects, frankincense once was worth more per pound than gold throughout the Middle East.

Whether they come in hand-labeled bottles from a boutique or family-sized bottles at the hypermarket, essential oils come from one of the world’s oldest traditions for good living, one that still thrives where it began, and that still moves not only west, but to the world.

A bottle of frankincense essential oil sits on a branch of a frankincense tree (Boswellia sacra) in the Dhofar Governorate of Oman, where a semiarid climate and limestone geology have proven especially hospitable for its cultivation for more than 3,000 years.

A wide range of organic products on display at BioFach 2020, one of the largest organic food fairs in the world, held in Nuremberg, Germany, include essential oils of various varieties, scents and purposes, including cooking and baking. Essential oils are bottled for perfume, flavoring, aromatherapy and other popular wellness uses. Worldwide, essential oils are enjoying a fast-rising market that is projected to reach $27 billion by 2022.
A ongoing campaign targeting WhatsApp users has cyberattackers using social engineering techniques to gain control of their account and then impersonate them. The cyberattackers hijack the victim’s WhatsApp account, download all the user’s chats and media, and then impersonate the victim’s identity. From there, they initiate communications with the victim’s contact to gather sensitive information and ply the contacts for monetary gain.

WhatsApp users should take proper proactive steps to mitigate the risk to their account, including:

- Enable WhatsApp two-step verification
- Never share the SMS containing WhatsApp security code with anyone
- Do not disclose personal information to unknown sources
- Exercise caution. Never click links or attachments from unknown sources.
- Keep your mobile device’s operating system up to date
- Back up files regularly; backups should not remain connected to the network.

Remember, information security is everyone’s responsibility.

from the beautiful shores of the Arabian Gulf
wildlife sanctuary offers wonders for the eye

by Chiara Ciampricotti Iacoangeli

Jubail — Not far from Jubail in an out-of-the-way corner in the Kingdom’s northeast, there is a place that retains one of the most beguiling and unspoiled landscapes in all of Saudi Arabia.

Jubail, in the Eastern Province, is one of the most beautiful cities on the Arabian Gulf coast. Famous as one of the largest industrial cities in the world, it is the largest city in the Kingdom in terms of the production of industrial materials such as petrochemicals, gas, plastic, glass, iron, and steel.

Also, its location on the Gulf coast is critically important for many vital facilities, such as the King Fahd Industrial and Commercial Port, desalination plants, and the King Abdulaziz Naval Base. For all these reasons, Jubail Industrial City is considered an essential port in the development of the Kingdom’s economy.

more than just an industrial city

Apart from its reputation as an industrial city, Jubail is also known for the diversity of its tourism, community, sports, and cultural activities. The Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu’ (RCJY) is keen on developing the area’s tourism potential, as it is a popular destination for visitors from various cities within the Kingdom, as well as other Gulf countries, due to the beauty of its parks and beaches.

The city features impressive infrastructure facilities and supporting services that facilitate entertainment and tourism, and the industrial city enjoys a number of parks and distinct green landscapes, in addition to sports, cultural, and social activities. The city constructed by the RCJY is characterized by a number of beautiful islands and fishing areas that attract fishermen and divers throughout the year, both locally, as well as to several islands just off the coast.

natural beauty abounds

Jubail also hosts an amazing wild natural area, with several neighboring uninhabited islands become nesting areas for migratory birds such as flamingos and white-cheeked terns, along with turtles. The RCJY and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation cooperate to take care of these animals.

The Jubail Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, the first marine protected area in the western Arabian Gulf, consists of two large coastal embankment systems and five offshore coral islands, covering an area of approximately 2,300 kilometers (km) with more than 400 km of coastline. What is striking about this area is how in a few kilometers, the landscape changes profoundly. It is a beautiful stretch of coast where, in some places, desert sands flow directly into the clear waters of the sea — an immense uninterrupted expanse.

In other places, the sea becomes an inlet of brackish waters. There, the vegetation becomes richer as aquatic plants take root and make the marshy ground lusher. Plants nestle in a gentle gradation, from the highest mangroves to thin and dark algae that touch the ground.

Moving further inland, it seems that the sea continues, with an immense white expanse. From a distance, it could be confused with an ice rink if it wasn’t for the high temperatures! The waters have dried up into a thick slab of salt, but it is still possible to view on its surface the play of the waves and the tides that bring thousands of tiny shells to shore.

From a distance, this immense white expanse could be confused with an ice rink if it weren’t for the high temperatures! The waters have dried up into a thick slab of salt, but it is still possible to view on its surface the play of the waves and the tides that bring thousands of tiny shells to shore. Walking on this surface makes your own steps sink, and you end up “crushing” the salty surface.

All around, birds take flight, herons drawing from shallower waters. In the distance, boats set off to fish as the hot summer day renews emotions that only nature can supply and freely provides.
Mohammed A. Saeefan one of five ‘Emerging Professionals Under 35’

Dhahran — Safety is a priority in everything we do at Aramco, and nowhere is that more evident in the area of fire protection.

The international gold standard for fire protection is the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), which boasts over 5,000 members and more than 100 chapters worldwide.

Mohammed A. Saeefan, an fire protection engineer in our Fire Protection Department (FrPD), recently received the remarkable honor as one of SFPE’S “Top Five Under 35 Emerging Professionals Award” for 2020.

The ex-president of the SFPE Saudi chapter, board members in the U.S., and a fellow member in Saudi Arabia nominated Saeefan for a reflection of personal and corporate excellence.

Saeefan said he feels overwhelmed with happiness for receiving such a prestigious award, as competition for such a global recognition is very high. Among the qualities in choosing those to be recognized are leadership, volunteerism and professional growth within the fire protection engineering community.

Nominees are expected to display a commitment to shape the future of the industry beyond mere personal development or the success of their employer. With a total of 12 years of experience, Saeefan has been a steady advocate of the PPE profession, devoting significant effort to elevate the field in the Middle East and in Saudi Arabia.

He presented 11 technical papers internationally and was a key contributor the SFPE-Saudi Arabian Chapter when it received the recognition engineering field as a representative of the FrPD, commissioning multi-billion dollar projects ranging from oil and gas plants, to refineries and signature facilities such as those at King Abdul- lah University of Science and Technology, high-rise buildings, offshore oil rigs, and more. He also served as a firefighter and fire chief, overseeing personnel at one of the company’s primary fire stations.

Also, during a one-year assignment with the Aramco Expatriate Schools, Saeefan created a facilities management group, staffing it, creating its organization structure, appointing facility managers, and providing them necessary training.

He is currently working in the Fire Systems Engineering Group within FrPD where the group oversees fire protection engineers, supporting more than 500 projects a year.

“Winning this award not only showcases the company internationally, but it also highlights Aramco’s ambition to be a global leader in fire protection,” Saeefan said. “I couldn’t be happier.”

where safety meets diversity prioritizing the safety of our employees

by Janet Pinheiro

Industrial work wear has historically been designed around male body frames, due to the overwhelming demographic associated with this type of work up until now.

With the number of women working in operational roles steadily increasing, Aramco recently took a fresh look at its rate of personal protective equipment (PPE) with a view to changing this.

“Aramco’s priority has always been the protection of its people, and when the topic of gender and comfort was brought forward, we immediately set about addressing this,” says Loss Prevention Department (LPD) manager Ghassan Abulfaraj.

“A one-size-fits-all approach to PPE can undermine a safety program,” said Abulfaraj. “PPE is essential for the protection of our employees, and an important part of this is ensuring that equipment is not only compliant from a safety perspective, but also ensure that cultural requirements are met.

safety and gender go hand-in-hand

Depending on their role, operational employees and contractors wear a range of PPE, including flame resistant clothing, boots, gloves, hard hats, safety glasses, and hearing protection.

With a goal of ensuring the safety and comfort of female personnel, Aramco initiated a project to enhance the company’s line of flame resistant clothing (FRC), including specific designs for the female workforce.

Janelia Zarzar Torano and Fatimah Bar-now, both LPD engineers who worked as leads on the project, note that effective female PPE is more than simply a smaller or larger version of male designs, especially in the Middle Eastern region.

“Across Aramco’s multiple operations — both in Kingdom and around the world — we want all of our people to feel welcome, and that they belong,” says Aali M. Al Zaharni, vice-president of Safety and Industrial Security.

A female body frame is often shaped differently and generally smaller than a male frame. Having poorly fitting safety clothing can cause risks such as reduced agility, catching on equipment, and tripping,” says Zarzar Torano. Bernawi adds: “Another unique aspect to this project — besides that of sizing and safety — was cultural requirements. We needed to work on a design that not only fits properly, is safe and comfortable, but also one that met our female employees’ requirements for modesty.

It was this recognition that led to a partnership with DuPont, one of the world’s leading companies in terms of science and innovation, to customize an FRC line that managed comfort and met cultural requirements, all while ensuring that all safety guidelines were maintained.

practice makes perfect

Over a period of 18 months, LPD and DuPont worked tirelessly on a number of design concepts that not only looked to improve design and comfort from a safety perspective, but also ensure that cultural requirements were met.

Speaking to the practical aspects of a project such as this, Zarzar Torano adds: “This clothing is the final line of defense that we have in the event of a fire. As such, we had to work through numerous designs, tests and practical trials to ensure that what we were signing off on was absolutely of the highest quality.”

Abulfaraj notes that what made this project unique is that it provided an opportunity to not only accommodate the needs of Saudi Aramco’s female workforce, but also lead the way in innovation to further improve FRC safety features for female employees across the industry.

“This wasn’t simply a project where we looked to alter the size of clothing; that could be done by anyone,” Abulfaraj says. “We wanted to use this opportunity to challenge the status quo, and to ask ourself: ‘How can we do this better?’”

The result was a new line of female FRC, inclusive of shirts and hijabs, which meets the requirements of safety, culture and comfort for the workforce.

• A double-layered flame resistant shirt, which features an integrated inner layer that allows female employees to maintain a conservative style without being exposed to potential burn injuries

• A flame resistant wrapped-around headscarf

• A flame resistant hood-type headscarf.

While all personnel exposed to fire hazards must wear FRC as a final layer of protection, the use of the new flame resistant shirt is optional; employees can continue to use standard coveralls, or regular pants and shirt if they choose.

more than safety equipment

Work uniforms provide employees with a feeling of belonging and sense of identity, and this project has underlined such an ethos. With many more females taking up roles in traditionally male-dominated industries, the need for adaptation and innovation is increasing.

Aramco’s priority will always be the safety of its people, but it also believes that an inclusive and respectful workplace is essential, and it will do everything in its power to ensure that its deliver on both of these fronts.

While our core safety values encourage that any operational decision will always be made to ensure the safety of employees and contractors, the launch of this new line of protective clothing is indicative of where the industry — and indeed the company — is headed.

“Across Aramco’s multiple operations — both in Kingdom and around the world — we want all of our people to feel welcome, and that they belong,” says Aali M. Al Zaharni, vice-president of Safety and Industrial Security.
Aramco Expatriate Schools

2019-2020 Senior Honor Roll

Abqaiq School

Honors with Distinction

- Seventh Grade: Adam Al-Abid, Haitham M. Al Barwadaw, Joei Kendru, Juan Managa, Gyle R. Marinas, Flavia M. Di Girolamo, Layan Melhem, Hasen Almad, and Muaz S. Reda


- Ninth Grade: Rami Al-Malik, Omar Al-Malik, Asim A. Mostafa, Khalid Alsoudani, Maryam A. Medina, Al Maftah Nafla, Minna Al Salim, and Ahmad N. Beterqan

Honors

historical perspective: a glow in the valley

by Mohammad A. Ghamdi

Riyadh — Some 55 years ago, when I was only 4, I recall some of my first and richest memories growing up in my village in southern Saudi Arabia.

At the time, we lived by the light of the kerosene bulb. When people prayed Isha, we turned the key of the lantern counterclockwise so that it would swallow the light, squeezing the wet wick and ushering in a pervading silence so everyone could enter a deep sleep.

After the lantern was extinguished that night, we heard voices coming from the edge of the village. The voices began to rise, and despite its dimension, it was echoing around us. Normally, such a fuss might have been attributed to a hyena or someone falling into a well or a quarrel, but this time, the sounds were completely different.

Everyone’s eyes turned to a glow coming from the far-off valley plain. The villagers gathered outside on the dark path, afraid of this unusual and dazzling light. Quickly, the spacious valley became crowded with the people of our village and the neighboring villages sitting and squating on the muddy ground, wondering what was happening. At the forefront of the valley, a wide glowing screen across a long trailer illuminated the night, animated cartoons playing as a movie for the villagers—a first in their lifetime.

A few minutes later, we saw what was the Aramco Oil Caravan and a traveling exhibition, a locomotive full of pictures and beautiful things. At the front of the audience, a blond American looked out at our faces, which stared back in amazement watching the cinema screen for the first time. It was as if we were losing consciousness, our mouths agape. Some stood and nodded and moved away in fear, frightened that the bright creatures would jump on them from the screen.

I still remember that huge dog in the long cartoon movie with its slouching cheeks fighting with the cat, his saliva flying across the screen. The stereo sound that bounced off of our fresh ears was so alien.

When the cartoon concluded, a film highlighting the role of American firefighters responding to emergency calls followed. And though the film had nothing to do with our reality, we connected viscerally with the human beings moving in front of us on the screen with their flesh, the enormity of it all captured with our wide eyes.

 Years later, when I watched the Apollo trip landing man on the moon, the spectrum of this scene from the Kingdom’s South would come to mind. I recall the Aramco vehicle with the huge front—perhaps resembling a spacecraft—and the locomotive doors opening from the side as if one was entering a portable house. There were spotlights and cameras and cinema projects, even a highly polished nickel metal structure and huge engraved blue wheels that left their pitch on Earth’s soil, all similar to those the astronauts left on the moon.

After all these years, I still marvel in how Aramco’s caravan ran between villages, spreading joy and happiness to people who knew very little of the outside world.

In 1954, three mobile clinics began operating in the Abqaiq district to render first aid to employees. The clinics were converted from commissary vans and made regular stops daily in the industrial sections of Abqaiq. They saved manpower hours by eliminating hospital or clinic visits for minor injuries or illnesses, reduced the work load on the regular hospital staff and saved employees many time-consuming trips for medical care. In this photograph, one mobile clinic makes a first aid stop.
Abqaiq — What's your equine IQ?

That's what the Abqaiq Residential and Recreation Services Division (ARRSD) was asking in its most recent morale-boosting activity, a virtual family horse quiz to better engage community members.

The winner of the contest is Serhan Gercek, an environmental engineer in the Southern Area Oil Operations Technical Support Department. He and his wife, Valbona, along with their children Ailis (8) and Erla Ecem (6), skillfully navigated the 20 question quiz that tested Abqaiq residents’ knowledge of famous horses and their owners.

A four-year resident of Abqaiq, Gercek said his family enjoyed the contest and that it was just one of myriad aspects of the Aramco lifestyle he and his family have come to love.

“Abqaiq is a great place to raise your children,” he said. “You can find everything you need here — friendship, entertainment, security, and so on.”

The contest not only engaged residents, but also was a promotion for the Abqaiq Horse Stables, which currently has vacancies for Aramco employees’ horses.

The facility is beautifully maintained with qualified staff to ensure that the horses have the best of care. To visit the stables, contact horse riding consultant Diane Leverton at 572-3299 or Diane.Leverton@aramco.com.

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Abqaiq Horse Quiz

1. The Lone Ranger's Pottawatomie sidekick, Tonto, had a horse named what?

2. Which of the following famous racehorses does not have a biopic?
   A) Seabiscuit  B) Ruffian  C) War Admiral  D) Secretariat

3. A mustang known as Comanche was the mount of which well-known commander?

4. About which horse did Jimmy Driftwood write a song, popularized first by Eddy Arnold and later by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band?

5. Which 19th-century children’s classic by Anna Sewell features a horse?

6. What’s the name of a mid-20th-century TV show that featured a talking horse?

7. What’s the name of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s best-known horse?

8. Which one of the following was not a horse in George Orwell’s Animal Farm?
   A) Clover  B) Snowball  C) Boxer  D) Mollie

9. The Norse god Odin rode a magical horse with eight legs. What was the horse’s name?

10. What is the name of the winged horse from Greek Mythology?

11. Who had a favorite horse called Bucephalus?

12. The fences at the English Grand National are made up of which tree?

13. A typical adult male horse has how many permanent teeth:
   A) 20  B) 30  C) 40  D) 50

14. Which English author is best known for his 1982 children’s novel War Horse?

15. What was the name of the Duke of Wellington’s favorite horse during Napoleonic wars?

16. Which equestrian magazine is the oldest in the UK, being first published in 1884?

17. “Hands high” is the term used for the height measurement of a horse — how many inches is one hand?

18. Robert Redford bought the film rights to which book in 1995 for £3 million?

19. What name is commonly given to a female horse under four years old?

20. The Appleby Horse Fair is held annually in which English county?

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1. Scout
2. B (War Admiral)
3. George Armstrong Custer
4. Tennessee Stud
5. Black Beauty
6. Mr. Ed
7. Traveler
8. Snowball
9. Sleipnir
10. Pegasus
11. Alexander the Great
12. Spruce
13. C (40)
14. Michael Morpurgo
15. Copenhagen
16. Horse & Hound
17. 4 inches
18. The Horse Whisperer
19. Filly
20. Cumbria

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Moncito Regondon Jr. captured this stunning aerial view of the Armenian town of Tsaghkadzor of Kotayk Province. I was in the cable car enjoying the beautiful scenery while the colors of the leaves has not yet fully changed. The image was captured on Regondon Jr.’s Huawei P30 Pro camera in “night camera mode.” Regondon Jr. lives and works in Ras Tanura in the Northern Area Contracting Unit in the Ras Tanura Cluster Shared Services Department. He has been with the company about 2 1/2 years.