CTO leads practical low carbon energy thinking
Ahmad O. Al Khowaiter joined international experts at last week’s “Middle East and Africa Energy Week” conference to drive forward the energy industry’s low carbon agenda.

Historic Saudi W20 Summit
The Women 20 (W20) Summit, hosted for the first time in Saudi Arabia and sponsored by Aramco, brought women’s empowerment and diversity and inclusion to center stage.

Keep COVID-19 numbers down
As numbers rise in certain countries, we must take heed and continue taking precautions to keep Covid-19 numbers down.

Aramco wins first place for KAPSARC
Aramco was the first place winner of the Decorative Concrete category awarded by the American Concrete Institute for excellence in the construction of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center.

Climate change and the rising demand for clean energy were lead topics discussed by president and CEO Amin Nasser at this week’s B20 Summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia.

AI: The new normal
Company at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence revolution

By wearing a face mask in 2020 we hope to make 2021 face mask free.

wear a face mask
Historic Saudi W20 Summit seeks to inspire, empower women

The Women 20 (W20) meeting was hosted virtually in Riyadh as an integral part of the Kingdom’s Group of 20 (G20) presidency.

By Eamonn Houston

Riyadh — The Women 20 (W20) Summit, hosted for the first time in Saudi Arabia and sponsored by Aramco, brought women’s empowerment and diversity and inclusion to center stage. The summit, held virtually on Oct. 1-22, drew influential women and men from around the world to speak and advocate for gender equality. Aramco’s Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Division was privileged to play a pivotal role in its success, hosting the highest attended parallel session and supporting the event on multiple levels.

empowerment

The G20 is a forum for international economic cooperation and brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent. Its members account for around 80% of the world’s economic output and three-quarters of international trade. Throughout the year, representatives from G20 countries gather to discuss pressing financial and socioeconomic issues.

commitment

Saudi Aramco’s prominent participation in the W20 reflects the company’s ongoing commitment to diversity, empowerment, and inclusion.

During the summit, Aramco hosted a panel session under the banner “Empowering Women: A Practical Approach,” moderated by Reema H. Siyam, Aramco’s head of D&I. Expert panelists included Judith Michelle Williams, SVP, People Sustainability and chief D&I Office at SAP; Dr. Mary Meaney, senior partner and leader of Global Organization Practice at McKinsey and Company; and Dr. Maria Angelica Perez, global head of D&I at Standard Chartered Bank.

The panelists explored practical ways to empower women and men through tested methodologies and covered a wide range of issues from the current COVID-19 pandemic to digital inclusion and “leading with empathy.” The Saudi Aramco session had the highest attendance of any session at the W20.

role model

Speaking afterwards, Siyam said, “Our goal at Saudi Aramco is to become a global role model for diversity and inclusion. We can achieve this by fostering inclusive environments and deploying initiatives that empower women, such as the Leading National Academy, and encouraging educational opportunities for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).”

high-level Aramco engagements

Saudi Aramco was a key player in the W20 over the entire year, not just the summit, with consistent involvement in events such as the W20 “Virtual Majlis” hosted by Al Nahda Society, Aramco’s W20 Internal Launch Webinar, and the National Dialogue series.

These events allowed Aramco the opportunity to advise on and contribute to a wide range of issues to support women in the workplace and to raise awareness within the company on the value of achieving gender parity.

Three important takeaways:

- “Empathy is Empowerment”: The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the global landscape and leadership has changed as a result. Organizations that emphasized empathy with their employees have yielded positive results in productivity and engagement.

- Involve women in decision making: The economic and global health crisis has impacted women disproportionately, and greater female representation in decision making will speed recovery from the pandemic-induced economic downturn.

- Promote female role models: Promoting and highlighting female role models is key to advancing women and empowering them in the Kingdom’s economy. All sectors have a responsibility to ensure that their role models are as diverse as the workforce itself.

Law Organization named IFLR’s Middle East Corporate In-House Team of the Year 2020

On Oct. 14, the International Financial Law Review (IFLR) publication granted the company’s Law Organization the Corporate In-House Team of the Year award, both the initial public offering (IPO) and the SABIC acquisition transactions were recognized as Deals of the Year for their respective categories.

IFLR is a leading financial law publication in Europe, the U.S. and Asia, providing the global financial community with legal market intelligence, as well as highly reputable and closely monitored rankings of law firms and lawyers. IFLR’s awards recognize legal innovations in cross-border transactions, and are presented following months of research and careful deliberation by the publication’s editors and journalists.

“I am very proud of my team, and of course, what the company was able to achieve last year. The Law organization is unique in the region in terms of the depth of talent and expertise and this award is a testament to the company’s great milestones and achievements this past year, and to Law’s efforts in supporting those achievements, including the IPO. The team was able to support the company in achieving all these major milestones concurrently, and sometimes, at compressed methodologies,” said senior vice president and general counsel, Nabeel A. Al Mansour.

He also described what the award means to the company and what it took to win it. “The award is the ‘cherry on top’ for a year full of triumphs and milestones. The IPO has been widely hailed, and rightly so — in my opinion — as an exemplary transaction in the region and in the world, given its massive scale and the innovative groundwork that it took to pull it off. The acquisition of a majority stake in SABIC is a huge one as well, requiring extensive regulatory clearance and due diligence in numerous jurisdictions in a remarkable short period of time.”

The Saudi Aramco IPO was the largest initial public offering in history. The IPO involved several innovations that were never seen in the region — implemented over the course of nearly 4 years of extensive legal work leading up to the listing. While the SABIC acquisition is expected to enhance Aramco’s presence in the global petrochemicals industry, the sector is expected to record the fastest growth in oil demand in the years ahead. As part of the transaction, Aramco and the Public Investment Fund (PIF) filed for and obtained antitrust pre-notification clearances in 21 international jurisdictions prior to Aramco acquiring PIF’s 70% interest in SABIC on June 16, 2020.

The legal team’s tireless work ethic and ingenuity in preparing for and conducting the record-setting IPO and the SABIC acquisition have been appreciated by company stakeholders as well as external parties. IFLR’s announcement stated that there is “little doubt that Saudi Aramco had a transformational year,” and that the company’s legal team “implemented innovations that defined legal developments relating to regulations for hydrocarbons, capital markets, shareholders, companies and corporate law, public concession agreements, and tax rules.”
Aramco deepens focus on climate actions, CEO tells B20 summit

- Decarbonization is at core of climate strategy
- Produce more energy with less carbon

Through a year of challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and an economic slowdown, Aramco has remained committed to producing more energy with less carbon emissions. This was the message from Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser at the B20 Summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Oct. 26-27.

In a panel discussion on the topic of “Reinvigorating the Battle to Save the Planet,” Nasser said that Aramco is working across its value chain to help the energy industry reduce carbon emissions, build up a climate friendly circular economy in the Kingdom, and to provide sustainable energy supplies that will improve economic opportunities and the quality of life for generations to come.

saving the planet

“COVID-19 is the biggest global shock to the global economy since World War II,” Nasser said. “The economic impact has been very tough on young people, women, and people in developing countries.

“The response by many governments around the world has been equally quick, with economic stimulus and financial support,” Nasser added. “This support also involves actions or investments to build a cleaner and more sustainable future.”

The goal of producing energy to meet global demands does not have to work against the shared responsibility of reducing carbon emissions, which are a contributing factor in climate change, Nasser said.

“To reduce emissions at a faster pace, the focus shouldn’t only be on new energy sources and technologies. That is of course desirable, but let’s also focus on lowering the carbon footprint of existing energy sources because they are a significant part of the global energy system, and will be for decades,” Nasser said.

Aramco is focusing on several areas to create a sustainable energy future:

- Making oil cleaner, starting with one of the lowest carbon intensities in the world, and then working on advanced engine fuel systems of the future that will emit a lot less carbon for every mile driven.
- Promoting the “noncombustible” uses of oil, such as turning it into chemicals and materials, which emit a lot less carbon than oil’s used as fuels.
- In addition to cleaner “refinery-based materials,” we are working on “chemical-type” fuels from oil, such as hydrogen and ammonia.
- Increasing our gas supplies and participation in renewable projects in the Kingdom.

Doing our part in all parts of our operations is not only good for our bottom line and for our customers, it also is good for the planet, Nasser said.

“In the energy sector, the investments should be broad-based and balanced. More attention is focused on new energy, climate-related projects, and the circular economy, but existing energy sources should also be included because they will be part of the global energy mix for decades. That is how you grow real green resilience, sustainable communities, and jobs,” the CEO added.

Technology as a driving force

Technology and digitalization are key tools in helping the company not only to remain a competitive source of energy to the world, but also to reach its goal of creating a more climate friendly world, Nasser added.

“Even before COVID-19, digitalization and new technologies were becoming common practice in the workplace,” Nasser noted. “COVID-19 has only accelerated the transformation.”

“Through big data, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI), we are improving seismic processing, oil recovery, well productivity, and lowering costs,” Nasser said. “Our investment in smart technologies has made it possible for our upstream oil carbon intensity to be among the lowest in the world. Our goal is to become the world’s most digital energy company. And continued investments are critical to getting us there and our strategic goal is to produce more energy with less carbon.”

The CEO shared a few examples of how Aramco is applying digitalization and other technologies like AI, including:

- Developing a greenhouse gas emissions analytical solution that monitors emissions from over 2,000 sources across our operating facilities.
- Using unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with advanced optical gas imaging cameras to further minimize emission leaks.
- Developing a homegrown algorithm to predict and minimize the need for gas flaring, which is a source of emissions. Through it and other flare minimization initiatives, we have managed to reduce flared gas, which was already small, by around 60%.
- “Looking more broadly outside Aramco, similar technologies could help in making a real difference to reduce or eliminate emissions,” he said.

B20 voice of business

Other members of the panel included Adam Sieminski, president of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies Advanced Research Center in Riyadh; Patrick Pouyanné, CEO of Total; and Emma Marcegaglia, former CEO of ENI and Designated Chair of B20 Italy. The moderator for the panel discussion was Manar Al Moneef, president and CEO of Onshore Wind Business, GE Renewable Energy, UAE.

The B20 is the voice of business to the G20, also known as the Group of 20, an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union. At G20 conferences, global leaders gather to address common challenges and to build consensus and commitment for solving those challenges. In addition to the B20, Aramco organizations participated in the Women 20 (W20) Summit, which works to foster gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.
Ithra launches Alsharqiya Gets Creative campaign

Dhahran — The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) is launching the Alsharqiya Gets Creative campaign, which will take place from Oct. 25-31. This initiative is a community-based cultural and creative campaign that will coincide with the third year of Ithra’s Tanween creativity season, the largest creative event in the Kingdom, under the slogan “The New Next — Creativity is the Way Forward.”

As part of Ithra’s vision to develop the creative industry in Saudi Arabia, Alsharqiya Gets Creative strives to make the Eastern Province the foremost destination for creativity in the Kingdom, to enhance the creative spirit in society, and to encourage talented people to innovate and to think creatively.

Over 40 government and private entities, 60 teachers from the educational sector, and several universities, colleges and social platforms will participate in the campaign as ambassadors in an effort to activate the creative spirit of community members and support a stimulating environment conducive to talent discovery and development.

The campaign also strives to support innovation and youth through various creative initiatives, ideas and materials, which will be shared on social media using the hashtag #Alsharqiya_Gets_Creative throughout Creativity Week.

Additionally, the campaign seeks to build bridges with innovators, creatives, and talents to inspire the Eastern Province toward unleashing its creative potential. Participation among individuals and business owners will be encouraged so they may formulate unique ideas, depending on the nature of their work.

By launching campaigns related to the creative economy, Ithra seeks to instill creativity as a catalyst for the creation of job opportunities, a contributor to social cohesion and sustainable human development, and a vital source for economic transformation and social and economic progress. This is of particular importance as research indicates that the creative industry is one of the world’s most rapidly growing economic sectors, and a transformative tool for generating income, jobs, and exports.

According to UNESCO, the creative industry recorded annual revenues of $2.25 trillion and scientific exports exceeding $250 billion, and is expected to make up to 10% of GDP. The creative economy also creates approximately 30 million jobs worldwide, half of which employ women. The campaign also strives to enhance creativity, a vital pillar of Ithra’s vision, as supported by the entire Center through the annual Tanween season.

Education Sector

Creativity Week will be initiated by teachers who have been specifically trained by the Center to stimulate creativity among students by integrating creativity maps into educational curricula. Students will then present either tangible products or working ideas such as hackathons, projects, forums, or panel discussions, all of which will be shared on social media using #Alsharqiya_Gets_Creative.

University and college students will experience and implement various forms of creativity, regardless of specialization, by proposing a creative project of their choice. The small projects category can include any form of creative endeavor that highlights the diversity and versatility of creativity, regardless of products or services.

Finally, the impact of creativity within the community will be discussed on social media platforms through sessions and dialogues related to the importance and impact of creativity.

The ticking clock

Time is a strange thing. We get defensive, delaying important things in our lives, thinking that we have all eternity to do them. We lead our lives in a reckless way, failing to realize the fact that time is running out and slowly slipping through our hands.

We face a moment when we wish to have a little more time in our lives. Time to be more susceptible and responsive to our fellow beings. If only we had expressed ourselves openly and appreciated things around us more. Wishing we had taken care of people around us a little more than we actually did. The irony of the fact is that once the clock stops, we have no chance to do anything about it.

Let’s wake up and realize that now is the time to take action while the clock is still ticking. Time to take every chance that comes our way to appreciate people in our lives. Time to show our gratitude and apologize wherever and whenever it’s due.

Let’s make a pledge never to take things for granted anymore. Remember to take a moment every single day to thank and appreciate the people around us.

Let us work together toward showing our emotions and never lose our priorities or get lost in the daily grind of our lives. Let’s take charge of our lives while the clock is still ticking.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.
![Image](https://example.com/image.jpg)

**AI Global Summit: for the good of humanity**

by Michael Ives

On Oct. 20 and 21, Aramco participated in the Global AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit, hosted virtually from Riyadh.

Guided by the theme “AI for the Good of Humanity” and hosted by the Saudi Data and AI Authority and sponsored by Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund, the summit highlighted that a new normal is shaping the world, with AI at the center.

Bringing together some of the world’s leading decision makers, technologists, innovators, and investors, the Global AI Summit was a unique global platform to explore what the new global era means to AI, how AI’s transformational potential can be best used to create a better future for all, and what this means for policy and decision makers interested in leveraging that potential, for the good of humanity.

A wide range of talks, panel sessions and town halls sought to deliver concrete recommendations on how to develop impactful national AI strategies in a post-recovery context and insights into AI innovations and investment trends.

The summit illustrated how data and AI are massively transforming the world we live in, from businesses to industries, to human lives.

**leveraging advanced technologies**

Senior vice president of Technical Services, Ahmad A. Al Sa’adi, highlighted in his speech to Summit delegates that nations who understand the power of transforming data into useful knowledge will enjoy a strong and prosperous future. “In fact, there is a marathon underway involving the world’s foremost economic powers to take the lead in this area,” he said.

Al Sa’adi noted that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was blessed with massive hydrocarbon resources and Aramco recognized at an early stage the importance of leveraging advanced technologies to best manage these resources.

“Back in the 80s, we built a flagship reservoir simulator, called POWERS, to simulate our reservoirs at the highest resolution possible. This effort — undertaken with the aid of supercomputing — was unparalleled at that time. Currently, TeraPOWERS, a trillion cell model incorporating AI, to further increase hydrocarbon recovery as well as discovery, is already in operation.”

Al Sa’adi also noted that similarly, in Aramco’s surface operations, early deployment of neural networks and inferential models in refineries planted the seed for contemporary advancement in the use of AI and machine learning at the company.

**three pillars**

Al Sa’adi pointed out that Aramco continues to progress its digital transformation journey, where data and infrastructure are cornerstones for digital transformation, built around three pillars.

1. Data and Infrastructure
2. Technology
3. Capabilities Building

**data and Infrastructure**

As a result of deploying more than 100,000 Internet of Things and smart devices, virtual reality solutions, cybersecurity operations, and data analytics, Al Sa’adi highlighted that the company’s data storage capacity will quadruple by 2025. In addition, the company has invested in a world-class, scalable data center and its computing infrastructure will increase by four times.

**technology**

“On the technology front,” Al Sa’adi said, “we recognize the need for creating an appropriate technology enabled collaborative environment for our teams to continue the AI technology innovation.” He noted that the company has established the Fourth Industrial Revolution Center to foster innovation and fast track AI solutions’ development and deployment.

**capability building**

Al Sa’adi noted Aramco’s focus on building capabilities and developing talent to take the full advantage of digitalizing. “We have already started several programs, including hosted master degrees with KAUST, Georgia Tech, and IE University in Spain,” he said.

In closing, Al Sa’adi noted that Saudi Aramco has both a progressive AI strategy and an active execution program leading to real results, while creating economical value.

“I’m proud that Aramco and the Kingdom are at the forefront of the AI revolution,” he said.

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**Incorporating AI, Aramco’s TeraPOWERS simulator is a next generation numerical simulator that enables solving of trillion-cell reservoir and basin models to aid exploration in discovering new oil and gas fields and reservoir management to significantly increase hydrocarbon recovery.**

**During the AI Summit, Ahmad A. Al Sa’adi noted that Aramco recognized early on the importance of utilizing and leveraging advanced technologies to best manage the Kingdom’s hydrocarbon resources.**

**AI in action at Khurais**

At Khurais, Saudi Aramco has deployed 40,000 sensors covering more than 500 oil wells over a huge geographical area. With predictive models designed to forecast well behavior, Aramco is able to take real-time action to control and optimize production. With this technology, we have been able to reduce overall power consumption by 18%, reduce maintenance costs by 30%, and cut inspection times by around 40%.

Khurais recently became Aramco’s second facility, after ‘Uthmaniyah, to receive the prestigious World Economic Forum Global Lighthouse Award for being a leader in the adoption and integration of cutting-edge technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
CTO leads practical low carbon energy thinking

Hydrogen: Energy carrier for both power and mobility

I don’t want to get ahead of the good things we are doing in the traditional energy industry, and say we are just going to replace everything with blue (hydrogen).

— Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter

Aramco delivered a powerful message about our planet’s energy transition when last month it shipped to Japan a 40-tonne shipment of hydrogen, the first time it has been transported outside of Saudi Arabia. The 40-tonne shipment was for use in power generation, and was produced at the Jubail CO2 Capture Plant, which captures industrial CO2 emissions from the Aramco Jeddah Refinery.

It demonstrates the possibilities of Aramco as a decarbonized energy commodity.

Al-Khowaiter described Aramco as “setting the course” by investing in the transportation of decarbonized energy through hydrogen.

“We took natural gas, converted that to ammonia, captured the carbon dioxide in our enhanced oil recovery project, and therefore, transferred what is called blue ammonia — low carbon ammonia — to Japan for use in power generation,” he said.

“Once the hydrogen has been decarbonized, it really doesn’t make any difference whether it is green or blue.”

Since 2016, Japan has worked toward creating a hydrogen-based society to establish a more sustainable energy sector.

Instead of being produced and consumed in the same location, what we are seeing for the first time is hydrogen becoming a tradable commodity.

— Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter

Sustainable fuel for the future

In 2019, Aramco inaugurated Saudi Arabia’s first hydrogen fuel cell vehicle fuelling station at Dhahran Techno Valley Science Park.

The company is using the fuel stations to drive the development of hydrogen technologies and solutions.

Hydrogen and fuel cell technologies are well positioned to be part of the solutions for mitigating climate change, addressing urban air pollution, and reducing the cost and time required to decarbonize the energy sector.

Ammonia low carbon energy possibilities

Aramco is leading the way in ammonia production, with initiatives aimed at reducing emissions from the existing energy system in the short to medium term, which will certainly pay back.

Aramco’s significant processing, pipeline and refining infrastructure, and expertise in carbon capture means the company is well placed to feasibly contribute to a hydrogen-powered low carbon economy.

Hydrocarbons are a reliable and affordable source of low carbon hydrogen and ammonia, and Aramco’s large integrated oil and gas operations are just going to continue to be a key part of the energy mix.

— Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter

Al-Khowaiter said hydrogen becoming transportable was significant. "Instead of being produced and consumed in the same location, what we are seeing for the first time is hydrogen becoming a tradable commodity.”

"Once the hydrogen has been decarbonized, it really doesn’t make any difference whether it is green or blue.”

Since 2016, Japan has worked toward creating a hydrogen-based society to establish a more sustainable energy sector.

Climate change is a defining moment, the conference, Aramco chief technology officer Ahmad O. Al-Khowaiter participated in a panel discussing how the public and private sector can work together to enable the large-scale industrialization of hydrogen.

"This is the idea of bringing together, in a transitional way, the green and blue (hydrogen), and really the conventional fossil fuels and the new energy world,” he said.

"Aramco, a leading global producer of oil and gas from the world’s largest reserves, already owns and operates the significant hydrogen technologies and solutions."

"We are doing a lot of research, basically looking at the whole chain, from production, to transport, to which is the biggest challenge," he said.

"We are seeing for the first time is hydrogen becoming a tradable commodity.”

"The world will continue to depend on crude oil — an essential part of modern life — to provide energy, construction and household materials, and personal items such as fabric for clothing.

"The petroleum industry is an important part of the solution to meet the climate goals of the Paris Agreement."
Staying vigilant, keep COVID-19 numbers down

One thing the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us is that Saudi Aramco, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are capable of amazing things when they put their minds to it.

Eight months of vigilance and hard work have paid off. If current trends continue, the worst could be behind us.

Those are the key words: "if current trends continue."

Across the world, we can see the news reports of a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic striking just as the flu season begins. In the U.S., the pandemic hit a record peak of 82,900 new cases in a single day on Oct. 23. Across Europe, daily new cases are rising to their highest levels since the springtime peaks, and in countries such as Russia, Poland, Greece, and the Czech Republic, the daily rates for new cases have surpassed the springtime levels and are continuing to rise.

Globally, COVID-19 has struck 42,670,015 individuals since the outset of the pandemic, and 1,146,063 people have died, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The hardest hit nations so far are the U.S., India, and Brazil, with total deaths of 225,229, 119,014, and 156,903, respectively.

For the moment, there are no signs of a second wave in Saudi Arabia. Our falling infection rates are the result of discipline and hard work, in following the behaviors we all learned from the beginning of the outbreak: avoiding large gatherings, wearing masks, washing our hands and maintaining good hygiene, and maintaining a physical distance from each other of at least 2 meters.

The results of our good discipline are tangible and impressive.

But as some of our favorite restaurants, cafes, and night spots open up, we cannot afford to become complacent. The suffering we see in other nations — some of the richest in the world — is something we must strive to avoid.

The only way to prevent a second wave of COVID-19 here in the Kingdom is to remain vigilant against the coronavirus both at work and in our home lives; to remain resilient in maintaining the behaviors that have kept us and our families and friends safe for the past eight months; and to remind others, gently, that all of our safety depends on every one of us taking this coronavirus seriously.

Each person who works here is valuable. We are all contributing to the success of a company that produces energy that powers the global economy. We all have families who love us and depend on us, and we can share with our family members the reminder to stay safe at home and in public.

We have come so far, and achieved so much. Let’s keep up the efforts that have kept us safe, and reach our goal together.

Yanbu’ Refinery hosts Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

by Fadia Bandar and Raghad Alghamdi

Breast cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in women, and the second most common cancer overall. Among women, breast cancer continues to be the most frequently diagnosed cancer, and the second leading cause of cancer death in women.

As Breast Cancer Awareness month, Oct. 2023 serves as a reminder for all women to conduct their annual screening in the hope that by doing so, early detection will lead to more positive outcomes in the fight against breast cancer.

On Oct. 13, 2020, with the extended support of Johns Hopkins Aramco Health Care, the Yanbu’ Refinery Department hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign for Yanbu’ area female employees.

The main objective of this campaign was to educate and spread knowledge on breast cancer causes, symptoms, and benefits of early detection.

The event began with opening remarks by the campaign organizers, followed by an interactive lecture given by one female guest doctor, Dr. Hadeel Mahjoob. The lecture highlighted causes, symptoms, stages and types of treatment and some preventive measures. In addition, Mahjoob gave a live demonstration on how to conduct a self-check. Later, the female attendees enjoyed their time by participating in fun competitions and winning prizes.

To disclose the attendees’ privacy, the campaign included a private booth for a one-on-one Q&A session with the doctors. To add a twist to the event, Mahjoob introduced Kamboucha tea and highlighted its benefits and uses, and its relation to our overall health.

Yanbu’ Refinery management joined the rest of the attendees toward the end of the program where Yanbu’ Refinery manager Abdulatif S. Al-Shami delivered the closing remarks and thanked the attendees for their interest to attend such an important program. Al-Shami provided additional thanks to Mahjoob for her valuable participation, effort, and input.

The King Abdulaziz Quality Assessment Team attended the program’s closing and thanked the team for their efforts to host such an important program, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

At the conclusion, Al-Shami handed out prizes to the competition winners and representative gifts to all the attendees followed by cutting the cake to document this successful and educational event.

The female attendees were each handed a giveaway present selectively picked by the event organizers. Overall, the event was a success, and the management, along with the assessors, shared their appreciation and positive feedback toward the effort and support that was given to the cause. The attendees left the campaign with a valuable message to pass on to their loved ones.
Aramcons win ‘Absher Hackathon’
to improve MOI services

Three Aramco employees achieved a first place finish in the Absher Hackathon, which was held on Oct. 9-10 by the Ministry of Interior (MOI).

The Hackathon strived to empower young talents in employing recent technologies to improve MOI services. Highlighted technologies included artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data, drones, and Blockchain.

The recognized Aramco team included Hussain A. Alaidarous, an IT systems analyst from the Area Information Technology Department (AIITD), Faisal A. Julian, a computer operating system specialist from the Computer Operations Department (COD), and Yasir M. Ghuwaim, an engineer from the Process and Control Systems Department (P&CSD).

The winning team implemented a proof of concept solution using Blockchain technology that allows citizens to share their digital identity with third parties securely and privately. The Ministry had been looking for better ways to share an individual’s identity information, enhancing the protection of individuals from identity theft and possible blackmailing. This solution maintains data integrity while enabling citizens to share selective information with third parties via the Absher application and thereby prevent the leakage of unsolicited data.

The award was presented by the Deputy Minister of the Interior, HE Dr. Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al Daoud, and HRH Prince Bandar bin Abdullah Al Mishari, Assistant Minister of Interior for Technology Affairs.

Concrete achievement, Aramco collects major concrete construction award

Dhahran — Aramco was honored last week by the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for excellence in the construction of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC). The company was announced as the first place winner in the Decorative Concrete category on Tuesday night at the ACI’s 2020 virtual Convention Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards session.

The awards event, which was held virtually this year, honors the visions of creative projects throughout the global concrete design and construction community. They recognize concrete projects at the forefront of innovation and technology and highlight these projects to inspire excellence in concrete design and construction.

creativity and innovation

The ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction is a prestigious award that recognizes concrete projects at the forefront of innovation and technology, and showcases these projects to inspire excellence in concrete design and construction around the world. ACI recognizes project winners across various award categories from low-rise, mid-rise, high-rise, infrastructure, repair and restoration, to decorative concrete.

The company’s nomination of projects to this prestigious award started in 2019 by Engineering Services as an initiative to promote excellence in the local construction industry in collaboration with Project Management and with the ACI Saudi Arabian Chapter. Winning the award is recognition by the construction industry for innovation and creativity in projects executed by Aramco.

“We are pleased to receive this prestigious award in recognition of Aramco’s creativity and innovation in developing and executing complex industrial and infrastructure projects,” said Ahmad A. Al Sa’adi, senior vice president of Technical Services.

KAPSARC is a premier, globally recognized center for energy and environmental research and policy studies. The center covers an area of 70,000 m², and includes five buildings, namely the Energy Knowledge Center, the Energy Computer Center, the Conference Center Auditorium, the Research Library, and Musalla.

The design concept of the center is a cellular, partial modular system that integrates different buildings as a single assembly with interconnected public spaces. The main building consists of a basement and three floors of a concrete framed structure. The building envelope consists of a steel structure covered by glass fiber reinforced concrete cladding panels and glazing.

This engineering masterpiece employs a variety of sustainable building techniques and advanced technologies and has achieved LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

These awards are shared by the project’s partners, including architecture and design firm ZAHA-HADID, ARUP Engineering, general and concrete contractor Drake & Scull International, and concrete suppliers Al Kifah, ETE, and Saudi Ready mix, and the ACI Saudi Arabian Chapter for tremen-dous support and collaboration endorsing the nomination.
With COVID-19 still limiting travel, migratory birds tease us with the purest symbol of what’s been curtailed for so many of us — the freedom of movement. Yet one unexpected gift of the pandemic-era lockdowns has been a renewed awareness of the wonders of the natural world around us. In these quieter moments, while the human world waits, we have an opportunity to bear witness to an incredible natural occurrence, one that has been happening annually since time immemorial.

Every year, hundreds of millions of birds, representing nearly 300 species, transit through Saudi Arabia along the African-Eurasian flyway. This spectacular yearly passage is currently under way, as adult birds and their offspring head toward non-breeding sites in southern Arabia and Africa. Some areas in the Kingdom are even hospitable enough to encourage them to winter here.

One need not have special knowledge or skills to catch the action. Smaller migratory birds, like hoopoes, bee-eaters, swallows, and wagtails can be encountered in and around the landscaping in residential areas or at work sites, refueling for the next leg of their journey.

Looking up, especially in October, you just might spy larger birds, such as storks, eagles, and falcons, gaining height from uplifts of warm air rising from the desert floor. However, for those looking for a chance to re-connect with nature and more deeply immerse themselves in the wonder and beauty, Al Ahsa plays host to some of the best birdwatching spots in the Kingdom, including Al Asfar Lake, Al Ahsa National Park, and Al Uqair Beach.

The permanent water and thick vegetation make Al Asfar Lake one of the most productive hotspots in the whole country. The mud flats, shoals, and shallows attract thousands of wading birds, such as sandpipers and plovers, many of which have the longest annual migrations in the bird world, using Saudi Arabia as a stopover on their way to the southern hemisphere and back. Meanwhile, the reeds, rushes, and tamarisks around the lakeshore offer cover and sustenance for familiar Eurasian birds like the blackcap and common nightingale. If you’re lucky, you just might spot a steppe eagle, an impressive yet endangered bird of prey calling the Kingdom home during the winter.

If you find yourself desperate for a stroll beneath the trees, Al Ahsa National Park is the place to go. The extensive plantings and adjacent scrubby desert are a veritable magnet for migrant birds like shrikes, warblers, flycatchers, redstarts, and wheatears. This is also the best place in the Eastern Province to see the black scrub robin, an energetic resident species with a comically long tail. As the park is a popular picnicking spot, the best time to visit is early morning, especially on Fridays.

Less than an hour to the east of Al Hofuf is Al Uqair, a tiny, unpopulated port on the Arabian Gulf. Visit in the morning and you just might find the undeveloped stretches in either direction all to yourself. The odd clusters of trees running along the coast are popular with many of the bird species that can be seen throughout the Kingdom during their migration.

Later in the season, the gray hypocolius can be seen eating dates from the wild palms that grow nearly up to the water’s edge. The tidal flats and lagoons near the port are good places to look for shorebirds and waders, and just offshore, you might witness a huge flock of Socotra cormorant, a threatened diving bird only found in the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, in search of good fishing.

The theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day (October 10) was “birds connect our world.” Sure, birds transcend national boundaries. However, at a time when so many of us are aching to see family and friends back home, getting outside to enjoy the natural world can also help us connect to a deeper sense of well-being, so critical during these difficult times. Birds can help re-connect us with ourselves.
To protect you ... a shot against the flu

Flu Prevention during Coronavirus Pandemic
Fall and winter months bring the flu season.

Here is what you need to know to protect you and your family from the flu and COVID-19.

**FLU**

*Flu shot. A flu shot protects you and your family from the most common strains of the flu. Visit JHAH.com to find out where, when, and how to get your flu shot.*

**PREVENTION**

*Physical distancing, mask wearing, and frequent hand washing helps to prevent COVID-19 and also protect against the flu.*

**SYMPTOMS**

*Flu and COVID-19 can have similar symptoms. Call a doctor or health care center if you have any of these symptoms:*

- Stuffy or runny nose
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fever
- Headache

**COVID-19**

*Physical distancing, mask wearing, and frequent hand washing helps to prevent COVID-19 and also protect against the flu.*

- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- New fatigue/feeling tired or without energy
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

*Fever and aches should end within five days. Coughing and fatigue can last about two weeks. Speak to your doctor if symptoms get worse. Severe cases may lead to hospitalization or death.*

**TREATMENT**

*Rest, a fever reducer, such as ibuprofen, and an antiviral medicine to reduce the amount of time you have the flu and prevent complications.*

**CAUSE**

*It is caused by several different influenza viruses that change each year. This year, the COVID-19 public health crisis means that avoiding an unnecessary hospital stay is more important than ever. Taking the flu shot can help protect you against the flu and decrease the risk of being hospitalized because of the flu.*

**Is it possible to get the flu and COVID-19 at the same time?**

*Yes, patients may be infected with respiratory viruses (such as influenza) and COVID-19 simultaneously.*

**Why is it more important for me to get the flu vaccine during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

*This year, the COVID-19 public health crisis means that avoiding an unnecessary hospital stay is more important than ever. Taking the flu shot can help protect you against the flu and decrease the risk of being hospitalized because of the flu.*

**I’m practicing physical distancing, do I still have to get vaccinated against the flu?**

*Yes, physical distancing is a preventive measure for both COVID-19 and influenza, yet the risk for COVID-19 and the flu is very much still there. The influenza vaccine will provide additional protection for you and those around you.*

**Why get the flu vaccination?**

*As reported by the Saudi Ministry of Health (MoH), the seasonal influenza “flu” affects 600 million people globally, and is fatal in around 500,000 cases per year.*

**Who is at a higher risk for health complications from the flu?**

*• People aged 65 years and older
• Pregnant women
• Children between 6 months and 23 months of age

People of any age who have chronic medical conditions such as heart, lung, liver, or kidney disease are also at a higher risk for flu complications. People who have suppressed immune systems from chemotherapy treatments for cancer, or people who take immunosuppressive medication, such as prednisone, are also at a higher risk.

**Should my family get the flu vaccine?**

*JHAH and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend that everyone aged six months and older get the flu vaccine to prevent infection from the influenza virus or to reduce the severity of the illness.*

**How can I protect myself and my family from COVID-19 when heading out to take the flu vaccine?**

*To make getting the flu shot safer and easier, JHAH is providing more locations outside our hospitals to get vaccinated than ever before, including a drive-through option.*

**For the full schedule and locations, please visit our JHAH.com Flu Vaccination webpage.**

*If you are visiting a JHAH facility, please follow the guidance on our “Safe at JHAH” webpage and continue to observe the 3 Ws:*

- Wear a mask
- Watch your distance
- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently

During these unprecedented times, extra protection against disease can be a lifesaver. Get the flu shot, stay safe and comforted knowing that we at JHAH continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of you and your family.

**FLU**

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**Sources:**

Dr. Jaffar Al-Tawfiq, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH); JHAH Marketing and Communications; Johns Hopkins Medicine, 2020.
With the new mySecurity app, you can access Industrial Security Operations services anytime, anywhere from your iOS device without the need to submit requests through the company system.

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Fields of lavender

Sara M. Alkaazzz captured this panoramic view of a field of lavender in Provence, France, two years ago with her Nikon D810 camera. Alkaazzz is a process engineer in the Digital Transformation Department. She has been with the company for five years.