TABLE OF CONTENTS

Youth	3
Education	17
Learning & Development	31
Health & Fitness	41
Community Service	59



Youth



الفائز من فئة المدارس High School



Gulf Bank is proud of its continuing lead sponsorship of INJAZ - Kuwait, a non-profit (NPO), non-governmental organization (NGO) that delivers educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills to help youth build successful careers. The programs are designed to narrow social inequities, encourage social engagement, foster creativity and experience and develop generations of highly skilled individuals. These Arabic and English programs are delivered to high school and university students in Kuwait.

INJAZ connects corporate volunteers with their programs and Gulf Bank employees from various departments and backgrounds have enjoyed volunteering their time











and making a commitment to mentor and encourage students. Volunteers, who undergo an orientation and training before they start their mentoring sessions, serve as real-world role models for the students and use their experiences to help further the student's learning. Gulf Bank has been a long-time partner and supporter of INJAZ, and will continue its investment in youth educational programs.

INJAZ forms part of the global network of Junior Achievement worldwide. Board members include: Mr. Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank Chairman, CEO of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of INJAZ-Kuwait, along with Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, among other notable individuals.



Gulf Bank was the platinum sponsor of the 32nd National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) conference in the United States. The NUKS-USA conference is the largest annual gathering of Kuwaitis outside the country. More than 3,500 students enrolled in colleges and universities across the United States attended the conference. The conference spanned over three days and included numerous formal and informal activities. These include: lectures, workshops, career fairs, elections for the new NUKS board and the opportunity to network amongst themselves and the institutional representatives taking part in the event.

During the first day's events, the Bank took part in the Career Fair. In addition to discussing career options and holding interviews, the participants were able to register for Gulf Bank's special cash prize draw. The draw was done by raffle and was open to all students participating in the conference. To enter the raffle draw, students merely had to sign up at the Gulf Bank booth in the career fair area.

Gulf Bank representatives Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources and Mr. Tareq Al-Saleh, Assistant General Manager of Investments participated in the opening ceremony dinner. During the dinner, Gulf Bank showed a video presenting its "Ajyal" Graduate Development Program which highlighted the strategic importance the Bank places on nurturing local talent and providing opportunities to Kuwaiti nationals to assume leadership positions within the Bank.













During the conference, the Bank also sponsored the "Start-Up Panel" (Tajriba Al Oula) where students presented business start-up ideas to a panel of judges that included Tareq Al-Saleh.

The Bank also held two workshops, one on "Gender Diversity and Women in the Workplace" by Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, who discussed the challenges she overcame in her successful professional journey and shared ideas about diversity in the 21st century workplace. The other workshop was on "Global Investments Firms Landscape: Introduction to Asset Management Firms and Investment Banking" by Tareq Al-Saleh, who provided an overview of the investment industry including career options.







Gulf Bank was the silver sponsor of Tmkeen's 4th Youth Empowerment Symposium. The symposium was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The Amir of Kuwait, during November, the National Entrepreneurship month.

Tmkeen is an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental Kuwaiti organization that seeks to empower youth and drive a new era of economic development and growth. Tmkeen is a national initiative that is delivered by Kuwaiti youth to the youth in Kuwait. They have been holding this annual youth symposium, as well as holding separate events during the year, to educate, inform, and inspire. They also work to assist youth business leaders by providing a training and development leadership program.

The focus of the year was technology and media and included the participation of several leading companies and a mix of prominent international and national speakers. The symposium was considered an ideal opportunity for Kuwaiti youth to gain valuable insights about entrepreneurship from these industry leaders, academics and experts.

















Mr. Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank and CEO of Alghanim Industries, was a keynote speaker, discussing the topic "Redefining Success". Mr. Alghanim is committed to empowering youth, encouraging entrepreneurship and investing in education.

Mr. César González-Bueno, Gulf Bank's Chief Executive Officer, also participated in a panel on small and medium enterprises. International speakers included: Mr. Ian McNish, Co-founder of LinkedIn, Ms. Libby Gill, CEO of Libby Gill & Company, Mr. Mark Kawano, CEO and CoFounder of Storehouse and others.





GULF BANK SPONSORS THE KUWAITI DINAR EXHIBITION

Gulf Bank sponsored the Kuwaiti Dinar exhibition, the first project of its kind, that was held at the Fountain Garden near Discovery Mall.

The exhibition was under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-JaberAl-Sabah, Ms. Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and the Minister of State











for Planning and Development, and aimed to highlight youth development projects as well as presenting them with the adequate opportunity to shed light on their ideas to all private and government sectors.



Gulf Bank cooperated with Kuwait University's (KU) College of Business Administration's Accounting Club (ACC) to launch 'Coffee Breaks with Red'. The event took place at the university's Red student lounges for male and female students at Shuwaikh campus.

'Coffee Breaks with Red' was a special recruitment event for KU's students, while Gulf Bank's Human Resources (HR) team discussed the available opportunities for fresh graduates at the Bank. Gulf Bank boasts 64% Kuwaiti workforce and is dedicated to increasing that number by employing the most talented graduates.

The Bank remains strongly committed to supporting youth events and initiatives and doing its part to help empower the next generation of Kuwaitis.

Gulf Bank will continue to reach out to youth through ongoing programs which provide encouragement and support during their education, and by providing practical, superior services and attractive promotions which are designed specifically for the younger generation.









Gulf Bank was part of the National Fund's SME Debt Program, a program developed by the Kuwait National Fund for SME's Development (National Fund), established under law 98/2013, to encourage an entrepreneurship ecosystem in Kuwait by providing different forms of support to small-and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).



The National Fund identified that one of the ways of helping it to achieve its objectives is by partnering with Gulf Bank and other local banks to leverage on the existing financial infrastructure and expertise to assist in providing growth capital in the form of debt.

While the Fund envisages supporting the small- and medium-size enterprises in the areas of finance, education/training, legal, infrastructure, and other strategic technical guidance, it has also identified that one of the means to achieve its goals is by partnering with local banks to leverage on the existing infrastructure and expertise.



Education



To mark International Literacy Day, Gulf Bank presented orphans with scholarships to continue their education as part of its charitable program of activities. This donation was done through the Committee of Knowledge Seekers, a branch of the Al Najat Charity Association.

The scholarships given by Gulf Bank benefited a number of children from all age groups (elementary, intermediate, and high school). The aim of the initiative was to provide educational opportunities to those most in need. The sponsored students started the new academic year without having to worry about expenses. The Committee of Knowledge Seekers does follow-ups on the students' education and provides monthly reports to ensure the children have what they need and there are no obstacles in the way of their education.

The theme of the International Literacy Day was 'Literacy and Sustainable Societies,' because literacy is a key driver for sustainable development. International Literacy





Day is also dedicated to exploring critical links and synergy between literacy and 'sustainable development goals' which will be adopted during the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Committee of Knowledge Seekers is the first Kuwaiti charitable organization dedicated solely to providing educational support in the community. They provide educational assistance for children, both citizens and residents, who are in need.



Gulf Bank donated to the Foundation of Hope, a volunteer group in Kuwait, dedicated to helping the less fortunate. The Foundation of Hope works to help both children and adults who have special needs or are disabled.

A portion of Gulf Bank's donation to the Foundation of Hope was used to help equip a special needs classroom called the "Green Unit" in the Kuwait English School (KES). The Green Unit is a non-profit facility of KES that caters to students with special educational needs, aged 6-21 years. The Green Unit provides learning support for infants, juniors, seniors, and college students. It offers an all-round











education for students in a caring and supportive environment, enabling each person to fulfill their own individual potential.

Gulf Bank's support has also helped the Foundation in producing the "Diary of Hope 2016" which depicts the artwork of intellectually challenged schoolchildren in a calendar format.



Gulf Bank sponsored Al Rayah's freshmen orientation event which took place at Zomorruda Ballroom. The orientation was held to welcome over 500 students who were accepted in universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland through Ministry of Higher Education Scholarships.





The event was attended by H.E. Matthew Lodge, British Ambassador to Kuwait, and included several workshops and booths that introduced different cities and course majors in the UK and Ireland. Al Rayah serves all Kuwaiti students pursuing education in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It helps strengthen collaborative ties and friendship among them by offering academic, cultural and national programs geared towards facilitating their education years away from home.



Gulf Bank participated in the American University of the Middle East's (AUM) Capstone Business Project Competition. Gulf Bank was the only bank at the event and Mr. Valery Talma, Deputy General Manager for Wholesale Banking Products, was one of the judges.

AUM's Capstone Competition included around 30 groups of five students from all business majors, who have developed unique business ideas. Each group presented their project, which included a full study on starting their business including: a financial study; a marketing plan; a human resources component addressing compensation plans and recruitment procedures; as well as other











details pertaining to their business plan. During the competition, the judges chose the best five groups out of the 30 participating in the competition.

Capstone projects are important because they require students to use the knowledge and research skills they have gained over their education period to solve real-world business problems or draft a business plan for an entrepreneurial effort. They also equip students with a hands-on opportunity to build leadership and use problem-solving skills. Capstone project presentations are the final step in the Capstone process which begins when students first submit their proposals to the faculty mentors. Once their topic is approved, they begin their research and data gathering for their final written presentations. Finally, they present their work to a panel of judges.



Gulf Bank celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by contributing to the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD). KALD is a social welfare organization, established in 2007, that works collaboratively to help all individuals, especially students, who have learning differences and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The contribution is in support of KALD's long-term comprehensive plan which aims to assist in preparing more specialized programs for students and their families, in addition to raising awareness activities. They set up awareness programs, training courses, conduct media outreach information campaigns, and other educational activities. KALD also guides families of students with learning differences on how to better engage with their children. They set up workshops for teachers, social workers, and psychologists who work with students who have learning differences. KALD also honors outstanding teachers with the KALD 'Distinguished Teacher Award'. They also work in cooperation with local, regional, and international institutions, as well as publishing various publications on the subject.





The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1992 and is celebrated on 3 December annually. The theme for this year is "Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment for People of All Abilities". The day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of the value and importance of integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life – social, political, economic and cultural.



Gulf Bank sponsored Kuwait University's (KU) College of Business Administration's Accounting Club trip to Zurich, Switzerland, which was the first time the club organized a trip since being founded.

During the five day workshop, students were exposed to different sectors in banking. They attended seminars in prestigious institutions including the SBS Swiss Business School, SIX Swiss Exchange Ltd, Cambridge International Business School and the Money Museum where they learned about the banking sector, securities, and the Swiss financial centre.







Learning & Development



Gulf Bank launched its graduate development program in late 2014, as part of its leadership development and succession planning initiative. Ajyal (Generations) is a customized training program delivered in cooperation with the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS), to develop Kuwaiti employees with 1 to 3 years' experience with the Bank to become holistic bankers. We celebrated our first class of 18 graduates this year and have welcomed a new class into the program.

The 9-month intensive program helps enhance the participants' critical thinking and analytic abilities. The training phases include: classroom learning; a self-introspection boot camp; a navigation workshop to help identify the individual's strengths and weaknesses; exams and testing; local field training which culminates in a presentation to senior bank executives and faculty from IBS; a mentoring partnership where graduates are assigned a mentor within the Bank, an international assignment were the trainees can interact with experts in the field of banking; and finally a placement within the Bank based on the best fit for the incumbent and the needs of the Bank.

Specifically, the program educates the participants about the principles of banking; financial economics; banking laws and regulations; corporate and retail finance; and risk management. It also enhances the participants' critical and analytical thinking ability; creativity; customer service orientation; and understanding of corporate social responsibility. Additionally, it introduces the participants to Kuwaiti financial institutions; regulatory bodies; and the stock market.























Gulf Bank participated in the honorary ceremony for the Jahzeen 2 Program, a training program sponsored by the Bank, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) to promote the development of Kuwaiti youth. Jahzeen 2 Program targets senior university students, recent graduates, as well as employed youth with one year of experience.

Highlighting the Bank's efforts towards Kuwait's young generation, Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj – General Manager Human Resources at Gulf Bank, addressed the youth and stressed on the importance of surpassing obstacles and moving forward. Al-Hajjaj highlighted that youth are the future and the power of Kuwait, and that supporting them is a collaborative responsibility.

As part of its social responsibility strategy, Gulf Bank is committed to being involved in activities that support youth development. Human capital has always been at the forefront of the Bank's priorities and this commitment includes Kuwait-based activities such as mentoring programs or training to help students achieve their full career potential.











Gulf Bank and Alghanim Industries held two joint interactive workshops on negotiating for select employees conducted by Harvard Business School Professor Andrew Wasynczuk. The '3-D Negotiations' workshop was aimed at creating a deep understanding of the negotiation process and to sharpen critical skills needed for effective and successful negotiations.

Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank both believe that the key to success in their respective businesses relies upon attracting and retaining the best human capital and talent. As part of their ongoing commitment to invest in their staff and provide opportunities to further their personal development and professional skills, the







Human Resources departments of both companies organized the workshop to hone participants' strategic perspectives and interpersonal skills. The workshop was attended by approximately 120 executives from both Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank.

The workshop began with an explanation of the ideas behind '3-D Negotiations' which were then put into practice through individual and group negotiating sessions.

The first dimension focuses on tactics with the focus on people and processes, the approach is how to improve interpersonal processes and tactics. The second dimension focuses on deal design with the focus on value and substance, the approach is to unlock creative deals which create value. The third dimension focuses on the setup, emphasizing the scope and sequence of the negotiation to create a more favourable scope and thus positive outcome.



Gulf Bank participated in the Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Career Fair, which took place at GUST's campus in Mishref.

During the two day event, Gulf Bank's Human Resources team gave lectures about how to select their career, how to tailor their resumes, and perfect their interview skills. They also highlighted Gulf Bank's Learning and Development department as well as the 'Durrat Alkhaleej' training center, which produces a range of special packages and training programs as part of its policy of investing in encouraging and developing staff expertise.

Gulf Bank always places the importance of its human capital at the forefront of its business investment, focusing on opening up opportunities to young Kuwaitis, creating meaningful roles and challenges for Kuwait's youth that allows them to build a career, and in doing so, to contribute to the country's economic progress.

Gulf Bank is committed to reaching out to youth through ongoing programs which provide encouragement and support during their education as well as providing practical, superior services and attractive promotions which are designed specifically for the younger generation.





Health & Fitness



Gulf Bank hails the success of the inaugural Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, the first internationally accredited road race marathon ever to be held in Kuwait. The race was held in November and over 2,400 people from 74 countries participated. The route was along the Gulf Road and included many of Kuwait's famous local landmarks including Seif Palace, Kuwait Towers, the National Library, the new Central Bank of Kuwait building, Souq Mubarakiya, and the Gulf Bank headquarters office. The number 642 is the number of muscles in the human body.

The Bank was pleased that, for the first time in Kuwait, three of the race categories were accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF Athletics). Once a course is AIMS certified, only then is IAAF able to recognize any world records which might take place on the course. Three categories (10 KM, 21 KM, and 42KM distances) of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon were AIMS certified. These races now appear in the international calendar of races and serve as qualifying races for other events.



Gulf Bank sponsored the race to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and to encourage people in Kuwait to include regular exercise and physical activity as part of their daily life. The marathon has held on World Diabetes Day (WDD) to help raise awareness of the growing problem of diabetes in Kuwait, and how exercise and fitness can play an important role in combating this major health issue. On race day, all our partners were also on site for the event in the Souq Sharq pavilion area, where there were many other vendors and activities.



Gulf Bank sponsored the medical supplies and medications for the needy projects organized by Al-Rahma Committee for Medical Services as part of its ongoing humanitarian and charitable participation in society.

The Al-Rahma Committee for Medical Services, a branch of Al-Najat Charity organization, is the first Kuwaiti charitable committee made up of volunteers providing medical and health services in the field. A humanitarian medical center, Al-Rahma offers medical assistance in various forms to those in need of medical care among expatriate workers.







The projects seek to help impoverished and limited-income communities of expatriates and to provide the medical equipment and supplies they need. They also offer necessary tests in order to reduce their suffering and meet their medication needs.



Gulf Bank sponsored the 32nd late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament, under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Meshal Shamlan Al-Sabah.

The late Jassim Al-Sharhan tournament is an annual charity football event whereby the generated revenues are directed towards the education of underprivileged students across Kuwait.

The closing ceremony of the tournament was held at the football field of Essa Al-Hamad high school in Al-Qadsiya and was attended by H.E. Sheikh Meshal Shamlan Al-Sabah along with esteemed quests.













Gulf Bank organized its annual blood donation drive, "Do Your Part, Donate". The campaign was open to all employees and customers. The blood donation was conducted in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait and the drive took place over a two day period in two locations; Gulf Bank's Head Office and the Al-Saleh building. In addition to the blood drive, the units also did basic health check-ups including weight, body mass index and blood pressure measurements.

The blood drive was a continuation of the commitment initiated by the Bank in 2009. Its first drive was very well received and many liters of blood were collected then as was the case during this year's blood drive.



























Gulf Bank sponsored Cancer Aware Nation (CAN), Cancer Awareness National Campaign's sports open day event held in cooperation with the Kuwait Down Syndrome Society.

Gulf Bank supported the sports open day event to raise the awareness about Down Syndrome and to help children enjoy a fun sporting event.













Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder caused when abnormal cell division results in extra genetic material from chromosome 21. This genetic disorder, which varies in severity, causes lifelong intellectual disability and developmental delays, and in some cases it causes health problems. Down Syndrome is the most common genetic chromosomal disorder and cause of learning disabilities in children.



Gulf Bank donated to the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) as part of its ongoing commitment to provide charitable support to medical institutions across Kuwait.



During the visit to "Bait Abdullah" Hospice, Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, along with a Gulf Bank team, presented a cheque to the KACCH Director Mrs. Margaret Al-Sayer and former Minister of Health and BACCH President, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer. Both expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation for the role Gulf Bank has made in caring for hospitalized children.

KACCH is one of Kuwait's leading NGOs that provides a wide range of services that are catered towards hospitalized children. The association organizes and conducts different activities for hospitalized children with an aim of reducing the adverse effects of hospitalization on their development and well-being.

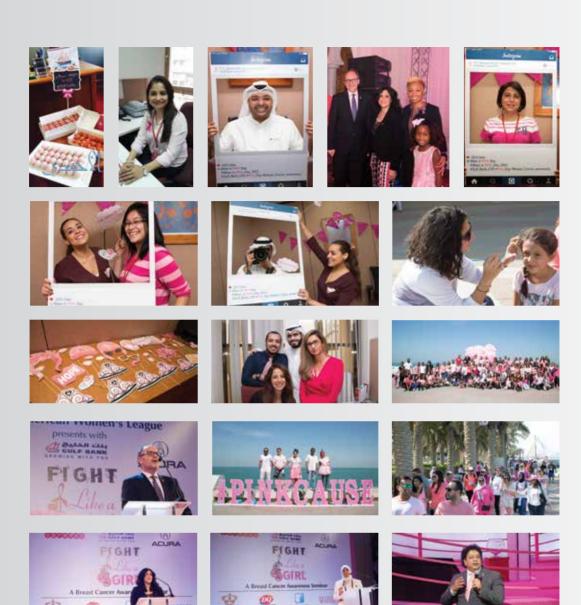


Gulf Bank organized its third annual breast cancer awareness campaign, "Pink... Because We Care". The Bank participated in three activities highlighting the seriousness of breast cancer and spreading awareness about the benefits of early detection, in addition to offering its female customers discounted medical testing.

To encourage customers and staff to seek testing, Gulf Bank partnered with Royale Hayat Hospital to offer special discounts on breast cancer related tests. This discount was offered to female Gulf Bank customers for mammogram and ultrasound tests.

For the third year, the Bank also sponsored "Pink Cause", a breast cancer awareness fundraising walkathon that was organized by Fatma Clinic to support those who had lost relatives or close friends to breast cancer, as well as to celebrate with those who have survived the disease. All raised funds were donated to Al-Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients and their Families.

Gulf Bank was the gold sponsor of the breast cancer awareness seminar, "Fight Like A Girl". This event was dedicated to raising awareness about the disease and was held under the patronage of the US Ambassador, Douglas A. Silliman, in partnership with the American Women's League. Three renowned Kuwaiti doctors spoke during the event on issues related to the detection, treatment and prevention of breast cancer.



Lastly, Gulf Bank aligned with 'Wear it Pink', an international charity that encourages thousands of people all around the world to join with a collective of scientists, supporters, and people affected by breast cancer. 'Wear it Pink' is working towards the goal that no one will die of breast cancer by the year 2050. Every year, 'Wear it Pink' raises funds by asking people in schools, workplaces, homes and social venues to wear something pink and to make a donation. The donated money goes to fund world-class research by the brightest scientific minds. Gulf Bank staff in all branches and the Head Office wore pink items to work in support of the campaign.



Gulf Bank organized a Health Awareness Campaign to celebrate World Health Day. The Bank encouraged both customers and staff to move towards a healthy lifestyle by holding a number of internal activities. Gulf Bank was keen to deliver the best specialized products, services and consultation and based on that it hosted Royale Hayat Hospital and the Diet Center for two weeks at the Head Office at Kuwait City, Mubarak Al-Kabeer street.

Gulf Bank customers and staff enjoyed different offers on packages, gift vouchers, free checkups and health consultations. Royale Hayat offered special discounts on its family clinic services, dentist clinic and Elements Luxury Spa. In addition, a













number of tailored health care programs were offered on special rates such as Al Safwa, Executive, Women and standard program.

The Diet Center was hosted in the second week, offering free consultations and special discounts on all its programs including Best Life, Smart, Balance, ProHealthy, Women's Plan, Gluten free, Cholesterol and Diabetes. It also continued its '#Ekelny Campaign' within Gulf Bank and distributed apples to employees and customers as part of its strategy to encourage a healthy lifestyle and support Gulf Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.



Community Service



Gulf Bank sponsored 'Eftar Saem', 'Eidiya & Kiswat Yateem' projects, organized by Mabarrat Al Rahma Al Khayriyyah. This initiative serves to create an authentic Ramadan ambiance for everyone across Kuwait and reflects the spirit of giving by providing new clothes and eidiyahs to orphan children.







Gulf Bank also sponsored eftar meals to various under-privileged families of all nationalities throughout Kuwait as part of its annual campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The Bank is keen to help alleviate the suffering of needy families.



Gulf Bank sponsored the Holy Qur'an in Braille initiative in partnership with the Kuwait Blind Association. The Bank's financial contribution covered the cost of printing special copies of the Holy Qur'an in Braille for those suffering from impaired vision.







The Holy Qur'an Braille printing initiative comes in line with the Bank's annual Ramadan program. It is worth mentioning that these copies are of the best quality and will be distributed inside and outside of Kuwait.



Gulf Bank was the platinum sponsor of the 27th Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving. The journey is organized each year by the Committee of the Marine Heritage of the Kuwait Sea Sport Club, under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

The "Memorial Journey of Pearl Diving" is an important Kuwaiti heritage event. This long-running festival is a tribute to Kuwait's cultural and economic heritage and aims to teach the younger generations about the lives of our forefathers. They re-enact the life of Kuwaiti sailors in the time before oil was discovered.

































الناة

معالي الدكتور بدر حمد العيسى

وزير التربية ووزير التعليم العالي - الرئيس الأعلى للجامعة

الملتقى السنوي الخامس الذي يقيمه مركز دراسات وأبحاث المرأة بكلية العلوم الاجتماعية



GULF BANK SPONSORS 'THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT' SYMPOSIUM

Gulf Bank sponsored 'The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Women's Empowerment' Symposium. The symposium was organized by Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences, in cooperation with UNDP Kuwait, and the General Secretariat of the Higher Commission of Planning and Development. It took place at Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences.

The symposium included a number of important topics such as: the growth of civil society organizations in the Arab world, civil society organizations and women's economic empowerment, civil social organization and women's political participation, the role of civil social organization on progressive legal change and the role of international organizations in spreading gender change equality.















In addition, different civil society organizations and international agencies shared best practices and shed light on crucial areas that need to attract greater attention. The symposium also included various related workshops.



Gulf Bank sponsored the Soroptimist International Club of Kuwait, a new chapter of the worldwide service organization for women. The SI Club Kuwait joins the Soroptimist International (SI) network of 3,000 clubs located in over 132 countries. At the opening event, HE Hend Al-Subeih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development, gave remarks welcoming the SI Club Kuwait, along with an SI Europe delegation.



















The word soroptimist means 'best for women' and SI works to educate, empower, and enable opportunities for women and girls. SI has general consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as official relations with several UN agencies and technical bodies. SI also has a network of permanent SI representatives at all of the major UN centers.

The purpose of the Soroptimist clubs are to raise awareness and engage in projects that benefit their communities and women worldwide. The Kuwait Club has chosen to raise awareness about the health issue Thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder that primarily affects people from the Mediterranean and Middle East and is prevalent in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Many people are unaware they are carriers and thus pass the disease onto their children. Persons afflicted with Thalassemia can face a range of health issues from mild to serious anemia requiring life-long blood transfusions and special care. SI Club Kuwait will raise awareness of Thalassemia and work to enhance the quality of life for those impacted by the disease.



To mark the International Day for Tolerance in November 16, Gulf Bank sponsored Kuwait University' second annual 'Against Violence...With Tolerance' forum. The forum was organized by Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences, in cooperation with Women's Research and Studies Center and the Ministry of Interior, and was held under the patronage of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad. Attending the event was Sheikh Faisal Al Nawaf Al-Sabah, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior.







The 'Against Violence...With Tolerance' forum was held at Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences and was supported by a number of local governmental organizations such as 'Protecting Child', National Higher Committee and the Ministry of Health. Additionally, related organizations and centers from the United Arab Emirates participated in the forum this year. This year's theme was 'Protecting Youth from Crime and Deprivation'.

The call to practice tolerance was written into the identity of the United Nations 70 years ago. While people are undoubtedly more connected and more diverse, intolerance is growing in many places. The need and importance of tolerance cannot be understated; it must be taught, nurtured and defended.



Gulf Bank celebrated the 26th Anniversary of Universal Children's Day and the Convention on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The celebration took place at Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) for the second year. Children's Day was instituted by the United Nations to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and to initiate action to benefit and promote the welfare of children.

To mark the day, Gulf Bank organized a day for the children at Bayt Abdullah which involved an entertainment program with activities organized by "Make Meaning Kuwait" of Tamdeen Entertainment. The group conducted a skills workshop with the Gulf Bank team, teaching the children and their parents how to make their own soap and how to color their own pieces of gypsum magnets with a personal design to commemorate the day. These activities provided the opportunity to spend some quality time together away from the familiar hospital routine. A number of Bayt















Abdullah children along with their families took part in the fun day and enjoyed the workshop. The program also included a competition between children and Gulf Bank volunteers, creating an exciting and interactive ambiance.

Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice, is a paediatric palliative facility dedicated to the treatment of children with cancer and sponsored by the generous contributions and donations from the community at large.



Gulf Bank sponsored an 'Earth Day' event at Kuwait University to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Earth Day. Organized by the students of the Environmental Technology Management Club-02, the Earth Day event gave the opportunity for more than 35 specialized associations, centers, volunteer groups and individuals to showcase their role in protecting the environment and encouraged initiatives to do even more towards guaranteeing the future of the planet. Children from the 'Alresala' kindergarten by Bibi Al Ayoob, attended the event to learn how to protect the environment at an early age.

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Hand 2 Hand group, Kuwait Green Building Council (KGBC), Kuwaiti Farmer & Developer-Naser Al-Azmi and various schools participated in the Earth Day event. The keynote seminar was about the challenges facing the Kuwaiti environment and included speeches by Eng. Hanan Boushehri, Parliamentary Consultant and a former member in the Municipality Committee, Dr. George Sari, representative of the Public Authority for Environment, and Fahad Al Azmi, lawyer at Al Hamad Legal Group. In addition, the event also included an art exhibition about the environment, with artworks by Saad Al Waheeb and Bader Al Ghaith.















The 2015 Earth Day was themed 'It's Our Turn to Lead' to redefine what progress looks like. Earth Day takes place every year on April 22 to focus on global warming and to push for clean energy. It was launched in April 22, 1977 and continues to the present day. It takes place globally and has launched a number of strategic environmental projects such as; The Green Cities Campaign, The Canopy Project, A Billion Acts of Green® in addition to the current core program such as Greening Schools and Promoting Environmental Education and Accelerating the Global Green Economy.



To mark the "International Day of Older Persons," Gulf Bank sponsored visits by the Mobile Geriatric Care unit to all the governorates in Kuwait. The Bank sponsored the cost for six full teams of doctors, nurses and physiotherapists to staff the mobile clinic during several visits. Gulf Bank was proud to sponsor this initiative to help provide quality medical services and care for the elderly in Kuwait. This Mobile Geriatric Care unit fills the gap for those who are unable to come to hospitals or clinics for routine care; this clinic comes directly to them.

The Mobile Geriatric Care unit is a service provided by the Geriatric Welfare Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and it travels to all the governorates in Kuwait. It is estimated that more than 3,500 persons and their families have benefited from the mobile clinic and its services. The services provided on the mobile clinic include: routine checkups and vital signs assessments; dental care; nutritional advice; diabetes care; and psychological consultations.

Internationally, this year marks the 25th anniversary of celebrating the 'International Day of Older Persons' as designated by the United Nations. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has called on all to do their part to make sure that no one of any age is left behind. It is estimated that by 2030, the population of persons of the age of 60 will be 1.4 billion; therefore we must all work to ensure we have the proper health and social services in place.

















GULF BANK JOINS EARTH HOUR FOR THE 7TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Gulf Bank organized its own awareness campaign to support 'Earth Hour', a global initiative led by the World Wildlife Fund and celebrated across the world, with businesses and consumers joining in the great switch off to raise awareness of climate change. The Bank switched off all unnecessary lights, lowered A/C units and turned off all non-essential electrical devices at the Head Office. It also eliminated unnecessary usage of lighting in the Al-Saleh building and a number of its branches on Saturday, March 28 at 8:30pm.

As part of its awareness campaign this year, Gulf Bank educated staff about the cause by encouraging them to stand against climate change. By participating in #TimetoGLO, a global awareness campaign by TIMEX and signing their pledges, the amount of \$1 was donated to Earth Hour to assist in solving global warming.























The Bank also released 60 dedicated lanterns during the event to inspire others and make a real, lasting impact beyond the hour. Gulf Bank's social media channels were active as well to increase the awareness and encourage the general public to take action http://www.earthhour.org/tracker.

