

WB commends GCC & Kuwait for humanitarian contributions

Refugee crisis 'going from bad to worse'



Top and above: Some photos from the press conference.

Focus on sustainable development – innovation, opportunities

Kuwait Engineers Forum to hold KINETIC '16 on April 3

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 17: The Kuwait Engineers Forum (KEF) will hold the Third Technical Conference and Exhibition under the title 'KINETIC 2016' on April 3, 2016 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Kuwait, under the theme 'Sustainable Development – Innovation, Opportunities & Challenges.'

The objective of KINETIC, which is an annual event, is to provide a suitable platform where the engineering community can directly interact with technical experts, research scientists and manufacturers, thereby sharing knowledge and expertise.

The conference will highlight the trends and emerging challenges in the areas of Global Economic Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, Clean & Renewable Energy, Cyber Security, E-

learning & Automations; which have a special relevance to Kuwait.

There will also be technical presentations by experts, professionals and manufacturers, Executives and Technologists from a wide range of industrial sectors will be attending the conference and exhibition. The event offers wide networking opportunities to discuss and exchange new ideas and to establish/renew contacts.

The Kuwait Engineers Forum, a registered association of Indian Engineers working in Kuwait, has released their Technical Brochure (Call for Paper & Poster Presentation) and their Exhibitor/Sponsorship Brochure (Call for Exhibitors & Sponsors).

This year, KINETIC has introduced Poster Presentation for University Undergraduates & Graduate students, as a unique platform for expressing their talents to present their idea on the

Conference Theme. Moreover, KINETIC has announced that for university students – registration shall be free.

The Presentation & Exhibition shall be show-cased by leading manufacturers, experts & professionals. The event will highlight the trends and emerging challenges in the areas of energy, which has special relevance to Kuwait.

Prior to the press conference, the KEF conducted a technical seminar on the 'Role of Engineers in Green Economy' by Joseph Martin from Ernst & Young.

The meeting was presided by KEF General Convenor Anil Kumar K. V. along with other dignitaries from the association. For more details on KINETIC 2016; kindly follow <http://kinetic.kefkuwait.org>.

The conference will include speakers from the Kuwait Oil Company, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research, Power & Infrastructure sectors.

WASHINGTON, Dec 17, (KUNA): World Bank officials stressed Wednesday that the current refugee crisis stemming from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia is only going from bad to worse, as conflicts intensify and aid programs see a drop in funding.

While the GCC, and Kuwait in particular, were commended for their humanitarian contributions, the Bank is now calling for investment from around the world that would foster economic growth.

"Refugees typically end up in 'fiscally distressed' nations, and that puts a huge strain on public finances," Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Shanta Devarajan said.

Among the World Bank's current initiatives to tackle this issue is the establishment of "enterprise zones" in Jordan, where Syrian refugees can be employed and trade incentives with the European Union can be introduced, he explained.

More than half a million Syrians live in Jordanian camps.

But even as the Bank tries to strengthen its collaboration with governments and NGOs in order to rebuild lives and infrastructure, as well as provide financing mechanisms for education and skills training, the fighting has raged on in countries like Afghanistan, Somalia, and Syria. More than half of the world's refugees come from those areas, the Bank's research shows.

The latest data indicates there are 19 million refugees and 38 million internally displaced people (IDPs) globally, making the total the highest since World War II, Senior Adviser to the World Bank President, Colin Bruce, told reporters.

"There needs to be renewed emphasis" on conflict resolution and prevention, Bruce said. Only a little over 100,000 refugees around the world were able to return home last year, he added.

That plea comes as a joint report released Wednesday by both the World Bank and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) showing 90 percent of Syrian refugees living in Jordan are - or will be - dangerously impoverished, based on UN assessments that qualify families for cash assistance and food vouchers. More than 4 million Syrians have fled since the uprising began in 2011.

"This cannot only be a humanitarian question," Senior Economist Paolo Verme told reporters. While solutions require political decisions, "economic inclusion" is also crucial, he said. Short-term fixes like the World Food Program (WFP) vouchers may be "very effective," but only when funding is consistent - and that has not been the case.

"The current approach to managing refugee crises in the medium- and long-term is not sustainable," the report affirmed. "Focus must shift beyond social protection for refugees to include economic growth in the areas hosting them, so that refugees and local communities can share in economic progress".



Some of the honored winners.

Ramadan contest winners honored

Under the patronage of Sheikh Tariq Al-Essa, Chairman of the Board of Islamic Heritage Society, the organizing committee for Qu'ran memorization organized an event in honor of winners of the Ramadan

contest held in Kuwait. It is worth-mentioning a cultural week was held on the sidelines of the contest and which involved lectures inside several mosques across the governorates.



From left: Faisal J. Abbas and Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor.

Event hosted at St Regis Dubai

Al Habtoor delivers keynote speech on rising Islamophobia in the West

DUBAI, UAE, Dec 17: Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor, Chairman of the Al Habtoor Group gave a candid keynote address at the Al Arabiya Global Discussions Forum at The St Regis Dubai in Al Habtoor City on Wednesday, Dec 17, 2015 where he raised concerns about rising Islamophobia in the West.

Al Habtoor said that the world had witnessed unprecedented change in recent years. "We have seen an increase in terrorism by extremists who are falsely using Islam as a cover." He added, "They are not Muslims! Sadly, no place on earth is safe from their actions, and this has caused the biggest cross-cultural divide in living memory."

He blamed Donald Trump for igniting hatred against Muslims following his controversial calls to ban all Muslim visitors from the United States.

"The world's 1.7 billion Muslims are under attack by an individual aiming to be the so-called Leader of the Free World," he said. "I believe the American people are smarter than electing Donald Trump as their next leader. And I hope I am not proven wrong."

He added, "Through politics, and the media, Trump has successfully exploited people's fear of 'The Other' with racism and bigotry being his tools of trade." He said he is shocked by the disturbing silence from the Muslim and Arab leaders and the business world. "Non-Muslims around the world are disgusted and they are speaking out. But where is the defence from the Muslim world? What is happening to us? We Muslims are the target. Our faith is under attack, and we are behaving like lambs to the slaughter."

The chairman urged Arab business leaders to terminate any business deals with the Republican presidential hopeful. "He promises to 'Make America Great Again', when in fact he is gravely damaging his nation's economy with his vulgar and highly offensive talk.

His policies are based on hot air, and he is attacking our great faith. I would like to strongly urge anyone doing business with Donald Trump or any of his affiliated companies to stop."

Al Habtoor said he was gravely concerned that despite Trump's controversial comments his popularity in the US polls has not waned. "When I heard what Donald Trump said, I believed he would be out of the presidential race... Even after what he said he is still ahead in the US polls, steaming away with 35 per cent of the Republican vote. It seems the more vulgar and offensive he is, the more the American voters love him. This shows that fear of Islam is dangerously on the rise."

Al Habtoor also pointed the finger at Western media for fueling the fire with irresponsible journalism, blaming them for widening the gap between the East and the West.

He said, "The media should be emphasizing the point that Islam is a peaceful religion. Maybe that's too boring for the audience who prefer headlines full of scandal and slander."

He added that Trump had dominated the headlines for far too long and urged the media to get back to reporting the "real news".

The well-known UAE businessman and philanthropist also announced that he is organising a roundtable event with other philanthropists around the world to help alleviate global poverty. "This event will focus on alleviating global poverty, one of the biggest threats to our planet. This is what we should be focusing on. Not wasting valuable time on Donald Trump. We need to work on a realistic solution to help the poor. Our focus should be on saving humanity irrelevant of colour, race or religion."

Following his candid speech, the Al Habtoor Group Chairman was interviewed by Faisal J. Abbas, Editor-in-Chief of Al Arabiya English News, and answered question from the audience.

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Kuwait Today

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:11
Sunrise	06:36
Zohr	11:44
Asr	14:34
Maghrib	16:52
Isha	18:15

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Night: Cold with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
By Day: Sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06-26 km/h.

Station	Max	Min
Kuwait City	18	11
Kuwait Airport	19	06
Abdaly	20	06
Bubayan	18	07
Jahra	20	09
Faialaka Island	18	09
Salmiyah	17	13
Ahmedi	17	12
Juliah Port	17	07
Qaroh Island	18	16
Umm Al-Maradem	18	16

4 days forecast - Weather

Day	Expected weather	Max Temp	Min Temp	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Friday, Dec 18	Partly cloudy + scattered rain	22C	09C	SE	06-28 km/h
Saturday, Dec 19	Mostly sunny	21C	10C	VRB-NW	08-30 km/h
Sunday, Dec 20	Partly cloudy + scattered rain	22C	09C	SE	06-28 km/h
Monday, Dec 21	Partly cloudy	21C	10C	VRB-NW	08-30 km/h

Expected weather

Partly cloudy + cloudy + scattered rain	
Max Temp	18C
Min Temp	08C
Wind Direction	N-NE
Wind Speed	08-30 km/h

Monday, Dec 21

Expected weather	Partly cloudy
Max Temp	17C
Min Temp	08C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	12-32 km/h

Marine Forecast

Station	Max	Min	Sea	Today's	
South Dolphin	17	11	3ft	SE	
Umm Madiyah	17	15	3ft	SE	
Beacon M28	-	-	3ft	SE	
Beacon N6	17	09	3ft	SE	
Qaroh Island	18	15	22	3ft	SE
Umm Al-Maradem	18	15	3ft	SE	
Sea Island Buoy	17	-	16	3ft	SE
Salmiyah	17	12	-	3ft	SE

4 days forecast - Marine

Day	Expected weather	Wave height	Max Temp	Min Temp	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Friday, Dec 18	Partly cloudy + scattered rain	1-3 ft	22C	09C	SE	06-28 km/h
Saturday, Dec 19	Mostly sunny	1-4 ft	21C	10C	VRB-NW	08-30 km/h
Sunday, Dec 20	Partly cloudy + scattered rain	1-4 ft	22C	09C	SE	06-28 km/h
Monday, Dec 21	Partly cloudy	1-4 ft	21C	10C	VRB-NW	08-30 km/h

deaths

Laila Ahmad Ismail Musa, 68 years old, widow of Majed Sultan Al-Sayed Ahmad, buried on Thursday. Condolences: Khalidiya, Block 4, Ali Saleh Al-Fathala Street, House 12, Tel: 66621214-65166619-24815031. **Jasem Dawood Sulaiman Al-Abdul Hadi**, 42 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (men) Qortuba, Block 3, Street 1, House 33, Tel: 94455570, (women) Zahra, Block 5, Street 503, House 39, Tel: 9009964. **Ghazali Aili Matar Al-Mutairi**, 66 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (men) Sabah Al-Nasser, Block 4, Street 104, House 14, tel: 66116662, (women) Sabah Al-Nasser, Block 4, Street 31, House 13, Tel: 99650969. **Nada Ali Ramadan Boushahri**, 58 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (men) Bayan, Al-Immam Al-Hassan Mosque, Tel: 99679664-99632424, (women) Shaab, Houseiniyat Boushahari, Block 6, Street 69, House 8, Tel: 94478056. **Abdul Muhssen Abdullah Al-Ejail Al-Askar**, 82 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (men) Shamiya, Block 6, Street 64, House 27, Tel: 96663233, (women) Qortuba, Block 3, Street 4, House 29, Tel: 25321035.

Dec 17, 2015

+scattered rain	2nd low tide	22:00
Sea state	Sunrise	06:36
Wave height	Sunset	16:52
Max Temp	18C	
Min Temp	08C	
Wind Direction	N-NE	
Wind Speed	08-30 km/h	
Monday, Dec 21	Expected weather	Partly cloudy
Sea state	Slight to moderate	
Wave height	1-4 ft	
Max Temp	18C	
Min Temp	08C	
Wind Direction	N-NE	
Wind Speed	08-30 km/h	
Monday, Dec 21	Expected weather	Partly cloudy
Sea state	Slight to moderate	
Wave height	2-4 ft	
Max Temp	17C	
Min Temp	08C	
Wind Direction	NW	
Wind Speed	12-32 km/h	
Tide times at Shuwaikh Port	1st high tide	16:30
	2nd high tide	03:15
	1st low tide	10:00

Recorded yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max temp	18C
Min temp	06C
Max Rh	100%
Min Rh	41%
Max Wind	NW 28 km/h
Total Rainfall in 24 hrs	0.00 mm

Recorded yesterday at South Dolphin

Min/Max Air Temp	11/17C
Min/Max Rel Hum	52/89%
Wind Direction/Wind Speed	N/38 km/h
Prev Wave Dir/Max Wave Ht	N/4 ft
Min/Max Sea Surface Temp	16/17 C
Sea Current	Downdrift
Directorate	General of Civil Aviation, Meteorological Department