

## Local

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** Al-Jahra Gate, one of five main gates of Kuwait's Wall, located on the edge of Jahra Road in Kuwait City. Kuwait's 3rd wall was built in 1920 to fend off attacks on Kuwait City. Its five gates were kept as memorials upon the wall's demolition in 1957. In addition to Jahra, the gates include Dasman, Al-Shaab, Al-Shamia, and Al-Maqsab. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

# Alghanim Industries supports low-income women entrepreneurs

## In collaboration with 33 Boutique; a Ministry of Social Affairs initiative

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, announced its ongoing support for low-income women entrepreneurs through its sponsorship of 33 Boutique, an 'Own Effort' project in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation.

Boutique 33 provides comprehensive support for low-income women entrepreneurs, including monetary and moral support in addition to providing them with all the necessary skillsets to prepare them for launching their business and reaching financial independence. Joining the incubator is exclusive to women between the ages of 20 and 50, who are already registered to receive monetary aid from the Ministry of Awqaf. Boutique 33 also holds exhibitions and pop-up markets for a rotating number of 33 businesses throughout the year.

Commenting on this initiative, Director of Corporate Communications at Alghanim

Industries Abdullateef Al-Sharikh noted: "At Alghanim Industries, we are always excited and eager to expand long-standing partnerships with local and regional entities, to support aspiring entrepreneurs. The spirit of this initiative shares some of our fundamental values and focus areas, such as supporting entrepreneurs and empowering women. We wish all the participants in this business incubator continued success and prosperity."

Meanwhile, the founder of 'Own Effort' project Dalal Subayil presented Alghanim Industries with a plaque of appreciation for the generous contribution to the project, underscoring the great example for corporate social responsibility set by the company. "We appreciate the generous support of Alghanim Industries, and the opportunity to work with such a reputable organization of this size to support the participants of our program. This isn't new to an organization of such a long track of activities that support entrepreneurs

and propel them to reach their highest potential. We have received a large number of applicants that exceeded our expectations," she noted.

Throughout its contribution with Alghanim Industries, the incubator was able to successfully hold a pop-up market in the Avenues Mall during the holy month of Ramadan. During this 11-day event, business owners were able to interact with a large segment of audiences and customers, which is one of the main goals of the project.

Alghanim Industries works extensively throughout the year with a number of regional and local reputable entities, such as the UNCHR, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, AMIDEAST, and Injaz Kuwait. Throughout its contribution and collaboration with these entities, Alghanim Industries reiterates the deep-rooted value of giving back to the community, which is engrained within its Kuwaiti identity.



**KUWAIT:** 'Own Effort' team poses with Abdullateef Al-Sharikh and Hadeer Shelash from Alghanim Industries.

## EQUATE decreases greenhouse gases by over 1 percent

**KUWAIT:** Continuing its role as a global petrochemical enterprise committed to sustainability, the EQUATE Group issued its 2015-2016 sustainability report that details its combined performance after acquiring MEGlobal in 2015.

As the fifth account of its type issued since 2012, the EQUATE Group's Sustainability Report 2015-2016 was developed according to the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) to cover the Group's locations in Kuwait, UAE, Canada and the USA. In addition, it details EQUATE's Sustainability Strategy 2025.

EQUATE's President and CEO Dr Ramesh Ramachandran, said: "The Group seeks to create sustainable development through the triple bottom line of economy, society and the environment in all our locations. Sustainability is a core strategic objective that we want to achieve with our stakeholders. It is applicable to every aspect of our enterprise, and is not an expression that we use lightly".

"Having launched our Sustainability Strategy 2025 during 2016, we renewed our focus and plan to enhance the

impact of our activities throughout the world. The strategy consists of 16 initiatives identified under three core themes - Build, Innovate and Impact. These are elements that we aspire to achieve in all parts of our business," added Dr Ramachandran.

Covering a number of sustainability topics, major highlights from the report include:

- Total amount of community investments reached \$2.8 million in 2015 and 2016.
- An increase in the economic value retained from zero to \$37.5 million during 2015 to 2016.
- An increase of over 119 percent in the direct economic value generated from \$1.619 million to \$3.557 million throughout 2015 to 2016.
- A decrease of over 58,000 tons of direct greenhouse gas emissions representing a 1.14 percent reduction between 2015 and 2016.
- An achieved goal of zero regulatory fines.
- EQUATE's sustainability roadmap until 2025 and overall realized progress.
- Alignment with the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs) and the Kuwait National development plan 2035.



**Dr Ramesh Ramachandran**

## KAMCO hosts Generation 8 of Proteges

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment firm with one of the largest AUMs in the region, hosted the Generation 8 Proteges, as part of the Kuwait Projects Company's (KIPCO) strategic partnership with the youth mentorship program, at the American University of Kuwait's (AUK) auditorium. The workshop, titled 'KAMCO Day', is part of KAMCO's ongoing corporate social responsibility initiatives, in collaboration with KIPCO

Group companies, that focus on educating and empowering the youth to become tomorrow's leaders.

The workshop kicked off with an opening speech delivered by Chief Business Development Officer of KAMCO, Faisal Hasan, who gave a brief introduction about KAMCO's operations, products and services. Hasan's speech was followed by a Q&A session allowing the Generation 8 candidates to get a better understanding about the investment firm and the investment sector. The next segment of the workshop was led by Proteges Director and Mentor, Shamlan Al-Bahar, who assisted the candidates in a key brainstorming session to develop an idea and strategize for their upcoming project.

Hasan said, "KAMCO is a proud and ongoing supporter of the Proteges mentorship program, a program that challenges and drives the youth

towards discovering their true potential while developing key skills that will benefit their future careers. It has been a privilege for KAMCO to witness the previous generations go through the different stages of this one of a kind program in Kuwait, and now we get to witness the 8th generation."

He also said, "It is crucial for organizations to implement and monitor their social responsibilities, regardless of what sector they operate in, to contribute towards achieving a more sustainable economy. KAMCO's annual CSR agenda focuses primarily on issues related to health, education and the environment. These initiatives, carried out by the Proteges mentorship program, fall in line with our corporate social responsibility and personal goals to enhance and promote education while driving the youth to expand their reach and impact in our society."



**KUWAIT:** Faisal Hasan poses with Generation 8 candidates.