

What's On

# Jumeirah Group announces its new appointments across Dubai & Europe

Mahmoud Sakr was recently welcomed as the new Managing Director of Jumeirah Zabeel Saray Hotel and Royal Residences. Mahmoud brings over 30 years' experience and joins from Jumeirah Emirates Towers where he was General Manager and Area General Manager - City Hotels.

Originally from Egypt, Mahmoud is passionate about providing a personalized guest experience at this award-winning resort on Palm Jumeirah. As one of Jumeirah's most experienced business leaders, he has played a pivotal role in the company's journey over the last 20 years. He is a seasoned hotelier and his dedication to his employees and guests alike sets a great example and is highly commendable. Mahmoud's strong market knowledge and excellent operational knowledge makes him well placed to take on the challenge of managing Jumeirah Zabeel Saray. Prior to joining Jumeirah Group, Mahmoud worked for Le Meridien for 13 years across Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Senegal.

Jumeirah Beach Hotel and Wild Wadi Waterpark recently appointed Jason Harding as Managing Director. He brings extensive experience to the role, having worked in the luxury hospitality industry for 28 years, nine of these in the UAE. Originally from the UK, Jason's journey began in 1991, when he joined the London Hilton Park Lane. His career has included General Management roles across the Rocco Forte Hotels. In 2010 Jason relocated to Dubai and worked as General Manager and Regional General Manager at The Palace - Old Town and Armani Hotels and Resorts with responsibility for their Dubai and Milan properties. Jason then took on Area Director and Complex General Manager roles at Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces and Marriott International.



Abhijith Ghosh - General Manager - Jumeirah Vittaveli



Amit Majumder - Regional Vice President - Boutique Resorts



Fergus Stewart - Regional Vice President - Europe



Jason Harding - General Manager - Jumeirah Beach Hotel

Jason has extensive managerial experience which includes handling overall hotel operations, strategic direction and overseeing multi-million pound renovations. He has an impressive record of growing profitability, improving guest satisfaction, increasing staff retention and delivering increased revenues.

Rajesh Jhingon has been appointed as Regional Vice President for Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts and leads the operations and management of four distinct hotels: Jumeirah Al Naseem, Jumeirah Mina A'Salam, Jumeirah Al Qasr and Jumeirah Dar Al Masyaf. With more than 18 years' hospitality experience, Rajesh is a passionate service-driven hotelier and has worked in both leading luxury resorts and city-centre hotels in the Maldives, Singapore, Las Vegas, Manila, and his home country of India. Prior to joining Jumeirah Group, Rajesh held the role of Senior Vice President of Resort Operations for Solaira

Resort and Casino in Manila for four years.

Rajesh has been instrumental in the positioning of quality hotel openings and refurbishments, including the opening of Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas in 2008 and the multi-million dollar renovation of Mandarin Oriental Singapore in 2004. Fergus Stewart joins as Regional Vice President, Europe and will be responsible for overseeing the upcoming renovation of Jumeirah Carlton Tower in London in addition to the extended London portfolio and hotels in Europe.

Originally from Scotland, Fergus has over 30 years' experience working in the luxury hospitality industry. He spent 25 years working overseas in 11 different countries and regions including Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and the UAE. He joins Jumeirah from an 11-year tenure at IHG, where most recently he held the position of

Vice President of the Luxury Hotels Division - Europe, responsible for overseeing iconic hotels including The Carlton Cannes, Paris le Grand, The Amstel in Amsterdam and the Intercontinental Park Lane. In addition, Fergus also oversaw Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants in Continental Europe, where he played an integral role in the expansion to key gateway cities.

Amit Majumder, previously General Manager at Jumeirah Vittaveli, has been appointed as Regional Vice President, Boutique Resorts, for Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts. In Amit's new role, he will be based in the Dubai Design District at Jumeirah Group's headquarters. His new mandate will include oversight of Jumeirah Vittaveli, and the development of expansion plans for high end luxury boutique resorts within the Jumeirah brand.

During Amit's tenure at Jumeirah Vittaveli,

he achieved many milestones and commercial success in the resort's positioning, which included the opening of the lavish five-bedroom Royal Residence. Originally from India, Amit started his hospitality career with Oberoi in India and joined Jumeirah in 2002, where he contributed to the successful operations at Burj Al Arab.

Abhijith Ghosh has been appointed as the new General Manager at Jumeirah Vittaveli and joins in September. Originally from India, he brings a wealth of 19 years' hospitality experience gained during his time working with Six Senses, Hilton and Soneva. Throughout his successful career, Abhijith has demonstrated efficient leadership and people management skills with strong experience in managing multi-cultural teams across Jordan, Thailand, India and Vietnam.

## BSK students represent Kuwait in World Schools Debate Championships

This summer, Team Kuwait sent a five-person team to Thailand to participate in the World Schools Debate Championships (WSDC). Comprising of four BSK students: Yousef Mehany, Daniel Puumalainen, Farah Badr and May El-Amir and one KES student, Vedant Khaitan, Team Kuwait enjoyed a series of eight debates and competed admirably in such a prestigious tournament, eventually won by a formidable Team India.

Prior to the tournament, the students committed themselves to rounds of trials and a thorough research program. Thereafter the World Schools Debating Championships provided a steep learning curve for our students, who explored topics such as breaking up multi-national companies, ethnic minority representation and debt in society.

Team Kuwait's five successful students, led by Abigail Bartholomew and Jeremy Grigg of The British School of Kuwait, embarked upon the competition in Bangkok with a series of pre-released debates. They went toe to toe with Team Wales and Team Turkey on the initial day of the tournament exploring the issues of gentrification and US National Security. The day was rounded off with a fierce debate against a well-drilled Oman team. In spite of three losses, the team adjusted to the demands of the tournament, and further honed the specifics of speaker roles and engaging in points of clash, chances to interject between speeches, to carry them forward.

During the next rounds of the Championships, Team Kuwait faced Team Italy who were arguing to 'break up Amazon.com'. Strong arguments were put forward by Team Kuwait through swift rhetoric and rebuttal against the principle, but Team Italy shaded the win here. The next match, against Team Rwanda, was a tense affair on the issue on 'pay day loans' and we lost this debate. Yet, in



spite on these losses, the team showed verve, resilience, camaraderie and dug in to fight for the next rounds.

South America provided the next challenge, in the form of Venezuela and a tough motion about 'granting amnesty to perpetrators of crime in lost-conflict societies.' Adjusting to the demands of the competition, the structure of speeches became tighter and the consistency of arguments across team speakers gathered more fluency.

Interjections became sharper, and more focused too, and Team Kuwait achieved a unanimous verdict from the judges and a convincing win.

Regional opposition came next, from a passionate Saudi team. Team Kuwait debated the representation of younger politicians in parliament and the judges were split in their decision. Yet, the spirit of the team, the communication, and the morale of the team remained strong, leading into the final round against Northern Ireland. Debating international marriage, Team Kuwait showed how far they had developed across the tournament and in spite of the loss, the judges credited analytical argumentation, breadth of knowledge and passionate engagement.

Team Kuwait were a credit throughout the competition. As well as gracious and respectful opponents, the students were enthusiastic throughout and embraced the range of cultural experiences across the tournament, including a river boat tour through Bangkok and the annual cultural night. Embracing opportunities to share experiences of clothing, food, music and architecture, Team Kuwait were recognized as outstanding young citizens by tournament participants and organizers, and made many international friendships. Overall the students represented the country remarkably and made the trip a huge success. We look forward to the development of the team, and further selection processes for WSDC 2020 in Mexico City.



Commercial Bank of Kuwait recently sent educational supplies and equipment to schools in Hawally to show its support to the governorates of Kuwait and to ensure the prosperous future of Kuwait by supporting the community and its educational institutions.



## Burgan Bank offers a chance to watch 'Joker' movie for free

Burgan Bank, in collaboration with Grand Cinemas, announced yesterday that its Youth Account Holders will be offered the exclusivity to watch the first screening of the new movie "Joker" for free at the luxurious movie theatre of Grand Cinemas located in Al Hamra Luxury Centre. The movie screening will be held on Thursday October 3rd, 2019, wherein each customer is entitled to 2 free tickets on one of the two shows, at 5:00 pm or 7:30 pm.

To book the free seats, Youth Account Holders are required to visit Grand Cinemas box office in Al Hamra Luxury Centre and present their Youth ATM card. The bank strives to reward its Youth account holders with exclusive offers that fits their lifestyle. The Youth Account is dedicated for young individuals, between the ages of 15 to 25, and who seek to attain a successful future. Furthermore, account holders receive an ATM card which entitles them to discounts at selective merchants along with an exclusive discount at Grand Cinemas Theatres.



English teacher Abdul Aziz Yahya Ismail, from Salahuddin Secondary School was recently promoted to a senior teacher and transferred to Jaber Al-Ali Secondary School in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational area where he started his new position as head of the English department. Abdul Aziz is a young enthusiastic and energetic HOD and a valued addition to the school. Congratulations and all the best.