

Business

Al-Sayer wins 14th prestigious cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards

Award regarded as the 'Green Oscars of the Middle East'

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer achieved the first place in the 14th prestigious cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards organized by Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) on 4th October 2021 in Dubai. Regarded as the 'Green Oscars of the Middle East,' the awards recognized the corporate social responsibility (CSR) principles and implementation strategies of 40 green champions from across the region. The winners were representing both the public and private sectors from nine Arab countries and under 13 diverse categories. They were adjudged based on international benchmarks such as the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The awarding ceremony was attended by Al-Sayer representatives: Eng Ibrahim Al-Fouzan, Senior Business Director, Toyota Service & Eng Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Group Manager, Corporate Excellence. Eng. Fouzan said that "Al-Sayer continuous participation in Arabia CSR award is an affirmation of our commitment to the ongoing improvements on all our daily practices covering the four main pillars of Economy, Society,

Nature and Wellbeing. We thank Arabia CSR Network for this event which recognize entities and organizations for their efforts towards enhancing sustainability measures."

Al-Sayer was announced as the winner of 13th Arabia CSR Awards in the Middle East in Automotive business category. According to Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, Executive Board Member & Chairman of Sustainability Committee: "We are proud to be among the 40 'green champions' in the Middle East winners who were adjudged based on international benchmarks such as the UN Global Compact principles, Global Reporting Initiative Standards, the European Foundation for Quality Management model and the UN Sustainable Development Goals based on Al-Sayer Sustainability Report and our commitment to encourage and dare our stakeholders to embrace sustainability in all elements of their day-to-day lives by working together and to create lasting, positive change for everyone today and in the future".

Habiba Al-Mar'ashi, President & CEO of ACSRN in her opening speech said, "We are at a point in time when we truly have the most important choice to make - to continue living and operating our businesses in an



unsustainable way - or to embrace the sustainable development goals and create a better and more resilient world for ourselves and our children and their children. There is a real risk today that because of COVID-19, the existing inequalities in our societies

will be further exposed and will increase significantly. We cannot and should not let this happen. Long-term and sustainable recovery requires concerted efforts, comprehensive strategies and both public and private investment".



NBK opens advanced self-service branch at Khairan Square

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous efforts to provide the most advanced, top-notch banking services, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the opening of its newest advanced self-service branch at Khairan Square, which features exceptional banking services and solutions that enable customers to conduct all their transactions quickly and easily, using state-of-the-art interactive devices.



Mohamed Al-Othman

NBK Customers will be able to conduct their transactions by themselves 24/7, as the branch embraces ATM, CDM and ITM. In addition, the bank is offering a conference room for customers to meet with officers, through NBK Mobile Banking, NBK Call Center, or by scanning the QR code at the branch and booking an appointment, from 10 am to 10 pm, all week round.

The new branch also features screens displaying all new and revamped services, and available offers, as well as meeting spaces, all encompassed in a modern design to ensure customer convenience and a unique banking experience. The new branch underscores NBK's care to ensure customers' convenience while conducting their

banking transactions; starting from the design embracing the latest technologies, and the display screens available all over the branch.

On this occasion, Mohamed Al-Othman, GM - Consumer Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait said: "The new branch reflects our keenness to provide top-notch and exceptional banking services to our customers to ensure offering them banking solutions that are on par with the latest international standards. This comes in line with our efforts to implement the Group's digital transformation roadmap, which aims to strengthen our position as a leading provider of digital banking services."

Khairan Square Branch located in Khairan, in conjunction with The Grand Avenues branch, are considered as a revolution to the concept of traditional banking branches. Starting from the design and the mechanism of providing interactive services and adopting state-of-the-art technological solutions, these branches represent a qualitative leap in the way of providing banking services and a milestone in our digital evolution journey, he added.

Al-Othman highlighted that NBK strives to provide the utmost benefit to its customers through its strategy aiming to create integration between its branch network covering all areas in Kuwait, and its advanced digital offerings. This comes in line with its digital transformation roadmap, which opens the way to offer customers a wider spectrum of products and services.

NBK continues to strengthen its leading position in the banking sector, boasting the largest domestic banking network in Kuwait with 68 branches all over Kuwait, in addition to a large POS network exceeding 15,000 terminals, including the largest market share of NFC-enabled POS terminals in Kuwait. In addition, NBK has the largest owned ATM network comprising 355 ATMs, including more than 116 CDMs.

bullet" that could reverse climate change. "But there are some really interesting and exciting applications that are emerging," he said. These include using AI to analyze data on deforestation and melting sea ice, to better predict which areas will be affected next.

Apps and search engines

Skeptics may argue that a single person can only have a limited impact, but the eco-conscious have various apps at their disposal to monitor their personal carbon footprints. Various apps estimate the emissions produced by a car or plane ride, while others allow shoppers to scan items and see information on how eco-friendly they are. Google last week announced

Gulf Bank announces Al-Heed as winner of cash prize worth 12 times his salary

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank conducted its ninth monthly Salary Package draw of the year to announce the winner for September 2021. The lucky winner, Naser Al-Heed, will claim a cash prize worth 12 times his salary. The draw was held on Monday at Gulf Bank's main branch, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Mohammad Al-Qattan, the General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, said: "We would like to congratulate Naser Al-Heed, this year's ninth Salary Package draw winner. We would also like to wish all our clients the best of luck in our upcoming monthly draws, in addition to our annual draw for the grand prize of 100 times the winner's salary. Gulf Bank's Salary Account is the only account in Kuwait that offers cash prizes to reward its clients, in addition to exclusive offers that are specifically tailored to meet our clients' needs."

Throughout 2021, Gulf Bank's Salary Package offers clients a wide range of exclusive offers, including the ability to choose between an interest-free loan or a cash prize of up to KD 300, and a free credit card, with these offers being valid for workers in both the public and private sectors. Gulf Bank is also providing special offers for frontline workers in appreciation of their continuous efforts in combating the pandemic.

Frontline workers' salary package

Gulf Bank recently tailored a special offer for employed Kuwaiti frontline workers who wish to transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank. Upon transferring their salaries, these clients will immediately receive a set of benefits, including a cash gift of up to KD 300, or an interest-free loan of up to KD 25,000 or a special car loan offer from approved showrooms. They will also be eligible to receive a Visa or MasterCard credit card with all annual fees waived for the first year, a free MasterCard World card (upon KD 5,000 expenditure). The frontline offer also consists of other benefits, including a free safety deposit box for a period of one year upon opening the account, free concierge services, and a customer segment upgrade. The new frontline offer is open to Kuwaiti employees working in the Fire Brigade, National Guard, Civil Aviation (including Kuwait Airways) and in the following Ministries: Health, Defense, Information and Interior.

Salary package - Exclusive offer

As part of the vast range of services and benefits

tweaks to its search tools to show drivers the most fuel-efficient routes and display emissions information for flights. The search engine Ecosia, meanwhile, uses the profits from its ads to pay for reforestation, with more than 135 million trees planted so far.

Remote work

Has the shift towards remote work during the pandemic been good for the environment? It's still unclear, say researchers. Last year the huge drop in commuting was hailed as a contributor towards a drop in global emissions, as much of the world hunkered down.

But signing in online still means employees use energy at home-and in the winter, heating individual

available to Salary Account customers, Gulf Bank offers its clients the opportunity to choose the most appropriate benefits from a wide selection of attractive options. With the 2021 Kuwaiti salary offer, new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the monthly draws, giving them the chance to win cash prizes of up to 12 times their salary. Customers are also enrolled in a yearly draw of Kuwait's largest salary prize, a cash prize of up to 100 times the winner's salary.

Gulf Bank's Salary Account also gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a cash gift of up to KD 300 upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank, or an interest-free loan of up to KD 25,000. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank. Customers can also enjoy additional benefits like a Visa or MasterCard credit card free of charge for a year. They can also apply for a loan of up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of 15 years, or a consumer loan of up to KD 25,000.

Mohammad Al-Qattan

Salary account draws

Gulf Bank conducts monthly and annual Salary Account draws, in which all salaried customers who transferred their salaries to Gulf Bank in 2019, 2020 and 2021 are automatically enrolled. During the monthly draws, Salary Account customers have the chance to win a prize of up to 12 times their salaries and can even win up to 100 times their salaries in the annual draw. It is worth noting that Gulf Bank is the only bank in Kuwait that offers its salaried customers the opportunity to win sums of these amounts on a monthly and annual basis, as a reward for transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience. Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining a robust sustainability program at the community, economic, and environmental levels through sustainability initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit both the country and the bank. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with the different relevant parties to achieve it.

Digital technology: Friend or foe against climate change?

PARIS: From the energy that goes into making smartphones to the fact that even emails create carbon emissions, the world's internet addiction comes with costs to the climate. But could digital technology be part of the solution to climate change, as well as the problem?

Ahead of next month's COP26 climate talks, AFP looks at five ways in which tech could help to limit the impact.

Artificial intelligence

Among the many items on the COP26 agenda, countries are preparing a roadmap for using artificial intelligence (AI) to fight climate change. AI relies on complex calculations by high-powered computers that can eat up vast quantities of energy. Training a single AI algorithm system can use nearly five times the emissions produced by a car over its lifetime, according to University of Massachusetts researchers.

But AI is already helping to make a wide range of industrial processes more energy-efficient, simply by making calculations that humans can't. Consultancy PwC estimates that greater AI use in four key sectors of the economy, including agriculture and transport, could cut global emissions by four percent. Peter Clutton-Brock, co-founder of the Centre for AI and Climate, said artificial intelligence was not "a silver



PARIS: The International Energy Agency found that if all white-collar workers stayed home one day a week, global emissions could be cut by 24 million tons or roughly equivalent to London's emissions in a year.

dwelling could be less efficient than a single office for a whole team. The International Energy Agency found that if all white-collar workers stayed home one day a week, global emissions could be cut by 24 million tons-roughly equivalent to London's emissions in a year. Workers with long car commutes could certainly cut their carbon footprints by staying home, the IEA said. But it concluded that drivers with a daily commute of less than six kilometers (3.7 miles) might actually use more energy by staying home with the heaters on.

Cloud computing

For years it was feared that the giant, energy-hungry data centers the internet depends upon could become a major contributor to climate change. But a study published in the journal Science last year suggests these fears have not been realized, thanks to unexpected leaps in efficiency.

By 2018 data centers were still only consuming about one percent of the world's electricity, despite rocketing demand for data storage. Tech giants' desire to cut their electricity bills is partly to thank for this.

Google, for instance, used AI to reduce the costs of cooling its data centers by 40 percent.

Smart cities

The United Nations estimates that cities account for 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. And with the population forecast to grow ever more urban, designing energy-efficient cities is a top priority. The Internet of Things (IoT) — connecting objects with sensors that can communicate and make intelligent decisions—is already being used in urban design. A pilot project in Amsterdam, for example, used IoT to guide drivers to empty parking spaces, reducing the time spent driving around the city searching for one. — AFP