On 25 and 26 February, Kuwait celebrates the anniversaries of its 57th National Day and 27th Liberation Day, as well as the 12th year of ascension of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On this joyous occasion, The Times Kuwait extends hearty felicitations to the leadership, government and people of Kuwait.

Since becoming a sovereign nation in 1961, Kuwait has steadfastly striven to advance the economic, social and cultural development of its people while promoting peace, tolerance and coexistence among nations around the world. Pursuit of these noble ideals, along with an unwavering obligation to the fundamental social values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the dignity of the individual, as well as genuine compassion for the plight of people everywhere, irrespective of race, religion, gender or language, have made Kuwait a beacon of peace, tolerance and humaneness.

During the past 57 years, as Kuwait continued its steady march along the path of growth and development to ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of its people, the country’s commitments to humanitarian causes and its adherence to the lofty principles of kindness and generosity have been recognized globally. In 2014, the United Nations acknowledged this by conferring on Kuwait the befitting title of “an international humanitarian center” and His Highness the Amir was designated as a “humanitarian leader” of the world.

In his statement on accepting the honor from the United Nations on September 2014, His Highness the Amir expressed “appreciation for the gracious and unprecedented gesture towards the people and government of my country Kuwait, and towards me personally.” He added the honor bestowed on him and the country were “a tribute to all the people of Kuwait in appreciation of their longstanding and ongoing benevolence”.

He pointed out that since gaining independence and its consequent membership of the United Nations, the State of Kuwait had followed a steady approach in its foreign policy based essentially on providing humanitarian assistance to all needy countries, regardless of their geographic location, religious beliefs or ethnic origins.

He concluded by stating, “I also would like to renew the commitment of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations and its noble message of the preservation of international peace and security, the dissemination of the principles of justice and equality, and ensuring a life of dignity and welfare to the peoples of the world.”

Kuwait has been a valued, actively involved partner of the United Nations ever since it became the 111th member of the global organization in 1961. Immediately after the country’s independence in 1961, Kuwait’s leadership realized that a strong and robust presence on the international diplomatic scene was pivotal to the country’s survival and existence as a nation. Accordingly, one of the first decisions of the fledgling State of Kuwait was the establishment of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the appointment of then Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah as the country’s first Foreign Minister.

In 1963, following the appointment of Sheikh Sabah Al-Salim as Prime Minister, the role of foreign minister fell on the young shoulders of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the present Amir. For the next forty years, until his appointment in 2003 as prime minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah served as the country’s foreign minister, building and reinforcing diplomatic relations and spearheading the implementation of Kuwait’s foreign policies with nations around the world. In his first speech following the hoisting of Kuwait’s flag at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Sheikh Sabah said: “Kuwait’s participation in international activities clearly indicates that our independence and our membership of the UN are not an end by themselves, but are rather a means by which Kuwait can share responsibility in improving the lives of the people in our country and in other countries.”

Continued on Page 11
Located on the periphery of Kuwait City, Al Shaheed Park narrates the story of a land, its history and culture. The park consists of 200,000 square meters of greenery, featuring beautiful botanical gardens, two museums — Thekra and the Habitat — a visitor center, an amphitheater, lake, walkways and jogging tracks, making it the largest urban park in Kuwait.

Continued on Page 4
Regional Player with Global Vision

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ABOUT US
One of the leaders of the Kuwaiti marine industry, Al Rashed International Shipping Co., a division of The Al-Rashed Group—a long established trading company founded in 1911 by Late Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Mohsin Al-Rashed, from the highly respected Al-Rashed family.

Launched in 1952, it wasn’t until 1991 when Kuwait faced the challenge of rebuilding its devastated infrastructure following the depredations of the Iraqi invasion that Al Rashed International Shipping Co. saw the opportunity to diversify and build a much stronger and larger company. Al Rashed International Shipping Co. has since then grown and has established itself as a leader in the maritime industry in Kuwait.
AL SHAHEED PARK

Al Shaheed Park is a project developed by Al Amiri Diwan Al Amiri and managed by LOYAC (Lothan Youth Achievement Center), who are undertaking and organizing community programs that focus on healthy living, education, empowerment and other cultural activities that encourage the exchange of international and regional arts.

The Park’s main mission is to promote sustainability and teach the people of Kuwait to take better care of Kuwait’s natural landscapes through interactive activities. Visitors will instantly notice the remarkable difference in the landscapes that occur around The Habitat Museum, where the area showcases the different flora and fauna that natively grow in Kuwait, as well as a myriad of plant species that are projected to flourish in the same area, affirming the Park’s aims and goals to promote sustainability.

The story of Al Shaheed Park dates back to when the Amiri Diwan initially wished to reclaim the country’s previous greenbelt garden that once bordered Kuwait’s original entry gates. This was then allocated as the country’s green belt, which evolved into the green belt garden with the city’s growth past the original city gates. The initial project entered different phases of development and evolution, and eventually became the original Al Shaheed Park to commemorate the country’s martyrs.

A must visit here is the Thekra Museum, a historical museum that provides information about the country’s historical battles, along with the invasion of 1990. Visitors are also at liberty to share their own experiences at a dedicated memorial center. The Park aims to preserve these memories as part of the park’s legacy to Kuwait’s people. Other than the Thekra Museum, Al Shaheed Park is home to the beautiful Constitution Monument that commemorates the country’s 53rd anniversary of the constitution’s ratification, along with the Martyrs Monument that serves as a reminder to the country’s most pivotal events, the proclamation of freedom and those who lost their lives in reclaiming and protecting Kuwait’s freedom.

As a cultural platform, Al Shaheed Park serves to help people who are leading the cultural renaissance in Kuwait, by showcasing outdoor installations by local architects and designers. These installations are constantly incorporated into the park and its multi-purpose usage areas. The pristine park is only a short walk away from the lush open grassy area that is called the Circle of Peace. The Constitution Monument garden is abundant with flora and fauna from around the world, where each row of plants symbolizes an article from Kuwait’s constitution. There is also a renovated underground tunnel that initially connected Kuwait’s first green belt, this passageway has been immaculately refurbished, incorporating stunning three-dimensional Portuguese tiles in shades of deep emerald green and calming jade. Al Shaheed Park also prides itself on ensuring the safety of its patrons with a fully dedicated security team that is mindful of visitors’ safety from its opening time up until its closing time. If you decide to take on a leisurely stroll through Al Shaheed Park but are not sure where to start, then do not hesitate to speak to any of their qualified tour guides and security officials on the premises. They are well trained, very friendly and are always around to offer a helping hand to visitors with any requests.

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Heartiest felicitations and Warm wishes to
H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Amir of the State of Kuwait
H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait
H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait
to the Government and Citizens of Kuwait
on the occasion of
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World congratulates KUWAIT on occasion of the National Day & Liberation Day

On the occasion of Kuwait National Day and Liberation Day it is my distinct pleasure and honor to convey on behalf of the people and the government of Austria the most sincere congratulations to the Kuwaiti leadership, the Kuwaiti government and the Kuwaiti people. May the State of Kuwait and its people continue to be blessed with prosperity, peace and a happy future under the wise leadership of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Happy celebrations.

SIGURD PACHER
Ambassador of Republic of Austria

On behalf of the people and government of Azerbaijan and on my own behalf I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the brotherly people of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait’s 57th National Day and 27th Liberation Day.

I would like to note that under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait is confidently moving forward on the path of development in all spheres and is playing an active role in addressing international problems. On this joyful day at this pleasant opportunity, I extend my best wishes and everlasting peace and prosperity to the brotherly people of Kuwait.

ELKHAN GAHRAMAN
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On the joyous occasion of the National Day and the Liberation Day of the friendly country of Kuwait, the Royal Family, the Government and the People of Bhutan, join me in sending our warm felicitations and Tashi Delek to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Over the years, Kuwait has witnessed rapid development in various fields. Politically, the government has succeeded in establishing deep rooted principles of democracy, people’s participation in decision making, freedom of speech and expression. Economically, there is rapid progress in its path to transform the country into an economic and financial hub in the region. In diplomatic front, His Highness the Amir continues to be the leading voice on the world stage for peace, moderation and friendly relations.

I am confident that the close and deep rooted ties of friendship, understanding and cooperation between Bhutan and Kuwait, will continue to grow under the wise, dynamic and enlightened leadership of our two leaders, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.

May I avail this opportunity to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, personal well-being, happiness and health as well as for continued peace, progress and prosperity of our friendly people of Kuwait.

TSHERING GYALTSHEN PENJOR
Ambassador of Kingdom of Bhutan
The Czech Republic is honored by the recent independence and the significant historical events of this period, and friendly and mutually beneficial relations on the 57th National Day and 27th Liberation Day, and extend the congratulations to the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait is a country with a rich history and culture, known as a regional leader and one of the pillars of international relations, particularly in the Gulf area and the wider region. The people of Kuwait have once again demonstrated their commitment to peace and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait is an oasis of peace and welfare in the tension-ridden region. I wish Kuwait to continue its stability and economic growth in a tension-free environment.

I extend my best wishes to the State of Kuwait and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day and Liberation Day, Kuwait.

ROLAND BERZIDE
Ambassador of France

Kuwait is a country with a rich history and culture, known as a regional leader and one of the pillars of international relations, particularly in the Gulf area and the wider region. The people of Kuwait have once again demonstrated their commitment to peace and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

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I extend my best wishes to the State of Kuwait and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day and Liberation Day, Kuwait.

ROLAND BERZIDE
Ambassador of France
On the auspicious occasion of the 25th anniversary of National Day and the 27th anniversary of Liberation day of the State of Kuwait, I am honored and delighted to express heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Kuwait and her people. We have witnessed with great admiration Kuwait's progress and prosperity.

Kuwait is the country that is carrying the flag of peacefulness and development, complemented by humanitarian reconstructions. A country that is becoming an International Hub from which the establishment of peaceful diplomacy and humanitarian support to various locations around the world.

On the occasion of this bright holiday I wish long lasting prosperity, success and peace to the friendly people of Kuwait.

DR. VOLODYMYR TOLKAICH
Ambassador of Ukraine

On the occasion of National Day and Liberation Day 2018 of the State of Kuwait, I would like to welcome the Kuwaiti Nation. I would especially like to extend my best wishes of good health and well-being to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister, His Highness the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, who heads Kuwait's excellent diplomatic structure and leads a very intelligent and dedicated diplomatic corps committed to peace, prosperity and standing towards the rights of people, towards the advancement of peaceful diplomacy and extending humanitarian support to various locations around the world.

On the occasion of this clean celebration of the National and Liberation Days on 25 and 26 February, it is a special day for Kuwait and for the Leadership H.R.H. The Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, The World Humanitarian Leader. It also marks a special day for the United Nations of being proud that it supported the right of Kuwaiti people to their peace, prosperity and Security. The United Nations will always be standing and thriving for the rights of people all over the world and building better, stronger, and more peaceful communities for everyone and collaborating with countries (like Kuwait) and people around the world who support humanity and dignity anywhere.

During my first month here as Resident Coordinator it was very important and a blessing for me that during this month the high officials of the UN visited Kuwait (The President of the General Assembly, The Secretary General, and many other Under Secretary Generals) this is because Kuwait is becoming an International Hub from which to promote peace, prosperity, development and humanitarian reconstructions. A country that is mastering diplomacy of peace and development through a strong diplomatic machinery at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kuwait was the host for a large gathering to fight terrorism and ensure peace and reconstruction this is with the efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as the humanitarian leader of the world. His Highness the Amir raised the Kuwaiti flag of peacefulness and development complemented by humanitarian support and development, which has been taken forward by many foreign Ministers who followed his path and we must be visible now that Kuwait foreign policy is getting very strong, respected, listened to and standing towards the rights of people, towards the advancement of peaceful diplomacy and extending humanitarian support to various locations around the world.

The Kuwait Conference on Iraqi Reconstruction is historical because Kuwait presents a great proof that it is peaceful country and that it stands with the people of Iraq after defeating terrorism, to help them recover from stressful situations they are in and mobilizing the whole world to support the people of Iraq.

Kuwait is the country that is carrying the flag of mediation and reconciliation between different parts of the world, between even those who are brothers in the Gulf area.

I am privileged to be assigned as Resident Coordinator to Kuwait very recently and I wish the people of Kuwait, His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, who heads Kuwait's excellent diplomatic structure and leads a very intelligent and dedicated diplomatic corps committed to peace, prosperity and standing towards the rights of people around the world. Congratulations Dieratra.

DR. TAREK ELSHEIKH
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and on my own personal behalf, it gives me immense pleasure and joy to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on the glorious occasion of the 57th National Day and 27th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

On behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan and on my own personal behalf, it gives me immense pleasure and joy to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on the glorious occasion of the 57th National Day and 27th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Uzbekistan’s strong and friendly relations with Kuwait, which is based on shared values and interests reinforced by mutual trust and respect. Uzbekistan looks forward to further consolidating and enhancing bilateral ties in all fields with Kuwait for the mutual benefit of our two countries and its people.

DR. BAKHRJOMON ALOEV
Ambassador of Uzbekistan
Shortly after the current Qatar crisis erupted on 5 June, 2017, Kuwait stepped in to mediate between the two sides, an effort supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members as well as international players. The Kuwaiti mediation draws from a long history of successful intervention in dozens of conflicts across the Arab and Muslim regions, analysts say.

Dr. Abdul Hadi Al Ajmi, chairman of the history department at Kuwait University, said across the region, the Amir of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah is a respected mediator seen as the leader with the best chances of negotiating a settlement to the ongoing Qatar rift, given his long-time service as Kuwait’s deputy prime minister and foreign minister (1965-2003) and prime minister (2003-2006).

In 1938, Kuwait’s then Amir, Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah (1885-1950), who was the 10th ruler of Kuwait, from 1921 until his death in 1950, mediated between Qatar and Bahrain, which were engulfed in territorial disputes over the Hawar Islands since 1936. The dispute was eventually resolved by the International Court of Justice in 2001. Kuwait also played a key role in the negotiations that culminated in the return of Arab ambassadors to Qatar’s capital and to a more public signal at the GCC Summit that differences had been overcome. Today, Sheikh Sabah faces many similar issues of contention.

In the latest rift, he has again shuttled between Gulf capitals. He is more than a mere intermediary — rather, he leverages Arab and Gulf-based cultural, religious, and identity norms of appeal that resonate with all sides.

Kuwait has a track record of mediation diplomacy. During its era of golden diplomacy in the 1960s to the 1980s, Kuwait played a key role in regional politics punching above its weight and acting as a go-between in many crises: between Pakistan and Bangladesh, and between Turkey and Bulgaria over their row over Bulgaria’s ethnic Turkish minority.

Moreover, Kuwait played a mediator’s role between Bangladesh and Pakistan which led to mutual recognition between the two countries and opened the door for Bangladesh to participate in the 1974 Organization of the Islamic Conference Summit in Lahore, Pakistan.

Kuwait took other mediation tasks like leading Arab arbitration efforts among Lebanese factions in an initiative aimed at ending the civil war in Lebanon. Kuwait also mediated between the Palestinians and Jordanians. Kuwait’s recent mediation efforts between the three Gulf countries and Egypt on the one hand, and Qatar on the other, reminds one of those good old days when the country played a key role in regional politics and had a benign intervention diplomacy led by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah — who was the world’s longest serving foreign minister having spent over 40 years as the top Kuwaiti diplomat — and thus deservedly earned the coveted title of ‘dean of diplomats’.
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait have won international acclaim and recognition over the years for humanitarian activities around the world.

Kuwait’s humanitarian spirit is unique in that it pervades any nationality, religion, race or gender, and only seeks to provide solace to people in need wherever they are in the world. In addition to offering immediate necessities such as food, water, clothing and medicine in emergency situations, Kuwait’s charity and welfare organizations have also helped set up homes, hospitals, schools and other social infrastructure in developing nations all over the globe. Besides organizations that promote charitable activities outside Kuwait, the country also has a number of local organizations and groups whose volunteers are involved in bringing hope and assistance to citizens and expatriates caught up in unfortunate circumstances. Kuwait’s charitableness also extends beyond humans to encompass different types of animals. Several local groups offer shelter, veterinary care and adoption services for injured, abandoned or stray animals

Here are some of Kuwait’s many charity and support groups to volunteer in.

**Operation HOPE:** An acronym for Helping Others Practically & Everyday. Operation HOPE is a grassroots non-profit humanitarian organization with its outreach program motivated by compassion to alleviate suffering in Kuwait without discrimination or disregard to anyone. Operation HOPE aims to serve those in the greatest need through support from the local and international community. They distribute bags of gently-used clothing to those who need it the most, but their outreach has grown to include toiletries, blankets, bedrolls, and foodstuff to embassies. Shelters visits and farms in need of shoes, blankets, and food at Kuwait’s borders; visits to local jails to deliver blankets and toiletries for detainees and more.

**Equait Kuwait:** Equait is a youth-driven organization founded and run by Faisal Al Fuhaid and Leahah Al-Awadhi. It works by promoting social equality and respect toward Kuwaiti residents from all walks of life. Nearly 69 percent of Kuwait’s population are expats and some of them are seen as occupants rather than residents, so through events like the Model United Nations, food rallies and walkathons, Equait aims to make Kuwait a more open and accepting environment. So far, they have recruited a number of volunteers to help with their missions such as distributing lunch-bags for the needy throughout Kuwait.

**AlNowair:** As an organization, AlNowair is a 5-year initiative driven to spread positive attitudes in Kuwait through events, exhibitions, activities, seminars, workshops and campaigns. It plans to communicate simplified scientifically proven data about the benefits of a positive attitude toward life. They have also created a grassroots movement by engaging, enlightening and inspiring the youth of Kuwait through their multitude of programs, independent initiatives and projects.

**Kuwait Red Crescent Society:** This is a voluntary humanitarian society that provides assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by social conflicts, wars or natural disasters regardless of nationality, gender, color, race, religious or political beliefs.

**Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Society:** In the months that followed the passing of Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri in 1981, the Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Society was formed — an organization embodying his spirit and dedication to charitable causes. The society focuses its efforts on aiding those caught in politically turbulent countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Since its inception the charity’s achievements include the establishment of over 160 mosques, 14 Islamic schools and 12 Islamic centers. It has also sponsored more than 300 students and 115 teachers across 26 countries. In Somalia the charity has focused on larger projects such as the drilling of a well large enough to supply a small community of 9,000 people, in addition to setting up mosques and schools in the vicinity.

**PAWS Kuwait:** Protecting Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) shelter strives to provide assistance to homeless, injured, and abandoned animals by offering veterinary care, rescue and adoption services, to domestic, wild and pet animals in Kuwait, in partnership with their rescuers.

**OXAdventure:** The mission of this organization is “Inspire the youth through travel, charity and adventure to create global citizens and to enrich the minds of the future leaders.” They are a non-profit organization that started with three Kuwaiti youth who had a passion for travel, charity work and adventure. During each carefully planned trip, the team will involve themselves in charity work which includes education, construction, or delivering Laptops they have collected and repaired in Kuwait to give to less fortunate university students abroad. Over the years, the trips have developed into an accredited internship program in several universities in Kuwait, and the organization is funded through sponsorship and volunteers who pay their own way to assist during the projects.

**KACCH:** Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) advocates for the provision of optimal conditions for children and their families in the hospital to reduce the adverse effects of hospitalization on their development and well-being. Volunteers selflessly give their time by contributing in many different ways and ultimately helping provide children in the hospital with a friendly positive atmosphere. Whether it is playing with the children in the hospital, decorating the pediatric wards for a child-friendly environment, helping in the office, or at fundraising events, volunteers play a significant role in supporting KACCH in its aims and goals.

**KAREQ8:** This is a group of passionate animal lovers, based in Kuwait and throughout the world, who focus on helping rescue animals, and finding a good home for injured or abandoned pets. They also have programs that help create awareness of animal care and rescue by visiting schools, institutions and universities. They do not have a shelter, so are always looking for volunteers to help with adoption, rescue, foster, care, donations or help to spread awareness of the need for adoption, TNR, and of the plight of abandoned animals.
Kuwait National Museum

A showcase of history and culture

The Kuwait National Museum, which celebrated its diamond jubilee on 31 December 2017, showcases efforts of the past 60 years in preserving for future generations the history and culture of Kuwait.

The origin of the museum can be traced back to the struggle and resistance that happened in Kuwait during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (1950-1965). During this period Kuwait witnessed many major social and economic transformations including in the concept of culture with respect to fine arts, literature and poetry.

With a keen interest in preserving Kuwait’s archeological history, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem requested experts from Denmark’s Moesgaard Museum to examine archeological antiquities in Failaka. He also established the Department of Antiquity and Museums to restore, preserve and display the unearthed artifacts.

Records show that the first building to host the museum was an administration building in Dasman area, belonging to Sheikh Khaz’al bin Jaber bin Mendoz Al-Ka’bi (1863-1936). This historic building was bought and transformed into a palace by the first Minister of Education of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During his reign, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah transformed part of the palace into the National Museum of Kuwait, with its official opening happening on 31 December, 1957.

Kuwait National Museum was the first museum in the entire Arabian Gulf region and was initially supervised by Ahmad Al-Othman, who attended the opening ceremony in 1957, and then the responsibility was passed on to Tareq Rajab, the first official director of the National Museum. The museum initially displayed traditional antiquities representing the Kuwaiti environment. In 1958, some of the antiquities discovered by the Danish archeological team in Failaka Island were added to the museum’s collection. Most of these antiquites dated back to the Bronze Age and Hellenistic period.

In 1976, the museum went through a transition when it was relocated temporarily to Bait Bader, one of Kuwait’s historic houses along the sea-front in Al-Qbila area. Bait Bader, which was built in 1837, and depicted the social and economic aspects prevailing in Kuwait society in mid-19th century, was incorporated by the Department of Antiquity and Museums in 1968.

On 23 February 1983, the National Museum of Kuwait opened at its current location. The museum’s building was designed by Michel Ecochard, a renowned French architect and urban planner. Since its opening, the museum has continued its role of capturing and representing the culture, tradition and heritage of Kuwait and its people.

The collections exhibited in the museum show visitors the richness and deep roots of Kuwait history and the museum is regarded as a cultural establishment that reflects the country’s contributions to global civilization.

Kuwait a beacon of peace, compassion in a troubled world

Continued from Page 1

Over the years since its independence, Kuwait has established diplomatic ties and expanded bilateral relations with countries worldwide, based on mutual adherence to the principles of equal rights, self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Through its ‘quiet diplomacy’, constructive cooperation, and positive dialogue, Kuwait has sought peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world, and strived to solve social, economic and humanitarian problems, both on the regional and global level.

In the past five decades and more, Kuwait has been involved in its own, as well as by collaborating and contributing generously to various UN bodies, in relief operations in the aftermath of natural calamities or other catastrophes and emergencies around the world. Kuwait has also steadfastly been in the lead in providing assistance for international development through the country’s flagship organization for foreign development assistance, the Kuwait Fund. Since its establishment, the Kuwait Fund has provided training and technical assistance, as well as soft loans and grants totally nearly US$20 billion to more than 100 developing countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

A foreign policy characterized by transparency, clarity, generosity and sincerity, has allowed Kuwait to establish and consolidate strong relations with nations all over the world. These strong ties were clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming support to Kuwait from the international community in response to the vicious invasion and occupation of the country by Iraqi forces in 1990. The illegal occupation of Kuwait not only met with international condemnation, and brought immediate economic sanctions against Iraq by members of the UN Security Council, but also more than 30 countries participated by contributing troops to the international coalition formed to drive out the occupying forces.

For the past 27 years, Kuwaiti diplomacy has pursued the just causes of the Arab world and sought to find solutions to regional and international issues through dialogue and discussions without resorting to violence. Attesting to the maturity of the country’s political and foreign policy, and also underscoring the diplomatic maxim that there are no permanent enemies or friends in international relations, only abiding interests.

Kuwait and Iraq reestablished diplomatic ties and two countries reopened embassies in each other’s capitals in 2008.

The historic visit to Iraq in 2012, by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to attend the 23rd Arab Summit held in Baghdad, had a profound impact on further consolidating relations between the two countries. Kuwait’s keenness to build bridges of friendship and solidarity among nations around the world, its independent and moderate foreign policy and its desire to seek accord among diverse viewpoints, have come together to make the country an oasis of peace and voice of reason in a troubled region. Kuwait has been arbiter of choice in the Arab world whenever disagreements arise or boil over into conflicts. Kuwait is currently a partner along with the UN in negotiations to end the conflict in Yemen, as well as the respected peacemaker in the ongoing attempts to reconcile difference between Qatar and its immediate neighbors, Bahrain, Saudi Arabian and the UAE, as well as Egypt.

Influence of Kuwaiti diplomacy on the international stage and its image as a promoter of peace and resolver of conflicts threatening stability in the world can be summarized best by His Highness the Amir’s words. At the First Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit, which Kuwait hosted in 2012, His Highness the Amir stated that despite different ethnicities and religions, the peaceful coexistence exhibited by people of the Asian continent, ‘‘reinforces the principle that knowing each other is better than ignoring each other, and coexistence is better than fighting, and standing by each other is better than being rivals of each other.’’
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Jleeb Branch: Block 4, Street 4 - Tel: 24341367/68

Kuwait City Branch: Al Mojil Building, Off No. 6, Near City Bus Office, Murgab - Tel: 22461815 /16

Farwaniya Branch: Habib Al Munawar St., Ghasham Al Basman Complex, Bldg. No. 21 - Tel: 24765240 / 41

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