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UN at 80, a Force for Good for 'We the Peoples'



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter, the constitutional document that established the United Nations in 1945, following the end of World War II. The Charter, which begins with, 'We the Peoples of the United Nations...' reflects the determination and resolve of the global community to promote the purposes and principles anchoring the United Nations.

Among others, the UN Charter calls for maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and achieving international cooperation to solve economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian challenges. The UN Charter also entails promoting human rights and fundamental



freedoms for all without distinction. Since its inception, the Charter has served to harmonize the actions of nations in attaining the purposes

of founding the United Nations.

Following the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the former Soviet Union in the

1990s, the UN found itself going through a crisis of identity, with questions raised about its relevance in a world where peace prevailed and the world stood under a largely unified, albeit unipolar, umbrella.

But rather than winding down its activities, the ensuing decades have witnessed a surge in UN engagements in near-about every aspect of human development.

Besides addressing regional conflicts through peace-making and peace-keeping efforts, UN agencies were promoting social, economic, political and environmental initiatives worldwide. Everything, from enhancing availability of food, water, health, education and employment, to fostering democracy, good governance, gender-equality, and sustainable development, as well as protecting global migration and mitigating climate change, came under the UN ambit.

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سي تي هايبر ماركيت

city HYPER MARKET

عروض 1

DEALS

حصري في فرع الأحمدى

EXCLUSIVE AT AHMADI STORE

الدعمي خلف دوار

AL-AHMADI

مستطفي كرم

Scan For Location

1

دك

1

لبي آر برياني 5 كجم

Lily Biryani Rice 5kg

1

دك

1

هاوس فود صبور دجاج 1 كجم

House Food Tender Chicken Breast 1kg

1

دك

1

ساديا دجاج كامل 1200 جم

Sadia Whole Chicken 1200gm

1

دك

1

كويكير شوفان أبيض 500 جم

Quaker White Oats 500gm (Tin)-2 Pcs

1

دك

1

جولدن جلوري عسل طبيعي 1 كجم

Golden Glory Honey Jar 1kg

1

دك

1

أمريكانا فول مقشر مع زيت و صلصة 400 جم

Americana Peeled Fava Beans With Oil & Tomato Paste 8x400gm

1

دك

1

نستله كيت كات 2 أصبع شوكولاتة 17.7 جم

Nestle Kitkat 2 Finger Chocolate Original 12x17.7gm-2pcs

1

دك

1

بروك بوند ريد لابل أكياس الشاي 100 كيس

Brooke Bond Red Label Tea Bags 100's

1

دك

1

الوزان سكر 5 كجم

Alwazzan Sugar 5kg

1

دك

1

بيرل مسحوق غسيل باوذر بالرائحة الاصطناعية 3 كجم

Pearl Detergent Powder Original Scents 3Kg

1

دك

1

فيري سائل غسيل الأطباق 600 مل

Fairy Max Plus Original / Lemon 600ml X 2 Pcs

1

دك

1

إنفو هوم مقلاة 14 سم

Into home Mini Fry Pan 14cms(1.8Mm)

1

دك

1

البنو هوم وعاء مع غطاء آمن للميكروويف

Into home 4pcs Opalware Microwave Bowl With Lid

1

دك

1

كلينين وود غلاية كهربائية 1.8 لتر

Cleenwood Electric Kettle 1.8Ltr CW-510

1

دك

1

روبال ساتين ملاشف للاستحمام زيجزاج

Royal Satin Zigzag Bath Towel 70X145cms

Indonesian Embassy marks 80th anniversary of independence



Indonesian envoy while praising Kuwait's humanitarian leadership and long-standing friendship with Jakarta, emphasized on shared values of peace, compassion, and cooperation; called for deeper economic collaboration and renewed investment partnerships, particularly in energy, food security, and sustainable development.

The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of Indonesia held a reception to mark the country's 80th anniversary of independence. Attending the event was Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan along with several ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait.

In her address to the gathering, Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Lina Mariana highlighted the significance of her country's independence and reaffirmed Indonesia's policy of neutrality and non-alignment since independence. She noted that this policy was grounded in its constitutional principle that "independence is

the right of all nations, and colonialism must be abolished because it is inconsistent with humanity and justice."

Pointing out that her country's Independence Day celebrations this year coincides with the 57th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Kuwait in 1968, Ambassador Mariana praised the deep-rooted and historic relations between the two countries. She described Kuwait as a pioneering model of tolerance and humanitarian cooperation both regionally and internationally.

Speaking about trade and investment potential between the two friendly nations, she

noted that bilateral cooperation spans several sectors, including energy, oil, gas, and renewable energy. Pointing out that Indonesia's renewable potential is estimated at around 3,700 gigawatts, of which only 15.2 gigawatts have been utilized so far, the ambassador expressed Jakarta's eagerness to strengthen mutual investment, particularly in the energy and food security sectors, to promote shared prosperity.

Calling on Kuwaiti businessmen and investors to explore the vast opportunities in Indonesia, the ambassador highlighted key areas such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, tourism, and processing industries, affirming that her government is committed to fostering

an attractive and stable investment climate.

On the humanitarian side, Ambassador Mariana lauded Kuwait's compassionate role in supporting diverse communities, including the more than 6,000 Indonesian citizens working in various fields such as oil and gas, healthcare, and hospitality sectors. She emphasized that the 1996 labor agreement between the two countries has been instrumental in protecting workers' rights and regulating employment conditions. Her speech ended with a sincere prayer for peace and prosperity in Kuwait, Indonesia, and the world, moving the audience who shared her deep humanitarian compassion for the Palestinian people.



ALSAYER Group, proudly announces the successful conclusion of its strategic participation in the Watheefti Career Fair 2025

The mega event was held from October 16 to 18 at The Arena 360 Mall under the patronage and presence of His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahman Badah Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi – Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs.



The Group leveraged the fair as a key platform to actively champion the integration of national talent into the private sector, aligning its recruitment drive directly with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035.

The ALSAYER booth was a major attraction, drawing ambitious Kuwaiti university students and experienced professionals eager to explore opportunities within a stable

and diversified market leader.

The Group emphasized its long-standing corporate commitment to Heritage, Leadership, and Growth, which forms the basis of its talent development strategy.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO, "Our presence at Watheefti is a vital reflection of our commitment to the nation's future. We are not just showcasing our diverse career paths; we are empowering Kuwaiti youth.

"ALSAYER Group offers unparalleled career depth across competitive sectors, ensuring that every talent finds a path to meaningful long-term success, guided by our core values of honesty, trust and integrity."

While historically renowned for its automotive excellence, the Group highlighted the breadth of career possibilities in its rapidly growing divisions. The HR team conducted numerous high-level preliminary interviews on-site, effectively streamlining the hiring process for immediate impact.

The Group remains dedicated to supporting professional growth through continuous training and a collaborative work environment, solidifying its position as an employer of choice for national talent.

LuLu Hypermarket Launches colorful 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' celebrations across Kuwait

LuLu Hypermarket has successfully launched its vibrant 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' festival, bringing the joyous spirit of the Festival of Lights to all LuLu outlets across Kuwait.

The week-long celebration, held from October 15 to 21, 2025, featured exclusive Diwali promotions, cultural programs, and festive activities that delighted shoppers and visitors alike. The grand opening ceremony, held on October 18 at the LuLu Al Rai outlet, was inaugurated by LuLu's top management, who lit the traditional Diwali lamp to mark the beginning of the festivities. The event featured a lively lineup of cultural performances, interactive activities, and competitions celebrating the diversity and creativity of the community.

Among the highlights was the Diwali Rangoli Competition, where participants showcased their artistic flair through colorful traditional designs. Winners of the contest received valuable prizes for first, second, and third places. Visitors also enjoyed special cultural performances that added color and excitement to the event. All LuLu outlets across Kuwait were adorned with beautiful Diwali-themed decorations, including traditional lights, motifs, and selfie counters that became popular photo spots for shoppers.

To complement the festive spirit, LuLu offered



a wide array of special Diwali promotions on products such as namkeen, sweets, traditional clothing, diyas and lights, and home décor items. Dedicated Diwali sweet counters were also set up in every outlet, offering customers a taste of authentic festive delicacies.

Adding to the celebration, LuLu introduced a Diwali Shopping Gift Card, giving customers a thoughtful way to share festive cheer with their loved ones. With its colorful decorations, cultural charm, and attractive offers, LuLu Hypermarket's 'LuLu Wali Diwali 2025' celebration once again reaffirmed its place as Kuwait's favorite festive shopping destination, spreading light, joy, and togetherness throughout the community.





Diplomatic corps offer condolences at Kenyan Embassy

The Times Kuwait Report

Heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait gathered at the Kenyan Embassy on 19 October to offer their condolences on the passing of former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga on 15 October. The delegation was led by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan, H.E. Dr. Zubaydullah Zubaydov.

The Kenyan Embassy mourned the loss of the country's former prime minister by

holding a flag-lowering ceremony and announcing that a condolence book would remain open for three days to receive government representatives, members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Kenya, and others wishing to pay their respects. Paying tributes to the Kenyan leader, Ambassador of Kenya H.E. Halima Mahmood recalled that Odinga nominated her to the Senate between 2013 and 2017 as part of his Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party. She described him as a selfless statesman who consistently placed the nation's interests above political rivalry.

"Even after electoral defeats, he chose unity over division, as seen during the Building Bridges initiative and his cooperation with both former and current presidents to strengthen Kenya's stability," Ambassador Mahmood said. She added, "He was a father to all Kenyans and a pillar of democracy whose tireless efforts gave us the freedoms and constitution we cherish today."

She noted that Odinga's legacy extended beyond Kenya's borders, touching lives across Africa. Ambassador Mahmood concluded by saying, "Kenya, Africa, and the world have lost a

great leader. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

The state funeral of the former prime minister, which was held in Kisumu County following national mourning in Parliament and at the main stadium, was attended by numerous foreign dignitaries, including Ethiopian President Taye Atsekye Selassie Amde, Tanzanian Vice President Philip Mpango, South Sudanese Vice President Rebecca Nding, former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, Rwandan Interior Minister Vincent Biruta, and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Event licensing only through 'Visit Kuwait' portal from November

Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi announced that starting from 1 November, the 'Visit Kuwait' platform will be the exclusive official portal for receiving applications from local and international companies seeking to organize tourism, cultural, artistic, entertainment, or other public events in Kuwait.

In a statement to state media, Minister Al-Mutairi said the platform—

set to officially launch on November 1—serves as the unified digital gateway for licensing and organizing events across the country.

He explained that the initiative aligns with the ministry's media strategy to enhance digital transformation, streamline procedures, and ensure greater efficiency, transparency, and speed in issuing licenses.

Al-Mutairi emphasized that 'Visit Kuwait' represents a strategic tool for supporting cultural and tourism development,



while fostering the creative economy by empowering the private sector to contribute to high-quality events and initiatives.

He added that the platform will be integrated with the Kuwait Visa system to manage and organize the movement of visitors and participants both inside and outside the country, as part of a national plan to make Kuwait a regional hub for culture, tourism, and entertainment, in line with the objectives of Vision 2035.



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The Future of the GCC Countries: A Strategic Shift in the Map of Global Alliances

The Gulf Cooperation Council is making remarkable progress in internal integration, with total trade between its countries reaching \$1.5 trillion in 2024, ranking sixth globally in terms of trade volume, and representing 3.2 percent of the total global trade volume.



By Tareq Yousef Shumaimry
Former Secretary-General of the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are witnessing a historic geopolitical and economic transformation, going from a traditional oil economy to an active global player in international economic channels and strategic alliances. This transformation is part of their efforts to diversify partnerships and reduce reliance on traditional alliances.

Asia is currently the primary destination for Gulf energy exports, consuming more than 70 percent of the GCC countries' total oil and gas exports. China tops the list of importers, accounting for 20 percent of total exports, followed by India, which has become the world's second-largest net importer of crude oil after China, with its imports increasing by 36 percent over the past decade.

The relationship has transformed from mere commercial exchange to large-scale joint investments, with major companies such as Saudi Aramco, the UAE's ADNOC, and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation seeking to conclude refining and petrochemical agreements in Asia to ensure continued demand for crude oil.

Trade between India and the GCC countries reached approximately US\$178.56 billion in the fiscal year 2024-25, making the GCC countries India's largest regional trading partner. Data indicates cumulative Gulf investments in India of approximately \$28.28 billion by December 2024.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council is making remarkable progress in internal integration, with total trade between its countries reaching \$1.5 trillion in 2024, ranking sixth globally in terms of trade volume, and representing 3.2 percent of the total global trade volume. The GCC countries collectively ranked third globally in trade surplus, at \$110 billion, while intraregional trade reached approximately \$146 billion in 2024, with an annual growth rate of 9.8 percent compared to 2023.

Relations between the GCC countries and Central Asian countries are also witnessing significant development, with trade volume



between the two sides reaching approximately \$10 billion, with expectations that this figure will increase to more than \$30 billion in the foreseeable future.

Central Asia represents a significant investment opportunity for the Gulf states due to:

- Abundant natural resources: It possesses vast reserves of energy and minerals.
- Strategic location: It forms a geographic bridge between Asia and Europe.
- Attractive investment environment:

Affordable infrastructure and low-cost labor. Gulf-Russian relations have also witnessed significant development in the areas of energy and military cooperation. Relations were revitalized in the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, with military and trade agreements. Relations have evolved to include energy cooperation, political dialogue, and mutual visits. Gulf sovereign funds represent a strategic tool for enhancing global economic influence, investing in diverse projects from renewable energy to advanced technology



around the world.

Future Trends (2025-2035) for GCC wealth funds include:

- Enhancing transparency and governance in sovereign wealth funds and developing risk management mechanisms for foreign investments.
- Accelerating clean energy partnerships (green hydrogen and renewable energy) with the European Union, India, and China.
- Maintaining a policy of diplomatic balance while diversifying security and economic partners.
- Investing in education and technology to increase local content in foreign projects and transfer wealth to a knowledge economy.

However, several challenges confront the bloc, arising mainly from:

- Geopolitical shifts: with the rise of US protectionist policies.
- International competition: especially with the growing Asian orientation.
- The need for regional integration: to strengthen collective bargaining positions.

Despite these challenges, there are also opportunities for the GCC, including from:

- Continued growth in Asian energy demand: especially with India expected to become the largest source of global oil demand by 2030.
- Transition to renewable energy: as Gulf countries increase their investments in this field.
- Integration with emerging economies: in Central Asia and Latin America.

The future of the GCC is no longer tied to hydrocarbon wealth. Not only the subsoil, but also the capabilities of minds, smart investments, and balanced strategic partnerships will determine the future of the region. By harnessing emerging economic power to enhance security and stability, and managing international relations with advanced pragmatism, the GCC states can maintain their role as effective geopolitical and economic players in the multipolar global landscape.

The transition from a single economy to a diversified economy, and from traditional relations to comprehensive strategic partnerships, represents a historic journey that will define the position of the Gulf states in the new global order over the next decade, while capitalizing on the shifts in the international system toward multipolarity to maximize their interests and achieve ambitious development visions.

Municipality updates outdoor advertisement regulations

Following a comprehensive study on amending advertising regulations, the Municipality is now set to refer the policies to the Municipal Council for review and approval. The updates introduce new articles, definitions, fines, and operational requirements to improve oversight, ensure public safety, and preserve the visual appeal of Kuwait's urban landscape.

The amendments introduce graduated fines for advertising violations:

- KD 100–500 for advertising social events without a license or failing to renew an existing license.
- KD 500–3,000 for informational or business-related advertisements or for promoting prohibited goods.
- KD 3,000–5,000 for displaying commercial advertisements without obtaining a proper license.

The revised regulations introduce a series of new clarifying definitions:

- Advertising medium now includes any fixed or mobile means—traditional or digital—used for promotional purposes, including billboards, vehicles, posters, and screens.
- Advertising site covers locations such as shops, public buildings, state property, beaches, vehicles, and marine sites.
- Electronic billboards are categorized as moving or fixed, depending on whether the content changes during the license period.

To reduce glare and visual clutter, billboards are prohibited from using strong lighting, and trade names must

appear in uniform color and size, except for licensed commercial agencies. The maximum height for billboards and their bases has been capped at seven meters.

Under the new framework, advertising licenses will be issued and renewed electronically. The Municipality retains the right to revoke or shorten the validity of any license when required by public interest, without financial liability or compensation to the license holder.

Facade advertisements will share the same validity period as the related commercial license. Other advertisement licenses will be valid for one year, except for auctioned billboards or those with special terms.

Licensees must maintain their advertisements throughout the validity period and remove them within three weeks of license expiry, cancellation, or business closure. If they fail to do so, the Municipality will remove the ads at the licensee's expense.

The Municipality will determine the location, dimensions, and specifications of each billboard as part of the licensing process.

- No modification may be made without prior municipal approval.
- Empty billboards must not be left bare to prevent visual pollution.
- Aesthetic frames are allowed but must not exceed 50 cm on each side and will not count toward the billboard's total area.
- A minimum distance of 300 meters must separate each billboard on highways.
- Bridge advertisements are banned, following objections from the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport.



- Lightbox advertisements on shop fronts are now formally regulated.
- An annual fee of KD 40 will apply to advertisements displayed on motorcycles offering delivery services.
- Commercial advertising companies will pay an annual fee of KD 100 for their ads.
- For electronic screens, a minimum annual fee of KD 75 per square meter will be charged for each display side.
- Ads may be placed on taxi sides without protruding.

- Fixed electronic billboards (maximum 40 cm high × 120 cm wide) may be mounted on vehicle roofs, provided they are self-lit and within size limits.
- Lighting must be fixed and non-dazzling, and installation requires Traffic Department approval.

For shops and establishments, facade advertisements must adhere to the following:

- Installed on or above the shop's front facade, without obstructing views.
- Height not exceeding three meters.
- Must not extend beyond the property boundaries.
- Lighting must be self-contained and static.
- Design plans must be approved by a municipality-accredited engineering office confirming material safety and installation quality.
- Shops in multi-story buildings must use fixed, non-moving lighting systems, while projections may not exceed five meters in length or two meters in height.

The updated advertising regulations reflect the Municipality's broader goal of organizing the advertising sector, ensuring compliance with safety standards, and enhancing visual harmony in Kuwait's streets and public spaces. Once approved by the Municipal Council, the new rules will form the foundation for a modernized, transparent, and unified advertising system.

GTD imposes vehicle impounding for illegal parking, traffic obstructions

General Traffic Department (GTD) of the Ministry of Interior has issued an administrative circular mandating the impoundment of vehicles for two months for motorists committing violations such as improper overtaking, deliberately obstructing traffic, or parking in prohibited areas. Violators will also be required to pay fines ranging from 15 to 20 Kuwaiti dinars after the impoundment period ends.

The circular, which took effect from 23 October, noted that the two-month impoundment penalty had already been applied in recent days for overtaking and obstruction violations, as well as other serious offenses. The new directive expands these penalties to include parking-related violations, which have become increasingly common in public parking areas. The circular, identified as No. 9/2025, instructs assistant directors, department heads, and all relevant employees to strictly enforce the new measures and prohibits any official from lifting the impoundment of a violating vehicle before the penalty period expires.

CSB presents latest statistics on Kuwait workforce

Latest data on Kuwait's workforce released by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) reveals that employee numbers rose by 4.1 percent year-on-year, reaching 2,229,434 workers in June 2025—an increase of 88,414 compared to June 2024. The number of Kuwaiti workers declined by 0.6 percent year-on-year, totaling 448,919 in June 2025. In contrast, the number of non-Kuwaiti workers increased by 5.4 percent reaching 1,780,515. The figures also showed that Kuwaiti nationals accounted for 20.1 percent of the total labor force, while expatriates made up 79.9 percent.

In terms of nationality, Indian workers ranked first with 578,244 individuals, followed by Egyptians with 469,371, while Kuwaiti workers came in third place.




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Italian Embassy, CAP co-host exhibition fostering art, culture, creativity



The Times Kuwait Report

Italian Embassy in collaboration with the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP), inaugurated a captivating art exhibition titled, 'A Gaze Elsewhere: Visions from a Moving Memory', featuring the works of acclaimed Italian artist Federico Fiorentini.

The event, held at CAP's gallery in Shuwaikh, brought together diplomats, art enthusiasts, and members of Kuwait's creative community to celebrate a remarkable evening of artistic expression and cultural exchange.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador of Italy H.E. Lorenzo Morini warmly welcomed the distinguished guests, expressing his appreciation to the Contemporary Art Platform for hosting the exhibition and for its vital role in fostering art, culture, and creativity within Kuwait. "It is indeed a great privilege for the Italian Embassy to collaborate with Contemporary Art Platform, an important institution that plays a fundamental role in promoting art, culture, and creativity among the Kuwaiti public," said the ambassador. The exhibition showcases Fiorentini's distinctive vision, which blends

architecture, industrial design, and emotional depth into thought-provoking compositions.

His works invite viewers to reimagine familiar landscapes and objects, offering a layered narrative that challenges perceptions and explores memory, movement, and modernity. "Federico's work is a testament to the power of art to question, reflect, and share human experience," the Ambassador added. "In looking at his creations, we are drawn to the depth of his vision, admiring from a different perspective the very elements that are part of our daily lives."

The evening concluded with a live jazz

concert, creating an atmosphere of artistic harmony that celebrated both visual and musical creativity. In closing, the Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the artist and his team, saying, "It is indeed a unique experience, and I want to express my gratitude to Federico for trusting us with his vision. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to my staff for their invaluable support."

The exhibition, 'A Gaze Elsewhere: Visions from a Moving Memory', is open to the public at the Contemporary Art Platform, offering visitors an inspiring journey through the intersection of art, architecture, and design.



IWG makes first official group visit to Dar Mariam Museum

International Women's Group (IWG) had the distinct honor of organizing an exclusive visit to Dar Mariam Museum, a newly established yet not officially inaugurated artistic space founded by Sami Mohammad, one of Kuwait's most renowned sculptors and artists.

This exceptional occasion marked the museum's first official group visit, offering members a unique opportunity to appreciate Mr. Mohammad's visionary work and to

the group, and highlighting Kuwait's rich and evolving artistic landscape.

The Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) played an important role in facilitating the group's introduction to Mr. Mohammad's artistic legacy. Ofelia Vardanyan, the CAP representative, provided valuable insights into the stories and inspirations behind the nearly 1,000 artworks displayed at the Dar Mariam Museum, enriching the visitors' understanding of the artist's creative journey.

Ms. Vardanyan, praised Mr. Mohammad for his outstanding contribution to Kuwait's cultural heritage. She lauded the profound themes of freedom, perseverance, human dignity and power of Kuwaiti women, that define his exceptional body of work and continue to inspire audiences across generations.

Dedicated to the cherished memory of Mr. Mohammad's late mother, Dar Mariam stands as a tribute to love, inspiration, and the enduring power of art. IWG members described the visit as a deeply touching and enriching experience, offering a glimpse into the heart of Kuwaiti creativity and cultural expression.

Through such initiatives, the International Women's Group continues to strengthen cultural ties and promote friendship among women of the diplomatic and international communities in Kuwait, while also exposing its members to the many facets of Kuwait's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and contemporary life.



immerse themselves in Kuwait's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

President of the International Women's Group (IWG), Marika Kochlamazashvili, delivered a heartfelt message of appreciation during the presentation of a commemorative shield to the artist. She extended profound gratitude to

Mr. Mohammad for his warm hospitality in opening the doors of his artistic world to

Kuwait committed to implementing major projects, strategic partnerships

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah reaffirmed the government's determination to continue implementing major development projects in line with the goals of Kuwait's comprehensive development vision, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Chairing the 32nd meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Monitoring Major Development Projects, the prime minister emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum in the execution of strategic national projects and ensuring that they progress as planned.

He underscored Kuwait's commitment to expanding cooperation with nations that share strategic partnerships with the country, in order to open broader horizons for economic, commercial, and industrial integration, as well as promote development and investment opportunities, in line with Kuwait's long-term development goals.

In this regard, Sheikh Ahmad revealed that the Vice President of China and his accompanying delegation would visit Kuwait early next month, during which high-level talks and consultations will be held with the Kuwaiti leadership.

The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening the historic and strategic



relations between the two countries, as well as on accelerating the implementation of joint agreements and memoranda of understanding related to major development projects.

His Highness directed members of the Ministerial Committee to continue supporting national efforts to diversify the economic base and develop promising sectors through close coordination with government entities and private companies. He stressed that the success of current and future development projects depends on effective collaboration and timely execution to ensure their intended contribution to Kuwait's economic growth.

Kuwait strengthens international cooperation, technological adoptions

Minister of State for Communications Affairs Omar Al-Omar highlighted Kuwait's commitment to expanding cooperation with international partners and accelerating the adoption of modern technologies, with the aim of supporting the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 and enhancing the country's communications and technology systems to prepare it for the advent of an integrated and sustainable digital economy.

The minister was speaking following

his heading of Kuwait's delegation to the Bloomberg Technology Summit in London, which concluded last week. Al-Omar noted that Kuwait's participation reflects its dedication to strengthening its presence in global forums hosted by leading institutions in technology and digital economy sectors. The Kuwaiti delegation engaged in summit sessions and workshops on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and sustainable digital infrastructure, exchanging expertise and gaining insights to inform national policies and initiatives.

Additionally, Kuwait showcased its fast-growing ICT market through an advertising presentation and participated in a panel discussion on artificial intelligence in the financial sector, attracting investors interested in exploring opportunities in the country.

UN reflects world's desire for peace, prosperity, human dignity

The Times Kuwait Report

Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya said that the UN, eight decades after its foundation, continued with its noble mission as a platform for countries and people to confront global challenges, and reflects the world's desire to live together in peace, dignity, and prosperity.

In a speech marking the 80th anniversary of the UN at the UN House in Kuwait last week, Al-Yahya said that this year's motto, 'Building our future together', reflected the spirit of solidarity and common responsibility as well as the aspiration for a secured and prosperous future. The motto not only reflects the desire to build together, but is a call to promote multiparty international cooperation with the aim of guaranteeing a world of peace, development and human dignity.

Since joining the UN in 1963, said Al-Yahya, the State of Kuwait has been keen on boosting cooperation and partnership within the UN through supporting the international organization's programs, funds and agencies. This cooperation stemmed from Kuwait's belief in the three principles of the UN—international



peace and security, executing the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and protection of human rights.

Kuwait's hosting of the UN House, which comprised over 20 UN agencies and programs, was a milestone in the solid partnership between the two sides, as well as reflecting Kuwait's firm commitment in supporting UN action at humanitarian, development and diplomatic levels, he said. Kuwait's commitment to the objectives and principles of the UN was founded

on the international order, which is based on justice, peace and cooperation among people and countries, added the foreign minister.

For her part, UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ghada Al-Tahir, said Kuwait was an example of multiparty partnership and humanitarian cooperation. She commended Kuwait's endeavors in supporting peace and sustainable development, especially now, when the world was facing unprecedented challenges like conflicts, humanitarian and economic crises,



as well as climate change.

She expressed gratitude for the contributions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to supporting UN efforts in peace, human rights, development and humanitarian assistance. Al-Tahir said Kuwait-UN partnership has grown to include projects in health, environment, youth and women empowerment, fighting corruption and human trafficking.

Former FAIPS student becomes Kuwait's first World Science Scholar

The Times Kuwait Report

Fifteen-year-old Arnav Rai, formerly a student at Fahaheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS), has become the first World Science Scholar from Kuwait.

The World Science Scholars (WSS) program is a prestigious initiative founded by the World Science Festival that identifies, nurtures, and supports exceptionally talented high school students in mathematics and science from around the world. Its aim is to provide young scientists with advanced opportunities to explore complex scientific concepts and engage directly with leading experts in their fields.

Arnav, who is currently studying in Singapore, will spend the next year studying modern science, including particle physics, gene editing, neuroscience, nanoscience, astrophysics, and string theory, on a fully-funded scholarship. His journey will combine live seminars, interactive projects, and direct mentorship from some of



the world's most distinguished scientists.

This year, only 52 students worldwide were chosen,

making Arnav's selection a rare achievement. Through the program, Arnav will collaborate with peers from over twenty countries, engage in advanced research discussions, and participate in scientific projects designed for conventional learning. The scholars also have the opportunity to attend the World Science Festival in New York on an all-expenses-paid trip.

Reflecting on his selection, Arnav said, "It's an honor to represent Kuwait. I hope to use this experience to inspire other students to dream big and see science as a way to make life better for everyone."

His achievement not only marks a personal milestone but also places Kuwait on the global map for nurturing scientific talent, highlighting the growing spirit of innovation among youth in the Middle East. Arnav's recognition is expected to inspire students from Kuwait to pursue STEM disciplines beyond the classroom, demonstrating that global opportunities in science are within reach.

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French, a language that promotes culture, diversity, and unity among nations

The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of Greece in Kuwait in collaboration with the French Institute of Kuwait and the Council for the Promotion of Francophonie in Kuwait organized a Diwaniya at the residence of Ambassador H.E. Ioannis Plautas in the presence of the Ambassador of France to Kuwait H.E. Olivier Gauvin.

Ambassador Plautas, expressed his pride saying the French language is not merely a means of communication but a tool that promotes culture, diversity, and unity among nations. In a

statement on this occasion, Ambassador Plautas said that "Greece is a member of the International Organization of La Francophonie, which includes 88 countries dedicated to promoting peace, cultural relations, and civilizational diversity." He explained that "the organization plays an important role alongside the United Nations, especially amid the current global geopolitical unrest and climate challenges."

He added that "the celebration in Kuwait represents a wonderful opportunity to speak and enjoy the French language," highlighting that "French is the fifth most widely spoken

language in the world, with over 320 million speakers. Its presence in Kuwait dates back to 1966, with many Kuwaiti students continuing to study it—and some even pursuing higher education in France."

The ambassador emphasized that "the French language serves as a bridge for human communication and broadens intellectual horizons," noting the "growing interest among Kuwaitis in learning French through the French Institute and other cultural institutions."

He concluded by praising the tradition of Kuwaiti diwanis, describing them as "a unique social phenomenon that reflects generosity, hospitality, and openness." He added that "since my arrival in Kuwait, I have felt a warm welcome and had the opportunity to meet people in friendly, human settings that encourage open dialogue and strong, respectful relationships."

For his part, Greek researcher and artist Haralambos (Haris) Prasas, affectionately known as "The Lover of Kuwait," said he considers Kuwait his second home. He noted that he arrived in the country in 1977 "by the blessing of God," where he began his professional journey and built strong ties with Kuwaitis who, as he put it, "valued my work and respected me as a person above all else."

During his recent visit to Kuwait, Prasas shared that after spending four consecutive years in the country, he returned to Greece but remained deeply connected to Kuwait—spiritually and intellectually. He went on to establish the Kuwait Center for History, Art, Culture, and Humanity, the only one of its kind in the world, dedicated to showcasing Kuwait's history, heritage, and cultural identity.

He explained that the center houses over 100 diverse items, including books about Kuwait's

history, photographs of notable Kuwaiti figures, memorabilia, articles, and traditional Kuwaiti artifacts. "Every visitor expresses amazement that such a cultural landmark dedicated to Kuwait exists 3,500 kilometers away from the country itself," he remarked.

Prasas said that the idea for the center was born out of his deep love for Kuwait and that his entire family—his wife, daughter, and son—participated in creating it. He noted that "the center is open to all visitors free of charge," and that journalists from Belgium, France, and other European countries have visited and written about it in their newspapers.

Located on an island near Mykonos, one of Greece's most famous tourist destinations, the center also coincides with Prasas's continued visits to Kuwait—twice yearly—to produce collections of commemorative medals depicting Kuwait's history, including those marking the 20th and 25th Independence Anniversaries, and a series chronicling the reigns of Kuwait's late rulers from 1917 to 1980.

He also issued a similar collection celebrating the history of Saudi kings. Prasas noted that the Embassy of Kuwait in Athens closely follows and supports his work, with all successive Kuwaiti ambassadors visiting the center and expressing admiration for its content.

Prasas concluded by saying that "Kuwaitis have a refined appreciation for art, culture, and heritage," adding that he feels proud to have devoted his efforts to highlighting the humanitarian and cultural image of Kuwait to the world. He ended his remarks with heartfelt emotion: "Everything I have done comes from the heart, because Kuwait is a country I love deeply and believe in its cultural and humanitarian mission."



LuLu Hypermarket Kuwait Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Day at the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait reaffirmed its strong commitment to community health and social responsibility by actively supporting the Breast Cancer Awareness Day organized by the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation under the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.



The event, held on Wednesday, October 21, 2025, at the institute's theater and lobby, aimed to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention, highlight the importance of early detection, and promote a culture of proactive health screening.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait's participation reflects its ongoing efforts to promote public health initiatives and support educational institutions in spreading awareness about vital health topics. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework, Lulu contributed to the success of the event by providing wellness-themed giveaways, awareness materials, and active participation from Lulu team members in the campaign activities conducted during the event.

The Breast Cancer Awareness Day featured expert talks by healthcare professionals, educational presentations, and interactive sessions encouraging women to prioritize early screening and adopt healthy lifestyle choices. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and visitors who came together to spread the message of hope, strength, and solidarity in the fight against breast cancer.

Through initiatives like this, Lulu Hypermarket continues to strengthen its role as a responsible retail leader that goes beyond business to make a positive impact on the community—aligning with its mission to promote wellness, education, and social engagement across Kuwait.

MoE, OECD sign agreement on education, curriculum reforms

Ministry of Education (MoE) signed a cooperation agreement with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), last week in the presence of the Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, and OECD officials.

The agreement outlines the OECD's role in conducting a comprehensive study on the state of education in Kuwait and the newly developed curricula, with the goal of evaluating them and issuing a detailed report.

Through this partnership, the Ministry aims to modernize Kuwait's education system in line with international best practices, benefiting from the OECD's global expertise to develop a national curriculum reform strategy and train educational cadres.

The cooperation also includes establishing a specialized national working group to design a comprehensive development plan and conduct joint workshops with international experts.

The agreement's terms encompass developing a national curriculum reform strategy, organizing knowledge-sharing

workshops with experts to review successful global experiences, and preparing students for the PISA assessments. The OECD will also help evaluate the impact of Kuwait's education reform plan based on future test results.

Last March, the Ministry of Education announced its plan to collaborate with the OECD across several key areas to enhance the education system in Kuwait and establish benchmark standards for curricula in mathematics, science, and English.

The partnership also includes supporting the design and implementation of teacher licensing tests, aimed at raising professional competency and improving the overall efficiency of the educational process.

Moreover, the OECD will support Kuwait's participation in the 2029 PISA assessment, one of the world's leading international tools for evaluating student performance and comparing outcomes globally, thereby contributing to enhancing the quality of education in Kuwait in line with global standards.

Swiss Foreign Minister inaugurates new Swiss Chancery in Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

A grand inauguration ceremony was held for the new Swiss Chancery in Kuwait. The high profile event, hosted by the Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Tiziano Balmelli, was attended by former prime minister His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, the Swiss Foreign Minister, Ignazio Cassis, and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, along with an eclectic mix of distinguished guests and special invitees.

In his address to the gathering, His Highness Sheikh Nasser stated: "Kuwait, since its independence, has attached special importance to its foreign relations, especially with countries that hold a prominent position in the international system. These relations have reached their peak at the present time, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who wisely leads the country during a delicate and sensitive stage in the region's history, extending his hand of friendship to brotherly and friendly countries in the East and West.

"The opening of the Swiss Embassy in the State of Kuwait evokes memories of the beginnings, when the State of Kuwait and the Swiss Confederation decided on 16 June 1966, to establish relations between them. I was honored to lay the first foundation stone in the edifice of relations between the two sides. In the same year that the two sides decided to establish relations, I was appointed Consul General of the State of Kuwait to the Swiss Confederation, based in Geneva, and I served in that position for two years."

He continued: "I left Switzerland, a country I feel deeply attached to, having studied there since 1959, where I built a network of relationships and came to appreciate its spirit of order, perseverance, and excellence. In that same year, the Swiss government appointed its ambassador to Lebanon as its accredited ambassador to Kuwait. A year later, an honorary consulate of the Swiss Confederation was opened in Kuwait, and the late Murad Yusuf Behbehani was appointed as the honorary consul of the Swiss Confederation. Thus, Kuwait became the second Gulf state to establish relations with the Swiss Confederation.

"During that period, relations between the two sides developed, which prompted the Swiss government to open an embassy in Kuwait City in 1975. When I assumed the premiership in February 2006, the Kuwaiti government decided to open an embassy for the State of Kuwait in Bern in April 2006, recognizing the importance of our relations. I also paid an official visit to the Swiss Confederation to further develop our relations, from 12-16 September 2011."

He added, "Switzerland is not merely a global center for wealth management and sovereign investments, or a safe haven for funds; it represents an embodiment of excellence. It serves as a model of a successful and independent state, despite its small geographical size. On the international level, it acts as a discreet communication platform between major powers, having proven itself over the past decades as a reliable mediator in regional issues, thanks to its historical neutrality and the trust placed in it by international parties. Its diplomacy is characterized by its quiet, confidential, and non-confrontational approach, which aligns with the Gulf diplomatic style.

"This is perhaps what has made it a preferred choice for Gulf states when they require neutral mediation or an informal communication channel, such as its role in protecting the interests of other countries. Since the end of World War II, Switzerland has undertaken the task of protecting interests in more than 200 cases between different countries, and at its peak, it represented more than 70 countries, from Washington to Tehran, from Riyadh to Havana, and from Moscow to Tbilisi. Switzerland played the role of a state preserving human connection in a world rife with division, which led to it being described as a global protector state.

"This is in addition to its hosting of indirect

talks concerning regional issues in Geneva, such as those related to Yemen, Syria, and Iran. The world's recognition of Switzerland's neutrality is long-standing, which explains the Vatican's decision to choose Swiss citizens to form the Papal Guard since the time of Pope Julius II in 1506." He continued, "The presence of headquarters for international organizations in Switzerland—especially in Geneva—has facilitated direct communication for diplomats worldwide with the UN system without the need for intermediaries.

"Furthermore, Swiss legal and financial institutions serve as a reference for countries around the world in financial legislation and international arbitration." In combating corruption and money laundering, many complex commercial disputes between international companies are decided by state courts in Geneva or Zurich, or by an independent body such as the Swiss Centre for International Arbitration."

He pointed out that, in addition to all of this, "Switzerland has become one of the most important European trading partners for countries around the world, especially in the fields of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, watches, jewelry, precision instruments, industrial tools, heavy industries, and military equipment. It has also achieved a leading position in Europe in terms of the volume of exports



to some countries, despite not being a member of the European Union.

"Furthermore, Switzerland is a key partner in humanitarian projects, both through the Red Cross, whose presence in Switzerland is not merely an administrative location but rather an embodiment of the country's own philosophy (armed neutrality combined with humanitarianism), and through the United Nations agencies based there and charitable organizations in countries around the world that have coordination offices in Geneva and Bern and other branches throughout the Swiss Confederation, collaborating with Swiss relief organizations.

"Moreover, Switzerland is one of the most important destinations for medical tourism thanks to its prestigious medical institutions and high-tech private hospitals. He explained that, "For us in the Arabian Gulf, Swiss cities have attracted Gulf family tourism, making it a seasonal tradition, which has created informal social and cultural ties and encouraged many Kuwaitis to purchase homes in various cantons of the Swiss Confederation in accordance with its laws on home ownership. This is why Switzerland maintains the image of a balanced country in the international media, which has given it a positive standing in public opinion."

He added, "Switzerland has become the neutral hub in the current international system." Because of its ability to reconcile the competing interests of major powers, and to balance economic and humanitarian concerns, as well as power and ethics, its importance lies not in its material strength, but in its mediating role in wars and crises, in its institutional position within international

organizations, in its internal stability and capacity to embrace diversity, and in its moral legitimacy in a world of conflicting interests. Therefore, the Swiss model inspires decision-makers to build a balanced diplomacy among the major powers, without becoming involved in competing alliances. Furthermore, Switzerland provides a safe platform for discreet communication between international parties on sensitive issues."

He noted that relations between the State of Kuwait and the Swiss Confederation have witnessed remarkable development, reflected in a series of reciprocal official visits between senior officials from both sides, including political leaders, ministers, foreign ministers, parliamentary speakers, as well as special envoys and high-ranking directors. Several rounds of political consultations have also been held between the two countries, reflecting the keenness of both sides to enhance dialogue and coordination on various regional and international issues.

He added that this extensive diplomatic activity, marked by visits over two decades and continuous rounds of consultations, demonstrates the significant progress in the relations between our two friendly countries. Perhaps the most important of these was the high-level meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khalid



Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the former President of the Swiss Confederation, Viola Amherd, on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last year.

He further added, "It is a source of great pride for us that the State of Kuwait, thanks to the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God protect him, has become one of the safest and most stable countries, and is keen to develop cooperative relations with various countries around the world." He pointed out that Switzerland is at the forefront of these countries, as it is not merely an economic partner, but also a political, ethical, and financial model, which is confirmed by its policies. He said, "The State of Kuwait will remain committed to its relations with Switzerland. We do not forget its stance during the brutal Iraqi aggression, when it took a strong and principled position supporting Kuwait, and, in a humanitarian gesture, allowed Kuwaitis stranded on its territory to extend their stays and permitted our students to enroll in its schools." He affirmed that what unites Kuwait and Switzerland is an exceptional relationship based on mutual trust and stable interests, reflecting a deep understanding of what it means to be a small country in a large world, building influence through trust, not force.

For his part, Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya expressed his pleasure at participating in the opening of the Swiss Embassy in Kuwait, affirming that the speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah accurately reflected the depth of Kuwaiti-Swiss relations and their

distinguished history. Minister Al-Yahya said: "I am happy to be here at this opening, and I believe His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed's speech perfectly embodied the Kuwaiti-Swiss relationship and its history. Frankly, I cannot add anything further to what Sheikh Nasser said."

In response to a question about whether there were any official discussions with the Swiss Foreign Minister, Al-Yahya clarified: "Not today; there were no discussions. The visit was solely for the occasion of the embassy opening," adding: "However, the Swiss Minister extended an invitation to visit Switzerland, and God willing, there will be bilateral discussions soon in Switzerland."

In his address on the occasion, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation (Swiss Foreign Minister) Ignazio Cassis affirmed that the opening of the new Swiss Embassy in Kuwait embodies the depth of bilateral relations and reflects the spirit of trust, respect, and friendship that has united the two countries for six decades, noting that this occasion represents a rare and unique historical moment.

Cassis said: "It is a great pleasure and joy to welcome you all, His Highness Sheikh Nasser, my dear colleague Foreign Minister Abdullah Yahya, and all the Excellencies and dignitaries present in this room, and all the friends of Switzerland and friends of Kuwait who are here today to celebrate this very special moment with us. As I said, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this brand new building. I have also visited the other two floors, and I can say that we now have a Swiss home that perfectly reflects the spirit of our bilateral relationship. You can see that it is solid, reliable, people-oriented, and inclusive. By bringing the embassy and the residence under one roof, we are giving new momentum and greater visibility to the excellent work that our colleagues are doing here in Kuwait, and I take this opportunity to thank them all."

He continued: "This friendship began with a vision, the vision of a brilliant young Kuwaiti man in the 1930s who realized early on how much his compatriots would appreciate Swiss expertise and precision. That vision transformed into a success story, and since then, it can almost be said that Kuwait runs on Swiss time.

I told His Excellency the Foreign Minister that this is evident even in His Highness's punctuality, as Sheikh Nasser arrived at the ceremony exactly one minute before the scheduled time, and that's, of course, because it's all about Swiss watches!" Cassis pointed out that "the first partnership between Omega and the Behbehani family paved the way for many other partnerships," explaining that "today, there are more than 12 Swiss companies represented in Kuwait, and approximately 450 Swiss brands are present in the Kuwaiti market."

He added, "Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, our economic relations have never overshadowed our true friendship. The relationship between the people of our two countries is based on trust and has always generated mutual curiosity. Kuwaitis were among the first people in the Gulf to discover Switzerland, thanks to the direct flights launched by our former national airline, Swissair, in 1959. Since then, Switzerland has become a second home for many Kuwaiti families."

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Tiziano Balmelli, affirmed that the opening of the new Swiss Embassy building in Kuwait reflects the depth of the distinguished relations and the beautiful friendship that unites the two countries, praising the high-level presence from both sides during the opening ceremony.

In a statement to reporters, Ambassador Balmelli said: "It was a great honor for us to host the Swiss Foreign Minister and the President of the Swiss Parliament and their accompanying delegation, along with His Highness Sheikh Nasser and His Excellency the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Yahya." He added: "There were a large number of Kuwaiti friends of Switzerland here, and it was very emotional and beautiful. It is a beautiful testament that confirms the depth of friendship between our two countries."

Central Asia: A Vital Link in International Cooperation



Dr. Zubaidullo Zubaidzoda
Ambassador of Tajikistan in Kuwait

The collective vision enshrined in the 'Central Asia 2040: Concept for the Development of Regional Cooperation', with its focus on shared values, mutual interests, and priority cooperation areas, serves as a beacon to regional prosperity. Central Asia is far more than just the core of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); it is a vital geopolitical and economic link in the global system, spanning trade, economics, energy, transport and communications, manufacturing, investment, and cultural-humanitarian sectors.

The nations of Central Asia are actively making a practical and constructive contribution to realizing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its crucial targets. Testament to this commitment is that our countries have collectively proposed dozens of initiatives to the international community aimed at maintaining peace and ensuring sustainable development. This sustained effort underscores the irreversible transformation of Central Asia into a stable, economically dynamic, and, in the foreseeable future, a highly prosperous region.

For two decades, Tajikistan has championed the water and climate agenda on the world stage. Its initiation of 14 relevant UN General Assembly resolutions has established a robust framework for achieving coordinated global water goals, aligning directly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is a sobering fact that Tajikistan's glaciers are the source of 60 percent of the region's water resources. The accelerating rate of glacier melting due to climate change presents a deeply alarming trend, as these glaciers are indispensable for the region's ecological stability. In response, at Tajikistan's urging, the UN General Assembly declared 2025 the International Year of Glacier Preservation. Following this resolution, Dushanbe hosted the inaugural International High-Level Conference on Glacier Preservation from 29-31 May of this year, with strong international participation underscoring the urgency of this global initiative.

The Central Asian region stands at the forefront of the global fight against contemporary threats to international security, including terrorism, extremism, radicalism, illicit drug trafficking, and transnational organized crime.

Modern terrorist and extremist organizations increasingly exploit the digital landscape, using advanced information technologies to disseminate extremist ideologies, incite religious and ethnic hostility, and, critically, recruit youth to their destructive cause. It is clearer than ever that these complex, cross-border challenges require a united, collaborative response; no single nation can succeed alone. Today's security challenges require not only our strong will but also our ability to cooperate globally.

In this spirit, the 'Dushanbe Process on Combating Terrorism and its Financing' has established a crucial multilateral platform. It facilitates regional and global cooperation, comprehensive dialogue, and the vital exchange of best practices among all stakeholders.



We view the Kuwait Phase of the 'Dushanbe Process on Counter-Terrorism', which took place in Kuwait City on 4-5 November 2024, as an effective factor in strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and creating effective border security mechanisms.

Our partnership in this multilateral platform is an example of shared responsibility, which in today's geopolitical conditions is very necessary and appropriate to counter terrorism. We are confident that, in close cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and other international partners, we will continue to make the necessary efforts to achieve the noble goals of the Dushanbe Process.

In the context of the joint fight against the modern challenges and threats, it is necessary to particularly note the significance role of the High-Level International Conference on the Repatriation of Persons from Al-Hol, Surrounding Camps and Places of Detention,

to safeguard youth from the corrosive pull of terrorism, extremism, and radicalism. Educational programs and social projects, underpinned by tangible economic opportunities, are considered essential instruments for mitigating extremism risks and ensuring public security. By combining efforts across all levels, we can effectively counter modern threats and cultivate conditions for the enduring well-being of future generations. This initiative has garnered widespread international support.

Furthermore, on 25 July 2025, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a landmark resolution entitled the 'Role of artificial intelligence (AI) in creating new opportunities for sustainable development in Central Asia', initiated by the Republic of Tajikistan. Supported by the consensus of the UN Member States, the resolution marks a significant step toward building a global

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The Second GCC-Central Asian Summit is scheduled to take place in the near future, and we are confident that its results will provide a powerful impetus to the development and strengthening of multifaceted cooperation between our regions.

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which took place on 26 September 2025, on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. During this conference, the successful experience of the Republic of Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries in repatriating women and children from camps in Syria was presented.

Furthermore, the commitment to promoting lasting peace, stability, and security within the region and beyond remains a cornerstone of Tajikistan's foreign policy.

President Emomali Rahmon's initiative to adopt a special UN General Assembly resolution declaring the 'Decade of Strengthening Peace for Future Generations' is a powerful call to global action, placing a strategic emphasis on the increasing role of youth. With over half of the region's population belonging to the younger generation, their future is the region's future.

The countries of Central Asia must intensify cooperation, utilizing every available tool

consensus on the ethical and safe use of AI, including the development of self-regulation mechanisms and responsible governance of AI technologies at the regional and national levels.

Key mechanisms for leveraging AI technologies to drive sustainable development across Central Asia. One of the key mechanisms proposed is the establishment of a Regional Artificial Intelligence Center in Dushanbe to coordinate joint AI implementation programs across Central Asia. This is another investment's opportunity to enhance international cooperation in the fields of digitalization and AI.

The countries of Central Asia and the Arab States of the Gulf are bound by deep historical, cultural, and spiritual ties. Our peoples, drawing on shared values, have made a worthy contribution to the development of world civilization for centuries. These noble traditions continue to serve as a reliable foundation for

the comprehensive development of friendly and cooperative relations between our countries.

In this context, the historic initiative to establish a strategic dialogue in the Central Asia- GCC format is particularly noteworthy. The State of Kuwait chairs this strategic dialogue, and we sincerely thank the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Misha'al Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his tremendous efforts to expand mutually beneficial cooperation between the fraternal countries of these two important regions.

On 19 July 2023, the first Summit of the Heads of State of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and Central Asian countries was held in Jeddah. Following the First Summit, an action plan was adopted for the GCC and Central Asian countries for the period 2023-2027, which includes dialogue on political and security issues, economic cooperation and investment opportunities, strengthening people-to-people ties, and establishing effective partnerships between the business sectors in our countries.

The Second GCC-Central Asian Summit is scheduled to take place in the near future, and we are confident that its results will provide a powerful impetus to the development and strengthening of multifaceted cooperation between our regions.

Central Asia's humanitarian space boasts a legacy that has profoundly enriched world civilization, producing legendary figures in science, culture, literature, and art. We share a common imperative to preserve the distinctiveness and uniqueness of our peoples' spiritual heritage. Intercultural cooperation holds significant potential as an effective mechanism for fostering interethnic understanding and strengthening mutual trust across the region. Consequently, our nations should exemplify respectful and tolerant attitudes toward one another's traditions, values, and cultural patrimony.

In education and science, expanding ties between higher education institutions in Central Asian countries and Gulf states is advisable. This collaboration should focus on experience exchange, joint scientific research, and professional training programs, especially in the exact, natural, and mathematical sciences.

Countries of Central Asia are bound not just by shared borders but by ancient trade traditions tracing back to the Great Silk Road. The historical trade systems and traditions established by this vital sub-regional artery continue to hold immense contemporary significance.

We acknowledge the critical importance of Afghanistan as an integral link for the success of our joint projects in trade, economic, transit, and communication spheres. The further realization of these initiatives largely hinges on the normalization of the military-political situation and the assurance of security within Afghanistan.

The key to resolving Afghanistan's current challenges lies in the extensive use of diplomatic and political means, coupled with the adoption of effective measures focused on the country's economic and social development. We will, therefore, continue to support the economic and social upliftment of our southern neighbor, with whom we share a deep common history and rich cultural heritage.

We are confident that the successful execution of cross-border and interregional projects in energy, transport, and communications, alongside joint programs in culture, science, education, and tourism, will deliver a tangible contribution to the region's sustainable development, peace, security, and lasting prosperity.



PMI vision for a Smoke-Free Future

Christos Kiritsis on innovation, challenges, and global transformation

By Wilson D'cunha

Director – PR & Communications,
The Times Kuwait

At the Technovation Smoke-Free Event held in Dubai on 8 October 2025, Philip Morris International (PMI) highlighted its global and regional initiatives aimed at creating a smoke-free future.

In an exclusive interview with The Times Kuwait, Mr. Christos Kiritsis, Vice-President of Smoke-Free Products for South & Southeast Asia, the CIS, and the Middle East & Africa, shared the company's commitment to helping 'adult smokers' transition away from combustible cigarettes through innovative, science-backed alternatives.

He also provided insights into PMI's progress in markets with deep-rooted smoking cultures, including Kuwait, and reflected on his personal drive to lead this global transformation.

Kiritsis emphasized that achieving a smoke-free world will require collaboration between governments, scientists, the media, and consumers.

He highlighted successes in countries such as Japan, where more than half of smokers have already switched to smoke-free alternatives, and Sweden, where adult smoking rates have dropped to 5% making it a smoke free country. He noted that innovation, education, and tailored solutions are central to PMI's strategy. The discussion underscored the company's focus on adapting products to local preferences, engaging stakeholders, and expanding public awareness, particularly in regions like Kuwait and South Asia, where smoking remains culturally entrenched but interest in modern, safer alternatives is growing.

Kiritsis also discussed PMI's vision for a smoke-free future, highlighting the importance of market adaptation, regulatory engagement, education, and technology. He emphasized that achieving a world without cigarettes requires collaboration among governments, scientists, the media, and consumers - a mission PMI continues to advance with determination across diverse regions.

The following is the full text of the interview:

Times Kuwait: Is there a realistic possibility that you see a smoke-free world by 2035?

Philip Morris International: It aligns with our overall ambition to accelerate the existence of smoke-free products and help smokers switch from combustible cigarettes.

Is it realistic to eliminate cigarettes globally by 2035? Not entirely, because we have over a billion smokers today. In some countries, however, progress is already evident. In Japan, for example, more than half of smokers have already switched, while in Sweden, adult



smoking rates have fallen to 5%. So, in specific markets, yes, it's realistic.

Currently, more than 40% of our revenue comes from smoke-free products. Our objective is that by 2030, over two-thirds of our revenue will come from these products. This means that in some countries, we could be very close to achieving nearly complete adoption.

The key is support from all stakeholders—regulators, the scientific community, media—to ensure smokers know about better alternatives. We must also continue innovating, because smokers have diverse needs: preferences, affordability, rituals, and sensory experiences. Our job is to make sure every smoker can find the right product for them.

TK: There are many smokers in Kuwait, and changing habits seems challenging. Do you have plans to increase adoption in Kuwait?

PMI: While there is a cultural acceptance toward smoking, we've already seen significant progress since launching IQOS and our vape products in Kuwait. People in Kuwait are interested in innovation, they like a modern lifestyle, and offering the right options is crucial.

The more choices we provide, the easier it is for smokers to take the first step. Once they try a smoke-free product—whether it's IQOS, a heat-

not-burn device, a vape, or a nicotine pouch—they begin to see the benefits, and switching becomes irreversible.

Our plan focuses on expanding product availability, aligning products with local culture, and activating the ecosystem—regulators, media, scientists—so that consumers understand, access, and adopt these products. With this approach, we expect accelerated growth in Kuwait.

TK: Are you seeing this progress mostly among Gen Z or older generations? The older generation seems harder to convince.

PMI: Innovation is often first adopted by younger adults. But even among adult smokers, some are open to trying new products. For older smokers, change takes longer because smoking is deeply embedded in their habits.

We address this by introducing new propositions tailored to their needs—improving awareness, addressing misconceptions, and offering flavors and technologies that align with their preferences. So while older smokers may take more time, we do have products designed for them.

TK: PMI has a bold mission for a smoke-free future. How do you see the Middle East and

South Asia contributing to this vision?

PMI: South Asia is home to a significant portion of the world's smokers—half of the global smoking population is in that region. The biggest challenge is market access; in some countries, in South Asia and even in the Middle East, smoke-free products are still banned.

Our focus is on opening markets, removing bans, and ensuring smokers understand the benefits of smoke-free alternatives versus combustible cigarettes. This region is critical because we cannot achieve a smoke-free world without addressing the majority of smokers here. We're also developing products specifically for these markets.

TK: Many people in Kuwait worry about safety. What evidence shows that smoke-free products are less harmful?

PMI: Science shows that by eliminating combustion, smoke-free products reduce exposure to harmful or potentially harmful substances by an average of 95%. This research is endorsed by leading institutions like the U.S. FDA, which authorized IQOS as a modified risk tobacco product. Similar approvals exist in the UK and Germany.

We apply the highest safety standards—comparable to pharmaceutical manufacturing—across production and operations. Safety is a priority, and the science behind these products is robust and internationally recognized.

TK: On a personal level, what motivates you to drive PMI's smoke-free future?

PMI: It's incredibly rewarding to be part of a mission that can improve public health on a large scale. I've never imagined playing a role that could impact so many lives. It's transformative and disruptive, much like major technological innovations in history.

What keeps me motivated is the fact that there are still millions of smokers who need access to knowledge, information, and better alternatives. Knowing that our work can help improve their lives is what drives me every day.



EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Sustainable Development Begins at School



By Kailash Satyarthi

A Nobel Peace Prize laureate, he is Founder of Laureates and Leaders for Children, Honorary President of the Global March Against Child Labor, and Founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save Childhood Movement).

A sustainable future requires citizens with the skills and motivation to tackle structural, institutional, and systemic injustices. Universal access to education is essential, but education can be a powerful liberator, tool for inclusion, and source of opportunity only if it has compassion at its core.

A decade ago, the world made a promise to its children: everyone would have access to free, equitable, quality education by 2030. Today, with just five years left to fulfill that pledge, at least 272 million children remain out of school. This puts the entire global development agenda at risk.

Education both drives and benefits from progress on all of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from achieving gender equality to ending hunger and tackling climate change. As literacy levels rise, infant mortality rates decline, incomes increase, and access to health care and nutrition improves. Conversely, poverty and inequality constrain access to education, creating a self-reinforcing cycle.

The world has pledged to achieve universal education before—in 1990, with the Education for All movement, and in 2000, when it was included in the Millennium Development Goals. In both cases, deadlines were pushed back until the world moved on. Now, the SDG on education is at risk of meeting the same fate.

UNESCO's latest scorecard reveals that the number of out-of-school children is 21 million higher than previously thought. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of out-of-school children has increased in recent years, with more than 4,000 children having dropped out of school each day during 2009-21. How can we celebrate trips to space or the release of new smartphone models when hundreds of millions of children are not learning? This is a moral emergency. Fortunately, we have the tools to get close to the finish line, and even cross it, before time runs out.

Political will is a prerequisite to progress. In my time on the boards of the UN High-Level Group on Education, the UN Education Commission, and the Global Partnership for Education, among others, I have seen the path to universal education repeatedly blocked by the same obstacles, with a lack of political commitment being among the most common. Since elections are often decided on the basis of issues like the economy, immigration, and defense, that is where governments tend to direct their energy. Education rarely features as a top concern, despite its far-reaching economic and social benefits.

When governments do focus on education, however, the impact is undeniable. Brazil, India, Kenya, and South Africa, which have established education as a fundamental right, have achieved higher school enrollment, lower dropout rates, and improved education outcomes. Countries that have implemented education-focused measures like waiving tuition fees and increasing the number of teachers have also made gains.

But all the political will in the world will mean little without adequate investment. The annual financing gap for low- and lower-middle-income countries to achieve universal basic education by 2030 stands at US\$97 billion. That is just 4.4 percent of what the world spent on defense last year. Yet, far from stepping up, high-income countries have slashed aid



for education, with more reductions likely to come. Governments have also consistently failed to allocate sufficient funds to education

challenges that keep children out of school, beginning with child labor. Today, nearly 138 million children are at work, with 54 million in

the eradication of child labor. Social barriers exacerbate exclusion.

Marginalized groups—indigenous tribes, girls, those living in chronic poverty or with disabilities—are often excluded from school, and the COVID-19 pandemic and proliferating conflicts have exacerbated the problem. More than 473 million children now live in conflict zones, where forcible displacement, the destruction of infrastructure (including schools), and general insecurity undermine access to education. What kind of world forces children to choose between survival and learning?

But getting children into school is only the first step. If education is to be equitable, inclusive, and effective, classrooms must be free of fear, overcrowding, and neglect. Sufficient resources, including trained teachers, are essential. Technology, particularly AI and digital learning tools, can play a transformative role in expanding access to education, but this will require concerted effort, and human engagement, particularly with teachers, will remain essential. These efforts must be guided, above all, by compassion.

When I accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, I called for the globalization of compassion, in particular, for our children. In heeding this call, which remains as important as ever, we must recognize that there is nothing weak about compassion, which is not the same as mercy, charity, or empathy, let alone pity. Compassion is not a soft emotion. It is a powerful force, sustained by feeling another's suffering as one's own and taking mindful action to end that suffering.

That process begins in the classroom. We must weave compassion into what we teach (curriculum), how we teach (pedagogy), and how we measure success (assessment). Teachers must be trained in experiential techniques, such as storytelling and role-playing, that build practical problem-solving skills. Assessments should encourage students to confront real-world problems and devise ways to solve them.

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within their own countries. Unless this changes, poorer countries will fall even further behind.

Once the political will and financing are in place, the question becomes how to harness them. Policymakers must confront the many

‘hazardous’ jobs. We cannot guarantee universal education as long as we allow children to toil in farms, factories, and fields. Unfortunately, very few countries have established meaningful links between their education goals and



Executive Managing Editor of The Times Kuwait with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi during his visit to Kuwait

Gulf Brides

Blend Tradition and Modernity in 2025 Wedding Trends



By **Hermoine Macura-Noble**
Special to The Times Kuwait

As the wedding season approaches, brides in the Gulf region are redefining bridal fashion, embracing styles that balance timeless elegance with modern flair. From the streets of Dubai to the palaces of Riyadh, weddings are becoming a canvas where heritage and contemporary design meet.

We spoke to Solida Marcos, a renowned bridal designer in the Gulf with over 20 years of experience, about the trends shaping weddings in 2025 and looking ahead to 2026.



"The biggest bridal fashion trends now include lace with long sleeves, royal shiny finishes, soft color accents like champagne, floral embellishments, and bold statement silhouettes," Marcos explains. "These elements allow brides to showcase their personality while remaining elegant and sophisticated."

This season, GCC brides are increasingly experimenting with unconventional designs, but tradition still plays a key role. Marcos notes, "Brides in the GCC are leaning toward modern trends and unconventional styles, but they still keep their culture and traditions in mind. The result is a beautiful mix of both, creating fresh and unique versions of bridal fashion."

Fabrics and textures are evolving alongside design trends. While silk and satin remain classic, designers are exploring layered tulle, embroidered lace, and shimmering organza's, adding depth, movement, and a sense of bespoke luxury to gowns. These tactile materials not only look stunning in photos but also create a memorable experience for the bride and her guests.

Color trends are also shifting. While white and ivory continue to dominate, soft pastels and neutral shades like champagne and blush are becoming increasingly popular. These subtle hues allow brides to make a modern statement while preserving the sense of tradition that is so important in GCC weddings.

Accessories are taking center stage as well.

Marcos highlights the rise of statement veils and capes, delicate hairpieces, and intricate belts or sashes, which complement bold silhouettes and add personality without overwhelming the overall look.

For brides navigating these trends, Marcos offers practical advice: start your search early, at least three months before the wedding; research styles and save inspiration; consider your theme, season, and venue; and visit only trusted boutiques. She recommends coming prepared with light makeup, skin-colored underwear, and a relaxed mindset, and bringing along a trusted family member or friend to offer honest advice. Most importantly, she emphasizes defining the identity of the dress—elegant, royal, simple, or cute—and ensuring it flatters both the body and personality.

Marcos also stresses discretion and patience. Once a dress is chosen, she advises keeping it private and avoiding repeated fittings until about ten days before the wedding, allowing for last-minute body changes. "Most importantly," she says, "enjoy the journey, not just the destination."

Looking ahead, bridal fashion in the Gulf is poised to continue its evolution, combining heritage, glamor, and individuality. Whether through statement silhouettes, soft champagne hues, or intricate lacework, brides in 2025 and 2026 are creating looks that are memorable, personal, and timeless.

In the end, Marcos reminds brides that while



Solida Marcos
Renowned bridal designer



trends may guide the choice, the true magic of a wedding lies in celebrating one's identity, savoring the journey, and embracing every special moment along the way.

Hermoine Macura-Noble

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EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

Are We in a Financial Bubble?

**Dambisa Moyo**

*An international economist and the author of *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth – and How to Fix It**

Financial bubbles are notoriously difficult to define in real time, until the moment they burst. To say with any conviction whether we are in one now, one must understand the magnitude and intensity of today's AI investment boom, as well as the timing of the potential bubble's end.

There are at least four ways to determine when a bubble is building in financial markets. The first is to look at valuations. Even when conventional valuation metrics such as price-to-earnings (PE) ratios reach excessive levels, the market might excuse this by focusing on new metrics to justify overvaluations.

For much of the past 25 years, the average PE ratio across the S&P 500 has been 16x, whereas now it is 25x. But this increase can be justified by focusing on the potential for new productivity gains from AI, or on products with a national-security value, such as semiconductors, which will be protected and ultimately backstopped by the government.

Moreover, some commentators argue that existing indicators like GDP simply are not capturing new sources of growth potential in the economy. For now, the fact that expected equity returns are higher than bond returns means that equity valuations are indeed 'rational', even if they seem high.

A second factor to consider is the prevailing narrative, which usually revolves around the message that 'this time is different'. A bubble is almost always buttressed by belief in a new paradigm or emerging technology—whether it be the internet, the Japanese production process, electricity, railroads, or canals. The



“A common feature of bubbles is circular dealing between companies. For instance, Nvidia has agreed to invest \$100 billion in OpenAI, which will use the money to pay Oracle, which will then buy chips from Nvidia.”

typical narrative creates a mental bridge between what actually is (current cash flows) and what could be (forecasts of future revenues).

The bridge is what lures investors to buy into a possible upside. While they may start by focusing on the rationally calculable growth forecasts of the business, the next step is to buy into an irrational story about an imminent economic transformation. This is when investing becomes overly one-sided, because it becomes hard to argue against the prevailing narrative.

Just in the past month, two start-ups have garnered eye-popping valuations by tapping into the AI narrative. Nano Nuclear Energy was valued at \$2.3 billion despite having no revenue or even a license to operate; and the data-center energy supplier Fermi, which was founded only in January 2025, was valued at \$14.8 billion.

Much like the 1980s Japanese bubble and the 1999-2001 dot-com bubble, the situation today may reflect a good, old-fashioned misallocation of capital, as everyone chases the new, shiny technology. The obvious risk is that investors will not get anywhere close to the returns they seem to expect. A third indicator of a bubble is hidden leverage. Not only have investors and speculators continued to pile into overvalued

stocks, but an increasing number have done so with borrowed money.

One finds growing leverage throughout the shadow banking system; but the greater concern, perhaps, is the risk embedded in financial products, such as leveraged exchange-traded funds. Even more ominous, the explosion of zero-day options (single-day bets on an equity's price movement) suggests that more retail investors are engaging in leveraged trades whose risks they may not know how to manage.

This growing leverage—a common feature of bubbles, most notably the 2008 global financial crisis—implies that speculators, and the overall economy, are inherently exposed to more risk than they are aware of. According to FINRA, margin debt—the amount lent to investors by their brokers—reached a record high of \$1.06 trillion in August, a 33 percent year-on-year increase.

Lastly, a common feature of bubbles is circular dealing between companies. Many market participants are scrutinizing recent deals in which Nvidia has agreed to invest \$100 billion in OpenAI, which will use the money to pay Oracle, which will then buy chips from Nvidia. These sorts of arrangements were a major contributor

to the Japanese equity bubble in the 1980s.

Assuming we are indeed in a bubble, the next question concerns when it will deflate or burst. While this inevitably requires guesswork, there are some important indicators to watch.

One is market sentiment. Currently, retail investors are driving a lot of the stock-price momentum, whereas institutional sentiment is neutral, meaning they hold Big Tech stocks but are not adding to their positions. But since retail is a relatively small share of the overall market, such exuberance can drive only a limited amount of asset-price inflation.

Another indicator is positioning. In simple terms, we will know that the bubble is inflating further if the institutional bid strengthens and becomes a long position, because this signals that institutional investors are giving up on other assets such as bonds, gold, or underperforming sectors (health care) and allocating more capital toward risk-on AI assets. With most people only just beginning to learn about AI's capabilities, it remains to be seen what new business models will emerge. As time passes, sophisticated professional investors will come to a better understanding of AI's value and where cracks in the prevailing euphoric narrative may lie.

For now, there is a reasonable argument to be made that a bubble has only started to form. Judging by current market sentiment and positioning, the AI story seems closer to the 1996-97 stage of the dot-com bubble than to 1999-2001. The speculative behavior and valuations that we saw in the late 1990s have yet to be matched today.

Moreover, while the dot-com bubble was based on numerous startups, many of which with valuations that ultimately collapsed to zero, the AI boom revolves around global technology leaders like Nvidia and Alphabet, with established revenues and track records. That means there will be a higher floor under any drop in asset value, which suggests that the bubble is more likely to deflate than to burst violently.

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UN at 80, a Force for Good for 'We the Peoples'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kuwait has been a member of the United Nations since May 1963, when it became the 111th member of the world body. Since then, Kuwait has been a strong proponent of the UN, committed to the principles outlined in the UN Charter, and an active participant in its many activities, including in maintaining peace and security, and in humanitarian initiatives.

Kuwait's relationship with the UN were shaped by the geopolitical forces that prevailed at the time of the country's independence in 1962, and were further solidified in the aftermath of the 1990 Iraqi invasion. Today, the UN House in Kuwait City, which encompasses the offices of more than 20 UN entities, reflects Kuwait's commitment to supporting UN activities in development, diplomacy, and in humanitarian work.

Last week, while speaking at the 80th anniversary commemoration of UN Day, the UN Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ghada Hatim Eltahir, expressed gratitude to Kuwait for its enduring commitment to multilateralism, peace and sustainable development and firm support to the United Nations. She added that "Kuwait's voice carries unique weight, coming from a country that appreciates, from its own history, that international solidarity can restore peace and sovereignty. This belief continues to shape Kuwait's identity today as a global humanitarian center and a beacon of multilateral cooperation."

However, the UN's institutional architecture, anchored in the post-1945 landscape—with its emphasis on sustaining global peace and security, and its subservience to the veto wielded by its Security Council—has limited the ability

of the UN to perform its multifarious operations effectively. Buffeted by evolving challenges, many of them catalyzed by geopolitics, new technologies, economic upheavals, and social changes unique to the 21st century, the UN has struggled to keep pace.

Experts argue that the simultaneous involvement on multiple-fronts has spread-thin the resources of the UN to the point that it no longer has the resources and financing to deliver effective responses in many of the fields it is engaged in. The realization that the UN cannot solve all of humanity's problems all of the time, has led to calls for a rethink and refocus on the core principles of the world body, and for organizational reforms to align it with prevailing realities.

The argument that a return to the core mandate of preventing conflicts and fostering, maintaining, and promoting peace, without resorting to coercion and use of force, is what will keep the UN relevant and effective going into the future, is at best, naive. Given the multiple challenges facing the world today, returning the UN to a narrow focus on maintaining peace and security alone is not only unpragmatic, but also runs counter to the principles vested in the UN.

While promoting peace, resolving conflicts and peacekeeping continue to be among the UN's primary tasks, and are often its most visible efforts, these activities constitute only one of the pillars of the UN Charter. Promoting economic and social progress and development, and fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, are also key mandates of the UN Charter. It is in pursuit of these directives that the UN has engaged in a multiplicity of fields and activities aimed at enhancing the lives of people everywhere.

Criticisms of the UN and its real, or alleged,

shortcomings and inefficiencies, tend to be amplified during crises, and in political scapegoating exercises. But these reproaches often ignore the fact that the UN is a consensus-based body that relies on the political will of all member-states. It is largely the result of this consensus-seeking, as well as the partisan politics of the five veto-wielding Security Council members, that have curbed the effective functioning of the UN.

Moreover, the primacy of the Charter also rests in all member-states adhering to the principles and values enshrined in the Charter, including collaboration among members to develop coherent strategies and exert concerted efforts to confront common challenges facing humanity. But, as the prevailing geopolitical turmoil and polarization makes clear, the commitment of the international community to the UN Charter, and to global solidarity is, more than ever, sorely lacking today.

The deficit of cohesiveness is evident in the functioning of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the UN. This year's UNGA, held from 9–29 September and organized under the theme of 'Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights', reflected the prevailing global sentiment that multilateralism is essential to effectively tackle most of today's challenges.

More than 190 member states sent their leaders or top representatives to the 80th session of the UNGA. If turning up is all that matters, then the popularity of the forum with world leaders implies that the UN remains a politically relevant, capable entity. But when measured by its ability to implement impactful solutions to critical global challenges, the bereft of cohesiveness among

members has often made the UN's responses suboptimal.

Nevertheless, in an increasingly polarized world, amid an increase in multilateral challenges and a decrease in multilateral solutions, the UN remains the world's only truly universal global organization. Faced with deepening global schisms, a sharp US U-turn to unilateralism, and funding challenges, the outlook for any collective actions and reforms to the UN may look bleak. But the UN at 80 is still the world's best hope for pushing forward the ideals, principles, and goals of the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The enduring achievement of the UN is that it still works. The broad-based legitimacy, the unrivaled convening power, the breadth of its remit, and its normative impact, makes the UN a singular and indispensable global organization, relevant to all 193 member-states, in addressing the transnational challenges that cannot be resolved by any one country alone.

In his message on the UN turning 80, UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted that the United Nations is more than an institution, "It is a living promise spanning borders, bridging continents, inspiring generations. For eighty years, we have worked to forge peace, tackle poverty and hunger, advance human rights, and build a more sustainable world, together..."

"Confronted by challenges of staggering scale, this is no time for timidity or retreat. Now, more than ever, the world must recommit to solving problems no nation can solve alone. On this UN Day, let's stand together and fulfil the extraordinary promise of your United Nations. Let's show the world what is possible when 'we the peoples' choose to act as one."

Breast Cancer

Healing Is Possible, You Will Win, I Did

By Giovanna Jardim

One in every ten women who live to be 80 will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the coming years. That was the sentence I heard from my oncologist when I received my own diagnosis, ten years ago.

Today, we often hear about social responsibility, diversity and inclusion, and the growing presence of women in leadership positions across all sectors of society. Yet, we must give equal attention to women's physical and mental health—both are essential for real inclusion and empowerment.

Breast cancer has multifactorial causes—genetics, diet, and lifestyle among them. Regarding lifestyle, I often hear women describe the challenge of balancing triple roles: managing their homes, careers, and families, all while facing anxiety and the fear of illness and aging. This is not to underestimate the daily struggles men face—in fact, they are among the groups most affected by suicide—and it is worth remembering that men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer, even though cases are far less frequent. When I think of a support network for women's health, I think of people who understand the importance of prevention and the right to proper treatment. Doctors, governments, companies, leaders, managers, families, and friends—everyone should be involved.

October, globally known as Pink October, is an excellent opportunity for both public and private sectors to strengthen awareness



campaigns promoting early diagnosis and timely treatment.

I like to refer to what we might call peer pressure for good—the idea that when

people around us take preventive action, it encourages us to do the same. Collective and individual initiatives can help ensure that more women remember to schedule mammograms, ultrasounds, and other vital exams.

Public health systems also play a crucial role. In Brazil, for instance, thousands of women are treated and cured every day through the SUS (Unified Health System). When detected early, breast cancer can have over 70 percent full recovery rates.

Who does not have a friend who says she has not had her exams done since the pandemic because she has been “too busy”? Or a colleague who, after being diagnosed, confides in you about her fear of balancing treatment with her professional life, motherhood, and aging parents—and of losing the leadership position she fought so hard to earn?

Or perhaps a wife, girlfriend, coworker, or employee who has noticed a lump or other symptoms but delays seeing a doctor out of fear of the result?

This article is dedicated to all of them.

Finally, I want to make a heartfelt appeal: may every leader—in private companies or public institutions—create and support effective awareness initiatives about the importance of early detection. Encourage your female employees to visit their doctors this month.

This is not about invading privacy—it is about care and empathy.

And to each reader, I ask: reach out to at least two women in your circle—at home, in



your family, at work, or in your community—and encourage them to take preventive action.

Having gone through a long but successful treatment myself, I often meet women who are in the middle of their own journey, struggling with fatigue, fear, and the side effects of treatment. I look them in the eyes and repeat what became my own mantra:

“Healing is possible. You will win; I did.

Giovanna Jardim, 50, is a Brazilian Public Relations professional and a breast cancer survivor (triple-negative type)

Brain health, cancer protection linked to micro-nutrient

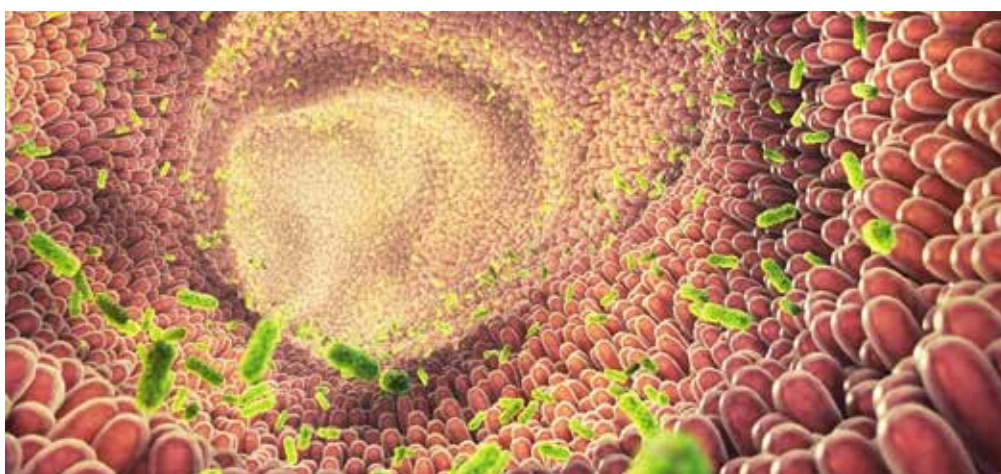
An international team of scientists, led by researchers at University of Florida in the United States and Trinity College Dublin in Ireland have solved a long-standing mystery in human biology: how a micro-nutrient plays a vital role in the proper functioning of brain, metabolic regulation, cancer protection, and even in responses to stress.

Queuosine, pronounced ‘cue-o-scene’, discovered more than half-a-century ago in the 1970s, is a vitamin-like micronutrient that the human body cannot produce on its own and instead relies on absorbing it from the food we consume, and from certain bacterial groups found in the stomach and intestine.

Queuosine comes mainly from meat, dairy, and fermented foods, while some bacteria present in our gut, especially members of the Bacteroides genus, synthesize it from scratch and make it available to the body. It is vital to our health, yet its importance went unnoticed for decades. Vegans often show slightly lower circulating levels of queuosine than omnivores, though the difference disappears when microbial producers are abundant. Antibiotic courses have also been found to wipe out those producers for weeks.

Scientists have known for a long time that queuosine influences critical body processes, but until recently had no idea how it is absorbed from the gut and distributed to the billions of human cells that utilize it for vital body functions.

Scientists suspected that there had to be a transporter for this nutrient, but were unaware of what it was.



The research team behind the new study—which brought together scientists from the University of Florida, San Diego State University in California, the Ohio State University and partner institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland—have now discovered the gene pathway that facilitates the entry of queuosine into cells. The study identified the long-sought gene as SLC35F2, which encodes for a protein found on the cell membrane that acts as a transmembrane transporter to ferry essential micronutrients, such as queuosine into the cell. In the cell, Queuosine functions like a nutrient that fine-tunes how the body reads the genes. It modifies ‘transfer RNA’ (tRNA), to enhance protein synthesis accuracy. Transfer RNAs are essential in decoding the body's DNA which holds the blueprint for the synthesis of proteins

in the body.

The protein has been shown to be crucial for the cellular uptake of the anti-cancer drugs, making its expression level a factor in the drug's efficacy. It has also been identified as a receptor for certain viruses, such as the feline leukemia virus. Although the role of gene SLC35F2 in regard to how viruses and cancer drugs enter into cells has been studied, the part it plays in a healthy human body had not been explored until now. The new discovery of the queuosine pathway in the body opens up a whole new chapter in understanding how the microbiome and our diet can influence the translation of our genes. The discovery opens the door for potential therapies to be created to leverage the micronutrient's role in cancer suppression, memory and how the brain learns

new information.

Because of its role in cancer, it represents a potential therapeutic target or a biomarker for prognosis and treatment strategy development. SLC35F2 is often overexpressed in many types of cancer and appears to promote cancer progression. It is also involved in promoting the growth, migration, and invasion of cancer cells in the bladder and other cancers.

Additionally, the expression of the gene can influence a tumor's resistance to certain drugs, and its levels can be used as a biomarker to assess treatment effectiveness. The new discovery also tightens the link between diet, microbes, and host gene expression. For instance, if intestinal bacteria ramp up queuosine output, plasma levels rise, SLC35F2 activity increases, and translation fidelity improves. Better fidelity reduces misfolded proteins that would otherwise inflame the gut, creating a positive feedback loop.

Disrupting the loop with a high-fat, low-fiber diet, and queuosine production has been shown to plummet. Misfolded proteins accumulate, triggering oxidative stress that further damages the gut barrier. Restoring queuosine, through supplements or fermented foods, breaks the cycle. The new discovery lays the groundwork for future studies that could lead to innovative medications to treat a variety of ailments. For instance, a simple blood test measuring queuosine levels in the blood might guide personalized nutrition plans, especially for patients with gut dysbiosis or limited dietary variety.



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