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COP30: Implementation, Inclusion, Innovation in Climate Action

The Times Kuwait Report

This year's United Nations Climate Summit (COP30) held in Belém, Brazil from 10–21 November marked the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement—the global treaty adopted by the international community in 2015 to combat climate change. This Agreement seeks to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C, above pre-industrial levels, primarily by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

Additionally, the agreement aims to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures. The agreement also calls for mobilization of financial resources to support climate action in developing and vulnerable countries, through their own national objectives, and consistent with a low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate-resilient pathways.



This year's COP30 talks were held under the positive theme of global 'mutirão', a word used by indigenous communities in Brazil to

denote 'collective effort'. The term highlighted the need for the global community to unite and mobilize against climate change. However,

the COP30 Declaration, issued at the end of an extended day of talks to reach agreement on the document, revealed the deep divisions prevailing among member states on key climate change issues.

The COP30 Declaration that eventually emerged was a classic COP compromise; pushing contentious issues into future climate talks. Pragmatism led to outcomes essential to lowering GHG emissions and mitigating global warming being shelved, in order to pen a consensus declaration. This dilemma was reflected in the closing remarks by UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, who said that although many countries wanted to move faster on fossil fuels, finance, and responding to climate disasters... "we also needed to be realistic."

Since the first Conference of Parties (COP1) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was held in Bonn,

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Al Muzaini

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Leading HCLTech Into a New Era of Digital Transformation

“Empowerment, accountability and entrepreneurship are at the core of leadership at HCLTech. Every leader must feel empowered to innovate and challenge the status quo.”
— HCLTech Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra

The Times Kuwait Report

Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the Chairperson of HCLTech, a global technology organization delivering a wide range of digital, AI, cloud, and engineering services that help enterprises transform and reimagine their businesses for the digital age.

Since taking over from her father, the pioneering IT leader Shiv Nadar, she has guided the company's evolution into a next-generation multinational technology corporation. Under her leadership, HCLTech has grown to annual revenues of over US\$14.2 billion, a workforce of 226,600, and a presence in more than 60 countries.

In 2024, she was featured for the eighth consecutive year in Forbes' "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" list. Earlier this year, Brand Finance named HCLTech the world's fastest-growing IT services brand in its "2025 Global 500 and IT Services Top 25" report. Roshni Nadar Malhotra is also the Founder and Trustee of The Habitats Trust, an organization dedicated to protecting India's natural habitats and indigenous species to build and conserve sustainable ecosystems. Before joining HCL, she worked as a news producer and earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management.

During her brief visit to Kuwait earlier this month to attend the Indian Business and Professional Council Awards Night function, she spoke with The Times Kuwait about her company and its role in shaping the global IT landscape, India as a digital powerhouse, and her personal interests.

As the first woman to lead a listed IT company in India, what leadership principles guide your decision-making at HCLTech?

At HCLTech, our leadership philosophy is rooted in empowerment, accountability, and entrepreneurship. I work closely with the Board to provide a strategic roadmap, ensuring that our teams execute it while maintaining the highest levels of corporate governance and transparency. My focus is on creating an environment where every leader and employee feels empowered to take initiative, innovate, and challenge the status quo, which I believe is central to sustaining growth and relevance in a dynamic industry.

The world is rapidly moving toward AI-led businesses. What role is HCLTech playing in shaping the global AI landscape?

HCLTech has been an early adopter of AI, building a comprehensive, full-stack AI portfolio that enables our clients to deploy AI at scale and stay ahead of the curve. AI is now an integral part of every client engagement. For the second quarter of fiscal year 2026 (FY2025-26) our AI revenue reached \$100 million, reflecting the depth of our strategy. We are investing proactively in transforming our services, even if it disrupts existing revenue streams, while simultaneously upskilling both

our employees and clients. In addition, we are developing proprietary AI solutions that leverage hyperscaler platforms, and have formed strategic partnerships across the ecosystem to deliver end-to-end solutions with measurable business impact. This ensures that our approach is not only innovative but also sustainable and practical for real-world challenges.

How do you see India evolving as a global digital powerhouse in the next 10 years?

India is already a digital powerhouse, thanks to world-class STEM talent and progressive government policies. We have top global IT services brands, a vibrant startup ecosystem, and the country is emerging as a hub for global capability centers.

The next decade presents opportunities to build more high-value digital intellectual property (IPs) and expand advanced manufacturing capabilities. For example, HCL Group's joint venture with Foxconn to establish an advanced Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) unit, aligns with the government's Make in India and Digital India vision. By leveraging these strengths, India is positioned to move up the value chain in both services and manufacturing, cementing its role as a global leader in technology and innovation.

How can India bridge the digital gap in education, especially in underserved communities?

India has made significant progress in bridging the digital divide, with over 700 million internet users today and transformative use cases in education, healthcare, and payments reaching even rural areas. The government is actively driving digital inclusion, and initiatives, under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) mandate, which have seen many private enterprises, foundations, and NGOs contribute to bridging gaps in access and quality.

At HCLFoundation, we have impacted more than 7.5 million lives over the last 15 years, transforming hundreds of rural schools with digital learning tools and mainstreaming thousands of children into formal education. We have introduced robotics and ICT-enabled classrooms in 41 government schools across the state of Uttar Pradesh in India, and delivered digital literacy and STEM education through mobile labs that rotate across 72 government schools, benefiting thousands of students in grades 6 to 10. The next big leap is integrating digital tools with existing infrastructure and scaling solutions through strong Public-Private Partnerships. With sustained collaboration, I am confident India can emerge as a global role model for inclusive digital education.

What skills do you think future leaders in the IT industry must develop to stay relevant?

Leaders today operate in a highly complex environment with technological, geopolitical, economic, and cultural variables constantly shifting. Agility is critical—leaders must be willing



to learn and unlearn rapidly, maintain humility, and disrupt their own thinking to stay ahead. Understanding emerging technologies like AI, encouraging cross-cultural collaboration, and aligning business strategy with societal impact are all essential skills for sustainable leadership.

What advice do you give to young women aspiring to leadership roles, especially in male-dominated industries?

Opportunities are expanding, but what matters most is the hunger and readiness to show up, take risks, and embrace responsibility. Organizations, including HCLTech, are creating pathways for leadership, but growth requires commitment, courage, and persistence from individuals themselves. Every challenge is also an opportunity to develop resilience and influence meaningful change.

If you could change one thing about the global perception of Indian companies, what would it be?

India is often seen primarily as a source of skilled manpower, but today, the narrative is shifting. Indian companies are leading in technological innovation, digital services, and high-value IP creation. Startups and investments in deep tech are rapidly reshaping global perceptions. The world should recognize India not just as a cost-effective hub, but as a center of technological prowess and innovation.

You transitioned from a media career to leading a global technology company. What influenced that shift?

While I began my career in media, I was always clear about my aspiration to contribute to HCLTech. Completing an MBA and moving into HCL allowed me to combine strategic leadership with the opportunity to shape an institution of global significance. Beyond business, I find tremendous satisfaction in our philanthropic initiatives, such as education and digital inclusion programs, which allow me to create meaningful impact alongside driving organizational growth.

Cabinet approves bill regulating digital trade

The Cabinet during its ordinary weekly session held on 18 November endorsed a bill to regulate action in the digital trade sector, seen as a key step in contributing to modernizing Kuwait's legislative infrastructure.

Chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace, the Cabinet considered the bill as a base of an integrated legal framework which organizes this sector and achieves balance

between economic freedom and regulatory discipline in a manner that enhances the State's status internationally and regionally.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Moushejri said in a statement after the meeting that the bill was in line with the State's eagerness to keep pace with accelerated developments in digital economy, trade activities and e-services. The Cabinet referred the bill to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In a statement following the Cabinet's approval, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajail explained that the bill marks a turning point in developing a robust digital economy infrastructure, as it balances between protecting the rights of consumers, and encouraging and enabling merchants to practice their activities within clear and



dynamic rules. He added that the bill creates an inclusive legal framework to regulate e-sanction, adjust advertisements, and digital promotional activities, as well as protect personal data and boost transparency and professional compliance in the digital market. The minister also pointed out the law regulates

digital advertisements and influencer activities by requiring advertisements to be linked to the merchant's data, documenting and keeping cooperation contracts for no less than five years.

It also ensures that payments are made through official payment methods in accordance with Central Bank instructions, in a way that promotes discipline and transparency in promotional content. He affirmed that the new legislation supports the state's policy toward strengthening Kuwait's position in the global digital economy, enhancing its competitiveness, and creating a more advanced and transparent digital business environment. He further stressed that the ministry in coordination with other relevant authorities, will work on implementing this law and ensuring organized transition for the digital market.

Traditions, culture, spiritual closeness bind Kazak, Kuwait ties

Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Yerzhan Yelekeyev

By Reaven D'Souza
Executive Managing Editor

Soon after presenting his credentials to H.H. the Amir Sheikh Mishal Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah the Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Yerzhan Yelekeyev spoke exclusively to The Times Kuwait and his first impressions about the country and about Kazakh-Kuwaiti relations in general. He also speeled out his aspirations to further strengthen ties between the two countries in all fields.

He began by describing his appointment as ambassador to Kuwait as "a great honor and responsibility to contribute to strengthening the bridges of friendship and cooperation between our peoples, opening new horizons for mutual prosperity and shared achievements".

What are your first impressions of Kuwait?

From my first days in Kuwait, I felt a deep spiritual and cultural closeness between our peoples, which inspires new joint initiatives.



The traditions of Kazakhstan and Kuwait are remarkably similar: respect for family, reverence for elders, legendary hospitality, and openness to the world. Kuwaitis greet with warmth and sincerity, which so reminds me of Kazakh hospitality; as if returning to one's native home. It's interesting to note linguistic parallels: our languages have common words rooted in Turkic and Arabic traditions, emphasizing historical ties. And the Holy Quran, as a shared spiritual foundation, unites us in the pursuit of peace, harmony, and progress, inspiring joint efforts to

build a better future.

Please tell us more about Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world and the leader of Central Asia, with a territory exceeding 2.7 million square kilometres, which is hundreds of times larger than Kuwait and comparable to the size of all of Western Europe. The population exceeds 20 million people, and our uniqueness lies in multinational unity: more than 130 ethnic groups live in peace and harmony, similar to how Kuwait harmoniously combines traditions and modernity in its society.

Over the past 30 years, Kazakhstan's population has grown from 16.7 million in 1995 to over 20 million in 2025, despite an initial decline in the 1990s due to post-Soviet migrations. This population growth reflects citizens' confidence in the country's future, thanks to political stability, economic development, and improved quality of life.

About 75 percent of Kazakhstan's territory is suitable for agriculture, positioning us as a global leader in this sector, and an ideal partner for Kuwait, striving for food security under 'Kuwait Vision 2035'. Additionally, our country is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, including UNESCO sites such as the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, which could form the basis for tourism exchange with Kuwait. An interesting fact: Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country, yet it is a key transit hub in Eurasia, with cargo transportation volumes exceeding 1 billion tons per year, opening vast opportunities for logistical partnership with Kuwait.

How would you characterize the economic situation in Kazakhstan today?

Kazakhstan is the dominant economy in Central Asia, generating nearly 60 percent of the regional GDP, and we demonstrate an inspiring example of sustainable growth. In 2024, GDP reached about US\$288 billion, and in 2025, further acceleration of 6-7 percent is expected, exceeding \$300 billion. According to IMF data, GDP per capita in 2025 will be \$14,770, and we plan to double GDP to 450 billion dollars by 2029, ensuring annual growth of 6 percent through innovation and knowledge.

For Kuwaiti investors, this opens inspiring opportunities: Kazakhstan attracts 75 percent of all investments in Central Asia, offering tax incentives, exemptions from customs duties, and grants in kind. According to the UN ESCAP report 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the



Pacific 2025', Kazakhstan attracted \$15.7 billion in new projects in 2024, which is 88 percent more than in 2023, accounting for 63 percent of all investments in the region, underscoring our role as a leader in attracting FDI.

I particularly want to highlight the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), a unique platform that makes Kazakhstan a financial hub for the entire region. The AIFC operates based on English law with an independent court, ensuring the highest reliability and investment protection, similar to leading global centres like Dubai or London. Its uniqueness lies in being the only centre in Central Asia with tax incentives for up to 50 years. A simple example: imagine a Kuwaiti investor wanting to invest in an Asian project. At the AIFC, they get familiar rules, low taxes, and quick registration, as if investing at home, but with access to vast Eurasian markets. This boosts trust and attracts billions of dollars.

Additionally, Kazakhstan is a global leader in the uranium industry. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Nuclear Association, the country consistently ranks first in the world in uranium production, accounting for around 40-43 percent of global output. Kazakhstan also remains among the countries with some of the largest confirmed uranium reserves, making it a key player in the global energy market.

To provide clean energy for our dynamically developing economy, we plan to build at least three nuclear power plants (NPP) for energy diversification, with investments in the first station around \$14-15 billion. According to

the President's Address of 8 September 2025, construction of the first NPP in the Almaty region has already begun in cooperation with Rosatom, and plans include building a second and third NPP to ensure stable economic growth.

Additionally, over the next five years, an additional 6.3 GW of green energy will be introduced, significantly increasing the share of renewable sources in the country's energy balance. Flagship projects for deep processing of hydrocarbon raw materials and development of clean coal technologies will also be implemented to maximize the use of coal reserves while considering environmental sustainability. Rating agencies highly evaluate our stability: Moody's upgraded the rating to Baa1 with a stable outlook in September 2025, emphasizing economic diversification and resilience to shocks; S&P affirms BBB- with a positive outlook, noting strong fiscal buffers. These investment-grade ratings confirm our reliability for global investors, including Kuwaiti.

What tasks face the Embassy in the near future?

The main mission of the Embassy is to inspire and implement comprehensive strengthening of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Kuwait, from political dialogue to trade, culture, and humanitarian ties. We focus on attracting investments, new projects, and cooperation in food security, energy, and logistics.

We actively support 'Kuwait Vision 2035', whose goals of reducing oil dependence and developing non-oil sectors, align with Kazakhstan's priorities outlined by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the Address of 8 September of launching an investment cycle and deep processing. The Embassy will promote joint projects in industry and technology, where Kuwaiti investments can bring mutual benefits. For example, Kuwait's Silk City project and Mubarak Al-Kabeer port perfectly complement Kazakhstan's transport corridors: cargo volumes through our territory exceeded 1 billion tons last year, and the Trans-Caspian route grew by 63 percent to 4.1 million tons in 2024.

The 'North-South' corridor opens direct access to Gulf markets, and the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, which Kuwait has joined, strengthens our role as a Eurasian hub. In digitalization, our goals again align: Kuwait is implementing smart technologies, while Kazakhstan is creating a Ministry of AI and Digital Development

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Albania, Kuwait aim to strengthen strategic ties

'Our Independence Day is a day of national unity, pride in our identity, and a tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors who preserved our freedom for future generations' – Ambassador Ilir Hysa

The Times Kuwait Report

On the occasion of Albania's Independence Day, Albanian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Ilir Hysa, reflected on his nation's historic milestones, marking 113 years of independence, 81 years since liberation, and 57 years of diplomatic ties with Kuwait.

He highlighted the enduring spirit of the Albanian people, their struggle to build a modern nation proud of its European heritage, and the significance of Independence Day as a symbol of national unity and pride.

Speaking at a press conference Ambassador Hysa also emphasized the strong and strategic partnership between Albania and Kuwait, saying the deep-rooted bilateral ties dates back to 1968 and have strengthened over the decades.

He underscored the mutual cooperation across economic, cultural, and educational fields, pointing to Kuwait's support through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and expressed optimism for expanded investments, tourism, and cultural exchange in the years ahead. Ambassador Hysa disclosed Albania celebrates Independence Day annually on November 28, commemorating the first raising of the national flag in 1912 and the country's emancipation from the Ottoman rule.

"It is a day of national unity, pride in our identity, and a tribute to the sacrifices of our ancestors who preserved our freedom for future

generations," he said.

The ambassador highlighted Albania's current stability and promising economy, pointing to the country's strategic location in Southeast Europe and its ambition for full integration into the European Union.

Regarding bilateral relations, Ambassador Hysa described Kuwait as not only a friendly nation but a strategic partner. He noted that ties between the two countries date back to 1968 and have strengthened significantly since the 1990s, evolving into a model of multi-faceted cooperation. Symbolic gestures, such as a street in Tirana named after Kuwait and a memorial monument commemorating the friendship between the two nations, underscore the enduring respect and connection between the peoples of both countries.

Additionally, a postage stamp featuring the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad was issued in Albania, honoring his contributions to global peace and development, particularly through support for Albania via the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Ambassador Hysa stressed that these initiatives reflect genuine appreciation for Kuwait's continued support. "The Kuwait Fund has financed essential infrastructure projects in Albania, directly improving services and stimulating economic growth. These projects stand as a testament to the spirit of cooperation between our nations," he said.



On economic collaboration, the ambassador highlighted mutual interest in expanding Kuwaiti investments in sectors such as tourism, real estate, renewable energy, and agriculture.

He noted that Albania offers attractive opportunities for Kuwaiti investors, supported by ongoing economic reforms and a favorable investment climate. Several economic forums between business leaders of both countries have been held in recent years, and further initiatives are planned to strengthen bilateral trade and

investment.

Ambassador Hysa also underscored Albania's growing appeal as a tourist destination, with its unique landscapes of mountains, lakes, and pristine beaches. Kuwaiti visitors, who do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days within six months, form an important segment of this tourism.

Cultural and educational exchange remains a priority. The ambassador highlighted ongoing efforts to expand academic programs, offering opportunities for Kuwaiti students in Albania and for Albanian students in Kuwait. He emphasized that cultural exchange fosters deep mutual understanding between nations.

Addressing the Albanian community in Kuwait, Ambassador Hysa praised their professional contributions and role in strengthening ties between the two countries. Through the embassy, he stated, efforts continue to enhance cooperation, support the diaspora, and facilitate investment and travel between Kuwait and Albania.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Hysa reflected on the 57-year-long friendship and strategic partnership between Albania and Kuwait. "Our celebration of Albania's independence is also a celebration of the strong bond we share with Kuwait."

"We look forward to a future of closer cooperation, shared projects, and greater prosperity for both our peoples," he said.

United Indian School marks 40 years of excellence with Ruby Jubilee celebrations



The United Indian School (UIS), Abbasiya, on Nov 14, 2025, celebrated its Ruby Jubilee, commemorating four decades of educational excellence.

Under the theme "UIS@40: A Legacy of Learning. A Future of Possibilities," the event was held at Al-Mansouriya Stadium together with dignitaries, staff, students, and parents to honor the school's lasting commitment to knowledge, values, and holistic development.

The celebrations began at 4:30 pm with a traditional Thalappoli procession, welcoming chief guests and distinguished personalities, including Indian Member of Parliament N. K. Premachandran; Kerala Minister for Forests and Wildlife Protection A. K. Saseendran; Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Paramita Tripathi; MLAs Pramod Narayan and Thomas K. Thomas; renowned Malayalam film director Blessy Ipe Thomas; UIS sponsors, founders, former principals, and leaders of Indian associations and educational institutions in Kuwait.

Principal Radhakrishnan C delivered the welcome address, highlighting UIS's 40-year journey of visionary leadership and paying tribute to Founder Chairman late Thomas

Chandy, Former Principal and Director Mrs. Susan Roy, and Chairperson Mrs. Mary Chandy.

He noted that the event's theme, "The garden of legacy: Rooted in resilience, fruited through transilience," reflected the school's enduring spirit. Emphasizing collaboration, he acknowledged the teachers, students, and staff for creating a program rich in choreography, scripting, design, and direction. The school Principal also highlighted UIS's focus on integrating Artificial Intelligence to enhance the teaching-learning process.

Vice-Chairperson Dr. Betty Chandy conveyed heartfelt gratitude, reflecting on the school's founding in 1985 by her father, late Thomas Chandy, and praising the dedication of principals, teachers, and staff. She acknowledged UIS's swift adaptation during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring uninterrupted learning, and emphasized nurturing values and human connection within the school community.

Ambassador Paramita Tripathi congratulated UIS on its Ruby Jubilee and praised the school's role in promoting Indian education abroad. Chief Guest N. K. Premachandran

described education as a "garden of curiosity," encouraging students to dream boldly while upholding strong values.

MLA Pramod Narayan inspired students through stories of perseverance, and Blessy Ipe Thomas lauded the school's 40-year journey as a living testament to Late Thomas Chandy's vision and dedication.

The Ruby Jubilee commemorative edition of the school magazine, Saga of Knowledge: From Root to Radiance, was unveiled by A. K. Saseendran and presented by Chief Editor Mrs. Divya Shaji and student editors Master Johan Jubin and Ms. Anns P. Abraham, with the first copy handed to Vice Chairperson Mrs. Tessa Chandy. The event included felicitations for distinguished personalities, including Mrs. Susan Roy and Former Administrative Manager Adv. P. John Thomas, recognizing their pioneering service. Staff members completing 30 and 25 years of service were also honored. Academic excellence was celebrated with awards for top performers in SSE and SSCE examinations, along with Academic Proficiency Awards across various classes.

UIS also received the Best School Award

at IIMUN Kuwait 2025 for achievements in debating, public speaking, and leadership.

Sports accomplishments at the 27th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Athletic Meet and Tournaments (2025-2026) were recognized, with students winning medals in track, relay, swimming, football, volleyball, and basketball across U-14, U-17, and U-19 categories.

The Cultural Program, "The garden of legacy – honoring a visionary," showcased students from LKG to Grade XII, bringing the stage alive with performances that celebrated every child's potential.

The program paid tribute to late Thomas Chandy, Mrs. Susan Roy, Principal Radhakrishnan C, and Chairperson Mary Chandy, highlighting forty years of vision, dedication, and compassion.

The celebrations concluded with a Vote of Thanks by School Captain Dannah Rachel Sudheer, followed by the United Indian School Anthem, reinforcing unity, pride, and the spirit of excellence. The Ruby Jubilee stood as a magnificent tribute to 40 years of holistic development, honoring UIS's legacy and inspiring future generations.



Tajikistan celebrates anniversary of Independence Day

The Times Kuwait Report

Embassy of Tajikistan held a reception at its premises last week to mark the 34th anniversary of Tajik independence. The event was attended by Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Subaih Al-Mukhaizim, members of the diplomatic corps and distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydov said Kuwait is one of Tajikistan's most important partners in the Middle East and globally, while praising the continuous support of the Kuwaiti leadership in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation across various fields.

"We share with Kuwait three decades of brotherly ties and mutual respect. Since Kuwait's early recognition of Tajikistan's independence in 1991, we have viewed it as a trusted partner and a sincere friend," said the Tajik ambassador. He noted that 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, emphasizing that these

three decades have witnessed steady growth in cooperation, particularly in development, humanitarian work, and regional and international affairs.

Ambassador Zubaydov expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, and Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya for their efforts and continued support in strengthening ties between the two nations.

The ambassador highlighted that since Tajikistan declared independence in 1991, the country has achieved significant progress under the leadership of President Emomali Rahmon. He pointed out that the government has adopted major programs and strategies over the years, including the National Development Strategy until 2030, which is built on four key pillars: energy, communications, food security, and industry.

The Tajik envoy added that Tajikistan is working to strengthen its presence on the international stage through initiatives related to water, climate, the environment, artificial intelligence, and regional integration. He also highlighted Tajikistan's 'open-

door policy' since independence, which has helped expand its network of foreign relations, noting that Kuwait was among the first countries to support and engage with Tajikistan.

He praised the vital role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in supporting important infrastructure and social projects in Tajikistan, stressing that these contributions "reflect the depth of our brotherly relations and support the development path

of our country." Concluding his remarks, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps affirmed that Tajikistan, under the leadership of President Emomali Rahmon, looks forward to further strengthening cooperation with Kuwait in developmental, economic, and humanitarian fields. "We are confident," he said, "that our joint efforts will elevate the relations between our two friendly nations to broader horizons that serve the interests of both peoples."

PAM inspects adherence to HSS in industries

Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) said it conducted over 1,000 inspection visits to industrial establishments across Kuwait to evaluate adherence to occupational health and safety standards (HSS).

The inspections identified more than 500 violations, including lack of personal protective equipment, insufficient emergency and evacuation systems, and failure to carry out preventive maintenance on machinery and equipment. Employees were also found to be deployed at locations other than those officially registered with PAM, which is deemed a direct breach of prevailing labor regulations. Appropriate legal actions were initiated against the violators in line with established procedures.

PAM explained that the National Center for Occupational Health and Safety has intensified its campaigns in recent weeks as part of ongoing efforts to promote a safe workplace environment and ensure industrial facilities meet professional safety standards. The authority affirmed that inspections will continue as scheduled to raise compliance levels across the industrial sector, and emphasized its commitment to safeguarding the well-being of workers, enhancing workplace conditions, and supporting productivity. The authority urged business owners to fully adhere to occupational health and safety requirements and to cooperate with inspection teams to ensure worker safety and the smooth operation of industrial establishments.

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Vietnamese premier highlights growing trade with Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh during his recent visit to Kuwait visited the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, where he delivered a lecture on the topic titled, 'Vietnam's Foreign Policy and its Vision for Vietnam-Kuwait Relations.'

In his address to the attending ambassadors, diplomats, and academics, the Vietnamese premier highlighted the growing level of bilateral trade, noting that Kuwait is Vietnam's largest trading partner in the Middle East, with bilateral trade reaching US\$7.3 billion. The Prime Minister noted major joint initiatives such as the Nghi Son Refinery and ongoing Kuwaiti investments in Vietnam.

He revealed that both countries have agreed to elevate their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership encompassing nine major sectors, ranging from political cooperation and non-traditional security to science, technology, innovation, energy, oil and gas, investment, food security, halal industries, cultural and educational

exchange, and coordination on regional and international issues.

The Prime Minister stressed that Vietnam views Kuwait as a loyal friend and a reliable partner, explaining that both nations share a commitment to peace, independence, and sustainable development. He recalled moments in history where Vietnam and Kuwait stood by each other during difficult circumstances, noting that wars "produce no true winners" and that their heavy human and material costs reinforce the importance of peace.

These shared principles, he said, have strengthened the bond between Hanoi and Kuwait and paved the way to deepen cooperation in energy, investment, education, and scientific and technological advancement. Describing his visit as a historic occasion, the premier said it marked the first high-level Vietnamese delegation to Kuwait in 16 years and coincided with preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

He emphasized that Kuwait was the first country in the Middle East to establish diplomatic

ties with Vietnam in 1976 and one of the earliest to adopt a strategic partnership framework. He went on to say, the agreement that was reached last March to further elevate the relationship, reflects the confidence and ambition shared by both sides.

The Prime Minister praised the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, describing it as a distinguished academic institution that has contributed to the training of generations of diplomats. He expressed Vietnam's desire to expand cooperation under the existing memorandum of understanding and commended the institute for preserving its architectural and cultural character for more than eight decades, making it a landmark of Kuwait's diplomatic history.

Prime Minister Chinh also highlighted Kuwait's long-standing humanitarian role, recalling the words of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who emphasized the world's yearning for peace and justice. He said these values are deeply embedded in the foundation of Kuwait-Vietnam relations. He further revealed that Kuwait had donated 600,000 COVID-19

vaccine doses to Vietnam during the pandemic, describing the gesture as "saving lives" and a true demonstration of solidarity during the global crisis. Turning to global affairs, Premier Chinh outlined Vietnam's perspective on the rapidly changing international landscape. He said the 21st century is characterized by complex challenges that intertwine opportunities with risks, from conflict and peace negotiations to scientific and technological transformation.

He stressed the continued geopolitical significance of the Middle East as a vital hub for global energy supply, trade routes, and a crossroads of major civilizations. He also pointed to rising non-traditional security threats, including issues related to energy, food, and water, as well as climate change, cyberattacks, and growing competition in advanced technologies, space exploration, and deep-sea resources.

He underscored the importance of multilateralism, dialogue, trust, and adherence to international law, affirming that cooperation remains the surest path to peace, stability, and shared prosperity.

France, DDI explore potential of AI in healthcare on World Diabetes Day

The future of France-Kuwait healthcare collaboration is very promising, with Kuwait well-positioned to achieve significant improvements in healthcare quality in the coming years - Dr. Remy Rémi Thiolet, Head of International Affairs at Gustave Roussy

Embassy of France, in partnership with the Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) hosted a panel discussion on World Diabetes Day under the theme 'Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare: Smarter Care'. The event explored the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in medical research, patient care, and healthcare innovation.

The discussion was attended by DDI Acting Director-General Dr. Faisal Hamad Al-Rifai, Head of Surgery at Jaber Hospital Dr. Suleiman Al-Muzaydi, Professor at the European Genomics Institute for Diabetes, University of Lille, Dr. Amina Khamis, Senior Researcher at DDI, Dr. Fawaz Zaid, and Radiologist and CEO of Spimed-AI in Paris, Dr. Jean-François Paul, along with a broad gathering of doctors, researchers, academics, and private healthcare representatives.

In his address to the gathering, Ambassador of France H.E. Olivier Gauvin praised the distinguished health partnership between France and Kuwait. Highlighting French institutions that care for Kuwaiti patients, including Gustave Roussy Institute, Institut Curie, Institut Pasteur, Rothschild Foundation Hospital, and the AlmaViva Group, he noted that five memoranda of understanding were signed in Paris during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad's recent visit to France.

The French envoy praised his country's role as a European hub for AI technology and its leadership in establishing global AI standards, recalling the AI Summit in Paris held in February this year. Quoting French President Emmanuel Macron, the ambassador added: "In France, we believe in innovation, acceleration, and investment, but we also want trustworthy AI, that rebuilds unity within the international community." He stressed



that the discussions at DDI are part of a series of conferences that aim to deepen AI's societal impact, supporting economic progress and intergenerational development. Previous sessions addressed AI in economics, law, and cybersecurity, bringing together French and Kuwaiti experts to strengthen partnerships and foster future collaboration. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of DDI as a leading center in diabetes research and a key partner in France-Kuwait healthcare collaboration, expressing gratitude to Dr. Al-Rifai for his efforts in supporting bilateral health initiatives.

For his part, Dr. Faisal Al-Rifai praised the collaboration with the French Embassy and reaffirmed DDI's commitment to advancing healthcare through innovation and international partnerships. "At DDI, we focus on linking cutting-edge research with real medical needs. Partnerships with global leaders like France open new horizons

for multidisciplinary collaboration, ensuring Kuwait remains at the forefront of healthcare innovation. Integrating AI into clinical practice is not just a technological advancement—it is a valuable opportunity to improve patient outcomes, particularly for diabetes patients," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior researcher at DDI, Dr. Zaid, highlighted AI's essential role in advancing healthcare, particularly in diabetes and obesity research, noting, "AI is now present in all fields, not just healthcare, enabling us to analyze large datasets with unprecedented precision. For instance, Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices are a key tool generating data that AI can efficiently analyze to improve diagnosis and treatment."

Pointing out that Kuwait ranks among the countries with the highest prevalence of diabetes globally, he emphasized the ongoing collaborations between DDI and international

partners, including the French Embassy, helps to exchange expertise and advance treatment technologies for diabetes and other chronic diseases. Additional sessions at the event focused on cardiovascular disease and AI applications in diagnosis and treatment.

In his address at the event, Dr. Remy Rémi Thiolet, head of International Affairs at Gustave Roussy, a leading European cancer research and treatment institution, stressed the importance of technological advances in healthcare, particularly in cancer treatment, noting that progress in imaging, laboratory research, and diagnostics is a global priority. He highlighted Gustave Roussy's €140 million annual investment in medical innovation and its integrated medical campus, including a cancer hospital, startup incubators, and international partnerships.

Among the innovations, he cited 3D-printed candy containing prescribed medication, allowing children to receive treatment in a palatable form rather than painful injections or pills. He also highlighted advances in robotic surgery, imagining a future where surgical devices in Kuwait could be operated remotely by French experts.

On Kuwait's healthcare infrastructure, he noted: "Medical standards in Kuwait are advanced, with highly trained oncologists. Previous challenges were largely related to infrastructure and equipment, but the situation is transforming with the opening of the new Kuwait Cancer Center (KCC), fully equipped to the highest standards."

Dr. Thiolet concluded by saying the future of France-Kuwait healthcare collaboration is very promising, with Kuwait well-positioned to achieve significant improvements in healthcare quality in the coming years.

Embassy of Brazil celebrates country's Independence Day



The Times Kuwait Report

Embassy of Brazil hosted a reception last week to mark the 203rd anniversary of Brazil's independence. Attending the event as guest of honor was Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister for American Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Nawaf Abdulatif Al-Ahmad, along with members of the diplomatic corps and special invitees.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Brazil H.E. Rodrigo d'Araujo Gabsch, hailed Brazilian-Kuwaiti relations, which he said stands as a model of fruitful partnership and solid friendship. He also highlighted the remarkable progress the two countries continue to achieve, particularly in the field of energy, food security, and trade.

He added that Brazil remains a "trusted

partner" for Kuwait in both food and energy security, noting that the two sides are advancing negotiations on several bilateral agreements that will modernize the legal framework governing their relations and further strengthen decades-long ties. He also pointed out that this year marks an important milestone as both nations celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of their embassies.

Ambassador Gabsch stressed that this enduring journey of diplomatic ties is a "tribute of loyalty and appreciation to all diplomats and leaders who helped lay the foundations of the relationship, which today stands as a model of productive cooperation and deep friendship".

Elaborating on Brazilian Independence Day, the envoy narrated the pivotal episode of 1822, when Prince Pedro de Bragança rejected Lisbon's orders to dismantle the Brazilian

Regency and reduce Brazil once more to colonial status. Instead, Pedro declared independence, marking a turning point that remains a defining symbol of Brazil's sovereignty.

Transitioning to the present day, the Ambassador highlighted Brazil's active diplomatic agenda in 2025. Calling it "one of the busiest years in recent Brazilian diplomacy," he noted that earlier this year, Brazil chaired and hosted the BRICS Summit at Rio de Janeiro. With participation of the group's expanded membership of 10 full members and 11 partners, discussions spanned global development, UN reform, Palestinian rights, climate financing, and multilateral cooperation. The bloc now represents one-third of the world's landmass and nearly half of global GDP.

He added that Brazil is currently hosting another major international event: the United

Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, deep in the Amazon.

By choosing this location, Brazilian President Lula da Silva ensured that global policymakers are immersed in the very environment central to global climate stability.

The ambassador also underscored Brazil's efforts to build consensus on climate finance, just energy transition, and the human dimensions of climate action. Among the innovative initiatives launched is the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, a landmark conservation fund to which Brazil has already pledged US\$1 billion. "Climate change is not only an environmental issue; it is a test of international unity," he said, emphasizing that a successful COP30 would reaffirm the strength of multilateralism, a principle which he noted Kuwait also champions.

Traditions, culture, spiritual closeness bind Kazak, Kuwait ties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

for full digitalization in three years through 'Digital Qazaqstan'. The Embassy will facilitate experience exchange in smart cities and AI, opening new horizons for business.

What future do you see for bilateral relations between Kazakhstan and Kuwait?

I see a bright, inspiring future where Kazakhstan and Kuwait become strategic partners, complementing each other for shared prosperity. The potential is enormous: in investments, where Kazakhstan's vast lands (75% suitable for agriculture) are ideal for Kuwaiti investments in food security. With Kuwait importing almost all its food, we can become a reliable supplier.

As noted by President Tokayev, we successfully export wheat to Asia, including recent shipments to Vietnam, and are ready to expand agricultural exports to Kuwait and other GCC countries, ensuring stable supplies of grain, meat, and other goods for their markets.

The President also emphasized in his speech on 14 November 2024 at the Second Forum of Agricultural Workers the importance of promoting the national brand 'Qazaq Organic Food', noting that Kazakhstan has the potential to secure a strong position in the global organic products market. For Kuwait, this opens an additional avenue for cooperation, creating opportunities for stable imports of high-quality organic products from Kazakhstan. This aligns with Kuwait's strategic interest in securing high-quality sustainable food supplies.

We offer not only exports but also joint projects: Kuwaiti businesses can invest in large agro-farms and greenhouses in Kazakhstan, owning them to ensure stable supplies. Additionally, Kazakhstan is implementing a series of greenhouse construction projects, including complexes up to 500 hectares, which will become some of the largest in the world, oriented toward vegetable exports, and we invite Kuwaiti partners to participate in such

initiatives for joint development. Renewable energy is another direction: both countries are diversifying from oil, and Kazakhstan offers green technologies for Kuwaiti funds, including through the AIFC as a reliable hub. We will elevate relations to a new level, creating thousands of jobs, innovations, and cultural exchange to inspire future generations. Analysis shows that our cooperation could bring 10-15 percent growth for Kuwaiti investors in agriculture and energy, with ROI above the regional average thanks to our reserves and stability.

You are not a career diplomat but have extensive experience in business and investments. How does this affect your work as an ambassador?

My background in business and investments perfectly complements the diplomatic role, especially in an era when economic and investment diplomacy is becoming a new global trend. In the modern world, diplomacy goes beyond traditional political negotiations, it increasingly focuses on creating economic ties, attracting investments, and stimulating trade, which directly contributes to the prosperity of peoples. This is important because sustainable relations between countries are built not only on cultural and political connections but also on mutually beneficial economic projects that ensure stability and growth.

As an ambassador with investment experience, I can effectively contribute to this: use my knowledge to identify promising sectors for cooperation, such as energy, agriculture, and technology, facilitate negotiations between the businesses of the two countries, and promote Kazakhstan as a reliable partner for Kuwaiti investors. This approach has already proven effective in global practice, where many countries appoint ambassadors with business experience to strengthen economic diplomacy, and I am confident it will yield real results in strengthening ties between Kazakhstan and Kuwait.

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‘Layers of Time’ exhibition highlights Kuwait-Polish archeological cooperation

The Times Kuwait Report

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw (PCMA UW), organized a special exhibition highlighting decades of Polish archaeological research in Kuwait.

The event was held in partnership with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL), which serves as the principal host for the ongoing research activities carried out by Polish missions in the country.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the prestigious Bene Merito honorary distinction to renowned Polish archaeologist Dr. Agnieszka Pieńkowska.

The award, bestowed by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to enhancing Poland's standing and influence on

the international stage.

Dr. Pieńkowska currently leads the Failaka Archaeological Research Project, a role she has held since 2013, and serves as Deputy Head of the As-Sabbiya Archaeological Project—a position she has occupied since 2009. Her long-standing work has been instrumental in deepening scientific understanding of Kuwait's ancient cultural heritage. The exhibition's opening featured welcoming remarks by Professor Piotr Bieliński, Director of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw and Head of the Polish archaeological mission in Kuwait. He was joined by Dr. Mohamed Al-Jassar, Secretary-General of NCCAL, who reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to supporting international archaeological collaboration.

His Excellency Michał Cholewa, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the State of Kuwait, also addressed attendees, emphasizing the strength of Polish-Kuwaiti cultural cooperation

and the shared dedication to preserving historical heritage. The event celebrated not only the achievements of Polish researchers but also the enduring partnership between Kuwait and Poland in the field of archaeology and cultural preservation.

“Layers of Time: Kuwaiti-Polish Archaeological Research in Northern Kuwait and on Failaka Island” is a photographic exhibition that brings to life the rich results of nearly two decades of joint archaeological work undertaken by the Kuwaiti-Polish Archaeological Mission.

Established in 2007, the mission is a collaborative effort between Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw (PCMA UW).

The exhibition explores the distinctive archaeological landscapes of northern Kuwait and Failaka Island—areas that for thousands of years served as meeting points for long-distance trade,

maritime activity, and diverse cultural traditions. Through detailed photographic documentation, the display reflects how these regions once formed dynamic crossroads linking Mesopotamia with wider networks across the ancient world. Based on extensive fieldwork conducted by the joint mission, the exhibition showcases a spectrum of significant discoveries. These include a Chalcolithic settlement, evidence of Bronze Age and Islamic-period mobile communities on the mainland, and well-preserved remains illustrating pre-modern life on Failaka Island.

Together, these findings provide a nuanced understanding of human settlement and activity in what is now Kuwait, revealing patterns of daily craftsmanship, architectural evolution, and interactions that extended far beyond the region's shores. The exhibition ultimately offers visitors a layered narrative of Kuwait's past—one shaped by movement, exchange, and enduring cultural connections.

Thailand unveils new luxury vision in Kuwait: ‘Healing Is the New Luxury’ takes center stage



The Times Kuwait Report

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) unveiled its new global campaign, “Unforgettable Experiences — Healing is the New Luxury,” at the heart of the third Middle East Luxury Trade Meet (MLTM) 2025, which opened in Kuwait City on 24 November. The Kuwait edition of the annual roadshow served as a strategic platform to introduce Thailand's renewed emphasis on luxury and wellness tourism, underscoring a shift toward meaningful and emotionally restorative travel experiences.

Speaking at the event, TAT Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool said the campaign reflects Thailand's commitment to value over volume, balanced and inclusive tourism, and long-term sustainability. She noted that global travelers increasingly seek experiences that restore well-being, deepen cultural connection, and offer meaningful engagement.

Kuwaiti travelers, she added, continue to place high value on privacy, comfort, wellness, family-friendly facilities, and personalized service. “TAT is proud to present a campaign that speaks to what travelers value most today,” she said.

“Thailand offers world-class wellness, serene natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, exceptional gastronomy, and the warm hospitality of the Thai people — all designed so every visitor returns home feeling renewed, inspired, and genuinely

cared for.” The Kuwait edition of MLTM 2025, held in partnership with Gulf Air, brought together 18 Thai luxury sellers and more than 70 Kuwaiti buyers for free-flowing business-matching sessions, market briefings, and networking activities.

The evening began with remarks by Uraiwan Courtaud, Minister Counsellor at the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuwait, followed by presentations from Ms. Thapanee and Shams Saleh Aldoseri, Country Manager of Gulf Air Kuwait. The program supported TAT's goal of strengthening partnerships, co-developing new products, and expanding opportunities for high-value tourism growth between the two countries.

Thailand continues to see strong demand from the Kuwaiti market. In 2024, arrivals reached 90,949, a 15 per cent increase compared to the previous year, generating 9.67 billion Baht in revenue, up approximately 36 per cent year-on-year.

The surge is driven by Kuwaitis' preference for Thailand's internationally accredited medical services and leading hospitals with Arabic-speaking staff, as well as private beach resorts offering women-only facilities and exclusive sea access.

For the period from 1 January to 30 November 2025, Thailand expects around 81,697 Kuwaiti visitors, with a year-end target of 90,000 travelers generating roughly 7.15 billion Baht. Kuwaiti tourists typically stay for around 16 days, favoring five-star hotels or private villas equipped with halal-certified kitchens, prayer

rooms, and dedicated Arabic-speaking service.

Connectivity also continues to underpin demand, with Kuwait Airways operating direct flights between Kuwait and Bangkok at seven frequencies per week in the summer and 11 per week in the winter, providing robust year-round travel potential.

The next stop of MLTM 2025 is scheduled for 26 November in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. The roadshow has expanded significantly since its debut in Doha in 2023, growing to include Dubai and Doha in 2024 and now extending to Kuwait and Bahrain in its 2025 edition.

Beyond MLTM, TAT maintains a strong presence across the Middle East through a series of marketing initiatives, including Qatar Travel Mart 2025 in Doha, AirArabia's Sharjah-Krabi inaugural flight welcome on 28 November 2025, the TAT-Expedia Joint Digital Campaign 2025, and a joint sales promotion with Dnata travel group covering the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Oman from November 2025 to March 2026.

The agency will also host the Amazing Thailand Networking Dinner 2025 in Riyadh on 2 December 2025, where the “Healing is the New Luxury” campaign will be introduced to the Saudi market. Through these initiatives, Thailand is positioning itself as a leading destination for luxury and wellness tourism in the Gulf, offering experiences that combine relaxation, cultural depth, and emotional rejuvenation for high-value travelers.

New regulations streamline entry, exit, residency for foreigners

Kuwait has issued new executive regulations on the residence of foreign nationals, streamlining entry, residency, and employment procedures while maintaining legal compliance. The 41-article framework clarifies visa categories, fees, and conditions, including long-term residency, family sponsorship, and domestic worker limits, aiming to modernize the system and enhance transparency, fairness, and regulatory efficiency.

The Times Kuwait Report

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah has issued Ministerial Resolution No. 2249 of 2025, detailing the Executive Regulations of the Law on the Residence of Foreigners.

The resolution represents a comprehensive framework aimed at streamlining entry, residency, and employment procedures for foreign nationals while maintaining compliance with Kuwait's legal and regulatory standards.

The resolution, which consists of 41 articles, will take effect one month after its publication in the official gazette and will set out clear procedures for entry, exit, and residency for foreign nationals in Kuwait.

Entry and Exit: Under the new regulations, a foreigner may not enter or leave Kuwait without a valid passport or equivalent travel document issued by their home country or a recognized authority, which must be presented at the port of entry, which includes Kuwait International Airport, Al-Abdali, Al-Salmi, Al-Nuwaiseeb, North and South Ahmadi Ports, Shuaiba, Shuwaikh, Al-Zour, Doha, the Fourth Refinery Port, and Umm Al-Maradim.

Foreigners must hold a valid entry visa issued by the General Directorate of Residency Affairs, or by a competent Kuwaiti authority abroad. Nationals of countries granted exemptions through ministerial decrees, based on reciprocity, may enter without a visa.

The regulations define multiple types of entry visas for residency. These include visas for government and private sector employment, domestic workers aged 21 to 60, commercial or industrial activity, joining family members, study, foreign investment, temporary government contracts, and temporary work in the oil sector.

Each visa category specifies eligibility conditions and the competent authority responsible for issuance. Exceptions to certain conditions may be granted by the relevant minister in accordance with existing laws.

Conditions and Fees: The new regulations set detailed conditions and fees for entry visas, visit permits, and residency in Kuwait. Article 39 of the regulation outlines the fees for various types of visas and associated services provided by the General Directorate of Residence Affairs.

A uniform fee of KD10 per month applies to a broad spectrum of entry visas, including work visas for the government and private sectors, domestic workers, business and industrial activities, family reunification, student visas, foreign investors, temporary government contracts, and temporary work in the oil sector.

The same monthly fee also applies to different types of visit visas, ranging from government, business, family, and private visits to medical, multiple-entry, tourist, and cultural or sports-related visits. Fees for passage, transport vehicle drivers, and emergency entry visas are similarly set at KD10 per month.

Residence permits carry varied fees depending on the category. Government and private sector workers, as well as foreign students and previously illegal residents who have regularized their status, are required to pay KD20 annually.

Domestic workers and foreign widows or divorcees with children pay KD10, while foreign business partners, investors, and property owners are charged KD50 per year. Individuals

sponsoring themselves face a higher fee of KD500 per year.

Family reunification fees also vary according to the relationship and category. Spouses and children of government or private sector workers and students are charged KD20, while in the case of spouses and children of foreign business partners, property owners, and religious figures, the fee rises to KD40.

Residents who sponsor themselves are subject to KD100, while family reunification for relatives beyond spouses and children carries a fee of 300 dinars. Special considerations are made for children of Kuwaiti citizens acquired through maternal naturalization, spouses of citizens, and foreign children of Kuwaiti nationals.

Temporary stay, departure notices, and visit extensions carry additional fees, ranging from

university and higher-education faculty; teachers, mentors, social workers and psychologists in the public sector; engineers; mosque imams, preachers, muezzins and Quran memorizers; employees of the Ministry of Health and military authorities, including pharmacists, nurses, paramedics and other medical technicians; journalists and correspondents with international news agencies; government-affiliated sports players and coaches; and workers responsible for preparing and burying the deceased.

Deportation: The regulations also outline circumstances for administrative deportation. Article 38 permits deportation even with valid residency if the foreigner has no lawful income, works for another employer without official authorization, or if the Interior Minister deems

Residence Affairs.

- **Domestic Workers:** Domestic workers and those in similar employment categories are eligible to convert their visit visas into residence permits.
- **Family or Tourist Visits:** Individuals who arrived on a family visit or tourist visa may obtain residency to join family members legally residing in Kuwait.
- **Work Entry Visa Holders Abroad:** People who entered Kuwait under a work entry visa and started the residency process but had to leave the country temporarily for no more than one month may convert their visa upon return.
- Additional cases may be considered at the discretion of the Director General of the General Administration of Residence Affairs.

The regulations allow visit visas to be extended for up to three months at a time, not exceeding a total of one year. Renewal applications must be submitted before expiry, and visitors are required to leave the country once their visa lapses unless an extension is granted.

Long-term visas: Article 7 sets out conditions for long-term residency permits. Ordinary residency may be issued for up to five years. A ten-year residency may be granted to foreign children of Kuwaiti citizens, expatriates who own property in Kuwait, and other categories determined by the Interior Minister. Foreign investors governed by Law No. 116 of 2013 may receive residency for up to fifteen years subject to Cabinet guidelines.

Miscellaneous regulations: All residency permits require valid health insurance, and the period granted cannot exceed the duration of the insurance policy.

The Executive Regulations also clarify that residency duration is not tied to passport validity. Applicants must ensure their passport is valid for at least six months at the time of application, and residency ends when its purpose ends, even if its official term has not yet expired. Residency may be transferred between employers or changed from one category to another according to established procedures.

Parents of newborns in Kuwait have four months from the date of birth to present a passport or travel document to the Residence Affairs Department in order to obtain residency for the child or arrange for departure.

Number of domestic workers: The regulations further define the number of domestic workers allowed per household. Families of six members or fewer may employ up to three domestic workers. Those with more than six members may hire four, and families exceeding nine members may employ up to five. Additional workers may be approved for households with family members with disabilities, upon submission of official documentation.

For specific categories listed in earlier articles, the limit is two domestic workers. In all cases, the Director General retains the authority to approve additional hires based on family size, age distribution, housing type, income and other relevant considerations.

These comprehensive new regulations reflect Kuwait's efforts to modernize its residency system, ensure transparency, and support demographic stability while preserving humanitarian and social considerations.



five to ten dinars per month depending on the category. Several categories are exempted from certain fees, including spouses of citizens, parents of Kuwaiti children, and domestic workers sponsored by Kuwaiti families.

The executive regulations aim to standardize the residency and visa process, ensuring clarity, efficiency, and fairness in line with Kuwait's broader immigration policies. The new system is expected to streamline procedures for foreigners while maintaining regulatory compliance across all sectors.

Minimum salary requirement: Under Article 22, an expatriate who wants to bring his family to stay with him in Kuwait must have a minimum monthly salary of KD800. The salary is assessed based on the profession tied to the individual's residency permit. However, the Director General of the General Department of Residence Affairs may grant exceptions for applicants already in Kuwait, children under five born abroad to resident parents, or those born within the country.

Nine professional categories are exempt from this salary requirement, provided their job aligns with their academic qualifications. These include legal researchers in the government sector;

deportation necessary for public interest, security or morals. Deportation may also occur upon conviction for felonies, crimes of dishonesty, or in cases involving multiple criminal judgments within a five-year period.

Visit visa conversion to residence permit: Article 16 of the new regulations clarifies the circumstances under which a visit visa may be converted into a regular residence permit. The measure aims to facilitate legal residency for certain categories of visitors while ensuring compliance with the country's immigration policies. This move is expected to streamline residency procedures for eligible visitors, ensuring smoother integration into Kuwait's workforce and society.

The five cases in which a visit visa can be converted include:

- **Government Visitors:** Individuals who arrive on a government visit visa to work with state ministries, public bodies, or public institutions may convert their visa, provided they hold a university degree or possess technical qualifications. Approval must be granted by the Director-General of the General Administration of

Korean Food Festival celebrates cuisine, culture, connections



The Times Kuwait Report

Korean Embassy in Kuwait celebrated the ninth edition of its annual Korean Food Festival, an event that drew a vibrant turnout of citizens, residents, and Korean culture enthusiasts eager to enjoy an array of traditional dishes and cultural experiences.

Speaking at the event, Chargé d'Affaires Kim Hye-Jin affirmed that the presence of Korean culture in Kuwait is stronger than ever, noting that Korean cuisine has become an enticing bridge connecting the Korean and Kuwaiti

people and reflecting the depth of their growing relationship.

She also revealed that Kuwait is now one of the leading countries in the region where Korean food has gained remarkable popularity. Korean products and snacks have become part of daily food choices, she said, citing locally famous items such as Banana Kick and the fiery Buldak Hot Chicken Flavor Ramen—now even found in traditional markets like Mubarakia. She also pointed to the spread of modern restaurants offering contemporary Korean fusion dishes.

This rising demand, Ms. Hye-Jin added, reflects the strong cultural affinity between Korea and Kuwait and Korea, with the influence of Korean culture extending far beyond cuisine to encompass music, drama, and fashion. She noted the impact of Korean entertainment within Kuwait, including the culinary buzz created by the popular South Korean television series 'Bon Appétit, Your Majesty'.

Festival visitors enjoyed a full cultural immersion—sampling favorites such as tteokbokki, bibimbap, and Korean barbecue, and even trying the iconic dalgona candy made

famous by Squid Game. Kim described it as, "more than a dessert—it's a fun and challenging experience in its own right."

She reiterated the strength of Korean-Kuwaiti relations, expressing deep appreciation for the enthusiastic support the Kuwaiti public continues to show for Korean cultural events.

"We are grateful to the people and institutions of Kuwait," she said. "Our relationship is not only political or economic, but cultural and human. Korean food has become a bridge between hearts—and we are proud to see this bridge grow stronger with every passing year in Kuwait."



Kuwait, UK celebrate Scholarship and Cultural Partnership

By Shouq AlMulla
Special to The Times Kuwait

The 27th Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Book Prize was held this week at SOAS University of London, reaffirming the award's position as one of the most respected recognitions of English-language scholarship on the Middle East.

This year's winner, Prophet of Reason by Dr. Peter Hill, was selected by an independent judging panel chaired by Ambassador Frances Guy — two titles — Toiling for Oil by Touraj Atabaki and Companionship and Virtue in Classical Sufism by Jason Welle were named runners-up for their important contributions to the field. (Ambassador Frances Guy is a British former diplomat and current Chief Executive of Scotland's International Development Alliance).

Hill's winning work was praised for its extensive archival research and its vivid portrayal of Mikhail Mishaqa, whose life reflects the intersections of science, religion, and political transformation in the modern Middle East.

Speaking to KUNA, Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK, Bader Al-Munaikh, highlighted the award's significance, noting that it reflects Kuwait's long-standing commitment to culture, intellectual exchange, and the advancement of deeper Kuwaiti-British cooperation in education and research. He emphasized that the partnership with SOAS has shaped generations of scholars

and remains central to the award's success. Representing the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah described the prize as a bridge connecting ideas, people, and historical narratives. He reaffirmed the Foundation's commitment to supporting scholarship that enriches global understanding of the Middle East and expressed gratitude to Ambassador Al-Munaikh and the Kuwait Embassy team for their ongoing support.

For more than two decades, the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation has attracted around 50 submissions each year, maintaining its mission to celebrate original and accessible research on the Middle East, while supporting the British-Kuwait Friendship Society (BKFS) and its annual award ceremony. BKFS, established in 1996, works to strengthen scholarly, cultural, and commercial ties between the two nations.

Over the years, the Society has enjoyed high-level patronage, including from King Charles III and Dr. Sheikh Souad Al-Sabah, highlighting the enduring importance of the UK-Kuwait partnership.

This year's ceremony, presented by Sheikh Mubarak Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, served as a reminder of the enduring partnership between Kuwait and the UK. As both nations look ahead, initiatives such as the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah Book Prize continue to strengthen cultural diplomacy, promote dialogue, and reinforce a shared commitment to intellectual excellence and mutual understanding.

Remittances home from Filipinos in Kuwait on the rise

Official data from the Central Bank of the Philippines show that remittances sent by Filipino workers in Kuwait rose by 4.71 percent during the first nine months of this year, reaching US\$453.04 million compared to \$432.7 million in the same period of 2024.

The figures also indicate a 6.03 percent increase in remittances from Filipino workers across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which totaled about \$4.5 billion between January and September 2025, up

from \$4.25 billion a year earlier. Remittances from Filipinos in the six GCC states accounted for 96.67 percent of all remittances originating from the Middle East—estimated at \$4.66 billion—and represented 42.92 percent of total remittances from Asia during the same period, which stood at \$10.49 billion.

Globally, the statistics show that remittances from Filipino workers reached \$26.03 billion from January to September 2025, with Gulf countries contributing 17.30 percent of the total, compared to \$25.23 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Among GCC countries, Saudi Arabia remained the largest source of remittances, totaling approximately \$1.66 billion, followed by the UAE with \$1.16 billion, while Bahrain registered the lowest figure at \$201.20 million during the first nine months of the year.

LuLu Hypermarket unveils 'Layer Up in Style 2025' Winter Collection at Al Rai outlet



Lulu Hypermarket officially launched its "Layer Up in Style 2025" winter collections on 20th November 2025 at the Al Rai outlet, in a vibrant ceremony attended by some of Kuwait's leading fashion influencers and vloggers alongside Lulu's senior management.

The launch highlighted new-season fashion lines for men, women, and children, featuring an extensive range of apparel, footwear, and ladies' bags — offered at competitive prices.

Customers also enjoyed a special promotion of a flat 50% off on every KD 10 purchase. The promotion continues from November 20 to 22.

The event showcased major winter fashion brands, including Eten, Cortigini, Tom Smith,

Debackers, Marco Doneitelli, John Louis, Reo, and others. Influential fashion bloggers took part in the unveiling and engaged with the latest trends by trying on pieces from the new collection. Adding to the excitement, Lulu Hypermarket organized a kids' fashion show as part of the launch festivities.

More than 50 children walked the runway wearing the season's trendy winter outfits. Winners of the first, second, and third places received high-value prizes, while all participants were presented with attractive consolation gifts. With strong participation from the public and social media personalities, the event ushered in a dynamic beginning to Lulu's winter lineup.

Belgian envoy hails Kuwait's steadfast commitment to peace, dialogue, humanitarian aid

The Times Kuwait Report

The Ambassador of Belgium to Kuwait, H.E. Christian Domes, has praised Kuwait's steadfast commitment to peace, dialogue, and generous humanitarian support around the world, saying Kuwait "has a calm yet wise ability to engage with other countries and to champion peace and dialogue."

Speaking at a reception hosted by the Belgian Embassy on the occasion of Belgium's National Day which was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi and a large gathering of heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations Domes highlighted the strength of bilateral ties.

"Our countries have enjoyed close relations since Kuwait's independence," he said. "Belgium was part of the international coalition that liberated Kuwait from its invaders, and I am particularly proud of the Belgian Navy's significant role in mine-clearing operations."

"The last Belgian vessel left the Gulf on July 14, 1991, after our mine-hunter fleet detected and destroyed 280 mines — a remarkable achievement," he added.



He noted that Belgium is a global leader in advanced technology, innovation, artificial intelligence, higher education, research, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, wind energy, hydrogen energy, and creative industries "from film to fashion." The ambassador added that bilateral trade currently stands at around €925 million, expressing confidence that "there is still room to grow that figure." While pledging to promote Belgian companies in Kuwait, Domes also pointed to Kuwait's strong economic presence in Belgium, noting that more than 500 fuel stations



operated by Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) serve the Belgian market. He also highlighted the company's substantial role in the petrochemical sector at the Port of Antwerp.

"I intend to strengthen people-to-people connections and expand trade flows between Belgium and Kuwait," he said. "To succeed, we must overcome a major obstacle — the lack of direct flights between Brussels and Kuwait. I will continue to work tirelessly on this crucial issue."

On the political front, Domes reaffirmed Belgium's commitment to upholding the UN



Charter, promoting its principles, and supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts — values shaped by Belgium's own historical experiences with invasion. He added: "I am confident that Kuwait, with its calm and wise capacity for dialogue and peace-building, can play a significant role."

"We also commend the Kuwaiti government for its steady and generous humanitarian support to the Palestinian people, and to the people of Lebanon, Syria, and Sudan. Our thoughts and full concern go to all civilians suffering from the horrors of war."

ASEAN diplomatic missions, UN-Habitat collaborate in beach cleanup



United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) in Kuwait, in cooperation with the embassies of ASEAN member states—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam—organized a large-scale beach cleanup campaign at Shuwaikh Beach, with the participation of ASEAN community members and volunteers.

The initiative aimed to support Kuwait Municipality's ongoing efforts to protect coastal areas and promote public awareness on the importance of preserving open public spaces and ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

In a media statement on the occasion, Head of UN-Habitat Kuwait and the GCC states, Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan, said, "Safeguarding Kuwait's coastline is a shared responsibility that requires active collaboration between government entities, the diplomatic community, and civil society. Today's campaign reinforces UN-Habitat's commitment to supporting Kuwait's vision for sustainable urban development and enhancing the quality of life in cities."

She added that the partnership with

ASEAN embassies reflects a strong spirit of cooperation in environmental and urban development issues, noting that the active participation of ASEAN expatriate communities highlights "the friendship, inclusiveness, and collective responsibility that characterize Kuwait's diverse society."

She affirmed that UN-Habitat continues to work closely with government institutions, particularly Kuwait Municipality, to advance sustainable management of public spaces, support national efforts to protect the coastal environment, and reduce marine litter through public engagement and community-based initiatives.

"We are proud of this fruitful collaboration and will continue to work with our partners to strengthen environmental awareness and promote daily sustainable practices across the community," said Dr. Al-Hassan.

The ASEAN representatives expressed their high appreciation of Kuwait Municipality's continuous efforts, and thanked their community volunteers for joining this public environmental awareness activity that reflects their friendship spirit with Kuwaiti people, and expressed hope that public parks users keep them clean.



Georgia a key tourism destination for Kuwaiti tourists



The Times Kuwait Report

Embassy of Georgia organized a 'Georgian Tourism Promotional Forum' at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel last week with the participation of Georgian tourism companies and their Kuwaiti counterparts. The event showcased Georgia's rich tourism potential and highlighted investment opportunities in the sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Georgia H.E. Noshervan Lomtadidze said that the growing popularity of Georgia as a tourism destination among Kuwaitis had led to a 38 percent spike in the number of travelers from Kuwait last year.

The ambassador emphasized that the forum, organized in collaboration with the Georgian National Tourism Administration, reflected Georgia's commitment to strengthening its profile in the Kuwaiti tourism market and raising awareness of its unique destinations.

"Georgia is welcoming more Kuwaiti tourists each year, thanks to its scenic landscapes, moderate climate, geographical proximity, and ease of travel," he said.

He also explained that Kuwaiti citizens can enter Georgia visa-free for up to 365 days, while residents in Kuwait with valid residency permits can stay for 90 days. The Ambassador urged travelers to visit the Embassy's website for specific travel requirements depending on passport type.

The ambassador also praised Jazeera Airways

and national carrier Kuwait Airways for their direct flights to Tbilisi and Batumi, which have significantly increased tourist arrivals. He added that Georgia plans to expand cooperation with these airlines and increase routes in upcoming seasons, with the Batumi route providing a major draw for Kuwaitis seeking coastal destinations during the summer months.

For her part, Elena Gogelia, head of branding and promotion at the Georgian National Tourism Administration, confirmed that Kuwait ranks as Georgia's second-largest Gulf market after Saudi Arabia, based on visitor numbers during the first three months of 2025.

She pointed out that the promotional tourism roadshow, which also included Dubai and Riyadh, concluded in Kuwait to strengthen ties between the tourism sectors of both countries and to highlight Georgia's diverse offerings.

Georgia has so far attracted six million visitors this year, surpassing post-pandemic levels, and aims to reach 11 million visitors by 2026, provided direct flights and airline support continue.

Planned promotional campaigns include outdoor advertising, digital media initiatives, media partnerships, exhibitions, forums, and workshops to showcase Georgian tourism products. Direct flights of less than three hours from Kuwait remain a major advantage for regional travelers, while expanded airline partnerships are expected to further boost travel and bilateral tourism in the coming years.

Clearing the air: Debunking myths about nicotine, tar, and smoke-free products

Smoking remains one of the most preventable threats to human health, yet misunderstandings about its risks continue to cloud public awareness. While science has long revealed what the body truly endures with every puff, many smokers still grapple with myths surrounding nicotine, tar, and so-called safer alternatives

It's no secret that smoking is incredibly harmful, but despite all the scientific evidence we have accumulated, an array of myths and misconceptions still circulate about the source of smoking-related harm.

The best thing any adult smoker can do for themselves is quit tobacco and nicotine products entirely, and it's never too late to make the change. It's common for people who successfully quit to notice improvements in breathing and sense of taste and smell just a few days after stopping. Within a year, they may have reduced their risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

For those who choose not to quit, there are alternatives that have the potential to be less harmful than continued smoking. They're addictive and not risk-free, but they offer adults a better choice than continuing to smoke. Addressing the myths around smoke-free alternatives couldn't be more important when it comes to exploring these new technologies. So, what are the five things everyone should know about smoking and smoke-free alternatives?

Smoke is the biggest problem

A lit cigarette produces smoke. This smoke contains high levels of chemical about 100 of which have been identified by public health experts as harmful or potentially harmful. The inhalation of these chemicals in smoke is the primary cause of smoking-related diseases.

Nicotine is misunderstood

Contrary to popular belief, nicotine is not the primary cause of smoking-related diseases. Rather, it is a result of the high levels of harmful compounds found in cigarette smoke. Nicotine is a naturally occurring substance found in



several plant varieties, including at high levels in tobacco plants. It's addictive and not risk-free.

Nicotine is one of the main reasons people continue to smoke or use nicotine products, along with other factors such as taste and ritual.

Quitting tobacco and nicotine products is best

After nicotine is absorbed in the body, it binds to specific receptors in the brain and triggers the release of dopamine (which plays a role in how we feel pleasure) and other neurotransmitters. After repeated nicotine stimulation, the brain adapts to the presence of nicotine, a process that is reversible when a person stops using products containing nicotine.

While it can be hard to do, every year millions of people successfully quit and stop using tobacco and nicotine products. This is the best choice for their health. For smokers who make the decision to quit, there are a vast range

of medicinal products and support services available from health professionals to aid them in their journey to quit tobacco and nicotine altogether.

Tar is not what you think it is

When you hear of smoking-related tar, you might think it's the same sticky black or brown viscous liquid that's used to resurface roads. In fact, it's not a substance at all. It's a machine-based weight measurement of particulate matter left over in cigarette smoke after nicotine and water are removed. Smoke-free products do not burn tobacco, which makes the chemical composition of their aerosol fundamentally different from cigarette smoke. The absence of smoke can significantly reduce exposure to harmful chemicals compared to cigarettes and can eliminate the presence of solid carbon particles found in smoke. This doesn't make them risk-free, but eliminating smoke makes

these products different from cigarettes.

Better alternatives exist compared to continued smoking

The fundamental difference between smoke-free products and cigarettes is that smoke-free alternatives deliver nicotine without combustion or burning. When the burning process and subsequent smoke are removed, the levels of harmful and potentially harmful chemicals can be significantly reduced compared with cigarette smoke.

The best decision is always to quit, but those who would otherwise continue to smoke may want to explore the science and innovation behind smoke-free alternatives in more detail. Smoke-free products like e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, while still addictive and not risk-free, are a much better alternative for adults than continuing to smoke (if scientifically substantiated and manufactured according to appropriate quality standards).

It's important to remember that smoke-free products are intended for adults, as alternatives to continued smoking. They are not intended to be cessation products that assist with quitting—as they provide nicotine, which is addictive. Quitting tobacco and nicotine altogether is always the best choice, and medical professionals and recognized stop smoking services can provide advice on quitting.

Most of us know someone who smokes—a friend, family member, or even yourself. Understanding the sources of smoking-related harm and having access to accurate information can help those smokers make an informed choice and move away from cigarettes for good.

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COP30: Implementation, Inclusion, Innovation in Climate Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Germany in 1995, the topic of energy transition, through phasing out fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) and scaling up renewable energy sources, has been embroiled in discussions and controversies over the rights of fossil-fuel producers and the needs of the world for cleaner energy sources.

Phasing out fossil fuels is inevitable if we are to credibly rein-in GHG emissions, which evidence-based data has identified as the main catalyst behind global warming, the precursor to climate change. Fossil-fuel producers acknowledge the dangers of global warming, but insist that in the absence of a reliable energy source to drive the global economy, it would be more effective to tackle GHG emissions by using natural carbon sinks and carbon removal and storage technologies.

However, latest data from the UNFCCC show that the burning of fossil-fuels is overwhelmingly the largest contributor to GHG emissions, and attempts to mitigate global warming without reducing use of this energy source will be futile. Over 68 percent of GHG emissions and nearly 90 percent of all carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main constituent in (GHG) emissions, comes from the burning of fossil fuels.

The first 'Global Stocktake (GST)'—a process mandated under the Paris Agreement to periodically review collective progress on goals of the agreement—published in 2023, concluded that while there had been progress on climate actions, the world was still not on track to

meet the long-term temperature goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The GST called for more ambitious action to close the gap, and provided guidance for the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2025.

The NDC is another process under the Paris Agreement that requires countries to periodically submit national action plans on reducing GHG emissions, and promoting climate adaptation and mitigation. Countries were to submit their upgraded NDC 3.0 in February 2025. Due to weak compliance, the date was extended to September, but even midway into COP30, only 113 countries had lodged their NDCs, of which only 86 are NDC 3.0, Kuwait is not one of them.

Representing Kuwait at the COP30 Climate Summit, Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Rumi emphasized Kuwait's support of international efforts to address the challenges of climate change and achieve sustainable development. He also reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to responsible environmental policies in line with UN climate and clean energy goals. In its last NDC 2.0 submitted in 2021, Kuwait had stressed its desire to avoid increases in GHG emissions, and said it would seek to avoid GHG emissions equivalent to 7.4 percent of its total future emission by 2035.

Ten years into the Paris Agreement, discussions at COP30 still flounder around the same three interrelated elements essential to meet the targets and aims set in the 2015 agreement—energy transition, climate finance, and social justice. Consensus on these initiatives have remained largely elusive at COP gatherings, with talks on energy transition and financing

consistently hindered by pressures from vested interests and recalcitrance of members.

Ironically, it was at the 2023 COP28 held in UAE, a major fossil fuel producer, that the first agreement on a transition away from fossil fuels was reached. However, the issue of energy transition did not receive continued support at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, nor in Belém, where the issue was not even on the main agenda. Brazil contended that there was not enough support to include this as a formal agenda item, and the topic would instead be discussed at informal sessions.

The focus of COP30 presidency was on forests; the very choice of Belém as host city was significant, as it lies on the fringe of the Amazon basin, underscoring the central theme of the conference—the role of forest ecosystems as carbon sinks to address the climate crisis. The Amazon is estimated to contain 150-200 billion tons of stored carbon, which is critical to global climate stability.

Cutting down forests to create farms, pastures, or living spaces generate emissions, as cutting trees releases the carbon they store and reduces nature's ability to keep emissions out of the atmosphere. Brazil launched its initiative to establish a US\$125 billion 'Tropical Forest Forever Facility', which aims to finalize investments from sovereign funders to reward forest conservation efforts in tropical countries.

Another priority at COP30 was boosting climate finance, with delegates calling for innovative approaches at resource mobilization. As part of scaling up climate finance for

developing nations, the presidencies of COP29 and COP30 initiated the 'Baku-Belém Roadmap to T1.3'—a plan to generate US\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 to support developing countries in their adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The world is fast approaching climate 'tipping points' that could precipitate irreversible damage. Since the 1980s, each decade has been warmer than the previous one, with 2024 being the hottest recorded so far. Higher temperatures are both a cause and effect of the sustained feedback loop resulting from interplay of GHG emissions, higher temperatures, and climate change. The persistent warming pattern is immensely worrying, as sustained temperature of 1.5°C, and its potential increase to 2°C or higher, could result in irremediable consequences.

Initiating rapid, transformative, and sustained GHG emission reductions; markedly boosting efforts to build resilience and adaptation in vulnerable states; and urgently reforming international financial systems to mobilize financial flows aligned with climate goals are critical, if the world is to remain consistent with the 1.5°C temperature goal.

Climate-driven droughts, floods, storms, and wildfires are impacting nations harder with each passing year, destroying infrastructure, claiming lives, and wrecking livelihoods, of millions of people worldwide. While the impacts of climate crises have never been clearer, the need for more speed in transforming policies into actions, mobilizing funding for building resilience, and ensuring an equitable energy transition, have never been more imperative.

Uzbekistan: A Country Where History is a Space of Opportunity

Today, Uzbekistan emerges as one of the most vibrant destinations in Eurasia, where ancient history and modern dynamism form a rare and compelling combination. A country that for centuries served as the heart of the Great Silk Road is confidently transforming into a space of openness, cultural diversity, and innovative tourism, attracting growing attention from the international community, researchers, travelers, and diplomats.



Each city here preserves its own layer of civilization, while the tourism infrastructure is developing at a pace that allows authentic heritage to coexist with comfort and high service standards. Samarkand, a symbol of the region's architectural grandeur and spiritual strength, is gaining new dimensions through modern cultural and business centers and projects that shape the city's image as a global hub for international forums and cultural exchange. Bukhara—with its madrasahs, fortresses, and timeless atmosphere of Eastern wisdom—demonstrates the resilience of tradition and the region's ability to speak the language of history without losing relevance. Khiva, resembling an open-air museum, reveals the true beauty of antiquity, preserving every brick detail of its millennia-old heritage.

Samarkand, one of Uzbekistan's main tourist centers, is actively developing infrastructure for international events. The city hosted the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference, a significant milestone in cultural and diplomatic spheres. Such gatherings contribute to improving urban infrastructure, raising the quality of tourist services, and shaping Samarkand's international image as a safe and accessible destination.

Organizing events of this scale stimulates the development of transportation systems, the hotel sector, and service infrastructure. As a result, tourists can visit the city at any time of the year with a high level of comfort and safety, benefiting from guided tours and modern informational tools about local attractions.

Uzbekistan's modern tourism potential is measured not only by its architectural and cultural assets. The country is building a new model of sustainable tourism by improving transport accessibility, supporting regional initiatives, developing aviation infrastructure, and creating conditions for comfortable travel in diverse formats—from intellectual expeditions and gastronomic tours to high-end business travel. Uzbek cuisine, known for its generosity and layered flavors, has become a standalone travel attraction, while traditional craft schools continue to draw the interest of both connoisseurs and emerging collectors.

Diplomatic openness plays a special role, as the state aims to expand international engagement and cultural dialogue. Uzbekistan is committed to strengthening mutual trust and exchange, positioning tourism not only as an economic sector but also as a tool for peaceful interaction

and closer ties between nations. As a result, the country's cultural and historical heritage becomes part of global discussions, while new projects gain international recognition.

Uzbekistan continues to refine its visa system, making the country as accessible as possible for foreign visitors. The introduction of the

Uzbekistan meet modern standards of security and convenience. Travelers can complete all necessary documents in advance online, ensuring a predictable and comfortable journey. This approach supports the country's image as a safe and well-organized destination for tourism and business visits.

also provide immediate assistance to foreign visitors and ensure compliance with rules at cultural and natural attractions.

The combination of simplified entry, safe stay, and modern services allows Uzbekistan to remain a competitive destination on the global tourism map, ensuring growth in international arrivals and supporting sustainable development of the sector. Uzbekistan's tourism infrastructure continues to evolve in a way that blends authentic atmosphere with modern service standards. High-speed rail networks, hotels of various categories, tourism clusters, and digital services create a comprehensive ecosystem that guarantees high levels of comfort. The country strives to make travel not only possible, but rational, convenient, and enriching.

One of Uzbekistan's notable advantages is the affordability of its prices while maintaining service quality. Travelers can choose from a wide range of options without compromising comfort. This balance provides a competitive edge on the international tourism scene, making the country attractive for solo travelers, families, educational groups, and business delegations alike.

Its natural and climatic diversity allows Uzbekistan to be rediscovered in every season. In spring, the country transforms into soft pastel landscapes of blooming orchards and steppes; summer brings impressive desert horizons and cool mountain regions; autumn reveals the richness of Eastern colors, while winter offers a calm and intimate atmosphere in Silk Road cities. This seasonal variety ensures that travel routes remain appealing year-round.

Uzbekistan's national cuisine is a cultural code of its own, embodying deep traditions and generous flavors. Plov, samsa, lagman, shurpa, tandoor-baked meats, melons, grapes, and the refined sweets of the Eastern culinary school create a gastronomic world remarkable for its richness and aesthetics. Each region offers its own interpretation of classic dishes, making acquaintance with the cuisine an essential part of any journey and one of its most memorable impressions.

Uzbekistan is confidently securing its place on the global tourism map as a country capable of inspiring and leaving travelers with a lasting sense of depth. Here, the past is not a shadow of the present but a force that creates a unique atmosphere, where every guest feels part of a great cultural dialogue that has continued for centuries.



electronic visa and simplified border procedures has significantly reduced processing time and streamlined travel for both individual tourists and organized groups. Visa benefits for citizens of various countries contribute to increasing tourist flows and strengthening international cooperation in culture and education.

Border and customs procedures in

Moreover, Uzbekistan is building a reputation as one of the most harmonious and predictable tourist destinations in the region, where traveler safety is considered a national priority. A dedicated tourist police force operates nationwide, accompanying tour groups, monitoring routes, and maintaining public order at key sites and popular tourist areas. These units



Understanding Bullying

Rebuild confidence in them. Encourage the person to focus on their strengths and positive qualities. Assertiveness skills are important. Saying a 'no' or 'stop' firmly, walking away without engaging may be needed sometimes.



Dr. Neethu Mariam Chacko

Specialist Psychiatrist

Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network Clinic (FSHN)

We often think of bullying as something that happens only in school corridors or playgrounds. But bullying is far more than harmless teasing; it is a serious issue that can leave deep emotional and psychological scars. It affects people of all ages. It is a significant psychosocial stressor which not only affects children, but also adults at work or online. It affects a person's mental health, emotional growth and sense of self. Understanding what bullying is, recognizing the signs of bullying, knowing how to respond are essential steps in protecting those affected and creating a safe, supportive environment.

Bullying is a repeated aggressive behavior intended to cause harm, involving a clear imbalance of power, over a period of time. The person who bullies may feel physically stronger, older, more popular or have more support from others. They use that power to hurt or frighten someone who cannot easily defend themselves.

Bullying can take many forms:

- **Physical bullying:** hitting, pushing,

damaging properties.

- **Verbal bullying:** insults, name-calling, mocking, threats.
- **Social bullying:** spreading rumors about a particular person, excluding someone purposely from a group, humiliation.
- **Cyberbullying:** using phones or social media to harass or shame someone.

In today's digital world where our phones and social media have become part of everyday life, some people use them to hurt, threaten or humiliate others.

The traditional bullying walks away from school or workplace, while cyberbullying follows you everywhere. What makes cyberbullying so hard is that it can be public, constant and hard to escape. A single post or photo can spread quickly and stay online for long. This makes the victim feel exposed and powerless.

It is the sense of a need to control, or to mask insecurity by aggression, or it could be exposure to violence or neglect at home, lack of empathy, or poor emotional regulation that may drive a person to bully another. On the other hand, victims of bullying often suffer silently, blaming themselves for what has happened. They may avoid talking about it as they fear being labelled as 'weak' or worry that others will not take them seriously.

Children or adults who are repeatedly bullied may often show:

- Low self-esteem or self-doubt are common. The person starts to believe that they are less worthy, less capable or less important than others.
- They may experience anxiety or panic attacks. They may feel constantly worried,

or tense that is very hard to control.

- Depression: The person may feel persistently sad, hopeless or helpless. The person may start avoiding friends, school, work or activities that they used to enjoy before.
- Constant criticism, harassment make a person feel unsafe in places where they are expected to be. This can lead to fear of school or the workplace.
- Self-harm behaviors or suicidal thoughts.
- Sleep disturbances, appetite changes, frequent physical complaints.

Parents and teachers should be alert for signs that a child might be a victim of bullying:

- Sudden drop in scholastic performance.
- Frequent excuses to avoid school.
- Frequent mood swings, irritability or crying spells.
- Unexplained injuries (as wounds, bruises, bite marks) and damaged properties. Some children try to hide injuries by wearing long sleeves and they may become fearful when an adult asks about the injury.
- Fear of a specific person or place.
- Withdrawal from friends or social activities.

Early identification and intervention are crucial. Staying silent will worsen the situation. If someone is being bullied the first step is to speak to a trusted adult, teacher or a mental health professional. Bullying prevention is not just the victim's responsibility but the community effort.

Schools must have a safe space for students to report concerns. Teachers and care-givers

can model empathy and kindness so that children learn from what they see.

Listen without judging the person. Let them speak about what happened without interrupting them or doubting them. Reassure them that it is not their fault. Many victims continuously blame themselves believing they had done wrong.

Make sure that the issue is reported to authorities or teachers. Safety and distance from the bully are needed in the early steps of healing. In cases of cyberbullying, block the bully online, report the account, save the evidence (screenshots or messages). Monitor social media activity especially in children.

Rebuild confidence in them. Encourage the person to focus on their strengths and positive qualities. Assertiveness skills are important. Saying a 'no' or 'stop' firmly, walking away without engaging may be needed sometimes.

If the symptoms such as persistent sadness, anxiety, withdrawal from others, self-harm ideas are noted, seek immediate help of a mental health professional.

Bullying is not just an act of unkindness, but an experience that can deeply wound a person's mind. The effects of bullying often last far longer, even after the bullying has stopped.

No one should ever suffer bullying in silence. When someone is being bullied, the way we respond with kind words, and listening ears can make a huge difference in their lives. When we stand with those who are hurt, we help them replace their fear with hope and strength.

Whether it is in schools, workplaces or online spaces we have a responsibility to create a safe environment where people feel respected and protected. Every caring action counts, as even one person who shows understanding can change the life of someone else.



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Thought for the week

“ We spend money we don't have
on things we don't need to create
impressions that won't last on people
we don't care about

Tim Jackson
British Ecological Economist

REVERSE DIET

Why Eating More Can Actually Help You Lose Weight

Ask Mira : Eating Right to Live Happy & Healthy



For years, we have been told that eating less is the key to losing weight. As a result most women today are not overeating, they are actually undereating.

Skipping meals, drinking coffee, or chewing gum instead of the main meals, or having very small portions, all of this sends one message to your body—slow down the metabolism; store fat.

This is why so many women feel stuck. They eat less than ever but still cannot lose weight, and sometimes even gain weight. And this is exactly where the reverse diet comes in.

Reverse dieting is a simple method where you gradually increase your food intake to bring your metabolism back to normal. Not overeating, not binging on food, just giving your body enough fuel to feel safe and work properly again.

When you give your body a little more food, slowly and consistently, it begins to burn more energy, digest better, reduce cravings, stabilize hormones, and release stored fat. So, yes, eating more can help you lose weight, especially when your metabolism has been slowed down by years of dieting. And, starting a reverse diet is quite simple, you do not have to make any significant changes. The mantra is to start small.

Add a little extra calories to your daily meals, around 80–120 extra calories. Maybe a piece of fruit, a spoon of nut butter, a bit more rice, or a yogurt.

- Eat consistently. Your body loves and needs routine.
- Do not fear carbs, they give life to your metabolism.
- Focus on real meals, not snacks.
- Notice how your body responds: more energy, better mood, fewer cravings.

Most women start feeling the difference in just two to three weeks, and many begin losing weight once their metabolism wakes up. Remember, your body does not want to store fat. It wants balance and nourishment. And the answer is not by eating less; it is eating better and eating a little bit more.

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Mira is a go-to source for nutrition and wellness and has joined The Times Kuwait team in a new weekly column discussing nutrition and answering queries. You can send in your questions to infotimeskuwait@gmail.com



Breaking through the stagnation plateau in workouts

By Ricky Laxa
Staff Writer

If you are an avid gym-goer or someone who is committed to a fitness regimen, you may have encountered the frustrating experience of hitting a plateau in your workouts. You might be wondering why your body suddenly seems unresponsive to the effort you have been putting in. Is it a failure on your part, or is there something more at play? The truth is, plateaus are a natural part of the fitness journey, and understanding why they occur can help you make the necessary adjustments to keep progressing.

A plateau often happens when your body adapts to the routines you have established. Initially, your workouts spark change—muscle growth, fat loss, improved endurance—but over time, these adaptations can lead to stagnation. When you repeat the same cardio workouts, lift the same weights, or maintain the same intensity without variation, your body learns to cope with the stress you are placing on it. This adaptive response results in minimal muscle gain, weight loss, or improvements in stamina, leading to frustration.

However, it is crucial to shift your mindset about plateaus. Instead of viewing them as failures, embrace them as opportunities for growth and reflection. Hitting a plateau indicates that your body is ready for a new challenge. To break through this barrier, consider reevaluating and modifying your workout and dietary plans. Start by planning a new set of workouts that are diverse and challenging. Incorporate high-intensity interval training (HIIT) into your cardio routine. It is an excellent way to boost your heart rate and target different muscle groups simultaneously. Additionally, consider increasing your movements and repetitions until you reach muscle fatigue. This approach encourages muscle growth and strengthens endurance while challenging your body in exciting new ways.

Vary your strength training as well. Instead of sticking to the familiar three sets of ten repetitions, mix in circuit training or supersets. Incorporating lighter free weights can improve form and range of motion, while progressively increasing to heavier sets will push your limits. The key is to keep your muscles guessing, preventing them from adapting and subsequently stagnating.

Recovery should never be underestimated. It is a critical component of any workout regimen. Adequate rest allows your muscles to repair and grow stronger, so ensure you are giving your body enough time to recuperate. Without proper recovery, attempting to push through workouts can lead to overtraining, which can hinder your performance even further.

Keep a journal or track of your workouts to monitor changes and progress. This practice will not only help you identify when it is time to switch things up but also serve as motivation as you see your improvements over time.

A plateau in your workouts is not a sign that you have failed; it is a clear indicator that your body is ready for change. Embrace the challenge, listen to your body, and stay committed to constant improvement.



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