

# the arabian sun

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“Aramco is well-known for its quality and excellence in its facilities, and this extends to its suppliers, contractors, and the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

— Amin Nasser,  
Aramco president and CEO



## Excellence in Quality

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# Excellence in Quality

## Six Aramco departments win King Abdulaziz Quality Award

Driven by operational excellence efforts, company earns highest of recognitions.

On behalf of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, HRH Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Riyadh Region, recognized this year's winners at a ceremony for those who won the fifth session of the King Abdulaziz Quality Awards.

Six Aramco departments received recognition this year for their institutional excellence and enhancing and promoting competitiveness in the respective sectors.

Amin Nasser, Aramco president and CEO, opened his remarks by thanking the Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization for planning the award, which bears the name of the Kingdom's founder, King Abdulaziz, as well as its sponsor, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman.

Nasser went on to add that although Aramco often receives plenty of recognition when it wins international prizes, national achievements such as this hold even greater value to the company.

Nasser noted that the King Abdulaziz Quality Award is known for its comprehensive standards, which include:

- Sophisticated and detailed field inspection of the nominated establishments through independent experts
- Monitoring the quality of operational processes
- The efficiency of employees
- The administrative system
- The facilities' readiness to face risks and emergencies
- Their commitment to sustainability standards
- The existence of targets and indicators to measure performance

Nasser further emphasized that Aramco is well-known for its quality and excellence in its facilities, and this extends to its suppliers, contractors, and the industrial sector in the Kingdom.

### Standard bearers of quality

Nabeel A. Al-Jama', Aramco's senior vice president of Human Resources and Support Services, expressed pride in the company's achievements, saying it helps confirm the company's excellence.

"Winning this award stems from the



On behalf of Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser, Nabeel A. Al-Jama', senior vice president of Human Resources and Support Services, accepts the King Abdulaziz Quality Award.

Winning this award stems from the company's great interest in implementing standards of quality and operational excellence across all of its facilities, which has led its many achievements that were made possible through the dedication of its employees.

— Nabeel A. Al-Jama'

company's great interest in implementing standards of quality and operational excellence across all of its facilities, which has led its many achievements that were made possible through the dedication of its employees," Al-Jama' said.

Noting that Aramco's relentless pursuit of quality as a key driver in the company's ability to become the leading integrated energy and chemicals company in the world, Al-Jama' said the drive for quality translates into all of its projects.

"The company has a long history of pioneering solutions to challenges, and we value the dedication in our people to continuously find new ways to improve performance and strive for quality in everything we do," Al-Jama' said, adding that Aramco's operational excellence can be attributed to "our creative talents through participation in various projects, and our pioneering innovations that contribute to increasing quality, reducing risks, and improving quality of life.

"When passion and goals come together, we generate a culture of excellence in quality, adding to the value we produce and converting it into capabilities," he added.

### The winners

Aramco's winning departments included:

- The East-West Pipelines Department
- The Hawiyah Gas Plant Department
- The Khurais Production Department
- Yanbu' Refinery
- Mechanical Services Shops Department
- The Computer Operations Department

- The Hawiyah Gas Plant Department
- The Khurais Production Department
- Yanbu' Refinery
- Mechanical Services Shops Department
- The Computer Operations Department

Also receiving the award were the Saudi Aramco Total Refining and Petrochemicals Company (SATORP), a joint venture between Aramco and the Saudi Total Refinery Company, and Yanbu' Aramco Sinopec Refining Company Ltd. (YASREF), a joint venture between Aramco and Sinopec Century Bright Capital Investment Amsterdam B.

These awards are an embodiment of the excellence of Aramco's departments in all aspects of the work environment, the company's success in instilling a culture of excellence and quality as one of its core values, and an affirmation of the high levels of competence among its employees and departments, which confirms their merit in reaping such awards at all national, regional, and international levels.

### About the King Abdulaziz Award for Quality

The King Abdulaziz Award for Quality was established in 2000, and is organized by the Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization every two years. The ceremony looks to stimulate the production and service sectors while raising the quality of their performance.

The award provides specific criteria that enables organizations to measure their performance in many key areas to help them continuously improve their work, to set goals, prioritize, organize and review them to achieve these goals. The award requires candidates to meet strict requirements.

The nominated establishments are subject to field inspection by a team of independent national and international experts. The evaluation addresses several essential aspects, such as the quality of operational processes, the administrative system in the facility, the efficiency of human capital development, the facility's readiness to face risks and emergencies, the presence of sustainability systems in the facility, and the existence of targets and indicators to measure performance.

This year, 11 government agencies, 14 private establishments, and two charitable enterprises won the award.





# Dammam-7 Supercomputer a game changer

On Jan. 19, Aramco inaugurated Dammam-7, a new Aramco Upstream leased supercomputer located in Dhahran Techno Valley (DTV). The supercomputer is proof of our continued evolution to become the world's leading digitalized energy company. With a computing capability of 55.4 petaflops, it is expected to be 10 times faster than the current fastest supercomputer within the Kingdom, KAUST's Shaheen II supercomputer.

It is also regarded as one among the top 10 supercomputers in the world.

The delivery of the game changing system in the region's oil and gas sector was made possible with a partnership between Aramco, STC-Solution, part of STC, and CRAY, a subsidiary of Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Dammam-7 showcases the capabilities of all partners, and their respective strengths that enabled them to develop the fastest industrial computer in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to being in line with accelerating Aramco's digital transformation, the Dammam-7 supercomputer reinforces the company's stance in being the industry leader in geosciences. Its unprecedented computing capabilities will benefit the company's exploration, development and unconventional program efforts through efficiently building sophisticated and accurate subsurface models and imaging. As of now, ENI is currently the only energy industry company that has a supercomputer with a peak power of nearly 70 petaflops.



Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser, front row, third from left, with officials during the Dammam-7 supercomputer inauguration.

The power to image some of the world's largest and most challenging geophysical assets will further advance and strengthen our ability to discover and recover oil and gas, reduce exploration and development risks, and build Earth models with a faster turnaround time with better imagery and greater intelligence. Additionally, this overall enhancement of the efficiencies and reliability in Upstream, will ensure the reliable delivery of energy around the world.

In his remarks at the inauguration, Nasir K. Al Naimi, acting Business Line head for Upstream, emphasized that despite the difficulties faced in 2020, this new achievement is proof of our commitment to excellence.

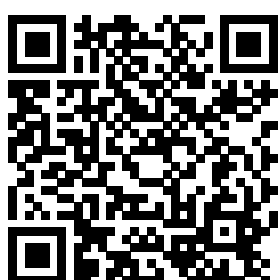
"In a year that threw challenge after challenge at us, I think it is commendable that we continued to move ahead

with Aramco's digital transformation. And not incremental improvement — Dammam-7 is a game changer," he said.

Al Naimi emphasized that the challenges faced were not merely due to the pandemic, but rather a number of technological issues that included connectivity, bandwidth and data transfer, especially between DTV where the supercomputer resides, and Aramco's Core Area.

Al Naimi also highlighted the work and dedication poured into this project, focusing on the exceptional teamwork among Aramco's Exploration, EXPEC Computer Center, EXPEC Advanced Research Center, and the Information Technology and Security Department, for working tirelessly to find solutions and building the company an extremely powerful tool.

“It is also regarded as one among the top 10 supercomputers in the world.”



Visit: The Dammam-7 supercomputer inauguration.

## Aramco signs MoU with STC and Huawei

Aramco has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with STC and Huawei to deploy the first private 5G network at an Aramco oil and gas facility.

The signing ceremony took place after the Dammam 7 supercomputer inauguration, with Aramco represented by Abdullah O. Al-Baiz, vice president of Information Technology, Sultan Binsaeed, STC vice president of Business Development, and on behalf of Huawei, Abdulrahman Aldhobaie, vice president of Huawei STC Global Key Account.

The pilot scope entails building a private 5G network in addition to testing eight main use-cases, which include a digital helmet for remote collaboration, 3-D augmented reality for maintenance and troubleshooting, body worn cameras, multi-vision smart surveillance, PPE and scaffolding compliance detection, real-time vehicle surveillance, and live video from drones.



From left to right: Sultan Binsaeed, STC vice president of Business Development, Aramco vice president of Information Technology, Abdullah O. Al-Baiz, and Abdulrahman Aldhobaie, vice president of Huawei STC Global Key Account sign an Memorandum of Understanding to deploy the first private 5G network at an Aramco oil and gas facility.



# 'Healthy' competition lays the foundations for excellence

## Engineering Services celebrates individuals, teams and organizations for their remarkable achievements and continuous excellence in 2020



Employees who demonstrated excellence were honored at the Engineering Services awards.

By Eamonn Houston

Last year undoubtedly marked its page in the history books as one of the most challenging, obstacle laden, and trying years for businesses and economies around the globe.

For Aramco's Engineering Services (ES) organization, it was an opportunity to showcase its resilience, robustness, and perseverance in providing uninterrupted services and delivering to its clients.

Recently, ES held its annual Engineering Services Excellence Awards

to end 2020 on a high note and recognize its most valuable asset — its people.

The annual ceremony has proven effective in creating a competitive environment among employees and organizations striving to collectively succeed and continually improve.

"These awards promote excellence and create an environment of healthy competition among individuals, while showing our determination to stretch and achieve business targets," said senior vice president of Technical Services, Ahmad A. Al Sa'adi.

### ES Excellence Awards Categories

The awards are designed to encourage knowledge sharing and best practices in promoting innovation, quality, and leadership.

"The goal of the awards is to recognize top performers," said Jamil J. Al-Bagawi, acting executive director of ES.

"When you track progress and recognize achievements, you get better results. With innovation and technology deployment, we are trying to do more, while instilling and cultivating an innovation culture to cater into a fast-moving, digitally transformed business landscape."

Anchored by a selection criterion, the awards measure and rank achievements in six different categories:

- Vendor Review Committee (VRC) Excellence Awards
- Technical Instructor Excellence Awards
- Standards Committee Excellence Awards
- Innovation & Technology Deployment Awards
- Community of Practice (CoP) Excellence Awards
- Knowledge Sharing Excellence Awards

### In the words of winners

#### Abdullah M. Al-Qahtani, Consulting Services Department (CSD), Heat Transfer Committee vice chairman



"We are very proud and pleased to receive two excellence awards this year — The Best Standards Committee Excellence Award, and the VRC Excellence Award for best

Technical Committee. Each will give us the motivation to continue to uphold the standards that merited these awards.

"Despite the technical challenges we faced in 2020, due to the coronavirus

pandemic, the team was able to deliver a successful year."

#### Fawaz A. Al-Sahan, Process and Control Systems Department (P&CSD), Instrument Committee Chairman



"Receiving the 2020 VRC Excellence Award is exciting and motivational. The relentless commitment from the Instrumentation Committee in identifying localization opportunities for

instrumentation commodities resulted in earning the 2020 VRC Excellence Award. We accomplished more than 10 local

manufacturer approvals in 2020 through collaboration with the procurement and vendor inspection teams."

#### Mujtaba N. Shurafa, Northern Area Production Engineering Department (NAPED), Berri lead engineer



"The Community of Practice (CoP) Excellence Award was the result of teamwork and harmony of the NAPED's engineering CoP team, and I am grateful to our management for their

guidance to our Knowledge Management and Operational Excellence team."

#### Ahmed S. Bunaiyan, P&CSD, Distillation & Heavy Ends Group



"I'm honored, proud and delighted to receive an ES Excellence Award.

"Our team is well integrated across functions, bound by a common goal to foster the highest standards of deliverables. The continued pursuit of the excellence awards is critical to my team's success as it will create breakthroughs and innovative solutions to make our resources more valuable for our longstanding growth and value creation."

## Standing on the Winners' Podium

### VRC Excellence Award

#### Best Technical Committees: Heat Transfer Equipment Committee, CSD

- Haytham A. Al-Barrak, Committee chairman
- Abdullah M. Al-Qahtani, Committee vice chairman

#### Electrical Substations Equipment Committee, CSD

- Hamad Al-Tuaimi, Committee chairman
- Hussain Al-Suwaidan, Committee vice chairman

#### Instrumentation Committee, PCSD

- Fawaz A. Al-Sahan, Committee chairman
- Mokhtarudin Abdul Razak, Committee vice chairman

### Best Quality Office

#### Aramco Asia, Responsible Inspection Office

- Yasser S. Al-Subhi, Inspection Office head

### Technical Instructors' Excellence Award

- Vasileios Tsachouridis, P&CSD
- Ahmad S. Bunaiyan, P&CSD
- Joy Joseph, CSD
- Youcef Mankour, P&CSD

### Best Standard Committee Excellence Award

#### Heat Transfer Equipment Committee, CSD

- Haytham A. Al-Barrak, Committee chairman
- Abdullah M. Al-Qahtani, Committee vice chairman

### Electrical Substations Equipment Committee, CSD

- Hamad Al-Tuaimi, Committee chairman
- Hussain Al-Suwaidan, Committee vice chairman

### Valves Committee, CSD

- Martin Meehan, Committee chairman
- Mousa Al-Harbi, Committee vice chairman

### Innovation and Technology Deployment Excellence Award

- Fawaz A. Al-Sahan, P&CSD
- Aziz U. Rehman, Inspection Department

### CoP Excellence Award

#### Northern Area Production Engineering Department

- Manager Abdulrahman Al-Ahmari, CoP sponsor
- Mujtaba Shurafa, CoP leader

### Drilling Technical Department

- Manager Khalifah Al-Amri, CoP sponsor
- Tariq Al-Talhi, CoP leader

### Inspection Department

- Manager Bader A. Busbait, CoP sponsor
- Zuhair Al-Mashama, CoP leader

### Knowledge Sharing Excellence Award for Departments

#### Hawiyah Gas Plant Department

- Rashed M. Al-Dossary, manager
- Khalid S. Babtain, knowledge officer

#### Yanbu' NGL Fractionation Department

- Mohammed S. Al-Ghamdi, manager
- Ali A. Al-Shihri, knowledge officer

#### Khurais Producing Department

- Mohammed I. Al-Sowayigh, manager
- Abdulkarim F. Wathnani, knowledge officer



# RT safety efforts recognized at EMSR

**Ras Tanura** — Safe driving, environmental protection, and perseverance in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic were key themes at last week’s Executive Management Safety Review (EMSR) in Ras Tanura (RT).

Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser was joined by other members of corporate and senior management during the EMSR, which featured a safety performance presentation delivered via video and a pair of bus tours to locations across the RT area.

Nasser commended the area for its excellent safety performance and significant improvement in reducing the number of motor vehicle accidents over the past year. He also said they should be proud of what they achieved despite COVID-19.

The first field tour location was the RT Terminal Control Room, where the CEO and other leaders watched a video on Terminals’ achievements in regard to safety, health, and environment. They also heard about the importance of attracting Saudi divers and meeting Saudization marks.



Amin Nasser cuts the ribbon at the Utilities Control Room as part of the Executive Management Safety Review in Ras Tanura. Nasser and other members of senior management last week visited the area to review its successes and safety efforts made over the past year.

The RT Refinery tour included three areas, including:

- The Bio-Remediation Oil Pond,

which the CEO commended.

- The Clean Fuels Project Shutdowns, which was conducted without any COVID-19 cases or incidents, even though 15,000 worked together on it during the effort.
- The Utilities Control Room.

the pandemic as well as its focus on protecting the environment.

At Qatif Gas-Oil Separation Plant-1, a safety moment was well received by management and the resilient efforts of crews that stayed at the facility during lockdowns.

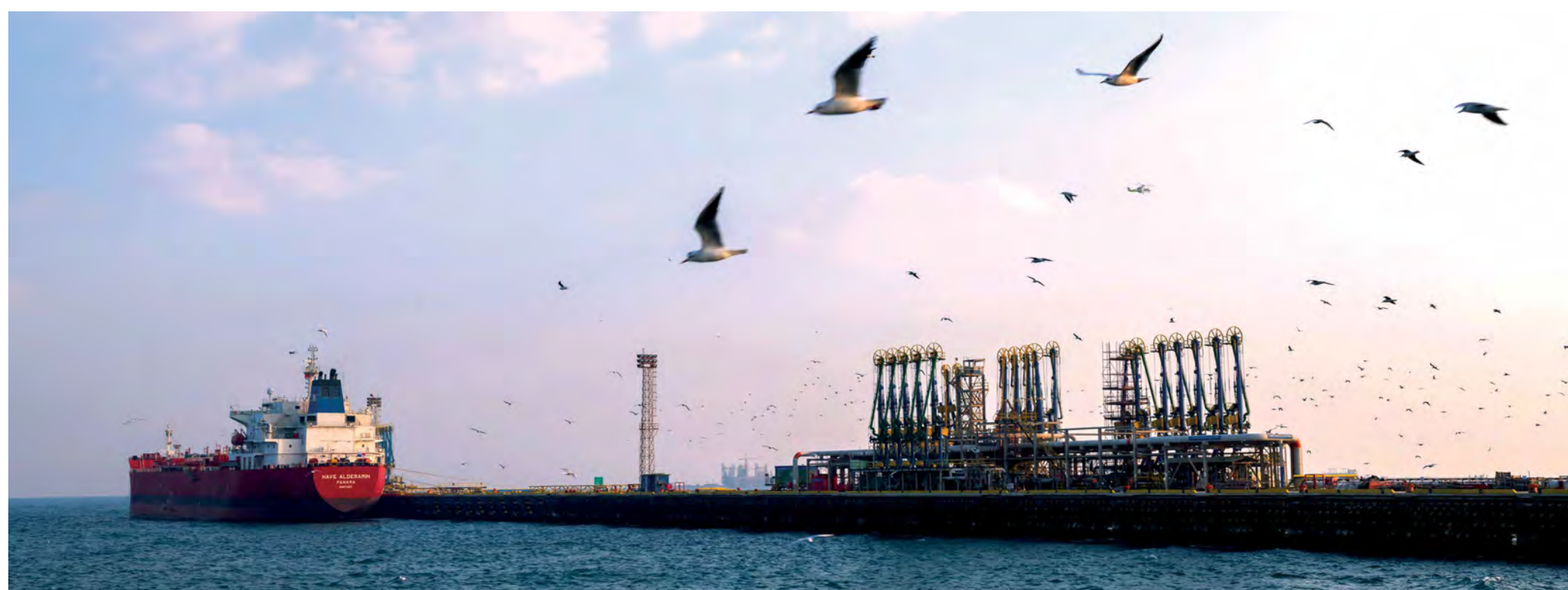
Also highlighted was the new closed-circuit television system upgrade project designed to elevate security on-shore and offshore.

Mohammed Y. Al-Qahtani, senior vice president of Downstream, commended the area for its safety performance, noting that management appreciated its efforts and sacrifices shown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EMSR field tours concluded with the inauguration of the Mangrove Eco-Park project (see the Jan. 13 edition of *The Arabian Sun*).

The second field tour began with Ju’aymah NGL Fractionation, which highlighted its dedication to safety in

*In visiting with employees in RT, Nasser commended them for their excellent safety performance and significant improvement in the reduction of motor vehicle accidents over the past year.*



From the terminal on the Arabian Gulf to Ju’aymah, corporate and executive management toured the Ras Tanura area as part of its monthly Executive Management Safety Review.

## You have the power to defeat it

COVID-19 is still a threat. But we have the advantage to defeat it. Because the virus needs us to survive and spread. Don't give it that chance.



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# E-solutions key to business continuity at Aramco amid continuing COVID-19 pandemic

By Abdulrahman Abuljadayel

**Dhahran** — The strategic rollout of innovative solutions by Information Technology (IT) has played a pivotal part in maintaining Aramco's business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under unprecedented circumstances, IT managed to meet business needs in response to the pandemic and social distancing requirements, according to Ahmed M. Al-Shaikh, general manager of IT Infrastructure.



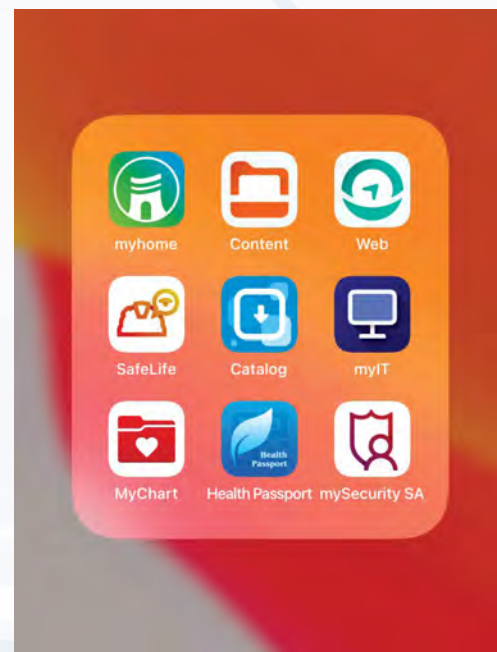
Ahmed M. Al-Shaikh

"Information Technology has managed to develop more than 20 new solutions and enhanced seven existing solutions to enable the performance of work remotely and support the health, safety, and security of employees," Al-Shaikh said.

"The main achievements of IT include expanding access to the company's intranet to host 55,000 employees working from home; providing electronic control and decision making keys to support COVID-19 response centers; deploying Skype for Business on the electronic devices of employees to enable virtual meetings; enhancing the resilience of the supply chain through virtual procurement and bidding databases; and establishing a mechanism for remotely examining personnel at the company's operation areas through a smart helmet, leveraging augmented reality technologies," he said.

All these achievements were in addition to maintaining secure systems and protection from cybersecurity attacks, he added.

The increased reliance on technology amid the pandemic enabled a companywide health awareness campaign for employees, contractors, and dependents, according to Sara Al Tamimi, head of the Digital



Communication Division in the Corporate Communication Department.

"We have used electronic mail and text messages, dedicated electronic pages on the company's intranet and on the internet, and employed billboards, screens, posters, and supervision and control means to ensure the application of precautionary measures in all company areas," Al Tamimi said.

"The COVID-19 response page included email addresses and telephone numbers of the response team members, in addition to significant electronic links for COVID-19



Adel F. Al-Wuhaib

prevention, Human Resources (HR) links, and links to virtual training programs necessary for COVID-19 prevention, as well as links for preparing workplaces to meet new preventive conditions and establishing a health isolation environment at home," she said.

"We supported employees and their dependents with a page full of guiding ideas to help them deal with life's pressure during home isolation.

"We also provided them with information and guidelines on preparing workplaces at home, as well as guidelines for supervisors and employees' work environments, and the response mechanism in case of employee infection with the virus."

In a major online initiative, the Health Passport application was designed, developed, and launched by HR to ensure the company's 285 community recreation and services facilities adhere to maximum visitor capacity.

The Health Passport issues automated permits to company employees and their dependents allowing entry into community facilities without crowding. The application has been downloaded by 60,000 users to reserve more than 190,000 safe visits to facilities.

The application was developed in cooperation with the Digital Transformation Department, the Community Services Department, the Emergency Response Taskforce, IT, Information Security, business administration areas, and Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare.

HR will soon expand the application's services to include retirees and Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare employees eligible to reside in company communities.

In another online initiative, company employees no longer need to wait in a queue to obtain a temporary vehicle sticker thanks to the mySecurity application, developed by the Industrial Security Organization, in cooperation with IT, to support the company's strategy in combating COVID-19.

The application includes a new service to issue temporary electronic stickers, according to Adel F. Al-Wuhaib, manager of the Industrial Security Support Services Department.

"Company employees can now obtain temporary digital vehicle stickers easily through the mySecurity application or the myHome portal," Al-Wuhaib said.

"They can submit requests that are electronically and immediately approved," he said.

"Electronic equipment that has been recently installed at the Industrial Security gates are used to remotely verify vehicle entry permits, which replaces the stickers fastened on vehicle's windshields.

"Furthermore, the digital sticker's electronic fingerprint is used to facilitate verification of security data through a direct connection with the Interior Ministry's National Information Center," he added.



Meanwhile, visitors will soon no longer need to go to the Visitors Center to complete a registration process with the imminent launch of a digital version of visitor access requests. Digital visitor access permits will be electronically verified at the security gates. Industrial Security Operations is working on launching the initiative in the first quarter of 2021.

The digital access system will mimic airplane boarding passes, with short text messages containing electronic fingerprints sent to visitors that they can use to enter company facilities. Industrial Security personnel will be able to verify visitors electronically by reading the fingerprints with portable devices.

Elsewhere, the company is in the process of deploying facial recognition technology at 30 Aramco facilities across the Kingdom.

The first stage of the project will involve scanning employees' faces to allow access to Aramco's restricted facilities, replacing the current procedure of entering secret code numbers. This rollout utilizes a number of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and will enable smart visitor gates, as well as assist real-time and post-incident investigations.

All of these electronic initiatives are in line with the company's safety and security strategies.

## Kingdom leads the world in digital competitiveness

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a world leader in digital competitiveness, according to the European Center for Digital Competitiveness.

The Digital Riser report, which analyzed changes in digital competitiveness in countries around the world over the last three years, found that the Kingdom led the Group of Twenty (G-20) countries.

"(Saudi Arabia's) underlying policies show a strong and comprehensive push toward digital transformation, which has created significant results," the report said.

"Saudi Arabia's outperformance can be mainly explained by its 'ICT Strategy 2023,' which was launched in 2018 to transform the Kingdom into a digital and technological powerhouse," it said.

"Furthermore, the smart city project NEOM, to which the government allocated \$500 billion, also highlights aspirations around the Saudi Vision 2030."

The Digital Riser report builds on data from the Global Competitiveness Report, published annually by the



World Economic Forum. The center is based at the ESCP Business School in Berlin.

The technological advancement in services available to citizens and residents in the Kingdom is part of improving the quality of life, which coincided with the Kingdom's chairing of the G-20 in 2020.

The Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence launched a national strategy that seeks to entrench the status of the Kingdom as a world center to enable leading

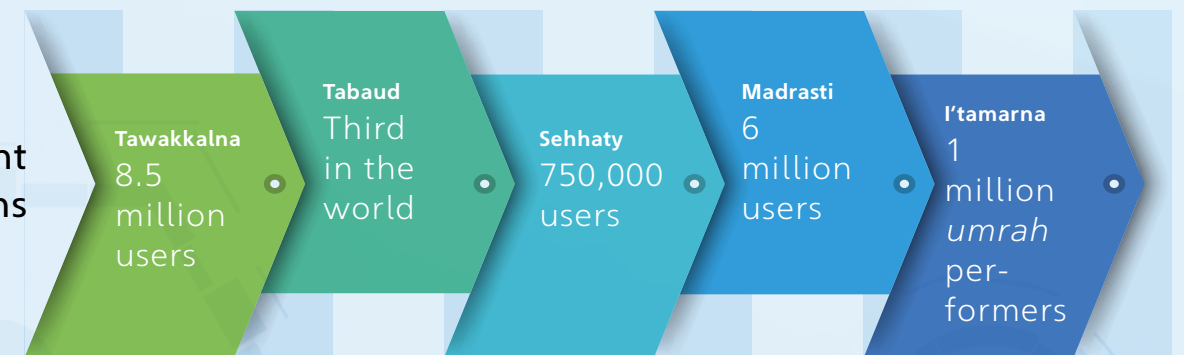
data and artificial intelligence technologies.

The authority, in cooperation with a number of government and private agencies in the Kingdom, launched a number of applications and electronic services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

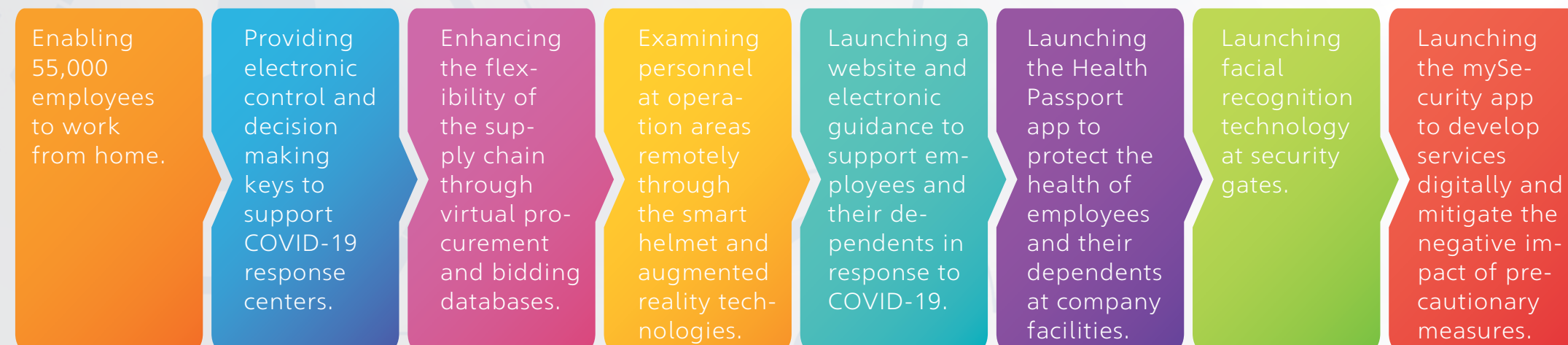
The number of Tawakkalna movement authorization application users exceeded 8.5 million, a record number achieved in the first six months of release. The Tabaud physical distancing application came third among similar applications around the world. Around 750,000 people have registered to take the vaccine on the Sehhaty application. According to the latest statistics, more than 6 million students now use the Madrasti virtual school application. The I'tamarna application has helped more than 1 million people book and perform umrah in a healthy and safe environment.

Meanwhile, there have been more than 26 million delivery orders worth more than SAR 2 billion Kingdomwide during the pandemic, according to the Communications and Information Technology Commission.

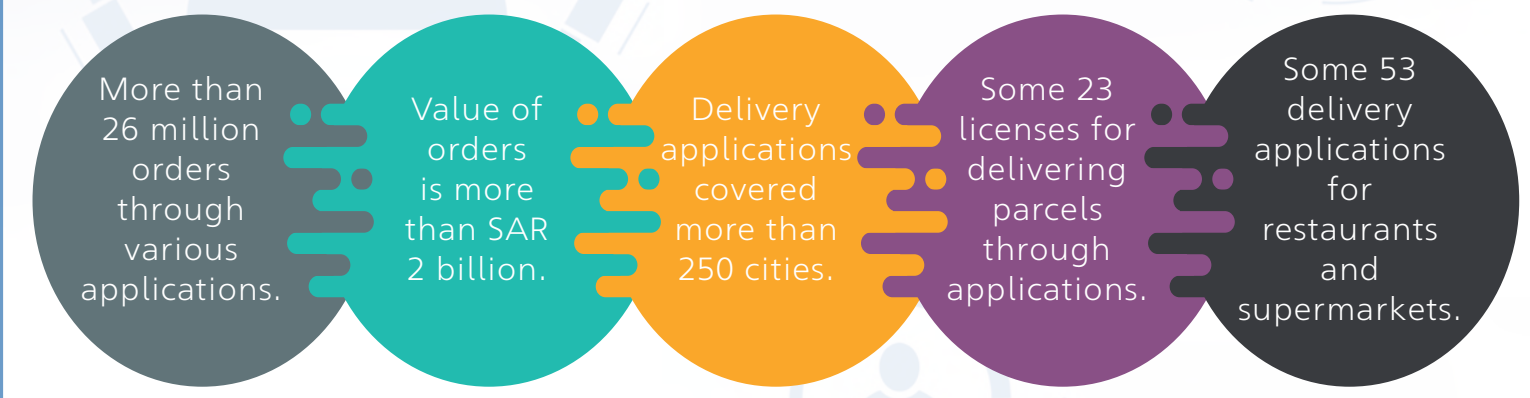
### E-government applications



### Technological achievements in combating the pandemic



### Delivery orders through electronic applications during the pandemic





# The winning formula

## Podium shared by trio of Saudis after nail-biting finish to Formula 1 Aramco Employee League

The roar of engines, the wiping of brows and twisting chicanes of the 2020 Formula 1 season had a special significance for Aramcons globally, virtual participants in the F1 Aramco Employee League.

By Eamonn Houston

When the Formula 1 (F1) season finished, three employees triumphed over the other competitors in a nail-biting finish.

Saleh Y. Alrooq (1<sup>st</sup>), Sultan T. Khayat (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Mohammed B. Alawami (3<sup>rd</sup>) were the podium finishers in a very tight season for the F1 Aramco Employee League, a fantasy league where employees select their own team and drivers and race against each other, mirroring the actual races.

All three won Paddock Club access to an F1 race in 2021.

### Global partner

Aramco shifted up a gear in its clean fuel innovation drive by becoming a global partner with the 2020 F1 season, one of six global F1 partners. Through the sponsorship, the company showcases its commitments to engineering, performance, and future fuels.

F1 has a fan base of over 500 million and a TV audience of 1.9 billion.

**Alrooq**, an engineer from the Domes-

“This was my first time in a F1 fantasy league.

— Saleh Y. Alrooq



tic Joint Venture Management Department, spoke of his passion for a sport he has followed since 2004 when he attended his first race — the Bahrain Grand Prix. “I got really passionate about it in the last couple of years, and this was my first time in a F1 fantasy league,” Alrooq said, noting he was encouraged to participate because of Aramco’s sponsorship.

The first-timer, whose favorite racer is Lewis Hamilton, analyzed historic and recent data to develop a solution through artificial intelligence that updates after each practice. This included qualifying times and racing, as well as

various aspects such as speed, down force, aerodynamics, and more.

### A history in racing

**Khayat**, an engineer at Unconventional Resources Gas Operations Development, has a rich family motor racing history. His uncle was a pioneering Saudi rally driver who was first to win the Middle East Championship twice. His father was the first Saudi co-driver, so there is a deep history of love for all things racing.

“At age 6, F1 became a passion for me, since I was watching all the races with my father,” said Khayat, who said he had many memories. His first Grand Prix event was in Bahrain (in 2004).

Not one to just watch, Khayat also has been fond of karting and has shown well on circuits in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Dubai, even achieving a qualifying spot for the world finals in Italy in 2019.

### New to F1

**Alawami**, a petroleum engineer with the EXPEC Advanced Research Center,

was a latecomer to F1, having started following the sport in 2019.

For Alawami, it was the unusual finish to the Canadian Grand Prix that year in which a five-second penalty determined the winner that got him interested. “I then learned the technical aspects of the car and racing, which pulled me even further into the sport,” he said, noting that “The fantasy league added a lot of excitement to the 2020 season — as well as many anxious moments in the last few races.”

Alawami was one of five players vying for the third and final spot, with the last two races lifting him to victory and a ticket to attend his first F1 grand prix weekend.

### Gearing up for 2021

Kicking off in March, the 2021 FIA season will be the 72<sup>nd</sup> running of the Formula One World Championship, which will consist of 23 Grand Prix races around the world.

*Details on how to enter the 2021 F1 Aramco Employee League will be released soon, so watch this space!*





75<sup>th</sup> Downstream Front-line Leadership Safety Boot Camp

## What does safety mean to you? (It's caring)

By Lujain Al Harakah

**Yanbu'** — "Safety is caring," according to the Downstream Front-line Leadership Safety Boot Camp facilitator Fareed Kamfar.

"We normally think of safety as compliance to policies (and) rules, or following the boss' instructions," Kamfar said.

"(But) we can think of safety as caring; caring for myself, for others and for ... assets," he said.

Kamfar, a retired Aramco manager, made his comments while delivering his 75<sup>th</sup> consecutive boot camp over the past 11 years.

The weeklong camp takes an unconventional approach to workplace issues in that front-line supervisors share specific incidents with industry specialists and senior management. The most recent Manager's Challenge discussion, for example, centered upon the company's emergency response plan and addressed specific, real-life incidents.



“ We can think of safety as caring.

— Fareed Kamfar

This approach encourages participants to share challenges and best practices. It also helps to find solutions to safety incidents and removes barriers between supervisors and senior management.

On the final day of the boot camp, Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, senior vice president of Downstream, highlighted that

previous safety incidents were costly in terms of human life and company assets.

"For Aramco to stay on top, the company needs to foster a safety strategy that incorporates the latest advancements in technology, and well-trained manpower to minimize the number of safety incidents," Al Qahtani said.

During the event, Suleman A. Al Bargan, vice president of Domestic Refining and NGL Fractionation, focused on creating a culture of safety in the joint venture (JV) companies aligned with Aramco.

"Safety training will be open to all JV employees similar to Aramco employees," Fawwaz I. Nawwab, Ras Tanura Refinery (RTR) general manager, confirmed.

Boot camp participants recommended the program to front-line leaders, especially female industrial supervisors as part of diversity and inclusion.

"The engagement was excellent

and we shared with each other our experiences and learned from the exchange, especially with those working at JVs," said Mohammed A. Arjani, a foreman from the East-West Pipelines Department.

"Involving participants from Aramco and JVs have enriched the program with a lot of experience and lessons learned," said Salah M. Mugim, senior operations engineer at the RTR.

"(The program) projects safety as a broader concept enabling leaders to understand and demonstrate it in a better way," said Mohammed Al Saghheers, a supervisor in Maintenance Engineering Support from the Eastern Region Distribution Department. "I truly recommend it for all front-line leaders in any place."

"Safety boot camp is one of the best programs that Aramco is providing to develop leadership skills to continue the excellent safety performance and enhance safety culture," said Thamer Hunaiti, a Core Team leader from SAMREF.

## Instilling a culture of the 'New Normal' at our training centers

By Ahmed S. Abdelmoeti

The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to learn a lot and change our behaviors as Aramcons.

Aramco's Industrial Training Department (ITD) has launched several programs and campaigns in this regard, equipping trainees with the latest information, approved protocols, and best practices to prevent and minimize COVID-19 impacts at work, at home, and across the entire Kingdom.

"As ITD prepares the company's future workforce, it's a top priority for us to sustain their health, safety, and well-being," said Ahmed M. Aburas, acting ITD director.

Each Aramco Industrial Training Center (ITC) has championed a COVID-19 initiative to be shared with other centers. At the Southern Area Industrial Training Division (SAITD), "Instilling the Culture of a New Normal" helps Aramco trainees adapt to new lifestyles due to COVID-19, transforming their traditional thinking, habits, and daily behaviors for the "new normal."

"We endeavor to reach full compliance from all trainees and staff to ensure that the new measures such as physical distancing, hygiene, and wearing masks become standard practice," said Wajih B. Malibari, acting head of SAITD.

Every week, SAITD focuses on a topic related to COVID-19, from a trainee perspective, and is used as the main safety message and central theme of discussion in all classrooms and workshops, including popular apps used to fight the virus and proper precautionary measures to protect yourself,



By focusing on one topic a week from a trainee perspective, Aramco helps instill routines that will keep trainees operating in a safe manner.

friends, and family.

"As we keep discussing one main topic for a whole week, the topic becomes a part of my routine, and I change my behaviors and even my beliefs, because of what I learn from the discussions," said Dhidan K. Otipe, a Metal Training Unit trainee at the Mubarraz ITC.

### Take the lesson learned home

Aramco trainees can be "change catalysts" in their communities. With this in mind, a real-life incident related to COVID-19 and lessons learned are shared every Thursday. In turn, trainees share them with families and friends outside Aramco to boost COVID-19 awareness in the larger community.

"Every time I share the stories and lessons learned with my family members, they appreciate the keenness of

my training center to not only take care of my health and safety, but also to educate my loved ones and enable them to lead a healthy life and avoid COVID-19," said Saleh S. Alkhamis, a trainee from the Academic Training Unit at the Mubarraz ITC.

### Best COVID-19 warriors and influencers

SAITD also recognizes trainees and teachers who regularly inspire others to abide by COVID-19 measures both inside and outside of the ITC, unleashing their creativity. Top trainees are called "Best COVID-19 Warriors," and instructors are called "Best Influencers."

SAITD makes sure the messages stick by offering monthly virtual refresher sessions. In one, health professionals offered tips to stay safe and answered trainee questions.

### And the learning goes on.

"As we are seeking long-term programs that ensure sustainability and continuity, I think that 'Instilling the Culture of a New Normal' is a well-designed program that can be utilized by any educational institute," said Abdul Raheem M. Budair, assistant superintendent of Craft and Technical Training.

Mohammad A. Obaidallah, assistant superintendent for the Academic Training section in SAITD, agrees, noting the program is just one example the company has taken to keep people safe and secure during the pandemic.

"The major ambitious projects T&D has launched since the beginning of the COVID-19 situation have inspired us all, and helped to keep us moving forward during some of the most difficult months many of us have ever known," he said.



# Aramco Houston Half Marathon goes virtual for first time

This year's Aramco Houston Half Marathon was held virtually Jan. 8-17, with runners completing 13.1 miles in their neighborhoods as races observe physical distancing during the pandemic to keep people safe.

While the footrace wasn't held on Houston's fast and flat course this year, Aramco stayed committed to the event and the runners, who recorded their times on a smartphone app developed for the race.

More than ever, runners in this year's race reflected the resiliency of the human spirit in tough times.

"We are pleased to support the Aramco Houston Half Marathon and the special role it is playing as an outlet for health and fitness during challenging times," Nabeel I. AlAfaleg, president and CEO, Aramco Americas, said ahead of the race.

Although Aramcons typically help send runners off at the starting line wishing them well, this year they received a digital message from AlAfaleg via social media.

"To all runners in this year's Houston Marathon races, we at Aramco wish you the best. Running a virtual race in times like these takes enthusiasm and resilience," he said. "We admire your dedication and look forward to seeing you back at the traditional starting line in 2022!"

This was Aramco's 17<sup>th</sup> year sponsoring the race, which has become one of the most popular half marathons in the world.

Houston Marathon Weekend includes the Chevron Houston Marathon, the Aramco Houston Half Marathon, and the We Are Houston 5K, proudly spon-



Although the footrace wasn't held on Houston's fast and flat course this year, Aramco supported the dedicated runners by having runners record their times on a smartphone app developed for the Half Marathon.

sored by both companies.

The full, half, and 5k races make up a three-day weekend event that typically draws more than 30,000 runners and 200,000 spectators, along with droves of Aramcons who hand out race kits to runners. This year, more than 60 Aramcons, retirees or employees of Motiva — as well as their family members — registered to run one of the races.

The "Run for a Reason" charitable component of the race weekend also continued. Over the past decade, participants in the three races together have generated over \$2 million per year in donations.

"Helping to link the philanthropic community with race participants to raise funds for meaningful causes is important to us," said Alma Kombargi,

acting director of Public Affairs at Aramco Americas.

First time and veteran runners of the race received their coveted 2021 Aramco Houston Half Marathon finisher medals, to commemorate what may be their first and perhaps only virtual race.

Dmytrii Dolhov, a logistics advisor at Aramco Americas, ran his half marathon in one of Houston's large parks and enjoyed it even without the roar of the crowds.

"I'm honored to run as an Aramco employee ... and that the company gives us this opportunity to run such a great event in Houston," he said. "Hopefully, next year, the pandemic will be over and I'll be able to run the race through the city as we normally do," he added.

## Fast footed Aramco lawyer becomes race ambassador

Christin Faykus, an attorney in the Aramco Americas Law Department, was among a handful of runners chosen this year to be an Aramco Houston Half Marathon race ambassador.

The honorary role is awarded to dedicated runners who can inspire others to progress in the sport.

Faykus, who ran her 10<sup>th</sup> Aramco Houston Half Marathon this year, had her fastest race on the course in 2020, when she ran 1:34:23. The world record for the women's half marathon, by comparison, is 1:04:31.

In this year's virtual race, she provided training tips to runners in videos that were included in an app just for participants.

She likes to run to go fast, but also to relax.

"I'm always tracking miles and times but it's more important to me just from the perspective of it being an outlet — it's just the best form of stress relief," she said.

She encouraged runners to have confidence in their own resiliency, as they have already weathered the pandemic.

"My general advice to new runners is to trust your training. The good thing about all of this is that it has made you really mentally tough, and that is half the battle when you are running a marathon or half marathon," she said.

# A pathway to improve and enhance well-being in Dhahran

By Dalia Darweesh

**Dhahran** — The Central Community Services Department (CCSD) transformed an old golf site into a safe and family friendly biking trail, officially inaugurating it on Jan. 13. The event started out with a friendly bike race with 60 participants — the majority were children from the Dhahran community.

Mohammad A. Sultan, general manager of Community Services Operations, said, "The bike path was made to improve the well-being of employees and to enhance their lifestyles. The elevation variations within the path provides stress training — it is also a multipurpose area where people can bike, relax by the duck pond, as well as socialize."

## Biking and enjoying

CCSD manager, Meshaal S. Khaldi, emphasized the promotion of a safe environment first, as the route is safely structured for bikers to enjoy their time. "Improving the quality of life is essential to the Dhahran community. Surrounding the trail, there will be



The Central Community Services Department launch a new bike trail in Dhahran designed to give Aramcons a dedicated space to peddle their way to well-being and health.

a future forest that is currently being planted," he said.

Daniel Scott, vice president of the cycling club in Dhahran, said, "It is great to see kids pursuing their lifelong passion with cycling today. It is a good way for families to have healthy activities such as this one."

High-tech smart solar benches are placed within the trail. They include a wireless phone charging station, in addition to speakers that connect phones to play music — encouraging people to connect to nature while connecting their phone chargers — explained Ameen M. Rashed from CCSD.

Manal I. Mousa, from CCSD, explained the design concept of the bike lane — cycle forever and connect. The path includes several connecting circles placed on the route where every 500 meters, two bikers can meet in the same circle to engage and chat.

## Voices from the community

Ahlan N. Zaid, from the Accounting Policies and Systems Department, was one of the participants during the bike race. She expressed her enthusiasm for participating in a sports-related event. "It is a great addition to the community, promoting and encouraging people to be active."

Jacob A. Burry from CCSD said, "This is a great place for young kids to ride their bikes in a safe environment. Everyone should go out and take advantage of the weather during this time of the year."

Amal Hamid Shadhan from community concessions said, "We miss being a part of the family with our community members. It is nice to see this event after months, and to be able to experience it with the community."





# Empowered to speak

By Dalia Darweesh

Held by the Pipelines Department, the second empowered to speak event finale took place on Dec. 30, 2020. The event, which was attended by Mohammed A. Al-Hatlani, Pipelines general manager and department managers, encourages and motivates employees to showcase their presentation and public speaking skills. Eight employees from across Pipelines were chosen as finalists, each had a maximum of 15 minutes to present. Three expert judges who are part of Toastmasters and STEP were present at the event: Soliman M. Al-Madi, Nazia T. Iqbal, and Rami M. Jawad.

Noor T. Alhagbani, career counselor with Pipelines' Human Resources (HR) started the event noting how this type of competition promotes a healthy, competitive environment in the workplace.

Al-Hatlani thanked the employees for their outstanding efforts and commitment during a challenging year by demonstrating high levels of resilience and performance. About the event, he said, "This is an opportunity for employees to develop their communication and presentation skills and to unleash their potential."

This is one of the Pipeline's initiatives with the HR committee, which includes other initiatives and programs focusing on HR enhancements.

## Outstanding presentations

The first presentation was "A Talk about Routine" by **Mohammed A. Fakieh**, an engineer from the East-West Pipelines Department (EWPDP). He explained the difference between a routine and a habit. Fakieh tackled saving time, building momentum, and coping with change.

Second, **Abdulaziz H. Aljabr**, an engineer from the P&DT Projects and Technical Support Department presented "Practice Makes Permanent" — instead of perfect. Aljabr noted that with the right tools and knowledge, we can deliver a high performance. We are all empowered to speak.

**Mohammad M. Alduhaim**, an engineer from the P&DT Projects and Technical Support Department was next, with "Pending Update: Brain 1.1," discussing how memories shape us, how to change our perception of memories by facing our fears, and analyzing why a memory affects us negatively.

Fourth, **Abduljalil H. Almashama**, an engineer from the Southern Area Pipelines Department (SAPD) presented on "Behavioral Cognitive Bias," where he discussed behavioral, action, and authority biases — how to spot, know, and conquer a bias, especially in the workplace.

**Ghazi M. Sumiri**, an oil and gas operator from EWPDP presented "Meat the Future Earth," explaining how implementing dietary changes to consume less meat can save the planet from issues like global warming, dead zones, and heat waves.

"Forgiveness" presented by **Eman F. Alotaibi**, an admin clerk from the Northern Area Pipelines Department (NAPD) shared differences between males and females. She explained how men base their forgiveness on values and principles, where women base theirs on empathy.

**Muhammed S. Chakkungal**, a maintenance engineer from NAPD presented "From Seeds to Plantation." He discussed how facing rough situations while growing up led to him valuing life. Salman was eventually able to give back to the community in turn.

"The Secret to Getting Anything You Want in Life," presented by **Yagoob Y. Alsarouj**, a CP technician from SAPD explained why people with self-doubt fail, why you should ask for things you want, and how to implement a mindset shift strategy.

## Accomplishments

The judges chose Fakieh as the third runner up, second was Salman, and Aljabr was the winner.

Al-Hatlani added, "The competition discovers talented employees who are excellent in communication skills. This year's participants have exceeded my expectations. I would like to give special thanks to the departments for encouraging and empowering their employees to participate. The 'Empowered to Speak' competition will create exceptional presenters who will advance in their careers, becoming better performers."



## Photographic memory

This construction site was for a new public school in Qatif; one of the seven that the company built in 1970. According to an agreement with the government, Aramco built 37 new schools, for girls and boys, and paid their operation and maintenance costs.



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A pathway to improve and enhance well-being in Dhahran

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## Dakar Rally competitive driver Tariq Al-Rammah Aramcon Al-Rammah, Dakar driver, rallies around Jiddah

By Dalia Darweesh

The famous Dakar Rally is racing through the deserts and dunes of Saudi Arabia for a second time. The 43<sup>rd</sup> off-road race, which started in Jiddah on Jan. 3 and ends in the city on Jan. 15, covers more than 7,000 km in new routes, providing many challenges for the more than 200 participants, 12 of whom are female.

### Experience

One of the participants is Aramcon Tariq S. Al-Rammah — an HR generalist with the Environmental Protection Business Staff Group — who is driving in the rally for a second time. Looking back at last year’s rally, he said, “I found the entire experience to be outstanding. The event’s organization, the layout of the track, and its spectacular routes, in addition to the adherence of high safety standards — exceeded all of my expectations.”

Al-Rammah said that it’s nice to see what Saudi Arabia and its people can achieve. He noticed great interest from rally participants, who admired the rally’s organization and safety



Aramcon Tariq S. Al-Rammah, shown here raising the Saudi flag after competing in the Dakar Rally, is racing again this year. The race concludes this weekend.

standards during the entire event. He said it was also a great experience to introduce and share the country’s local culture with fellow drivers during the event.

Even at a young age, Al-Rammah was fascinated by rally sports and has worked hard to develop his skills to eventually obtain an International FIA/FIM Cross-Country Rally license from the U.K., which enabled him to participate in races and rallies, including the Dakar Rally.

### Lasting impact

This year, the Dakar Rally has the environment as its theme. It will help support ambitious initiatives to promote and develop innovative low-emission vehicle solutions, including the use of fuel-efficient engines, electric motors, and green energy.

The rally has stringent rules and regulations in place and it is not easy to be a participant. Prior to the start of the event, organizers inspect the competitors’ vehicles to ensure adherence to the

strict race guidelines. Those who don’t follow the rules are immediately disqualified.

### Safety first

Al-Rammah always promotes the importance of safety and protection of the environment and his goal is to always represent himself and Aramco with the best image. The Dakar Rally is more about being a safety event rather than an extreme sport.

“The rally will showcase Saudi Arabia’s talented pool of competitive drivers, showing the entire world what we can achieve in the spirit of competition,” he said.

### COVID-19 protocols

Sanitary protocols have been established and will be implemented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Dakar Rally as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event’s organizers along with Saudi authorities have developed sanitary protocols according to current regulations, including building a sanitary bubble, extensive PCR testing, and the wearing of masks. This safety strategy is governing every aspect of the race from start to finish.

## Wildlife at home

Sana Duval, wife of Aramco employee Sebastien Duval, captured this picture of a flock of Great Cormorants and Grey Herons in Nov. 2020 at the Dhahran Camp. Sana used a Sony Alpha a9 camera to take the photograph. Sebastien lives and works in Dhahran as a science consultant at the Research and Development Center. He has been with the company more than 14 years.

