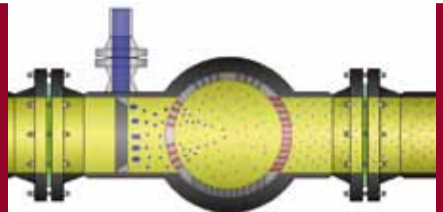




# The Arabian SUN

Vol. LXIV, No. 26, July 1, 2009

Page **4**



A new mixing valve now in use at Shed-gum GOSP-4 saves millions of gallons of water.

Page **8**

## Social responsibility

Saudi Aramco's ethic of social responsibility touches many aspects of the Kingdom's fabric.

## 47 reach accident-free milestone

By **Rahmah I. Nawwab**

DHAHRAN — Being a safety leader in the company for 35 years is a goal for which many employees strive but few attain.

### Stay safe

“Forty-seven of our colleagues have reached a key milestone, working for the company for 35 years, which is worth a lot of recognition,” said Saudi Aramco president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih at the June Executive Management Safety Review in Dhahran. “But doing it with an impeccable record of zero incidents is truly, truly something to celebrate, recognize and to congratulate. I believe each and

See **'Milestone,'** page five

## H1N1 flu acts like other flu

DHAHRAN — H1N1 flu, first confirmed in April 2009, is thought to spread in the same way as regular seasonal influenza viruses, with similar symptoms, according to Saudi Aramco Medical Services Organization (SAMSO).

Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person when infected people cough or sneeze. Some people may become infected by touching something with the flu virus on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The most common symptoms of influenza A, as H1N1 is also known, are also similar to the common symptoms of regular flu: See **'Flu,'** page five



Photo: **Abdulaziz M. Al-Moaiweed**

## Cruising for violators

An Eastern Province Highway Security Forces officer sits at the wheel of a new highway cruiser equipped with state-of-the-art technology aimed at enforcing traffic laws on the Dhahran-Jubail Highway. Saudi Aramco donated a fleet of the cars to the Security Forces. See story and more photos on page 8.

# Khursaniyah success

## Contributors thanked for hard work

By **Ahmad Dialdin**

KHURSANIYAH — Northern Area Oil Operations (NAOO) held a recognition ceremony on June 17 in honor of all the employees, departments, divisions and units involved in the successful and safe startup of the Abu

Hadriyah, Fadhili and Khursaniyah Producing facilities.

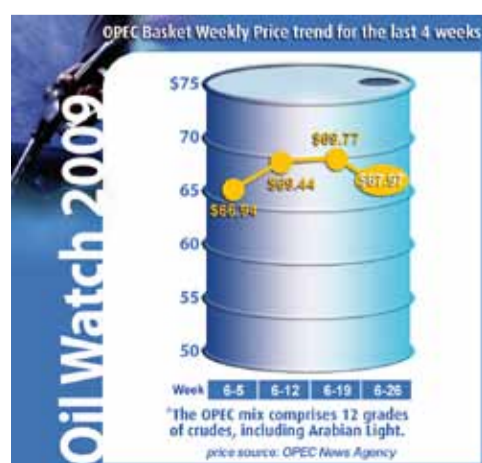
“If I had to summarize the story of Khursaniyah in one word, I would say perseverance. You persisted against all odds, you worked together. You united, and you kept going when the going

was tough,” said Khalid A. Al-Falih, president and CEO, who attended the event along with several members of executive management.

The visit began with a short tour of the facilities, giving several of the employees working there

a chance to meet with Al-Falih and discuss plant operations and current status.

Afterward, Zaid M. Al-Hazmi, manager of Ras Tanura Producing, gave a brief overview on the success story that is the Khursaniyah Program, highlighting its emphasis on safety, early planning and using young personnel to run the project. See **'Success,'** page five



## Showa Shell, Saudi Aramco sign on solar pilot project

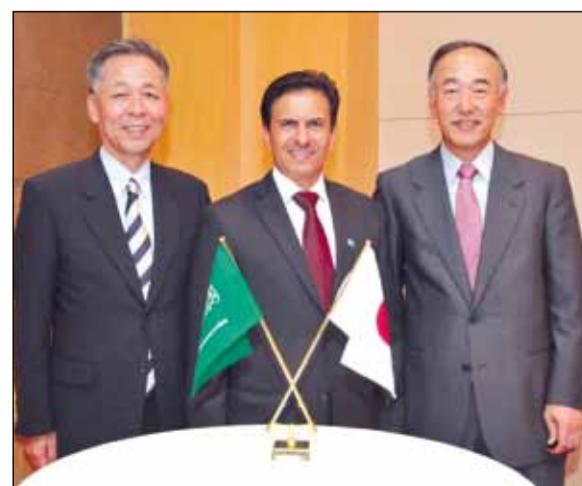
TOKYO — Saudi Aramco and Japan's Showa Shell have signed a letter of intent to study the feasibility of generating power from the sun using proprietary Showa Shell technology in a pilot project in the Kingdom.

### The edge

Khalid G. Al-Buainain, senior vice president of Refining, Marketing and International, and Shigeya Kato, chairman of Showa Shell, signed the letter of intent on June 12 in Tokyo.

The pilot project also has the support of the Japanese government and its Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

See **'Solar,'** page five



From left, Shigeaki Kameda, Khalid G. Al-Buainain and Shigeya Kato celebrate as a letter of intent was signed to study the feasibility of a solar project.

## Intersession films

The following feature films for children will be shown at Saudi Aramco community theaters during the upcoming intersession in July.

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3**, starring Zac Efron and Ashley Tisdale. High school seniors Troy and Gabriella are facing the prospect of being separated from one another as they head off in different directions to college. Joined by the rest of the Wildcats, they stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about their future. (2008, musical, 1 hr. 40 mins., G) — **Dhahran:** Sun., July 5, 3 p.m.; **Abqaiq:** Sat., July 11, 2 p.m.; **Najmah:** Wed., July 15, 2:30 p.m.; **'Udhailiyah:** Sun., July 26, 2:30 p.m.

**BOLT**, starring John Travolta and Susie Essman. The canine star of a fictional sci-fi/action show who believes his powers are real embarks on a cross-country trek to save his co-star from a threat he believes is just as real. (2008, animation, 1 hr. 36 mins., PG) — **Dhahran:** Sun., July 12, 3 p.m.; **Abqaiq:** Sat., July 18, 2 p.m.; **Najmah:** Wed., July 22, 2:30 p.m.; **'Udhailiyah:** Sun., July 5, 2:30 p.m.

**BRIDE WARS**, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. Two best friends become rivals when they schedule their respective weddings on the same day. (2008, comedy, 1 hr. 30 mins., PG) — **Dhahran:** Sun., July 19, 3 p.m.; **Abqaiq:** Sat., July 25, 2 p.m.; **Najmah:** Wed., July 29, 2:30 p.m.; **'Udhailiyah:** Sun., July 12, 2:30 p.m.

**MADAGASCAR 2**, starring Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and Jada Pinkett Smith. Hoping to return to New York via a penguin-piloted plane, the four animal friends crash land in the plains of Africa (2008, action, 1 hr. 38 mins., PG) — **Dhahran:** Sun., July 26, 3 p.m.; **Abqaiq:** Sat., July 4, 2 p.m.; **Najmah:** Wed., July 8, 2:30 p.m.; **'Udhailiyah:** Sun., July 19, 2:30 p.m.

## Photographic memory



### Birth of a giant

In 1945, Aramco began working on the 50,000-barrel-per-day Ras Tanura Refinery as a first step in a major post-World War II expansion program. The refinery stood as one of the company's largest, most-essential refineries.

## This week's movies

### DHAHRAN

**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**, starring Queen Latifah and Dakota Fanning (drama, PG-13) — Wed., July 1, 5:30 p.m.; Thu., July 2, 8 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 5:30 p.m.

**PAUL BLART MALL COP**, starring Kevin James and Keir O'Donnell (comedy, PG) — Wed., July 1, 8 p.m.; Thu., July 2, 5:30 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 8 p.m.

**VALKYRIE**, starring Tom Cruise and Kenneth Branagh (action, PG-13) — Sat., July 4, 5:30 p.m.; Wed., July 8, 8 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC**, starring Isla Fisher and Hugh Dancy (comedy, PG) — Sat., July 4, 8 p.m.; Wed., July 8, 5:30 p.m.

**INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL**, starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett (adventure, PG-13) — Sun., July 5, 5:30 p.m.

**MADE OF HONOR**, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan (comedy, PG-13) — Sun., July 5, 8 p.m.

### ABQAIQ

**BABY MAMA**, starring Tina Fey and Amy Poehler (comedy, PG-13) — Wed., July 1, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

**FLASH OF GENIUS**, starring Greg Kinnear and Lauren Graham (drama, PG-13) — Thu., July 2, and Fri., July 3, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

**INKHEART**, starring Brendan Fraser and Helen Mirren (fantasy, PG) — Sat., July 4, and Sun., July 5, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

**MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS**, starring Jude Law and Natalie

Portman (comedy, PG-13) — Wed., July 8, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

### NAJMAH

**YES MAN**, starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel (comedy, PG-13) — Wed., July 1, 4:45 p.m.

**SHABAN AL-FARES**, starring Ahmed Adam and Jumana Murad (Arabic comedy, PG-13) — Wed., July 1, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 4:45 p.m.

**SYNECDOCHE NEW YORK**, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Catherine Keener (drama, R) — Thu., July 2, 4:15 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 7:30 p.m.

**8X10 TASVEER**, starring Akshay Kumar and Ayesha Takia (Hindi, PG-13) — Thu., July 2, 7 p.m.

**QUANTUM OF SOLACE**, starring Daniel Craig and Judi Dench (action, PG-13) — Sat., July 4, and Wed., July 8, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.

**MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS** — Sun., July 5, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.

### 'UDHAILIYAH

**SEVEN POUNDS**, starring Will Smith and Rosario Dawson (drama, PG-13) — Wed., July 1, 5 p.m.; Thu., July 2, 8 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 5 p.m.

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**, starring Dev Patel and Anil Kapoor (comedy, R) — Wed., July 1, 8 p.m.; Thu., July 2, 5 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 8 p.m.

**HAPPY GO LUCKY**, starring Alexis Zegerman and Sally Hawkins (comedy, R) — Sat., July 4, 5 p.m.

**SHABAN AL-FARES** — Sat., July 4, 8 p.m.

**BABY MAMA** — Sun., July 5, 5 and 8 p.m.

**FROZEN RIVER**, starring Melissa Leo and Misty Upham (drama, R) — Wed., July 8, 5 p.m.

**8X10 TASVEER** — Wed., July 8, 8 p.m.

## Movie Reviews

**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES:** To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, 14-year-old Lily flees to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her late mother's past. (2008)

**PAUL BLART MALL COP:** When a shopping mall is overtaken by a gang of organized crooks, it's up to a mild-mannered security guard to save the day. (2009)

**VALKYRIE:** A plot to assassinate Hitler is unfurled during the height of World War II in this film taken from actual events. (2008)

**CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC:** A college grad lands a job in New York City, where she nurtures her shopping addiction and falls for a wealthy entrepreneur. (2009)

**INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL:** Teaming up with a rebellious young biker and his spirited love, Indy tries to outrace a brilliant and beautiful agent for the Crystal Skull of Akator. (2008)

**MADE OF HONOR:** Tom and Hannah have been best friends for years and always relied on one another. When Hannah announces her upcoming wedding to another man, Tom realizes that he's in love with her and needs to win her back. (2008)

# Clinics sharpen chess skills

DHAHRAN — The Dhahran Chess Club recently completed its series of weekend chess clinics held in May and June at Building 1221B. Two large demonstration chess boards with magnetic pieces were used to demonstrate the moves and explain the strategies and ideas in chess.

The clinics covered five topics:

- Basics I was for those who had never played the game. The movement of each chess piece was explained, as were the board and the arrangement of pieces at the beginning of play. Other rules and courtesies also were covered.
- In Basics II, beginners and intermediate players were trained to improve their skills by learning basic planning, strategy and techniques to win a game or, when appropriate, draw.
- In Basic Endgames, the techniques for checkmating a lone

king with minimum resources were demonstrated.

- Elementary Tactics dealt with direct attacks or double threats aimed at gaining material by applying themes such as fork, pin, skewer, combination, X-ray, discovered check, double check and “zugzwang” (a tactic that gives the opponent only losing moves).

- Basic Openings covered main-line variations, ideas, traps and strategies in each of the popular chess openings.

The members who took part in some or all of the clinics were Anshul Pattoo; Ghassan, Sammer, Rose and Farah Al-Omaid; Hoda, Dur and Jwana Murad; Rotana and Jumana Ismail; Duha Saleh; Waleed Barakat; Azubair Dawd; Omar Zahdan; Muath Masri; Avesh Jain; Nadeen and Yahya Soliman; and Omar Younis.

Andy Reyes was the chief instructor in the series.



Children practice their budding chess skills at one of the Dhahran Chess Club's clinics.

The Dhahran Chess Club meets from 6-8 p.m. Saturdays and Mondays at Bldg. 1221B near

the Heritage Gallery. For more information, call Andy Reyes at 574-4460 or visit <http://hron->

[line.aramco.com.sa/community](http://line.aramco.com.sa/community) > Dhahran > Recreation > Special Interest Group > Chess.

Mazen I. Snobar, executive director of Industrial Services, left, and Khaleel A. Joharji, right, present Eid S. Al-Shammari with a certificate of appreciation for taking part in the department's Leadership Day.



## Transportation Department hosts Leadership Day

The Transportation Department gathered representatives from all Industrial Services departments recently for a Leadership Day.

The event was aimed at front-line supervisors and foremen, and covered a host of topics.

“All great leaders exhibit common attributes that can be learned, and, therefore, ‘Everyone Can Be a Leader,’” said Khaleel

A. Joharji, manager of the Transportation Department, introducing the theme of the gathering.

He explained the difference between managing and leading and then turned the floor over to four lecturers: Mashhoor Al-Shareef of the Career Development Department; Mohammad Mulla of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM); Eid S. Al-Shammari, dean of the

College of Industrial Management at KFUPM; and human-resources development consultant Abdulrahman Al-Tuwaijri.

The presenters discussed leadership concepts such as leaders' qualities, situational leadership, young talent and good supervision, effective leadership models and building leadership. Guests included representatives from all Industrial Services departments.

## Tennis enthusiasts converge on Dhahran

DHAHRAN — The Dhahran Tennis Association (DTA) and Dhahran Recreation Services joined forces May 28 to host an adult tennis exchange among groups from Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ras Tanura and ‘Udhailiyah.

DTA social chairman Rick Sutton organized about 100 tennis players for a day of social mixed doubles at the Third Street tennis courts, chosen in order to take advantage of recent improvements.

DTA president Michele Taylor welcomed the visiting players and commended them for braving the high temperatures and the commute to Dhahran.

Players quickly came to appreciate the three shaded courts. A close second in popularity was either watching the French Open on the big-screen TV or shopping at the new sports shop in the refurbished clubhouse.

After four hours of competition on the newly painted courts — and after consuming close to



The DTA's adult tennis exchange was planned to take advantage of the newly covered Third Street courts, above. Below, players signed in from Dhahran, Abqaiq, Ras Tanura and ‘Udhailiyah.

20 gallons of sports drink — the players took a break for a light dinner, prepared by Arabian Food Supplies, and lots of socializing.

That was followed by another three hours of tennis.

The participating clubs promised to make the exchange an annual event.

For more information on DTA, visit <http://www.dhahran-tennis.com/>.



Nadir Khawaja



Paul Lecaillon

## School board seats new members

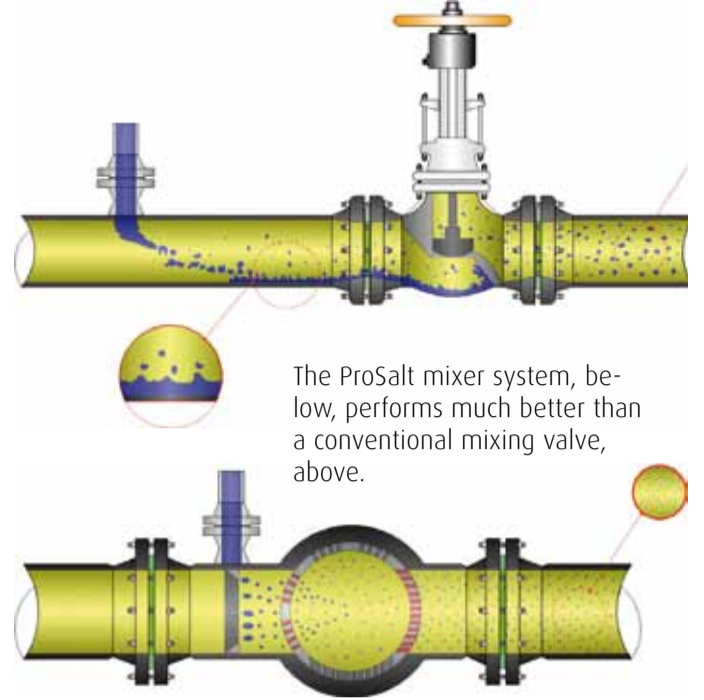
DHAHRAN — Nadir Khawaja and Paul Lecaillon took their positions June 8 as the newest members of the Saudi Aramco School Board at the board's regular meeting.

In another board change, Patrick Carmichael will replace Neil Horton as company management representative.

Representing Dhahran, Paul Lecaillon will serve a three-year term as he replaces Theresa Grutzius. Nadir Khawaja will represent Ras Tanura in a three-year term, replacing Ken Gunther.

Ishrat Karbach, Gunther, Horton and Grutzius stepped down from the board after two, three, four and six years, respectively.

A seat representing ‘Udhailiyah remains open. If you are a resident of ‘Udhailiyah and are interested in serving on the Saudi Aramco School Board, contact ‘Udhailiyah School principal Mark McDougall at 577-6032.

Abdulla N.  
Al-HelalMuhammad A.  
BayahyaHussain M.  
Al-GhamdiOmar M.  
HalawaniFahad A.  
Al-Qahtani

The ProSalt mixer system, below, performs much better than a conventional mixing valve, above.

# Less (water) is more

*New mixing valve saves millions of gallons*

SLEDGUM — Gas Oil Separation Plants (GOSPs) are a critical part of Saudi Aramco's hydrocarbon production stream. That's where incoming crude is separated into gas, oil and water streams.

Part of that separation process uses conventional static mixers to mix crude oil with fresh wash water as part of the desalting process. The conventional mixing valve often consumes large quantities of wash water and chemicals.

When a promising new mixing valve came on the market — the

ProSalt mixer system by ProPure from Norway — a team of Saudi Aramco engineers was tasked with testing it at Shedgum GOSP-4. Under the Petroleum Engineering and Development Special Testing Program, a team was formed from the North Ghawar Producing Department (NGPD), the Production and Facilities Development Department (P&FDD), and the Process and Control Systems Department (P&CSD).

Results of the trial were impressive. The team reported:

## The edge

- The differential pressure across the new valve decreased by more than 50 percent, from 15 pounds per square inch differential to 7 psid.
- The wash-water rate was reduced by about 40 percent, from 50 gallons per minute to 30 gpm, saving more than 10 million gallons of wash water per year in one facility alone.
- Oil-in-water content from

the desalter was reduced by about 60 percent, from 18 parts per million to 7 ppm.

• The salt content remained within specifications throughout the test.

“Because of this success at Shedgum GOSP-4, Southern Area Oil Operations now plans to expand the use of the subject technology in all of its crude processing facilities,” said NGPD manager Abdulla N. Al-Helal “which will enable the company to save about 450 million gallons

of wash water a year, thus conserving one of Saudi Arabia's natural resources.”

Team members were Muhammad A. Bayahya and Hussain M. Al-Ghamdi of NGPD's Plant Engineering Unit, Fahad A. Al-Qahtani of P&FDD's Production Technology Applications Unit, and Omar M. Halawani of the Upstream Process Engineering Division's Oil Production Unit. Additional support came from Shedgum GOSP-4 and the Southern Area Laboratories Division.



## Sulfur squeeze-out

The Saudi Aramco Shell Refinery Co. (SASREF) Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Project is slated for startup in October, and Saudi Aramco and SASREF executives visited the site recently for an update. Saudi Aramco's senior vice president of Operations Services, Abdulrahman F. Al-Wuhaib, also serves as chairman of the SASREF board of directors. He toured the refinery facility at Jubail Industrial City and was briefed by SASREF president Abdulhakim A. Gouhi, along with the company's management team. The refinery is expected to produce about 90,000 barrels per day of ultra-low-sulfur diesel, making SASREF the Kingdom's first producer in compliance with new environmental standards.



Those who passed the hazard-recognition examination are now certified to conduct OSHA construction-safety training courses and issue training certification cards.

## Safety advisers receive hazard training

Project Management safety advisers are now qualified to conduct hazard-recognition training in their departments, having completed a two-week program conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Training Institute at the University of California, San Diego.

The Project Support and Controls Department (PS&CD) coordinated the program for 24 Project Management safety advisers and two Loss Prevention Department engineers. The newly trained trainers will teach others to recognize and avoid hazardous construction situations, which can result in serious incidents involving people or equipment.

Project Management's objective to improve safety performance includes a series of

### Stay safe

training programs created to enhance construction safety. Seeing the need to spread this safety knowledge as quickly as possible, PS&CD turned to the OSHA Training Institute's solution.

The program was split into two courses. The first, “OSHA Standards for the Construction Industry,” provided an overview of OSHA and Saudi Aramco safety and health requirements. It also gave participants the knowledge to recognize, avoid and prevent unsafe conditions on construction sites.

The second course, “Trainer Course for the Construction Industry,” taught participants to establish safety-training objectives and to develop and deliver effective

presentations. The presentations were then critiqued for style, content and delivery, allowing trainers a chance to improve their techniques.

Those who passed the examination are certified to conduct the OSHA construction-safety training and to issue training certification cards.

They also received the materials they need to conduct the course, which covers topics such as hazard communication, crane and electrical safety, and materials handling.

This is the first of many safety-training programs that have been planned for the next five years. It has given Project Management qualified safety trainers who can further circulate the program to their engineers and construction workers.

## Solar:

(continued from page one)

Taru Ishida, director general of METI's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, welcomed the agreement and affirmed the ministry's backing.

The pilot project not only in-

volves the transfer of cutting-edge technology and the exchange of expertise between the two companies but also leverages their existing relationship, as Saudi Aramco, through an affiliate, holds an equity stake in Showa Shell. As part of the project, young Saudi engineers will receive specialized training at Showa Shell's

solar-energy plant, ensuring they gain knowledge and experience in the fast-developing world of solar energy.

"We're pleased to embark on this pilot project with our friends at Showa Shell," Al-Buainain said, "and to explore the contributions that innovative solar-power technology can provide to

Saudi Arabia's expanding energy sector.

"There are promising opportunities to reduce power generation and transmission costs, particularly in the Kingdom's rural areas and for remote industrial facilities and installations."

Jun Arai, president of Showa Shell, and Shigeaki Kameda,

president of Showa Shell Solar, attended the signing ceremony and praised the agreement, noting it was a landmark in the history of the relationship between the two companies.

A team drawn from both companies has started developing execution plans and designing related training programs.

## Success:

(continued from page one)

"A total of 140 apprentices were hired for the project, which represent 70 percent of the operation and maintenance work force," said Al-Hazmi. By using experienced employees to train the young work force, partnering with other NAOO departments to provide specialized on-the-job training and continuously focusing on giving the young engineers everything they needed in their development, the project had a successful start-up and one of the most skilled young work forces around.

Al-Hazmi expressed his thanks to those whose team spirit, hard work and synergy since the beginning of the project resulted in a safe start-up. He added that throughout the program, quality was among the top priorities, and the Project Quality Index stood at 92 percent, all within the approved budget.

Two of these young employees talked about their own perspectives on the project.

"We are proud to be part of such a success at the beginning of our careers," said Ali H. Al-Farah, an engineer who joined the Khursaniyah Project in March 2007 under the Northern Area Technical Support Department. "When we pass by any area for any reason and we remember where we were and where we are now and the tremendous work that was done, we can feel the spirit of each engineer who participated in



Photo: Faisal I. Al-Dossary

Among the employees, departments, divisions and units honored for the successful and safe startup of the Abu Hadriyah, Fadhili and Khursaniyah Producing facilities was the Shaybah Producing Department. From left are Younis A. Al-Aiderous, retired vice president of Northern Area Oil Operations; Amin H. Nasser, senior vice president of Exploration and Producing; Awayyid S. Al-Shammari, manager of the Shaybah Producing Department; Khalid A. Al-Falih; Fahad A. Al-Moosa, vice president of NAOO; and Zaid M. Al-Hazmi.

this project."

Crude producing facility operator Abdallah Al-Harbi spoke for all of Khursaniyah's young operators and technicians when he said, "I regard myself as one of the lucky young people who joined Khursaniyah. We are proud not only because we are able to start and maintain the plant, but also because we became part of a well-trained work force to this great company."

At the end of the ceremony, Al-Falih and other management

presented certificates of appreciation to the departments, divisions and units that were involved in the start-up of one of Saudi Aramco's most ambitious projects.

"I cannot stress enough," said Al-Falih, "how thankful, grateful and proud are the rest of my colleagues, the management team, the board members including HE Ali I. Al-Naimi, every employee in the company, every citizen in Saudi Arabia and, indeed, every customer that relies on our energy for the stability of their

economies. All of these people are thankful to each and every one of you and each and every one of your colleagues who have been part of a magnificent story that will go down in history as one of the most memorable chapters in the company's history.

"Congratulations for helping Saudi Aramco on its journey not only to reach a certain production target but to reach its ultimate and most important objective: creating the best, most reliable and safest plant."

## Milestone:

(continued from page one)

every one of you is a model for the people we're introducing into the company these days."

Those safety leaders recognized for serving the company for 35 accident-free years were: Ali A. Al-Muhareb, Ali A. Al-Ajmi, Mohammad A. Al-Juwair, Omar J. Esmail, Abdul-Azeem A. Al-Towailib, Abbas A. Al-Salim, Abdulrazaq H. Al-Alaiwi, Abdullah R. Al-Mi'rag, Muneer A. Al-Bayat, 'Abd Allah A. Al-Zayer, Saeed Y. Al-Zahrani, Abdul Mohsin M. Al-Abdallah, Abdallah A. Al-Munif, Khalid M. Al-Saleh, Ali A. Khamairi, Faleh N. Al-Qahtani, Ahmad K. Al-Naimi, Fahad N. Al-Maghlouth, Khalid A. Boubshait, Habib M. Al-Nasir, Mahdi A. Balharith, Radhi H. Al-Sha'er, Saleh I. Al-Isa, Safi A. Al-Ghamdi, Ali A. Al-Musa'd, Ali O. Assoni, Ali M. Al-Ghamdi, Mohammad S. Al-Qurashi, Husain M. Al-Yami, Abdulaziz A. Al-Sinan, Muhammad F. Al-Khalidi, Ali M. Al-Khalil, Ali N. Al-Utaibi, Husain A. Al-Shahrani, Khalid M. Al-Dausari, Ali H.



Photo: Hasan M. Al-Taraiiki

Ali A. Al-Muhareb, right, vice president of Corporate Planning, was one of 47 employees recently honored by Khalid A. Al-Falih for working 35 years without a safety incident.

Al-Ashour, Saud M. Al-Saisabi, Ibrahim S. Al-Alqam, Khalid A. Al-Rowaished, Mohammed K. Al-Eid, Mohammed A. Al-Zahrani, Ahamed A. Boradha, Atallah S. Al-Mubarak, Mohammed S. Al-Ghamdi, Awad R. Al-Ahmadi, Mubarak B. Al-Saleh and Ateital-

lah A. Abu Al-Shawish.

Al-Utaibi, of the East-West Pipelines Department, said the secret of his achievement lies in the corporate values, including following safety principles in his daily activities. Al-Utaibi encourages other employees to adopt a

behavior that promotes safety for themselves and their colleagues.

Al-Khalil, of the Karan Projects Department, said he owed his recognition to his father, who urged him at a young age to follow safety practices. "Every day when I leave for work, I always have one thing on my mind: that I will go back home safely where my family is waiting for me."

He stressed the importance of safety in one's daily life. "Always consider safety as the key element in your daily life, whether at home or at work, irrespective of some hardships you may face in implementing such practices," he said. "Safety is the only way we will ensure that accidents and other hazards do not happen."

Al-Falih highlighted the importance of passing down a safety culture to the younger generation. "The most influential area of leadership is leadership by example. It is modeling and living a safe life." He said he hoped that in the future the company will have thousands of people recognized every year for achieving 35 accident-free years of service.

## Flu:

(continued from page one)

sudden onset of fever and coughing or shortness of breath, headaches, tiredness, chills, aching muscles, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and loss of appetite.

Prevention measures are the same for other flu viruses, general good hygiene. Share these with your family:

- Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands afterward.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes, and wash your hands if you do. Antiseptic hand cleaner is a good substitute when soap and water are not available, and it is easy to purchase and carry around.

• Avoid close contact with people who have flu-like symptoms, preferably keeping a distance of at least one meter.

• Keeping in good health by maintaining a healthy diet, staying fit and exercising will improve your ability to fight any infection.

If you develop flu-like systems, seek medical advice. You may be infectious to others, so precautions should be taken to minimize the spread of infection. If flu is confirmed, stay at home for a minimum of seven days or for two days after symptoms have ended.

The Saudi Ministry of Health reports several in-Kingdom cases of H1N1 influenza in residents returning from overseas. Worldwide, H1N1 appears to be less severe than many seasonal flu outbreaks.

SAMSO and the Environmental Protection Department are circulating information on minimizing the risk of infection for Saudi Aramco, contractors and other workers living in close communities. SAMSO has a preparedness plan in place that includes medication, isolation facilities, infection control supplies and well-prepared staff to cope with cases if a pandemic does occur.

The World Health Organization says it believes the initial days of a pandemic will be moderately severe, but it is not possible to predict how severely it will affect Saudi Arabia or Saudi Aramco communities.

For more information, visit <http://samso/Epidemiology>.





## Your voice



By **Miyanjan M. Azizurrahman**  
Dhahran

### Learn to leverage

The Great Pyramid is one of the wonders of the world. One of the features that make it a wonderful monument is that it contains approximately 2.3 million stone blocks with an average weight of 2.5 tons each, some up to 15 tons.

Our brains are unable to digest that fact. How those people managed the complex organization of labor and physical movement of huge blocks of stones nearly 4,600 years ago is still a matter of debate.

A great thinker by the name of Archimedes put it beautifully: "Give me a lever long enough and a place to stand, and I can move the earth."

What does leverage have to do with our personal and professional life? A lot. By applying leverage, we can accomplish major tasks.

Here, it is important for us to understand the meaning and basic concept of leverage — knowledge, resources and time. Of these three, knowledge is the prime and fundamental strategy that mobilizes the other two.

Here is a story about leveraging knowledge, resources and time. It is a memorable one in the history of Japanese management techniques: One of Japan's biggest cosmetics companies received a complaint from a consumer who bought a box of soap that was empty. The authorities went to work, asking engineers to identify the problem. High-tech X-ray machines and high-resolution monitors were used to scan all the soap boxes passing through the packing and shipping lines to ensure no empty box got through.

But when a rank and file employee in a small company was presented with the same problem, he did not get into all those complications. Instead, he bought a strong industrial electrical fan and pointed it at the line. He switched on the fan, and as each soap box passed, the fan simply blew the empty boxes away.

Commitment is the key word here. Commitment helps you to use leverage more effectively. It is very important for us to understand this mechanism.

Let's not forget. It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare. It is because we do not dare that they are difficult.

*Your voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication.*

## Read more and expand your horizons

Imagine how exciting life would be if we were able to visit the past or live the future now, if we knew future scientific theories and innovations or lived during the time of the personalities that shaped our world.

Perhaps that is wishful thinking, but we can come close to this wish through reading.

Unlike that of other species, human knowledge is cumulative and passed on from generation to generation through documentation. Other species' intelligence is used only for survival rather than advancement of the race.

Unless we read enough, we will be missing a great deal of this advantage.

There are not enough people

in the world enjoying reading. The average person reads four pages a year in the Arab world, 11 books a year in the United States and eight books a year in the United Kingdom. There is one book per 12,000 people issued yearly in the Arab world, 500 in the United Kingdom and one per 900 in Germany. People just aren't reading enough.

Some medical studies conclude that reading can keep our mind active and fit well into old age. Also, reading is a source for relaxation, entertainment and stress relief.

It should inspire us to read more by knowing that some authors spend their entire lives writing a single book. Some authors

have traveled around the world enduring dangers to write a book. Carl Brockelmann, a German orientalist wrote his multi-volume *Geschichte der arabischen Literatur* (History of Arab literature) over a span of more than 50 years.

The famous traveler Ibn Battuta endured difficult travel for 30 years to bring us documented wonders from lands as far away as China. We, on the other hand, read the book comfortably and affordably in much less time. Simply put, the reader is enjoying the lifetime investment of the author.

School summer vacations are coming soon and provide a wonderful opportunity to spend time reading with our family. Children



By **Hilal H. Al-Waheed**  
Dhahran

usually associate reading with schoolwork, so, as parents, we must make reading fun for them. Ideas such as designating a family reading time just before bedtime can help encourage reading.

This joyful reading time will greatly improve their academic performance when they return to school and, more importantly, instill in them a lifelong habit of reading.

## It's time to develop our human resources

We all have noticed how the world's economists, politicians and business analysts have been suggesting obsolete solutions and making irrational decisions to get the world out of the current mess. However, there is a need for more transformational solutions that alter the whole economic structure.

What we are dealing with today are some ill-defined and uncommon issues. So, our approach should involve uncommon solutions.

Throughout the history of business organizations, Human Resources Development (HRD) has been perceived as a supportive process with little value to any organization. That was particularly obvious during the recent crisis

as HRD was the first process to be cut by some companies.

These are the days when we should start focusing our attention on the role of the HRD practitioners in any organization. The crisis should be considered an opportunity for HRD professionals to play a more strategic and transformational role.

During my studies at the University of Houston, I got the chance to be exposed to different articles that discussed how the HRD practitioner's role could be shifted from transactional to transformational. However, what most strongly got my attention was the idea of giving HRD professionals the opportunity to demonstrate organizational knowledge and gen-

erate innovative ideas that could solve complex issues. This would be achieved through interacting with the key players in different segments of an organization to get a better understanding of the core business operation and to know how and why strategic decisions are made.

Through this, the HRD practitioners will become better-informed strategic thinkers and provide more innovative ideas that could create solutions for complex problems.

There are some notable signs that Saudi Aramco is moving in the direction of shifting the role of HRD professionals from transactional to transformational. This was clearly demonstrated at the



By **Awrence T. Al-Shaalan**  
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meeting between Employee Relations and Training management and the administration of the Career Development Division (CDD) in Houston. The meeting supported CDD staff to think more strategically and innovatively, and to enhance and improve the role of the organization through providing the company with the needed skills and competencies.

## Readers Album



Photo: **Maryam A. Al-Mogbil**

### Rock of Raouche

Maryam A. Al-Mogbil took this photo of the famous Rock of Raouche (also known as Pigeons' Rock) while on a business trip last February to Beirut, Lebanon. Geologists suggest that these large rocks were formed by a series of earthquakes in the 13th century. Maryam lives in Dammam and works with the Saudi Employment Division. She has been with the company for nine months.



Photos: Abdulaziz M. Al-Moiweed

Above, Abdulaziz F. Al-Khayyal and Col. Ahmad Al-Ghuwainem greet one another at a ceremony in which Saudi Aramco donated unmarked highway-patrol cars, left, to the Eastern Province Highway Security Forces.

## Company donates traffic cruisers

By Ahmad A. Dialdin

DHAHRAN — Saudi Aramco on June 29 presented the Eastern Province Highway Security Forces with a fleet of new, unmarked police cruisers outfitted with state-of-the-art technology at a ceremony at the Saudi Aramco Exhibit in Dhahran.

Senior vice president of Industrial Relations Abdulaziz F. Al-Khayyal and members of his Traffic Safety Signature Program (TSSP) hosted the event, welcoming Col. Ahmad Al-Ghuwainem, acting head of the Security Forces, and several of his officers.

“Saudi Aramco is proud and honored to help the Kingdom’s law enforcement,” said Al-Khayyal. “We are committed to be with

### Stay safe

you and beside you every step of the way.”

The new cars are in response to the initiatives put in place by Prince Jalawi Abdulaziz Musa’ad Al-Saud, Deputy Governor of the Eastern Province and Head of the Eastern Province High Council for Traffic Safety, to deter the reckless driving, speeding and accidents happening on the Dhahran-Jubail Highway.

“We are focused on improving the enforcement of traffic safety and rules, as outlined by the Eastern Province High Council for Traffic Safety,” said Al-Khayyal. “In fact, enforcement is but one part of

the equation to improve traffic safety in the Kingdom.” TSSP values enforcement as one of its four main pillars, the others being engineering, awareness and emergency response.

The unmarked police cruisers will monitor the Dhahran-Jubail Highway using modern technology and the latest radar systems, enforcing traffic laws on the second-most-used highway in the Kingdom — serving nearly 126,000 cars per day.

The cars are outfitted with powerful radar to quickly detect a speeding vehicle, capture its license plate — even in low-light conditions — and take nearly 25 pictures of the vehicle in a matter of seconds. The new equipment can detect and capture

pictures of drivers violating other traffic rules, such as talking on a mobile phone while driving, not wearing a seatbelt, or even illegal changing of lanes.

The most impressive feature is that the officer does not even need to stop the offending driver to issue a ticket. A ticket is automatically issued based on the license plate photo that is captured and matched up in the Kingdom’s extensive database.

“We look forward to taking this first of many steps towards better traffic safety enforcement,” said Al-Ghuwainem. “We hope that the program will be a successful one that we may be able to expand to other highways, lower the rate of accidents, help spread awareness and enforce better traffic safety.”

## Social responsibility a far-reaching effort

By Khalid Altowelli

JIDDAH — When Saudi Aramco acts on social responsibility, the outcome might affect everything from education and jobs to recycling and clean fuels.

The company’s history and vision for so-

### Giving back

cial development was explained by Saudi Aramco Affairs vice president Khaled A. Al-Buraik in his keynote speech, “Saudi Aramco’s Role in Activating Social Development,” at a three-day forum that concluded June 8.

Al-Buraik summarized the company’s experience and its historic role in social responsibility, beginning in the early days, when Saudi Aramco concentrated on development of the area’s infrastructure; through the oil boom of the 1970s, when its focus shifted to industrial development; to our present time, with the focus shifting again, this time toward the information economy.

“It is impossible to address Saudi Aramco’s role in social development without talking about its experience in human development, which is key to all other aspects of development,” Al-Buraik said. He referred to the many highlights of the company’s social outreach over the years, including its association with local and international universities; its investments in academic institutions; and its support of training, research and job creation for regular and contract employees.

Those efforts, Al-Buraik said, have resulted in 4,000 training courses offered to contract employees during 2008 and the creation of 27,000 new jobs for Saudis in contractor companies working with Saudi Aramco.

Al-Buraik also emphasized the company’s role in developing industry in Saudi

Arabia, starting with the Master Gas System, which was the largest of its kind at the time and which paved the way for the petrochemical industry in Saudi Arabia. Today, said Al-Buraik, “Saudi Aramco continues to support the development of small and medium-size businesses within the private sector.”

Al-Buraik also addressed the company’s role in promoting health and safety through campaigns that tackle issues such as traffic safety, and the development of medical services at medical facilities that deal with Saudi Aramco. “The company is involved with over 20 major social responsibility programs that differ in objective and nature,” said Al-Buraik. He went on to say that as part of a comprehensive strategy three principal elements must be met for company programs: They must be far-sighted, addressing long-term social needs; they should be continuous, and they should be in partnership with commercial and industrial entities in order to mature those institutions in the field.

In his final remarks, Al-Buraik talked about Saudi Aramco’s vision for the future of social development, which will tackle areas such as the economy, society, education, research and the environment. It will include attracting foreign investments in a socially responsible manner, the creation of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology and the King Abdulaziz Cultural Center, and continued work on cleaner fuels, recycling and energy conservation.



Photo: Ali H. Ghawas

Khaled A. Al-Buraik outlined the company’s history and vision for social responsibility at a forum in Jiddah.

“It is impossible to address Saudi Aramco’s role in social development without talking about its experience in human development, which is key to all other aspects of development.”

Khaled A. Al-Buraik

أرامكو السعودية  
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