

the arabian sun

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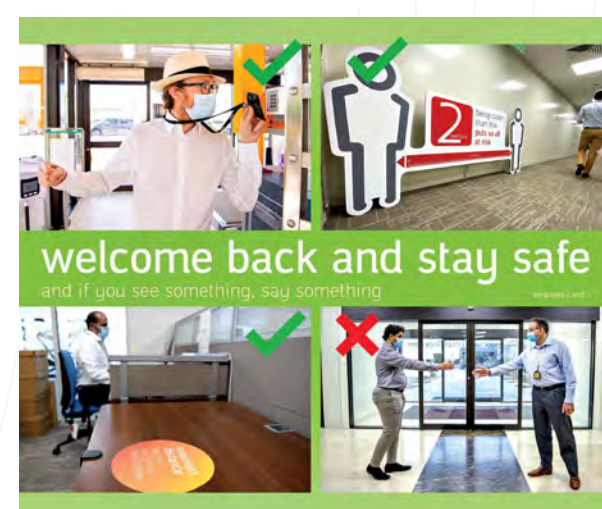
a weekly Aramco publication for employees



“ I encourage all employees to register for the vaccine using the *Sehhaty* app, to help keep our workplaces and communities safe.

— Amin Nasser, president and CEO

For more information, see page 10



Looking back on 2020

In the most difficult of years, Aramco still rises to meet

challenges

see pages 6 and 7

Message from the CEO

In a challenging year, our Aramco family became closer

Dear colleagues,

As we look forward to 2021, I want to thank you for your hard work and sacrifice, in a year in which we all had to discover new sources of resilience.

It has been undeniably tough. We've missed our families and each other. We've had to become more flexible as a company. Yet this virus could not and will not stop us, just as drones and missiles couldn't stop us. The Aramco spirit is too strong and our work is too important.

All of us should be proud of what we accomplished in 2020. Our health care workers on the front line had to face a new and invisible enemy. You did so with courage and calm professionalism. The majority of our colleagues, working in the field, had to keep supplying energy to billions of people around the world. So you adapted, keeping production going and even achieving record output in April without compromising on safety. I have heard many moving stories of colleagues in plants, fields, and offshore platforms volunteering not to go home so they didn't risk bringing the virus back to work. When lockdowns stranded thousands of colleagues and their families outside the Kingdom, you went above and beyond to bring them home.

There were many other acts of kindness and generosity, ingenuity and exceptional performance — too many to possibly list here — that got us through 2020.

What matters above all is that in this most testing of years, the Aramco family — in Europe, Asia, the United States, and in the Kingdom — all became closer as one team. We can be proud too that despite the ongoing challenge and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, none of us gave up on the idea of a better future.

We embraced our new responsibilities as a publicly traded company and welcomed SABIC into the Aramco family, a huge step toward our goal of building a world-class chemicals business.

Potential became proof in vital growth areas as we widened the use of nonmetallic materials across our operations and advanced our flagship crude to chemicals technology. We delivered the world's first shipment of blue ammonia, demonstrating one of the many solutions needed to combat climate change. We delivered for our communities too, with a rich program of online events at Ithra and a generous voluntary effort to help those most affected by the pandemic, both in-Kingdom and globally through our overseas colleagues.

But if 2020 was a test of our endurance, I believe this coming year will be a test of our agility; our capacity to adapt and thrive in response to rapidly changing circumstances.

Being agile means continuing to diversify, developing our chemicals business while ensuring that we

remain the most reliable and efficient major energy producer in the world.

It means driving forward the sustainability agenda, backing the most promising energy technologies while demonstrating to our shareholders, customers, and society that we are central to global economic development.

It means continuing to be flexible, drawing on the talent of all our colleagues around the world. Because the last few years have taught us that we cannot predict the future, but we can plan, prepare and train for whatever it has to throw at us.

It means valuing your performance as employees and prioritizing your well-being, recognizing that both go hand in hand.

And it means taking pride in our purpose as a company: To supply the energy that moves the world, energy that even now is helping in the manufacture and distribution of vaccines at a global scale.

There are good reasons for hope as we start the new year. The virus is relatively contained and the Kingdom has now embarked on the biggest vaccination program in its history. Some employees, including me, have already taken the vaccine, and I can report that the process is smooth and professional. I strongly encourage all of you to download the Sehhaty app and register.



In this most testing of years, the Aramco family became closer as one team. We can be proud too that despite the ongoing challenge and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, none of us gave up on the idea of a better future last year.

— Amin Nasser

In a post-COVID future, when borders reopen, families reunite and economies start to recover; our purpose will shine through like never before. So let me thank you in advance for the contribution each one of you will make to the global recovery, and let me wish you and your families a happy, safe, and healthy new year.

Amin Nasser
president and CEO

Your voice

Exchanging bad habits for good in the new year ahead



By Zakaria H. Darwish

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Interest in and awareness of improving our health and lifestyle is always popular this time of year. Living a healthy lifestyle is a basic need for the development of any society, especially when aided by sound thought and actual science.

For the individual, a healthy lifestyle begins from the moment he chooses the type of food and the way he eats it. These two simple actions can help set a course of happiness in the days and years ahead.

But globally, general health is deteriorating as poor dietary habits have resulted in widespread obesity and ailments such as heart problems, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

These poor health patterns spring from several paths, the first of which is dietary. As more people come to rely on fast food and frozen goods, they've largely ignored fresh foods and taken to preparing even healthy foods in

ways that disregard the preservation of their nutritional value (i.e., vitamins, proteins, and healthy fats).

Fast-food, with its meals containing white flour, fats, hydrogenated oils, processed and sugary foods, is a persistent threat to our well-being.

Also, people's choice to "skip" breakfast has adversely affected their metabolism and the burning of fats. So has the lack of exercise and sports. And bad habits such as sitting for long periods, irregular sleep, and staying up for long periods have also contributed to poor public health.

So now is the time to embrace new habits.

Eat breakfast. Drink plenty of water. Use difficult utensils to eat, to slow down your consumption. Exercise. These kinds of habits will help protect the body by strengthening your immune system, stimulating the mind,

shedding excess weight, and preserving a healthy appearance.

For many, obesity is the biggest hurdle to overcome. But with hard work, patience, and determination, it can be overcome. Of course, diet is a key ingredient in losing weight. Surgical operations have become popular to defeat obesity, but such steps should not be taken lightly. It may provide a short-term solution, but bad habits such as eating poorly, laziness, and impatience will invite long-term failure. Only determination, patience, and goal setting will provide a sure path to better health.

So, let us put the wheel of our food pattern on the path of clean eating to reach a better lifestyle destination by choosing types of food, managing portion sizes, and focusing on the benefits our body will enjoy. This will help us in other great goals such as being more positive, loving life, and living our full-life.

Aramco signs downstream pipeline agreement

Dhahran — Aramco and Al-Rashid Trading and Contracting Co. (RTCC) recently signed a contract to execute the downstream pipeline of the new Hawiyah 'Unayzah Gas Reservoir Storage (HUGRS).

Under this contract, RTCC will install a new 56-inch sales gas cross-country pipeline with a length of 160 km between Hawiyah and the Booster Gas Compression Station-1. This pipeline will transport up to 2.0 billion standard cubic feet per day of sales gas that will be generated during the reproduction mode of the new HUGRS facilities to be injected into the Master Gas System beginning in 2023. This new pipeline will traverse across three pipeline corridors.

It was emphasized that Saudization and In-Kingdom Total Value Add (iktva) are of paramount importance to support the local content; therefore, RTCC confirmed their intent to embark in a partnership with local training centers to develop young Saudi talents to contribute to the success of this project and lead future projects. In addition, RTCC will maximize its procurement from local vendors/manufacturers who meet or hopefully exceed the required iktva target.

Aramco's Project Management, together with RTCC, are committed to delivering a safe and quality project serving this unprecedented gas storage facility at Hawiyah.



Aramco has signed an agreement with Al-Rashid Trading and Contracting Co. to install a new 56-inch sales gas cross-country pipeline between Hawiyah and the Booster Gas Compression Station-1. (Photo: Moayed Al-Qattan/MPD)

Automated Fuel Monitoring and Vessel Tracking System: Another milestone in the digitalization journey

Dhahran — In line with the company's Digital Transformation Program and driven by the introduction of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Project Management (PM) is expediting the deployment of Fuel Monitoring and Vessel Tracking Systems (FM&VTS) to support the company's ambitious vision to be the world's leading digitalized energy company. The Offshore Projects Department, under Upstream Project Management, is the first organization deploying a fleet-wide fuel and performance monitoring system.

PM vice president Abdulkarim A. Al-Ghamdi said, "The deployment of FM&VTS is a continuous effort of PM for its journey to accomplish excellence by incorporating the latest technologies in its projects to achieve safe operations, cost optimization, emissions reduction, and operational efficiency."

Zamil 301, paving the way

Zamil 301 is the first vessel to be equipped with the Ascenz' FM&VTS. Experts from France, Singapore, Germany, and the UAE boarded the ship for the first commissioning.

The Marine Department Control Center will be equipped with a dedicated dashboard to monitor the connected vessels in real-time.

The success of the FM&VTS implementation pilot on one offshore support vessel, in full collaboration with the Marine Department, has paved the way for full deployment, which will be mandated for the entire fleet. This is a first-of-its-kind FM&VTS implementation by Aramco, which caters to its long-term vision of digitalization of its fleet and operations.

State-of-the-art technology

These systems combine state-of-the-art digital technologies to deliver transparency and support decision making. The Internet of Things platform onboard gathers high frequency data from any available source on the ship. Afterward, data is compressed, encrypted, and sent to the shore for advanced processing and analysis. Real-time data transmission gives the onshore team the same visibility of operations as the on-board crew.

The systems' benefits are multifold. Automatic data collection removes human errors that can happen in a manual process. It also reduces the teams' administrative burden. The increased data quality allows analysis that are more reliable and results in decisions that are more informed.

The power of cloud computing and artificial intelligence is used to derive insights from the raw data. The reports can either assess the past performance or give advice to optimize the future performance. The process of benchmarking ships is also useful to compare

similar situations and enforce best practices among the crews.

The online platform, an open ecosystem, can integrate third-party data sources such as weather forecasts. This specific information is very important to explain the performance of a vessel. The platform can also send data to a third-party system to encourage collaboration and increase business process automation.

With the latest smart technologies equipping the vessel, Aramco will be transforming every single ship in offshore projects into a smart vessel, resulting in the continued deployment of a wide swath of technologies in its offshore projects since 2019 and into the future.



Project Management is fast tracking the deployment of Fuel Monitoring and Vessel Tracking Systems.

Al-Sowayigh steps down from Aramco after more than 36 years of dedicated service

Dhahran — After 36 years, Mohammed I. Al-Sowayigh has stepped down from Aramco.

He along with his team excelled in meeting challenges, helping lead the restoration of Khurais in 2019, and responding to the company's call for Khurais to reach maximum sustained capacity levels, despite structural challenges and lockdown restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Graduating from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering, he began his professional career with Aramco the same year with 'Udhailiyah Production Engineering.

Through the years, he had assignments in the Southern Area and in the U.S., returning to 'Udhailiyah from Abqaiq (with the reopening of 'Udhailiyah) in 1990 to work over the next decade with the Southern Area Production Engineering Department (SAPED). This included stints as an acting



Mohammed I. Al-Sowayigh, center, is recognized at a recent ceremony in Dhahran by Nasr K. Al-Naimi, acting head of the Upstream business line, and Khaled A. Al-Buraik, vice president of Southern Area Oil Operations. Al-Sowayigh is leaving Aramco after 36 years of service. (Photo: Abdulaziz Al-Moiweed/MPD)

supervisor beginning in 1994, launching his management career, which included roles in 'Udhailiyah, 'Uthmaniyah, and Ghawar.

In March 2006, he was named manager of SAPED. From July 2010 to Jan-

uary 2013, he worked as manager of the Sea Water Injection Department before taking the reins of the Khurais Producing Department, which he helped lead to a number of prestigious awards in the company and around the world.

A strong voice in the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), he often delivered major keynote speeches and was the recipient of the SPE Middle East Regional Award in 2009. He was recognized by the Saudi Council of Engineers in 2016.

Asia suppliers' forums lay a solid foundation for more success

Aramco Asia recently hosted two virtual forums to present suppliers and entrepreneurs in Japan and China with growing investment opportunities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The forums, held in Tokyo and Shanghai, seek to help foster closer business partnerships with local companies and attract Asian investors to the opportunities in the Kingdom. These annual forums also strive to promote the corporate localization program, the In-Kingdom Total Value Add program (iktva).

Anwar A. Al Hejazi, Aramco Asia president, said, "These annual supplier forums are valuable venues to engage with our key suppliers to solidify our relations and promote investment opportunities in the Kingdom. The forums are also instrumental in providing the latest updates on the investment landscape in the Kingdom and sharing successful stories of Asian firms in Saudi Arabia."

Officials from government and semi-government agencies, and investors and suppliers were invited. Representatives from Aramco and the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia led the presentations and facilitated the discussion on the favorable policies, incentives and growth perspectives arising from the iktva program. They also pledged concrete actions to ensure Asia investors will receive fair and transparent treatment in the Kingdom.

Japan Suppliers Forum — Nov. 18, 2020

The Tokyo forum, which centered on resilience and agility, attracted over 60 participants. In his welcoming remarks, Omar M. Al Amudi, Representative director of Aramco Japan, expressed the company's gratitude to the reliable sup-



Aramco Japan representative director Omar M. Al Amudi (left screen, background) delivers his opening remarks, commencing the first virtual suppliers forum. In the event control room, Nasser G. Al Bogmi (right, back row), deputy managing director of the Strategic Procurement and Logistics Department, joined the forum along with the key members of the team.

pliers saying, "While 2020 was challenging, we achieved more successes and managed smooth business continuity and support to our key projects and business operations. This would not have been achieved without your commitment, support, and engagement."

Nasser G. Al Bogmi, deputy managing director of the Strategic Procurement & Logistic Department (SPLD) in Japan, noted, "Aramco's supply chain ecosystem has proven its resilience and capacity to stand strong and turned into a success story, and it is one of the key enablers that guarantees reliable supplies."

China Suppliers Forum — Dec. 15, 2020

The forum held in Shanghai focused on exploring business opportunities in the post-pandemic era. It is an effective platform to boost business relations and promote the value of iktva



Abdul Rahman M. Al Hatlan (center), director of Aramco Asia's Strategic Procurement and Logistic Department, and Nouf A. Al Mousa (right), Strategic Sourcing and Procurement manager, joined other Aramco presenters for the event. Fahad A. Al Othman (left screen, background), Aramco Asia China country manager, delivered his opening remarks via a video link at the 2020 China Suppliers Forum held virtually on Dec. 15, 2020. The forum sought to help foster closer business partnerships with local companies and attract China investors to the opportunities in the Kingdom.

among Chinese partners.

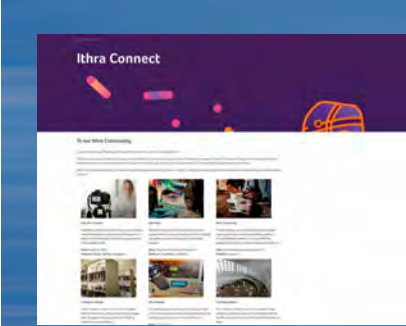
Fahad A. Al Othman, Aramco Asia China country manager, addressed the attendees with his opening remarks. "This forum illustrates the great alignment between China's "Belt & Road" initiative and "Saudi Vision 2030." It is a great venue to explore some of the opportunities emerging from these two farsighted visions by the leadership of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that of our own iktva program at Aramco. We are ready to work with you and help you take advantage of the iktva program and the investment opportunities available in the Kingdom," Al Othman added.

China SPLD director Abdul Rahman M. Al Hatlan reiterated the strategic importance of the iktva program and encouraged the participants to seize the growing opportunities in the Kingdom. He also appreciated the support and trust the company had received

from Chinese partners over the years.

"Through the event today, we have seen a momentum of resilience and agility. We shared investment opportunities under the iktva program, as well as government incentives for investment in the Kingdom. We also listened to our Chinese partners, collaborating with us in promoting investment in Saudi Arabia, by sharing their lessons learned and stories of successful investment. Also, we've seen an adoption of a new business platform, SAP Ariba, to provide seamless and better interaction with our suppliers in supply chain transactions, including sourcing, registration, procurement and iktva management," Al Hatlan noted.

Initiated by SPLD, these annual forums provide a platform for direct engagement with key suppliers and partners to strengthen bilateral relations and facilitate larger investments in Saudi Arabia in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030 and the iktva program.



March — Ithra launches Ithra Connect

The physical doors closed at Ithra because of the pandemic, but the virtual doors opened. Ithra responded to the pandemic by preparing an unprecedented amount of authentic new relevant content to serve our audiences online. Content and engagement became the “fourth emergency” service to deal with the stress and isolation of lockdown. Ithra Connect ultimately reached more than 1 million virtual attendees.



April — ‘Your Heroes, the Nation’s Heroes’ campaign

As a tribute to the heroes from the various sectors and fields who worked tirelessly for the health and safety of the public, Ithra launched the “Your Heroes, the Nation’s Heroes” campaign, on Ithra’s Twitter account. The campaign invited the public to participate in recognizing their heroes whose names would be projected onto the Ithra building. The campaign was a success, with more than 10,000 submissions received.



November — Memorandum signed with the Egyptian Council of Antiquities

Ithra entered into a two-year partnership with the Supreme Council of Egyptian Antiquities to bring 84 timeless masterpieces of Islamic culture from the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo for exhibition in Dhahran. This was a substantial move in developing future collaboration among museums across the Middle East and Africa. It represented a major stage in cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



November — iRead Ceremony

Ithra’s national reading competition, iRead, concluded its sixth year with a final ceremony at the Ithra Theater. The top 10 finalists from more than 13,000 initial submissions from across the country were showcased. Over 40,000 individuals viewed the virtual stream online in the first 24 hours of the event. The program strives to popularize reading and raise awareness through a variety of cultural programs that encourage knowledge and curiosity.



February — Ithra Cultural Days: Vietnam

Ithra held its inaugural Cultural Days program, which involved two weeks of activities showcasing Vietnamese culture. The centerpiece of the program was the Vietnamese circus show, AO, which played to sell-out crowds. The events also included music, performances, food, and crafts. The program attracted 45,000 visitors.



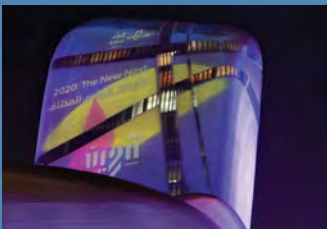
May — ‘Id Parade

Ithra launched a hybrid ‘Id celebration, featuring a parade of decorated wagons traveling through cities in the Eastern Province consisting of four buses that roamed the neighborhoods of al-Khobar, Dammam, Dhahran, Qatif, and Sayhat.



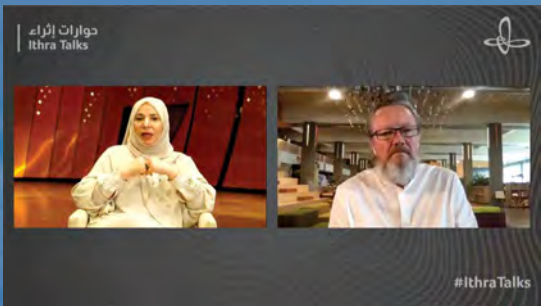
October — Tanween

Ithra’s creativity festival Tanween ran its third season, under the theme: “The New Next — Creativity is the Way Forward.” It ran in a hybrid format with content provided both physically to audiences in the Ithra Theater and online. The conference featured more than 35 speakers, including specialists in creative design, data visualization, fashion, and food design.



January — Ithra Incubator

Two Ithra Incubator programs began their operations in Qassim and Ha’il. This sustainable educational program runs from January 2020 to June 2021. The program trained 2,000 teachers and 12,000 students in Qassim and Ha’il through 280,000 learning hours of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) content. A similar program in the northern border region reached 35 schools, and mainly focused on math and robotics, to provide specialized educational programs targeting 21,000 students.



June — Ithra Talks

As part of the Ithra Connect program, Ithra broadcast live online events with international and regional figures. They were the acclaimed English actor Idris Elba, the American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, the international architect Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, and Ithra’s head of Advisory, Fatmah Al-Rashed. Ithra also partnered with UNESCO to produce the ResiliArt virtual panel discussion with five leading art and culture professionals. The focus of the debate: “Dystopia to Utopia: Our Changing Cultural Landscape,” examined the cultural landscape and potential paths forward in social, political, and economic terms from the perspective of the Arab World.

July — ‘50 Thousand Photographs’
The Ithra produced Saudi short film “50 Thousand Photographs” was released in cinemas Kingdomwide.



August — Summer Camp

Ithra Summer Camp 2020 was offered in an online form. The camp offered young people a series of activities covering crafts, stories, and world inventions. The camp had 1,500 participants.



August — ‘Id al-Adha

Ithra offered a series of events for the ‘Id al-Adha celebrations’ indoor and outdoor activities, including a procession that went to various stops; maintaining social distancing.

December — Volunteer Day

Ithra marked International Volunteerism Day with a special event to recognize the contribution of volunteers to the work of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture.



December — Winter Camp

Ithra welcomed children to its Ithra Winter Camp under the title “A Journey through Time.” The camp offered three different tracks around the themes of the geology of the past, including dinosaurs. The events were aimed at developing educational, analytical, and problem solving skills.



Reflecting on a year of achievements Rising with new sources of resilience, we cast our eyes to the future

By Nourah Alkhunaini

Many may say that 2020 is a year better forgotten than celebrated, but one of the most difficult years in recent memory also helped bring out the best in people.

With a good part of the year significantly in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may have seemed the year was crawling along. In actuality, the year had a number of

major milestones and successes to be celebrated. Here's a brief look at the past year.

Business continuity

SABIC acquisition



Aramco operations continued reliable delivery of energy around the world, despite the many challenges that faced the company this year, which included continuing its operational activities throughout the pandemic.

Through completing the acquisition of a 70% stake in SABIC from the Public Investment Fund, Aramco has not only enhanced its presence in the petrochemical industry, but it will also help in creating value from the integration across the hydrocarbon chain.

The acquisition, with a purchase price of SR259.125 billion (\$69.1 billion), strives to position Aramco into one of the major global petrochemical players, fortifying the company's long-term downstream strategy designed to grow its integrated refining and petrochemicals capacity.



Executive of the year



Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser was named the Energy Intelligence's Energy Executive of the Year for 2020 by a selection committee of global energy industry executives. He received the peer-selected award, and delivered a speech at the inaugural Energy Intelligence Forum 2020, held virtually in October.

Nasser emphasized that the award is a demonstration of Aramco's culture of teamwork and is the result of hard work in meeting myriad challenges

facing the industry, which includes climate change and opportunities to reduce emissions, meeting global energy needs during a pandemic, and fueling the growth that brings prosperity.

Nasser has also received The Chemists' Club Kavalier Award, sponsored by Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (ICIS) on Dec. 3. The award recognizes Aramco's achievements in the chemical industry at large, voted by Nasser's peers in the ICIS Top 40 Power Players — a global ranking of leaders making the greatest positive impact on their companies and the industry.

He highlighted that the award was granted due to the great determination of the men and women of Aramco, showing their resilience in this challenging year. Nasser has also emphasized that the progress achieved "is just the beginning of a major transformation positioning Aramco for the future."

Commercial ecosystem

iktva



The iktva annual forum and exhibition took place on Feb. 25 and 26 with a total of 1,000 participating companies and 200 exhibitors. The program, now in its sixth year, represents a sustained and systematic effort by Aramco, and has made further progress into its localization efforts, where iktva is well on track to achieve 70% localization of the company's supply chain.



Through iktva, Aramco is able to further leverage its competitive advantage of low-cost production and high reliability through employing its world-class supply chain. The program plays a significant role in achieving the objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, and aids in creating a sustainable business ecosystem, along with the creation of new opportunities for young Saudis.



COVID-19

With the presence of the virus near the beginning of the year, the implications of COVID-19 had an enormous global impact on diverse sectors. The virus was first identified in Dec. 2019 in Wuhan, China, however, the first case recorded in Saudi Arabia was in early March 2020. A series of lockdowns and numerous restrictive measures later, the infection rate has declined, and the recovery rate has continued to rise within the Kingdom.



As a result of the pandemic, many preventative measures were put in place by the company to ensure people are safe and well, at work, home, and in the community. In line with the government's instructions, many Aramco employees were working from home, and were provided with the essential devices and tools to enable them to continue to work seamlessly from home.



The company proved to continue its success by enabling various digital solutions to help ease work and operations across its organizations while still maintaining as little physical interaction as possible. Upon the return of employees to the office, Aramco adopted additional preemptive measures to ensure the safety of its workers.

Events

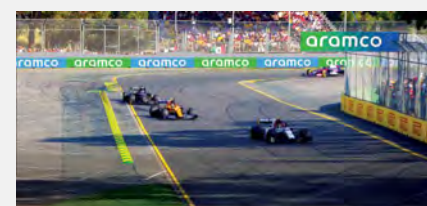
IPTC



Aramco was an exclusive host to the 12th edition of International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC). The three-day event, which took place on Jan. 13-15, was the first multidisciplinary international conference and exhibition for oil and gas ever held in the Kingdom, gathering more than 17,000 participants taking part of the event.

Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser emphasized the importance of technology as a key instrument to address future challenges facing the oil and gas industry. He also highlighted the opportunity IPTC provides for Aramco and others in the energy industry to showcase and share their innovations and emerging technologies that help meet the world's most pressing challenges.

F1 and engines



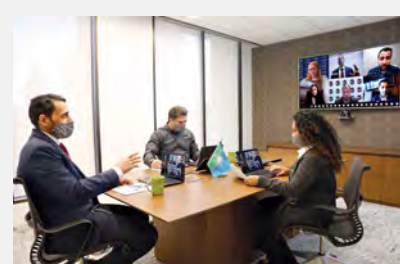
In 2020, Aramco became an official global partner of Formula 1. Their common interest in cutting-edge automotive technologies strengthened their commitment to driving more efficient engines and cleaner fuel solutions for a sustainable future.

The partnership further promotes the company, bringing in additional brand awareness, exposure, and visibility around the globe. However, this commitment is also indicative of both Aramco and F1 goals of finding innovative solutions to address the global emissions challenge, as well as pushing the boundaries of vehicle efficiency and carbon reduction further.

Nonmetallic



Aramco has continued to push its boundaries in innovative solutions throughout its operations. 2020 witnessed a drive in the development and deployment of nonmetallic solutions within the company's operational scope. Aramco has enhanced its position to further support its nonmetallic strategy, highlighting the importance of integrating nonmetallics as a major solution for the company's future growth.



VIDEO:
A look
back at the
past year's
highlights

Biodiversity



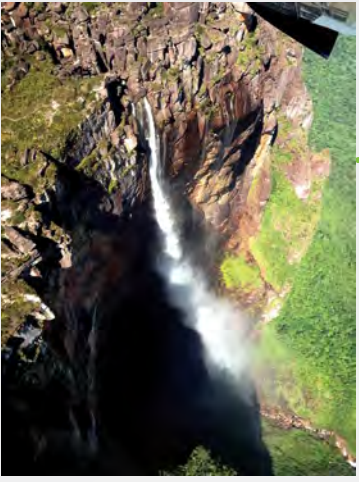
Aramco had another year of fruitful milestones designed to further the company's biodiversity goals. One of the most prominent achievements was the successful planting of 2 million mangroves earlier this summer, bringing the total of mangroves restored along the Arabian coastline to 4.3 million.

The initiative, undertaken by Environmental Protection, in collaboration with Northern Area Oil Operations, is an ongoing commitment toward providing climate solutions, as these plantings form a natural sink for carbon dioxide (CO₂).



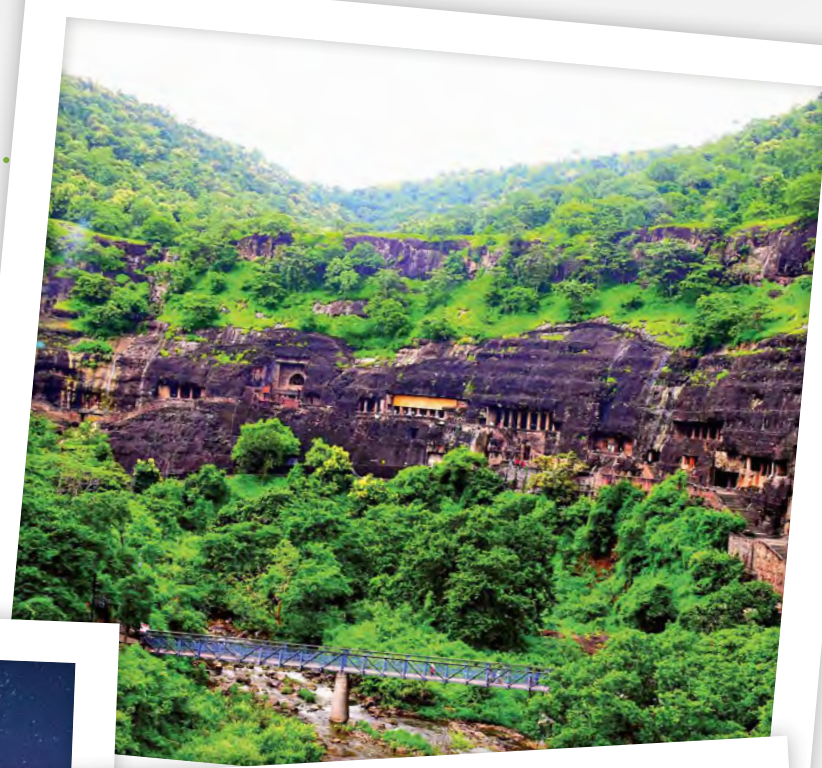
Mangroves are a resilient species, as they are able to survive extreme water temperature variation, dissolved oxygen, and high salinity, in addition to their extraordinary ability to sequester CO₂ quickly from the atmosphere.





Best of Reader's Album

Although 2020 proved to be a challenging and difficult year, that didn't deter readers of *The Arabian Sun* in sharing their talents and their eye for beauty. Here are just a few of the best reader submitted photos over the past year.



Tayif: A historic walk through the City of Roses

By Musherf S. Alamri

Tayif — From green mountains to a busy, old market that overshadows antique buildings with a rich history, Tayif makes a colorful impression on visitors.

Located 780 km west of Riyadh and rising 1,800 m above sea level, Tayif features a moderate climate that is perfect.

A good place for the visitor to start is at the heart of the city; the old town, Souq Al Balad. At its center is a huge, functioning mosque, Abdullah bin Abbas, the origins of which go back to the first days of Islam.

Walking around the old town you will be pleasantly surprised by charming, old shops and restaurants that give off the vibe of a bazaar and antique buildings with interesting architecture hidden among the modern structures. The local cuisine includes the famous dish saleeg, which is white rice cooked with a variety of spices, butter, and milk, and served with meat placed on top.



This is one of the colorful walls of Al-Kateb House built in 1898 with Islamic and ancient Roman architecture that is infused with local design. The new, trendy coffee shops that have popped up in the city use lively colors creatively, not very differently from the techniques used in the antique buildings.



Shubra Palace museum was built in 1905, and stands out as a modern marvel of days past due to its architecture and construction of white marble and other luxury materials. This rich architecture heritage is a testament to Tayif's historical importance, linking central Arabia and the West Coast.



Rising 1,800 above sea level, Tayif features a moderate climate that's perfect for visitors. From green mountains to a busy, old market that overshadows antique buildings and a rich history, Tayif makes a colorful impression on visitors. (Photos: Musherf S. Alamri)

Rich history

Food is not the only rich thing about Tayif. The city also features a rich history. Shubra Palace, just 4 km northwest of the old town, is a four-story building built in 1905, which stands out as an architectural marvel constructed of white marble and other luxury materials. After the unification of the Kingdom, it served as King Abdulaziz's residence when he stayed in Tayif during the summer. Authorities have converted the building into a museum, and it now hosts historical artifacts from the area. (Check before visiting, as COVID-19 precautions have affected its opening hours.)

Another historic building, although unrestored, is Al-Katab House, which is just a 10-minute walk from the old town. Built in 1898 with Islamic and ancient Roman architecture, it is infused with local design featuring colorful walls with intricate decorations and a lush garden. More antique buildings lie north of the house.

When visiting the trendy new coffee shops that have popped up in the city, you will find that lively colors are used creatively in the interiors. You may find the similarity to the techniques used in those antique buildings striking. An *AramcoWorld* feature in 1967 noted that Tayif, in contrast to many urban centers within the Kingdom, had multicolor buildings painted yellow, ochre, light green, and white.

This rich architectural heritage is a testament to Tayif's historical importance. It is a strategic link between central Arabia and the West Coast, and due to its fertile soil, it was once a critical agricultural center that provided food for Makkah. Even today in the thriving city of more than 800,000, visitors can still spot a few

patches of green farmland peeking out among the urban sprawl.

Take a hike in the cool mountains

For those who love the outdoors, fantastic hiking trails can be found in the al Shafa and al Huda mountain ranges, which are approximately 20 km west of Tayif's city center. The roads to these locations are well paved, but they can be steep. Visitors will be thrilled with the green scenery and cool weather, even in the summer, as these mountain ranges lie up to 2,500 m above sea level.

The resort town of al Huda features a number of hotels, entertainment facilities, and restaurants, as well as a number of historic trails that pilgrims took on their way to Makkah. Al Shafa has the charm of a mountain village, and Jabal Dakah, the area's highest mountain, is also worth a visit.

Both of these locations are renowned for growing rose flowers. According to the official "Visit Saudi Arabia" website, there are 900 farmers in Tayif who culti-



Visitors can still spot a few patches of green farmland peeking out among the urban sprawl in the thriving city of more than 800,000. It once was a critical agricultural center that provided food to Makkah.



This is one of the historic trails that pilgrims took on their way to Makkah from al Huda, which is a resort town. For those who love the outdoors, fantastic hiking trails can be found in the al Shafah and al Huda mountain ranges, which are approximately 20 km west of Tayif's city center.

vate 300 million flowers every spring (see breakout box).

Prominent pre-Islamic market

Those who want a firsthand experience of Tayif history are advised to visit the reenactment of Souq Okaz, a seasonal market that attracted traders from across Arabia in pre-Islamic times. In the old times, Souq Okaz was not only an opportunity to exchange goods, but it also hosted culture activities, such as sharing poetry. Some argue that this historical fair played an important role in developing and standardizing Arabic grammar.

Organizers of this annual enactment go to great lengths to create immersive experiences, such as having actors taking on the role of historical characters who interact with visitors. This annual festival, which started 13 years ago, has a variety of accompanying events, including plays, lectures, poetry, and guided hiking trips. In 2019, Souq Okaz became part of the Tayif season, which now includes various activities spread across the city.

Ancient roses thriving

In 1997, a group of entrepreneurs from al-Hada, a mountain range west of Tayif, imported the most advanced distillation equipment from the south of France to improve rose water extraction on their flower farms, according to a feature in an *AramcoWorld* issue of that year.

This spirit has been rekindled with the launch of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and the reinvigoration of tourism and manufacturing. Some rose

farmers have expanded into providing rose flower related experiences, where tourists can go into the fields or showrooms to learn about the cultivation of the flowers, and production methods of rose concentrate and water. However, rose flower picking is only available during the season, which runs from early March until the end of April.

Additionally, some of the al-Hada farmers have expanded into produc-

ing high end rose scented products, such as perfumes, sanitizers, and skin moisturizers. These entrepreneurs are capitalizing on the increase in foot traffic generated from the boost in the numbers of visitors, some of whom are visiting Makkah and are making the day trip to al-Hada.

The cultivation of rose flowers in Tayif can be traced back to as early as the 14th century. It is blossoming today with Vision 2030.

Al Shafah has the charm of a mountain village. Visitors will be thrilled with the green scenery and cool weather, even in the summer, as the elevation of these mountain ranges is up to 2,500 meters above sea level.

Well-being

Caring for your health and wellness

Help end the pandemic: Take the COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself and everyone else you care about

The COVID-19 vaccine has finally arrived, bringing with it a global sigh of relief at the end of a difficult year marred by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Although our new normal lives will have to continue as is for a while, the end of this pandemic is near, and as individuals, we each play a role in expediting our return to normal by taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

Although, with the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine, a new behavior has emerged: "vaccine hesitancy." This is where the fear of the vaccine might outweigh that of the virus itself, and some people are having trouble accepting the idea of taking the vaccine.

Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare answers your most pressing COVID-19 vaccine questions, and addresses your concerns.

What is the name of the available COVID-19 vaccine?

The current COVID-19 vaccine is the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; different vaccines may be available in the future.

How is it given, and how many doses do I need?

The vaccine is given by injection. There are two doses of the vaccine, which are administered approximately 21 days apart.

How long until I get protection from the vaccine?

After a patient gets the shot, the body will start the process of making antibodies right away. However, the process of building up those antibodies takes time.

After the first dose, you will be about 50% protected. After the second dose, 21 days later, you will be upwards of 94% to 95% protected.

How does the vaccine protect me?

When vaccination is given, your immune system creates antibodies to fight the disease and may enhance the immune system through other ways.

Who will receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Ministry of Health (MOH) established a three phase plan for citizens and residents of Saudi Arabia.

Phase one: Citizens or residents who are over the age of 65, and professionals who are most vulnerable to infection. People whose body mass index (BMI) is over 40; those who have an immune deficiency or are taking immunosuppressive drugs; those who have two or more of the following chronic diseases: asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease; and anyone with a history of stroke.

Phase two: Citizens and residents over the age of 50, all other health care practitioners, and those with a BMI between 30 and 40.

Phase three: For all citizens or residents who wish to take the vaccine to protect themselves and their families.

Where can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

At this time, the MOH is providing vaccinations in their facilities. JHAH and Aramco are collaborating with the MOH to enable vaccinations at JHAH sites.

Is the vaccine safe?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been rigorously tested in clinical trials, and it is considered safe.

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority and other relevant bodies have approved this vaccine. The Saudi Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization also endorses this vaccine. Scientists are constantly monitoring the use of the vaccine globally for potential health risks.

What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

There is no way of knowing how COVID-19 will affect your body if you get it, but we do know that it can cause serious illness, complications, and in some cases, death. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you, and in particular, people around you who are at increased risk.

If I have already had COVID-19, should I still take the vaccine?

Even if you have had COVID-19 and developed a natural protection or immunity against the virus, it is not known how long this protection lasts. Being vaccinated is still of benefit.

What are the vaccine side effects?

A small number of people may experience:

- Headache and fatigue
- Pain at the injection site
- Muscle pain
- Fever and shivering.

How do I manage side effects?

To relieve any side effects:

- Take paracetamol to relieve headaches, muscle pain, or fever.
- Place a cold compress on the injection site to reduce any discomfort, redness, or swelling.

If you have a reaction to the vaccine for more than three days, or one that prevents you from being able to eat,

sleep, or work, you should contact your primary care doctor, or visit a walk-in care clinic.

Seek care immediately if you have any signs of an allergic reaction, such as hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, a fast heartbeat, or dizziness.

Can I get COVID-19 from a vaccine?

No, it is not possible to be infected with SARS-Cov-2 and get COVID-19 from the vaccine that is currently being used in Saudi Arabia, as it contains only part of the virus.

We all have an integral role to play ending this pandemic and in building a better tomorrow by taking the COVID-19 vaccine to protect ourselves and those around us.

You are encouraged to register your interest in the COVID-19 vaccination with the Ministry of Health. Scan the QR code to download the MOH Sehhaty application and register.



For more specific information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 helpline at 937.



Visit our COVID-19 vaccine FAQ page



Follow JHAH on social media



LEGAL DISCLAIMER: All health and health-related information contained in this Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare company material is intended to be general in nature and should not be used as a substitute for a visit with a health care professional. The advice is intended to offer only a general basis for individuals to discuss their health and medical conditions with their health care provider. Your health care provider should be consulted regarding matters concerning the medical condition, treatment, and needs of you and your family.

You wouldn't go in here without protection.
So don't go outside
and be careless.



Challenge accepted: cleanup on al-Khobar Corniche

Al-Khobar — A clean environment is one of the core beliefs at Aramco. Emanating from this firm belief, Upstream Project Management (PM) recently launched the Beach Safety and Cleanup initiative. Led by the Offshore Projects Department (OPD), the initiative is an essential component of its “Go Green Plan” that strives to change the behavior toward our environment.

OPD arranged a campaign and carried out the cleanup event on Dec. 12 in partnership with company contractors. The purpose of this event was to promote awareness regarding the benefits of keeping our beaches clean for biodiversity and sustainability. Overall, more

than 300 volunteers participated in the event, covering a section of approximately 1.5 kilometers along the al-Khobar Corniche.

“One very simple thing we all can do is to promote a clean and safe environment ensuring the tidiness of our beaches,” said Abdulaziz F. Al-Dulaijan, OPD manager. “It is not only our social responsibility, but is also in line with national aspiration to improve the environment where we live and make our livelihood. An unclean beach, in addition to everything else, precludes or limits its recreational use and aesthetic appeal.”

One of the biggest challenges of

our lifetime is preventing the polluting of our oceans and beaches. Such pollution endangers the habitat of numerous marine creatures and birds.

Plastic, a very toxic and harmful element, is already present in all levels of the food chain due to such pollution. Fish and other marine animals ingest plastic micro-particles that either kill them or end up on our dinner table. Therefore, it is very important to support programs that take action to minimize environmental issues and help keep our beaches clean and safe.

This event was concluded with a message from the general man-

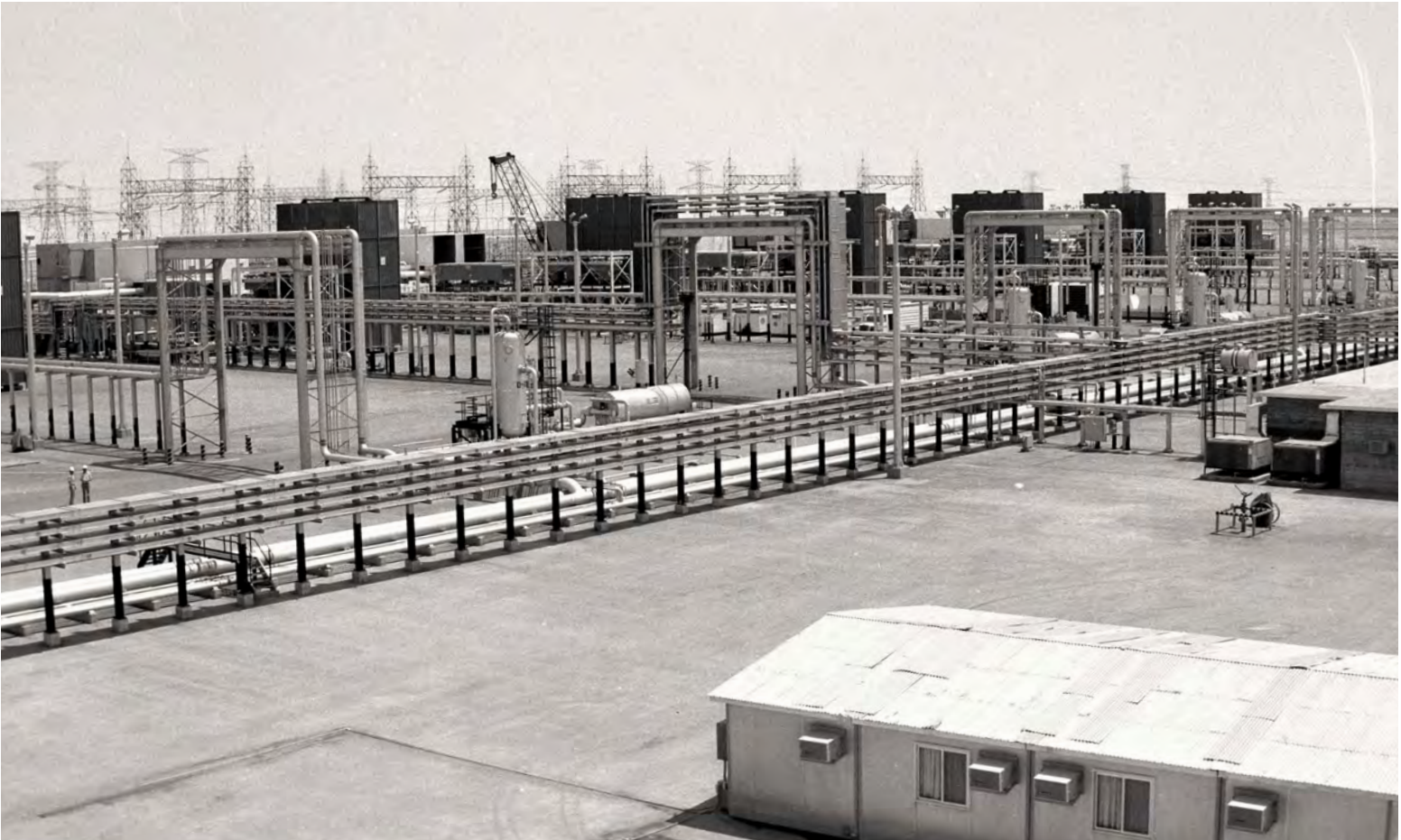
ager of Upstream PM, Fahad A. Al-Ammari, encouraging all to follow best practices and exert all possible efforts to make our beaches safe and environmentally clean.

He also urged all participants to avoid leaving any trash and waste on the beach, which could affect the beach environment and endanger the natural ecosystem.

It is the responsibility of all employees to contribute to the national and global efforts that are underway at Aramco for the provision of maintaining a clean environment for the next generations.



Contractors celebrate the completion of the Beach Safety and Cleanup initiative led by the Offshore Projects Department as part of its “Go Green Plan.” (Photo: Ding/MPD)



Photographic memory

Seven of the giant Shedgum Power Plant’s nine 72-megawatt generators are shown in this photo. Operations there were wholly Saudi staffed by 1983. It was the largest gas turbine plant in the Kingdom and among the biggest in the world at the time. Photo: Ali Khalifa



Take the COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself and everyone else you care about.

see page 10

2020 Traffic Safety Excellence Award

لجنة السلامة المرورية بالمنطقة الشرقية
Eastern Province Traffic Safety Council

Drive safely. Lead by example. Inspire others.

Registration is OPEN now!



Who can register?
All Aramco employees, SMPs and trainees with a ZERO traffic violation records in 2020.



How can I register?
To register, please go to: [ShareK 2020 Traffic Safety Excellence Award](#).



When can I register?
The registration window is open from Jan. 11 to Feb. 28, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact [2020TrafficSafetyExcellenceAward](#).



The art of molding clay

Sara M. Alkazzaz captured this image of a man molding clay at Algharash pottery place in al-Hasa with her Nikon D810 camera. Alkazzaz is a process engineer in the Digital Transformation Department. She has been with the company for five years.