

the arabian sun

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a weekly Aramco publication for employees



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Fifth in a series

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Industrial Safety and Loss Prevention take center stage at Riyadh conference

Aramco this week participated in the International Conference on Industrial Safety and Loss Prevention as the main sponsor and partner. The event took place in Riyadh on Oct. 3 under the patronage of HRH Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Supreme Authority for Industrial Security Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud Al Saud.

The conference was inaugurated by Assistant Minister of Interior for Operations Affairs, HE General Saeed bin Abdullah Al-Qahtani and Aramco was represented by the senior vice president of Human Resources and Corporate Services, Nabeel A. Al-Jama'.

The four-day conference focused on promoting safety and loss prevention in industrial facilities across the Kingdom. The event covered various topics in addition to the latest developments in industry. Professional training opportunities were offered to practitioners and networking sessions helped attendees explore different products and technologies utilized in the field of industrial safety and loss prevention.

At the inauguration ceremony, Aramco vice president for Safety and Industrial Security Aali M. Al Zahrani gave a presentation in which he highlighted Aramco's interest in promoting a culture of safety and preventing losses, both professional and industrial, noting that the company continues its efforts and investments in this field and maintains a leading position in the industry in this area.

Safety is one of Aramco's core corporate values and the company continues to be committed to protecting employees, contractors and vendors



HE General Saeed bin Abdullah Al-Qahtani is joined by Nabeel A. Al-Jama' as they tour the conference.

who support the business. The company's safety record in all mega projects is maintained through the ongoing work of experts who specialize in assessing and mitigating risks in the most difficult locations on land and at sea.

The conference activities included a series of workshops that covered a number of specialized topics in the field of safety and loss prevention. Topics included: lifting equipment inspections, working at heights, accident investigation, contractor safety management, leadership in the study of risks and operations, industrial health, conducting audits and reviewing safety systems, incident response, and crisis management.



Aali M. Al Zahrani gives a presentation during the conference.

Together we can end the pandemic: Important COVID-19 vaccination update

In line with the Ministry of Health (MOH) directives, Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH) is pleased to offer **second dose** vaccinations to **all vaccine eligible age groups** of Aramco employees and their eligible dependents who have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at JHAH.

Information about the second dose

How do I book an appointment for the second dose of the vaccine?

You can book your appointment using MyChart if you are registered for care at JHAH. You can also contact our call center at 800-305-4444 to book an appointment.

I want to know more

You can learn more about the COVID-19 vaccination and second dose appointments at: [JHAH.com/COVID-19-Vax](https://www.jhah.com/COVID-19-Vax).



#TakeTheStep #خذ الخطوة
Get Vaccinated خذ اللقاح

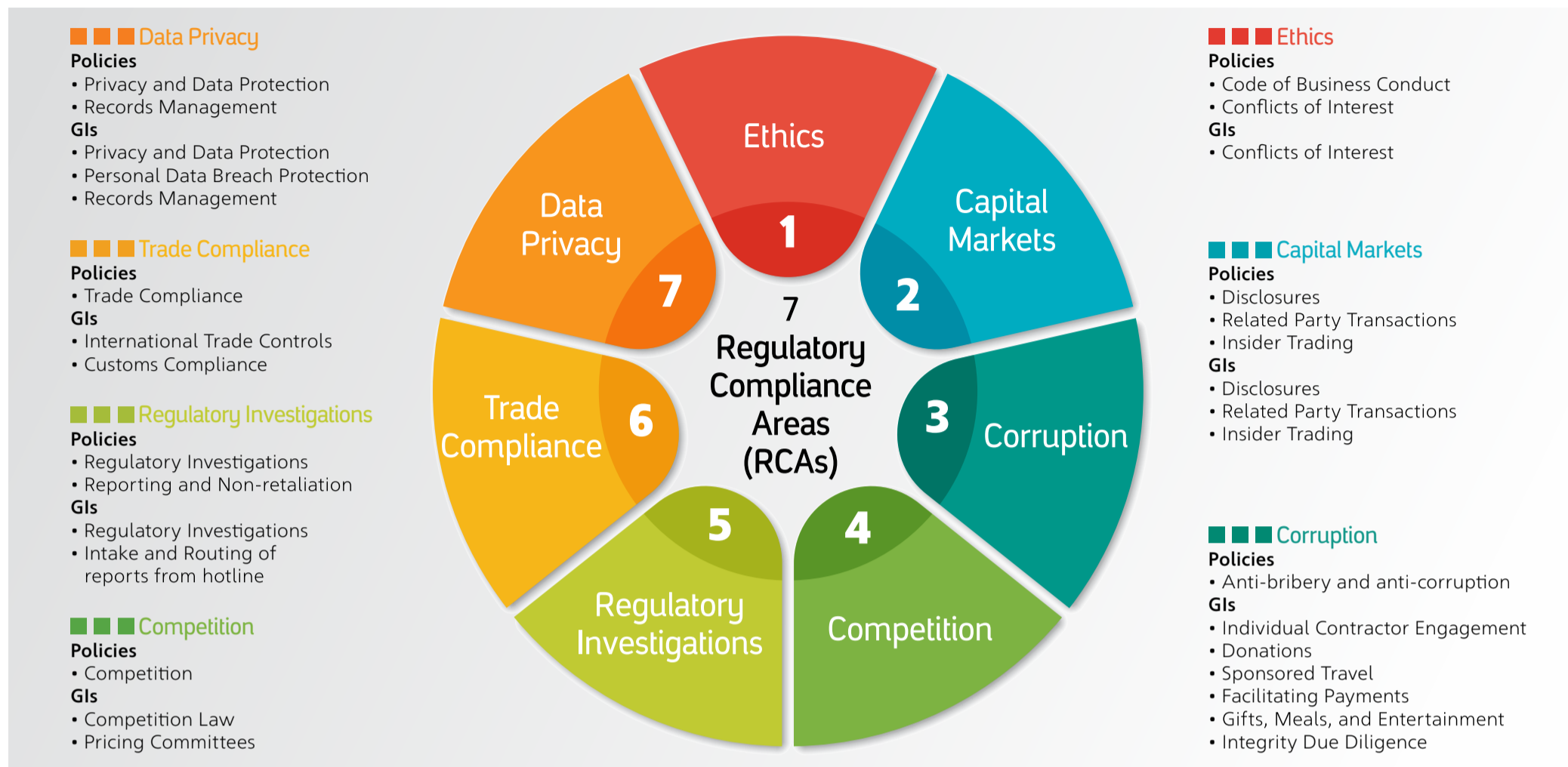
وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

مركز لقاحات كورونا
كوفيد-19
Vaccine Center
COVID-19

مركز جونز هوبكنز
أرامكو الطبي
Johns Hopkins
Aramco Healthcare

‘Doing the right thing’

Announcing the Ethics and Regulatory Compliance Framework



The hallmark of any successful business is decent and ethical behavior by its employees. And we all have our own perception of what ‘doing the right thing’ may mean both in our personal lives and at work. But, in an ever-changing world, we often need help and guidance to successfully navigate our way through the many ethical and legal complexities we face.

That is why the launch of the Ethics and Regulatory Compliance Framework (ERCF) is important for Saudi Aramco. The ERCF is a body of corporate Policies and associated General Instructions designed to clearly communicate to all personnel what is expected of them when it comes to acting ethically and adhering to various legal requirements in the business environment — or more simply put, “doing the right thing.”

Over the coming months, the Policies and General Instructions that comprise the ERCF will be shared with all personnel on a phased basis, separately introducing one compliance area at a time. In all, the ERCF consists of 12 Policies and 19 General Instructions (GIs), which provide practical guidance across seven (7) specific compliance areas.

Ethical standards at core of business

Our Code of Business Conduct, the foundation of the Ethics compliance area and of the ERCF itself, establishes at a high level the ethical standard applicable across the program. The policies and GIs for the other six (6) compliance areas set out the specific procedures that will be implemented and followed by all personnel. Such controls include, for instance, a procedure for reporting

gifts offered to personnel by vendors or contractors, or the rules that personnel must understand and follow when buying and selling Saudi Aramco shares.

To ensure that appropriate support and resources are available to personnel during the introduction of the various ERCF topics, the Company designed and is implementing a change management process to facilitate a smooth transition. “The change management process for introducing the ERCF to personnel has been designed in such a way to bring awareness in a phased, staggered approach to allow for comprehensive training and workshops so that all stakeholders understand and are able to implement the ERCF framework,” said Nayef Otaibi, Manager, Organization Consulting Department.

Training to implement

As part of the change management process, the Corporate Compliance Department, together with the Organization Consulting Department, are spearheading a broad communications initiative to raise employee awareness regarding the ERCF. All personnel will receive communications in the near future regarding the implementation of the ERCF, together with links to resources and information concerning required training and other local and virtual events, such as ERCF workshops and webinars.

The importance of the ERCF to Saudi Aramco’s reputation in the global market cannot be emphasized enough. As stated by Amin Nasser, Saudi Aramco’s President & Chief Executive Officer:

“One of the most critical enablers

of our past and future success is the ethical behavior of our employees and the integrity of our organization. No company can be a leader unless its people demonstrate consistent ethical conduct and close adherence to its core values. That’s why we have set high standards of personal and professional behavior for ourselves as well as those with whom we conduct business.”

That sentiment is further reinforced by the ERCF’s principal proponent, Nabeel A. Al Mansour, Saudi Aramco Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary:

“As the Company continues its transformation and expansion into new businesses and markets around the world, it is critical that we maintain and expand upon our already rigorous approach to regulatory compliance and continue to conduct our business in an ethical way.”

An ERCF summary presentation titled “All-Hands – Aramco Group ERCF Overview” with brief commentary regarding the Policies and GIs can be found on the ERCF Sharek webpage at: <https://sharek.aramco.com.sa/orgs/30032426/ERCF/Presentations/210603%20All%20Hands%20-%20Aramco%20Group%20ERCF%20Overview.pdf>

Each of the ERCF Policies, including the Code of Business Conduct, and the ERCF GIs (when published) can be found at: <https://sharek.aramco.com.sa/orgs/30032426/ERCF/>

For additional information, or for general inquiries related to the ERCF, please contact ERCF-Help@aramco.com, or contact your local legal support team.

“One of the most critical enablers of our past and future success is the ethical behavior of our employees and the integrity of our organization.”

— Amin Nasser

The Aramco hydrocarbon journey 5

Pipelines | Decades of greenhouse gas mitigation in our operational DNA



by Janet Pinheiro

Rub' al-Khali — Gigantic red-dish-brown sand dunes tower above field operator Abdullah R. Fadly who walks purposefully from his vehicle to a remote desert pipeline junction station.

Early-morning dry heat shimmers across the imprints of his black steel-capped boots as he, and his colleague, sets out to commence a routine check of Shaybah oil field's "kilometer 9.8" pipeline junction site, and other junctions scattered along pipelines stretching 645 kilometers (km).

In Saudi Arabia's grand Rub' al-Khali (Empty Quarter) desert, the world's largest expanse of sand, nature's awesome grandeur, and arid climate, are on striking display at Shaybah.

Unforgiving climate

The desert is Fadly's workplace — a ruthless place for the inexperienced — and his role, driving long distances to check crude and natural gas liquid (NGL) pipelines, demands particular self-sufficiency and adaptability.

He is one of Aramco's pipelines team members across Saudi Arabia ensuring a trouble- and emissions-free journey for the piping stage of a hydrocarbon journey.

"I am at ease in the desert," says Fadly, who joined Shaybah in 2015 after completing Aramco's industrial training program.

"Before Aramco, my father taught me how to drive in the desert, and in six years at Shaybah, I have never been stuck in the sand," he adds proudly.



At a Shaybah pipeline junction, field operator Abdullah R. Fadly checks equipment powered by solar panels.

Hydrocarbons on the move

Aramco uses a vast pipelines network to transport hydrocarbons from place to place. They connect the company's products to multiple facilities for processing or refining, and to domestic customers, or export terminals.

It is a decades-old business practice for Aramco to use detection and preventative maintenance to uphold pipeline integrity. Diligent care of pipelines is good for both the business and the environment.

Plus, maintaining smooth-running pipes is a key action toward greenhouse gas (GHG) emission mitigation.

Three pipelines

Stretching to Fadly's north, as he begins his routine check of "kilometer 9.8," three pipelines head into the deep golden vastness.

Two are 46- and 30-inch underground carbon steel pipelines, traveling 645 km to carry crude oil through the Rub' al-Khali desert to the oil and gas industrial heartland of Abqaiq.

Running parallel to the two crude pipelines, also underground, is a 36-inch pipeline containing natural gas, compressed into liquid form, or NGL.

Spaced about 100 km apart, and equipped with sophisticated instruments, are remote terminal units.

The units transmit the pipeline's flow, pressure, and temperature parameters to Aramco's operational nerve center, the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department (OSPAS), located in the Dhahran headquarters.

Humanity and technology united

One of the world's largest oil fields, Shaybah's production approach combines advanced technology and Aramco's decades-old approach to diligence. As an example, Fadly points to yellow triangle navigational markers located every 1 km on the main pipelines.

"Plus, we have many sensors at precise locations, checking every hour of every day for leaks and failures," he says.

Fadly's check of "kilometer 9.8" starts with the perimeter fence, and progressively works its way around the junction's equipment. Gauges measuring pressure and temperature, and electronic sensors, monitor the NGL pipeline, and its safety bypass line.

OSPAS collects data from thousands of remote terminal units from all company facilities, including pipelines, and staff can spot any anomaly, and execute a host of rectification actions within a few minutes.

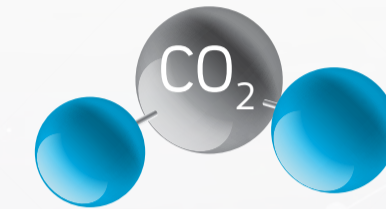
"There are many devices feeding data," says Fadly. "If an alarm goes off here, OSPAS knows."

Renewing to save crude

Using renewable energy minimizes GHG emissions, and saves precious hydrocarbon resources for better economic use.

Pipelines connect the company's products to multiple facilities for processing or refining, and to domestic customers, or export terminals.

Piping the circular carbon economy



Shaybah's gas-oil separation plants send the rich gas separated from the crude oil to the site's natural gas liquid (NGL) recovery plant.

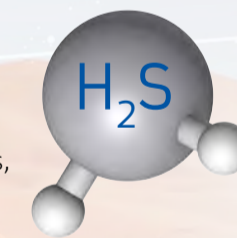
After removing high-value natural gas liquids, the NGL plant recompresses the leftover hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and residual gas, and pipes it for reinjection into the reservoir.

This not only helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, but also helps maintain the reservoir's pressure.

Injection, usually with water, is one way to give the natural pressure of a reservoir a helping hand, but water is rare in Shaybah's desert location.

Returning leftover gas to the reservoir is a win-win for the environment and business.

Without pipes, none of this would be possible.



Aramco deploys renewable energy systems in its office buildings and industrial facilities, and installed the Kingdom's first wind turbine at Turaif Bulk Plant in January 2017.

At Shaybah's 26 main pipeline junctions, solar panels power the valves, lighting system, remote terminal unit, and other equipment. Meanwhile, the cathodic protection system's electrochemical cell has its own solar panel, so the pipeline's corrosion can be absorbed into an anode.

"Keeping the pipelines flowing smoothly is best for the environment," said Fadly.

"The planet belongs to all of us, and we have to maintain it in a good way that will not cause damage."

Transporting hydrocarbons



A 1,170-kilometer NGL pipeline links Yanbu' and Shedgum.

First-class operational standards are behind Aramco's low carbon intensity, and extensive cross-Kingdom pipelines safety and quickly move the oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) Aramco produces.

Major cross-country pipelines

include the Saudi Arabia-Bahrain Pipeline and the East-West Crude Oil, natural gas, and NGL pipelines to Yanbu' on the Red Sea.

The NGL pipeline linking Yanbu' and Shedgum was the longest and most advanced gas line ever built — 1,170 kilometers.



Nonmetallic piping at Jazan Refinery Complex.

Smarter pipeline thinking

Corrosion is a worldwide problem, with its global cost is estimated at \$2.5 trillion.

Common oil field fluids, H₂S, CO₂, and even bacteria, cause corrosion and compromise pipeline integrity, safety, and reliability over time.

Corrosion management — inspection, detection, correction, and prevention — reduces corrosion's risks and costs.

Nonmetallic pipes, resistant to corro-

sion, are flowing a new future for oil production pipelines.

These advanced durable materials, lighter than their conventional counterparts, successfully control corrosion, and are used in most Aramco facilities for more than two decades.

To research nonmetallic technologies, Aramco opened a Nonmetallic Innovation Center outside Cambridge University, U.K., in 2019.



Shaybah NGL pipeline junction.

Collaboration brings together geoscience community

Aramco Geosciences recognized at IMAGE 2021 first international applied geoscience and energy conference

By Susan V. Gonzalez

Driven by pandemic challenges and with meeting the world's energy needs and changing expectations, three great geoscience organizations joined forces in Denver, Colorado, and online for the first International Meeting for Applied Geoscience & Energy, September 26-October 1.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), and the Society of Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) presented an integrated, collaborative format, furthering the image of geoscience professionals in their quest to bring new possibilities to energy challenges.

Recognizing Aramco Leadership

Aramco's geosciences leadership was recognized during the awards ceremony. Aramco's retired upstream exploration executive Mahmoud Abdulbaqi received the prestigious AAPG Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award and Misfir A. Az Zahrani, vice president of Exploration, named Honorary Member for his distinguished service to the science and profession of petroleum geology.

The week-long event did not disappoint with more than 1,200 technical presentations in 200 sessions, a dozen post-convention workshops, nine short courses, five field trips and numerous networking events.

"It is indeed a historic moment in time, and a chance for us all to refresh, re-energize, and rededicate to improving



The Aramco exhibit was a heave of activity as attendees listened to company scientists on topics such as fault stress analyses and others.

ourselves and our diverse world," said Gretchen Gillis, Aramco Americas, Senior Geological Consultant, Research and Development and AAPG President 2021-2022, in welcoming remarks. "The world depends on energy, and we are the people who work in the organizations that help provide it, even as society's expectations about the world's energy mix changes."

Gillis pointed to changes taking place within professional organizations, companies, countries, and other entities to adopt sustainability targets. She noted AAPG's Sustainable Development Committee and the work of its members worldwide to support the implementation of technolo-

gies that provide cleaner energy.

SEG members have developed a Geophysical Sustainability Atlas, mapping geophysical applications and practices to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to illustrate the value geophysics brings to achieving these goals. AAPG plans a follow up to its highly successful 2021 Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Conference next year in Houston.

Aramco scientists lead the way

Aramco was a Diamond Level sponsor contributing 25 technical papers and supporting three STEM and community programs: SEG's EVOLVE, a virtual in-

ternship for geoscience students; Geoscientists Without Borders, highlighting humanitarian applications of geoscience to help communities around the world; and AAPG's Applied Science Education, a program inviting local high school students and teachers to excite them about the earth sciences.

Researchers from the Aramco Research Center-Houston gave daily presentations on topics such as fault stress analyses, natural fracture predictions, and machine learning.

The conference attracted nearly 6,000 attendees, participating in-person or virtually.

Your voice



By Naif O. Alajlany
Shaybah

Naif.Alajlany@aramco.com

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer, and not necessarily those of the publication.

Seeking excuses for others

When a person does not respond quickly to us, either by email or text message, we often make judgements about that person. Sadly, this is especially true if they are dear and close to us or they have value and love in our heart.

An odd change can come over us when someone does not respond quickly to our messages, or even not responding at all or not fulfilling a commitment or a date. Often, we become filled with mistrust. Negative feelings are intensified. We think that this marginalization is deliberate, and this thought gives a window of opportunity for negative thoughts to destroy the relationship, es-

pecially if it is in its infancy.

Here I advise every person who is prone to mistrust to be patient and wait. Be willing to excuse this behavior not just once or ten times, but as much as possible. Remind the person of the appointment and commitment and repeat the messages to him in a gentle manner until he responds.

Be relaxed

By seeking excuses for the behavior of others, we become psychologically settled and relaxed. Nevertheless, we find people who terminate the relationship based on one or two situations,

most of which are trivial.

My advice to you is to seek excuses as much as possible, especially if the person is dear and close to you. Always repeat gentle messages to them until they point out that they want to be alone. Nothing is better than clarity in relationships.

Anger does no good in these circumstances, and it isn't productive to try to figure out the intentions of others. Do not interpret things according to your mood, which might be cloudy, and affect your clarity of vision. For your own sake, and for the health of your relationships, be patient, and seek 70 excuses.



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Over 50 Years of Excellence



Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) is a joint stock company, with certificate of registration number 2052101105, having its principal office at P.O. Box 5000, Dhahran, Postal Code 31311, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and with fully paid capital of SAR 60,000,000,000.

Aramco excellence again recognized

Yanbu refinery achieves diamond category at Sheikh Khalifa excellence award

By Fareed Enani, Raad Mulla, and Ahmed Basodan

Under the patronage of his Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the Abu Dhabi Chamber for Commerce & Industry organized the closing ceremony for the 19th Cycle of Sheikh Khalifa Excellence Award, where the participating companies and organizations were recognized through its Diamond, Gold and Silver categories.

Another major achievement

Saudi Aramco Yanbu refinery exclusively achieved the diamond category among participants from all sectors making it the first ever Saudi Arabian organization to ever achieve this high score and category in this cycle. The award was received by Saudi Aramco Yanbu Refinery manager Abdulatif S. Al-Shami and delegates from Yanbu Refinery department.

"This is another achievement added to the collection of national and international accomplishments that could have not been achieved without the deep commitment of Yanbu refinery



Abdulatif Al-Shami accepting the award with five delegates from Yanbu Refinery (From right to left: Fareed Enani, Fahad Juhani, Ahmed Basodan, Khaled Amoudi, Abdullah Mutairi).

employees to the highest sustainability and performance agility practices, where they were able to maintain an outstanding performance results covering the aspects of Customers, People, Social Responsibility and Main results," said Al-Shami. "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges and exceptional circumstances associated with it, Yanbu refinery was continuing to accomplish unprecedented milestones catalyzed by digital transformation and innovation," he added.

Outstanding achievement

This outstanding achievement was bestowed after the refinery underwent extensive quality assessment by nine accredited international assessors over two stages. The first was an offline documentation review while the second was a virtual field visit which lasted for three consecutive days in which the assessors have validated the refinery's documentations and conducted multiple interviews with employees from across all the refinery's organizations in order to

analyze the performance effectiveness to achieve its strategic objectives.

This achievement is a result of Yanbu refinery employees' belief that excellence is an endless journey of continuous improvement efforts to achieve the strategic goals of the organization.

Yanbu refinery's journey of Excellence started by achieving international accreditation (ISO) certification to ensure achieving the highest quality standards, going through organizational assessments as well as knowledge and best practices exchange sessions that has opened new perspectives to the organization, and investing in human resources, encouraging them to innovate and engaging them in setting the business goals which helps to cultivate the ambition to achieve the business strategic goals.

The refinery had clear strategies that included enhancement in several aspects including innovation, social responsibility, digital transformation, cyber security, environment control, energy, safety, quality and others. Those strategies helped the refinery improve its results and achieve stakeholders' satisfaction.

Leading safely by example

Safety leadership workshop celebrates 15 years

By Adam Currie

As Saudi Aramco embarks on a number of ambitious projects to expand and diversify its business, one thing is certain: the safety of its people and operations remains the primary consideration in everything that it does.

In line with the Company's core safety value, it has always taken the stance that a culture of safety excellence can only ever be achieved through visible and effective leadership, which will in turn positively influence employees' values, decisions, and day-to-day behaviors.

World leaders in safety

With this in mind, Loss Prevention's Safety Leadership Workshop (SLW) is a key factor towards ensuring that management are adequately equipped with the necessary skills to become world-class safety leaders within their own organizations.

Tailored to the roles and responsibilities of managers and division heads, this customized workshop is led by LP's safety subject matter experts and provides actionable tools to enable management to better implement the SMS, and how its expectations apply to specific roles, assets and operations.

"In a sense, the course is quite personal. Its initial function was to introduce the objectives and structure of the SMS, itself a new concept at the time," says Jesus Docabo, a Loss Prevention engineer, and one of the workshop's lead instructors. "Today, the SLW emphasizes



Loss Prevention subject matter experts provided direction on how to develop robust safety management systems.

the significance of individual leadership style and its impact on the successful implementation of the SMS and creating the safety organizational culture. It is a significant responsibility as accountability for a successful SMS falls on our leaders."

Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, this workshop has been delivered to managers and division heads, with three main objectives — equipping attendees with the necessary tools to be effective safety leaders, ensuring proper understanding of the company's SMS, and maintaining the company's position as a global safety leader.

"Our ultimate goal is to maintain our stance as a global leader in safety by ensuring we are focusing on the necessary actions that will drive intended results," says Ghassan G. Abulfaraj, Chief Loss Prevention Engineer.

"At Saudi Aramco, we consider it vi-



Attendees were given tools to assess safety targets and develop necessary skills to be effective safety leaders.

tal that leadership remains engaged with the people who define our success. The need for a safe work environment has never been greater, and we believe that this workshop provides the foundation for us to achieve safety excellence through visible and effective leadership, which in turn positively influences our employees' values, decisions, and day-to-day behaviors."

Using a three-day workshop format, LP focuses on safety leadership at a departmental level, assessing organizational safety targets and developing the necessary skills to be an effective safety leader.

Safety in the leadership journey

Speaking to the importance of the SLW, Aali M. Al Zahrani, vice president, Safety & Industrial Security, notes: "Whether you are at the beginning of your leadership journey, or seeking to build on your existing knowledge – the

Safety Leadership Workshop is a must-have in terms of expanding your visible leadership skills to the personnel in your organization. Understanding the basis of why, and how, we do what we do in terms of safety will provide clarity and confidence on your leadership journey."

Yasser M. Mufti, vice president, Fuels & Lubricants, adds: "Saudi Aramco's commitment to safety extends beyond compliance or even continuous improvement. Safety is not an off-the-shelf commodity that can simply be implemented and a problem is solved. It is a continuous and never-ending process, and nothing highlights the need for the evaluation of safety and health best practices more than the Safety Leadership Workshop."

The Safety Leadership Workshop is available to division heads and above, and attendance can be booked through your organization's training coordinator using BET# 2902-4003.



Leading safely by example ... Safety leadership workshop celebrates 15 years

see page 7

Decorate to Celebrate Winners recognized for national day decorations

Dhahran



Marthad Said Mohamed Abbas Ba'abbad.



Abdulkarim Ali Ghamdi.



Usman Javid.

Abqaiq



Yassar Kamel Zia.



Afshen Javed.



Maricel Managa.

The 23rd of September marks the 91st anniversary of the unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; a cherished country that continues to grow deep in our hearts. In celebration of this great nation, Saudi Aramco gave Aramco employees the opportunity to express their devotion and admiration through a 'Decorate Your House for National Day' competition. "This is our home," read the words in Arabic on the colorful, cardboard-carved outline of the Kingdom's map that is the national logo for Saudi National Day, 2021. It sat in the front lawn of one of several decorated houses that could be found across Aramco residential communities, set up by Community Services to highlight the spirit of nationalism in celebration of National Day and also to promote the "Decorate to Celebrate" house decorating competition that residents of Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, and Udhailiyah residential communities were able to participate in.

The competition guidelines directed residents to be creative and original in decorating their home fronts for National Day, while incorporating cultural diversity and craftsmanship into their designs. Participants responded with some very inspired and imaginative displays and handiworks that showcased their pride and love for Saudi Arabia.

Winning entries from the 54 eye-catching home decorations spread out across the communities were selected based on being original, artistic or innovative. After much deliberation, the judging committee decided on a total of 26 winners, with 12 first prizes of a luxurious two-night stay at Ras Tanura Beach. For the second prize, 15 winners received a fresh gardening upgrade service.

"I was so happy when they informed me that I won! I feel like every year I have to participate and do better than before," said Shagufta from Udhailiya who was one of the 12 participants to win the first prize.

A true reflection of diversity

Captain Mamdouh Albajji's winning display from Ras Tanura was the brain-child of his daughter Raneem who is an artist and loves design and decoration. "It was a whole family effort, but she was the group leader for this design," he said. Because they live in such a diverse community, they wanted their display to make their neighbors feel like they are a part of this country and showcase how much this diversity is very much a part of Saudi Arabia.

There were several enthusiastic entries from expatriate residents, a fantastic and heartening testament to the warm hospitality the Kingdom extends to its guests.

"I wanted to show my appreciation to our second home," said Maricel Managa, a winner from Abqaiq.

"My family just completed 15 years. My children grew up here. This country and company mean a lot to me," said Surajit Halder, whose multicultural display incorporating Indian elements was a winning entry from Udhailiya.

Afshen Javed from Abqaiq likes to decorate his home every year for Saudi National Day. This year, like others inspired by the competition and prizes, his family took two weeks to complete the project, including several visits to Khobar and Dammam trying to find the best material to get the desired outcome. Although the family has no artistic background, garden design is a hobby and helped in producing an eye-catching house design.

Family affair

It was a family affair for Yassar Zia in Abqaiq, who said he, his wife Firdaws, and children who have lived here for 7 years, spent a long time gathering a large number of pebbles, painting them and then arranging them in layers in their front lawn to make the number 91, commemorating the 91st Saudi National Day. "We even bought the full Saudi attire form our son to dress for the occasion," he said.

Usman Javed, whose car-stopping display on main Yamamah street in Dhahran also took a prize said his wife Amna spent a week setting up the creative decorations she custom-made from items she has accumulated over time because of her passion and interest in decorating. "My wife has been an active participant and helped decorate many large community events. She is very creative. This entire decoration for National Day was single-handedly done by Amna."

Community Services presented each of the competition winners with a certificate, a box of chocolate and a flower bouquet at their homes. The remaining entrants also received a flower bouquet and thank you card to thank them for participating.

The passion of the community was palpable this Saudi National Day. Hatim Al-Ghamdi who won from Ras Tanura felt the preparations were a different level this year both inside and outside Aramco and he wanted to participate to express his love to his homeland.

Winners from Ras Tanura, Hisham Al-Ghamdi's and his wife, who happens to have a background in interior design, were thrilled at the competition; it gave Al-Ghamdi's wife a chance to exercise her expertise that expressed her family's gratitude, love and devotion to their homeland. While Amal Al-Ghamdi, wife of Abdulkareem Al-Ghamdi, winners from Dhahran, said it best, "I feel very energized every day when I see the Kingdom's national flag. I can see the future."

Ras Tanura



Hisham Alghamdi.



Mamdouh Albajji.



Hatim A Alghamdi.

'Udhailiyah



Sanjiv Kumar



Surajit Haldar.



Shagufta.