

SPEAKER CHAIRS 3RD SESSION OF STUDENT PARLIAMENT TOMORROW

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem will chair the third edition of the Student Parliament in the National Assembly's headquarters tomorrow, in the presence of Minister of Education and Minister Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa. In addition to the students, who were elected to be members of the Students Parliament, the session would be attended by representatives of the education ministry and several youth institutions.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem

The session's agenda includes the discussion of bills on regulations of government universities supporting talented youngsters and development of the education process. At the conclusion of the session, the participating students and the education ministry officials, in charge of the project, would be honored. Forty-eight students, 24 males and 24 females, are partaking in the lively debates of the Student Parliament session. Each of the Kuwaiti six governorates are represented by eight student MPs.

The Student Parliament is a simulation project organized through cooperation between the National Assembly's General Secretariat's Training Department and the Ministry of Education. The project aims to increase students' awareness about democratic practices as well as to train them on the decision-making process in the parliament through simulation of the parliament's work. Its lively debates are meant to encourage students to freely express their views. — KUNA

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES SPONSORS NUKS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, is proud to be a bronze sponsor of the 3rd annual National Union of Kuwaiti Students Australia (NUKSAU) conference taking place in Queensland, Australia on 22-23 April 2016.

It is the first year that Alghanim Industries participates in the conference, which will be held at The Royal Pines Resort-Gold Coast. NUKSAU representative Fayes El-Sgyaneii, who visited Alghanim Industries head office at Al Hamra Tower earlier this month, presented an appreciation award to Chief Human Resources Officer, George Lambros, in recognition of Alghanim Industries' participation.

Lambros said: "Alghanim Industries is pleased to participate in the NUKSAU annual conference. As a growing business and leading employer in the region, it is important that we actively support and engage with talented Kuwaiti students, wherever they may be studying. We offer various internship and fresh graduate programs that are designed to enable university students to make a successful transition to the private sector. We look forward to expanding our partnership with NUKSAU in the future."

Commenting on Alghanim Industries' sponsorship, President of Public Relations at NUKSAU, Humood Al-Otaibi, said: "Alghanim Industries has established a fruitful cooperation with NUKSAU that will greatly benefit Kuwaiti students in Australia. We are grateful for their support and partnership in this year's conference."

Warren Hauck, Australian Ambassador in Kuwait commented on this sponsorship saying: "The number of Kuwaiti students choosing to study in Australia has grown substantially over the last ten years, recognizing Australia offers the highest quality of education. I am very pleased to see that private companies, such as Alghanim Industries, are helping to support Kuwait students in Australia. This is a recognition of both the valuable role the private sector can play in supporting education, and the growing importance of the Australian education market in Kuwait."

Alghanim Industries avidly supports education and empowering the youth. Australia's base of Kuwaiti students has now reached over 1,300 students and continues to grow as a country of choice for higher education, primarily for specialty engineering majors. This is a great opportunity to build a relationship with the students and universities based in Australia, and is an extension of Alghanim Industries' unwavering support of the Kuwaiti student population studying abroad.

This initiative further builds on the key pillars of Alghanim Industries' corporate social responsibility strategy, which are giving back to the community by empowering underprivileged people, encouraging entrepreneurship, and supporting education both inside and outside of the classroom. Part of Alghanim Industries' educational initiatives were the sponsorships of the NUKS-USA annual conference in San Diego, the Nuqat conference in Kuwait, the NEST project to raise awareness and support education for underprivileged children in Mumbai, and the continuous support of the INJAZ Kuwait organization.



Fayes El-Sgyaneii presents an appreciation award to George Lambros.



Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait



The judges: (From left) Alaladdine Karim, Public Sector Lead, Microsoft Kuwait, Dr Maytham Safar, Chairman of Computer Engineering at Kuwait University, Abdulaziz Al-Duaij, Manager of Information Technology at KNPC and Srood Sherif, Group CIO of KFH.



The winning teams: Robotic Geeks - AUM (World Citizenship), Face it to Take it - AUM (Innovation), and TechnoFunGames - GUST (Games).

MICROSOFT KUWAIT ANNOUNCES IMAGINE CUP 2016 WINNERS

AUM, GUST TAKES TOP PLACE

KUWAIT: Microsoft Kuwait along with its educational partner RISE Center at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) announced the winners of Kuwait Imagine Cup 2016, the world's premier student technology competition offering students a platform to showcase their skills, talent and innovative ideas in developing original software applications. The event which took place at AUK witnessed an intensive competition amongst the participating university students. The winning teams for the World Citizenship and Innovation category were from American University of the Middle East while the Games category was won by Gulf University for Science and Technology. The winning projects were 'Robotic Geeks', 'Face it to Take it' and 'TechnoFunGames'. The teams will participate in the Imagine Cup Pan Arab semifinals which will be held in Egypt in May and from there the winning team will attend the Imagine Cup world finals held in USA in July 2016.

Power of technology

Commenting on the Imagine Cup, Charles Nahas, Microsoft Kuwait's General Manager said: "Microsoft is fully committed to supporting Kuwaiti youth to harness the power of technology to develop innovative projects that contribute directly towards the development of a digital knowledge economy in the country. These projects demonstrate the power of software to address real-world problems and I'm so impressed by the high levels of technical innovation that these students achieved in their work. The high caliber of the students and their projects is an indication of their potential to become great business and technology leaders, and how a new generation of innovations can have a lasting and transformative impact on education and beyond. We commend all the participants and look forward to seeing our winning teams from Kuwait make it to the worldwide finals."

Dr Amir Zeid, Director of RISE Center at the American University of Kuwait, and mentor of the AUK team, said: "We are very proud to participate in Microsoft Imagine Cup for the 6th time. Every year we have new teams participating and new talents unleashed, and that is the core of what we strive to achieve here at AUK; incubate thinkers and innovators and offer them opportunities to expose their ideas. We value our partnership with Microsoft and we hope, through this collaboration, to open up new horizons for innovation and community empowerment."

Positive impact

Dr Ali Roumani, Assistant Professor in Computer Science Department at the Gulf University for Science and Technology, and mentor of the GUST teams, said: "Over the years, our students participating in the Imagine Cup have applied technology and minds to positively impact the local community. The competition gives our students a focus, separate from their academic work, to test and develop a wide range of skills, from programming aptitude, to entrepreneurship and teamwork. We commend Microsoft for giving our students the opportunity to demonstrate their talents and help them realize their potential"

Dr Wassim Masri, Chair of the Technology Department at the American University of the Middle East, and mentor of the AUM teams, said: "Imagine Cup is the beginning of a lifelong journey for a young entrepreneur, inventor, designer, developer or innovator; we thank Microsoft for this opportunity given to our students. It is exciting to see how through the Imagine Cup our students develop innovative technology solutions to help address critical development issues."

"I am beyond words proud of our participating students, and stand in awe of all the projects and technology brought forth during this exciting competition" said Dr Milan Dordevic, Assistant

Professor in the Technology Department at the American University of the Middle East, and mentor of the AUM team. All participating teams demonstrate the very best in innovation; we thank Microsoft for our students have the knowledge and insight and are eager to develop and test new skills in a challenging and competitive environment."

Three tiers

Imagine Cup 2016 comprised of three competition tiers:

1. Games: This tier invites students to create a game on their favorite gaming platform: Windows (PC or touchscreen), Windows Phone, Xbox Indie Games, or Kinect SDK.
2. Innovation: This competition honors the most innovative, ground-breaking, and appealing software application built with Microsoft tools and technology.
3. World Citizenship: What global challenge can you help solve with technology? Got an idea for an app that will help reduce world hunger, provide better treatment for disease, raise awareness of environmental issues, or provide better access to education

As the world's most prestigious student technology competition, the Imagine Cup is Microsoft's initiative to encourage young people to apply their imagination and creativity to technology innovations that can make a difference and address real-world issues.

The AUK Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering (RISE) serves as AUK's primary source for research and development activities, a bridge to industry, and an important venue for community outreach. RISE adapts an integrative model by forging connections between academic disciplines, local and international innovators, academia and industry, as well as technology and society.



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