

## STATEMENT FROM THE TAJIK EMBASSY IN KUWAIT

The embassy of Tajikistan in Kuwait released the following statement, which includes a briefing by Sirodjidin Aslov, Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in connection with the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution entitled: 'International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development':

On 21 December 21 2016 the UN General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution A/RES/71/222 entitled "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028", sponsored by the 177 UN member states. As you might be aware, the initiative for proclamation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" was launched for the first time by Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan which took place last year in April in the Republic of Korea.

In accordance with the resolution (OP3) the period from 2018 to 2028 is proclaimed as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" to commence on 22 March 2018 and terminate on 22 March 2028 (22 March - World Water Day).

Speaking at the Water Forum the President stated that "... the modern global challenges and threats, including the financial and economic crisis, population growth, climate change, increase of natural hydro-meteorological phenomena, water scarcity

and, as a result, increasing levels of poverty, spread of infectious diseases, child and maternal mortality still require the mobilization of our efforts and relevant measures".

In this regard, the Head of State proposed that after completion of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, to work on preparation of a new Decade, which will become a solid platform and promote coordination and promotion of all efforts to address the issues and problems related with water resources. In addition, the new Decade is aimed to continue implementation of the indicated steps of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life, 2005-2015", enriching it with new measures and efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

It is widely known that the initiative to proclaim the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015" was also launched by the President of Tajikistan in 2003. That year, by the initiative of Tajikistan, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, according to which the period of 2005-2015 was proclaimed as the International Decade for Action "Water for Life". Subsequently, as part of this decade Tajikistan initiated to proclaim 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

Within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" and in accordance with the resolutions of the UN General Assembly three inter-

active dialogues of the UN General Assembly were convened in 2010, 2013 and 2015. In addition, the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations prepared and convened in Dushanbe the following important events:

The Mid-term Comprehensive Review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", June 2010; High-level International Conference on Water Cooperation, August 2013; and High-level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", June 2015.

This year in July, the UN Secretary-General issued a report on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015 (A/71/260). According to this report "The Decade was responsible for many accomplishments. No other 10-year period in the history of the United Nations has witnessed as many water-related activities and achievements". Furthermore, the Decade, as the report says, "has shown where the shortfalls lie and what slows down progress on water-related goals and targets. There are still a myriad of constraints on human, institutional and financial resources".

In accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" will be mainly focused on: sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the

achievement of social, economic and environmental goals; implementation and promotion of related programs and projects; furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the resolution highlights the importance of promoting efficient water usage at all levels, taking into account the water, food, energy, environment nexus.

In addition, the resolution identifies the following objectives to be pursued: improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and exchange of good practices, generating new information relevant to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals; pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnership and action by different actors to implement the water-related goals and targets; strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of the water-related goals.

This resolution invites the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels, taking into account the outcomes of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.



(From Left) Ayman Al-Ali, Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Journalism Excellence Award; Glen Mulcahy, the guest speaker; and Dr Amir Zeid, Director of RISE Center.



Glen Mulcahy



Dr Amir Zeid

## AUK'S RISE CENTER HOLDS LECTURE ENTITLED 'MOBILE, VR AND AI - THE FUTURE OF DISRUPTION IN MEDIA'

The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering at the American University of Kuwait presented a lecture entitled, "Mobile, VR and AI - the Future of Disruption in Media" presented by the renowned Glen Mulcahy, Head of Innovation at RTE, Irish national broadcaster, and founder of the "MOJOCON" conference for mobile journalism. The lecture gave a fresh perspective on how technology is incorporated in media, journalism and news reporting. The lecture has been facilitated by the Organizing Committee of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Journalistic Award.

RISE Director Dr Amir Zeid gave his welcom-

ing remarks noting that nowadays, technology is finding its way into everything, with media and news reporting being no different. Taking over, Mulcahy began to clarify that broadcasters in most places are not catching up fast enough with new trends; they not only tend to ignore them, but they are in denial, taking no effective action to address them. Mulcahy aims to empower journalists to be complete storytellers on their own, as opposed to relying on a full crew. Technology has advanced to the level that regular consumer products are competent enough to produce broadcast-quality reports. This not only saves money, but even the paperwork required for authorizations and permits

are drastically reduced from a broadcaster's perspective.

Moving on to newer and more futuristic technologies, the speaker then discussed 360 recording cameras and the impact of VR (Virtual Reality). Viewers are no longer bound by the fixed angle that the producers want them to see, but through 360 technologies, the experience is extensively more immersive- especially if seen through a VR headset. Drones are also being used to provide coverage for news reporting, which not only catches hard-to-reach angles but is four times cheaper than sending a professional camera man on a helicopter.

While technology has contributed to the advancement of many professions, Glen warned that AI (Artificial Intelligence) is reaching worrying levels. Big conglomerates are using the data collected from us to provide media tailored around our interests and online activities which could be thought of as a borderline impeachment of privacy. It also predicted that by 2029, AI will pass the Turing test; this essentially means that we will not be capable of differentiating between a human and an AI computer.

Bringing the lecture to an end, the speaker wanted to remind the audience that broadcasting networks need to up their game and

start incorporating methods and technologies of this new era for news reporting, agreeing with Einstein that, "We cannot solve a problem by using the same thinking that created the problem in the first place."

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.



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomes you to savor authentic Turkish cuisine from griddled meats to aromatic desserts specially prepared by the hotel's Turkish chefs every Monday from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm. For reservations and more information, please call 22269666.



## NSH WITH SPARKLING LIGHT: DAY OF EMOTIONS

The benevolent presence of Padmashri Dr Ravi Pillai added more joy to the celebrations in NSH that filled the day with uncontrollable emotions. Dr Pillai's speech, felt a rare memorable treasure, won a huge thunderous applause from the several hundreds of employees and the large audience. The NSH Vice President Sabu, in his inspiring extempore, appreciated these long serving employees - P V Santhosh Kumar, Henry Rajan, Padma Kumar and T H Abdul Rahiman - highlighted their achievements, quoting them as the finest example of team work in this single largest employer in the Middle East.

The oil and gas business conglomerate that accommodates more than 90,000 employees around the globe, most of them being Indians, presently has projects worth USD 4 bn. NSH is renowned for its technical expertise, innovative edge, commitment to safety and quality and excellence across all aspects of its multi-faceted operations including Building and Infrastructure works, Refineries, Petrochemicals, Fertilizers, LNG Terminals, Steel, Mining, Power, Pipeline projects. To its credit, NSH has the best "best". Recipient of the Safe Contractor in the World, in the Ras Gas job in Qatar by the world renowned Oil and Gas giant Exxon Mobile.

The recipients of the long service awards recalled their memories and expressed their gratitude for NSH playing the Good Samaritan



role for its employees. It has to be noted that recently NSH was honored with the Best Employee Welfare Award, received from the CEO of KNPC.

General Manager Harikumar, Project

Managers Abdul Rahiman, Dileep Kumar Raroth gave their inputs. Santhosh Babu, V G Nair, Manoj Kumar, Ratha Krishna Pillai, Prakash, Harish, KR Mohan were among those present.



Social worker Pani Anthony has been conferred on the prestigious title Ambassador of Harmony to Russia by Michael Gorbatov, Vice Consul of Consulate General of Russia at a glittering ceremony held under the slogan Youth Icon of the Year 2017, attended by academicians, industrialists, youth and the public. He has been in the forefront of creating awareness among the underprivileged communities and among youth in vital areas such as educational awareness, women's empowerment and environmental issues.