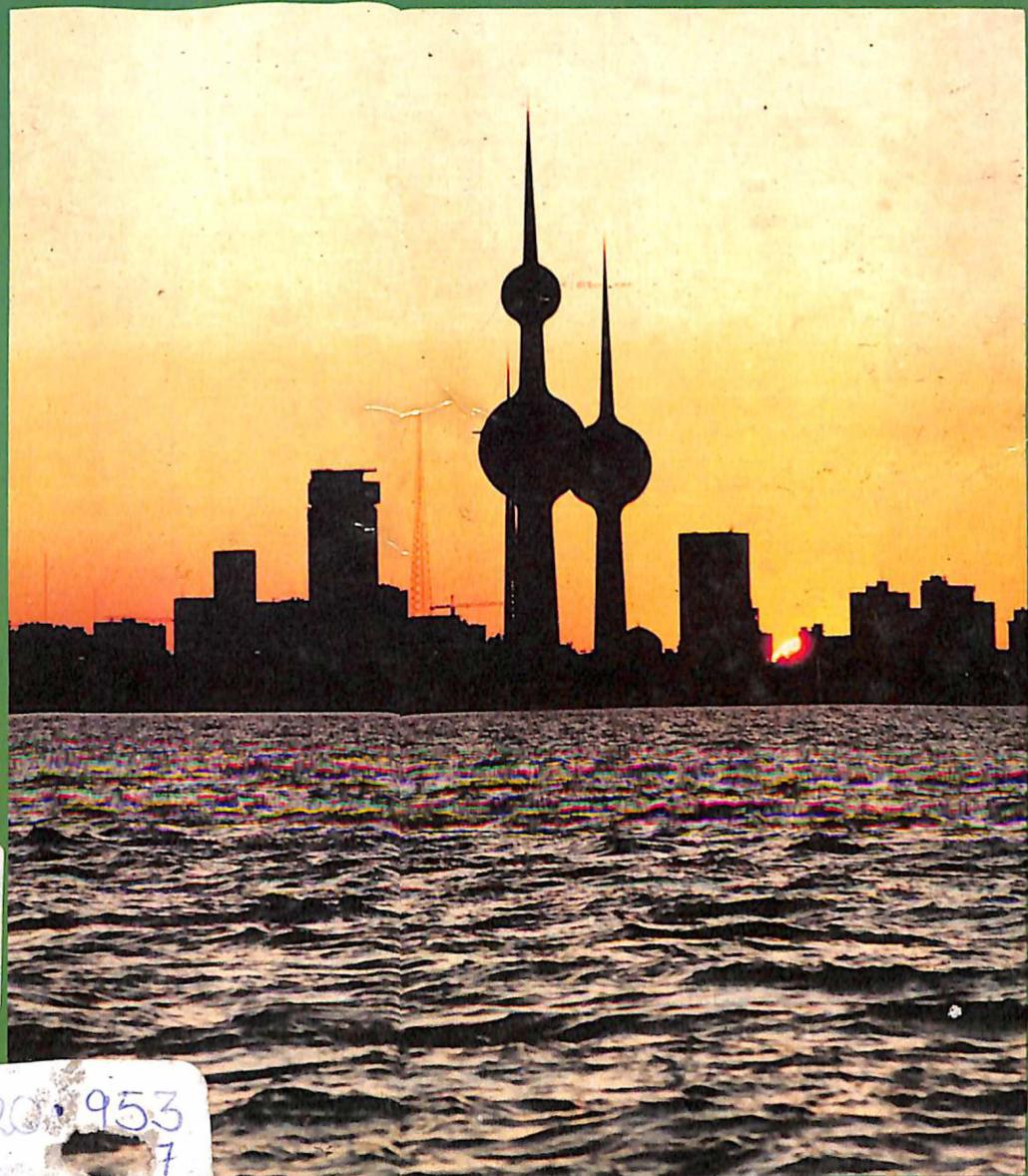


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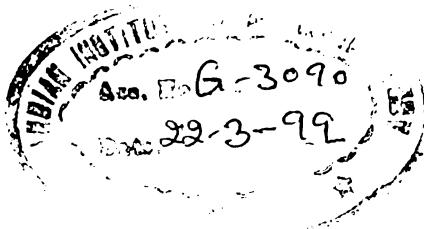
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To

*KUWAITI MARTYRS
and
POWs*

MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

MINISTER OFFICE

Economic Relations Between Kuwait and India



I have the pleasure to take this unique opportunity for talking about the significant and close economic relations between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of India.

India since a long period was our first commercial partner beginning from early of nineteenth century, and now after two hundred years is one of our major trade partners.

In 1974, the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Republic of India signed an agreement on economic cooperation, desiring to further strengthen and promote already existing friendly relations between the two countries and their peoples on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

A great progress has been achieved during the last three decades towards Kuwaiti-Indian cooperation particularly in the area of foreign trade which witnessed a high and fast increase.

In 1989 volume of foreign trade between our two countries (import and export) totalled over 200 million dollars except Kuwaiti petroleum and petroleum products.

The main commodities exported from Kuwait to India are:

- Petroleum and petroleum products.
- Fertilizers manufactured and sulphur.
- Fresh and frozen shrimps.

On the other side, the major imports from India into Kuwait are:

- Rice, tea, coffee.
- Spices, cardamom.
- Fabrics, textiles, garments.
- Buses and vehicle parts.
- Gold and jewellery.

In view of the deepest and close friendly Kuwaiti-Indian relations, the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development had extended eight loans to the Government of the Republic of India during the period from 1976 up to June 30, 1991, with a total value of about 295 million dollars to support and assist development operations covering electricity, industry and agricultural sectors. As to the terms of these loans, maturity date range is about 23 years with grace period of about 4 years and interest rate range about 4.16%.

Kuwait, after liberation, strove very hard to adjust its national economy from the aftermath of Iraqi invasion disaster and have had considerable success in reducing damage effects. As it is known, Kuwaiti economy relies on market forces and private sector. This policy provides several joint opportunities for individuals, firms and companies in most business fields especially in development projects, public contracts, industrial sector, etc.

Since I am always optimistic, I look forward to renew our economic cooperation towards further enhancing bilateral relations in favour of both Kuwait and India.

Dr. Abd-Allah Rashed Al-Hajri
* Minister of Commerce and Industry
State of Kuwait

* In the recent reshuffle of the Kuwaiti Cabinet Mr. Halal Mishari Al-Mutairi was made the Minister for Trade and Industry

HISTORY

The first indications of habitation on the territory of Kuwait in early modern times consist of the appearance of a small place, Kadhima, on European maps after c. 1650.

It would be wrong to consider this an Ottoman trading post, as Ottoman control before 1800 hardly stretched outside the town walls of Basra and the banks of the Shatt al Arab. The place Kadhima increased in importance because it becomes progressively more marked on maps.

The oldest references to the existence of the town of Kuwait are in a number of letters and reports of the Dutch East India Company, and the "Description of Arabia" by the Danish traveller Niebuhr.

All these texts give the same image; Grane, as Kuwait then was called, was a peaceful small port of pearl divers and traders, inhabited by the Utub tribe. This place was ruled in 1756 by a group of Sheikhs of whom Mubarak bin Sabah was the first in rank.

Kuwait was at that time not fully independent: it paid a small tax to the Sheikh of the Bani Khaled of Al Hasa, now part of Saudi Arabia. This dependency was purely symbolic and soon afterwards disappeared.

Kuwait and Kadhima are different places. The old Kadhima had nothing to do with the Ottoman Empire and that naming Kuwait City as Kadhima, like the Iraqi invader did, is misunderstanding history.

Historically more correct would be Grane (which anyhow has the same meaning as Kuwait). The name Kuwait as such first appears in the year 1752.

The question of Ottoman sovereign rights over Kuwait is a particularly obscure one. In 1901 it led to an international conflict which at that time ended in Kuwait's favour.

The issue may be confused because the Ottoman Sultan, as Khalif, could, since the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517 until the end of the Ottoman Empire, claim some authority over all Sunni Arabs. The claims of the Khalifate, however, go beyond modern conceptions of states and could never be accepted as arguments in disputes between sovereign states.

The question is whether the Ottomans ever had any effective administrative authority over Kuwait. The reply must be negative.

The first references to Kuwait mention the place as a small competitor of Basra as a port, outside the reach of Basra authorities. To the contrary, in 1775, the Sheikh of Kuwait was one of the Arab rulers who supported the Wakil of Persia, Karim Khan, in his siege and final conquest of Basra. The foreign observer who stated this fact was an ally of the Ottomans, yet he does not make any remark in the sense that the behaviour of Kuwait was treasonable to its legitimate overlords.

Now the question might be put as to whether the originalities between the Bani Khaled and the Utub would constitute an argument for the existence of Ottoman sovereign rights over Kuwait and if such rights could, by devolution, have come to Iraq.

The history of the Bani Khaled is not known in full detail. In 1662 they allied themselves with the Huseyn Pasha of Basra against the Ottoman Pasha of Qatif, the last stronghold of the Ottomans in Al Hasa. The town was conquered by the Bani Khaled and this meant the end of Ottoman control over Al Hasa for over a century.

So, even if Ottoman authority existed over Kuwait through the Bani Khaled, this means that Kuwait would belong to Al Hasa, now in Saudi Arabia, not to administrative districts of Iraq.

In the nineteenth century, it becomes more difficult for Kuwait to maintain its independence. Two colonial powers, the British Empire and the Ottoman Empire sought to bring the area under control.

In these circumstances, Kuwait behaved like a small state caught between big powers. It kept itself neutral as much as possible, as in 1871, when Ottoman forces passed through Kuwait during an expedition against the Saudis in Al Hasa.

There was, however, no effective Ottoman authority over Kuwait: there were no Ottoman functionaries in the place, no taxes were levied in the name of the Ottoman Sultan, and the

ruler of Kuwait was not appointed by the Sultan, as were those of Tunisia or Egypt.

The treaties concluded by the Ottoman Empire which granted European traders rights of residence and considerable immunities in juridical matters and taxation, had no validity in Kuwait where foreign traders were hardly admitted.

The conclusion must be that Kuwait was not part of the Ottoman Empire in the way that Iraq was, although it cannot be denied that at certain times it was subject to the influence and pressure of its powerful neighbour.

The essential point of distinction in the Ottoman view between their subjects and other powers was the question of whether taxes were paid to the Ottoman fisc or not. There is no indication that Kuwait ever contributed to the Ottoman fisc.

In the beginning of the present century, a highly complex situation arose as the Upper Gulf became the focus of competition amongst several European powers.

In the face of the threat, the Ottoman Empire (apparently inspired by German advisers) sought to acquire control over still unclaimed areas in the Gulf before the British could do so.

One of the places the Ottoman Empire tried to bring formally under its power was Kuwait, but Kuwait's ruler Mubarak was able to mobilise British support for his claim of independence.

In 1902 the Ottomans tried a military intervention in Kuwait. They were forced back by the British. Sheikh Mubarak had to keep close relations with Britain, although he hesitated a long time before even admitting a British Consul to Kuwait. The conflict about the Ottoman claim on Kuwait remained pending.

After long discussions the British and the Ottomans reached a draft-agreement in 1913 by which "the district of Kuwait" and the district of Nejd were recognised by the British as being Ottoman territory.

The two colonial empires which had been dividing the world in this manner started to fight against each other before the draft had been ratified. The convention was soon forgotten, and Kuwait started under Mubarak's successor Salim to show its independence from the British Empire.

The unratified and never executed draft of the convention between two colonial powers of 1913 is the only formal document acknowledging Ottoman authority over Kuwait. Iraq did not exist as yet, it was later created by an agreement between colonial powers.

The draft of 1913 has no legal validity. If Iraq wanted to base "historical claims" on it, it should as well claim Nejd.

At the start of World War I, in October 1914, a British decree was issued to Sheikh Mubarak stating that Kuwait was an independent state under British protection; while Iraq was under British colonialism. During this time Kuwait had full jurisdiction over its internal affairs with complete acknowledgement of the British government. This agreement was accepted by the rulers of the Arabian Gulf for practical reasons. Britain would administer their foreign affairs in exchange for guaranteeing their internal sovereignty and protection, while Iraq was under British administration and subject to complete rule over its internal affairs, to the extent that all ministries and governmental offices were run by British advisors. The Ottomans came to realize that they couldn't stand against Britain, so they entered into negotiations in 1911 thru 1913. This resulted in the British/Turkish agreement in 1913 covering five sections, the first concerning Kuwait. In articles 5-7 Kuwait's borders were drawn with the Iraqi Ottomans, specifying that Kuwait recognizes the islands of Warba and Bubiyan as its own, and Sufwan and Um Qasr were given to Iraq. This resulted in the demarcation of Kuwait's borders by an international agreement obligatory to all parties concerned.

During the Aqueer Conference in 1922, Iraq enquired about the relationship between Britain and Kuwait and its influence on the negotiations concerning the demarcation of the borders. In response to these enquiries, Britain confirmed its friendly relationship with Kuwait based on the protectorate agreement signed between the two parties in 1899. The demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraqi borders were specified in the British-Turkish agreement in 1913.

In 1932 when Iraq was on the threshold of independence from the British administration, it had to define its borders with the neighbouring countries as a prerequisite to its entry into the League of Nations. To that accord, correspondence was reciprocated between the British representative and the Iraqi Acting Prime Minister Jaafar Al-Askary, stating that the demarcation of the borders would be based on the English-Turkish agreement of 1913; to this effect official documents were exchanged between the Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Sa'ed and the Kuwaiti Emir Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with the British representative acting as the official mediator. The exchange of these documents is considered

to be an obligatory agreement to the parties concerned in accordance with international law.

Verifying the above, another agreement was signed in 1963 between Kuwait and Iraq where both parties agreed on the following terms;

1. The Republic of Iraq recognizes the independence of the state of Kuwait, and its full sovereignty within its clarified borders stated in the official letter of July 21, 1932 from the Iraqi prime minister. This in turn was accepted by the Emir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in his official letter of August 1, 1932.

2. Both governments will work in unison within their boundaries to strengthen their brotherly relationship, Arab cause, their bilateral interests and strive for Arab unity.

3. Both governments will work at establishing bilateral cooperation in the cultural, commercial and economic fields and the exchange of technical information between them.

In accomplishment of the above, diplomatic representation was achieved through the level of ambassadors. This agreement was signed by the head of the Iraqi delegation Brigadier Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr the then prime minister and his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, head of the Kuwaiti delegation.

Recent behaviour of Iraq shows a rather selective respect to the borders of administrative districts of the Ottoman Empire. If these borders have a deep significance, then Iraq's behaviour is very strange.

The "Kuwait district" of the draft of 1913 is considerably larger than the modern state of Kuwait and includes considerable stretches of territory considered to belong to Iraq since 1920.

Iraqi claims, based on its rights as an heir to the Ottoman Empire have two basic flaws.

The first flaw is that formal Ottoman claims of sovereignty were made only after Kuwait had clearly claimed its independence and, after that, Ottoman claims were never effectuated.

The second flaw is even more serious. Iraq was part of the Ottoman inheritance as it stood at the end of the First World War. This excludes Kuwait in the same way as it excludes administrative districts near the Gulf where local leaders also refused Ottoman control; like Nejd, Al Hasa and Qatar.

IRAQI INVASION OF KUWAIT

On July 15, 1990, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of stabbing Iraq in the back by overproducing their allotted quotas of oil, thereby branding them as collaborators of the Imperialists and Zionists.

On July 17 Iraq presented to the League of Arab Nations a letter accusing Kuwait of stealing oil from the Rumailah fields, establishing military bases as well as agricultural farms and civilian installations on Iraqi soil. The Iraqi regime demanded 2.4 billion US dollars in compensation for the allegedly stolen oil.

On July 21, Kuwait responded to these accusations by stating that:

— Since Iraq sent a letter to the League of Arab Nations complaining of Kuwait's actions, it has asked the League to designate a committee to look into these accusations and also to draw the borders in accordance with all legal and binding agreements.

— Kuwait's oil production is limited to its quota according to the OPEC organization, it never exceeded its allotted quota.

— Iraq's accusation of Kuwait stealing its oil was rejected as it had no basis. The oil field that Iraq calls Rumailah is in fact an oil vein that extends equally in both countries and is known as Al-Ritga on the Kuwaiti side. Therefore, the oil that Kuwait produces is rightfully within its own borders. Moreover, Kuwait's oil production from this field is just 1 percent of what Iraq produces from the same field.

— Iraq's accusations that Kuwait transgressed Iraqi soil by establishing military bases, agricultural farms and civilian installations, was baseless. For it is incomprehensible that a small and peaceful country such as Kuwait could mount an aggression upon a country that is by far bigger in size, population and military force. After Kuwait presented its letter to the League of Arab

Nations, it was surprised by Iraq's insistence that the dispute be resolved between them, without the interference of any third party. Iraq's contradictory stand was obvious in submitting the complaint to be judged by the Arab League and then rejecting the Arab League's decision to demand a bilateral solution to maintain its relationship with Iraq and for the sake of stability and security in the region, and due to efforts of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kuwait agreed to attend a meeting in Jeddah followed by one in Baghdad and another in Kuwait, to discuss all unresolved issues between the two Arab neighbouring countries, after believing Saddam Hussein's assurances and guarantees that he would not resort to the use of military force in resolving these differences.

On July 31, a meeting was held in Jeddah, between Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council and Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. Sheikh Saad returned to Kuwait on the night of August 1, to present the results of the negotiations to H.R.H. the Emir and the Kuwaiti government, while the Kuwaiti government was scheduled to discuss the results of the Jeddah meeting at 9:00 a.m. August 2nd.

Saddam Hussein as usual disregarded all the given promises and assurances to the Arab leaders and invaded Kuwait at 2:00 a.m. on August 2, committing unprecedented acts of aggression such as : the killing of innocent people, massive looting and the vile acts of rape, forcefully evicting the Kuwaitis out of their homeland by the use of terror, threatening to commit inhuman crimes of rape and murder, and denying Kuwaitis the right to return to their homeland from abroad. Furthermore Saddam Hussein transgressed the basis of international law by his aggression on embassies in Kuwait and his massive hostage-taking of foreigners in a manner that does not comply with basic human values. Saddam Hussein claimed that his invasion of Kuwait was based on the invitation of the "Kuwaiti people's revolution" that denounces the existing regime. He then formed a puppet government. After failing to realize his scheme, especially since not one Kuwaiti collaborated with him, he annexed Kuwait claiming that "the branch has returned to its origin" and considered it to be a district of Iraq.

All these events are clear proof that his intention to invade and occupy Kuwait was premeditated. In assertion to this fact

is the size of the troops that were mobilized which numbered 170,000 soldiers armed to the hilt. It also signifies that his intention was not only directed toward invading Kuwait but could extend to other countries in the region.

The whole world — nations, states and organizations — condemned this invasion, resulting in the resolutions of the Security Council # 660 — # 664, Emergency Arab Summit meeting that was held in Cairo during August 9 thru 10, 1990 including the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, representatives of the European countries, national and international bodies including associations for amnesty and human rights.

This response was an unprecedented event, unparalleled by any other in history. The occupying Iraqi forces began systematic looting of the state of Kuwait to the extent that one can not describe in words. Major operations : robbing the state of its properties, public and private establishments, personal assets including household items, factories, warehouses, hospitals, scientific institutes, schools and universities. These events occurred under direct supervision of the Iraqi authorities. The dismantling and transportation of these equipments required not only ordinary manpower but the use of highly skilled technicians.

What was committed in Kuwait is considered to be an act of armed robbery initiated by Iraq, utilizing its military, technical and security systems.

One can not hide the fact that Saddam Hussein and his criminal acts have transgressed barbarically against all the Islamic laws and those of the international community.

Saddam Hussein's regime now stands against the world as a whole. The world today passes through a crucial period in history forcing barbaric acts of aggression to be punished.

Today, the international umbrella is the only guarantee for the safety and security of small countries against any threats to their independence or sovereignty. The responsibility for their defence lies or falls on the shoulders of the international community and that is the role of the Security Council which condemned the Iraqi invasion; and adopted the adequate resolutions that would ensure, when fully implemented, the deterrence of the Iraqi aggression and the restoration of justice.

It must be clear to any objective observer that Saddam's claims are entirely fictional.

In claiming Kuwait to be part of Iraq, Saddam not only denies Kuwait's history; he denies the legitimacy of the United Nations and the Arab League, both of whom welcomed the State of Kuwait as a rightful member. Indeed he goes further, he denies the legitimacy of all those Iraqi regimes which recognised Kuwait—including his own—which accepted Kuwait's independence right up to 1st August, 1990.

THE LAND

Name

Kuwait, or officially the State of Kuwait, was referred to by the name "Qurain" (or Grane) in the early seventeenth century. The names "Qurain" or Kuwait are diminutive of the Arabic words Qarn and Kout. Qarn is a high hill and Kout is a fortress. In the dialect of southern Iraq and the neighbouring countries, Kout means a house built in the form of a fortress adjacent to water. The plural of Kout is Akwat, as used by the Arabian Peninsula's historians when they referred to a number of castles in towns with forts and walls. Some historians believe that Barrak, Sheikh of the Bani Khalid tribe, built "Kuwait" in "Grane" and that since then the city has been mostly referred to by the name "Kuwait." This agrees with the local traditional story that Sheikh Barrak ibn Ghurair Al-Hamid, who ruled the Bani Khalid tribe from 1669 to 1682, built Kuwait before the beginning of the eighteenth century (AD)/the twelfth century (AH).

The Danish traveller C. Neibuhr depicted Kuwait as Grane on his map and in the narrative about his voyage made in 1765. Kuwait was known by the name Grane under the rule of Sheikh Abdallah Bin Sabah, the second ruler of Kuwait (1762-1812). Several places in southern Kuwait still bear the name Grane (Qurain).

Geographical Location

Kuwait lies at the northwest corner of the Arabian Gulf between latitudes 28° and 30°N and between longitudes 46° and 48°E. To the north and west it shares a border of 240 Km (149 miles) with the Republic of Iraq, and to the south and south-west it shares a border of 250 Km (155 miles) with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. To the east it has a coastline of 290 Km on the Arabian Gulf.

Area and Topography

The total area of the State of Kuwait is 17,818 square Kilometres. Most of Kuwait mainland is a flat sandy desert, gradually sloping down from the extreme west of Shigaya and Salmi (300 metres high) towards sea level in the east. It is broken by shallow depressions and low hills, such as Al-Liyah, Kura Al-Maru, Shagat Al-Jleeb, and Afrie, which form a ridge at Jal al-Zor (145 metres high), cut by the Umm Al-Ramam wadi. The area is locally known by the name "Ghodai" meaning the "Hill".

The southern part of Kuwait is generally flat, with the exception of Ahmadi Hill (137 metres high).

The Kuwait mainland, having no mountains or rivers or other natural features, was for a long time a transit area for nomadic tribes and caravans. Such freedom of movement made delineation of borders rather difficult and resulted in some border problems. The whole matter was amicably resolved following the creation of the Neutral Zone between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (7 July 1965). The northern part of the partitioned zone is administered by Kuwait, whilst the southern part is the administrative responsibility of Saudi Arabia. The crude oil extracted from the partitioned zone is equally shared by both countries.

Climate

Due to the location of Kuwait in the Sahara geographical region, the weather of the country is characterised by long, hot and dry summers, short, warm and sometimes rainy winters. Dust storms almost always occur with a rise in humidity during summer.

The highest temperature ever recorded was 51 °C in July 1978, whilst the lowest 6 °C, was recorded in January 1964. There is a wide variation of temperature, ranging from an average of 45 °C in summer to an average of 8 °C in winter. Such climate fluctuation is often accompanied by a change in the annual rainfall : one year the annual rainfall may be 22mm and then quite unpredictably it will rise to 352mm in the next.

Seasons

Winter (6th December - 15th February)

Drop in temperature - clouds and rain - very cold northwesterly winds.

Spring (16th February - 20th May)

Changeable mild temperature - rain and thunderstorms - hot southerly winds.

Warm spring (9th April - 20th May)

Sarrayat (9th April - 13th May)

Summer (21st May - 4th November)

Remarkable rise in temperature and humidity, violent dust storms.

Transitional Interval (21st May - 5th June)

Dry summer (6th June - 19th July)

Very hot winds (Simoom) and dust storms

Humid summer (20th July - 30th August) Remarkable increase in temperature and humidity.

Transitional Interval (1st September - 4th November) Drop in temperature - continuous humidity - slight winds.

Autumn (5th November - 5th December)

Mild temperature. Clouds and rain. Cold nights.

Territorial Waters

An Amiri Decree issued on 17th December, 1967, defined the boundaries of Kuwait's territorial waters—for both the mainland and islands—as 12 miles. It also regarded the Bay of Kuwait as purely inland waters, with the limits of territorial waters starting at the line between the two headlands of the little Gulf. (Bay).

The area of Kuwaiti territorial waters is estimated at about 2,200 square miles. They can be divided into two parts—the shallow northern area, which is less than five metres deep in most places with a muddy bed, and the relatively deep southern area, which has a bed of sand and silicic deposits. Most of Kuwait's ports are located on the southern shore to take advantage of the deep waters in this area.

The Coast

There has always been a strong link between Kuwait and the sea, and it is this which shaped the distinctive character of today's Kuwaitis and constituted the Kuwaitis main source of income in olden times. Today the picture is different, with the urban expansion and rapid modernisation. Yet the link with sea is still to the Kuwaitis a cherished memory of the past.

The 290 kilometres coast can be divided into two main parts:

one extends along the Arabian Gulf and the other lies around Kuwait Bay and Khor Subiya. The two areas are basically different. Most of the first area is characterised by sandy beaches, while the second area, 70 km in length, is characterised by mudflats, especially in the shallow northern area in the Bay of Kuwait where the maximum wave height is 16 cm. opposite Kuwait city.

A statistical analysis of the coastline of Kuwait categorises it as follows: sandy shores constitute 33.3%, seaports, water distillation plants and hospitals 14%. There are six seaports at Shuwaikh, Doha, Ahmadi, Mina Abdallh, Shuaiba and Al-Zor, besides some special anchorages used by companies and individuals. There are also 20 anchorages for small boats. 11% of beaches are assigned for tourist recreation and entertainment and 40% of the shoreline is utilised by special establishments and nationals for private villas and chalets, whilst 35% of the beaches, mainly in the northern part, are as yet unexploited.

Islands

There are nine islands off the coast of Kuwait: Failaka, Bubiyan, Miskan, Warba, Auhha, Umm Al-Maradim, Umm Al-Naml, Kubbar and Qaruh.

Bubiyan: Located in the north-east of the Arabian Gulf, it is the largest island in area (863 km²) and is linked to the mainland by a prestressed concrete bridge.

Warba: Located at the north extremity of the Gulf, it occupies an area of 37 km².

Miskan: It lies to the north of Failaka island.

Auhha: It lies to the south of Failaka island.

Umm Al-Naml: It is located in the mouth of Kuwait Bay. Many Islamic antiquities were found there. Near to it was Akkaz island which has now been assimilated into Shuwaikh Port warehouses.

Kubbar, Qaruh, Umm Al-Maradim: They lie at the southern side of the Gulf. Large flocks of sea-birds used to live there, but regular visits to the island by people fond of shooting and swimming have caused a significant decrease in their number.

Failaka Island: The island of Failaka, which is pronounced "Failacha" in the local dialect, is the most beautiful and most famous of Kuwait's islands. It combines the ancient history of

Kuwait, dating back to the early Stone Age; and the modern history of Kuwait, when the early "Utubs" settled in after their long journey, prior to their settlement on Kuwait's mainland in the late seventeenth century.

The island of Failaka lies 20 km north east of Kuwait City. It is 12 km long, 6 km wide and is flat, apart from a small hill 30 feet high in the extreme western part, which contained "Al Khader" shrine.

The island of Failaka lies 20 km long, 6 km wide and is flat, apart from a small hill 30 feet high in the extreme western part, which contained "Al Khader" shrine.

The island is linked to Kuwait City by a submarine pipeline, 21 km long, that provides its 6000 inhabitants with more than 100 million gallons of sweet water every year. Parallel to the submarine water pipeline there are three submarine power cables from Kuwait City providing electrical energy to the island.

The island of Failaka is of special interest to Kuwaitis. Apart from its historical importance as a land of relics and ancient civilisations, it has become a modern tourist attraction, keeping abreast with all aspects of modern progress. Everyday, before the Iraqi aggression, visitors were carried from the mainland at Ras Al Ardh (Salmiyah) to the island by ferry boats belonging to Public Transport Company, to relax and swim in its lazuline waters. Much of their leisure time was spent at its 5 millions square metre Tourist Complex, located in the southern part of Failaka, which contains a good number of swimming pools, sports playgrounds and restaurants, as well as hundreds of conveniently furnished chalets with all amenities.

PEOPLE

The first population census in Kuwait was conducted in 1957. Little was known about the population of Kuwait before that date, although some travellers gave estimates which lacked accuracy. The Central Statistics Office tentatively estimates the 1910 population at about 35,000.

From 1910 to 1935 when prospecting for oil started with promising results, the rate of population growth suddenly accelerated and reached 75,000 prior to the Second World War, or rather before actual oil exports started. In the early 1950s the population was about 100,000. When the first population census was conducted in 1957 the population had doubled to 206,000.

Since 1957, a census of the population in Kuwait has been conducted every five years. The results of the April 1985 population census indicated that the population was 1,712,133. A statistical report by the Civil Information Authority revealed in October 1993 that the population has reached 1.596 million: of this 743,000 are Kuwaiti nationals, 731,000 expatriates and 122,000 stateless persons.

Annual Growth Rate

Preliminary estimates of the 1985 population census indicate a decrease in the annual growth rate of the population of Kuwait to 4.5% for the intercensal years 1980-1985, compared with 6.4% between the censuses of 1975 and 1980. The 1985 census figures indicate that the rate of growth for Kuwaitis remained unchanged at 3.7%, compared with a decline in that of the non-Kuwaiti population to 5.1% against 8.7% between the censuses of 1975 and 1980.

With the exception of the period between the 1970 and 1975 censuses, the rate of growth for non-Kuwaitis since 1957 was higher

than that for Kuwaitis. It is clear that this is attributable to the high rate of immigration, which is considered to be the main factor responsible for the increase in population.

Female Population

There has been a slight but perceptible increase in the Kuwaiti female percentage of the population, based on the statistics of the population censuses conducted in Kuwait, from 47.9% in 1957 to 50.4% in the 1985 census.

On the other hand, the percentage of the non-Kuwaiti female population has risen substantially, increasing from 21.5% in 1957 to 38.2% in the 1985 population census.

Demographic Composition

The National Council's designated committee has recommended that Kuwaitis should eventually become 70 per cent of the total population, with the remaining 30 per cent comprised of other Arab and non-Arab nationalities. The committee recommended that foreign labourers brought to Kuwait should possess technical skills and skills needed by the country.

Population Growth

1980-1990

Year	Kuwaiti	Non-Kuwaiti	Total
1980	569.722	800.035	1.369.757
1981	591.324	840.804	1.432.128
1982	613.744	883.665	1.497.409
1983	637.015	928.723	1.565.738
1984	661.168	976.094	1.637.262
1985	686.237	1.025.896	1.712.133
1986	712.257	1.078.256	1.790.513
1987	739.264	1.133.305	1.872.569
1988	767.295	1.191.182	1.958.477
1989	796.389	1.252.033	2.048.422
1990	826.586	1.316.014	2.142.600



**HH Sheikh Jaber Al - Ahmed Al- Jaber Al - Sabah,
Amir of State of Kuwait**



**HH Sheikh Saad Al - Abdallah Al - Salem Al - Sabah,
Crown Prince and Prime Minister**

THE GOVERNMENT

“Kuwait is a fully independent Arab State with a democratic style of government, where sovereignty rests with the nation, which is the source of power.” As prescribed by the Constitution, the system of government is based on the separation of powers, although co-operation is required by the Constitution. The legislative authority is vested in the Amir and the National Assembly, while executive power is vested exclusively in the Amir and his Cabinet and Ministers. The judicial power is entrusted to courts in the name of the Amir within the limits specified by the Constitution.

The Constitution

The Constitution of the State of Kuwait is composed of 183 articles divided into five chapters:

The State and the system of Government.

The basic components of Kuwaiti society.

General rights and duties.

Authorities.

General and provisional statutes.

The Constitution of the State of Kuwait is based on the democratic principles and combines the positive aspects of both presidential and parliamentary systems prevalent in advanced democratic countries. The pillars of the Constitution are the sovereignty of the State, public freedom and equality before the law.

The Constitution of the State of Kuwait was drawn up by a constituent assembly composed of 20 elected members. The late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah ratified the Constitution on 14 Jumada 11 1382 AH, corresponding to 11 November 1962. It became valid on 29 January 1963.

The Constitution specified that the National Assembly shall be composed of fifty members elected directly by universal suffrage

and secret ballot in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law.

Amir of Kuwait

"The Amir is the head of the State. His person shall be immune and inviolable." The Constitution states that the Amir assumes his authority through his ministers. The Prime Minister and Ministers are collectively responsible to the Amir for the general policy of the State and each minister is responsible for his own Ministry. "The Amir is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces."

Kuwait is an hereditary Amirate, the succession to which shall be through the descendants of the late Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Executive power is vested in the Amir, the head of state, who is chosen by the members of the ruling family from amongst their members. The Amir appoints a prime minister, as well as other ministers on the prime minister's recommendation. There are 16 ministers in the cabinet.

The present Amir is HH Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was born in 1926 and has ruled since 1977; the Crown Prince and Prime Minister is HH Shaikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince

"The present Crown Prince of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah was appointed as Crown Prince on 31 January 1978 and Prime Minister on 8 February 1978. In his dual capacity, His Highness is President of the Supreme Defence Council, the Supreme Petroleum Council, the Civil Service Commission and the Higher Housing Council. He is the eldest son of the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Article 4 of the Constitution stipulates the rules for the nomination of the Crown Prince as follows:

"The Heir Apparent shall be designated within one year, at the latest, from the date of accession of the Amir."

Council of Ministers

Executive authority is vested in the Council of Ministers, and the Prime Minister, traditionally the Crown Prince, is appointed by an Amiri Decree. The present 15-member cabinet has the following members :

THE CABINET

HH Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah

Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

First Deputy Prime Minister

and Foreign Minister

Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan

Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Homoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Minister for Defence

Ahmad Khalid Al-Kulaib

Minister for Social Affairs and Labour

Dr. Ahmad Abdullah Al-Rubei

Minister for Education

Habib Johar Hayatt

Minister for Public Works

and Minister of State for Housing

Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah

Minister for Information

Abdulaziz Dakheel Al-Dakheel

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs

and Minister for Planning

Jassim Mohammad Al-Oun

Minister for Communications and Minister for Electricity and Water

Dr. Abdul Mohsin Muij Al-Mudij

Minister for Oil

Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah

Minister for Interior

Dr. Abdul Rehman Saleh Al-Muhailan

Minister for Health

Dr. Ali Fahad Al-Zaumai

Minister for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Mishari Jassim Al-Anjari

Minister for Justice and Admin. Affairs

Halal Mishari Al-Mutairi

Minister for Trade and Industry

Governorates

The State of Kuwait is divided into five governorates namely:

The Governorate of the Capital: Established in 1962, it is the

seat of government. It contains the head offices of banks, museums and old wall gates. It includes, from the north, the sea area extending to the sea coast opposite the eastern border of Jahra governorate, and the area between the sea coast and the international frontiers from the east. From the south, it encompasses the Third Ring Road, extending west to Al-Maghreb Expressway, Fourth Ring Road, Jahra Road, Umghara. West, from Umghara to Jahra Road until Doha Port, western Jūdailiat to the sea coast. It also includes the islands of Failaka, Auhha, Miskan, Kubbar, Qaruh, Umm al Maradim and Umm Al-Naml. It also includes the Kuwaiti territorial waters as well as those under mutual sovereignty.

The Governorate of Hawally: Established in 1962, it is the smallest in area but it has the largest population. It is called Hawally as the first sweet water well was discovered there. It includes all areas within its borders stretching north from the junction point between the Fourth Ring Road and Maghreb Motorway until the Third Ring Road all the way south to the Fourth Ring extension. Southward, from the Seventh Ring Road all the way west until Assafar Motorway. Westward, from the previous point extending north through Assafar Motorway to the Fourth Ring Road intersection.

The Governorate of Ahmadi: Established in 1962, it is named after the late Sheikh Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the former ruler of Kuwait. It is famous for the major oilfields and wells, Ahmadi town, and the sea ports of Ahmadi, Shuaiba, Abdallah and Al-Zor. It also covers the partitioned zone, which includes Wafra and Al-Khiran. Ahmadi governorate begins from the north at the point where the coast of Kuwait and the Seventh Ring Road meet and stretches all the way west to the intersection at Sulaibiya Road. Eastward from the point where the coast of Kuwait and the Seventh Ring Road meet and then southward all the way along the coast until the Kuwaiti-Saudi border. Southward, it starts from the previous point and stretches all the way along northward to the intersection at Al Rudaifah Desert Road. Westward, it starts at the Rudaifah Desert Road (Kuwait's southern border) and then all the way north to Manaquish Road stretching eastward to the intersection at Sulaibiya Road at which it extends north to the intersection between Sulaibiya Road and the Seventh Ring Road.

The Governorate of Jahra: Established in 1979, it contains the Red Palace (Qasr Al-Ahmar) where the famous battle of Jahra took place. Umm Al-Aish Satellite Earth Station as well as Umm Al-Aish and Al-Manakeesh oilfields in addition to Al-Rawadhatain fresh water field are situated there. Jahra governorate includes from the north the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. Eastward it starts at the intersection of the northern Kuwaiti international borders and the coast of Kuwait and all the way south to Khor Al Subiya extending along the coast of Kuwait to the southwest and the coast of Kazema to the intersection at Jahra Road and Umghara Road until Manaquish Road. Southward it starts from the Manaquish Road all the way west to the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and extends northwest until the point where the Kuwaiti, Saudi and Iraqi borders meet. Westward, it begins from the previous point and stretches through the western Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. It includes the islands of Warba and Bubiyan.

Al Farwaniya Governorate: Established in October 1988, it includes from the north the areas at the intersection of Maghreb Motorway and Fourth Ring Road all the way west to intersections at Jahra Road and Sulaibiya Road. Westward, from the previous point extending south through Sulaibiya Road until it intersects with the Seventh Ring Road, Southward from the previous point all the way east through the Seventh Ring Road until it intersects with Assafar Motorway. Eastward from the previous point all the way north through Assafar Motorway until it intersects with the Fourth Ring Road.

MODERN KUWAIT

Kuwait's astounding leap to prosperity and rapid change over the past quarter of a century can be best described as "the miracle that has been wrought on the sands of the desert..."

Kuwait has undergone a radical change, in the full sense of the word, in all aspects of life.

The first impression a visitor to Kuwait must have is of the effect of the oil boom, which stamped its mark on buildings and people alike. Progress has been achieved in all sectors affecting the day-to-day life of the population. Needless to say, Kuwait's growth is manifested now in its industry, economy, commerce, urban development and expansion, arts, literature and culture. Nevertheless, the Kuwaitis are fully conscious of their heritage, and retain their traditions, values, individuality and identity. One can easily see that modern progress is harmoniously blended with the past while looking to a prosperous future. The multistorey complexes and modern luxury residential buildings rub shoulders with mudbrick houses and buildings of historical and architectural significance. Motorways and modern roads, as well as beautifully landscaped gardens, attract the eye. Modern hospitals are equipped with the latest technology known in the field of medical care. Old Souks have been gradually replaced by modern shopping centres.

Landmarks of this sophisticated modern state can be seen everywhere. To the north of Kuwait City lie the outstanding Bubiyan Bridge, the Satellite Earth Station and the agricultural city of Jahra with its modern houses and buildings. Another landmark is the Entertainment City at Doha, the first of its kind in the Gulf. In the vicinity lies Doha water desalination and power plant.

Even in the hottest summer, when the temperature is 50°C, one can enjoy skating at the Ice Rink.

Another feature of Kuwait's progress in the field of urbanisation is the new town of Al-Khiran which is situated south of Kuwait city. The Al-Khiran area, which is characterised by its superb weather and limpid blue waters, now houses a splendid tourist complex.

Some districts, such as Salmiya, have witnessed a complete and rapid architectural transformation.

Notwithstanding the impact of sophistication, and the remarkable material change in Kuwait society, Kuwaitis are blessed with open-mindedness and a keen desire to keep pace with all aspects of urbanisation and modernisation, whilst preserving at the same time their deeply rooted Islamic traditions, heritage and faith.

THE ECONOMY

The Kuwaiti economy depends on and is closely interlinked with that of the rest of the world in terms of transactions and exports. It is evident that world economic conditions, which currently witness a period of instability, have a great impact on Kuwait's economy.

The budget for the fiscal year 1987/88 showed an increase in expenditure and allocation over revenues. Some measures have been taken to limit this increase by: rationalizing public expenditure to necessary productive projects and avoiding unnecessary expenditure without directly affecting the standard of required public services.

Developing sources of non-oil revenue by reviewing the charges levied for public services provided that in accordance with the State's policy in this respect these charges do no affect limited income individuals.

Giving priority to vital projects and utilities in the fields of power, water, roads, telecommunications, as these projects are closely related to other approved or new projects.

Government revenues of fiscal year 1990/91 were estimated at two billions and four hundred and five million KD. Of that sum, two hundred and forty million and five hundred thousands KD were reserved for Funds of Future Generations.

Government expenses of the same fiscal year were estimated at three billions and six hundred and thirty four millions.

This leaves a deficit of one billion and four hundred and sixty nine million and five hundred thousands KD.

A Kuwait Central Bank report estimated an amazing 100 per cent growth in 1991-92, during which period the overall prices of various commodities also remained relatively stable. The gross domestic product (GDP) had slumped to KD 5.247 billion in 1990,

compared to KD 7.127 billion in 1989. The year 1991 saw a further 39.2 per cent decrease, taking the GDP level to its lowest in many years. However, in 1992, the reversal of fortunes was achieved, with a KD 3.183 billion increase raising the GDP level to KD 6.367 billion. Further increases over 1993 are provisionally expected, setting the GDP today at possibly an equal or even higher figure than pre-war levels.

The commodity price index, which had risen by 84.9 per cent shortly after the invasion, went up by only 0.7 per cent in 1992, a rate not achieved by most economies even in normal circumstances.

One obvious indication of the return of faith in the Kuwaiti economy has been the reinstallation of the Kuwaiti dinar in the Gulf currency system, after a suspension of nearly three years. The monetary authorities of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had halted dealings in the dinar, once the strongest currency in the Arab world, after the Iraqi invasion. The move to readmit the currency, which took place late last year, indicates that the Kuwaiti dinar has recovered its strength, and the economy is more or less on its feet again. The budget for 1993-94 also reflected this viewpoint, with the deficit being reduced by 25 per cent over the previous year.

As part of the process of economic recovery, Kuwait's banking and financial systems took important steps towards modernising their operations, strengthening their stability and improving their public image. More and more banking and financial services have begun to rely on state-of-the-art computerised operations, as well as the most advanced of methods and techniques being adopted in the developed economies of the world.

The government, too, is doing all it can to ensure smoother functioning of this vital cog in the wheels of the economy. A major development during 1993 was the approval by parliament of a new policy to resolve the \$19 billion in bad debts engendered by the 1982 collapse of an informal stock exchange, and the more recent Iraqi invasion. Uncertainty over how this issue would be handled forced banks to invest cautiously, but the Difficult Debts Law, passed in September, 1993 brought a note of optimism to the financial community.

Following influential reports by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Council of Ministers

approved in November a new economic strategy which included the establishment of liberalised controls over interest rates, with the aim of encouraging competition. The IMF report approved of the government's policy of making local banks independent of Central Bank support, with the eventual aim of opening the sector to foreign participation.

Among the strategies adopted towards this end has been the encouragement of mergers by financial institutions. The Central Bank Governor said in November that the government considers mergers an urgent necessity. A conference to study bank mergers was also held in Kuwait in the same month.

The new economic strategy for Kuwait, unveiled by the Minister for Commerce and Industry focussed on seven broad goals and 29 specific sectors, and envisaged the implementation of about 105 major projects. The factors which have been taken into account in formulating the strategy include the present limited contribution of non-oil sectors to the GDP, the dependence on oil as the main source of income, the domination of the public sector over the country's economy and the low productivity of the industrial and commercial sectors. Among the main goals are the ensured development of industry, an increase in commercial movement, market stability and consumer protection.

The strategy also aims at increasing the role of the services sector, expanding foreign trade, improving the performance of the commercial and industrial sectors, and building proper manpower to operate these activities. A separate body is to be set up to focus on making Kuwait an international financial and trade centre.

The accent of the planned projects is on privatisation. The process of privatisation, under scrutiny by the government ever since the war, received three big boosts in 1993. Two World Bank and IMF reports strongly recommended that Kuwait privatise its economy, and then the new economic strategy incorporated a policy decision to start an all-out drive for privatisation. The consensus of these three important reports has provided the impetus for Kuwait to move from the planning stages to the implementation phase of privatisation.

The business of privatisation had already commenced in certain sectors, such as telecom and housing, but, following the new strategy, is likely to be implemented in nearly all core sectors.

The government is also planning to make the private sector more attractive to Kuwaitis, cutting down the public sector wages bill in the process.

Besides privatisation, the Kuwaiti government also took up a proposal to establish free trade zones to attract investors. On an experimental basis, it was decided to set up such zones at the Kuwait International Airport and at the warehouses area. A full-fledged free trade zone will later be established if these prove successful.

A major contribution to Kuwait's — and indeed, the entire region's — economy has been the revitalisation of the oil sector. According to a statement issued by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the rehabilitation of Kuwait's oil industry has boosted the total GDP of Arab oil exporters by over 4 per cent in 1992. Total OPEC revenues increased in 1992 due to a sharp rise in Kuwait's oil production, which rose from 1990,000 barrels per day (BPD) in 1991 to more than 1 million BPD in 1992 (revenue earnings of \$4.17 billion in 1992 compared to \$79 million the year before).

Under the circumstances, Kuwait found it possible to insist on a higher quota during an OPEC meeting held in Geneva in October. By the new agreement, Kuwait's quota has been raised from 1.6 million BPD to 2 million BPD, a level at which it is expected that Kuwait's revenue will be adequately ensured while keeping oil prices within control.

With this vital sector of the economy again stabilised and running smoothly, and the strategies for industry and economy worked out, Kuwait is back on the road to prosperity, leading the region to fresh horizons of progress.

As a member of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) since 1963, Kuwait has signed the new international trade organisation treaty of GATT, on April 15.

Kuwait has been accepted as a member of the new treaty because it has made significant offers in trade and services.

The new treaty stipulates the lifting or easing of tariffs and trade barriers, on a mutual basis, among states. It also aims at liberalising services, for example, banking, tourism and transport, consultancy as well as the controversial issue of the ownership of ideas.

Several trade accords have preceded the new treaty—hinting at the seven-year Uruguay Round, an affiliate of GATT, that

concluded on December 15, 1993. Adopting a new policy of privatisation, openness and attracting foreign investments are some of the provisions of this international accord that Kuwait will abide by. For the first time since 1947, developed countries have allowed the entry of foreign goods and have displayed a readiness to refrain from increasing tariffs.

Kuwait would benefit from the next agreement, particularly when exports of the products of a petrochemicals complex begin.

Banking and Monetary Policy

Under the Kuwaiti Currency Law, the Kuwaiti Dinar is the unit of currency. The Kuwaiti Dinar is divided into 1000 fils and every 100 fils are equal to one dirham. The Kuwaiti currency comprises two categories: bank notes and coins. The six denominations of bank notes, which vary in size, value and colour are: KD 20, KD 10, KD 5, KD 1, KD 0,500 and KD 0,250. The denominations of coins are 100 fils, 50 fils, 20 fils, 10 fils, 5 fils and 1 fil.

It is noteworthy that the policy adopted in respect of the KD exchange rate, which is calculated according to a special weighted basket of currencies of significance to Kuwait's foreign financial relations, aims at the realisation of relative stability of the KD against other major currencies to ensure the maximum security for local funds when invested abroad. In addition, such policy ensures relative protection from fluctuations in KD purchasing power.

Monetary Developments

The data available on monetary and banking developments in May 1990 show that the total aggregate balance sheet of local banks reached at the end of that month KD 12035 million, recording a decrease of KD 126 million (1%) below its level in the previous month, and an increase of KD 433 million above its level at the end of corresponding month of 1989, an annual growth rate of 3.7%.

This decrease in the total balance sheet of local banks - on the side of assets - was represented by the decline witnessed by both local assets (KD 42 million or 0.5%) and foreign assets (KD 84 million or 2.7%) while on the side of liabilities it was represented by a decrease of KD 97 million (0.9%) and KD 29 million (1.7%) in both local and foreign liabilities, respectively.

Despite the decline in local assets, the balances of credit facilities

from local banks to residents increased by KD 8 million (0.1%) and local investments of these banks also increased by more than KD 6 million (0.3%). These developments raised the relative importance of local assets in the structure of total assets from 74.1% to 74.6% at the end of May 1990. New facilities extended to new clients and the increase in the limits of facilities to current clients totalled KD 78 million in May 1990, against KD 37 million in the previous month.

Regarding the issues of public debt instruments, the CBK offered in May 1990 nine issues of treasury bills (from issue No. 114 to No. 122), totalling KD 719 million. Meanwhile, five previous issues of these bills (Issue Nos. 91, 93, 94, 96 and 97) matured, totalling KD 655 millions, raising the outstanding balance of treasury bills by 3.3%, totalling KD 1994 millions.

During May 1990, no new issues of treasury bonds were offered and no previous issues matured, keeping the outstanding balance of these bonds at its level (KD 360 millions) in the previous month. As a result, the outstanding balance of public debt instruments (treasury bills and bonds) totalled at the end of May 1990 KD 2354 millions, an increase of 2.8% above its level in the previous month.

Investment

Government investment activity is reflected in the financial transactions and operations carried out within the framework of the State General Reserve Fund and the Future Generations Reserves. The responsibility for the administration and development of the State's investment funds lies with the Public Investment Authority, which is concerned with supporting the national income as well as enhancing the State's capabilities for the development and growth of the national economy and the provision of social welfare services to citizens.

Economic Co-operation

Economic co-operation constitutes a major feature in Kuwait's economic activity, by means of which the State implements its domestic economic policy and fosters its co-ordination and co-operation with Arab, regional and international economic organisations and forums to serve the interests of both Kuwait and the Arab nation.

The year 1986 witnessed many achievements within the framework of the Gulf Economic Council which reflected the positive role played by Kuwait and other sisterly GCC member

states for the approval and implementation of the general objectives included in the Unified Economic Agreement. Among the most important decisions reached in the field of unified economic action are: allowing investors in GCC countries to obtain loans from banks and industrial development funds in any member state, giving GCC nationals priority in government purchases of national origin in GCC States, and the participation and co-operation of the GCC countries in Arab, regional and international organizations.

On the Arab level, the State of Kuwait concentrated its efforts, during the meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Arab Economic Unity Council, on pointing out the importance of the joint Arab companies and the need for the support of these companies to ensure Arab food security.

On the Islamic Conference level Kuwait has participated in the conference meetings and shared in the economic discussions which resulted in the agreement among member states on the long-term financing system provided by the Islamic Development Bank to encourage trade-exchange among Islamic countries.

On the level of the economic organizations, and the international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kuwait, through its representatives, has participated in the discussions held on world economic issues, problems and solutions. As for the Third World debt problem, Kuwait has supported the development projects in the Third World countries through a number of initiatives, most important of which are the South Committee, the South Bank and the adoption of the priority system.

On the bilateral relations level, Kuwait has managed to foster economic bilateral relations with various countries by means of avoidance of Double Taxation.

Other agreements provided for the encouragement of investment between Kuwait and other countries, and for assistance to economic delegations visiting Kuwait to explore investment opportunities in coordination with the Public Investment Authority, to support and develop Kuwait's domestic and foreign investments.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) plays a vital role in the field of Arab economic co-operation and integration. KFAED's operations abroad set a unique example in terms of fruitful co-operation on the international level.

Securities Market

The Kuwait Securities Market (Stock Exchange) is considered

to be one of the most important Arab financial markets and compares favourably with international bourses in terms of the value and volume of traded shares.

The story of the Kuwait Stock Exchange dates back to 1962 when the first decree concerning the regulation of the Kuwait Securities Market was enacted, followed by a set of regulatory laws. In 1983 an Amiri decree was issued for the establishment of the Kuwait Securities Market as an independent legal entity.

Since the Kuwait Stock Exchange came into existence, it has played a key role in governing the local securities market, particularly after the irrational speculation in the other non-official market known as the Souq Al-Manakh (or parallel market) which caused an unprecedented market collapse and exacerbated the economic recession.

The Securities Market management has adopted a new method called 'written bidding' applied to tradings carried out by listed brokers, who are required to provide explicitly accurate information regarding the offers or 'bids' of the transactions they desire to conduct.

During 1986, Kuwait took wide steps and procedures for further regulating the Kuwait Securities Market, such as payment of closed shareholding companies' shares to activate the economic cycle and enhance optimism in the market.

In October 1986, the authorities concerned adopted a resolution providing for the participation of the State in the Securities Group and the Securities House as a regulatory body in the trading process in the bourse, with a view to maintaining the market balance and preventing sharp price fluctuations. In addition, other regulations such as the setting up of the clearing room, the sharesplitting of the Kuwait shareholding companies, giving the shareholding companies the right to purchase part of their shares to give more credibility to the share par value, have played a key role in governing the securities market.

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in 1959 as a private institution representing business establishments in the country. The Chamber presents the business community's views, positions and outlook on the national economy.

The Chamber as such plays a distinguished role in developing the national economy through serving both the various business establishments and the economy, especially since the law stipulates that the Chamber's opinion is to be consulted when studying

economic, industrial, commercial and financial draft laws and legislations.

Among the Chamber's achievements are market efforts in constituting and amending economic legislation calling for the creation of a free trade zone and the establishment of the Kuwait stock exchange, and organizing commercial agencies and amending industry laws to support Kuwaiti industry. The Chamber has also expressed its opinions on a draft for an orientation on registering trade marks, a ministerial directive draft regarding conditions for GCC citizen's ownership of Kuwait stocks, and Kuwaiti property in Egypt. In November 1991, the Chamber presented its remarks regarding Kuwait Central Bank propositions on the problem of insolvencies bank loans, and the importance of mergers in reorganizing the commercial and financial sectors.

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an active member in the following organizations: General Union of Arabic Chambers, Union of Gulf Chambers, Islamic Chamber, International Chamber of Commerce, and the majority of joint Arab/non-Arab chambers.

The Chamber also participates in a number of Arab and international organizations such as the International Organization for Business Owners (original owners), and is a member of the International Labour Organization board of directors.

In 1990 and 1991 the Chamber participated in a number of conferences, symposiums, and meetings with Gulf and European industrialists to put forward proposals on studying the current and future effects of the Gulf crisis on the Gulf economy.

Domestically, the Chamber is a member of a number of standing joint committees such as: the Committee for Developing Industry, General Committee for Unifying Measurements, Public Authority of Social Security, Public Authority of Applied Education and Training, Committee of Kuwait Stock Exchange Market, and Technical Standing Committee for Setting Auditing Rules.

When specific problems are submitted to the Chamber for review and evaluation the Chamber forms temporary committees to address these issues. The members of these committees are either exclusively from the Chamber, or are representing other authorities, such as ministries related to the issue under consideration, in which case joint committees are formed.

The Chamber has significantly expanded since it was originally established. The membership has increased from 481 in 1959 to over 30,000. The budget has increased from KD 18,000 to more than KD 6.5 million.

Kuwaiti International Exhibition Co.

Kuwait International Exhibition Company was established in 1971 with a capital of KD 500,000 which later was increased to KD 2 millions. The company is jointly owned by the government of Kuwait and Kuwait Investment Company.

The company began operations in 1979, after completing the exhibition halls at the International Exhibitions Centre in Mishref which covers an area of 500,000 square metres.

There are three fully equipped exhibition arenas, details of which are as follows:

1. International Arena: Total area: 10,125 sq.m. Length: 135 m. Width: 75 m. Height: 8.50 m.

2. National Arena: Total area : 6,400 sq. m. Length: 80 m. Width: 80 m. Height: 8.65 m.

3. Special Arena: Total area : 1,200 sq. m. Length: 60 m. Width: 20 m.

Projects for further development of the International Exhibition Centre are in the planning stages. The first phase consists of building arenas 16,000 sq. m. wide, open lots, roads and parking lots. The second stage includes building commercial complexes and parks to meet increasing demands of the centre.

The company operates based on a planned policy of preparing and supervising international and local exhibitions. It establishes special relationships with local and regional official authorities, international commercial agencies, and provides all services and facilities required for holding exhibitions.

INDUSTRY

Oil Industry

Kuwait's oil industry has developed internally and achieved the integration of various operations, from production to transportation and marketing, thus securing a virtually guaranteed market for the production and export of its oil. This has been achieved through the expertise of qualified Kuwaiti cadres in the marketing apparatus as well as in all fields of the oil industry.

Among leading oil producing countries, Kuwait was foremost in achieving diversified sources of revenue with the income from overseas investments being equal to, if not more than, its oil revenues.

This policy has helped Kuwait protect itself from pressures and fluctuations in the world's oil market and has enabled it to stand firm, and accept more easily than any other OPEC country, a reduction in its quota from 3 million barrels in the early seventies to less than a million barrels. However after the Gulf War the situation has considerably changed and now Kuwait has increased its oil production to meet the increasing demand on its economy for reconstruction.

Kuwait succeeded in utilizing its oil resources most effectively by processing its natural gas rather than burning it off, a practice which still goes on in many oil producing countries.

Domestically, the oil industry has developed and reached integration in its oil operations beginning with exploration, production, and refining, to downstream activities such as transportation and marketing. Through the diversification of its operations Kuwait secured an almost guaranteed market for the oil and oil-related products it produces and exports. In this manner, Kuwait's oil industry has benefitted from Kuwaiti national expertise developed in marketing organizations and from the

technical expertise gained in the fields of oil industries and petrochemicals.

On another front, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) continued its efforts in completing and developing production, marketing, and administrative structures. In 1980, KPC began implementing the biggest oil industrial project by modernising Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery. Taking six years to complete, at a cost of KD 715 million, it became one of the world's biggest modern refineries. This refinery was capable of producing 270,000 bpd of world quality petroleum products.

In February 1989, after six years of tedious work and a cost of KD 600 million, the construction and modernisation of the oil refinery in Mina Abdullah was completed, making the refinery one of the largest modern oil refining complexes with the latest technology. Its refining capacity is 200,000 bpd. This modernisation gave KPC the capability and flexibility to confront the changes of supply and demand in international oil markets.

It is important in this regard to point to the attention of the government in investing and using the financial resources of the country in operations and activities within a framework of the State's national reserve and funds for future generations. The National Investment Authority manages and invests this money to support the national income of the country, enhance the abilities of the government in continuing its primary role of developing the national economy, and providing social prosperity to its citizens. The sum of investment in both national reserve funds and future generation funds on December 31, 1986 was K.D. 26,870 millions.

This shining and prosperous picture of the oil industry in Kuwait was plunged into darkness as a result of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait on August 2, 1990, culminating in the act of setting ablaze and destroying the oil fields.

Yet in spite of the magnitude of the tragedy, Kuwaitis did not lose their belief in God and their leaders. Instead, they transcended the wounds and worked hand in hand on all fronts until the Merciful blessed them with his victory; and Kuwait returned free to continue the path of benevolence and building.

Return to Before the Aggression

Kuwait was taking assured and steady steps in investing oil resources before the Iraqi aggression took place. Since the beginning

of the eighties, it began to follow a guided investment policy based on direct marketing in the outside world, in addition to overseas refining, marketing refined products, exploring, and producing.

Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), a subsidiary of KPC, operated over 4,800 gas stations in a number of western European countries plus two oil refineries.

KPC acquired US' Santa Fe International, Endevor, and Corell. This acquisition expanded KPC's exploration operations and added new overseas reserves of oil and gas.

Due to these modernisations, Kuwait was able to export two thirds of its oil production as high quality refined products rather than crude oil, consequently gaining wider international markets and achieving more profit per refined barrel of oil.

As a result of these developments, Kuwaiti oil policy witnessed a large transformation in the later years. Less dependence was put on crude oil sales and more emphasis was put on refining, marketing refined products, and foreign exploration and production. Kuwait prides herself on being the first country in OPEC to surpass national boundaries in oil exploration by establishing the Kuwaiti Company for Overseas Petroleum Exploration, and by acquiring the American Santa Fe (Oil Company). This position gave Kuwait large production and operational and marketing flexibility compared to what large corporations enjoy in this field. This expansion increased in significance in the operational activities of Kuwaiti national petroleum companies after Kuwait bought several oil refineries and distribution centres in foreign countries, especially western European countries. It helped Kuwait achieve integration in upstream and downstream oil operations, and do without the services of middlemen and foreign companies which covered oil exploration and production, petrochemicals and transportation, and marketing operations of oil and its products.

KPC subsidiaries operating in Europe enabled KPS in a short period since enhancing its refining and marketing capabilities, to guarantee continued progress since acquiring the fixed assets of Gulf Oil in Europe.

Within the framework of a policy of development aiming to diversify resources of income, expanding the economic base, and lessening dependence on exporting oil, the State of Kuwait has given the industrial sector a special position enforced by government policies in encouraging and supporting industry through offering

incentives and tax breaks to industrialists. The industrial sector played an important role in the five-year plan (1986-1990). That is why a pause before implementation should take place to examine the overall strategy of industry, see the direction of its paths and recognize the industries that should be adopted or the ones that should be abandoned or merged together.

This brief survey illustrates that Kuwait proved its ability in producing, manufacturing, transporting and distributing oil whether domestically, on an Arab scale, or internationally. Kuwait's revenues from overseas investments equalled if not surpassed revenues from crude oil sales. As Kuwait rebuilds its war-ravaged oil industry at home it continues its wise policy of investment and expansion of oil-related activities abroad.

Battle to Extinguish Oil Fires

The 6th of November, 1991 was a turning point in the history of the tragedy that Kuwait suffered. On that day His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, put out the last burning oil well set ablaze by the Iraqi soldiers. Attending the ceremony was H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, senior officials, and a large number of citizens.

November 6 was the beginning of a new dawn. Kuwaiti skies were cleared from tons of polluted particles caused by 727 oil wells burning over a period of 258 days. This laborious and heroic work was a major battle in the fight of Kuwait. In this battle, Kuwaitis recorded brave sacrifices and loving patriotism for what they gave to their country courageously and willingly. These amazing results disproved the common belief that the burning wells could not be controlled in less than five years time.

Kuwaiti, Canadian, American and other oil fire fighting teams from 28 countries faced enormous dangers and difficulties in their job due to the mines planted by the defeated Iraqi army while retreating.

Initial estimates of losses suffered by the oil sector from damaged installations and burning oil wells reached about \$75,000 millions.

In spite of the magnitude of the tragedy of burning the oil wells, Kuwaiti oil reserves were not seriously affected. The reserves lost as a result of the fires were 1,500 to 2,000 million of barrels of oil, representing 1.5 to 2 per cent of the exploitable oil reserves.

Oil Field Mine Clearing Operations

The British company Royal Ordnance, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, cleared all the oil fields in Kuwait from the Iraqi mines and munitions left over from the war.

The number of cleared mines was about one million, in addition to 6,000 tons of ammunition.

Other teams from France, Egypt, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were in charge of clearing other parts of Kuwait.

Planning for the Future

Kuwait plans to raise oil production to 2 million bpd in 1993. This rise will depend on the percentage of increase in the ceiling of OPEC's overall oil production. Kuwait, however, is still committed to its quota of 1.5 million bpd set by a 1990 OPEC meeting.

In regard to wells that were destroyed by the Iraqi forces, the designated authorities are acting based on two programmes: the first consists of drilling new wells, and the second aims at rehabilitating and operating wells that can be repaired.

Until the end of 1991, 23 new oil wells were drilled to replace damaged ones, and 100 more were drilled by the end of 1992. An additional 200 new oil wells were planned for the next two years. Since the end of 1991, seven wells were repaired and are now operational.

The designated authorities in the oil sector are studying whether to allow joint foreign investment in the field of oil services such as gas stations, planned to be privatised.

The National Council has recommended establishing a specialised institution which will train Kuwaitis to put out oil well fires, while at the same time serve as a think-tank for the oil industry. This institution will also develop a security system to protect oil wells and installations according to the latest available technology.

Non-Oil Industry

Kuwait's non-oil based manufacturing industry has achieved a high rate of growth.

In the light of Kuwait's development policy, aimed at diversifying sources of income, expanding the base of the economy

and reducing its dependence on oil exports, the industrial sector receives special support and encouragement from the government through generous incentives and exemptions. The inducement measures provided by the government may be summed up as follows:

Long-term loans from the Industrial Bank of Kuwait at a soft interest rate of 5% per annum.

Allocation of special plots at nominal rents for long periods for setting up new industries.

Government contributions to the capital costs to encourage private capital into new industrial ventures.

Government finance for all infrastructure facilities (roads, power, etc.).

Supply of low-priced electrical power.

Protective tariffs, the rate of which depends on the conditions of each industry.

Quantitative restrictions on imports in selective cases.

According to the Kuwait Master Plan, the total area of the land allocated for new industries will be about 54 millions square metres by 2005. Six new industrial areas will be established in Sahid Al Awazim, West Funaitees, West Riqqa, Funaitees, Abu Halifa and South Jahra.

The new industrial area at Sabhan, established on 2.7 millions square metres, has become one of the most promising industrial areas in Kuwait, to judge by the increasing demand for land there by many industrial companies. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the attraction is due to its proximity to the airport, the major centres and residential areas.

Shuaiba Industrial Area

Despite the emergence of new industrial areas in Kuwait, Shuaiba Industrial Area remains the most important, because of the large number of heavy industries located there.

Shuaiba Industrial Area is divided into two sectors: The eastern sector (Shuaiba Industrial Area) of about 10 millions square metres and the western sector (Mina Abdullah) of about 13 millions square metres. There are 33 factories in the two sectors owned by 29 companies. The priority given in the area to industries such as oil refining and processing, and petrochemicals, is determined by their export potential.

The Shuaiba Area Authority leases plots to factories and companies at nominal annual rents ranging from 75 fils/sq m in the western sector to 150 fils/sq m in the eastern sector.

Post-Liberation Accomplishments

After Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi occupation, the post-liberation period witnessed intensive and urgent efforts by the government to find immediate solutions to some of the pressing problems facing the people. Foremost among these were shortages in food and other essential consumer products. In response, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry established an office in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, managed by one of the ministry's officials. This office played an active role in issuing import licences for importing food and consumer products into Kuwait which were required at that time. The office facilitated speedy admission of these products to Kuwaitis who withstood the occupation and suffered greatly at the hands of the Iraqi soldiers.

The ministry's work went hand-in-hand with a government plan to directly buy essential products needed for the country through the Kuwaiti Committee for Essential Food. This led to a large decrease in prices of some of the products and to a stable domestic market.

The Department of Essential Food and Consumer Protection also resumed its responsibilities in confronting the challenges resulting from the extraordinary situation.

In general, the leading accomplishments for the post-liberation period are :

1. Making available primary products (rice, sugar, vegetables, oil, milk powder, lentils, tomato paste, salt, tea, baby milk and water, and distributing these products free of charge to citizens and residents.

2. Making available large quantities of other free food products which were distributed through the cooperatives to the citizens, welfare houses, and charity organizations. These products included chicken, eggs, fruits and vegetables. The number of persons per family was taken into consideration when distributing these products.

3. Making available secondary products sold at predetermined prices by the ministry through the Union of Cooperatives to ease the financial condition of the consumers at this stage.

4. Making available a store number of essential food supplies proportionate to the expected number of Kuwaitis returning from abroad. The government shouldered large amounts of subsidies when providing these products.

On the sphere of commercial relations with brotherly and friendly countries, the country received official business delegates on a ministerial level, and private sector delegates. The discussions covered providing Kuwait with food and other products and whether the delegates countries could participate in the efforts to rebuild Kuwait. These delegates represented the following countries: Bahrain, U.S.A., U.K., France, Canada, India, Turkey, Spain, Romania and Belgium.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently conducting a comprehensive study on Kuwait's foreign commercial relations in light of the recent political developments. This study aims at developing and enhancing commercial relations and other economic activities with countries that supported Kuwait in her ordeal during the Iraqi occupation and the war of liberation.

AGRICULTURE

Although Kuwait is an oil producing country with arid soil, harsh weather, no rivers and insufficient irrigation water, it still manages to achieve a good yield of good crops in certain seasons. Amazingly enough a surplus of vegetables is exported to various neighbouring countries.

Agriculture has never been the source of income nor the base of the economy in Kuwait. True, there were some small private farms scattered in Jahra and some coastal villages. But with rapid urban expansion most of these farms disappeared and were replaced by residential complexes, especially in Jahra, Mangaf, Funaitees and Fahaheel. Recognizing the need to pay more attention to agriculture, the government opened a modest agricultural section at the Ministry of Public Works in 1953, that was upgraded to a full department in 1968. It was mainly entrusted with conducting research and experimentation on various plants and animals to choose those best suited to Kuwait's natural environment.

The good results of these experiments attracted to agriculture people willing to accept the various natural and human challenges that would confront them. They achieved marvellous success and converted rudimentary agriculture to a new high level.

Major agricultural companies took on the major task of transforming desert land into large productive green farms, particularly at Sulaibiya, Wafra and Abdaly.

As a result of this agricultural development, agricultural unions and specialized agricultural companies were formed; agricultural investment projects began; specialised professional journals for farmers and agricultural engineers were published.

The success of these agricultural schemes prompted the government to respond by setting up in 1983 the Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Authority, with the overall responsibility for agricultural development and policy. It drew up a Five-year

Plan for agriculture that has been implemented, in addition to its Twenty-year Long-term Plan which is being studied and prepared in conjunction with KISR.

Government support to agriculture is not limited to providing technical cadres, improved vegetable seeds, fertilizers and white plastic at low costs; it also includes an annual subsidy of KD 800 per farm and the sale of insecticide sprinklers at 50% of the cost.

Interest-free loans for agricultural purposes are provided up to KD 20,000 to be paid back in 15 years. But loans of more than KD 20,000 are paid back within ten years with an interest rate of 2%.

The government also bears 50% of the drilling costs of each well for agricultural purposes. A nominal annual rental of half a dinar per donum is charged on lands prepared for agricultural investment, for a renewable period of 25 years.

Before the Iraqi invasion on August 2nd, 1990, productive farms in Kuwait numbered 641. According to a survey conducted in October, 1991, only 100 productive farms existed. By March, 1992 this number increased to 170 productive farms. Rehabilitation of these farms is being carried out at an amazing average rate of one farm a day, all thanks to the private efforts of farm owners.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Kuwait is a desert country with a tropical climate. The population is close to 2 million, of whom 60% are non-Kuwaitis. English is widely understood and used in business circles. Visitors must obtain a visa in order to enter the country.

The basic infrastructure of the country is well in place and all facilities required for business and recreation are of a good standard.

Kuwait is a Muslim country, and Islamic customs govern the general way of life.

The policy of the Kuwaiti government is to widen the industrial and commercial base of the economy in order to reduce dependence on oil revenues and to prepare for eventual cessation of such income. For almost 200 years Kuwaitis have been traders and with this trading background and the presence of an active merchant community in Kuwait there is a marked tendency to give business preference to Kuwaitis whenever possible; the economy is dominated by locally owned companies. There are, however, business opportunities for foreign companies in Kuwait, as it is recognised that a major foreign contribution will be necessary to meet the government's objectives. While the intention will undoubtedly be to retain Kuwaiti control of ventures in which foreign companies are involved, this should not prevent such companies from having profitable operations in Kuwait.

Economic Structure

Government policy generally favours a free-market economy. The strength of the Kuwaiti economy has been derived almost entirely from oil revenues. The massive oil revenues received since 1973 have enabled the country to build up huge overseas financial reserves; revenue from these investments is now believed to be approximately equal to annual oil revenues, enabling the country to cope well with the recent fall in oil prices.

At least 10% of revenue each year goes into a Reserve Fund for Future Generations formed in 1976; the funds are invested in high-quality foreign assets, with emphasis on long-term growth and stability. The fund cannot be touched until the next century.

Both the General Reserve and the Reserve Fund for Future Generations are managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), set up in 1982 for this purpose. The KIA has established the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in London, to manage its investments in Europe.

Three important factors have had a negative effect on the economy in recent years. The first was the war between Iraq and Iran, taking place a few miles from Kuwait's borders; the re-export trade to Iraq and Iran was severely curtailed. The second was the Suq Al-Manakh crisis that resulted from highly speculative trading on the unofficial stock market in the early 1980s. The severe effects of this speculation have now been stabilised by a government support programme, and the non-oil private sector is beginning to emerge from the recession that was precipitated by the shock of the stock market crash and accentuated by falling oil revenues and the nearby war.

The third was the barbaric attack on the Kuwaiti territory on August 2, 1990 by neighbouring Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein which resulted in unprecedented loss of men, material and resources.

In spite of such setbacks, Kuwait remains one of the wealthiest countries in the world in terms of per capita income. The end of the war has boosted confidence in the private sector and the scene is now set for a period of expansion of the domestic economy.

International Relations and Associations

Kuwait is one of the six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), formed in 1981. The other members are the five oil-rich countries on the Arab side of the Arabian Gulf – Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The aims of the GCC are to promote co-operation between member states in the fields of economy and industry. Progress has been made in this respect – for example, citizens of GCC countries can move freely among the six countries without visas; there are no customs duties within the GCC on Gulf-produced materials; there is freedom for professionals who are nationals of one GCC state to work in another; and cross-border ownership of shares is permitted.

Kuwait is also a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the United Nations, the Arab League, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Kuwait has one of the world's most generous foreign aid programmes for developing countries and gives away, on average, well over 2% of its annual GNP in economic aid. Much of this aid is channelled through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, set up in 1961 to provide loans on very generous terms for development schemes in the Third World, including non-Arab countries.

Foreign Ownership of Business

Foreign companies may do business in Kuwait and are encouraged to do so if they contribute to broadening the industrial and commercial base of the economy, thereby assisting the country to reduce its dependence on oil revenues. However, Kuwaiti control of ventures in which foreign companies are involved is expected, and Kuwaiti shareholders must hold at least 51% of locally incorporated companies. If a foreign company wishes to carry out government contract work, it must appoint an agent (or sponsor).

Tax System

There is no personal income tax in Kuwait and corporate income tax is levied only on foreign companies. Rates of tax range from nil on profits up to KD (Kuwait dinar) 5,250 to 55% on profits of KD 375,000 and above; the tax rate is not progressive.

Accounting and Auditing

Annual audits are required of Kuwaiti registered companies. Although accounting (as well as auditing) principles and practices are not codified in Kuwait, it is usual for the larger audit firms to ensure that standards promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Committee are complied with.

Exchange Control

No foreign exchange restrictions exist and equity capital, loan capital, interest, dividends, branch profits, royalties, management and technical services fees and personal savings are freely remittable.

A company – shareholding (joint stock) or limited liability – may distribute any amount of profit as dividends after transferring a sum equal to 10% of the profits for the year to a statutory reserve, until the reserve amounts to at least 50% of the paid-up capital.

Restrictions on Foreign Investment

Certain activities in the following areas may be carried out only by Kuwaitis:

- government contracts (other than those placed to international tender);
- owning real estate (with some limited exceptions);
- owning shares in local quoted companies;
- banking, and
- insurance.

However, some privileges (including the ownership of land and company shares) are granted on a reciprocal basis to the nationals of the Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

Investment Incentives

To encourage local industrial undertakings, there are exemptions from various taxes and duties, including income tax and import duties. These apply to industrial undertakings approved by the Council of Ministers, provided the Kuwaiti participation in the undertaking is not less than 51%. The exemptions are for a period not exceeding 10 years from the date of approval.

Public Tenders

Public works projects, undertaken by the various ministries, are classified by the particular ministry into two main categories;

- projects which can be carried out by local contractors; and
- projects allotted to international contractors.

The Central Tenders Committee (attached to the Council of Ministers) administers all major public tenders. For open tenders, bidders must have applied for registration as an approved supplier or contractor with the Ministry of Planning. They must also have been classified according to their financial and technical capabilities. Foreign companies may participate in a public tender provided it has a Kuwaiti agent or partner and that the tender is open to non-Kuwaiti companies.

International firms wishing to prequalify either as consultants or contractors should approach the client rather than the Central Tenders Committee.

Tender documents may be obtained from the offices of the Central Tenders Committee for a fee.

Once the tender is submitted it will be evaluated on basis of price, conformity to the specification issued, and the level of Kuwaiti involvement in the company, as regards the scope of work.

In general, when one tenders one has to put up a percentage of the price as a bond. The amount will be specified in the RFP (Request for Proposal) or tender document.

Non-governmental agencies may also put contracts out to tender, but these will be handled directly and not via the Central Tenders Committee.

A 10% price advantage is given to local products in tenders for government supply contracts.

General Enquiries

2401200, 2452121

Patents

Patents are protected by a system of registration for an initial period of 10 years; they may be registered for a further five years only. There are special arrangements for food and drug manufacturing processes, where the patent is limited to the initial 10-year period.

It is possible for patents to be licensed.

Trademarks

Trademarks may be registered for 10 years and renewed indefinitely for further 10-year periods. If a trademark has not been used for a five-year period, an interested party can apply to the courts to have it cancelled.

BANKS AND FINANCE COMPANIES

Central Bank

The Central Bank of Kuwait is the government's agent for control over the country's monetary policy and for supervising the commercial banking system. It also directs relations with international financial institutions, functions as banker for the government and all other banks, and prints and issues the currency.

Commercial Banks

There are six domestic commercial banks, all of which are 100% Kuwaiti owned, and one foreign bank branch operating in Kuwait. There is also one Islamic bank. These are the primary source of short-term finance (granted on normal commercial terms) for business concerns.

Finance Companies

Medium and long-term finance is available from specialist financial institutions. One of these, The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, owned jointly by the Kuwaiti government, the Central Bank of Kuwait and the commercial banks, exists to help finance industrial and agricultural projects which conform to the general objectives of Kuwaiti planning. Terms and conditions of loans are tailored to suit each project.

The two other specialised banks are the Kuwait Real Estate Bank, which invests funds in loans to finance the purchase or construction of real estate in Kuwait, and the Savings and Credit Bank, which provides loans on easy terms to Kuwaitis to build their own houses.

There are about 25 investment and finance companies in Kuwait,

including some very large ones involved on both the national and the international scene in such areas as loan syndication, bond issues and property development.

Kuwait is also the headquarters of Gulf Investment Corporation, a major financial institution set up by the six GCC States to promote the establishment of companies in various fields by investing in their equity and providing the necessary loan funding: the projects in which it invests must be viable and commercially sound.

Stock Exchange

The Kuwait Stock Exchange was officially established by an Amiri Decree issued in 1983; a local stock market had, however, been in existence for 25 years before that date.

Although Kuwait is far ahead of the other GCC countries in the development of private capital markets, problems besetting the economy like the Suq Al-Manakh crisis, the Iraq-Iran war, the fall in oil prices and the Iraqi aggression have had an adverse effect on trading on the stock exchange; efforts are now being made to boost trading activity.

The shares of 54 Kuwaiti and 13 Gulf companies are listed on the exchange; the eight Kuwaiti banks account for about half of all daily dealings, with active dealings in only three of these. It should also be noted that the government itself at present owns some 40% of all local shares listed. In June 1988, the Kuwait Stock Exchange was opened to non-Kuwaiti GCC citizens.

With a relatively small population and few good investment opportunities locally, wealthy Kuwaitis generally prefer to invest overseas; it is estimated that Kuwait's private money overseas is in the order of US\$50 billion.

IMPORTING AND EXPORTING

Only importers who are registered with the Commercial Registrar in Kuwait may import goods.

Companies which import goods or practise business as commercial agencies must fulfill the following principal conditions:

- they must be registered in the commercial register and with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
- the Kuwaiti shareholding in the capital of the company must be at least 51%; and
- the objects of the company should include import trade and commercial agency business.

Certificates of origin are required to enable goods to enter the country. Under the Arab boycott rules, imports from Israel are not permitted. Certain classes of goods require a special import licence (e.g., firearms, explosives and drugs). There is no customs duty on essential consumer goods, while a flat rate of 4% on the CIF values is levied on virtually all other imported goods, except where items are locally manufactured; duties on such items range from 15% to 100%.

Persons travelling to Kuwait may bring in tobacco and perfume products without restriction. The import of alcohol and pork products is strictly prohibited.

The usual method of payment is the standard letter of credit which is paid at the moment the goods are sent. However, bank guarantees from both sides can be requested. These take the form of Bid Bonds or Performance Bonds. There are companies in Kuwait which specialize in the inspection of damaged goods. To clear goods from customs you will require invoices showing the manufacturer's name and that of the carrier, the price and the net weight. Also required is a Certificate of Origin signed by the

Chamber of Commerce. This must state the name of the manufacturer and the freight forwarder, a declaration that the goods did not contain anything made in Israel, as well as details regarding the means of shipping the item to Kuwait.

There are no restraints on exports except for a few items which require export licences, and there are no export duties.

FORMS OF BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

Shareholding Company

By law, participation in a joint stock (shareholding) company is restricted as follows : "Every shareholding company incorporated in Kuwait shall be of Kuwait nationality, and its members shall be Kuwaitis and its place of registered office shall be Kuwait."

However, exceptionally, and subject to the provision that the Kuwaiti proportion of the capital of the company concerned is not less than 51%, a non-Kuwaiti can be a member of a shareholding company, other than a bank or an insurance company, if his or her membership in that company supplies a need for foreign capital or foreign expertise. In all such cases, the approval of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry must be obtained before proceeding with the formation formalities.

Closed Shareholding Company

Kuwaiti company law permits the establishment of a closed shareholding company: "Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, a shareholding company, other than a company holding a concession or a monopoly, the shares of which are not to be offered to the public for subscription, may, exceptionally, be formed without the issue of a decree, by an official instrument in writing signed by all the (intending) founders, who shall be not less than five in number...."

The capital of a close company must not be less than KD 7,500; however, in practice, it is unlikely that a company would be registered by the ministry unless it was adequately capitalised.

The forms of business organisations discussed here are generally used by foreign concerns to operate in Kuwait.

Limited Liability Company

Limited liability companies, known locally as WLLs (—"with limited liability") may also be formed; these are the equivalent of a French SARL, a German GmbH or a United Kingdom private company. The principal features are as follows :

— Ownership is limited to natural persons only, of which the maximum number is 30 and the minimum two (a husband and wife are considered to be one party).

— The minimum capital is KD 7,500.

— A WLL may not engage in insurance, banking or investment on behalf of others.

— At least 51% of the capital must be owned by Kuwaitis.

Although this is the most common form of Kuwaiti corporate entity, it is rarely an appropriate vehicle for foreign investment due to the requirement that the shareholders must be natural persons, thereby ruling out membership for corporate bodies.

Joint Ventures

A joint venture may be formed by two or more natural or legal persons. It is usual for the objects and terms to be set out in a joint venture contract. A joint venture has no legal personality and does not require registration in the commercial register.

Agencies

If a foreign company wants to trade in Kuwait without setting up a Kuwaiti registered entity, it may do so only through a Kuwaiti agent, who will be an importer and distributor or an intermediary, depending on whether the business trades in goods or services, respectively.

An agent, or sponsor, must be appointed by a foreign company which wishes to carry out government contract work (Article 24 of the Law of Commerce).

Once a foreign company has appointed an agent it is a matter of agreement between the parties as to how active the Kuwaiti will be in the conduct of business in Kuwait. The agent may be paid either a fixed fee or a commission: this again is a matter of agreement between the parties.

All agency agreements must be registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. To register an agency it is necessary

to provide the ministry with, amongst other things, Arabic translations of the agency agreement and an Arab boycott certificate, together with a certificate from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The registration of an agency should not take more than two weeks from the time the documents are available in Arabic.

A branch office as such cannot be set up by a foreign company in Kuwait; it is necessary to appoint an agent.

When an agency agreement is terminated by the principal without cause, it will be necessary to compensate the agent for the damage suffered; the termination of an agency or distributor agreement can be a costly matter.

Professions

There are no general rules relating to the practice of the various professions by non-Kuwaitis: the requirements and procedures involved differ for each profession.

ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS

Formation Procedures

Share Capital

The minimum amount of capital required to establish a company is KD 7,500. The capital of the company must be deposited with a bank in the company's name prior to seeking registration. Once commercial registration is granted, the cash becomes available for use and may even be lent back to the shareholders to the extent that it is surplus to the company's current requirements.

Loans from Shareholders

Shareholders are not constrained from providing additional finance by way of loans and such loans may be repaid or repatriated at any time without any restrictions. The company should agree, to a reasonable rate of interest being paid on such loans; such interest is taxed in the hands of the foreign shareholder in the normal way.

Registration

Article 95 of the Law of Commercial Companies states, with respect to the formation of a closed shareholding company: "A company formed in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article shall have no legal personality and may not commence business until it is registered in the commercial register and the official instrument whereby it is formed is published in the Official Gazette."

The official instrument must include the company's memorandum and articles together with a declaration by the founders, which should include a statement that they have taken up and paid for the shares for which they subscribed and that

the amount paid has been deposited in the company's account with one of the designated banks. The company's memorandum and articles must contain the following :

- the name of the company;
- the place of its registered office;
- the objects for which it is incorporated;
- the names of its founders, who must not be less than five in number;
- the amount of the capital of the company and the number of shares into which it is divided;
- a description of every payment for shares other than in cash, including the name of the person by whom, and all the terms on which it is made, as well as the concessions and mortgage rights, if any, attaching thereto;
- the privilege accorded to the founders and the reasons for those privileges; and
- a statement of estimated expenses, charges and costs paid or undertaken to be paid by the company towards incorporation.

Provided a licence is granted, it is likely that it will take only three or four months to incorporate a share company; the cost will probably be in the region of KD 3,000.

The formalities for incorporation and operation of WLL follow generally the requirements for closed shareholding companies, but to a less onerous degree.

Shareholders and Directors

Shareholders

The capital of a Kuwaiti company must be at least 51% Kuwaiti held.

Directors

A board of directors, consisting of at least three persons, is required for a shareholding company. In the case of a WLL, management is by one or more directors.

Labour Supply and Relations

As there is currently a shortage of Kuwaiti labour, there is no obligation to use local workers.

According to the labour law, the normal working week is six

days, eight hours per day. Any overtime is payable at 1.25 times normal rates. Annual holiday entitlement is 14 days after the first year and 21 days after five years. There is no requirement to pay annual bonuses.

Trade unions are allowed. The largest, the General Foundation of Kuwaiti Workers, has about 12,000 members, almost all of whom are employees of the government and the oil sector.

Entry Visas and Work Permits

Foreigners — except for nationals from the Gulf Co-operation Council countries (Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) — must have a valid visa. Visas are not issued purely for tourism purposes, but may be obtained for visiting relatives.

Business visas are issued to employer-sponsored or business-sponsored applicants. For foreigners to take up employment, the employer must

- obtain a work permit from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
- undertake to engage the foreign employee only in the job specified in the work permit; and
- send the work permit to the country of origin of the foreigner for presentation at the point of entry into Kuwait. (The work permit should normally be collected from the Kuwaiti embassy in the country of the expatriate).

It is essential for permanent residents in Kuwait to obtain an identity card (civil ID), which must be carried at all times.

A person may not work for anyone other than his sponsor, and sponsorship may not be transferred to another employer for three years.

Social Security

There are no social security obligations for expatriate workers.

For local employees, contributions are payable monthly by both employer and employee under the Social Security Law, which came into force in 1977. The employer's contribution is 10% and the employee's 5% of monthly salary, up to a ceiling of KD 1,000 salary per month. Benefits provided include pensions on retirement and allowances for disability, sickness and death.

Dismissal and Severance Payments

Non-Kuwaiti staff may be dismissed provided the cause is reasonable and adequate notice is given. Severance (terminal benefit) payments are required as follows:

- where the dismissal is without a cause deemed reasonable under the labour law;
- where the contract ends and employment ceases; and
- where an employee resigns after more than five years service.

The terminal benefit payment is calculated as 15 days' pay per year for the first five years of service and one month's pay per year thereafter, unless a higher rate is provided in the employment contract. The total amount paid must not exceed one and one-half years' remuneration based on final gross salary. If an employee resigns before the completion of five years' service, he or she has no entitlement to benefit; after five years' service the entitlement is to one-half of the total amount calculated as above.

If an employee on a fixed-term contract is dismissed without reasonable cause before the end of the contract, he or she is entitled to be paid for the unexpired period of the contract in addition to any severance payment.

KFAS Contribution

A shareholding company is required to pay 5% of profits after transfer to statutory reserve (and after offsetting any accumulated losses brought forward) to the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), an organisation formed by Kuwaiti businesses to support scientific progress. The KFAS is essentially a funding agency, providing grants and sponsorship for a large variety of scientific research projects.

TAXATION

No personal income tax is levied in Kuwait. Corporate income tax is levied only on foreign companies operating in Kuwait. There are no other taxes of any consequence.

Company Taxation

Under the Income Tax Decree of 1955, foreign bodies corporate carrying on trade or business in Kuwait are liable to tax.

The authorities interpret the term "body corporate" as meaning an association, formed and registered under the laws of any country or state, which is recognised as having a legal existence entirely separate from that of its individual members. Partnerships also fall within this definition.

Foreign companies can operate in Kuwait either through an agent or as the minority shareholder in a locally registered company (shareholding company or WLL). There is no difference in principle between the taxation of profits in either instance. In the latter case, tax is levied on the foreign company's income (whether distributed or not) plus any amounts receivable for interest, royalties, technical services or management fees. If a foreign company has more than one activity in Kuwait, a single tax declaration is required, aggregating income from all activities.

Tax Rates

Current rates of tax range from nil on profits up to KD 5,250 to 55% on profits over KD 375,000. Tax is not charged progressively on bands of income; rather total profit is charged at the rate applicable to the band in which it falls. Thus, on income of KD 375,000, tax is payable at 45%, a total of KD 168,750. Marginal relief is granted in cases where the taxable profit is only slightly higher than the previous limit.

Computation of Taxable Profit

Tax liabilities are computed in a manner similar to general British and American practice on the basis of profits disclosed by audited financial statements, adjusted for tax depreciation and any items disallowed by the tax inspector on inspection. Provisions, as opposed to accruals, are not accepted for tax purposes.

In supply and installation contracts the taxpayer is required to account to the Kuwait tax authorities for the full amount received under the contract, including the offshore supply element, unless this is specifically exempted under a double taxation treaty.

Losses

Losses may be carried forward and deducted from subsequent profits without limitation as to period, provided there is no cessation of activities; they may not be carried back.

Head Office Overheads

The tax authorities allow the following deductions from income as a contribution towards expenses incurred by the head office of a foreign company:

- for contractors and consultants operating through an agent, 3.5% of revenue, reduced by any amounts paid or payable to sub-contractors;
- for minority shareholders in a share company, 2% of revenue, net of amounts paid or payable to subcontractors; and
- for insurance companies, 3.5% of net premiums.

Any direct expenses fully supported by documentation will be allowed by the tax authorities, in addition to the percentages stated above.

Contractors' Revenue Recognition

For contract work, tax is assessed on progress billings (excluding advances) for work performed during an accounting period, less the cost of work incurred. The authorities do not accept the completed contract or percentage of completion methods of accounting.

Withholding Final Payments

A directive issued by the Director of Income Taxes in January

1980 requested all ministries, government departments, and public and semi-public establishments to withhold final payments due to foreign entities until such entities present a tax clearance certificate issued by the Director of Income Taxes.

The scope of this request was broadened by the Ministry of Finance on 30 December 1985 by Order No. 44, which stated that

— establishments, authorities and companies carrying on trade or business in Kuwait are required to inform the Director of Income Taxes of the companies with whom they are doing business as contractors, as subcontractors or in any other form. Information to be provided should include the name and address of the company together with a photocopy of the contract;

— the final payment due to the contractor or subcontractor must be withheld until the contractor or subcontractor presents a certificate from the Director of Income Taxes confirming that all tax liabilities have been settled. The final payment should not be less than 5% of the total contract value; and

— when inspecting the tax declaration filed with the Director of Income Taxes, the Ministry of Finance will disallow all payments made to subcontractors that have not been reported.

Accounting Periods and Records

The Gregorian calendar year is generally used for Kuwait tax purposes, but a taxpayer may request in writing to prepare financial statements for a year-end other than 31 December.

Accounting records should be kept in Kuwait, and it is now normal practice for the Income Tax Department to insist on inspecting the books of account (which may be in English) before agreeing to the tax liability.

Tax Administration

Tax declarations must be filed on or before the fifteenth day of the fourth month following the end of the taxable period (e.g., 15 April in the case of a 31 December year-end). Tax is payable in four equal instalments on the fifteenth day of the fourth, sixth, ninth and twelfth months following the end of the taxable period. An extension of up to a maximum of 75 days may be granted for the purpose of filing audited accounts. When such an extension is granted, no tax payment is necessary until the accounts are

filed; however, payment must then be by one lump sum and not by instalments. Tax is payable in Kuwaiti dinars or US dollars.

Article 9 of the Income Tax Decree provides for the tax declaration and supporting statements to be certified by an internationally recognised firm of accountants approved by the Director of Income Taxes. In practice, however, the Director requires the declaration, supporting statements and Arabic financial statements to be certified by an accountant in practice in Kuwait who is registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In the event of failure to file a declaration and pay tax on the due date, a fine amounting to 1% of the tax is payable for each 30 days or fraction thereof during which the failure continues.

Prompt filing of tax declarations and payment of a taxpayer's tax liability, as well as general co-operation with the Director of Income Taxes, are of great importance.

Double Taxation Treaties

Kuwait has signed double taxation treaties with Canada, Cyprus, France, Italy and Germany. Several other countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States, allow a measure of unilateral relief in respect of income tax paid in Kuwait.

There are also a number of double tax treaties with other countries that relate solely to international air transport.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING

Accounting and Auditing principles and practices are not codified in Kuwait. From time to time, the Ministry of Finance and Economy issues ministerial orders which lay down accounting policies to be adopted.

Accounting Profession

The Kuwait Association of Accounting and Auditors is the local professional body of accountants.

Legal rules governing the auditing profession (Law No. 5 of 1981) require, amongst other things, that registered auditors should be natural persons and of Kuwaiti nationality; at present some 90 individuals are so registered, of whom about half are in practice.

Statutory Regulations

Books and Records

All business enterprises are required to keep adequate financial records. These do not need to be maintained in Arabic. Ministerial Order No. 206 of 1985 specifies books and records to be kept by a foreign body corporate subject to the provisions of the Income Tax Decree; in practice, this means all foreign companies and partnerships doing business in Kuwait. The books and records so specified are a general journal, inventory sheets, a general ledger, an expenses analysis journal and a stock record.

Auditors and Audits

Shareholding companies and limited liability companies are required by statute to have an annual audit. The auditor must be independent of the company being audited and must be registered with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Returns

For shareholding companies, the audited balance sheet and

income statement, the directors' report and the auditors' report must be submitted in Arabic within three months of the company's year-end to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to the Kuwait Stock Exchange and to the general assembly of shareholders. A representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is required to be present at such meetings. The name of public company directors and auditors must be published in the Official Gazette. For closed shareholding companies this is not required.

Similarly, audited financial statements of limited liability companies (WLLs) must be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry within 10 days of the annual general meeting. Such companies are obliged to hold a general meeting at least once each year.

Legal Environment

Judicial power is vested in the courts which are required to apply Kuwaiti laws in enforcing agreements between parties. The Muslim religious laws (the Shari' ah) are used only to regulate family matters.

GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

KFAED

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) was established in 1961 with the aim of helping and financing development projects in the Third world. Projects chosen include industry and agriculture, transport and communications and power supplies.

General Enquiries : 2439075.

KISR

Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) was established in 1967 to promote interest in scientific research, and has done much pioneer work in a variety of fields of importance to Kuwait since its inauguration. Sadly its resources were plundered during the occupation and much important work was lost. The organization is rapidly getting back on its feet and a number of major research projects have already received the go-ahead.

General Enquiries : 4816988/9, 4816190, 4830988.

KFAS

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) was established and headed by the Amir, H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah in 1976. The objective of the organization is to support and promote scientific research by financing and awarding research projects. KFAS' pan Arab remarkable record of encouraging and sponsoring highly artistic and scientific endeavours continues to be memorable.

General Enquiries : 2425898.

KIA

Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) was established in order to manage the government's overseas investments. KIA also plays

a leading role in Kuwait's financial sector. The organization has been much acclaimed overseas for its business acumen, and it was the fruits of a sound investment policy which bolstered the Kuwaiti government during the occupation.

General Enquiries : 2463600

KPPA

Kuwait Ports Public Authority is a government independent Authority managing and operating the commercial ports in Kuwait as per Amiri Decree issued on 16th November, 1977.

At present there are three ports operating : Shuwaikh, Shuaiba and Doha. Each one offers facilities of open and covered storage areas, cattle pens and refrigerated storage.

For further details contact Tel. 48-48-483, 48-12-695; Fax : 48-17-434. (KPPA has now been renamed the Kuwaiti Ports Establishment. The change of name is meant to project Kuwait as a premier shipping nation).

THE MEDIA

Kuwait's official media follows an open and flexible policy domestically and abroad. It is based on mutual co-operation, respect, and non-interference in the affairs of other countries. The policy is planned collectively with emphasis on intellectual, social, political, and economic development.

Since the liberation, the Ministry of Information in Kuwait spares no effort in developing all its institutions, whether audio visual or print. National expertise is employed to carry on these reforms reflecting the ambitions of the government.

New Television and Radio Transmission Facilities

Kuwait's Ministry of Information signed a 2.9 million KD contract with a local company to install a T.V. transmission station on Failaka island. The new station will be provided with eight 60 and 20 kilowatt UHF systems, a number of antennas, supply lines, control systems, etc. The station will cover Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, south Iran, and Iraq.

The Ministry of Information is also carrying out a number of engineering projects to strengthen radio broadcasts on the short waves hoping that the "Voice of Kuwait" will be received in north African countries, Europe and North America.

International Media Centres

Kuwaiti International Media Centres abroad carry on Kuwait's media objectives in the host countries. Their aim is to provide media institutions and decision making authorities with information, literature, and video and cassette tapes about different aspects of life in modern Kuwait.

The impact of these centres was first recognised in the Cairo, Beirut, and Damascus centres during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

They were successfully active in holding photo exhibitions, symposiums, seminars, and in distributing news and information.

In addition to the existing media centres, three other centres in Washington, London and New Delhi have been opened.

Cooperation With Gulf Media

Kuwait's media (television and radio) is committed through two pacts, the Gulf Media Code of Honour and the Gulf International Media Blueprint, on implementing unified media objectives for the Gulf States. Some of the many examples of media cooperation between the Gulf countries are: the radio programme, "Voice of the Gulf Council", the television programme, "Voice of the Gulf Council", other T.V. and radio programmes of the Joint Gulf Production Corporation, cooperation between Gulf news agencies, the exchange of visits between Gulf press delegations, seminars, and intellectual meetings.

This media cooperation was at its best during the Gulf crisis and had a tangible impact in the region, and on an Arab and international scale.

The Press

Kuwaiti press houses have become large informational and commercial establishments. The fast huge printing presses are no more satisfied with printing only their daily newspapers. They have embarked on parallel lines carrying out all the functions of commercial printing presses.

Kuwait now publishes nine daily newspapers : seven in Arabic (Al Seyassah, Sawt Al Kuwait, Al Anba, Al Qabas, Al Watan, Al Rai Al A'm and Al Fajr Al Jadeed) and two in English (Arab Times and Kuwait Times).

Kuwait's press is not confined to the officially licensed newspapers and magazines. There is also a wide range of private magazines published by organizations, establishments, companies, banks, syndicates and federations. Their publications are distributed free although they are of the highest quality in terms of printing and the variety of topics covered.

Kuwait takes great pride in its press, which it regards as a democratic form of freedom of expression, and apart from providing financial support for the press, the government always seeks to help it in its work.

To cope with the production of this large number of publications, there are now 63 printing presses in Kuwait, including the Government Press.

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has entered its tenth year with more confidence and ambition. Within this relatively short period it has come to occupy a distinguished position among the world's biggest news agencies.

KUNA transmits its news services to local and foreign subscribers in Arabic and English and exchanges news with 30 regional and international news agencies. Its Vienna office (one of 14 offices abroad) is a news gathering centre that transmits to European countries, in English, the news of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) received from the member agencies for distribution abroad.

LIVING IN KUWAIT

Kuwait is a Muslim state, and the heritage of Islam is deeply rooted in the Kuwaiti character. Islamic customs govern the general way of life; care must be taken to respect this.

Hospitality and generosity are characteristics common to Kuwaitis, as they are to all Arabs.

Kuwait is a "dry" state; consumption of alcoholic drinks is forbidden.

Kuwait is a welfare state, and many aspects of the inhabitants' needs are heavily subsidised: water, electricity and petrol are extremely cheap; basic foods — fish, milk, meat, rice, bread and so on — are held at 1972 prices; local telephone calls are free; education and medical care are free; there is no personal income tax and there are no property or municipal taxes; government housing is available in certain cases to Kuwaitis at nominal rent.

Most foods and goods are imported into Kuwait. The country is, however, self-sufficient in fish, and it also produces its own tomatoes, cucumbers and melons as well as certain other crops. There are also successful local dairy and poultry farms.

There are many modern shopping centres with all sorts of consumer and luxury goods. There are also many excellent supermarkets, and there is a co-operative society (a complex of shops, including a super-market) in each residential area of Kuwait.

There are two locally published daily newspapers in English; European newspapers are available on the day after their issue.

For Christians, there are Roman Catholic and Evangelical churches in Kuwait city and a multidenominational church in Ahmadi, the township that is the centre of the country's oil industry.

Security is good and there is little crime — pickpockets and burglars are virtually unknown.

General Information

Airport : Streamlined international airport 16 km from city

centre. Restaurant, Gift Shops and Book shop.

Airport Tax : Airport tax of KD. 2 is levied all passengers departing from Kuwait International Airport except official state guests, holders of diplomatic passports, children under 12 and deportees.

Entry visas: A visa is required by all visitors except nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Entry visas or transit visas can be obtained from accredited Kuwait Embassies or Consulates abroad. Foreigners who desire to visit Kuwait for a short period need a visitor's permit to be procured beforehand by the applicant's sponsor.

Only holders of valid passports issued by the authorities in the visitor's country, or authorities recognized by the State of Kuwait, or holders of laissez passes issued by such authorities and allowing the holders to return to the issuing State; are allowed entry.

No vaccination certificates are legally required for entry into Kuwait. Visitors wishing to photograph the various landmarks of the country are advised to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Information.

Business Hours Ministries :

Summer: April 1st to October 31

Sat-Wed from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Winter : November 1st to March 31

Sat.-Wed.: 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

During Ramadan:

In Summer: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In Winter: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Public Holidays : Friday is the official weekly holiday. For Kuwait University, public and private schools and some major companies such as Kuwait Oil Company, the official weekend is Thursday and Friday: while Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and most of its affiliate companies who work an 8 hour day take Friday and Saturday off.

Public holidays include 1 January (New Year's Day), 25 February (Kuwait National Day) and 26 February (Kuwait Liberation Day). The dates of religious holidays change according to the Hijra Calendar and include the Prophet's Birthday, the Ascension of the Prophet (PBUH) and the Hijra New Year. For Eid Al-Fitr,

the "breaking of the fast" at the end of Ramadan, there is usually a three-day holiday. For Eid Al-Adha there is usually a four-day holiday.

Time Differences

Local time is GMT + 3 hours.

Times are shown in hours, plus or minus Kuwait local time:

India	+ 2.5	France	- 2
Singapore	+ 4.5	Norway	- 2
Hong Kong	+ 5	UK	- 3
Japan	+ 7	Canada	- 8 to -13
Australia	+ 7	USA	- 8 to -13
Russia	0 to + 10		

Language : Arabic is the official language. English is widely spoken and is recognised as the second language.

Weights and Measures: Kilogram is the official unit of weight, the metric system is used for linear measurement and the centigrade scale is used for temperature.

Restaurants: Kuwait has a wide variety of restaurants. In addition to the hotel restaurants, there are a large number of modern fast food chains such as Wimpy, Hardees, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pissa Italia, etc. There are also a large number of Arab popular restaurants serving a variety of Falafel, Fool, Hommos and Shawarmas. There are also Indian, Philippino, Korean and Chinese restaurants. Strict health standards are regularly enforced on all restaurants in Kuwait.

Taxis: There are three kinds of taxi service. The orange coloured private taxis are hailed from the roadside. Other orange taxis travel along set routes picking up several passengers at one time, and transport passengers from one area to another. The third kind of taxi service is the radio-controlled call-taxi which can only be used by contacting the company office by telephone.

There are also special taxis which transport passengers from Kuwait International Airport to various districts in Kuwait.

There are also car-rental companies. Vehicles on daily or monthly rentals are available. The telephone numbers of these companies are :

Al-Mulla	2435495	Toyota	2422055
Avis	2453828	Mustafa Karam	4744522
Al-Ghanim	4815429		

Credit Cards: Major Credit Cards such as Diners Club,

American Express, Visa and Mastercard are accepted at all hotels and at most high class restaurants and shops. Cash advance facilities are available at the Diners Club office in Kuwait. Tel : 5720121.

Currency : Kuwaiti Dinar (1,000 fils).

Notes — 20, 10, 5, 1, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ dinars.

Coins — 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 1 fils.

(*For rates of exchange see local newspapers*).

*There are no restrictions on the amount of currency imported or exported.

Customs : Passengers may bring in household and personal effects and tobacco and perfume without restriction. On some imported items a 4% duty may apply.

Prohibited Imports: According to Kuwaiti Law visitors are forbidden to bring any of the following articles or substances into the country. Asbestos pipes; Flour and wheat; Welded black steel pipes, 6 to 48 inches diameter; Second hand cars and lorries; Industrial and medical oxygen gas; Live chickens; Hashish, opium, qat, poppy plants or seeds; fireworks; Alcoholic drinks; Firearms and ammunition; Pornographic materials, books, films, video tapes, magazines etc; Politically subversive materials; Pork meat or products in any form, including pigskin, Malt extracts, hops, beer kits or any other materials used for brewing beer or making wine or other alcoholic drinks; Cyclamates; Dangerous drugs; All goods of Israeli origin.

It will be noticed from the above list that some of the materials that are banned, such as flour and wheat or asbestos pipes are prohibited in order to protect fledgling local industries. Others, such as alcohol and pork are prohibited because they are forbidden by Islam. If in any doubt at all about something it is safer always to declare it to the Customs Officer in-charge.

Electricity : 240 volts single phase 50 cycles. Plug adaptors are available in hotels and shops.

Health Regulations : International vaccination certificates against cholera and smallpox may be required. TAB is advised. Yellow Fever vaccination is only required if coming from an area where the disease is endemic.

Newspapers : Seven Arabic dailies, two English language dailies. Also, many weekly and monthly magazines are available in both Arabic and English. International newspapers can be bought from the bookshops of most hotels.

Photography : Colour film for still, motion and video cameras

is available and includes Agfa, Ecktachrome, Kodachrome, Sakura colour and Sakurachrome slides. Black and white film is available.

Religion: The official religion is Islam.

For non-Muslims, there is a Roman Catholic Church in downtown Kuwait near the Sheraton Hotel and St. Paul's Church at Ahmadi is open to all denominations. Telephone: 3985924.

Sports and Recreation: There are a number of superbly equipped sports stadia where football, basketball, softball, fencing, hockey, tennis, table-tennis, squash, swimming, cricket, karate and so on, can be played. Families are encouraged to join these clubs and the cost per year is very moderate.

Ice-Skating Rink: Located at the junction of First Ring Road and Al-Soor St. is open all the year round and skates can be hired by the hour.

There are also several Sea-Clubs situated along the fine beaches, operated by Touristic Enterprises Company. Among the excellent facilities for family entertainment are swimming, sailing, and water-skiing.

Leisure-time amusement on a grand scale can be found at "Entertainment City" at Doha. This huge complex has been built along the lines of Disneyland and will provide hours of fun for the entire family. Call 4871846/4871567 for further details.

Television :

Channel 1. Arabic language 2:00 pm. to midnight

Channel 2. English language 6:00 pm. to midnight

English News Bulletin : 8:00 pm.

Arabic News Bulletin: 9:00 pm.

T.V. times change during the Holy month of Ramadan.

Transport : A well-developed network of around 2000 kms of paved roads and expressways links all the towns in the State. Driving is on the right.

A public bus service is operated by Kuwait Transport Company (KTC). KTC buses provide transport to passengers with fares ranging from 50 fils within the city to 300 fils for long trips to outlying urban areas.

Driving Licence : International driving licences are valid for the same period as the visitor's entry permit. However, International driving licences must be insured with either the Gulf Insurance Company, the Kuwait Insurance Company or Al-Ahliyah Insurance Company S.A.K. This costs approximately KD 2 per month. Local

driving licences can be applied for through the Traffic Department of the Police after the formalities for a residence visa and work permit have been completed. Applicants who hold a valid driving licence from their country of origin will need the following documents when applying for a local driving licence ;

- a) Valid driving licence,
- b) 4 small photographs,
- c) Letter from employer verifying position held in the company,
- d) Passport,
- e) An electricity bill or contract of tenancy, showing applicant's address in Kuwait, and
- f) Certificate of Blood Group.

Some nationals, although holding a current driving licence issued in their country of origin, may be required to take a driving test in Kuwait before being granted a local driving licence.

International Car Certificate (Triptyque) is required for cars imported for personal use and for a duration not exceeding three months. Otherwise, a guarantor, or a guarantee of an amount twofold the customs charges due, must be secured.

The Kuwait Automobile and Touring Club (The KT Club) provides valuable service to both residents and expatriates alike. These include travel documents such as carnets de passage, international certificates of registration and driving permits. The club also stocks road maps and motor accessories.

Arabic Courtesies: "Allah Be El Khair" is the traditional courtesy frequently used by Kuwaitis at any time of the day or night.

"Fi Aman Allah" means good-bye.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

New Telecommunications Centre

Situated near the existing complex, the new Telecommunications Centre is built on an area of 21,000 square metres and comprises the Main Building, which will be joined to the present complex, a second building which will accommodate offices, in addition to the 372 metres high new Tower that will dwarf all other buildings in Kuwait.

Telephones

The telephone system in Kuwait is continuing to expand with the use of new technologies as exemplified by the installation of new local electronic exchanges with a capacity of 548,000 telephone lines, including exchanges.

Kuwait has led the field in providing extensive telephone services for its people. This is illustrated by the fact that there are 26.1 telephone lines per 1000 persons, well above other Arab and international averages.

Kuwait's Ministry of Communications has developed and expanded its car telephone service. The new system accommodates 100,000 car telephone lines, which will meet the requirements of subscribers, both locally and internationally.

Domestic Telephone Service

The new electronic exchanges provide better and more diversified services for subscribers like the wake-up service, weather forecasting, children's tales, etc.

Kuwait is the first Arab country to adopt the Electronic Telephone Directory that provides detailed information (name, address, Tel. No., Tlx. No., P.O. Box, cable address, etc.) of any of 130,000 subscribers in 50 seconds.

Emergency Telephones

Emergency telephones are directly linked with fire-fighting main headquarters which in turn are linked with the police stations and ambulance service.

Telex

The telex service plays a complementary or parallel role to that of the telephone service in the development of local and international business. This service is more active with Europe than with the Arab world.

Other Services

Collect Service, the fee of which is collected from the outside party.

Direct Dialling System

Accessible to all subscribers without the intervention of an operator.

Transmitting and Receiving Pictures by Radio

This service is provided to the Press and news agencies.

News Transmission and Reception

This service provides for news transmission and reception between Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and other Arab and international news agencies in Arabic and English round the clock.

Bureaufax

For sending and receiving documents and pictures at a high speed to and from other countries.

**** Info-Bank (Aldardo)***

This service secures up-to-date scientific research information from counterpart banks in the USA, Canada and some European countries.

*** Marine communications** are secured through a highly advanced coastal station at Doha utilising UHF and HF. Another satellite earth station utilising INMARSAT was also built to provide high frequency marine communications services.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Kuwaitis in the past had their own simple pastimes such as falcony, hunting in the desert for the "hubara" bird, sea fishing, evening "Diwainyah" gatherings, where men met for general discussions and innocent card games. Women had their own pastimes in their forenoon gatherings with neighbours, and the children resorted to the nearby streets and courtyards to play.

Life was quiet and uneventful before the discovery of oil and before houses changed from mud walls to gigantic concrete buildings. Nowadays life is more complicated; people of the same neighbourhood moved into new districts, children did not play in the streets any more, hunting the "hubara" disappeared and there is less fishing.

Kuwait's rapid growth, coupled with its long summers, has made leisure activities and tourist services an essential aspect of city life. Recreational programmes in summer were initiated by the late Salch Shehab, a pioneer of the recreational movement, who played an active role in promoting touristic recreation. Performances were held everywhere, in public gardens and on the beaches. Foreign troupes came from cold countries to share in the recreational activities during the long summer months.

Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC)

The Touristic Enterprises Company was established on April 3, 1976. Its objectives are to provide leisure facilities, entertainment and recreational centres for the public's enjoyment. The Company works in cooperation with other local companies in developing and maintaining touristic projects around Kuwait.

When the Touristic Enterprises Company was first established, its total capital was KD 10 million. In March, 1984, the General Assembly held an extraordinary meeting and decided to increase the company's capital to KD 20 million.

TEC is a semi-governmental organization: 97% owned by the Kuwait Investment Authority and 3% interests shared by the Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company and the Kuwait Public Transport Company.

Presently TEC manages a total of 24 recreational facilities. They are as follows: **Kuwait Towers** officially inaugurated on March 1, 1979, consist of three tall structures. The main tower, which reaches 187 meters high, contains a viewing sphere, revolving snack bar, a buffet restaurant, a patisserie and a private function room. The middle tower reaches 147 meters high and contains a sphere-shaped water storage tank with the capacity to store one million gallons of water. The smallest tower, reaching 113 meters high, is used for lighting purposes.

TEC manages three beaches: **Messilah Family Beach**, **Mangaf Beach** and **Agila Beach**. The first beach to open to the public was Messilah in September, 1980. Each beach provides various recreational facilities such as swimming pools, playgrounds and refreshments.

Failaka touristic resort was officially inaugurated on March 16, 1982. The island resort extends over 5 million square meters and is located about 17 kilometers away from Kuwait's mainland. It features 472 chalets, furnished and unfurnished, which are rented either on a daily, weekly or yearly basis. Transportation to and from the island is presently managed by the Kuwait Public Transport Company.

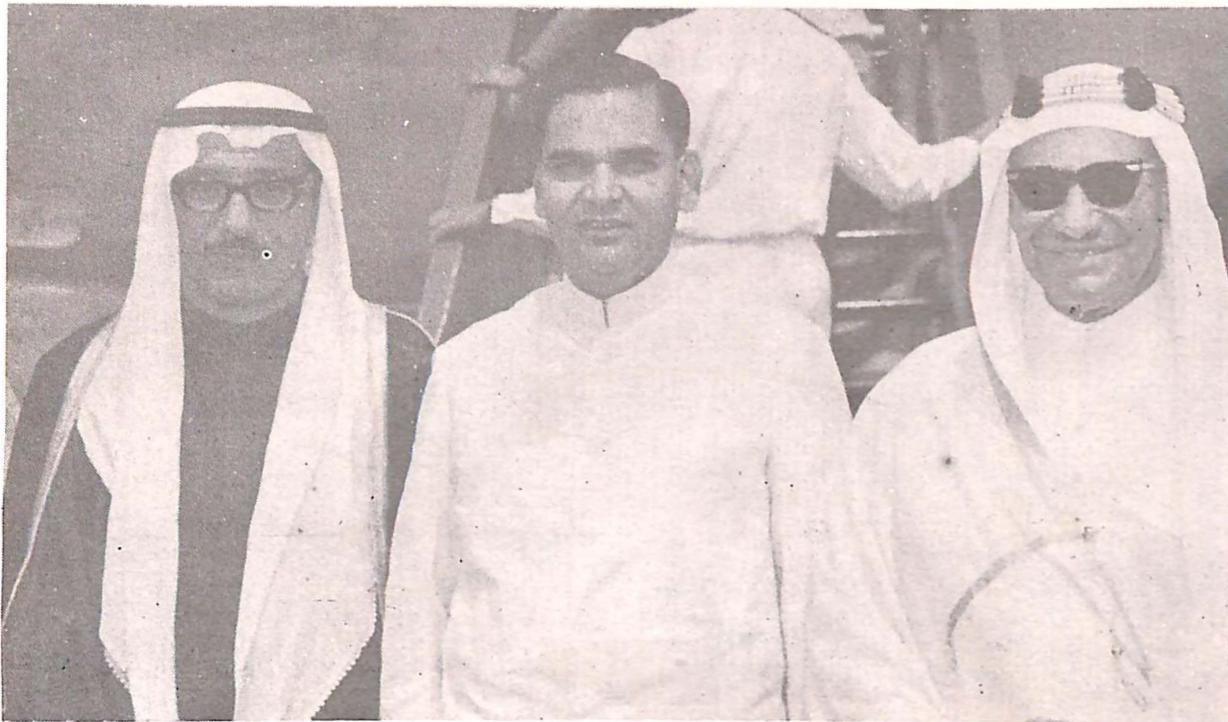
Ice Skating Rink first opened its doors to the public on March 16, 1980. This indoor facility covers an area of 8,398 square meters, with an area of 1,800 meters covered with ice. During the summer months the temperature drops to 9 degrees centigrade below zero and 6 degrees centigrade below zero during the winter months.

The rink features two halls. One is an olympic-size ice rink with seating facilities for 1,600 spectators. The other hall is smaller in size, featuring a small auditorium. The auditorium is used for activities such as lectures, plays, international shows, art exhibitions and charity events. Presently, at the Ice Skating Rink, a studio is being prepared to teach children ballet.

Musical Fountains were officially inaugurated in March, 1983. These computerised fountains are coordinated so that the rising and falling waters are accompanied by music and illuminated by stunning combinations of colours.



The first Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Yakub A. Al Rasheed inspecting the guard of honour before presenting his credentials to the President of India.



Sheikh Abdallah Al. Salem Al-Sabah, a former Kuwaiti Minister,
on a visit to India in the early 1960s.

TEC's five Sea Clubs are located along the Gulf coastline, stretching from B'nid Al-Gar to Fahaheel. The first Sea Clubs to open were Ras Al-Ardh and B'neid Al-Gar on May 1, 1977, and were followed by Bida and Shaab Clubs on April 1, 1978 and the Fahaheel Sea Club on June 1, 1979. In 1988, the Ras Al-Ardh Sea Club changed to an exclusive club for ladies. One year later, TEC's Sea Clubs Management handed over the Fahaheel Sea Club to Kuwait Airways and is presently used as an exclusive club for the airline's employees. Each of the five Sea Clubs offer a wide variety of facilities and activities such as indoor and outdoor swimming pools, beaches, tennis courts, gymnasiums, bowling, and karate.

TEC manages a total of three recreational parks: Shaab, Sabahiya and Jleeb Al-Shyouth. The first to open was Shaab Recreational Park in June, 1983, followed by the Sabahiya Recreational Park in August, 1983 and Jleeb Al-Shyouth Recreational Park in May, 1984. Each park features rides, amusements and various other activities.

Touristic Enterprises manages three rest houses situated in Nuaiseeb, Al-Salmi and Abdali. The first to open was Nuaiseeb on November 17, 1979, followed by Al-Salmi on January 22, 1980 and finally Abdali Rest House on March 2, 1980, costing a total of KD 1,750,000 to develop. Each rest house offers various supplies and refreshments for travellers driving to Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Kuwait's Entertainment City was inaugurated by His Highness the Amir on March 12, 1984. This amusement park is considered to be one of the most notable touristic features in the Middle East. It is situated in the north-east sector of Kuwait City and cost a total of KD 34 million. The City is divided into three sections: Arab World, International World and Future World.

Khiran Resort is TEC's 21st facility. The construction of this project began in 1981 and took approximately six years to complete. The development of the Resort cost a total of KD 2 million, all of which was financed by the government of Kuwait. It was officially inaugurated on February 23, 1987 by His Highness the Amir. Presently, Khiran Resort offers the following recreational facilities: 148 luxury chalets, 48 studio flats, a yacht club, a marina which can hold a maximum of 240 berths and provides all facilities for maintaining the boats, 2 olympic-size swimming pools, playgrounds, tennis courts, a gymnasium, football fields, a coffee shop, conference

rooms, a library and a supermarket. The Resort also offers a bicycle rental service with the hope of decreasing the use of cars around the Resort's premises. Khiran Resort is managed by the Safat Hotels Company. This company, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Hotels Company, has signed a ten year contract with TEC accepting responsibility for the Resort's catering and management.

The Waterfront Project overlooks a total of 21 kilometers, reaching from Ras Salmiya to Shuwaikh.

The Project is divided into five phases. Phase 1 of the Project, covering a total area of 6 kilometers, was inaugurated by His Highness the Amir on February 22, 1988 at the Green Island. The Green Island, considered to be the project's main attraction, covers an area of 16 hectares and can be reached through a passageway 250 meters long. It features a Roman design amphitheatre, two restaurants, a viewing tower and a wide mass of landscape covered with flowers and greenery.

Another attraction of Phase 1 of the Seafront Project is the Swimming Complex. The Complex features five olympic-size pools ideal for swimming and diving. The pools are under constant supervision and are available daily for beginners and advanced swimmers. The Complex also features a recreation hall with a variety of indoor games and a snack bar.

The Yacht Club, also part of the Seafront's first phase, is the first of its kind in Kuwait. The Club is exclusive for yacht owners and holds a marina large enough to accommodate 300 craft. The marina was strategically designed to protect the berths from any havoc caused by strong winds and high seas. Each berth is provided with a supply of fresh running water and single phase electricity, in addition to a gasoline and diesel station on the marina. A boat valet service is provided to members. The Club itself features a members lounge looking over the marina. There are two attractive terraces, in addition to function rooms which can be hired for conferences and entertainment.

The newest addition to Phase 1 of the project is the Information Center, opened on February 27, 1989. The Information Center provides up-to-date information about TEC's facilities and activities, reservation services for Khiran Resort and Failaka Touristic Resort and a 24 hour telefax service providing round-the-clock information about TEC's recreational activities.

ANTIQUITIES AND MUSEUMS

The idea of establishing the Kuwait National Museum, to represent aspects of Kuwait's cultural life and heritage, and to be an important cultural institution reflecting the country's history and civilisation dates back to the early fifties.

Kuwait National Museum was opened on 13 December, 1957, at the nearly 140 years old Dasman Palace, as part of the Department of Education.

On 27 April, 1966 an Amiri Decree was issued annexing the Department of Antiquities and Museums to the Ministry of Information. In 1977 construction began on new premises for the museum, designed according to the most modern architecture and technology, taking into consideration Arab and Islamic ways of design which suit Kuwait environment. Five years later it was inaugurated on 22 February 1983. The building includes four galleries interconnected with pedestrian bridges overlooking a square basin covered with metal plates.

First Gallery

It contains the administration offices, an exhibition of old and popular heritage antiquities and another exhibition for contemporary Kuwaiti formative arts, a lecture hall and a library.

Planetarium

Provided with the most sophisticated astronomical monitoring equipment, it comprises a hall containing old astronomical devices, maps and manuscripts. The museum administration has devised local astronomical programmes, and other translated ones on space and astronomical phenomena that suit the visitors' culture and scientific background.

Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah

During the last five years Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah (The Museum of Islamic Arts) has successfully developed into an Islamic cultural centre. Its collection of magnificent pieces have been exhibited in world's largest museums. At present the collection contains more than 20,000 items of rare Islamic works covering a span of 12 centuries since the birth of Islam. It also contains a specialised library of several thousand books in different languages on Islamic history and heritage.

The Museum's collection, known as "The Al-Sabah Collection", belongs to Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikha Hussa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who personally presides over the administration of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah.

Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah holds exhibitions, lectures, training sessions for tour guides and applied training for the public on making pottery and ornaments.

Al Badr House

Located in "Al-Qibla" district opposite the sea shoreline on an area of 2,825 sq. metres, Al-Badr House was originally built by late Yousuf Al-Nisf (who died in 1297 AH). It was built from mudbrick and clay, its walls were covered with plaster. For the ceiling "Chandal", "beams", bamboo "Basil" and palmtree reeds "Bawari" were used. It is constructed in the style, and with the materials, of the old Kuwaiti house.

In 1968 Al-Badr House was annexed to the Department of Antiquities and Museums.

The year 1958 marked a turning point in the history of the region when Danish missions were able to find highly important archaeological antiquities at Failaka Island and succeeded in deciphering some of their symbols. Archaeologists were able to draw a preliminary picture of the ancient Gulf history and the early civilization that flourished there.

In 1985 a French archaeological expedition, in collaboration with Kuwait National Museum staff, uncovered more findings at "Al-Khazna" hill on Failaka Island, which offered more evidence of continued life in that region during the Hellenistic period extending from the sixth century B.C. to the third century B.C.

Other highly important discoveries were found by the Danish

archaeological expedition in the south of Failaka Island. They uncovered some remains of a Dilmonian city from the Bronze Age, and varied Greek remains that carry indications that the Greeks had lived for nearly two centuries (300-100 B.C.) in that area where they built houses, temples and a large fortress, and called the island "Ikaros" after a Greek island in the Aegean Sea.

Some Islamic remains dating back to the Abbasid Age were also found in different regions of Kuwait (Umm al-Aish, Kazima, Umm Al-Naml Island and Akkaz).

Findings at Failaka Island included also a collection of nearly 450 round stamp seals which have not been yet deciphered. They are similar to seals discovered in Iraq, Bahrain and the Indus Valley, which suggests that links existed among those regions. All those relics can be seen in the National Museum of Kuwait.

Science Museum

Established by the Ministry of Education 16 years ago for a basically educational objective, the Science Museum has two branches, one on Failaka Island and the other in Ahmadi City. It is unique in its scientific method of utilising fibreglass in stuffing birds and other animals. It includes over 165 different species of stuffed birds, a stuffed elephant, a giraffe and whales. It also contains a large variety of animals, plants and scientific models of the most modern inventions and innovations, including a large model of the space module "Challenger" and the first aircraft used by Kuwait Airways Corporation.

Red Palace

It is located in Al-Jahra Governorate and features the traces of the famous historic "Al-Jahra Battle" which took place in 1920.

Popular Arts Centre

This is located on the Arabian Gulf Street in Kuwait and contains samples of Kuwaiti popular heritage.

Al-Sadu Society

It is located on the Arabian Gulf Street, and cares for the preservation of the bedouin heritage. The portrait inspired by Al-Sadu is that of a woman weaving wool for the making of

- ~ carpets, arm-rests, wool tents and other items utilizing sheep wool and camel hair.

Tareq Museum

Privately owned by Mr. Tareq Al-Sayyid Rajab, Tareq Museum is located in Al-Jabriya district, and was opened to the public in 1980. It contains a rare collection of the Holy Quran, manuscripts, Islamic pottery, Arab Islamic musical instruments and furniture, traditional silver jewellery made by Arab Muslim artists and others from China, Nepal and Tibet, wrought metal items and oil paintings by some orientalists.

Walls of Kuwait

Stories on dates of building Kuwait walls are different. The most acceptable is that the first wall, 750 metres long, was built from clay in 1760 A.D. The second wall with eight gates was built in 1811, and the third wall, 6,400 metres long, was built in 1920 during the reign of Sheikh Salem Bin Mubarak. It extended from Shuwaikh area in the west to Ras Al-Ajouza on the east coast of Kuwait. All Kuwaiti citizens contributed and shared in building it in order to ward off the attacks of invaders.

In 1957 the wall was demolished to make way for city expansion but its five gates were retained as a historic and touristic features of Kuwait. In its place nowadays stretches the "Green Belt" around the city.

KUWAITI RELATIONS WITH INDIA

Kuwait was never a colony, but for around 60 years was British Protectorate. However, even under the protectorate, the British presence was nominal and at no time were there any British troops or other forms of imperial presence in the country. Thus, while its development has been coloured by its relationships with the Western industrial powers, those relationships were of a rather special kind. It was in 1899, after pressure from the home government—from Curzon the Viceroy of India—that an agreement was signed by which Kuwait became a British Protectorate. As part of the agreement, Kuwait agreed not to lease, dispose of or give on concession to any individual any part of land in the Sheikdom for any purpose without British permission nor to receive agents or representatives of foreign governments without British agreement. This effectively gave Britain the right to control the development of both Kuwait and its foreign policy.

As a gesture of goodwill towards Sheikh Mubarek who sided with the British in their attack on the Turks in the Mesopotamian campaign that Kuwait was recognised as an independent state under British protection. This relationship forged with the British remained substantially intact until the cessation of the Protectorate agreement in 1961 and it was on the agreements which were made by Sheikh Mubarek that the British interests in Kuwait were based. Kuwait in its treaty with Britain of January 23, 1899 was assured friendship and cooperation which lasted till Kuwait secured its independence in 1961. It is with this historical background that the Indian ties with important West Asian countries, including Kuwait, hold out broad perceptions and kindle continued interest. Although India had thrown away the foreign yoke in 1947 it continued to maintain cordial relations with Kuwait in all spheres. India's support to the Arab causes in the comity of nations hardly needs to be emphasised. India has never succumbed to Western pressure but maintained friendly relations with the Arab World, albeit at heavy cost.

And this hand of friendship extended by India has been firmly held by the Arab World. Despite the diversity of religions between

the Indian majority community and the Muslim-dominated Gulf the friendship between the two has become proverbial. Whether it is the Non-Aligned Movement or South-South Cooperation India and the Arab World have espoused the cause of developing world and stood firm against exploitation of the South by the developed North.

Among the Gulf region, no country is more friendly towards India than Kuwait. No doubt some distortions had crept in these relations during the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait when India did not support the Emirate in its fight for liberation, bridges were built immediately after the aggressor was thrown out of Kuwaiti territory. Kuwait has today become one of the major policy successes of the P.V. Narasimha Rao government. Kuwait's response has also been equally prompt. In its post-liberation foreign policy measures Kuwait has accorded top priority to its relations with India. This fact was corroborated by the appointment of Mr. Dharar A. R. Razooqi, one of the most distinguished Iraqi diplomats, as its new Ambassador to India. India is also one of the five World capitals where Kuwait has opened its information office.

The government of Kuwait attaches great importance to enhancing its relations with India in all spheres, especially in the economic field. And from India's point of view Kuwait is a reliable friend in the Arab World. This realisation on both sides has given a new impetus to relations between the two countries in Kuwait's post-liberation era. India's new economic, industrial and trade policies under the P. V. Narasimha Rao government have also convinced Kuwait that India is well on its way to becoming an "Asian Tiger" and relations between the two countries could develop extensively and be mutually beneficial.

To achieve this objective Kuwait has evolved a major information campaign involving personal contacts between the two nations. Over the past two years at least 200 Indian journalists and opinion makers have visited Kuwait and in turn Kuwait regularly sends its top opinion makers to New Delhi. Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed al Sabah, had visited Delhi when he gave the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, a personal letter from the Emir and held wide-ranging discussions with Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh.

In February 1993 high-ranking officials of India's External Affairs Ministry led by Minister of State, Mr. R. L. Bhatia, were

invited to Kuwait. This was followed by the visit of Mr. R. L. Narayan, Joint Secretary (Gulf) of the Ministry. As a result of these visits a bilateral joint commission for trade and economy was set up which is scheduled to meet in the near future.

Chief Justice of Kuwait Mohammed Yousuf Al-Rifai was invited by the Chief Justice of India for an official friendly visit.

An influential ten-member Kuwait Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Speaker Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al-Saadoon paid an official visit to India in October, 1993. During these visits reconstruction of Kuwait's economy, India's economic liberalisation process, release of Kuwaiti POWs by Iraq and implementation of UN resolutions by Iraq were discussed between the two sides.

Economic Relations

The confidence-building exercises undertaken by Kuwait and India have given an impetus to economic and trade relations. Kuwait's investible funds coupled with Indian manpower and technology could lead to major achievements not only in bilateral relations but also in the world of business.

For the first two years after its liberation Kuwait routed reconstruction contracts to Allied nations on cost plus basis. That criterion has now been changed with the re-instatement of the Central Tender Committee. Since then several new deals have been struck between the two countries in diverse fields.

Kuwait Real Estate Investment Consortium (KREIC), a government-owned concern, opened a new chapter in India with an investment of Rs. 28.50 million in a Polyester Filament Yarn project launched by DCL Polyesters Ltd. in Nagpur (Maharashtra). Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has made investments in the India Development Fund and many Kuwaitis have made substantial investments in the Indo-Gulf Fertilizer Company Ltd. Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air also have investments in a private Indian airline, Jet Airways.

The GCC Aviation Company Ltd., an equity share holding concern comprising Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air, Emirates and Saudi Arabian Airways, has signed a contract worth \$ 56 million with the Taj Group of Hotels in India for establishing flight kitchens at Bombay and Delhi and other important gateway airports in India.

In addition, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways and Emirates have also signed a deal with the same group for the construction and

operation of a 350-room five-star hotel near Bombay airport. The GCC airlines will hold 70 per cent equity share in this project. Preliminary contribution work has already started and the hotel is scheduled to open in late 1995.

Mr. Farooq H. Al. Sultan, Director, European and Asian Investments, Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), has evinced keen interest in India's ongoing liberalisation process and said that KIA would consider investment opportunities once more information was provided.

Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) has secured an assignment worth about \$ 1 million from the Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to assess damage to the oil refineries at Mina Al Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah and Shuiaba. EIL will find whether the damaged units can be recommissioned or have to be scrapped. It will also identify maintenance requirements, assess the residual life and estimate the cost of replacements and repairs. The Southern India Petrochemical Corporation Ltd. (SPIC) has also been awarded maintenance contract for 40 million dollars in the oil sector.

Negotiations are under way for setting up a joint-sector refinery between the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). Kuwait has expressed keenness to invest in India's hydrocarbon sector. IOC has been scouting for a partner to set up a refinery in the eastern sector. The joint sector refinery is to be set up under the government's policy which stipulates that the public sector company and the private sector partner would hold a 26 per cent stake each and the balance 48 per cent would be offered to the public. It is felt that finalisation of a joint venture between IOC and KPC would pave the way for big influx of direct investment from Kuwait.

Following the visit to Kuwait of India's Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Sukh Ram, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the two countries to cover a wide range of telecommunications projects, including the supply and installation of equipment and training of Kuwaiti personnel.

Telecommunications India Ltd. (TIL) has signed a \$ 20 million contract for restoring Kuwait's international telecommunications links and local networks.

Trade Relations

The real momentum in Indo-Kuwaiti trade came in 1975-76

when exports to Kuwait increased to Rs. 473 million and imports to Rs. 1,626 million. Just before the occupation of Kuwait, Indian exports to it were Rs. 1,056 million and imports Rs. 4,833 million. After a setback during the Kuwait-Iraq war, foreign trade started moving up. In 1991-92 Indian exports to Kuwait were Rs. 737 million and imports Rs. 3,630 million. But in 1992-1993 India's exports touched a record figure of \$ 135 million. India has established its position as Kuwait's 10th largest trade partner.

Indian exports to Kuwait comprise mainly rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and cotton yarn. The last two years have witnessed a steady rise in the quantum of the latter two.

Since Kuwait's agricultural production is negligible and the Kingdom does not produce any raw material other than oil and natural gas, consumption requirements are met by imports. With expanded agricultural and allied activities Indian exports stand a good chance of consolidating their already secure position in Kuwait. In addition to this, an affluent and sophisticated market for consumer and capital goods already exists in the country.

India mainly imports oil and petroleum products from Kuwait, the largest supplier of these products. Kuwait has made a long-term commitment for crude oil sales to India. Kuwaiti crude oil, petroleum and related products supply is expected to cross 4 million tonne mark which will greatly help meet India's domestic requirements.

In addition to increasing trade turnover there is immense potential for joint projects in various spheres, specially in the field of fertilizers which have an attractive market in China and Europe. Moreover, factors such as ongoing economic reforms in India, availability of modern technology and cheaper skilled manpower are also attractive incentives to Kuwaiti investors in industries such as paper, pulp, drugs, cement and the hotel industry.

To explore the possibility of Kuwaiti investment in India and participation in joint ventures an 11-member Kuwaiti economic delegation had visited India in April, 1994. The delegation, headed by the Under Secretary in the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, Mr. Abdul Mohsin Yousif al-Hunaif, and comprising prominent businessmen from that country indicated that India could take advantage of the "Kuwait Fund" to get soft loans for setting up of the Government and Government-approved infrastructure projects such as refineries,

power plants, roads, etc. The Kuwaiti delegation invited Indian entrepreneurs to set up joint venture projects in Kuwait to manufacture fertilizers and petroleum products for export to India and third countries. While India could supply equipment, expertise, technical manpower and provide operational and maintenance facilities Kuwait could take care of funding these projects.

Extensive, in-depth discussions were held at the plenary meeting at which the Indian team was led by Mr. P. M. S. Malik, Special Secretary (Economic), Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Malik assured the Kuwaiti delegation of the Indian Government's commitment towards liberalising its economy.

The Kuwaiti delegation called on Mr. Salman Khursheed, Minister of State for External Affairs, who briefed them on the mutually advantageous possibilities of trade between the two countries. Mr. Khursheed spoke about areas of cooperation, including food processing, infrastructure (specially toll-ways) and services. He also stressed the need for holding bilateral economic seminars to promote investments between India and Kuwait.

The delegation also held discussions with the Finance Secretary, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Among the topics covered was the importance of the Kuwait Fund operations in India, in respect of both ongoing and future projects. The members of the Kuwaiti delegation assured him of the possibility of using the Kuwait Fund for financing infrastructure projects submitted to it.

Detailed, investment-oriented discussions were also held with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and ASSOCHAM. Meetings were also held with the Indian Oil Corporation and the Overseas Construction Council of India. In addition, various members of the delegation held sectoral meetings with their Indian counterparts.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the steady and impressive growth in economic and trade relations (Indo-Kuwait annual bilateral trade is now nearly \$1 billion) and were happy to note that there are now around 172,000 Indians in Kuwait.

The bilateral negotiations on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement were concluded, and India and Kuwait have agreed to sign the agreement soon. The countries have also decided to take early action in the negotiation of a bilateral Investment Protection Agreement. They have agreed to promote and encourage interaction

in the private sector by organising fairs/exhibitions, trade weeks and exchange visits.

Referring to the centuries-old friendly ties between India and Kuwait, the members of the Kuwaiti delegation stated that India's skilled manpower and expertise, as well as its businessmen, were welcome to participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Kuwait's economy. With India fast emerging as one of the most attractive destinations for foreign investment, the opportunities for growth in Kuwaiti-Indian commercial relations seem immense. In fact, both countries could well be partners in progress, leading to a mutually rewarding relationship.

The delegation was greatly impressed with the changes that have taken place in India opening new avenues for investment and trade. The delegation was convinced that the liberalisation process was irreversible. The Kuwaiti delegation also evinced interest for collaboration and investment in areas such as paper, pulp, drugs and pharmaceuticals, cement, water filtration, telecommunications, hospitals, shipping, tourism, etc.

In order to give a fillip to trade relations it was necessary, according to the delegation, that commitments made by the Indian side as regards quality of goods and delivery schedule must be adhered to. Any disputes arising out of lapses by the seller could be referred to the Indian Council for Arbitration for speedy settlement.

Kuwait has started the process of reconstruction after throwing away the aggression. India has embarked upon its journey of economic liberalisation. Both Kuwait and India are on the move. It is therefore time to explore ways and means of improving economic cooperation and trade relations between the two countries.

Kuwait is not a manufacturing country but has the capacity to pay cash for its imports. But Kuwait wants the best that is available abroad. It is therefore imperative that Indian goods and services are comparable to international standards and specifications. If Indian producers and exporters can meet this challenge Kuwait's geographical proximity and age-old friendly relations between the two countries could take the existing trade volumes and economic cooperation to new heights.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Important Telephone Numbers

Government Offices :

<i>Ministry of State for Amiri</i>	<i>Ministry of Information</i>
<i>Diwan</i>	2415301, 2427141
5398888	<i>Ministry of Interior</i>
<i>National Assembly</i>	4841800, 2518419
2449025	<i>Ministry of Justice, Legal & Administrative Affairs</i>
<i>Council of Ministers</i>	2465600
2455333	<i>Ministry of Public Health</i>
<i>Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs</i>	2462900
2455333	<i>Civil Service Commission</i>
<i>Audit Bureau</i>	4815766
2421036	<i>Agriculture and Fishing Authority</i>
<i>Ministries :</i>	4749743
<i>Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs</i>	<i>Kuwait Investment Authority</i>
2466300	2439592
<i>Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Civil Aviation Authority</i>
4819623	4336699
<i>Ministry of Higher Education</i>	<i>Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development</i>
2401300	2451580, 2453120
<i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	<i>The Arab League</i>
2425141, 2422040	2445261

Hospitals :

Adan	3940600
Amiri	2450005
Farwaniya	4888000
Iben Sena	4840300

Jahra	4775351
Mubarak Al Kabir	5312700
Maternity	4842100
Orthopaedic	4874244
Psychiatric	4843900
Al Razie	4846000
Sabah	4815000
Sanatorium	4870469
Women's Health Centre	4848022

Private Clinics

Hadi Clinic	Jabriyah	5312555
Mowasat Clinic	Salmiyah	5711533

Emergency

Ambulance	Amiri	2422366
	Ahmadi	3919089
	Salmiya	5739011
Blood Bank		5339514
Fire Brigade		
	Ahmadi	3980086
	Al-Nuzha	2553779
	Salmiya	5610011
Fire Emergency		100/105
Police and Roving Police		199 & 5382000
Traffic Police		4832188

General

Airport Flight Information	4336699/4335599
Harbour	4812622
K. I. S. R.	4816988
Kuwait Municipality	2449001
Kuwait University	4811188
Planning Board	2420566
Shuaiba Ind. Dev. Board	3262818
Time	113
Weather	104

HOTELS

The hotel industry in Kuwait has flourished since the mid 1970s, prompted by the growth of Kuwait's external contacts and the influx of visiting businessmen, in addition to conferences and seminars of various types.

Hotels constituted a convenient venue for hosting government and private activities. Some hotels have become like super social-sports complexes, featuring halls, restaurants, courts, swimming pools, health clubs and varied stores.

The number of hotels in Kuwait has gradually increased to reach 20, including the Airport Hotel for transit passengers.

The Kuwait City re-planning scheme has included the demolition of five hotels, but their licences remain valid and can still be used for new ones.

However, a number of buildings have been converted into furnished apartments in town. Some offer the service of only a furnished apartment, and others offer the complete services of a hotel at much cheaper rates. Thus, they are able to attract a sizeable portion of the hotel business.

AIRPORT Hotel -

P.O. Box : 24851, 13109 Safat, Kuwait.

Telex : 31083, KAHOTEL KT Tel. 47 44200

BRISTOL -

P.O Box : 3531, 13036 Safat, Kuwait

Telex : 22061 BRISTOTEL KT Tel. 24 39281

CARLTON TOWER -

P.O. Box : 26950, 13130 Safat, Kuwait

Telex : 44837 CARTOW KT Tel. 24 52740

CARLTON HOTEL -

P.O. Box : 3492, 13035 Safat, Kuwait

Telex : 22064 CARLTON KT Tel. 24 23171



Members of the Kuwaiti economic delegation with H. E. Mr. D. A. R. Razooqi, Kuwaiti Ambassador in India, (fourth from left). The delegation visited India in April, 1994.



The concluding of an agreement worth US\$ 56 millions between the Gulf Aviation Services Company (GASCO) and the Taj Group of Hotels in India marked the opening of a new chapter in the field of Indo-Kuwait Joint Venture Projects. Members of GASCO and the Taj Group of Hotels are seen signing the deal in New Delhi in January, 1994.

HALA HOUSE -

P.O. Box : 823, 13009 Safat, Kuwait
Telex : 22989 HALATEL KT Tel. 25 53133

HOLIDAY INN -

P.O Box : 18544, 81006 Farwaniya, Kuwait.
Telex : 46448 HOLINN KT Tel. 47 42000

KHIRAN RESORT -

P.O. Box 27, 66051 Al-Zour, Kuwait.
Telex : 22154 MUNTZAH KT Tel. 39 51122

KUWAIT CONTINENTAL -

P.O. Box : 1083, 13011 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 30566 KUCONTL KT Tel. 25 27300

SAFIR INTERNATIONAL -

P.O. Box : 5996, 13060 Safat, Kuwait
Telex : 22039 HITELS KT Tel. 25 30000

KUWAIT MERIDIEN -

P.O. Box : 26302, 13124 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 44458 MERIHTL KT Tel. 24 55550

KUWAIT SHERATON -

P.O. Box : 5902, 13060 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 22434 SHERATON KT Tel. 24 22055

OASIS HOTEL -

P.O. Box: 26855, 13129 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 46121 WAHOTEL KT Tel. 24 65489

REGENCY PALACE -

P.O. Box : 1139, 22012 Salmiyah, Kuwait.
Telex : 46082 KREGPLH KT Tel. 57 28000

AL-SALAM HOTEL -

P.O. Box: 24285, 13103 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 23596 HTLSLM KT Tel. 48 35344

SAS KUWAIT HOTEL -

P.O. Box : 26199, 13122 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 44306 SASHOTL KT Tel. 56 57000

SAHARA -

P.O. Box : 20461, 13065 Safat, Kuwait.
Telex : 22102 SAHARA KT Tel. 24 24121

CAR - HIRE :

Rent-a-car: Avis	Fahad Salem St.	2453829
	Holiday Inn	4742000
	Airport Office	4745528
Europcar	Head Office	4842988
	Airport Office	4735626
	SAS Kuwait Hotel	5657000
Mustafa Karam		2466290
Rent-Al-Mulla	Head Office	2433710
	Ahmadi	3980533
	Airport Office	4738410
	Fahaheel	3918905
	Al-Rai	4730733
	Kuwait International	2530000
	Holiday Inn	4732046
	Kuwait Plaza Hotel	2438800
Al Sayer	Sheraton Hotel	2422055
	Al-Rai Garage	4713622
	Ahmadi	3981524

Rental Auto Assist :

Al Mulla	Day No.	2444486
	Night No.	4738410

RESTAURANTS

ARABIC :

Zahrat Al Mada'en
Adnan Jabri
Open 7.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Tel. 25 13209
Tel. 24 34676

CHINESE :

The Peacock Room
Open Sunday thru Friday.
12.00 - 3.00 p.m.; - 7.30 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

Tel. 56 57000, Ext. 532

FILIPINO :

Kabaylan Restaurant
Fridays : 8.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. Fax : 24 02405
Weekdays : 10.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Tel. : 24 02405

FRENCH :

Pullman - Les Elysees
12.00 noon - 3.00 p.m.,
7.00 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

Tel. 56 34200, Ext. 15

INDIAN :

Mughal Mahal
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and
6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Tel. 24 25131/2

LEBANESE :

Le Tarbouche Restaurant
12.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m. - 12 midnight

Palm Palace Restaurant
10.00 a.m. - midnight

Mais Al Ghanim Restaurant
Arabian Gulf Street

Tel. 24 22055

Tel: 57 33030/57 56331

Tel : 24 02590

SWISS:

Movenpick Restaurant	Tel. 24 64571/3
7.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	
12.00 noon - 12.00 m.n.	
Boulevard Cafe - Patisserie	Tel. 24 64571/2

9.00 a.m. - 9.00 p.m.

FAST FOOD :**Al Mulla**

<i>A. & W. Great Food Restaurant</i>	Tel. 57 10244
7.30 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.	Fahaheel Tel. 39 18973

INTERNATIONAL :**Hotel Meridien Koweit** Tel. 24 55550*Al-Finjan : "Tea Lounge"* 10.00 a.m. - 12 midnight.

Offers a wide selection of cakes, pastries, hot and cold beverages, with live Oriental entertainment nightly.

La Brasserie : "Coffee Shop" 6.00 a.m. - 1.00 a.m. Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets or choose from the A La Carte menu.*Versailles*: Elegant seafood restaurant for lunch and dinner. Closed on Fridays.*Al Waha: "Sidewalk Cafe"* located in the Salhia Commercial Complex, adjacent to the Meridien Hotel.

Open daily from 8.00 a.m. till 8.30 p.m.

SAS Kuwait Hotel Tel. 56 57000*Bistretto* : Delightfully decorated in Italian " couleur locale", the Bistretto specializes in Italian cuisine. The menu also offers international favourites. Open from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.*Al Boom* : Experience the real Arabic cuisine as well as International dishes. Open for dinner from 7 to 11.30 p.m. and for lunch only on Thursday and Friday from 12.30 to 3.30 p.m.*Peacock Room*: The regular Chinese cuisine. Open for lunch from 12 to 3 pm. and for dinner from 7.30 to 11.00 p.m.*Clock* : Drive-in restaurant, fast food items along with other specialities.**Kuwait Sheraton Hotel** Tel : 24 22055*Al Hambra*: Daily lunch buffet from 12.30 - 3.30 p.m. Arabian Nights buffet with live music by the Al Hambra band every evening, from 8.30 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

Hunt Room : Lunch 12.30 - 3.30 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m. - 12.30 midnight. Charcoal broiled specialities.

Coffee Shop: Breakfast; Snacks; Lunch or Dinner served.

Le Tarbouche Restaurant: Lunch 12.30 - 3 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. - 12 midnight.

Gourmet Shop : Fresh home-made pasta, an extensive bread range, Swiss, French and Italian cheese, smoked fish and fresh meat, etc. 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Holiday Inn Kuwait Tel : 47 42000/47 32100

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop : Lavish international buffet.

Al Andalus Supper Club : Exotic oriental and international food and musical entertainment.

Al Dana Restaurant : Friday Family Lunch, prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and amazing magician.

Kuwait International Hotel Tel : 25 30000

Failaka : Situated on the 19th floor it overlooks Kuwait's picturesque coastline, international cuisine. Open for lunch and dinner. Live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Friday.

La Palma : Elaborate buffet as well as a la carte.

Kei : Oriental atmosphere and authentic dishes, including Sushi, Kei Restaurant is the ultimate in Japanese dining experience.

La Patisserie : Selection of delicious cakes, pastries, ice creams, and exotic juices. Pianist in the evenings.

Movenpick Tel : 24 64571/2

Charcoal Evening Specialities — Every Sunday

Dishes marinated in Mediterranean style, served with potatoes, including U.S. Sirloin Veal cutlets or T-Bone, Chicken and Seafood selection.

SHOPPING GUIDE

The Kuwait market is a fascinating one. It is highly competitive and customs duties are low, so prices are usually reasonable and often open to negotiation. Goods are imported from all over the world and the variety is astounding.

In addition to the two shopping centres, Fahed Al Salem Street and Salmiya, there are many interesting places to visit in the different commercial areas and in the town of Fahaheel.

The 'Souk', or markets, are perhaps the most absorbing. Although these areas are being rapidly modernised, some of the old Souk remains. The visitor will find jewellery, precious stones, antiques, cameras, watches, spices, nuts and the ladies can have their own individual perfume blended. These are just a few of the thousand and one articles from which visitors can choose.

Antiques :

Abdul Rashid

Kuwait, Ali Salem St.; Tel : 24 33765.

Antique Persian carpets, guns, swords, Kuwaiti chests and other antiques from the Arabian Peninsula.

Arts and Crafts :

Sadeer

Kuwait, Fahed Al Salem St.; Tel : 24 12363.

Jewellery, paintings and collector's pieces in sterling silver.

Gallery Rajab

Salmiya, off Hamed Al Mubarak Str.; Tel. 53 18061.

Paintings, batiks, Rowney art materials, handicrafts, antiques, Indian wall-hangings and silver.

Chinese Art Exhibition

Salmiya, Al Manzel Bldg., Salem Mubarak St.; Tel. 57 37574.

Cloisonne Ware, Carved Lacquer Ware, Jade and Ivory carvings, and jewellery in a wide range of sizes and prices.

Wong & Sons Trading Co.

Kuwait, New Al Rashed Building.; Tel : 24 42498

Oriental items. Embroidered linen, elegant lamps with silk shades, carved furniture, rattan furniture, Jade and Ivory ornaments.

Department Store :

Jashanmal

Kuwait, Fahed Al Salem St.; : Tel. 24 20071

Cosmetics, perfumes, ladies and gents fashion, luggage etc... Exclusive agents for Christian Dior, Chanel, Van Cleef and Arpels perfumes. Jaegar fashions.

Shoes & Hand Bags

The Comfort Shoe Co.

Salmiyah, Zahra Complex, Mezzanine floor; and

Maryam Center, Salem Al Mubarak St.; Tel. 57 49453

Shoes for ladies, gents and teenagers: Bruno Magli, Beltrami, Braccialini, Rossetti & Mirrella.

Furnishings:

IKEA Tel : 48 10477/48 10848

Wide range of furniture, furnishing fabrics, linen, and gift articles.

Hobbies :

KNIT Tel : 57 36120

Yarns, Italian cotton, British Mohair and acrylic. Knitting accessories including patterns, needles, buttons, etc.

Paintings and Prints :

ALITAR Tel. 57 10372

Salmiya, Salem Al Mubarak St., Sharhan Building;

Photographic Equipment:

Photo & Cine Equipment Co.

Near Carlton Hotel, Kuwait. Tel. 24 20415

Canon, Elmo & Bauer cameras & accessories. Opton (Zeiss)

Binoculars & levelling equipment, 24 hours photo-finishing service. Studio and instant passport photos.

Opticians:

Matin Optics

Near Carlton Hotel, Kuwait, Tel. 24 36192

Opticians and Optometrists, contact lens experts. German and French sun-glasses. Oticon hearing aids.

BANKS

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.

Head Office :	Mubarak Al-Kabir Street	2411101
Branches :		(30 lines)
Commercial Area 9	2434500	Sabhan 4714655
Gold Market	2414164	Sharq 2437545
Fahaheel	3912200	Salhia 2422363
Farwaniya	4731950	Salmiya 5710088
Hadiya	3943286	Al-Sawaber 2401730
Hawalli	2612700	Shuwaikh 4815171
Jabriya	5333691	Sulaibiya 4675660
Jahra	4779495	Al-Ras
Ministries Complex	2469435	(Marzouk Pearl) 5716095
Sabah Hospital	4819477	University 4819176

Dubai Branch	224175	
Representative Office (London)		01-4917876
Representative Office (Beijing)		5002255

Burgan Bank

Head Office:	Ahmad Al-Jaber Street	2439000
		(20 lines)

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

Head Office :	Mubarak Al Kabir St.	2411001
Branches :		(50 lines)
Abdulla Mubarak St.	2438190	Khaldiya 4814761
Abdulla Salem St.	2420186	Messilah Beach 5630825
Ahmad Al-Jaber St.	2417908	Mina Abdulla 3292743
Ahmadi East	3980252	Ministries Complex 2466126
Airport - Terminal 1	4741951	Omariya 4711465

Airport - Terminal 2	4746493	Al-Othman St.	2629123
Airport - Terminal 2	4741952	Qibla	2414375
Ardhiya	4896173	Ras Al-Salmiya	5728053
Cortoba	5319845	Rumaihiya	5615004
Fahaheel	3923779	Sabahiya	3612932
Fahaheel North	3910713	Salhiya	2425903
Farwaniya	4715862	Salmiya	5715989
Farwaniya Co-op.	4712901	Shuwaikh	4814643
Hawalli	2617992	Shuwaikh North .	4830149
Ibn Khaldoun St.	2619501	Shuwaikh Veg. Market	4814643
Jabriya	5334641	Shuaiba	3260296
Jahra	4771777	Sixth Ring Road	4344044
Khaitan	4710571	Sulaibikhat	4870989

New York Branch 212-207-2420
 European Representative Office (London) 01-638-2019

The Gulf Bank K.S.C.

Head Office : Mubarak Al Kabir St. 2449501
 (20 lines)

The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

Head Office : Abdullah Al Salem St.		2431424
Branches :		(20 lines)
Ahmad Al Jaber St.	2412295	Holiday Inn 4740013
Ahmadi	3981188	Ibriq Kheitan 4711587
Al Andalus	4876034	Jabriyah 5316945
Al Fardous	4883925	Jahra 4773121
Al Ghazali	4834752	Jeleen Al Shuyoukh 4317449
Al Hamra	2436012	Kaifan 4815088
Al Othman	2654121	Ministries Complex 2468401
Al Rawdah	2514166	Mubarak Al Kabir St.2437378
Al Sharq	2421553	Nigrah 2615070
Al Sour	2438412	Nuzha 2512901
Al Watya	2469895	Qadisiya 2515357
Cinema Jahra	4570916	Qibla 2424719
Daiyah	2515743	Ras Al Salmiya 5729216
Dasma	2531697	Riqua 3944137

Dasman	2438375	Regency Palace	5723486
Doha	4874695	Sabahiya	3617013
Fahad Al Salem St.	2433801	Sabhan	4713957
Fahaheel Ind. Area	3915323	Salmiya	5711850
Fahaheel	3911557	Shamiah	4818610
Faiha	2542224	Sheraton	2413653
Fintas	3900858	Shuaiba	3261767
Hawalli	2611366	Shuwaikh	4813266
Hilali	2439340	Shuwaikh Res. Area	4845272
Kuwait Int'l. Hotel	2530285	South Hawalli	2614954
		Transport Centre	2422683
 London Main Branch		01-224 2277	
London West End Branch		01-224 2277	
Singapore Branch		222 5348	
New York Branch		212-303 9800	
NBK (France) SA.		01-435 99949	
NBK Finance SA. (Geneva)		004122 - 73219251	
NBK Bahrain Branch		532225	
NBK Investment Management Ltd. (London)		01-224-228-8	

The Industrial Bank Of Kuwait

Head office : Darwaza Abdul Razak,	2457661
Commercial Area No. 9, Joint Banking Centre,	
Middle Tower	
 Kuwait Finance House	 2445050
Head Office: Abdullah Al-Mubarak St.	2445050
Kuwait Real Estate Bank K.S.C.	2458177
Head office : Darwaza Abdul Razzak	(30 lines)
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	2417140
Kuwait Branch : Ahmad Al Jaber St., Sharq	

FIVE-DAY WEEK :

Local commercial banks in Kuwait have agreed to the five-day working week, scheduled to run from Sunday to Thursday. The Saturday of each week will now be treated as an official holiday in the banking sector.

FOREIGN MISSIONS IN KUWAIT

Country	Tel.	P.Box	Postal Code	Hours
Afghanistan	5384521	33168	73452, Rawda	8.00-13.00
Algeria D.P.R.	2519987	578	13006, Safat	8.00-13.00
Austria	2552532	33259	73453, Rawda	8.00-14.00
Commercial Dept.	2467920	44180	32056, Hawalli	7.30-14.30
Bahrain	5318531	196	13002, Safat	8.00-13.00
Bangladesh	4831603	22344	13084, Safat	8.00-14.00
Belgium	5722014	3280	13033, Safat	8.00-13.30
Commercial Dept.	5711266			
Brazil	2549600	21370	13074, Safat	7.30-13.30
Bulgaria+	5643877	12090	71651, Shamiah	8.00-14.30
Commercial Dept.	2515544	33268	73453, Rawda	
Canada*	2563025	25281	13113, Safat	7.00-14.30
China P.R.	5339382	2346	13024, Safat	7.00-14.30
Cuba	5382024	26385	13124, Safat	8.00-13.00
Cyprus	2433075	22034	13081, Safat	8.00-13.00
Commercial Dept.	2448725			
Czech+	2529015	1151	13012, Safat	8.00-13.00
Commercial Dept.	2514451			8.00-14.00
Denmark*	2544988	5452	13055, Safat	8.00-14.00
Egypt	2519955	12252	35153, Dasma	9.00-14.00
Finland*	2463293	26699	13127, Safat	8.30-14.30
France	5312000	1037	13011, Safat	8.00-13.30
Commercial Dept.	2406200			
Germany F. R.	4814055	805	13009, Safat	8.00-12.00
Greece	5335861	23812	13099, Safat	9.00-14.00
Commercial Dept.	5313007			
Hungary*	4814080	23955	13100, Safat	8.00-14.00
India	2530600	1450	13015, Safat	8.00-14.15
Indonesia	2514658	21560	13076, Safat	8.00-14.00
Iran	2533220	4686	13047, Safat	7.30-13.30
Iraq	2533466	5088	13051, Safat	8.00-14.00

Italy	2445120	4453	13045, Safat	8.00-14.30
Trade Commission	2447500	25084	13111, Safat	8.00-13.00
Japan	5312870	2304	13024, Safat	8.00-13.00
Jordan	2533151	1450	13015, Safat	8.00-13.00
Korea S.	2554235	4272	13043, Safat	8.00-13.30
Lebanon	2619766	253	13003, Safat	8.00-13.00
Libya A.R.	2520814	21460	13075, Safat	8.00-14.00
Malaysia	2546022	4105	13042, Safat	7.30-13.30
Trade Office	2546213			
Mauritania	5384849	23748	13098, Safat	8.30-12.30
Morocco	4813700	784	13008, Safat	8.30-13.30
Netherlands	5312650	21822	13079, Safat	8.00-14.00
Niger	5652943	44451	32059, Safat	8.00-14.00
Nigeria*	5320794	6432	32039, Hawalli	8.00-14.00
Norway*	5323014	26967	13080, Safat	8.00-14.00
Oman S.	2561956	21975	13080, Safat	8.00-14.00
Pakistan	2532101	988	13010, Safat	8.00-14.00
Commercial Dept.	2530944			
Philippines*	2521754	26288	13123, Safat	8.00-14.00
Poland	2510355	5066	13051, Safat	8.00-14.00
Qatar	2513603	1825	13019, Safat	7.30-13.30
Romania	4843419	11149	35152, Dasmah	8.00-14.00
Commercial Dept.	4845079			
Saudi Arabia	2531155	20498	13065, Safat	8.00-14.00
Commercial Dept.	5324800	20602	13067, Safat	
Senegal	2542044	23892	13099, Safat	8.00-14.00
Somali	2555567	22766	13088, Safat	8.30-13.30
Spain*	2512722	22207	13083, Safat	8.30-13.30
Sri Lanka	4844862	16296	35853, Qadsiya	8.30-13.30
Commercial Dept.	4837612			
Sudan	2519299	1076	13011, Safat	8.00-14.00
Sweden*	2523588	21448	13075, Safat	9.00-15.00
Switzerland*	2551872	23954	13100, Safat	7.30-13.30
Syria A.R.	2531166	25600	13117, Safat	7.30-13.30
Thai	5314870	66647	43757, Bayan	7.30-13.30
Tunisia	2542144	5976	13060, Safat	8.30-13.30
Turkey	2531466	20627	13207, Safat	8.00-14.30
Commercial Dept.	2560658	24517	13106, Safat	8.00-14.30
Tourism/Inf. Office	2424248	15518	35456, Deaya	8.00-14.30
U.A.E.	2518381	1828	13019, Safat	7.30-13.30
U.K*	2432047	2	13001, Safat	
Commercial Dept.	2403325	300	13003, Safat	
U.S.A.*	2424151	77	13001, Safat	8.00-16.00
Russia	5642711	1765	13018, Safat	7.30-14.00
Consular Section	5315737			

Venezuela	5334578	24440	13105, Safat	7.30-14.00
Yemen A.R.	5312020	4626	13047, Safat	8.00-13.30
Yemen P.D.E.	2517898	5174	13052, Safat	7.30-13.30
Yugoslavia*	4818872	20511	13066, Safat	8.30-13.30
Commercial Dept.	4834045			

Note : All Embassies closed on Fridays.

* Embassies closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

+ Embassies closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

KUWAITI MISSIONS ABROAD

Algeria : Algiers,
Bis Didouche Morad,
Tel : 61711710, Tlx : 52267

Austria (Consulate) :
Vienna, Am Hof 2, A-1000,
Tel : 66243820, Tlx : 134569

Bahrain : Al Manama,
317 Diplomatic Area 76, Rd .1703
Tel : 242230, Tlx : 8850

Bangladesh : Dhaka,
Gulsham Ave. No. 53,
Tel : 600233, Tlx : 65600

Bulgaria : Sofia,
Hotel Vitosha, Rooms 1716/7
Tel : 624151, Tlx : 22211

China : Beijing,
Kuang Hua Lu 23,
Tel : 522182, Tlx : 22127

Denmark (Consulate) :
Copenhagen, Lundtofteve 150,
2800 Lynbgy,
Tel : 885020, Tlx : 37450

Egypt : Cairo,
Malaysian Embassy,
12 Nabeel, Al Waqqad Street,
Tel : 701724, Tlx : 93940

France : Paris
2 Rue de Lubeck, 81 Ave.
Reymond Pointcare,
Tel : 7046650, Tlx : 620513

Germany : Bonn,
Godesdgeralle St. 77-81,
Tel : 378081/2/3, Tlx: 886525

Greece : Athens,
Lissia,
45 Michalopoulou St.,
Tel : 7248769, Tlx : 4890

India : New Delhi,
5A, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
Tel : 690331, Tlx : 4331-2

Iran : Tehran,
Khoja Sazaman Block 38/3
Tel : 656712, Tlx : 215364

Italy : Rome 00195,
4 Piazza Monte Grappa
Tel : 3603841, Tlx: 680543

Japan : Tokyo 12-13,
Mita 2-Chome, Minato Ku,
Tel : 4550361, Tlx : 28501

Jordan : Amman,
Jabel Amman 4th Floor,
Tel : 41235, Tlx : 21377

Kenya : Nairobi,
Kimathi St., IPS Bldg,
Tel : 20834, Tlx : 22468

Lebanon : Beirut,
Bir Hassan Sports City Circle
Tel : 832723, Tlx : 20328

Libya : Tripoli,
8th Omar Bin Hur
Al Hadaiy City
Tel : 40282, Tlx : 20328

Malaysia : Kuala Lumpur,
24 Lingkungan 4 Thant,
Tel : 479526, Tlx : 31389

Malta : Faylaka,
Mon. Mifsud St.,
Tel : 37131, Tlx : 294

Morocco : Rabat,
44 Bastoot St.,
Tel : 33622, Tlx : 31955

Netherlands (Consulate) :
The Hague,
Amelia Strre 9,
2514JC.,
Tel : 658833, Tlx : 33070

Oman : Muscat, Ruwi,
Opposite BP Station,
Tel : 701166, Tlx : 3455

Pakistan : Islamabad,
Diplomatic Enclave,
University Rd.,
Tel : 22181, Tlx : 5611

Qatar : Doha,
Diplomatic Area,
Tel : 832111, Tlx : 44113

Russia : Moscow,
3rd Neopalimovoski Per.
13/5,
Tel : 2466773, Tlx : 413353

Saudi Arabia : Jeddah,
Main Medina Rd.,
Tel : 6653227, Tlx : 401531

Senegal : Dakkar,
36-38
Rue Calmette,
Tel : 219881, Tlx. 3327

Somalia : Mogadishu,
Lenean Rd.,
Tel : 81211, Tlx : 308

Spain : Madrid 16,
Paseo de la Castellana 141,
Tel : 4502812 Tlx: 23753

Sudan : Khartoum,
Villa No. 1, Africa St.,
Tel : 43915, Tlx : 221

Switzerland : Geneva,
2 Avenue de 1' Ariana,
Tel : 348330, Tlx : 23486

Syria : Damascus,
Ebrahim Harawi Rd.,
Al Mohajeren,
Tel : 714726, Tlx : 19172

Tunisia : Tunis,
Al Manza
Aryana Rd., No. 40,
Tel : 236903, Tlx : 12332

Turkey : Ankara,
Cankaya Cinnah Cad 88/3-4,
Tel : 274318, Tlx : 43237

U. A. E. : Abu Dhabi,
Diplomatic Area,
Al Mussafah Rd.,
Tel : 362227, Tlx : 22804

U. K. : London,
45-46 Queenstgate, SW,
Tel : 071-580-8411, Tlx : 261017/8

U. S. A. : Washington DC,
2940 Tiden St., NW,
Tel : 202-966-0702, Tlx : 64142

Consulate : New York
801 2nd Ave.,
Tel : 212-828-5687, Tlx : 422595

Yugoslavia : Belgrade,
Generala Hanrisa Br 1,
Tel : 468833, Tlx : 12774

POSTAL SERVICES

Main Post Office : Fahad Al Salam St.

Open : Saturday - Thursday : 7.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

Friday : 8.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.

Postage Rates :

Airmail Letters (Including Postcards)

		Kuwait	Arab Countries	Other Countries
Within	20 gms.	25 fils	50 fils	150 fils
	20 gms. to 50 gms.	40 fils	80 fils	280 fils
	50 gms. to 100 gms.	60 fils	120 fils	370 fils
	100 gms. to 250 gms.	120 fils	270 fils	740 fils
	250 gms. to 500 gms.	240 fils	600 fils	1,380 fils
	500 gms. to 1000 gms.	400 fils	1,180 fils	2,400 fils
	1000 gms. to 2000 gms.	650 fils	2,200 fils	4,000 fils

Printed Matter (Including Greeting Cards)

Within	20 gms.	15 fils	25 fils	80 fils
	20 gms. to 50 gms.	25 fils	35 fils	120 fils
	50 gms. to 100 gms.	35 fils	55 fils	180 fils
	100 gms. to 250 gms.	55 fils	110 fils	320 fils
	250 gms. to 500 gms.	90 fils	220 fils	600 fils
	500 gms. to 1000 gms.	160 fils	440 fils	1,000 fils
	1000 gms. to 2000 gms.	220 fils	780 fils	1,300 fils

Printed Matter at Reduced Rates

Within	20 gms.	10 fils	20 fils	60 fils
	20 gms. to 50 gms.	20 fils	25 fils	90 fils
	50 gms. to 100 gms.	30 fils	40 fils	140 fils
	100 gms. to 250 gms.	40 fils	80 fils	240 fils
	250 gms. to 500 gms.	60 fils	160 fils	450 fils

	Kuwait	Arab Countries	Other Countries
500 gms. to 1000 gms.	120 fils	330 fils	750 fils
1000 gms. to 2000 gms.	160 fils	600 fils	1,000 fils
Registration (upto 20 g.)	200 fils	200 fils	200 fils
Express Delivery (upto 20 g.)	200 fils	200 fils	200 fils

If a parcel from overseas arrives in Kuwait, then the postal authorities will send a Green Card via P.O. Box. Take this Green Card (together with your ID card or means of identification) to the Parcels Office on the Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Before you collect your parcel, Customs require it to be opened and inspected, in front of you. If you have no illegal items, then the parcel can be collected.

For further information Tel : 2439091.

DIRECT DIALLING CODES

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Canberra	62	San Paulo	11
Darwin	89	Santos	132
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Perth	92	Montreal	514
Sydney	2	Ottawa	613
		Toronto	416
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Vienna	222	CHINA	G.C. 0086
		Beijing	1
ALGERIA	G.C. 00213	Shanghai	21
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Wahran	33	DENMARK	G.C. 0045
Saada	25	Copenhagen	1
		Faro Island	5
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BANGLADESH	C.G. 880	EGYPT	G.C. 0020
Dhaka	2	Cairo	2
Chittagong	31	Alexandria	3
BELGIUM	G.C. 0032	Mansoura	50
Brussels	2	Port Said	66
Gent	91	Assiout	88
Liege	41	Aswan	97
BOSNIA	G.C. 0038	Luxor	95
Sarajevo	71	Suez	62

FINLAND	G.C. 00358	Kavalla	51
Helsinki	0	Serrai	321
FRANCE	G.C. 0033	Volos	421
Bordeaux	56	GIBRALTAR	G.C. 00350
Cannes	93	HOLLAND	G.C. 0031
Grenoble	76	Amsterdam	20
Lyon	7	The Hague	70
Monaco	93	Eindhoven	40
Montpellier	67	Rotterdam	10
Marseilles	91	HONG KONG	G.C. 00852
Nice	93	Hong Kong	5
Paris	1	Kowloon	3
St. Tropiz	94	INDIA	G.C. 0091
Toulouse	61	Agra	562
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Aachen	241	Bombay	22
Baden Baden	7221	Bhopal	755
Berlin	30	Baroda	265
Bonn	228	Bangalore	812
Bremen	421	Calicut	495
Cologne	221	Calcutta	33
Dortmund	231	Cochin	484
Duesseldorf	211	Hyderabad	843
Emden	4921	Indore	731
Essen	201	Jaipur	141
Frankfurt	611	Lucknow	522
Hamburg	40	Madras	44
Hannover	511	Mangalore	824
Heidelberg	6221	Mapusa	83284
Kiel	431	Margao	83296
Mainz	6131	Muvattupuzha	4858
Mannheim	621	New Delhi	11
Munich	89	Panjim	832
Nueremberg	911	Pune	212
Stuttgart	711	Pondicherry	413
Wiesbaden	6121	Patna	612
GREECE	G.C. 0030	Rajkot	281
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Shimla	177	Salerno	98
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INDONESIA	G.C. 0062	Torino	11
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Jakarta	21	Vatican	6
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IRAN	G.C. 0098	Fuji	845
Abadan	631	Hiroshima	822
Ahwaz	61	Kobe	78
Bandar Abbas	361	Kyoto	75
Bandar Khomeini	2321	Nagasaki	958
Isfahan	31	Osaka	6
Hamdan	261	Tokyo	3
Kermanshah	431	Yokohama	4
Khorramshahr	651	KENYA	G.C. 00254
Meshad	51	JORDAN	G.C. 00962
Qom	251	Amman	6
Shiraz	71	KOREA (South)	G.C. 0082
Tabriz	41	Seoul	2
Teheran	21	KUWAIT	G.C. 00965
Zahedan	541	LEBANON	G.C. 00961
IRELAND	G.C. 00353	Beirut	1
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Cork	21	Benghazi	61
Galway	91	Tripoli	21
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Basra	40	MALAYSIA	G.C. 0060
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ITALY	G.C. 0039	Penang	4
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Auckland	9	Khafji	3766
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*G.C. - General Code.

TRADING AND SERVICES COMPANIES

Accommodation & Office Rental

Arab Center For Commerce & Real Estate 2651422
 Fax 2636023
 Al Khadra Real Estate 5740256
 Fax 5740257
 Real Estate Service Co. 2441232
 Fax 2428338

Advertising Agencies & Services

Arab Advertising Agency W.L.L. 2435921
 Fax 2419692
 Horizon Advertising 2403371-3
 Fax 2403374
 Impact & Echo Advertising Co.
 P.O. Box 21081 Safat 13071
 Tel. : 2438120-1-2-3,
 Fax : 2440306, Tlx.: 46443
 Kuwait Research & Advertising Co. Ltd.
 4841413/4
 Fax 4842002

Radius Leo Burnett 2404967/8
 Fax 2407855

Air Cargo

Alghanim Freight 4745533
 Fax 4736083
 Baz Tours & Cargo 2452905-9
 Fax 2452919
 DHL Worldwide Express 2442375
 Fax 2443995
 Kuwait Cargo Express 2437495
 Fax 2437491
 TNT Skypak Express 2454125/6
 Fax 2450541

Air Taxi & Charter

Falcon Aviation Services 2456777
 Fax 2456183

Airlines

Aeroflot 2428331
 Fax 2452052

Afghan Airlines	2441041/2	Ethiopian Airlines	2433141
Fax	2428671	Fax	2453130
Air Afrique	2420511	Finn Air	2427055/8
Fax	2420517	Fax	2412468
Air Canada	2454903	Gulf Air	2450180
Fax	2454905	Fax	2459491
Air China	2438567/8	Iberia Airlines	2412014/5
Fax	2460156	Fax	2412018
Air France	2430224-8	Indonesian Airways ..	2427346
Fax	2420552	Fax	2427329
Air India	2438184-6	Iran Air	2451180-4
Fax	2411718	Fax	2451228
Air Lanka	2633994-6	KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines	
Fax	2633991	.....	2445441
Alitalia	2414403/4	Fax	2405094
Fax	2426868	Korean Airlines	2450655
American Airlines	2414857	Fax	2437646
Fax	2460156	Kuwait Airways	2433388
Austrian Airlines	2450655	Fax	2434906
Fax	2437646	Fahahheel	3921109
Balkan - Bulgarian Airlines	.....	Fahed Al Salem	2413618
.....	2401732/4	Farwaniya	4740309
Fax	2401737	Hawalli	2630039
Biman - Bangladesh Airlines	.....	Jahra	4765230
.....	2441041/2	Salmiya	5722080
Fax	2428671	Lot-Polish Airlines ...	2416800
British Airways	2425635-7	Fax	2416833
Fax	2446562	Lufthansa Airlines	2422493
Cathay Pacific	2412518	Fax	2431085
Fax	2406630	Malaysian Airlines	2420531/5
Continental Airlines ..	2450655	Fax	2420517
Fax	2437646	Middle East Airlines	
Cyprus Airlines	2435688	.....	2423070/1
Fax	2428671	Olympic Airways ...	2420002-4
Czechoslovakian Airlines	.....	Fax	2410873
.....	2433141	Pakistan Int'l. Airlines	
Fax	2453130	.....	2421043-5
Egypt Air	2460956/7	Fax	2401268
Fax	2426209	Philippine Airlines ..	2415401
Emirates Airlines ...	2438690-2	Fax	2453130
Fax	2460156	Qantas	2432100-9
		Fax	2425640

Rayal Air Maroc 2450655
 Fax 2420462
 Sabena 2433141
 Fax 2453130
 Saudi Arabian Airlines 2426310
 Fax 2426027
 Scandinavian Airlines . 2435630
 Fax 2456523
 Singapore Airlines 2424320
 Fax 2420756
 Swiss Airlines 2435640
 Fax 2456523
 Tarom-Romanian Airlines 2441041/2
 Fax 2428671
 Thai Airways 2425869
 Fax 2453702
 Trans Mediterranean Airlines 2441041/2
 Fax 2428671
 Tunis Airlines 2450655
 Fax 2437646
 Turkish Airlines 2453820
 Fax 2437646
 United Airlines 2420531
 Fax 2420517
 Vietnam Airlines 2433141
 Fax 2453130
 Varig Brazilian Airlines 2415554
 Fax 2410873
 Yemenia Airlines .. 2427055/7
 Fax 2412468
 Yugoslav Airlines . 2426846/7
 Fax 2428671

Airport

Kuwait International Airport 4335599
 Fax 4332222
 Air Traffic Control 4710088

Cargo 4336217
 Flight Information 4334499
 Sales 4733143

Antiques

Art and Arc 5735726
 Fax 5735726
 Al Badia Antique Est. 2436948
 House of Odine 5339410
 Fax 5328064
 Kashmir Stores 3916214
 Sayed Ismail Behbehani & Sons Co. 2433765
 Fax 2445785
 Wong & Sons Trading Co. 2442498
 Fax 2455497

Associations & Unions

Gulf Automobile Association 2424745
 Fax 2400220
 Kuwait Society of Engineers 2420482
 Fax 2428148
 Kuwait Travel & Tourism Agencies Association 2462350
 Fax 2437319

Book Stores

Al Baker Book Shop 2616559
 The Book House Co. Ltd 2444414
 Fax 2445544
 Farajalla Press Agency Ltd. 2415872
 Fax 2420558

The Kuwait Book Shops Co.
Ltd. 2424266
Fax 2420558

Car Rentals

Arabian Motors Group
..... 4832618/9
Fax 4830153
Avis 2453827/8
Fax 2453829
Budget Rent-a-Car 4810844
Fax 4810879
Airport Off 4719273
Europcar 4842988
Fax 4835218
Sanbouk Rent-a-Car 2446297
Fax 2460338

Chemical Material & Products

1st Class Group of Companies
..... 2452516
Fax 2452517
Gray Mackenzie 2434752
Fax 2441486
Gulf Chemicals Co. 4832441
Fax 4831409
Jassim M. Al. Bahar & Partners W.L.L. 4717010
Fax 4745478
Kuwait Chemical Co.
..... 2451895-9
Fax 2467266
USTCS W.L.L. 2463150-3
Fax 2458531
Al Yousifi Trading Co.
..... 4843707
Fax 4841330

Clearing, Packing & Forwarding

Alghanim Freight 4745533
Fax 4736083
Baz Tours & Cargo 2452905-9
Fax 2452919
Cargo Office 2452911
GTME Freight Systems
..... 2463150
Fax 2458531
Kuwait Cargo Express
..... 2437495
Fax 2437491
USTCS W.L.L. 2463150-3
Fax 2458531

Computer Systems Sales & Services

Al Andalus Trading Co.
..... 2441215-7
Fax 2452338
Al Babtain Group Co.
..... 4745233
Fax 4713359
The Delta Group 2633994-6
Fax 2633991
Gulf Net-Kuwait 2426711
Fax 2426720
Honeywell Kuwait 2421327-9
Fax 2428315
Universe Computers 2421812
Fax 2421823

Consultancy-Management

Altakaful International Est.
..... 3722000
Fax 3711888

IPAC, Inc. 2525180
 Fax 2525180
 Sulaiman Mutawa Associates 2463065
 Fax 2416635

**Courier Services /
Air Express**

DHL Worldwide Express 2442375
 Fax 2443995
 Federal Express Int'l. 2454980
 Fax 2403473
 TNT Skypak Express 2454125/6
 Fax 2450541
 XP Parcel System 2450534
 Fax 2434785

**Credit / Charge Cards
and Services**

American Express Cards
 Personal (Green) Cards
 Available From :
 American Express
 Salhiya Comm. Complex,
 Mezz. 2, Gate 1 2413000
 Fax 2413324
 Diners Club Cards 5720121
 Fax 5723024
 Mastercard 2459771
 Fax 2461430
 Visa Cards 2449501
 Fax 2446126

**Electrical & Electronic
Appliances**

Al Abraq Trading Co. 2419666
 Fax 2455770

M.H. Alshaya Company 4810749
 Fax 4814842
 Baroody Electrical Est. 4816412
 Fax 4815289
 Rifai Jashanmal Co. 5312090-9
 Fax 5333889
 Saad Al Hamad Est. 2456906/7
 Fax 2460283
 Universal Electronics Co. 2466285/6
 Fax 2401590

Exhibition Organizers

Exhibitions International 2450400
 Fax 2430755
 Kuwait International Fair Co. 5387100
 Fax 5398123

**Food Dealers &
Manufacturers**

Arab Food Services Co. 2421113
 Fax 2427776
 Al Bustan Khaleeji ... 4744670
 Fax 4730608
 Hazem Trading Est... 2416181
 Fax 2416191
 Kuwait Proteins Co. ... 4846659
 Fax 4849572
 White Stores Co. W.L.L. 4844228
 Fax 4848355

Immigration Consultants

EMD - Australia & New Zealand 2448641
 Fax 2409816

Insurance Companies

Arabia Insurance Co. 2432767
 Fax 2419311
Gulf Insurance Co. 2423384/7
 Fax 2422320
Kuwait Insurance Co. 2420135/9
 Fax 2428530
National Insurance Co. 2412967
 Fax 2410473

Investment & Finance Companies

Gulf Investment Corp. 2431911-6
 Fax 2448894
Killoran Investments Ltd. 2533000
 Ext. 8015
 Fax 2465188
Kuwait Investment Co. 2438111
 Fax 2444896

Machinery Dealers

Aboud Transportation 4812453
 Fax 4819626
Al Babbain Group Co. 4745233
 Fax 4713359

Maseelah Trading Co. W.L.L.

..... 2445467
 Fax 2445740
Al Zayani Trading Co. 4833478
 Fax 4842766

Manpower Recruitment

Bahar Al Khaleej Gen. Trad. & Cont. Est. 2402631/2
 Fax 2402633
Heston Middle East Ltd. 5382931
 Fax 2464600

Medical & Scientific Equipment & Supplies

Boushahri Group W.L.L. 5729000
 Fax 5732101
A.M. Al Khorafi Est. 2451909
 Fax 2452052
White Stores Co. W.L.L. 4844228
 Fax 4848355

Oil Companies

Getty Oil Co. 2460161
 Fax 2460165
Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. 2455455
 Fax 2467159
Kuwait National Petroleum Co. 2420121
 Fax 2433839
Kuwait Oil Corporation 3989111
 Fax 3981105

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation 2465724
 Fax 2467159
 Petro-Chemical Industries Co. 2422141
 Fax 2447159
 Q8 2455455
 Fax 2465726

Petroleum & Petrochemical Products

Abna'a Al Derwaza Trad. & Cont. Co 2431714
 Fax 2431724
 Afro-Arab Petroleum and Petrochemicals W.L.L. 2463150
 Fax 2458531

Ports & Port Authorities

Doha Port 4875507
 Fax 4871217
 Kuwait Ports Public Authority 4833709
 Fax 4817434
 Mina Abdulla Port 3260233
 Fax 3260280
 Mina Al Ahmadi Port 3261151
 Fax 3262946
 Shuaiba Port 5394375
 Fax 3260114
 Shuwaikh Port 4833580
 Fax 4835233

Safety Equipment

Boodai Corporation ... 4843986
 Fax 4848368

K.C.P.C. (K.S.C.) 2466650
 Fax 2451410
 A.M.Al Khorafi Est. .. 2451909
 Fax 2452052

Secretarial Services

Arwa Secretarial Services 2434988
 Fax 2418152

Shipping Companies & Shipping Lines

Alghanim Freight 4745533
 Fax 4736083
 Gray Mackenzie 2434752
 Fax 2441486
 Al Sawan Shipping Co. 4746018
 Fax 4765661
 United Arab Shipping Co. 4848190
 Fax 4845388
 USTCS W.L.L. 2463150-3
 Fax 2458531

Supermarkets

Asia Supermarket .. 2421208/9
 Fax 2421204
 Buha Foodstuff 2414309
 Fax 2414309
 Al Bulbul Supermarket 2414943
 Fax 2414309
 Etemadco Supermarket 2426601-3
 Fax 2458238
 The Sultan Center 4343155
 Fax 4319071

Tobacco Traders

Ali Al Quraishi Trad. Co. 2454232
 Fax 2403984
 Tobacco Exporters Int'l. 2422442
 Fax 2421537
 White Stores & Co. W.L.L. 4844228
 Fax 4848355

Transport Companies

Arab Combined Shipping & Transport Co. W.L.L. 2407445-7
 Fax 2444223
 Gulf Link Co. 4834654
 Fax 4845926
 Kuwait Nippon Associates Ltd. 5712492/3
 Fax 5753529

Travel Agencies

Baz Tours & Cargo 2452905-9
 Fax 2452919
 Delta Travel Company 2424999
 Fax 2461437
 Falcon Travel & Tours 2450518
 Fax 2406372

Gray Mackenzie 2434752
 Fax 2441486
 Najd Travel Agency 2448310
 Fax 2446601

Travellers Cheques

American Express Travellers Cheques Available From :
 Alahli Bank of Kuwait 2400900
 The Bank of Kuwait & The Middle East 2459771
 Burgan Bank 2439000
 The Commercial Bank of Kuwait 2411001
 The Gulf Bank 2449501
 Kuwait Finance House 2445050
 National Bank of Kuwait 2422011
 City Corp. Travellers Cheques 2411001
 Fax 2450150
 Visa Travellers Cheques 2449501
 Fax 2446126

Warehousing

Public Warehousing Co. 4679315
 Fax 4679617

LEARNING ARABIC

Useful Phrases

The phrases mentioned are only a guide to locally spoken Arabic. Words and pronunciations vary considerably but most people will understand these. The spelling of phonetically written Arabic may vary from one book to another.

DAILY USEFUL PHRASES

Good morning	SabaaH al KHair
Good night	tosbeH ala KHair
Good evening	Massa-al KHayr
Good-bye	Fi amanellah/maa'ssalalah
(Your reply)	a'laikum alsalam
How are you	shlonak/kifak
I'm fine	al-Hamdulillah/bKHair
How is your family	shloan Le'iyal
This evening	hadha almasa
Tomorrow	ghadan/boukra
Later	baa'dayn
Mr	al sayed
Mrs	al sayedah
Miss	al anissah
My name is	ismi
Pleased to meet you	tcharrafna
Yes	naa'm
No	Laa
God willing!/I hope so/May be	Inshallah

USEFUL QUESTIONS

Who	mann
------------------	------

How	kayf
What	shenoo
What is this	shenoo hathe/shou hada
Why	laysh limatha
How much.....	chum/kum
Where	wayn/ayn
When	mata

ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT

Airport.....	matar
How much money Do you have	kam maa'k flous
Visit	ziyara
Passport	jawaz
My bags aren't here.....	Haqeebaty laysat huna
Wait for me here	inta zrni huna
Far	Baee'd
Where can I get a taxi	ayn mumkin ajid taksy
How much will it cost	kam al ujrah
To a good hotel	ila otel zain
Take	Khudh
Turn right.....	liff yamin
Turn left	liff shimal
Go back	Irja
Stop here please	qif huna min fadlak
Where is	a-yn
Carry on straight	imshy dughry/ala tool/sida
Street	sharee'

EXPRESSION OF POLITENESS

Thank you	shukran
Please	min fadlak
Excuse me	'afwan
I'm sorry	muta-assef
Please take	tfadhal
Give me	'ateni
Allow me	ismah'li
Cheers (non-alcoholic)	saHtak(s)/saHatkoum(pl.)
Good appetite.....	saHtaiin
Welcome	ahlan wa sahlan
It doesn't matter.....	maa'lesh

Hello marHaba

SMALL TALK

I do not speak Arabic very well.....	ana ma etekallam arabi zain
I did not understand	ma fahamt
How are you	keefak
What's your name.....	ma ismak/chou Ismak
I like	ana uHibb
I don't like	ana la uHibb
I don't know	ma a'ref
I know	aa'ref
Give me your address.....	aa'tini i'nwanak
What is your telephone number	shin hoo telefonek
Working hours	dawam
Hurry up	ajjel
Stop	O'gaf/waggef
Help me	sa'edni
What time is it	issa'a a cham/ cham issa'a
Look	shuf
Tell me	gulli/khabberni
I'm busy	ana mashghul
I'm hungry	ju'an
I'm thirsty	'atshan
I'm tired .....	.ta'aban
This is good	hathe zain
This is not good.....	hathe moo zain
Never mind	maa'laich
Let's go .....	.yalla!
No, thank you	la, shukran
When	mata
Tomorrow	ghadan/bokra/bacher
Today	Ilyom
Yesterday	ams
Evening	masa-an
Afternoon	sabaHan
A week	usbuu'h
A month	shahr
A year	sana
Cold	bared
Hot	Har

Lovely/Beautiful.....	jameel
Good-bye	maa'ssalalah
I	ana
You (Singular)	anta
He	howa
She	hya
We	naHnou
You (Plural)	antom
They	hom
I have	andi
You (m.) have (sing.)	andak
You (f.) have (sing.)	andach
You have (plural)	'endekom
He has	anda
She has	'andeha
We have	andena
They have	andehom

RESTAURANT – MATTA'M

Where is a good restaurant.....	wayn fi mataa'm jayyed
I'd like to book a table	areed an aHjez tawela
For four people	li arbaa' ash KHaas
Give me the list.....	aa'tini Ilistah
What do you recommend	bimaadha tansaHni
Please bring me	min fadhlek jibli
I'll have	sa aKHudh
I've reserved a table	anaa Hajazt tawla
Chicken Soup	shorobat dejaj
Rare	ghayr mustawy
Medium rare	wasat
Well done	mustawy
What's this	ma haza
Fish	samak
Eggs	baydh
Butter	zibdah
Fruits	fawakeh
Coffee	qahwa
Tea	chay
Can I have the bill please	alfatoorah min fahdlak
Sugar	sukkar

Salt	milH
Oil	zait
Pepper	fil fil
Parsley salad	tabbooleh
Meat pounded with cracked Wheat	kibbeh
Ice cream	boozah

AT THE POST OFFICE – AL BAREED

The post office	al bareed
Letter	maktub/rissalah
Telegram	bariqiyah
Parcel	tard
Money order	hawaalah maaliyyah
I want to send to	areed irsaal ila
How much is it per word	kam ujrat alkalmah
Urgent	mustaa'jal
Registered	musajjal

THE DOCTOR – AL TABEEB

Doctor	tabeeb
Ill	mareedh
Hospital	mustashfa
Where's the nearest doctor	ayn aqrab tabeeb
Ring for the ambulance	ittasil bil issaa'f
I've got a	ai'ndy
Cold	rashaH
My stomach	maa'daty
Chest	sadr
Ear	udhun
Head	ras
Poisoning	tasammum
Migraine	wajaa'ras
Dizzy	dawKHah
Sunstroke	darbet shams
Breathe	atanaffas
Pregnant	Haamel
Aches me	yu-limuny
Diabetic	sukkary
Pills	Huboob
Back	zahr

Prescription	wasfa
Asthmatic	raboo
Glasses	nazzaraat
Heart	Qalb

SIGHT SEEING — JAWLAT UL MADINA

Where is	ayna
I want to see the town	areed ashuf al madina
What is the distance	kam al masafah
How much does it cost	kam Tu'kalef
Where's the nearest	ayna akrab maktab
Tourist office	siyyaHa
The bazaar	al souq
Church	kaneesa
Mosque	masjid
Island	jazeerah
The zoo	hadeeqat alHayawan
The tower(s)	al burj(s)/al abraj (pl.)

AT THE BAZAAR — AL SOUQ

I want to buy	areed ashtiri
Have you got	indakum
Where can I get	wayn agder ashtiri
Please give me	min fadlek aa'tini
Have you got	indak
This is too expensive	hathe ghali wayed/ktir
How much is it.....	kam haza
I want something cheaper	areed shee ar KHas
Florist	maHall zuhoor
Car park.....	mawqif sayyaraat
Barber	Ha'llaq
Laundry.....	masbaghah
Fruit Juice	as'seer Fawakeh
Mineral water	may maa'daniyyah
Money	floos
I have no money	makoo floos/mafi floos

DAYS OF THE WEEK — AYYAM AL OUSBOUH

Monday	al ithnayn
Tuesday	al thulatha

Wednesday	al arbiaa'
Thursday	al KHamees
Friday	al juma'h
Saturday	assabt
Sunday	al aHad

MONTHS OF THE YEAR — SHOHOOR AL SANA

January	kanun ethani/yanayer
February	shobaat/febrayer
March	mares
April	nisan/ibreel
May	ayyar/mayu
June	huzayran/younyeh
July	tammuz/yulyeh
August	o'gustus
September	aylool/september
October	tishreen awwal/october
November	tishreen al athani/november
December	kanun al awwal/december

NUMERALS — ARQAM

1 One	waHad
2 Two	thnayn
3 Three	thalatha
4 Four	arbaa
5 Five	KHamsa
6 Six	setta
7 Seven	sabaa
8 Eight	themania
9 Nine	tesaa'
10 Ten	aa'shra
11 Eleven	hdaa'shar
12 Twelve	thnaa'shar
13 Thirteen	thalataa'shar
14 Fourteen	arbatta'shar
15 Fifteen	KHamstaa'shar
16 Sixteen	settaa'shar
17 Seventeen	sabatta'shar
18 Eighteen	thamantaa'shar
19 Nineteen	tisatta'shar

20 Twenty	i'shreen
21 Twenty one	waHed wa i'shreen
22 Twenty two	thnayn wa i'shreen
30 Thirty	thalatseen
40 Forty	arbee'n
50 Fifty	KHamseen
60 Sixty	setteen
70 Seventy	sabee'n
80 Eighty	thamaneen
90 Ninety	tesee'n
100 One hundred	miya
1000 One thousand	alf
1000000 One million	milyon

Words Commonly Used in the Gulf

Abbaya—Thin black covering worn over a woman's dress.

Aqal/Iqal—Rope-like headband, usually black, that holds the Kufiya in place.

Kufiya/Gutra—A man's headcloth.

Disdasha—Long comfortable cotton robe worn by Arab men in the Gulf States.

Bedouin/Bedu—Nomadic tribesmen of Arabia.

Dhow—Any traditional wooden Gulf craft.

Diwan—Reception hall of palace or large private house.

Majlis—Reception hall in an Arab home.

Eid—A Muslim festival holiday.

Eid Al Fitr—Holiday that marks the end of Ramadhan.

Al Adha—Holiday that marks the completion of Haj.

Farrash—A male domestic servant.

Khalij—Gulf.

KUWAIT : A CHRONOLOGY

BC 600 The Hellenes settled in Al-Khazna Hill area on Failaka Island.

529 Al-Monzer Bin-Ma'a Al-Sama'a defeated Al-Hareth Al-Kindi in the Kuwaiti area of Wara.

300 The Greeks lived in Failaka Island for two centuries.

73 A royal message was inscribed on the Ikarus stone which is now on view in the National area.

1672 The approximate date of the establishment of Kuwait town, when Barrak bin Ghurair was the Amir of the Bani Khalid.

1716 Approximate date of the Al-Sabah Family's arrival in Kuwait.

1752 The approximate date of the election of Sabah Bin Jaber from the Al-Sabah family to be the first ruler of Kuwait.

1760 The first wall, 750 metres long, was built around Kuwait City.

1762 Abdallah Bin Sabah, the second ruler of Kuwait, came to power.

1765 C. Niebuhr, the Danish traveller, visited Kuwait which he referred to on his map as "Grane".

1773 Kuwait was attacked by an epidemic and most of its inhabitants died.

1783 The Kuwaitis defeated the tribe of Bani K'ab in the sea battle of Riqqa.

1811 The second wall of Kuwait, 2300 metres long, was built.

1871 The Al-Taba'ah disaster, in which many Kuwaiti diving ships were sunk, was caused by a massive hurricane between India and Oman.

1886 The first Kuwaiti currency was minted in copper during the reign of Sheikh Abdallah Al-Sabah II.

1911, 22 December, Al-Mubarakiya School, the first formal school in Kuwait, opened.

1914 Kuwait's first desalination plant was commissioned.

1914 "Al-Subaihiyya Conference" was the first international conference to be held in Kuwait.

1921 The third wall of Kuwait, 6400 metres long, was built.

1922 The total number of Kuwaiti pearl diving boats reached 800, manned by over 10,000 sailors and divers.

1922 The first public library in Kuwait was established.

1926 The historian Abdul Aziz Al-Rasheed published the first book in Kuwait.

1927 The first airport in Kuwait was built. In 1928 the first plane landed on its soil.

1928 Kuwait's first periodical, the "Kuwait Magazine" was published by Abdul Aziz Al-Rasheed.

1930 Kuwait Municipality was established.

1933 The Municipality installed lighting in the Kuwait market.

1934 7 December, heavy rainfall destroyed many Kuwaiti houses. Therefore this year was called "The Destructive Year", "Al-Sannah Al-Hadamah".

1938 February, oil was discovered in Burgan oilfield.

1942 The first bank in Kuwait was opened.

1945 Kuwait House was established in Egypt to look after the Kuwaiti mission and Kuwaiti interests.

1946 30 June, the first Kuwaiti crude oil shipment was exported.

1947 The first printing press in Kuwait was established.

1948 "Kazima Magazine" was issued, the first Kuwaiti magazine to be both printed and published in Kuwait.

1950 Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who had ruled Kuwait for thirty years, died.

1951, 12 May, Radio Kuwait went on the air for the first time.

1952 The first "Kuwait Master Plan" was drawn up.

1954 Khalid Al-Faraj, the poet and man of letters, died.

1954 11 December, "Kuwait Al-Youm" (Official Gazette) was issued for the first time.

1955 Oil was struck in Al-Rawdhatain, north of Kuwait.

1957 The Kuwait wall was demolished and removed.

1957 The "Social Affairs Department" conducted the first population census.

1958 December, the first issue of "Al-Arabi" magazine was published.

1960 Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) was established.

1960 The first Kuwaiti woman was employed by Kuwait Oil Company.

1961 1 April, the Kuwaiti Dinar became the official currency in Kuwait, replacing the Indian Rupee.

1961 19 June, the Agreement of 23 January 1899, concluded between Kuwait and Great Britain, was terminated.

1961 20 July, Kuwait became a member of the Arab League.

1961 7 September, the new Kuwaiti flag was hoisted on all governmental departments and establishments.

1961 November, Kuwait Television started its transmission for only four hours a day.

1961 31 December, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development was established.

1962 20 January, the elected Constituent Assembly met to draw up the Constitution of Kuwait.

1962 An Amiri Decree was issued providing for the division of the country into three governorates.

1962 11 November, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem Al-Sabah ratified the first Constitution of Kuwait.

1963 23 January, the first parliamentary elections in Kuwait were held.

1963 29 January, the first elected National Assembly of Kuwait convened.

1963 14 May, Kuwait became a member of the United Nations Organisation.

1963 7 August, the great Kuwait poet Saqr Al-Shebaib died.

1965 24 November, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem Al Sabah, passed away.

1966 The Neutral Zone was partitioned equally between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

1966 27 November, Kuwait University was inaugurated.

1967 Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) was established.

1968 13 May, Kuwait freed itself from all external obligations when it cancelled the agreement of 23 January 1899.

1969 1 April, the Central Bank of Kuwait was established.

1969 18 October, the first communications satellite earth station in Kuwait was inaugurated.

1973 6 July, the Kuwaiti pioneer and reformer Sheikh Yousef bin Eisa al Qin'ai died.

1975 March, the government acquired full ownership of Kuwait Oil Company.

1976 The Social Security Law, applicable to Kuwaiti nationals, was issued.

1976 The Central Bank of Kuwait put new issues of commemorative coins into circulation.

1976 The Future Generations Reserves Law was issued. It stipulates the allocation of 10% per annum of the State revenues for future generations.

1977 31 December, the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah died.

1979 An Amiri Decree providing for the establishment of the fourth governorate (AL-JAHRA) was issued.

1981 25 May, Kuwait signed the Articles of Association of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

1983 The Bubiyan Bridge, linking Bubiyan island to the mainland, was opened for traffic.

1983, 23 February, the new building of Kuwait National Museum was opened.

1984 27 November, the Gulf Co-operation Council Fifth Summit convened in Kuwait.

1985 25 May, His Highness the Amir survived a vicious attempt on his life when a bomb-laden car rammed into his motorcade on his way to the office.

1985 29 October, the Amir said, "Our decision will remain free and will not yield to blackmail, terrorism or emotionalism."

1986 8 June, His Highness the Amir inaugurated Bayan Palace.

1987 26-29 January, the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference convened in Kuwait.

1987 21 February, the Islamic Medical Centre was opened.

1987 23 February, His Highness the Amir inaugurated Khiran Resort.

1988 23 February, His Highness the Amir inaugurated the Waterfront.

1988 October, An Amiri Decree was issued providing for the establishment of the fifth Governorate "Al Farwaniya".

1990

August 2nd :

Iraq invades Kuwait.

The Security Council condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

(resolution 660) and calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the return of the legitimate government.

August 9th:

The Security Council imposes full economic and military sanctions against Iraq (resolution 661) to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and calls the Iraqi decision to annex Kuwait null and void (resolution 662).

August 25th:

"The Security Council calls for the use of force, if necessary, to force the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait (resolution 665).

October 13-15:

The Kuwaiti People's Conference is held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, demonstrating to the international community the unity of the Kuwaiti people and their support of the legitimate government.

November 29th:

The Security Council sets a deadline on January 15th (resolution 678) for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and calls for the use of all necessary means to force the Iraqi withdrawal after the deadline expires.

1991:

January 15th:

The deadline set by the Security Council (resolution 678) for a peaceful withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait expires at midnight.

January 17th:

Allied forces begin "Operation Desert Storm" at 3:00 a.m. Gulf time, with a massive air offensive to liberate Kuwait.

February 26th:

Kuwait is liberated.

February 27th

The flag of free Kuwait is raised in a celebration in the capital at 9:00 a.m.

March 2nd:

The Security Council calls on Iraq to immediately revoke all Iraqi claims annexing Kuwait (resolution 686).

March 14th:

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah,

returns to the homeland after living in exile for seven and a half months.

April 3rd:

The Security Council approves the cease fire agreement in the Gulf, and calls Iraq to respect the boundaries, pay war compensation, and destroy chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.

April 5th:

The Security Council welcomes the return of independence, sovereignty, and the legitimate government to Kuwait.

April 20th:

An Emiri decree forms the first Kuwait cabinet after liberation.

July 9th:

His Highness the Emir of Kuwait opens the second session of the National Council, and relays his thanks to brotherly and friendly countries that supported Kuwait during the Iraqi aggression and war of liberation.

November 6th:

Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Kuwait celebrates extinguishing the last of more than 700 oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqi forces.

Al - Sabah Rulers of Kuwait

There have since been 13 rulers of Kuwait from the Al-Sabah family according to the following chronological order :

1. Sheikh Sabah I Bin Jaber : 1756-1762.
2. Sheikh Abdallah I : 1762-1812.
3. Sheikh Jaber I : 1812-1859.
4. Sheikh Sabah II : 1859-1866.
5. Sheikh Abdallah II : 1866-1892.
6. Sheikh Mohammad I : 1892-1896.
7. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah : 1896-1915.
8. Sheikh Jaber II : 1915-1917.
9. Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak : 1917-1921.
10. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah : 1921-1950.
11. Sheikh Abdallah Al-Salem Al Sabah : 1950-1965.
12. Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah : 1965-1977.
13. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the present ruler: January, 1978—.

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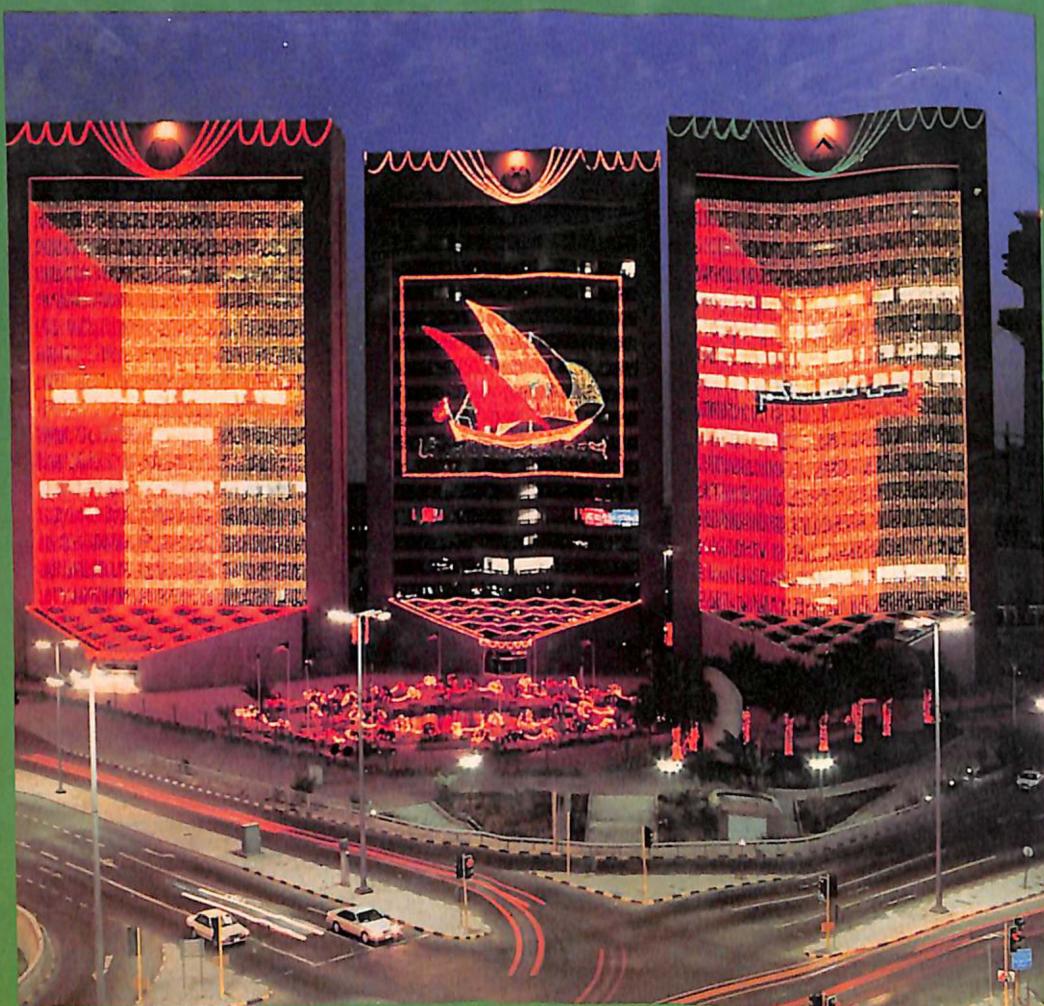
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For a business to remain profitable in today's rapidly changing world it's vital to have access to fast, accurate information about the market. "Doing Business with Kuwait" is an humble endeavour to provide such information about this small albeit one of the most affluent countries of the world which is marching ahead on the road to reconstruction and rehabilitation after throwing out the aggressor.

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22-3-99 — Gurdip Singh



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