

# Kuwait completes delivering summit invitations to GCC leaders

local spotlight

## GCC summit in Kuwait



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

Kuwait has sent out official invitations to all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries including Qatar and Oman for the 38th GCC summit that is scheduled for December 5 and 6 in Kuwait. The move raised several questions, expectations as well as hopes, such as whether Qatar will accept the invitation and who will represent it, and will the leaders of the other four Gulf states participate despite the ongoing dispute. What are the possible scenarios? Shall we witness an end to the Gulf crisis by the end of this gathering?

Kuwait is exerting efforts to bring all parties to one table despite the schism. It seems to me that this is the main message that fully diagnoses the vision of the Kuwaiti mediator, who still hopes for a diplomatic solution to all conflicts, especially since this crisis is a Gulf issue between brothers who are facing similar challenges in the region. Work is underway to finalize arrangements for the Gulf summit's guests according to the date announced, and this is an indicator of the possibility of dialogue on the Gulf crisis even if the dispute does not end fully by the end of the summit.

I think that the invitation from Kuwait for the summit was not in vain and that the timing would not have been possible without the initial approval of heads of the Gulf countries, including Qatar, to participate without specifying the level of representation, and this cannot be confirmed today. Most press reports stated that Kuwait received assurances from Riyadh that it is keen on the GCC system and open to resolving the Gulf crisis. I guess Kuwaiti diplomatic moves in recent weeks mean that consultation on the summit was held before official procedures began and were released to media.

I think there is a chance for a possible partial easing of the Gulf crisis. Since the outbreak of the Gulf problem about seven months ago, there was no direct meeting between the parties involved, which means that the Kuwaiti summit will be the first direct contact between the Gulf officials in this purely Gulf gathering, and this is a gain and success for Kuwaiti foreign policy.

The previous summit was held in the Bahraini capital of Manama, which was attended by British Prime Minister Theresa May. The British leader emphasized on the common commitment to the security of the Gulf region and the prevention and rejection of any external threat or interference in its internal affairs.

The question is whether any US official will attend this summit as a guest to affirm that US policy is committed to protecting everyone from regional dangers and emphasizing joint action to protect the interests of all. This will be confirmed in the coming days. I think it is a possible scenario under the current crisis, which may have a role in ending the dilemma for the benefit of all.

I believe that the diplomatic solution is dictated now by international circumstances and international pressures on the GCC, because the crisis in the Gulf and its implications are linked to different interests of Western countries. Also, maintaining the Gulf Cooperation Council as a united Gulf system is a recognized necessity for all members, despite the differences.

The summit represents a Gulf achievement, although the level of representation of the countries is not yet officially clear. Some thinkers and writers have put forward some scenarios for this summit, most notably the possibility of holding the summit as a negotiating conference to resolve the crisis and to confirm the continuation of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Naturally, there is a little concern that the summit may not end with the desired result. The GCC summit will go ahead despite the row and the Gulf Cooperation Council is still holding up. Gulf brotherhood will not be affected by enemies.



**KUWAIT:** In preparation for the 38th Summit for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Kuwait began Friday to hoist the national flags of fellow Gulf countries at main highways and bridges. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait has already completed the delivery of invitations from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders to attend the 38th GCC summit due in Kuwait on December 5-6, an official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said. The invitations were handed to Gulf leaders by Kuwaiti ambassadors in GCC member states, the source added. His Highness the Amir has acted as a mediator to bridge the gaps between GCC states ever since the diplomatic crisis between them started in June. —KUNA

## Zain Community Partner of fifth Qout Market

Under Minister of Commerce's patronage



**KUWAIT:** Minister Khalid Al-Roudhan poses with Zain officials at the company's booth.



**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Community Partnership of the fifth season of Qout Market: Kuwait's largest artisanal farmers gathering. The event commenced at Shaheed Park - Second Phase, and will be held on the first Saturday of every month until March 2018 under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan.

Zain is eager to play a vital role by partnering with Qout Market as part of its ongoing efforts of empowering local talents who contribute to shouldering the national economy. The company's solid and well-

focused Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy continuously works towards identifying initiatives like Qout Market that carry a clear objective of developing local talents.

Zain will be participating in the event through its own booth, which will serve as a platform for all visitors wishing to know more about the company's latest offerings, promotions, and smart devices. The company will also hold several competitions and draws for visitors with valuable prizes.

The community-based farmers market helps and supports local farmers and artisans to exchange thoughts and ideas while offering the opportunity for

visitors to express their opinions towards the products available. Qout Market has a proven record of success, having attracted over 15,000 visitors in previous seasons. The market's selection of vendors includes a combination of fresh produced items as well as handmade items where people can stop by to enjoy on the spot.

Zain expressed its ongoing keenness in supporting events that uplift local talents to higher levels, by encouraging outstanding projects and ideas. Zain's support is aimed at investing in the creative abilities of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, preparing them to engage in the business world by encouraging them further and nurturing innovation within their businesses.

## Al-Shaheed Park hosts 5th Int'l Green Roof Congress in Feb 2018

**KUWAIT:** In a joint press release, Engineer Bader Al-Salman - President of the Federation of Kuwaiti Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses and Engineer Khaled Salem Al-Fouzan - General Manager of the Associated Engineering Partnership (TAEP) and member of the International Green Roof Association, announced yesterday the convening of the 5th International Green Roof Congress due to be held on 17 and 18 of February 2018. Salman and Fouzan were delighted to announce the convening of this congress confirming that environmental protection is one of the most serious challenges facing governments and societies. Increasing green areas at all possible spaces became an objective of environmental protection support agencies everywhere.

Commenting on the convening of the 5th International Green Roof Congress, Eng. Al-Salman said, "The environment represents one of the basic challenges that governments strive to tackle in every aspect. However, we believe that it is a shared responsibility and affects us all. Therefore, we joined our efforts to those of the Associated Engineering Partnership (TAEP), the International Green Roof Association, and

NouffEXPO to organize this international event. Kuwait has always been leading in its environmental strategies and initiatives to adopt new and innovative technologies that deliver environmentally sustainable benefits to its people and society.

In his turn, Fouzan commented on the Congress by saying, "the International Green Roof Association (IGRA) is mainly concerned with the ecological Green Roof idea as a tool of sustainable, regional and urban development. The basic idea is to utilize the cement blocks that occupy our cities and urban areas with vegetation. Green Roofs have become a very important component of sustainable urban development within the last 30 years. I have the honor to represent Kuwait at the International Green Roof Association (IGRA) that works with officials in the various countries to develop their Green Roof standards and initiatives."

IGRA is a multi-national, non-profit organization that offers the platform and infrastructure for independent "pro-Green Roof" lobby that works with political decision-makers and investors. Green roofs have both private owner benefits and public benefits. Private benefits include increased roof life due to protection from harsh weather conditions, reduced noise levels, a thermal insulation effect that reduces the use of primary energy, and Green Roofs offer various possibilities for usage, including: natural refuges for insects and plants, recreational roof gardens, roof cafes, and sporting areas. Public benefits include providing a Natural Habitat for Animals and Plants, improved stormwater retention that can reduce the

immediate water runoff by 50-90 percent, reduction of urban areas' temperatures in Summer in what is known as the "Urban Heat Island Effect", reduction of dust and smog levels resulting from the weather or industries, and finally, providing better quality of life in cities by improving the landscape.

The Congress is mainly targeted to all those who are responsible for or interested in urban planning and real estate development, such as Kuwait Municipality, Ministry of Public Works, Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, and real estate companies. In addition, the event targets environmental and educational institutions such as the Public Authority for Environment protection, Kuwait Scientific Research Center, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and other private universities.

Concluding their joint press release, Salman and Fouzan said that Al-Shaheed Park 1 and 2 represent an excellent manifestation of Green Roof technologies and implementations. Selecting the Park to host the 5th International Green Roof Congress sends a clear message to the whole world that Kuwait enjoys a deep sense of responsibility towards the environment while combining that with a high level of elegance and beauty. They invited all the government agencies, organizations, institutions, and specialists who would like to be part of this first of its kind event in Kuwait to call the Associated Engineering Partnership on Telephone number +965 97378095 or via email at [igra.kwt@hotmail.com](mailto:igra.kwt@hotmail.com).



Bader Al-Salman



Khaled Al-Fouzan