

His Highness the Amir attends, patronizes Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's Informatics' Award

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah AlAhmad AlJaber AlSabah attended and patronized at Bayan Palace on Monday the 18th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem AlAli AlSabah's Informatics Award.

His Highness the Amir was received at the event by Chairperson of the Award's Trustees' Board, Sheikha Aida Salem AlAli AlSabah. The event was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf AlAhmad AlJaber AlSabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq AlGhanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber AlMubarak AlHamad AlSabah, and senior state officials.

Delivering her speech to the event, Sheikha Aida said that the world today was more connected than ever thanks to the huge leap in Information technology and communication. She added that it was integral to coordinate efforts for digital transformation and interactive knowledge to serve Kuwait's development needs.

The digital industry, through the efforts of the youth, will surely play a part in Kuwait's ambitions to become an economic hub both regionally and internationally, affirmed Sheikha Aida who urged the people of Kuwait to follow the guidelines set by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait in this regard.





Sheikha Aida also lauded His Highness Sheikh Salem AlAli for his continuous support to the development of the Information Technology (IT) scene in the country. Delivering his speech to the event, head of the Award's high organizing committee Eng. Bassam Al-Shemmeri said that His Highness Sheikh Salem AlAli's Informatics Award was implementing a plan lasting until 2020 to follow up on the latest developments in the "Fourth Industrial Revolution", a term describing the fusion of physical, biological, and digital technologies.

Prior to the current event, organizers of the Sheikh Salem AlAli's Informatics Award focused on participating and organizing numerous local and regional meetings, which were attended by IT professionals and technology enthusiasts from here and abroad, said AlShemmeri who noted that they have also launched a number of competitions to develop interest in technological development. For instance, he revealed that an event sponsored by the award's committee at the Kuwait international book fair had attracted 1,246 participants with 836 winning prizes during the course of the 11day event.

On his part, in his award acceptance remarks Houlin Zhao, SecretaryGeneral of international telecommunication union (ITU) said, "I am honored to be here today to receive His Highness Sheikh Salem AlAli AlSabah Informatics Award 2018.

I accept this prestigious award on behalf of all the Members and staff of ITU, past and present." Zhao added that the ITU was grateful to the State of Kuwait for increasing its contribution to the union by an additional two units, indicating that the GCC country has been an active Member of our Union since 1959, playing an important role in our activities and the ITU Council.

"Let me congratulate Kuwait on being reelected to the ITU Council at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP18) in Dubai just three weeks ago," said the Union's Secretary General. At PP18, ITU Members States adopted new resolutions on important issues like OTTs, SMEs, and the digital economy, which will help foster inclusive economic growth and ensure that ICT can be a source for good and for everyone.

"We now have a new Strategic Plan and a new Financial Plan, with ambitious targets for our Union for the next four years. Our strategy is based on five goals: growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation, and partnership.

These goals will guide ITU's key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." "As Kuwait is undergoing its own digital transformation under



Vision 2035” with projects in the areas of ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity, and smart cities I am here today to reaffirm the role of ITU as your partner in this endeavor.”

“This award is a confirmation of our determination to work together to facilitate ICT infrastructure development, provide better ICT services to the people, and deliver on the promise of the digital revolution,” said Zhao, affirming that the ITU would continue to work hard to honor Kuwait’s trust, confidence, and steadfast commitment.

Meanwhile, the Sheikh Salem AlAli Informatics Award’s coordinator Dr. Thalya AlFawzan commended the Kuwaiti leadership’s for its unconditional support to the event since it was launched in 2001. She affirmed that the award would continue to develop the IT scene in Kuwait to participate in the country’s ambitious development plan Kuwait vision 2035.

Source: KUNA

