

# Jaber Al-Sabah hospital expected to be completed by 2014

## PMI organizes site visit to hospital

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Staff Writer

**KUWAIT:** Project Management Institute (PMI), Kuwait's branch of the Arabian Gulf Chapter, organized a field visit to the Middle East's largest general hospital, Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, on Wednesday. The visit comes as part of the PMI's keenness to extend the bridges of communication between companies of different construction activities in the presence of governing body and the participation of many members, professionals, and specialists in the field of project management.

Jaber Hospital, which is planned to accommodate 1,168 beds and includes the world's most advanced medical technology, is part of Kuwait's development plan which aims at providing the nation

with the best quality of health care in the region. The cost of the mega project, implemented by Egypt's Arab Contractors and supervised by Langdon Winston, is estimated to be about 304 million Kuwaiti dinars. The hospital is equipped with 50 ambulance cars, three helicopters and abides by American standards. Engineer Ali Nadoom explained that the hospital's design concept merges ornamented Islamic Art with lighthouses, to symbolize Arab beauty and a beacon that people seek for aid. The plan is to be the world's sixth largest hospital and Middle East's number one. The Trauma room, planned to be one of a kind in the region, accommodates 160 beds and six operation rooms, he said. Jaber Hospital is expected to be completed within the next two years, making it the fastest constructed building of its size to be built in six years.

Engineer Siri Soliman of Arab Contractors said that the company has come with a policy to overcome the obstacles they've been encountering lately, which include lack of skilled labor. "We brought our own people (from Egypt) who are loyal

to us and will be liable to work for me only in order to fulfill the time schedule and avoid penalties, and most of all maintain our reputation," he added. Engineer Soliman said that even though the budget increased to beat the specified target, the resources and working hours have also increased to balance out the equation to guarantee scheduled delivery of the project. "Jaber Hospital is controlled and followed by the Kuwaiti and Egyptian authorities, and both sides are keen to see the project completed," he said.

PMI director of programs Mohammed Ilyas gave a brief overview PMI Kuwait activities and initiatives of this nature. Ahmed Samir vice president programs introduced the participants to the PMI-AGC Kuwait branch technical training initiatives, while Vice President Public Relations & Membership Iman Al-Gharabally, thanked the host and Project Manager Eng. Nadoom and his team for providing this opportunity to PMI Kuwait members to learn and acquire insight to the project construction and lessons learned.



FILE - Seen here is the construction site for the Jaber Hospital, expected to be one of the largest medical institutes in the region, located at South Surra, Dec. 2, 2011. (Al Watan)

## Diplomatic mission plans trip to Iraq early February

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**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's ambassador to Iraq Ali Al-Momen said that he and a staff of four people will be leaving to the Iraqi capital early February to resume his work in the newly-built embassy. Al-Momen said that the new building is fully furnished and equipped and the location was carefully selected for security and safety purposes.

## Housing Welfare seeks plots of land: Sources

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**KUWAIT:** Sources within the Housing Welfare Authority revealed to Al Watan that discussions have been on-going between the Kuwait Municipality and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for the purpose of obtaining five thousand plots of land in the area near the Seventh Ring Road. A plot of land is estimated to be around 400 square meters.

Sources disclosed that the Housing Welfare Authority expects that the land will be made available within the next couple of weeks, in order to allow for a comprehensive survey to determine future housing plans.

## Kuwait contributes \$250,000 for quake victims in Turkey

**UNITED NATIONS:** The State of Kuwait has contributed 250,000 American dollars to support UNICEF's humanitarian response to victims of the Van earthquake in Turkey, the fund said. "The support was announced by His Excellency Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi, Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations," said the press release, issued late on Tuesday. On October 23, 2011, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale hit the province of Van in eastern Turkey. Some 604 people were killed and over 4,000 injured as dozens of buildings, including multi-story apartment blocks and schoolteachers' lodgings, collapsed or were seriously damaged. Due to continuing seismic activity and the assumption that most buildings have been damaged and weakened, much of the population in the affected areas, resided by 600,000 people, almost half of them children, were effectively left homeless. Normal life has not resumed as tens of thousands of people have left the region. Of these, about 35,000 are accommodated in state guest houses and other public buildings in other provinces. Most survivors remain in the region, living in tents, tent cities or in some cases container homes, in harsh winter conditions, pending other arrangements. UNICEF's response to this emergency has been prioritizing interventions in the areas of education and child protection, concentrating its efforts in helping schoolchildren and children up to five years of age to regain a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of the emergency. UNICEF said it is ensuring that psychosocial support is provided to all children affected by the emergency, including those who have lost family members and friends, and is training social workers to provide psychosocial support on a "tent-to-tent" basis.

This amount is part of Kuwait's generous contributions to various UN agencies to help affected people around the world. -KUNA

## Minister Al-Milaifi holds firms on exams

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**KUWAIT:** As students are waiting for their exam results for the First Term, several of them have begun their own campaign on Twitter against the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Ahmad Al-Milaifi. The students argue that the exams, especially regarding Mathematics for the Science studies and Philosophy for the Arts, were pointed at as uniquely difficult. The students are now demanding that the minister's account should be suspended, pointing out that the exams were so difficult that some of the teachers failed to explain the questions to the students.

On his part, the minister denied that the exams were difficult and denied some reports which stated that Ministry of Education was planning to provide seven points curve for all students. The minister stressed that his ministry handle matters according to the rules and regulations. Minister Al-Milaifi added that the exam results were "satisfactory and may be even better than last year".

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