

**Embassy of India
Kuwait

**Weekly Economic & Commercial Report
25 April to 01 May 2025**

Kuwait delegation attends India Steel 2025 Exhibition

An industrial delegation from Kuwait, led by the Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI), participated on Thursday in the 'India Steel 2025 Exhibition' held in Indian city of Mumbai. Acting Deputy Director General for Export Development at PAI, who headed the delegation, said that this visit came within the framework of Kuwait's strategy aimed at supporting the Kuwait industrial sector. The Kuwait delegation includes a group of Kuwait businessmen representing prominent factories in the metal industries sector. The India Steel 2025 exhibition, that was held from 24-26 April 2025, is one of the most important global events specialized in the iron and steel sector, bringing together a group of international companies and factories. The Kuwait delegation looked forward to learning about the latest technology in the field of iron and steel manufacturing and exploring partnership and investment opportunities with their counterparts.

SMEs take center stage in Kuwait's growth plan

The Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development has celebrated the conclusion of the National Program for the Rehabilitation and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Owners ('Mubader Plus Forum'). The program, which started in November 2024 and continued until February 2025, highlighted the importance of economic empowerment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as the challenges that entrepreneurs are facing. Director General of the fund revealed the fund was established based on the firm belief that national economic advancement can only be achieved by empowering entrepreneurs and creating an integrated environment that prepares them, supports their capabilities, and provides the necessary tools to transform their ambitions into tangible projects.

CITRA okays cyber gateway boost

The Board of Directors of Kuwait's Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has approved an order to the contract for the development of the "Kuwait International Gateway Project," which includes a 23.6 percent increase, raising the total cost to KD 726,200. The Accounting Department approved CITRA's request for the variation order after reviewing all related documents, correspondence, and inquiries exchanged between CITRA and the contracting company since early March 2025. CITRA had obtained regulatory approval last year to implement the "Kuwait International Gateway Project" at a total cost of KD 3.078 million. The contract with the company will be executed over a 36-month period. The project aims to expand the capacity of internet data ports and enhance the protection of the gateway against cybersecurity threats, contributing to the development of internet infrastructure amid rising demand.

KPC delegation visits China to boost energy cooperation

The current visit of a high-level delegation from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), headed by CEO to Beijing is aimed at strengthening cooperation with the Chinese side and expanding horizons for joint strategic projects in the energy sector between the two countries. China is the largest importer of Kuwaiti oil, making it a key partner in the oil policy of Kuwait. The visit was conducted at a time China is preparing to increase its oil consumption by more than one percent this year, driven by increased demand for petrochemicals. The Kuwaiti crude oil is enjoying increasing demand from Chinese refineries due to its technical and environmental characteristics that meet the highest international standards.

Kuwait's PIC inks deal to acquire 25% stake in Chinese Wanhua Chemical

Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait petroleum Corporation (KPC) and the Chinese Wanhua Chemical Group Co., Ltd. have signed an Equity Subscription Agreement ESA in which PIC will subscribe to a 25 percent equity stake in selected petrochemical assets of Wanhua Chemical in Yantai, China. This strategic partnership marks a new chapter in the long-standing collaboration between the two organizations and reflects their shared commitment to advancing the global petrochemical sector. The agreement was signed by Chief Executive Officer of PIC, and President of Wanhua Chemical, during an official ceremony held in Yantai. The Chairman of Wanhua Chemical also reflected on the historical ties between the two companies, noting that cooperation dates back to 2013.

Kuwait, Tunisia sign key air transport deal

Head of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation and his Tunisian counterpart fully signed on Saturday an agreement on regulating air transport between the two countries. The deal was signed in the presence of Tunisia's transport minister. The agreement seeks to boost collaboration between Tunisia and Kuwait in civil aviation field and air linkages as well as aviation safety and security, and develop air services. The deal is part of a series of agreements to be signed with some sisterly and friendly countries in the future to meet legal and technical measures, in line with the agreed-upon deals with countries. It aims to support Kuwait's plan for wider horizons of cooperation with countries to serve Kuwait's promising future vision and help activate tourism and aviation generally.

Kuwait National Fund eases loan terms for SMEs

The acting Director of the Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development announced that the Board of Directors' decision issued in mid-March 2025 to amend the loan repayment mechanism for beneficiaries has officially taken effect, and it has set a loan repayment period of 15 years. The fund is currently reviewing its policies and operational mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of its support and achieve optimal development outcomes. It has lately been committed to diversifying its financing portfolio to support various vital sectors based on the needs of the local market. It recently launched the "Mubader Plus" program, which is designed to empower small and medium enterprise

owners and develop their skills to meet the demands of the knowledge economy. The program includes a four month implementation plan that has specialized workshops.

Kuwait Airways and Emirates sign MoU to enhance travel options

Kuwait Airways and Emirates have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop their bilateral partnership, offering passengers increased flight options to Dubai and other operating routes. The MoU was signed at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, reflecting a step forward in strengthening cooperation between the two carriers. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Kuwait Airways Chairman and Emirates' Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer, in the presence of Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline & Group and the President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Kuwait. The signing ceremony was also attended by other officials of each airline's executive management and partnership teams.

Jan-Feb 2025 subsidy total hits KD 58 mln

The Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry revealed that subsidies disbursed in the months of January and February 2025 totaled to KD 58 million – KD 32 million in January and KD 26 million in February. Around KD 35 million of the above-mentioned amount was allocated for construction materials, constituting 60 percent of the total subsidy value. Basic commodities distributed through the ration card totaled KD 20 million - KD 12 million in January and KD 8 million in February or 34.5 percent of the total. Milk and baby food constituted 4.5 percent of the total subsidy, amounting to KD 2.584 million. The report confirmed the increase in patent applications, grants and renewals in February; while the number of patent examination transactions decreased compared to January.

Kuwait Ministry of Commerce to implement new real estate valuation standards

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the local investment environment, as well as the accuracy and consistency of financial reporting, the Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry is studying new regulatory conditions for the accounting valuation of real estate assets held by banks and companies. The Ministry is preparing a set of standards for accredited asset valuers and owners of real estate assets, including banks and commercial entities. These regulations aim to align real estate valuations with international accounting practices and reflect actual market conditions more accurately. The Kuwait commerce ministry is currently holding consultations with regulatory bodies, such as the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to assess the adequacy of existing valuation frameworks. These discussions focus on whether current regulations are sufficient for the upcoming phase or if new, ministry-specific guidelines are needed.

Marmore MENA named 'Gold Employer' by CFA Society India

Marmore MENA Intelligence, the research arm of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz", was felicitated by the CFA Society India as a 'Gold Employer' under their 'Employer Recognition Program' on 25th April 2025 in Mumbai, India. CEO of Marmore MENA Intelligence and the Economic Advisor for Markaz received the award at the event. Marmore was among 20

organizations recognized for collaborating with the CFA Institute and CFA Society India, after an evaluation of over 400 employers in India. Marmore is privileged to receive this prestigious award from the CFA Society India for the second consecutive year, having been awarded Silver Employer last year. Candidates who have already obtained the CFA Charter or in the process of appearing for their CFA Level II & III exams are a part of the Marmore team.

Extensions awarded in Kuwait remediation projects

Kuwaiti contractor Khalid Ali Al-Kharafi & Brothers Company has been awarded two extensions for existing remediation contracts. Under the terms of the contract extensions, Al-Kharafi will have to process about 400,000 tonnes more contaminated soil in the north as well as a further 600,000 tonnes in the south. One source said: “The final discussions about the details of the contract extensions are ongoing and the talks are on schedule to see new contracts signed sometime next month.” The original contracts were awarded as part of the Kuwait Environmental Remediation Programme (Kerp) in June 2021. Kerp was established by the UN Compensation Commission to allow Kuwait to address the ecological damage resulting from the 1990-91 Gulf War. For each zone, Khalid Ali Al-Kharafi & Brothers Company has procured remediation machinery from Ireland’s CDE Group at a cost of \$15m.

Dorra gas project package bidders get extra time

Al-Khafji Joint Operations (KJO) has allowed contractors additional time to prepare proposals for one of the offshore engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) packages of the Dorra gas field development project. It was ascertained in March that KJO was pushing forward with a major project to produce gas from the Dorra offshore field, located in Gulf waters in the Neutral Zone shared between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. KJO has divided the scope of work on the Dorra gas field development project, estimated to be valued at as high as \$10bn, into four EPC packages – three offshore and one onshore. Contractors bidding for offshore package 1 now have until 6 May to prepare bids. The previous bid submission deadlines for the package were 22 April, 8 April and 24 March 2025.

Kuwait re-tenders Doha desalination package

Kuwait’s Electricity, Water & Renewable Energy Ministry (MEWRE) has retendered a contract to design and build the planned second phase of a seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) plant in Doha. When it was first tendered, the Doha SWRO phase two project was expected to have a capacity of 60 million imperial gallons a day (MIGD). The tender closing date for the re-tendered contract is 27 May 2025. The scope of work entails the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of phase two of the Doha SWRO plant, including alkalisation equipment for produced water. The Ministry cancelled the tender for the contract in June last year. Contractors submitted bids for the contract in September 2022. At the time, the MEW did not disclose the engineering, procurement and contracting firms invited to bid for the contract. The MEW awarded South Korea’s Doosan

Heavy Industries & Construction, now known as Doosan Enerbility, the \$422m contract to build the 60MIGD Doha 1 SWRO in May 2016.

With regards,

(Davinder Punj)
Second Secretary (Commerce)