



# ACK AND KFAS HOST SYMPOSIUM

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), in collaboration with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), recently held the "Achieving Excellence in Private Higher Education in Kuwait" Symposium at the premises of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Held under the Patronage of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Bader Al-Issa, the symposium aimed at highlighting successful regional and global practices, while providing a platform for discussions on ways to enhance private higher education in Kuwait.

Opening the symposium, Chairman of ACK, Abdullah Al Sharhan welcomed guests and stated: "The world economy is steadily becoming knowledge-based. Such an economy requires manpower equipped with the knowledge and skills, capable of meeting its special needs. It is a truism to say that the outcomes of higher education in terms of quantity, quality and type are a key element in the success of development plans in a country. It is therefore essential that the educational institutions should be given due attention in terms of motivating the investments necessary to raise the levels of education in general and higher edu-

cation in particular. The outcomes of higher education are the result of a cumulative process."

He added: "What we are seeking is the support of the higher private education sector by the provision of appropriate structures and legislations that allows for the improvement of its performance and the achievement of a better complementarity with the public higher education sector. This will help the private higher education institutions overcome obstacles that prevent their growth and threaten their sustainability. It will enable them to offer the curricula that meet the needs of the market as well as the international competition. It is important to give the private higher education institutions a chance to develop their independent character, in line with their educational philosophy, and the expertise in the scientific and technical fields which they wish to offer."

Abdullah concluded: "The aim of this meeting is to shed light on the successes of Kuwait's ten years' experience in private higher education and to compare it with that of others. We aim to produce a list of recommendations that will support the sustainability of private higher education in Kuwait. This is necessary if these educational institutions



are to continue to serve the Kuwaiti society."

The symposium then continued with Prof. Walid Al-Kendari, Assistant Secretary-General for Research and Information at the General Secretariat of the Council of

Private Universities and Dr. Adnan Shihab Eldin, Director General of KFAS, both who stressed on the importance of the forum and spoke on the potential of private universities in the State of Kuwait.

Further sessions were then held with guest speakers Prof. Mushtaq Al-Atabi, Dean of the Engineering School of Taylor's University - Malaysia, Dr. Ahmad Al-Eisa, Advisor to the Saudi Arabia Royal Court and the Former President of Al-Yamamah Private University - KSA and Prof. Tariq Al-Dowaisan, Vice Dean for Planning and Career Development of College of Engineering - Kuwait University, discussing numerous private higher education successes and challenges in Kuwait, the GCC and internationally.

Concluding the symposium was a roundtable session chaired by Prof. Moudi Al-Humoud, Former Minister of Education & Higher Education and Rector of the Arab Open University in Kuwait, bringing an opportunity to discuss current and relevant issues affecting the private higher education sector, highlighting the needs of the labor market and debating ways to overcome obstacles that could hinder the development of private higher education institutions in Kuwait.



Sebamed was among the participants in the awareness day that was held in Saad Al-Abdallah bloc 5 health center, where advice was given to patients and questions were answered. Sebamed is keen on participating in events that directly serves the public.



## ICE SKATING RINKS CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE

Head of Public Relations and Information Department at Touristic Enterprises Company said activities at the grand and minor ice skating rinks will be halted for maintenance purposes from 3/5 until 30/5, to work on the cooling system. The rinks will resume activities at its regular times after the above mentioned date.



## UPASANA DANCE STUDIO HOLDS 'ARANGETTAM 2015'

'Upasana, a tribute to dance', the famous dance schools in Kuwait, held 'Arangettam 2015' on 24th April at American International School, Hawally. The function was inaugurated by the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, mentor and visiting faculty of Upasana Studio, N V Krishnan Payyannur, by lighting the traditional lamp. Chief Guest of the evening Manju Warriar, classical dancer and South Indian actress and the Guests of honour Mukesh, south Indian actor and Dr Methil Devika, classical dancer, scholar and Upasana consultant joined Guru N V Krishnan Master in lighting the lamp along with Prathibha Menon, director, Upasana and Murali Menon.

Krishnan Master, Manju Warriar and Mukesh shared their experiences and wished the students all the very best for their debut classical presentation. A colorful souvenir to commemo-

rate the first-ever Arangettam of the budding talents at Upasana Studio was released by Manju Warriar at the function. The performances of the students were accompanied live by Udayshankar Lal, Upasana faculty on Nattuvangam, Kottayam Jamaneesh Bhagavathar on vocal, P V Anilkumar Vadakara on Mridangam, Murali Krishnan on veena and Balamurali on violin.

Artist Dr Johnarts Kalabhavan presented the caricature of Manju Warriar and Mukesh at the function. Mohiniyattam student at Upasana Sangeetha presented a mural painting of Dr Methil Devika done by her as a tribute to the Guru.

Bharathanatyam and Kuchipudi students at various branches of Upasana Studio gave their debut performance after years of rigorous training under the extraordinarily talented faculties

Udayshankar Lal, Kalamandalam Priyam Anand and Kalamandalam Aswathy. The senior batches came up with elegant performances on Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam styles showcasing the expertise they gained at Upasana Studio. The three-hour-long vibrant performance of 57 students who came up with 14 spectacular dances, starting with 'Pushpanjali' till 'Thillana', accompanied live by renowned musicians, proved to be a memorable experience for the audience. The event concluded with a classical demonstration of 'Vande Matharam' paying tribute to motherland India. Dr Methil Devika addressed the students expressing her joy to witness such an effort by Upasana team. Upasana faculty for your continuous training efforts: Kalamandalam Priyam Anand, Udayshankar Lal and Kalamandalam Ashwaty.

