



## GAC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS IN KUWAIT WITH BIG PARTY



Filip Bjorklund, GAC Kuwait's current Managing Director, recently hosted a 60th anniversary celebration at the Radisson Blu Ballroom which gathered together GAC's Chairman Lars Safverstrom, old GAC pioneers, key customers, service providers and representatives of the Kuwait port and government authorities. In 1956, Kuwait was in the grip of its early development phase. Everything was being built: ports, roads, hospitals, schools, power stations.

The list was long. Cement was a high-demand import and vessels were lined up offshore waiting to bring their cargoes to land in lighters, barges, anything that could float. Into this frenzied world stepped a polite man from Sweden. Bertil Ahlm was GAC's first manager. His first challenge was to act as a ship agent to get those thousands of bags of cement into the hands of the construction teams onshore. He was also aiming to set up a travel agency but in the end, the travel agency went nowhere and the ship agency took off.

60 years later, in 2016, GAC Kuwait's Managing Director, Filip Bjorklund, is in

charge of a full-service company, covering ship agency, in which GAC remains a market leader, and all elements of the supply chain: air freight, sea freight, transport, warehousing, offshore support, husbandry. Again, the list is long. "Since those early days, GAC has expanded and is now a global company with 300 offices in more than 50 countries, but it all started in Kuwait, and to my knowledge no other company has expanded from Kuwait to cover every corner of the world" says Bjorklund.

"We have a network of teams around the world that can respond to customer needs anywhere, anytime." "We still have our Swedish roots and our Scandinavian approach to business and our emphasis is on integrating our services so that our customers can choose the service mix that best suits their needs." "We put up photos from our archives showing how things looked in the 1950s and they made such a vivid contrast with what Kuwait is today," he says. "It was a fantastic to see the journey we've taken to get here and even more exciting to see where the journey will take us next."



### FROM INDIAN EMBASSY

The Embassy will be closed on the occasion of Dussehra (Vijay Dashmi) today. However, emergency consular services will be rendered to all in the Embassy.

## RUNQ8 CHARITY EVENT RETURNS ON NOV 12TH

Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI) announces that its annual RunQ8 charity event will be held this year on Saturday November 12th at Marina Crescent. The event aims to support children with disabilities, raising awareness and funds to support FSRI's non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), enabling it to continue providing specialized and multi-disciplinary treatment and care for children with disabilities across the community in Kuwait.

This year, RunQ8 is offering two chipped distances - 5km or 10km - and is open to people of all ages and fitness levels. For those unable to run a marathon, they can walk, jog or just stroll. Registration is now open, and participants can sign up via the official website (runq8.org). You can also call FSRI (at 25720338 or 25721757) for more information. This year the race enjoys the support of a number of local companies and organizations, but the door is still open for anyone looking to support this non-profit community initiative.

## GUST AWARDED 5TH PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION

Gulf University for Science and Technology announced this week that it has just received its fifth international accreditation, this time for its Mass Communication and Media (MCM) Department from the American Communications Association (ACA). The accreditation comes in the form of a conditional accreditation, before a follow-up review next year confirms it as a full five-year accreditation.

The ACA is US-based non-profit professional association, committed to enabling the effective use of new and evolving technologies to facilitate communication instruction, research, criticism, and offer a technologically supportive venue for all who study how humans communicate. The GUST MCM Department is the first communication and media department in Kuwait, and one of only seven worldwide to receive an international accreditation of this kind.

Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said, "As a university, our ambition to establish a strong reputation is clear. In 15 short years we have

earned four full accreditations, and a ranking that places us as the 73rd university out of 971 in the Arab region, which translates into GUST being the number one private university in Kuwait. Our mission is to go from strength to strength, and continue to provide our students with the best educational experience possible."

This conditional accreditation is a demonstration of the international standards at which the department operates. As a testament to the department's efforts, it has grown from approximately 380 students in 2013 to over 500 today, and faculty numbers have increased correspondingly.

During this time, GUST students have broken a world record for charitable donation collections, volunteered in international aid work trips throughout Asia, won second place worldwide in an anti-extremism campaign judged by Facebook Inc and the US State Department, conducted three national-level student-faculty collaborative conferences, the most recent of which raised over

\$60,000 for local children's charities, and have attended numerous national and international events to hone their skills and demonstrate their talents.

Dr Fahed Al Sumait, Head of the GUST MCM Department, said, "We are very excited to have earned this accolade. Our faculty and students have been working extremely hard to ensure that we create an atmosphere that fosters learning and creativity while also having fun and contributing to the broader community and society. The accreditation process has helped us enhance our quality standards even further as we strive to be a leading center for media and communication education in Kuwait and the region."

In addition to the new ACA accreditation, GUST also holds accreditations from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) for its English Foundation Program, the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) for its Student Success Center, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for its Computer Science Program, and the AACSB-International accreditation for its College of Business Administration.

