



SEPTEMBER 2024

# SandRose

Magazine



فوق

A VIBRANT  
NATION  
SPECIAL EDITION



SPE KSA  
Section

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Section



# CONTRIBUTORS

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Yazeed Aldughaiter

**Editorial Advisor**  
Reem Alsadoun

**Managing Editor**  
Nouf Alsaad

**Graphic Designer**  
Sara Sami  
[behance.com/sarasami](https://behance.com/sarasami)

**Cover Design Artist**  
Created by Mishq Studio  
Instagram @Mishq.sa



# SandRose Magazine

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



CHECK OUT THE DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS EDITION OF SANDROSE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE  
<https://spe-ksa.org/>



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

To contribute or collaborate on future issues email us at [sandrose@spe-ksa.org](mailto:sandrose@spe-ksa.org)



04

Letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

06

SPE-KSA Executive Board Gallery

07

Sandrose Team

08

Interview with CEO of the National Transformation Program

14

SPE-KSA Focused Lens on Vision 2030

22

Made in Saudi Kingdom

24

SPE-KSA Celebrates 65 years

26

Reader's Lens







# Letter from

## CHAIRMAN OF THE SPE-KSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Dear SPE-KSA members,**

As we celebrate the Kingdom's rich national legacy, I would like to reflect on the history and growth of the Society of Petroleum Engineers - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Section (SPE-KSA). It is an honor to share our recent achievements and highlight our contributions to both our members and the broader energy industry.

### **Reflecting on SPE-KSA's Journey**

Since our inception in 1959, SPE-KSA has been dedicated to advancing the energy sector in the Kingdom. Initially, we were a small group of professionals aiming to create a community for knowledge sharing and networking. Today, we are proud to be the world's largest section, with over 12,500 diverse members, including a significant representation of women.

This is a testament to our efforts in engaging professionals across various energy industry sectors, and is mirrored in the words of Nasir K. Al-Naimi, Honorary Chairman of the SPE-KSA Board of Directors, and Aramco Upstream President: "I'm proud to witness

and support SPE-KSA's ongoing drive for excellence, which I have seen in the dedication of our members toward the collective mission of connecting and empowering energy professionals for a sustainable energy future." Our growth is driven by our commitment to delivering high-quality programs that meet the evolving needs of the energy sector.

Last year, we organized over 70 events, including technical and cultural initiatives tailored to our members' interests. Our dedication to sustainable practices aligns with our vision of an innovative and inclusive community.

### **Fostering Excellence & Innovation**

At SPE KSA, we have always aspired for excellence. Since our establishment, we have received 17 SPE President's Awards for Section Excellence, and our members have earned numerous regional and international awards for their contributions to the industry.

During the 2023-2025 term, we are focused on fostering technical excellence and innovation. Our events feature distinguished keynote speakers and subject matter experts who provide valuable insights on energy and sustainability.

Our global presence has expanded through collaborations with private corporations, non-profit organizations, and public sector groups. We have united over 2,500 professionals, 10 student chapters, and 170 volunteers through successful workshops and conferences, enhancing professional development and creating pathways for future energy leaders.

### **Collaborating & Engaging with our Community**

Collaboration is paramount at SPE-KSA. Our partnerships with industry leaders and educational institutions are crucial for driving our mission. We bridge the gap between academia and industry, cultivating a culture of innovation that supports the Kingdom's aspirations for a sustainable future.

Our community outreach programs raise awareness about the energy industry and inspire emerging professionals. We engage local communities through educational activities, including school visits and STEM seminars. Our role in major global conferences, such as the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) and the Middle East Oil, Gas and Geosciences Show (MEOS GEO), showcases our commitment to excellence and cooperative opportunities for our members.

### **Committing to a Sustainable Future**

This term, we launched the Echo sustainability initiative, focusing on best practices in resource management and waste reduction. In alignment with the Saudi Green Initiative, we have planted over 2,200 trees as part of our environmental

sustainability efforts. These initiatives not only contribute to national goals but also strengthen our community ties.

We are committed to enhancing our members' technical acumen, promoting diversity and inclusion, and engaging with our sponsors to achieve our shared goals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors and volunteers; your unwavering support enables us to deliver impactful programs for our members and the community.

Together, I trust we will translate our ambitions into lasting impacts for a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Sincerely,

### **WALEED AL MULHIM, CHAIRMAN**

SPE-KSA Executive Board of Directors



# SANDROSE TEAM GALLERY



**REEM ALSADOUN**  
Chief Editorial Advisor



**NOUF ALSAAD**  
Managing Editor



**RAWAN ALDOSSARY**  
Editorial Advisor



**DANNA KHATTAB**  
Editorial Advisor



**MUSTAFA KIDWAI**  
Senior Editor



**RANYA ALBEEESH**  
Associate Editor



**GHALIA ALSHANBARI**  
Web Content Associate



**MOHAMMED MAIDAN**  
Associate Editor



**DEEMA ALBEEESH**  
Associate Editor



**HATIM ALTARTEER**  
Associate Editor



**MOHAMMED ALOTAIBI**  
Web Content Associate



**YARA ALSINAN**  
Associate Editor



**ELIAS ALZAYER**  
Associate Editor

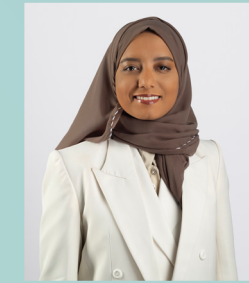
# SPE-KSA EXECUTIVE BOARD GALLERY



**MAHER RAHAYEM**  
Executive Board Chairman



**DR. YARA ALZAHID**  
Technical & Professional Program Chairperson



**AFNAN ALNAHDI**  
Human Capital Management Chairperson



**RABAB AL-MESHIKHES**  
Young Professionals Chairperson



**ABDULLAH ALHAJI**  
Conference Management Chairperson



**ABDULRAHMAN ALRUMAIH**  
Student Outreach Chairperson



**LAMA ALBARGHOUTI**  
Trips and Social Activities Chairperson



**AHMED ALSUNAIIDI**  
Information Technology Chairperson



**YAZEED ALDUGHAITER**  
SandRose Magazine Editor-in-Chief



**ABDULLAH ALMUBARAK**  
Public Relations Chairperson



**ABDULAZIZ ALDOSSARY**  
Event Management Chairperson



**AKRAM AL-BARGHOUTI**  
Memberships Chairperson



**ABDULRAHMAN ALMUSARE**  
Chairman Advisor



**DANNA KHATTAB**  
Admin Coordination Officer



**MUTLAQ ALOTAIBI**  
Logistics Officer



**TARIQ ALHARBI**  
Treasurer



# INTERVIEW



**THAMIR ALSADOUN**  
CEO of the National Transformation Program

As the Kingdom takes bold steps towards the fulfillment of its ambitious Vision 2030, several Vision Realization Programs (VRPs) have been instated to realize the wide-arching strategic objectives under the Vision. Each of these programs has an actionable roadmap, delivery plans, and key performance indicators to track the Kingdom's progress along this transformative journey.

The National Transformation Program (NTP) is one of the most prominent of the VRPs. It is a cornerstone of the Vision 2030 and is responsible for 35% of strategic objectives under the Vision - the most out of all VRPs. Its mandate includes

the digitalization of government services, fostering diversity and inclusivity in the private sector, and the creation of a diversified, innovative, and globally pioneering nation, impacting virtually every sector of Saudi society.

As we reach the halfway mark of the Vision, the SandRose Magazine team sat down with Mr. Thamir Alsadoun, CEO of the National Transformation Program, to reflect on the milestones of this program as well as the exciting changes that lie ahead. At the helm of this bold program, Mr. Alsadoun's leadership and insights are crucial to navigating the complexities of this unprecedented national endeavor.



The Vision Realization Programs (VROs) and the dimensions of the National Transformation Program

## What can you tell us about the NTP and how it contributes to Saudi Vision 2030's success?

The National Transformation Program (NTP) is a Vision Realization Program (VRP) that aims to develop the necessary infrastructure and create an environment that enables the public, private, and non-profit sectors to deliver Vision 2030. Under Vision 2030, there are 11 VRPs. NTP was launched in 2016 as the first VRP and is currently responsible for achieving 35% of Vision 2030's strategic objectives. NTP contributes to the Vision's success by achieving government operational excellence, supporting digital transformation, enabling the private sector, developing economic partnerships, promoting social development, and ensuring the sustainability of vital resources.

## What are the primary enablers of success in the process of translating an ambitious strategy to actual realized impact on the ground?

Developing the appropriate strategy starts with conducting a gap analysis to understand what needs to be accomplished, translating it into actions and projects

that will bridge the identified gaps, and selecting the right indicators that will work as a system to monitor the execution of the strategy and measure its progress towards achieving the organization's objectives.

Successful implementation is crucial in ensuring results are achieved and impact is realized. To translate ambition into actual impact, there are a few primary enablers. First, leadership plays a key role in defining and clearly communicating the organization's priorities and strategic objectives to all levels and setting a suitable governance model to support and direct the organization's resources in achieving these objectives.

Second, having the right people in the right place is important. It is imperative to attract, develop, and retain the required talent, create an attractive work environment, and align the incentives scheme with the organization's priorities.

Third, is managing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and ensuring alignment. Lastly, the right processes should be designed to enable the desired outcome and to be agile enough to continuously improve and achieve better results.



-  **NTP was launched in 2016**
-  **It is assigned with 35% of Vision 2030's goals (34 Strategic Objectives)**
-  **It launched more than 300 initiatives**
-  **It works with 7 leading entities and more than 50 participating entities**
-  **It measures its advancement via 79 KPIs**

*Quick facts about the National Transformation Program (NTP)*

**As the Kingdom reaches the halfway mark of Vision 2030, what have been the major accomplishments that have been realized at this milestone?**

There have been many monumental achievements in the Kingdom due to Vision 2030. Regarding the Kingdom's digitization efforts, over 6,000 e-government services are now offered digitally, representing over 97% of total government services. Over 95% of litigation sessions are now conducted online, which has led to a 79% decrease in case duration to ensure that these services are accessible to all beneficiaries. In addition to that, broadband coverage is now available in 99% of the Kingdom, and 97 provinces have 5G services. This led to Saudi Arabia achieving the highest result in the UN's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) as it advanced 12 ranks globally.

***"This led to Saudi Arabia achieving the highest result in the UN's E-Government Development Index (EGDI) as it advanced 12 ranks globally."***

The attractiveness of investing in Saudi Arabia is not just a claim, but a reality. The rapid growth of foreign investment is a testament to this. More than 400 global companies have obtained permits to open regional offices in the Kingdom, underscoring its status as a desirable investment destination.

In 2023, foreign investment licenses grew by more than 96% compared to 2022, and 22 times since the start of Vision 2030. This growth is a clear indication of the confidence that global investors have in the Kingdom's potential. This is



**Mr. Thamir Alsadoun delves into the inner workings of the NTP with the SandRose Magazine team**

just a fraction of what has been achieved, and our ambition is greater still. I encourage the readers to take a look at the NTP annual report which is published on the Vision 2030 website.

***"In 2023, foreign investment licenses grew by more than 96% compared to 2022, and 22 times since the start of Vision 2030."***

**How does the NTP enable the growth of the non-profit sector in general and volunteerism in particular within the Kingdom?**

Saudi Vision 2030 has set 3 strategic objectives assigned to the NTP to transform the non-profit sector into a major contributor to the development of the Kingdom socially and economically.

Several initiatives are being executed under these strategic objectives, including, but not limited to, establishing the regulatory framework of the non-profit sector, providing financial support and incentives, and promoting the sector through public awareness and campaigns. One of NTP's major achievements in 2019 was the establishment of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector, which aims to develop a strong and sustainable non-profit sector with a profound impact.

Through the implementation of these initiatives and strategic objectives, NTP has cultivated a nurturing environment for the non-profit sector to flourish. This has led to significant growth, with the number of non-profit organizations surging by over 200% by mid of this year compared to the baseline. Moreover, the workforce in the non-profit sector has seen a substantial increase, from 19,000 in 2017 to over 80,000 by the end of 2023.

As for volunteering, Vision 2030's target is to reach 1 million annual volunteers by 2030. Thus, NTP launched several initiatives to encourage volunteering. Most importantly, these initiatives include approving the Voluntary Service Law and launching the National Volunteer Portal to preserve the volunteers' rights and make it easier to find volunteering opportunities. In 2016, we started with 34 thousand annual volunteers; in 2023, we reached over 834 thousand.

**What strategies are being employed to increase Saudi women's participation in the workforce?**

NTP's commitment to increasing women's participation in the workforce is evident in the implementation of several initiatives. Notably, significant policy reforms, such as labor market reforms, have been introduced to foster gender equality in the workplace. These reforms include equal pay and maternity leave policies, ensuring a fair and supportive environment for all employees. Additionally, measures have been taken to equip women with the necessary skills for the labor market, and 'remote' and 'flexible work' options have been introduced to

enhance labor market accessibility. NTP's initiatives to support women in the workforce extend beyond policy reforms. The introduction of cultural and social changes has played a significant role. The 'Wusool' transport support program has made commuting to work easier for women, while the 'Qurrah' childcare for working women program has provided crucial support for working mothers. Lastly, training and development initiatives were part of NTP's strategy to upskill Saudi women for various work opportunities. In addition to that, leadership programs were introduced to enable women to pursue leadership positions.

***"These initiatives have led to significant progress in increasing women's participation in the workforce to more than 34% by Q1 2024, exceeding Vision 2030's target of 30%."***

These initiatives have led to significant progress in increasing women's participation in the workforce to more than 34% by Q1 2024, exceeding Vision 2030's target of 30%. Furthermore, the women's ratio in managerial positions exceeded 43% in Q1 2024, compared to 28% in 2017.

**What are some of the programs and initiatives enabling the success of entrepreneurship in the Kingdom?**

Significant efforts have been made to empower the private sector and enable entrepreneurs. The establishment of the Saudi Business Center, a one-stop-shop for all major government stakeholders, has significantly streamlined the process of starting and running a business. This is evidenced by the reduction in the time to start a business from 15 days to just 30 minutes. More than 750 economic reforms have been implemented to support this initiative. To support small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) with their financing challenges, the SME Bank was established, a secure source of financial support providing over 29 billion SAR in funding since its launch. The Center





Some of the key milestones across the NTP journey from 2016 - 2023

of Digital Entrepreneurship (CODE) was launched to support digital entrepreneurship, helping to launch almost 800 startups and create over 2 thousand jobs.

The 'Tomoh' program was launched to take high-performing small companies and provide them with the tools and support necessary to grow into medium-sized companies and beyond. Over 3,500 companies have graduated from the program, with many now listed. These initiatives have led to a 200% growth in the number of SMEs, reaching over 1.3 million.

**Considering the vast scope of Saudi Vision 2030, what have been some of the main challenges? And how were you able to overcome them?**

Vision 2030 is a very ambitious roadmap that leverages the Kingdom's unique strengths. It is a blueprint for diversifying the economy, empowering citizens, creating a vibrant environment for local and international investors, and establishing Saudi Arabia as a global leader. At NTP, we are proud to have been part of this promising journey from the start. We definitely faced challenges that we overcame with tremendous leadership support. One challenge is ensuring alignment across different government agencies. Considering the scale and complexity of NTP, coordinating the alignment of various government ministries and agencies proved challenging. To address this, Vision Realization Offices (VROs) were established within each ministry. These

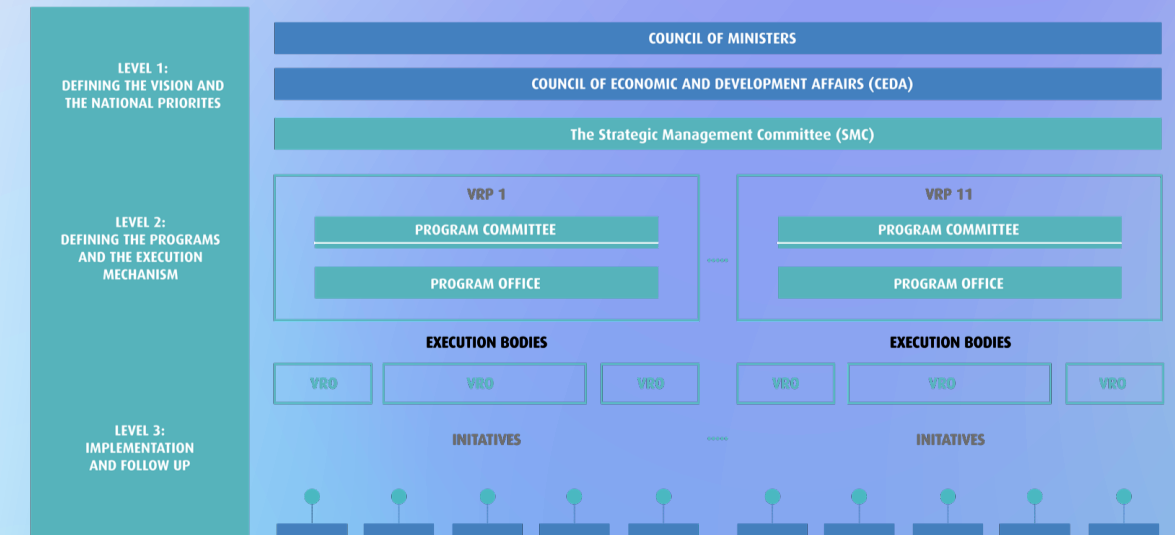
units fostered collaboration and coordination, allowing for joint initiatives, progress tracking, and a unified focus.

Another challenge is capability building. We recognized the need for a diverse talent pool to address all aspects of the program. To ensure successful program implementation, we strategically sought top talent, invested in capacity-building programs, and implemented robust project management frameworks.

Last but not least, accurate and timely data are essential for tracking progress and for effective decision-making. Therefore, the government established the National Center for Performance Measurement (Aada) to improve data collection, analysis, and reporting. Aada has been instrumental in enhancing data quality and ensuring its practical use for informing policy decisions and tracking progress.

**Given your extensive experience at Aramco in managing large-scale infrastructure projects, what lessons have you applied in your transition to broader national-level reforms under NTP?**

I joined Saudi Aramco immediately after high school and stayed with the company for 20 years. Saudi Aramco sponsored me to study for bachelor's and master's degrees in addition to the opportunities to work on large-scale projects, including overseeing assignments with leading



The governance structure of the Vision 2030 including the Vision Realization Programs (VROs)

engineering and architecture firms. Saudi Aramco is like a university where you continue to learn and grow. I take pride in the time I worked for Saudi Aramco and am grateful for the opportunities it provided me.

At Saudi Aramco, aligning each project with the company's strategic goals was not just a task but a critical aspect of our work. This involved thorough planning and clear objectives. Similarly, in national reforms, ensuring that every initiative aligns with the broader goals of Vision 2030 is vital. This approach ensures that resources and efforts are focused on areas that will have the most significant impact, driving the country toward its long-term vision. Successful projects, both at Saudi Aramco and in national reforms, require close collaboration with various stakeholders, from government entities to international partners. This experience has been crucial in building

consensus and ensuring all stakeholders are engaged and aligned. The power of effective communication in articulating the benefits and objectives of reforms cannot be overstated. It has been a key tool in gaining broad support and driving successful implementation.

Beyond that, regular monitoring and evaluation were key practices in Saudi Aramco to keep projects on track and deliver the desired results, identify potential risks early, develop mitigation plans, and respond quickly to challenges. This approach is equally vital in national reforms, where ongoing monitoring helps track progress, identify areas of improvement, ensure reforms deliver tangible benefits to society, and have robust risk management in place. Real-time adjustments based on evaluation feedback are essential for maintaining momentum and achieving the program's goals.

**More information about the Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program can be found at the resources below:**



NTP 2023 Annual Achievements Report



"The Transformation Journey" Documentary with the participation of their Excellencies NTP Committee Members



Saudi Vision 2030 achievements report for 2023







## A Reflection on SPE-KSA's Contributions to the Kingdom's Vision 2030

As the 94th National Day approaches, SPE-KSA is proud to reflect on a term marked by significant achievements and a steadfast commitment to Saudi Vision 2030. Our organization has meticulously ensured that each initiative aligns with our community's vision and mission while directly supporting the Kingdom's strategic goals. By integrating Vision 2030's pillars into our activities, we have made remarkable strides in empowering professionals and advancing the energy industry through skill development.

Aligning our initiatives with Saudi Vision 2030 is crucial for achieving shared goals

and driving national progress. Vision 2030 provides a comprehensive roadmap for the Kingdom's economic and social transformation, emphasizing sustainability, inclusivity, and human capital development. At SPE- KSA, our commitment to these pillars is evident through our focus on sustainability, women's empowerment, youth development, and volunteerism. These efforts not only advance our strategic objectives—such as driving innovation and fostering community engagement—but also contribute significantly to the broader goals of national development outlined in Vision 2030.



## Years of Excellence



## Sustainability

Our commitment to sustainability is evident through key events such as Inspiring Youth: Shaping a Sustainable Future. This event not only enhanced understanding of sustainability but also promoted innovative practices like carbon capture and utilization, which are critical for reducing our environmental footprint.

Beyond that, the Sustainable Future: The Saudi Green Initiative focused on practical actions to boost afforestation by planting 500 seedlings at two locations in the Kingdom. These initiatives align with our strategic objective to advance environmental stewardship and contribute to a sustainable future for Saudi Arabia. They also resonate with Saudi Vision 2030's goals of environmental sustainability and responsible resource management.



*SPE-KSA volunteers (and their young ones) participate in a tree-planting campaign*

## Women's Empowerment

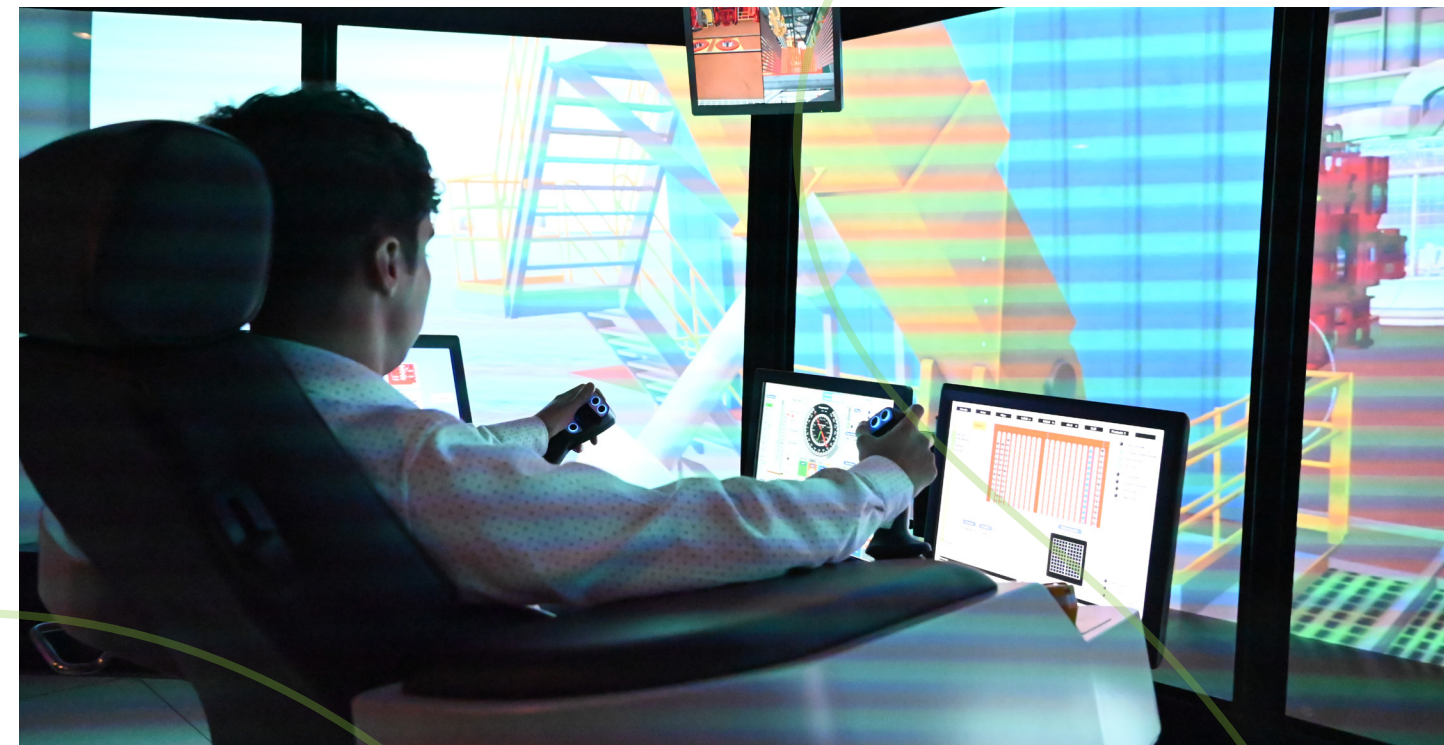
The Inclusive Excellence: Insightful Female Visit to Hawiyah Field, was a significant event that allowed women professionals to visit an oil field and gain firsthand experience of operations in the energy sector.

This visit provided valuable insights into the technical and operational aspects of the industry, further supporting our strategic goal of fostering diversity and inclusion. By offering women the opportunity to engage directly with field operations, we align with national values of progress and equality and contribute to the Vision 2030 objective of increasing women's participation in the workforce and leadership roles. This initiative underscores our commitment to creating an inclusive environment where women can thrive and excel.

## Youth Empowerment

The Tomooh Program, held from July 7-11, 2024, was a major initiative aimed at high school students. This virtual event featured 40 technical sessions introducing students to petroleum engineering and geoscience. Supported by 20 young professionals from our community, who volunteered their time and expertise, the program exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and aligns with Vision 2030's emphasis on developing human capital. By nurturing future talent, we are directly contributing to the Kingdom's goal of preparing a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

In addition to this program, the University Students Visit to Aramco Upstream, provided university students with the opportunity to experience the professional environment and witness technological advancements. This event supported our strategic objective to prepare youth for future careers and aligns with Vision 2030's focus on developing a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of a dynamic energy sector.



*A young SPE-KSA member explores a drilling rig simulator unit*

## Volunteerism

Volunteers have been integral to the success of all our initiatives, reflecting our strategic objective to build a strong, engaged community. One notable example is the Spreading Joy initiative during Ramadan, where participants came together to prepare and distribute boxes of essentials to families in need. This event highlighted our commitment to giving back and reinforcing community solidarity..

The Tomooh Program also showcased how volunteerism benefits the community, with 20 young professionals generously volunteering their time to inspire and mentor high school students. These acts of volunteering reinforce the values of community involvement and solidarity, essential to achieving both our strategic goals and Vision 2030 objectives. Their dedication demonstrates our focus on fostering a culture of giving back and building a supportive network within the community.

As we celebrate the 94th National Day, these achievements reflect not only the SPE-KSA community's alignment

with Vision 2030 but also our commitment to advancing the Kingdom's strategic objectives and national values. Our efforts in sustainability, women's empowerment, youth empowerment, and volunteerism underscore our dedication to driving progress and contributing to the future of the Kingdom.



*SPE-KSA volunteers prepare food donations during Ramadan*





**Identifying project stakeholders regularly and analyzing and documenting relevant information regarding their interests, and potential impact on project success**

**Developing approaches to involve project stakeholders based on their needs, expectation, interests, and potential impact on the project**

**Communicating and working with stakeholders to meet their needs and expectations, address issues, and foster appropriate stakeholder engagement/involvement**

**Monitoring project stakeholder relationships and tailoring strategies for engaging stakeholders through the modification of engagement strategies and plans**









Nasir K. Al-Naimi (Aramco's President of Upstream), Ahmad Alsa'adi (IMI Chairman, and Aramco's former Executive Vice President of Technical Services), and Abdulhameed Aldughaiter (ARM Chairman, and Aramco's Executive Vice President of EXPEC & Drilling) inaugurate the Kingdom's first locally-manufactured rig



# Saudi Arabia's Pioneering Efforts in Localizing Drilling Rig Manufacturing

As Saudi Arabia forges ahead with its Vision 2030, the nation is undergoing a profound economic transformation aimed at building a diversified and sustainable industrial base. A key aspect of this transformation is the development of local industries, which is central to creating jobs, developing local talent, and developing economic resilience.

In May 2023, Aramco in collaboration with National Oilwell Varco (NOV) through its joint venture (JV) Arabian Rig Manufacturing (ARM) celebrated the first in-Kingdom fabricated 2000-HP onshore rig and 13-5/8 10M spherical blowout preventers (BOPs). This achievement earned the JV the prestigious "Manufacturer of the Year" accolade in Saudi by The Energy Year Saudi Arabia.

Aramco's Executive Vice President of EXPEC & Drilling, Abdul Hameed A. Al-Dughaiter, who also serves as chairman of ARM, underscores the significance of this accomplishment: "The 'Made in Saudi' ethos lies at the heart of Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030 plans, which seek to diversify the national economy, foster localized industries, and unlock the potential of the country's human capital."

ARM's impressive 64% Saudization rate further reflects the Vision's commitment to a sustainable future. By prioritizing local talent and expertise, this will not only contribute to the national economy but also ensures long-term industry growth and self-sufficiency.

Propelling this initiative forward, ARO drilling, a JV between Aramco and Valaris, marked another milestone in November 2023 with the successful delivery of Kingdom-1, the first offshore jack-up rig constructed in partnership with International Maritime Industries (IMI). Aramco Upstream President, Nasir K. Al-Naimi, highlighted the significance of this achievement:

"Bringing the capabilities in-Kingdom to design and produce a rig of this caliber is demonstrative of the lengths to which Aramco Upstream, and our partners, are willing to go to ensure an ever more competitive, reliable, and sophisticated domestic energy sector, while simultaneously expanding our possibilities in the offshore domain."

In May 2024, the Kingdom reached a new benchmark with the addition of another offshore jack-up rig. Ahmad Al Sa'adi, Chairman of IMI, said: "Delivering KINGDOM-1 was a major 'first' for IMI. Delivering a second rig less than six months later represents something different. It shows that rig-building at scale is 'business as usual' for IMI and shines a spotlight on the company as an emerging regional maritime leader. KINGDOM-2 also demonstrates the strength of our partnerships, with ARO and Lamprell in this instance, and how, together, we are boosting the region's offshore capabilities." This achievement highlights Saudi Arabia's ongoing expansion in localized manufacturing and reinforces its growing role in the global drilling industry.

The localization of drilling rig manufacturing is set to not only strengthen the Kingdom's industrial capabilities, but also pave the way for Saudi Arabia to emerge as a global exporter. As Al-Dughaiter stated: "We envision establishing the Kingdom as a strategic regional hub, catering to the growing demands of the broader Middle East and North Africa market".

This shift aligns with Saudi Vision 2030's goals of economic diversification and localising industries. As the Kingdom continues to capitalize on its burgeoning manufacturing sector, it is poised to extend its reach to international markets while maintaining its domestic needs. This milestone is sure to be the first of many to come in the Kingdom's ambitious pursuits.



# SPE-KSA'S 65 YEAR JOURNEY:

## Celebrating a Legacy of Excellence & Commitment to Service

Written by Yazeed Aldughaiter

The oil and gas industry has been powering the world for well over 150 years — the first oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 1859. During the years, the industry and the world have experienced fundamental economic and technological transformations.

These transformations led to the need for an organization to coordinate the voices of oil and gas professionals, dedicated to training, disseminating knowledge, and giving back to the communities in which the industry operates.

This organization is the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), founded in the U.S. in 1957, although its roots can be traced back further still, to the American Institute of Mining Engineers in 1939.

Only two years after the founding of the SPE in the U.S., SPE-KSA was founded (1959) as the first section outside the U.S. This was a fitting development given Saudi Arabia's position as the world's leading exporter of oil.

### WORLD'S LARGEST SECTION

Today, SPE International boasts a global membership of around 120,000 professionals and students spanning 145 countries. SPE-KSA stands proudly as the world's largest section by membership, with over 12,000 active members. A diverse variety of energy professionals from across various domains benefit from SPE initiatives.

SPE-KSA is not only proud of its growing membership, but also of its dedication to excellence and service, as illustrated by the hundreds of regional and international awards received over the years, including several consecutive SPE President's Awards for Section Excellence.

Nasir K. Al-Naimi, honorary chairman of the SPE-KSA board of directors, and Aramco Upstream president, said: "I'm proud to witness and support SPE-KSA's ongoing drive for excellence, which I have seen in the dedication of our members toward the collective mission of connecting and empowering energy professionals for a sustainable energy future."

SPE-KSA organizes conferences of ever-expanding scope and scale, and supports well known events including the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC), the Middle East Process Engineering Conference & Exhibition (MEPEC), and the Middle East Oil & Gas Show (MEOS).

The section has also served the global SPE community in other ways — not one but two Saudi section members have served as SPE International presidents: namely Aramco's Abduljaleel Al-Khalifa in 2007 and Sami Alnuaim in 2019.

### 10 NATIONAL STUDENT CHAPTERS

In recent years, SPE-KSA has broadened its ambitious scope with the creation of dedicated sections for young professionals and students — 10 national student chapters have been formed (the second highest of all SPE sections, globally). SPE-KSA focuses on the professional development of its members, furthering technical excellence and knowledge sharing, giving back to the broader community through volunteering efforts, and supporting national initiatives including the Saudi Green Initiative and Vision 2030.

Faisal N. Al Nughaimish, vice chairman of the SPE-KSA board of directors, and Aramco's vice president and Chief Petroleum Engineer, said: "SPE-KSA offers its members an unparalleled platform to connect with their peers across inter-disciplinary boundaries, exercise their leadership, and to broaden their technical acumen."

### 65TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER MEETING

SPE-KSA's recent dinner meeting to commemorating its 65th anniversary is a case in point. The event was attended by more than 500 industry professionals and highlighted the organization's enduring success and influential role in the region's vibrant energy scene.

Waleed A. Al Mulhim, chairman of SPE-KSA's board of directors and Aramco's senior vice president of Petroleum Engineering & Development, said: "Our footsteps today proudly build upon

SPE-KSA's decades-long legacy, reaffirming our commitment to empower our members in their pursuit of more sustainable futures, harnessing the power of digital transformation, and nurturing exceptional technical and professional expertise."

SPE-KSA's collaborative mission has forged robust partnerships with entities across the Kingdom and beyond, including private corporations, other non-profit organizations, and several public sector groups. This network allows SPE-KSA to better serve its members by sharing high-quality technical knowledge, creating lasting community connections, and enabling impactful volunteering channels.



**Abdelhameed Aldughaiter, Aramco's Executive Vice President for EXPEC & Drilling, addresses SPE-KSA volunteers attending IPTC 2024 in Dhahran**



**SPE-KSA volunteers gather for distributing Ramadan food donations**





# Sandrose Readers' Lens



**IN THIS SECTION, WE PROUDLY SHARE PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY, BEAUTIFULLY ENCAPSULATING THEIR REMARKABLE TALENT FOR CAPTURING MOMENTS THAT RESONATE WITH THEM**

*"In the vast expanse of Al-Ula, a solitary structure stands sentinel. Qasr al-Farid, a single tomb carved into a small dome. Its unfinished façade, a frozen canvas of human endeavor, reveals the intricate process of its creation."*

*-Hadi Alsinan, Photographer*

*Follow Hadi on Instagram @hadialsinan*

**ISO 200**

AUTO ISO 50 ISO 100 ISO 200 ISO 400 ISO 800 ISO 1600 ISO 3200



عاشقانه

