

## UNDP Kuwait celebrates United Nations Day



Jameel W. Karaki

KUWAIT: On the occasion of United Nations Day, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kuwait celebrated the at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Al Hashemi Grand Ballroom, Sunday evening. In attendance was a large diplomatic presence, members of the press, and government officials.

Inaugurating the event, Dr. Salah Bourjini, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Officer-in-Charge, began by offering a message from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. "We deliver more humanitarian aid than anyone - and to the toughest places. We vaccinate 40 percent of the world's children. We feed more than 100 million people and are helping more than 30 million refugees, most of them women and children, fleeing war and persecution. We are

deploying more peacekeepers than ever - more than 11,500. In the last year alone, we provided electoral assistance to almost 50 countries. And the entire UN system was mobilized to face the global economic turmoil and the social unrest it threatens," read Bourjini from the message from Ban Ki-moon.

"People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe. Come December, the people will depend on us to seal comprehensive, equitable and ambitious deals on climate change that will protect us all and pave the way toward a greener and more sustainable economy."

"The United Nations is doing its utmost to respond and to address the big issues, to look at the big picture. We are forging new multilateralism that can deliver real results for all people, especially those most in need. But I am also painfully aware of the distance to go and the gap between commitment and action. On this UN Day, let us resolve to redouble our stand more united than ever, united in purpose and united in action to make the world a safer, better place."

Bourjini then spoke of the UNDP after concluding the secretary general's message, saying: "On this exciting occasion, I would like to mention that the UNDP operates almost in all parts of the world on the development front lines at the national, regional and global levels, covering important areas such as poverty alleviation, dealing with issues of climate change, and gender equality."

"I would like to point out that the State of Kuwait, represented by the General Supreme Council for Planning and Development, has signed the 2009-2013 National Development Program with the UNDP for cooperation in the coming years. This national program has focused on the following priorities, which are identical with UN recommendations, including environment and economic development, the role of the private sector, democracy, and gender equality. It will be executed based on the lessons learned from the programs concluded in 2008., which have ascertained the greatest importance of building national and institutional capacities drawing on Kuwaiti and global experiences" Bourjini added.

Al-Watan Daily spoke with Thani Al-Rashid, a program assistant for the UNDP, and asked her about the UNDP's main focus areas and projects in the country.

"The UNDP program in Kuwait focuses on democratic governance, environment and energy and also gender and social development. This program actually has a lot of outcomes, especially our work with the government and the Supreme Council for Planning and Development."

Asked about the drop in program expenditures, she said: "It depends on the projects and its requirements."

The United Nations Development Program is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of the UNDP and its wide range of partners.

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