

'People like to buy our products for their quality, reliability'
'Toshiba enjoys 25 pc of market share'

Iddris Seidu
 Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 3: It is that time of the year again when the business world ushers in a special exhibition and trading platform for their products and services at the International Trade Fair grounds in Mishref, Kuwait. The fair which runs from Jan 30 to Feb 5, 2011 is as usual being organized by the Kuwait International Fair Company (KIF). All sectors across the business spectrum were represented at the fair site showcasing their wares but the unique attention grabber was the electronic/technology sector (INFOCONNECT) which had a sizeable portion of the crowd gravitating towards Pavilion 6 where they were housed. InfoConnect is meant to be the bridge through which the latest global technological developments are passed to Kuwait upon their global launch through international and regional vendors.

Toshiba had all kinds of Notebooks/Laptops displayed at their stand in Pavilion 6, which was home to most of the technological gadgets of the day like cellphones, Laptops and so forth.

Premium

Santosh Varghese, the Toshiba General Manager in charge of Middle East and Africa region was on the fair grounds to interact with the press. When asked why his company was present at the fair, he said Toshiba had been in Kuwait for the last 25 years and enjoys a very high premium with a market share of about twenty five percent. "We invest in this market bringing in state of the art technology and products. We come here every year to show our products at the InfoConnect and the people of Kuwait like to buy Toshiba products for their quality and reliability".

Regarding the kind of products Toshiba have on display at the exhibition, Varghese indicated all items on display at the stand are notebooks because InfoConnect is an Information Technology (IT) exhibition fair; that apart Toshiba is a technological and engineering entity with know how in nuclear technology and so forth in addition to the usual home appliances and notebooks showcased.

"We have to sustain premium we have in Kuwait. When you have twenty five percent market share, it



Photo by S. Ilias Basha
 Varghese (left), with colleagues at the Toshiba stand.

is very important you sustain or work towards improving on it. InfoConnect is one of the main sources of exposure for our latest technologies and products. We also try to create and maintain viable distribution channels with whom we collaborate in organizing marketing promotions as a way of whipping up consumer enthusiasm and appetite", Varghese added.

Challenging

Varghese revealed that this year is going to see the tablet coming in with its iPad equivalent with most or all Toshiba models coming as tablets; so the next couple of years are going to be very challenging as technology keeps changing by the day. He further indicated that Toshiba would be launching a full fledged tablet portfolio from April 2011 onwards with seven inch, eleven inch screens and so on, opening the floodgates for a technological innovation revolution in 2011. "That is going to be the next wave of technological revolution and Toshiba would help the people of Kuwait to adapt to the new technologies. The tablet concept was developed by Toshiba in collaboration with Microsoft way back in 2004. Now with iPad coming and cloud comput-

ing gaining popularity, there would be more people getting ready for a new computing concept. Cloud computing marks a new paradigm shift because it enables huge amounts of data to be stored online. Toshiba is going to have lots of new products coming out, one example of which is the 3-D TV which does not require 3-D glasses to watch and in the same way, 3-D programs can be watched on the computers without the use of 3-D glasses. In this case the irritating 3-D glasses are getting out of the way. As notebook fast comes a commodity, there could be three or four in every household in the not too distant future; we need to maintain our lead in technology and innovation in order to be able to meet that projected demand", Varghese said.

Toshiba, Varghese added, controls eighteen percent of the notebook market in the entire Middle East and working assiduously, through research and investment, to get a foothold on the emerging market of Africa.

Visitors to the InfoConnect fair include buyers mainly from public and private sectors, domestic users, IT professionals, businessmen, and decision-makers from corporate, government and private sectors.

MP Hayef meets legal reps of Kuwaiti Gitmo Al-Kandari

Team in Kuwait to shed light on 'indefinite detention'

By Nihal Sharaf
 Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 3: Member of the Human Rights Committee, MP Mohammed Hayef, met on Thursday with the legal representatives of Kuwaiti Guantanamo Bay detainee, Fayeze Al-Kandari. Defense Council, Lt Col Barry Wingard, and his colleagues paid their 6th visit to Kuwait to further shed light on the indefinite detention without trial of Al-Kandari.

"What we are trying to do during this visit is have meetings with many people in the government and try to bring what is happening in Guantanamo Bay Detention Center to the people of Kuwait, so that they can examine what is going on and can get involved," said Lt Col Wingard, speaking at a press conference.

Lt Col Wingard, who works for the US Air Force, added that Al-Kandari has been living in a cage for 10 years, never been charged with a crime and never been able to prove his innocence.

"He lives with the fear of indefinite detention, which President Barrak Obama has announced will be the law of the land. It essentially stands for the proposition that human beings will be presumed guilty, placed in a cage, never to be released and sentenced to death, by way of the fact that they would never be released," he explained.

Lt Col Wingard further added that he and his colleagues believe that Fayeze Al-Kandari can be brought back if the Kuwaiti people would discover what is going on. "We would

News in Brief

Health minister in Bosnia: Kuwait's

Minister of Health Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer held a meeting in Sarajevo Thursday with Member of the Bosnian Presidency Baker Izzat Baiqovic at the outset of the former's visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim of boosting health ties between the two countries.

Further, Al-Sayer conveyed to Baiqovic the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his best wishes to Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve further progress, and he also conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Prime



Dr Al-Sayer

Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah to the leaders and people of Bosnia, noting that Kuwait maintains its supporting stance of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Al-Sayer said that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health looks forward to cooperating with Bosnian health institutions, particularly in the fields of physiotherapy along with other therapeutic methods which health facilities in both countries excel in.

He also discussed with Baiqovic the ways of offering medical services to Kuwaiti patients who came to receive physiotherapy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On his part, Baiqovic expressed his thanks for Al-Sayer for paying this visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the former's initiative on activating the cooperation in the health field between the two countries. (KUNA)

like you to go to our web page: www.kuwaitifreedom.org, where there is the Free Fayeze Al-Kandari petition to sign," he announced.

On his part, MP Mohammed Hayef said that Afghan's have sold the Kuwaiti detainees to the American forces, claiming that they were fighting against the US. "Other Kuwaiti detainees were returned and only Fayeze and Fawzi remain in detention and unfortunately many human rights violations are being committed against them and even torture," he said.

Al-Kandari and another Kuwaiti detainee, Fawzi Al-Odah, were taken to Guantanamo Bay by US Forces in 2002 after they were captured in Afghanistan. They continue to be prisoners without trial, and face indefinite detention. Two former Kuwaiti prisoners, Fouad Mahmoud Al-Rabiah and Khalid Abdullah Mishaal Al-Mutairi, were earlier released to the Kuwaiti government.

Hayef added that if the detainees were in fact terrorists, the US wouldn't have been able to capture them. "Working in Afghanistan does not mean that the person is a

terrorist," he remarked.

The US president had promised to shut down the detention center in 2009, but he has yet to fulfill the promise that many countries are waiting for.

"Our children have not even been on trial and this is against international human rights and moral laws and regulations. How is that possible when the US has claimed that it is a friend of Kuwait and there is cooperation and mutual agreement between the two countries? We can't remain quiet on this after all those years. We only request a trial and the humane treatment of prisoners. We request Kuwaiti businessmen and merchants, as well as all Kuwaiti citizens, to show their support on this issue," concluded Hayef.

Support

Furthermore, Al-Kandari's Kuwaiti attorney Adel Abdulhadi urged the Kuwaiti government to help the activists by putting pressure on the US government to make the release.

"It is unbelievable that US attorneys, assigned by the

Pentagon to handle this case, are the ones requesting the Kuwaiti government to also put an effort to release Kuwaiti prisoners. Therefore, during this month of freedom, I request the government and the Kuwaiti people to support this effort," he said.

Abdulhadi has been working on the case for six months. He has not been compensated for his efforts and has been using his own funds. Meanwhile, MP Musallam Al-Barrak revealed on Thursday that there are orphan Kuwaiti children who do not have formal documentation proving that they are citizens. The children, he said, are being fostered by Kuwaiti families through the Department of Family Care in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Al-Barrak said that the lack of formal documentation will prevent the children from receiving the Amiri grant. He noted that the children, who are being hosted by a few Kuwaiti families, cannot receive medical treatment and education and called for the end of governmental "red tape" that prevents access to the Kuwaiti nationality.

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