



A photo from the event

ASSE organises H2S Safety in the Oil Field IOSH certified course

Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Engineers, (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter organized IOSH certified course "H2S Safety in the Oil Field" on Jan 25 and 26, 2017 for M/s Reliance Worldwide Catering Company WLL (Silver Sponsor of ASSE KC) at Al-Murgan Hann, Crown Plaza Kuwait. The trainer for the program was Muhammad Alamgir, CSP, CRSP, CMIOSH. 30 participants participated in this training and got benefited.

ASSE — Kuwait Chapter lead by Chairman Fadhel Al Ali and is a non-profit organization which always strives to excel in providing quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait. "H2S is one of the most dangerous gases found in the oil & gas industry. The goal of the Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) course was to make the participants aware on how to recognize when H2S is present in your work area, Properties and Characteristics, Effects of Expo-

sure to Human, Air Monitoring for Detection, Personal Protective Equipment, First Aid & Rescue Procedures, Contingency Plan.

CH. Rama Krushna Chary, President of ASSE Kuwait chapter welcomed the participants. He briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting the training program to help the people get certification in the field of Health, Safety & Environment. He introduced the trainer Muhammad Alamgir.

The training was meticulously carried on by the trainer with the required aiding tools. ASSE Kuwait Chapter would continue its strive to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and also remarkable events in future. Details about the future events would be available to Chapter members and community members through email assekuwait@hotmail.com or phone line: 66846040. For more details, visit www.assekuwait.org.



Dr Esmaili receives award.



Dr Esmaili's booth at the fair.

Int'l Invention Fair

AUK engineering prof receives silver medal

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 6: Dr Seyed Esmaili of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the American University of Kuwait was awarded a silver medal for his invention at the 9th International Invention Fair of Middle East (IIFME) which took place in Kuwait from Jan 16 to 19, 2017. Held Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, IIFME is the second largest international exhibition for inventions after the International Invention Exhibition of Geneva. Nearly 200 inventors from 36 countries across the globe participated with 150 inventions.

Dr Esmaili's invention, entitled: Reversible Adjustable Eyeglasses with Polarized and/or Prescription Lenses, basically consists of eyeglasses that can be adjusted to provide two different looks. Rotatable side arms and a rotatable secondary frame provide a mechanism to interchange the interior and exterior sides of the glasses which can differ in color, pattern, or both. A correct lens orientation indicator on the secondary frame ensures correct configuration of the glasses. The proposed mechanism is both easy to manufacture and user friendly.

Dr Esmaili received both US and European patents for his invention. He had also designed and modeled the glasses using a 3D printer. The invention was well received by the inventors, the judging committee, as well as the public at the IIFME.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw.

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Latest

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interested in pursuing career enrichment.

For more information and on chapter membership, kindly contact IEL, Kuwait chapter office on 22445588 extn. 314 between 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (Sunday through Thursday) or through email to iekwt@hotmail.com. You may also contact Engr Ashok Kumar (97275974) or Engr Karthikeyan (99840191) for any further clarification.



Concert to feature best of Sri Lankan music & dance

Ratnayake – Ravi Shankar of Sri Lanka

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times

The beautiful island nation of Sri Lanka, lauded by Anton Chekov as a 'paradise' and by the Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore as a 'pearl of the Indian Ocean,' is home to an ancient culture that goes back thousands of years. Because of its location on the Silk Route, the country has been home to different ethnicities and religions, culminating in a vibrant multi-cultural society. On Sunday, Feb 12, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in association with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters will celebrate the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka through a concert featuring the best in Sri Lankan music and dance at the Al Shamiya Theatre.

The festival in Kuwait will feature Pradeep Ratnayake, a creative musician hailed as "the Ravi Shankar of Sri Lanka" because of his absolute mastery over his craft, and his ingenuity. Ratnayake plays the sitar, one of the most well-known Indian musical instruments, especially in the West. A plucked string instrument, the sitar became popular in Sri Lanka due to the efforts of those musicians who travelled to India to study music around the middle of the 20th century.

By mastering the sitar, and adapting the music of the great Indian classical music tradition to the folk music of Sri Lanka, Ratnayake has created a distinct national idiom. "There is no classical tradition of music in Sri Lanka," Ratnayake told Arab Times. Sri Lankan traditional music is characterized by folk music and indigenous instruments including a range of percussion instruments. "When we learn classical music, it is either Indian classical or Western classical. There are famous musicians from Sri Lanka who studied under the Indian classical music system," explains the Sri Lankan sitarist.

Creative

Ratnayake is a bold, creative musician who has successfully given a Sri Lankan identity to the instrument he borrowed from a not so foreign culture. By pushing the boundaries of sitar music, he gave the instrument a sound that can hold its own on the international stage. Ratnayake's musical journey began at the young age of five under a Sri Lankan teacher. "I gave my first public performance at the age of 10, at the National Museum Auditorium in Sri Lanka," says the artist who heads the department of Language, Cultural Studies and Performing Arts at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The young boy's love for music was supported by his family. At home, he was exposed to music from different parts of the world, and perhaps that laid the groundwork for his later approach to music.

To further his learning, Ratnayake visited India, and there in the pastoral setting of Shantiniketan, in the veritable nerve centre of Bengal's art and culture, he trained, absorbed and experimented with the sitar. Interestingly, the founder of the Indian University is venerated and admired in Sri Lanka. "Rabindranath Tagore is very popular in Sri Lanka. We grew up loving Rabindra Sangeet, the genre of songs he popularized. So it was wonderful to study in Shantiniketan. Many famous musicians in Sri Lanka who created something new for their country, are students of Shantiniketan," shares the artist when asked about his years in the University town.

In Shantiniketan, the young musician trained under Professor Indranil Bhattacharya, a disciple of the legendary Baba Allauddin Khan, founder of the Maihar Gharana. He ended his studies with the highest ever marks given for a degree in sitar in Shantiniketan. At present, Ratnayake is working on a doctorate degree at his alma mater.

Cultures

Throughout his career as a musician, Pradeep Ratnayake has chosen to take the sitar further. A nonconformist, he experimented and researched and took the instrument out of the traditional context, and gave it a sound that had Sri Lankan overtones. Although nurtured and nourished by many cultures, Ratnayake rooted his creations in the folk melodies of his country. He is quick to point out the Sri Lankan elements in his music. "The Sri Lankan tradition is folk. Sri Lankan music has dance melodies called 'vannam' and styles called 'prashasti' which were songs in praise of kings. I use these melodic lines and effect for my compositions. For example, my Kuveni Double Concerto which premiered in Germany is a full-fledged sym-



Pradeep Ratnayake

phony written in Western classical music style, that uses the melodies of the "Kuveni" asna, a well known Sri Lankan melody taken from the dance tradition as the base for its four movements. On the other hand, I often combine Sri Lankan instruments like the Sri Lankan drums, as an accompaniment for the sitar instead of the tabla, so that the sound and beat often become distinctively Sri Lankan."

Unlike the traditional exponents of classical music, who are bound by rules and tenets, Ratnayake is more egalitarian in his approach towards music. He believes that both tradition and innovation is essential to the evolution of music. "Many sitarists play traditional classical music,

but there are some like Ravi Shankar who moved forward with original compositions that use the sitar in a new way. It was he who introduced the sitar to the West. He could compress a traditional raga that is usually played for at least an hour to a few minutes without harming it much. That was how he took this form of music to new cultures. So if you innovate well, and not just as a gimmick, there is a lot that can be done. But apart from this, there has to be a line of pure classical musicians who will keep the tradition alive. Both kinds can and should exist."

Over the years, Ratnayake has relentlessly pursued his love for his craft, and in the process earned awards and accolades not just

for himself, but for his country on the international stage. His "Pradeepanjalee Concerts" at Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall and Asia Society have introduced music lovers to a different aspect of Sri Lankan culture. He has been commissioned by the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic Orchestra to create the Kuveni Double Concerto, a composition he performed with Ramon Jaffe on Cello. He has also collaborated on an album with Japanese pianist Masahiko Satoh. Pradeep Ratnayake speaks a language that is universally understood. It is a language of love, peace and harmony, which spills out in volumes when the maestro takes to his instrument.

Share your story with Amricani: Do you or any of your family members, acquaintances or friends happen to have a story with the American Missionary hospital in Kuwait (Mustashfa Lemraicani) during the years from 1914-1967,

the official period of offering medical services in Kuwait?

Please share with us your story or your memory during those old days by writing the event and sending it to the following email address: Mystory@darmuseum.org.kw

Notes: 1. Please send your story only to the above mentioned email. Story shared in Instagram, Facebook or Twitter will not be considered.

2. Please write your story or memory and sign it with your full name, and your contact number.

3. It will be great if you send us your personal photos or those of the place related to the story (optional).

Your story will be part of a new book to be

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