

## ILO launches Global Media Competition on Labour Migration

Courtesy International Labour Organization

**GENEVA (ILO News)** – The International Labour Organization (ILO) is launching its fifth annual Global Media Competition to recognize exemplary media coverage of labour migration. This year's themes are 'fair recruitment' and 'the future of labour migration'.

For the first time, the competition has a student prize category and the option for a fellowship prize.

The competition aims to promote quality reporting on labour migration issues. Across the world, migrants face prejudice, intolerance and stigmatization in their workplaces and communities. Negative public narratives can lead to abuse and exploitation, and challenge social cohesion.

Balanced and ethical reporting can play an important role in addressing stereotypes and misconceptions, and in highlighting the positive contribution migrant workers make in their origin and destination countries.

The winners will be selected by a panel of experts in international migration and journalism, based on creativity, accuracy and balance, protection of migrants, and positive portrayal of labour migration.

"This year the ILO celebrates its Centenary, marking 100 years of advancing social justice and promoting decent work. The Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted at the International Labour Conference in 2019, reaffirms the ILO's mandate to protect all workers, including migrant workers, and highlights the need to promote equality of treatment and the elimination of discrimination against workers, particularly those in vulnerable situations" says Michelle Leighton, Chief of the ILO Labour Migration Branch and one of the competition judges.

"We will be seeking to identify journalists who have demonstrated their commitment to report in a fair and balanced manner to ensure greater public awareness about the contributions migrant workers

bring to communities, and which are contributing to the elimination of public misperception, xenophobia and discrimination against migrant workers."

The competition contributes to some of the targets of the recently adopted "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees," which include improving working conditions for migrant workers and shifting misperceptions of labour migration. It also helps raise awareness on decent work and migration, a topic which features strongly in the United Nations Declaration on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The competition is supported by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Federation of Journalists, Equal Times, Solidarity Centre, and Migrant Forum in Asia. This year's competition is organized with the support of the EU funded 'Global Action to Improve the Recruitment Framework of Labour Migration' (REFRAME) project, and the SDC funded 'Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment Phase II' (FAIR II).

### How to enter

Complete the online entry form in the category of either 'professional' or 'student' category. You can submit your piece in the following categories: written press, photo essay, multimedia, video and/or radio. See the full Terms and Conditions for details.

To qualify, entries must have been published between 1 November 2018 and 31 October 2019 (see Terms and Conditions for details). A submission in any language is welcome, however an English, French or Spanish translation must be included if the submitted material, or parts of it are in another language.

### Key dates

31 October 2019 (23:59, Central European Time): Deadline for submissions, via the

**GLOBAL MEDIA COMPETITION 2019**

International Labour Organization

100 1919-2019

PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT JOURNALISTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY TO THE 2019 GLOBAL MEDIA COMPETITION, AWARDING EXEMPLARY REPORTING ON FAIR RECRUITMENT AND THE FUTURE OF LABOUR MIGRATION

**APPLY NOW**

**DEADLINE 31.10.2019**

For more information visit: [ilo.org/labourmigration](http://ilo.org/labourmigration) or contact: [labour-migration-media-competition@ilo.org](mailto:labour-migration-media-competition@ilo.org)



online entry form.

18 December 2019 (International Migrants Day): Competition winners will be announced (winners will be contacted in advance).

### Awards

The competition will award four professional prizes (two in the category 'fair recruitment of migrant workers' and two for 'the future of labour migration'

category) and one student prize. The winners will be able to choose between cash (US\$1,000 in the professional category and US\$300 for the student category) or a paid fellowship to participate

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Immediately Required for Saudi Arabia

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- **Facility Engineers**
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Venue : 601/602, 6th Floor, Crescent Business Park, Andheri Kurla Road, Near Sakinaka MTNL Tel Exchange, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 072.

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**For A Largest Co. in SAUDI ARABIA Urgently Requires****Planning Engineers (Maintenance / Turnaround)****QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE :**

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- Sound Experience in Primavera 6 latest version & MS Office tools.
- Familiar in Master Schedule preparation, review & tracking in Primavera.
- Understand Plant drawings to develop necessary Tech details of process equipments & responsible for developing TA Work Packages.
- Expertise in Optimal Resource loading in Primavera, prepare leveled Histogram & generate Crew allocation summary.
- Knowledgeable & experience on Shutdown works of Static/ Rotary Equipments viz. Heat Exchangers, Reactors, Catalyst handling, Towers, Vessels, Compressors, Pumps etc.
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- Expertise in TA Progress reporting, Risk analysis, Look ahead, Delay analysis & Mitigation plans.
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# Law to set quota on expatriate numbers : Kuwait

Lawmakers are said to be contemplating the introduction of a new bill in the upcoming October session of Parliament, which will seek to limit the number of expatriates from each community to less than 30 percent of the Kuwaiti population.

Latest statistics from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) show that of the total population of 4.6 million people in the country, 3.2 million are expatriates and only 1.4 million are Kuwaitis.

Some lawmakers have long argued that the presence of large expatriate communities are a threat to the security and integrity



of Kuwait. But it was not exactly clear how the introduction of a quota system would help adjust the demographic imbalance in the country, where currently less than a third of the population is made up of Kuwaitis.

Under the proposed new law, the more than 900,000-strong Indian community, and the over 600,000 Egyptians in Kuwait would find their numbers reduced to less than 400,000, while the estimated 200,000 Bangladeshis

and 140,000 Syrians, who form the next two largest expatriate communities in Kuwait, could potentially see their numbers increase.

It had also been reported earlier that the authorities planned to reduce the number of foreign residents in the country by at least 1.5 million over the next seven years. This is no doubt a well-intentioned and forthright plan, but the government has been less than forthcoming in explaining, how it hoped to overcome the market slump that such a move would definitely entail. Various market sectors, such as retail and rental, as well as labor, would be severely

impacted from a drastic fall in population.

Decision on setting a quota for expatriate communities and issuing visas is the prerogative of the government and the executive. By introducing the new bill, parliamentarians hope to infringe on that authority, and usurp it under the guise of saving the government from embarrassment. Lawmakers argue that the government's involvement in setting such a quota system, would unnecessarily get Kuwait embroiled in accusations from human rights organizations of engaging in racial profiling of foreigners.

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## ILO launches Global Media Competition ...

in an ITC-Turin course on a fair recruitment or labour migration topic in 2020 (see full Terms and Conditions for details).

**The thematic categories**  
**Fair recruitment of migrant workers**

Entries in this category should illustrate how international recruitment practices impact migrant workers' lives, their chances of enjoying decent work, and their exposure to potential exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, child and forced labour and trafficking in persons.

Alternatively or additionally, it should show how properly regulated and governed labour recruitment across international borders can improve skills and job and the effective functioning of labour markets. See the ILO Fair Recruitment Initiative and the ILO General Principles and Operational Guidelines for Fair Recruitment and definition of recruitment fees and related costs.

**The future of labour migration** - Entries in this category should present migrant workers' challenges and

opportunities to access decent work in the context of current and future trends shaping the world of work, including globalization, rising inequalities, demographic changes, technological advancement, non-standard forms of employment, large numbers of workers in the informal economy as well as the need for gender equality, life-long learning and the creation of productive jobs. See the 2019 Report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work: Work for a brighter future

## E-Visa must for travel to Oman via road

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has sought to clear confusion on tourist visas to the Sultanate. In a statement issued on Wednesday, ROP said, All visitors requiring visas for travelling to Oman through the land ports are requested to obtain it electronically (e-Visa) before travel. This will facilitate easy and efficient processing at the border posts. Visa on Arrival is now an exception to the rule and e-Visa should be used wherever possible.

With the Sultanate moving towards the e-Visa platform, all foreign tourists have been urged to obtain a visa before their departure from the city of origin. All tourists eligible for the unsponsored Visa on Arrival have been also asked to get an online visa.

According to sources in the Ministry of Tourism, We are moving towards the digital platform in this segment worldwide. It will have a positive impact. Now, every single tourist coming to Oman can avail of e-Visa.

Currently, expatriates (and relatives accompanying them) residing in the GCC can avail tourist visas without a sponsor and extendable for a week, by paying RO 5. Other conditions include the person should have a valid residence permit in any GCC country to enter without a sponsor and valid passport for a period not less than six months.

The expatriates should come directly from one of the GCC countries if they wish to take advantage of this facility.

## \$80 for multiple visa with one year validity in Saudi Arabia

**JEDDAH** — The Council of Ministers has recently approved restructuring of visa system for Haj and Umrah pilgrims as well as for visitors and transit passengers. This is through unifying the visa fee for issuing visa for each person at a rate of SR300. The Cabinet also canceled fee for repeating Umrah pilgrimage.

This revoked the earlier rule to the effect that an Umrah pilgrim had to pay SR2,000 in case of repeating the pilgrimage during a period of three years. AlArabiya.net published a list of the types and duration of visas included in the recent Cabinet's decision in this regard.

According to sources working in the visa services, there are some new regulations for Haj and Umrah pilgrims, including selection of travel with an organized trip by licensed companies, as well as complying with health insurance regulations, and insurance of vehicles for visitors and transit passengers.

Minister of Haj and Umrah Mohammed Benten, who is also chairman of the Committee of the Guests' Service Program, thanked Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman on the occasion of the issuance of the royal decree in this regard.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency, the minister said that the royal decree comes within the framework of the

keenness of the wise leadership to facilitate the arrival of Muslims from all over the world to perform the Haj and Umrah rituals.

"This also shows Kingdom's readiness to receive the increasing number of Haj and Umrah pilgrims through huge infrastructure projects and improving the system of services in Makkah, Madinah and the holy sites.



"The decision boosts efforts to achieve one of the most important goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 to receive 30 million pilgrims by 2030, through a system of great services provided by the Kingdom to the Guests of God."

On his part, Deputy Minister of Haj and Umrah Dr. Abdul Fattah Mashat said that Saudi Arabia will spare no effort in providing everything that will facilitate the procedures for the arrival of pilgrims to Makkah from all over the world to perform their rituals in ease and comfort.

He pointed out that this decision confirms the keenness of this blessed country since its establishment to serve Islam and Muslims, and overcome all difficulties and harness all the potential for their comfort.

## Private sector job creation 'key to Saudi economic growth': report

Private-sector job creation is crucial to Saudi Arabia achieving long term fiscal sustainability, according to the Economic Update: Middle East Q3 2019, produced in partnership by ICAEW and Oxford Economics.

The Saudi Arabian economy is set to see minimal growth of around 0.5 per cent in 2019, below the average of 2.2 per cent last year, the report said, adding that despite major diversification efforts, economic activity in the Kingdom remains weighed down by the renewed oil production cuts by Opec+.

The non-oil private sector expanded by 2.3 per cent in Q1 2019 – the fastest in six quarters – and in June the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) reached its highest level since December 2017. However, despite major diversification efforts, the Saudi economy remains closely linked to oil-sector developments.

Preliminary estimates show that the economy grew by 1.7 per cent in Q1 2019, buoyed by an uptick in both oil and non-oil activities compared to the same period last year. Nonetheless, solid economic growth and rising output are yet to translate into higher hiring activity in the private sector. The report states that the employment sub-index of the PMI survey has remained close to the neutral level of 50 for over two years, partially due to squeezed profit margins, as firms grapple with rising input costs and discounted selling prices amid strong competition.

The private sector has long relied on expat workers, making up about 80 per cent of the total private sector labour force in 2018. As the government pushes Saudization policies to tackle the high levels of unemployment among locals, the number of expats in the private sector has significantly declined, with over

# Know Oman: Expats can obtain Omani citizenship

**Muscat:** Expats who have been living in Oman for more than 20 years can become Omani citizens if they fulfil the requirements of the Citizenship Law of Oman, according to a legal expert.

All they need to do is comply with the procedure and submit the set of documents required, however, the decision remains with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In a series of articles about the country's rules and regulations, entitled "Know Oman", experts guide readers on their rights and responsibilities while working and living in the Sultanate.

Speaking exclusively to Times of Oman, a representative of Al Faqih & Co., one of the leading law firms in Oman, explained the law regarding the acquisition of Omani citizenship and the documents needed.

Yasin Chowdhury, Head of the Corporate Advisory at Al Faqih & Co., said that any single foreigner who has been living in Oman for a period of 20 consecutive years, or for 15 years if married to an Omani citizen, is eligible to apply for Omani citizenship.

"Both male and female foreigners who are married to Omani citizens are eligible to apply for the citizenship provided the couple obtains the prior permission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for their marriage. The rule also applies to a female foreigner whose Omani husband has died or has divorced her. Moreover, an Omani woman who is married to a foreigner can apply for the citizenship of any child of such marriage.

"Applications for citizenship should be made using the forms which can be obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

submitted with the other documents required. These comprise: a copy of the passport including a valid residence visa and details of the first entry to Oman if any; a copy of the ID card or the like; a copy of a valid resident card; a copy of the marriage contract if applicable and copies of the passports of the spouse and children along with their birth certificate as appropriate.

"Also, a copy of the certificate issued by the Ministry in the event of marriage to an Omani; a copy of the police clearance certificate; a copy of valid health certificate to prove his freedom from infectious diseases; a copy of salary certificate; a copy of the certificate from the competent authority authorizing him to renounce nationality; a written declaration to relinquish his nationality; a written declaration specifying the names of his minor children, with all their documents attached, and updating these data, whenever necessary," Chowdhury said.

He continued: "Omani citizenship may be acquired by expats living in Oman after fulfilling the above conditions as required under the Citizenship Law of the Sultanate. The matter is dealt with in the Citizenship Law promulgated in Oman by Royal Decree No. 38 of 2014 and the recent Ministerial Decision from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Ministerial Decision No. 92 of 2019)."

Chowdhury said that expats who are eligible can apply to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Oman for the acquisition of Omani nationality. "The Ministry, in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures, will review and decide on such application

as the final decision lies with the Ministry."

The legal expert continued saying that: "According to the Ministry, the application fee for single expats who have been living for 20 years and more is OMR600, whereas the spouses or previous spouses of Omani citizens will need to pay OMR300."

He added that the Citizenship Law and the Ministerial Decision contains a complete list of the documents that applicants are required to submit with their applications for citizenship.

"After citizenship is granted, the foreigner will be obliged to swear before the President of the Court of First Instance and to respect the statutes, laws, customs and traditions of Oman and to be a good citizen. Moreover, the law obliges such a person not to reside outside of Oman for more than six consecutive months during the 10 years following his obtaining Omani nationality except under a permit from the Ministry or for reasons accepted by the Ministry," Chowdhury said.

Al Faqih & Co. () is a premier commercial law firm based in Muscat consisting of barristers, consultants, and advocates with vast experience in corporate and commercial practice including labour and employment law in Oman.

The objectives of the firm are to provide a full spectrum of corporate and commercial legal services to a variety of clientele in an efficient, effective and timely manner. It has specialization in litigation & arbitration, banking & finance, international trade, shipping & aviation, private equity, and foreign investment laws.

1.2 million expats leaving the labour market since the end of 2016. More worryingly, the number of employed Saudis has not picked up, and has, in fact, declined on an annual basis for two consecutive quarters in Q4 2018 and Q1 2019, by 1.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

The oil sector is expected to contract by 1.8 per cent in 2019, well below the growth rate of 2.9 per cent recorded in 2018 – weakening its contribution to the economy. According to the Q3 Economic Update report, oil production in Saudi averaged 10.09 million b/d in Q1 and 9.78 b/d in Q2 2019, notably below the average of 10.3 million b/d in 2018. With the extension of the Opec+ supply cuts well into Q1 2020, oil production is unlikely to recover in the second half of the year. Saudi Arabia is actively working to support oil prices amid growing fears of worsening global

demand conditions, reflecting the escalating US-China trade war and the potential of a US recession by next year. The oil sector will be further weighed down by lower oil prices this year, averaging \$65.5 per barrel (pb), about 7.8 per cent below the average of the \$71.1pb last year.

Michael Armstrong, FCA and ICAEW regional director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA), said: "We applaud the necessary reforms the Saudi government has implemented to achieve economic diversification and to improve the overall business environment. Although we see signs of improvement in the non-oil private sector, the Saudi economy still remains closely tied to the dominant oil sector. In order to achieve Vision 2030 goals, improvement of the overall business environment through pro-business policies and initiatives is a must, especially

addressing the high unemployment level in the private sector as this is a key area of growth for Saudi Arabia."

On a positive note, the Saudi government posted a \$7.4 billion budget surplus in Q1 this year, the first in almost five years. Also, the \$53 billion private sector stimulus originally marked for 2018 – 2021 is expected to extend beyond 2021, reaffirming the government's commitment to Vision 2030 and economic diversification. The stimulus plan includes funds allocated for export promotion, support of SMEs and investment in technology. Government spending is expected to reach \$9.6 billion this year and \$5.9 billion in 2020.

Construction activity in the Kingdom has also shown signs of recovery, expanding by 1.3 per cent in Q1 2019, after contracting by around 3 per cent a year from 2016 – 2018.