

Press Release

Under the High Patronage of the Lebanese President HE Michel Aoun The 15th International Operations and Maintenance Conference in the Arab Countries is Launched

Beirut –

Under the patronage of the Lebanese President HE **Michel Aoun**, represented by H.E. the Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transportation, **Mr. Youssef Fenianos**, the 15th Edition of the International Operations and Maintenance Conference in the Arab Countries was launched in the Lebanese capital “Beirut” at Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand Hotel, Emirate Hall on the 23rd of October 2017. This conference, which proved successful throughout its 14 previous sessions, the most recent of which was held in the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, was attended by more than 500 engineers and specialists, along with more than 70 researchers who presented more than 70 worksheets, researches and workshops. The opening ceremony included speeches given by HE the Representative of the Lebanese President, the Minister of Public Works and Transportation; HE Dr. Zuhair Al-Sarraj, Secretary General of the Conference; Chairman of the Arab Institute of Operation and Maintenance, Dr. Mohammed Fawzan and the guest speaker Dr. Bassam Gholman, Director of the Haramain High Speed Rail Project.

The 15th International Operations and Maintenance Conference in the Arab Countries, held in Beirut from 23 to 25 October 2017, provided the international experts and organizations with a platform to share expertise and experiences with the regional decisions and policies makers in the field of operation and maintenance.

The Secretary General of the Conference, Dr. Zuhair Al-Sarraj shed the light on the valuable patronage of HE Lebanese President Michel Aoun of the conference and said: “This conference held under the slogan of the “Smart Maintenance” is the only specialized event on this important topic in the region”. “It opens the door to the operation and maintenance managers in the Public Sector as well as to the operators and managers of the main operation and maintenance companies to share experiences and enrich their knowledge about the new techniques applied to improve the efficiency of the operation and maintenance, the operations management strategies and the work plans”, he added.

The 15th edition of this conference, organized by the Arab Institute of Operations and Maintenance in the Arab Countries, was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation in Lebanon; Department of Military Works, Ministry of Defense in KSA; Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC) in KSA; King Saud University; KSA Ministry of Municipal and Rural

Affairs; Jordanian Engineers Association; Saudi Council of Engineers; Gulf Engineering Union; Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC); Saudi Electricity Company; Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) (Leagues of Arab States); Toronto University in Canada; EU National Maintenance Unions; International Maintenance Association (IMA), Switzerland; Sharjah Research Academy and UAE Ministry of Infrastructure Development.

According to Al-Sarraj, the main objective of the 15th Operations and Maintenance Conference is to pursue its mission to present and highlight the latest international effective standards, methodologies and strategies applied in the operation and maintenance fields. The conference aims also at presenting case studies and practical experiences in the operation and maintenance fields in addition to the effective ways to overcome problems and at cooperating continuously with the conference participants.

“Five speakers from among the leading international experts participated in the main session of the conference, presided by Dr. Alan Wilson, Chief Executive Officer of Carmichael Smith Limited, UK. Furthermore, the Managing Director of Oxford Quality Center Ltd., UK, Carl Krüger reviewed ISO Management System for the management of smart maintenance using the internationally accepted excellence programs to ensure the continuous improvement of the operation and maintenance. On another hand, the second keynote speaker, Engineer James Kennedy, Director of Interlogis Consulting, Australia discussed the protection of systems through the sound maintenance and management of assets, from an Australian perspective”, he added.

Al-Sarraj noted that the 15th edition of the Conference was keen to receive experts from all over the world. “The third keynote speaker, Simone Bernasconi, Managing Director of MSFI Efficiency Center Switzerland, discussed the topic of the maintenance of transportation system as an overview and comparison between the air transportation, railways and roads; while the fourth Keynote Speaker, Dr. Trinath Sahoo, Director General of Indian Oil Corporation Limited discussed the use of the smart maintenance to improve the maintenance efficiency”, he said.

The Secretary General of the Conference pointed out that the eleven recommendations issued by the last session of the conference were considered as a cornerstone to build a future for the operation and maintenance in the Arab countries, which would improve the level of facilities management sector, noting that the participating experts and specialists have stressed in their recommendations on the need to lay the foundations for the modernization and rehabilitation of facilities and equipment as well as to include the occupational health and safety programs within the comprehensive development perspective of assets and facilities management.

On another hand, the Organizing Committee of the 15th International Operations and Maintenance Conference announced the winners of the 11th Arab Award for Operation and Maintenance, being the only Arab award granted to individuals, bodies and companies operating in the field of operation and maintenance. The award was first launched in 2005 and has been awarded annually since then.

According to the President of the Arab Institute of Operation and Maintenance, Dr. Mohamed Al-Fawzan, the Arab Award for Operation and Maintenance aims at encouraging the correct practices in the implementation and performance of the operation and maintenance works and activities in the Arab countries in order to raise the level of performance of employees and companies in this field, to encourage initiatives and creativity in both public and private sectors and to present and share expertise and effective successful applications to establish the importance of operation and maintenance.

The winners of the award are:

First Branch: 2017 Outstanding Maintenance Engineer Award for Individuals

Topic: Best maintenance engineer who used smart applications for the maintenance works management.

Awarded to: PHD Hussam Eddin Al Broumbali, Professor, Ain Shams University in Egypt.

Second Branch: 2017 Best Performance Award for Companies

Topic: Best Maintenance Company that developed a method to apply smart maintenance to tools and systems

Awarded to: Steady Solutions Company, Jordan

Received by: Engineer Fayyad Al Darghama, General Manager, Steady Solutions Company.

Third Branch: 2017 Best Maintenance System Award (for bodies and facilities)

Topic: Best body or entity that used the best applications integrating the management of maintenance and operation and the overall management through smart applications.

Awarded to: Drainage and Irrigation Department, Dubai Municipality, UAE

Fourth Branch: 2017 Best Operation System Award (for bodies and facilities)

Topic: Best body or entity that adopted an innovative and smart operation system to decrease the number of workers.

Awarded to: King Abdullah Medical City, Mecca, KSA

Received by: Engineer Abdullah Bin Faysal Khan, Chief Operation Officer (COO), King Abdullah Medical City, Mecca, KSA

Fifth Branch: Award of the Best Media Work Contributing to the Development of Operation and Maintenance in the Arab World.

Topic: Best visual or written media that has presented programs or news reports contributing to the awareness of maintenance and its importance and the preservation of public properties.

Awarded to: Ain Riyadh, KSA.

Received by: Ms. Yasmin Nabil Al-Henawi, Director of Media and Public Relations, Ain Riyadh.

Sixth Branch: 2017 Best Training Activity in the Arab World Award

Topic: Best training activity in the field of operation and maintenance in the Arab world.

Awarded to: Regulation and Standardization of Operation and Maintenance National Committee, KSA.

Received by: Dr. Essam bin Ali Qabbani

Dr. Fawza added that the conference included a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute and its General Assembly, presenting the training programs of the Institute until 2020 in addition to the signing of a number of cooperation agreements between the Arab Institute of Operation and Maintenance and many regional and international organizations and associations. It is worth noting that the Arab Institute of Operation and Maintenance shed light during the General Assembly meeting on the main achievements of the Institute during the past period and submitted the annual report to the Secretariat of the Institute.