

General contractor a big contributor to development

The growth of Ahmadiyah has mirrored the growth of Kuwait. Today the construction company continues its significant contribution and partnership with the public and private sectors.



"We see opportunities in both government and private investment in construction. We are looking very positively on our future within Kuwait."

Ayad Abdul Mohsen
Al-Thuwainy, Vice
Chairman, Ahmadiyah
Contracting & Trading

When a visitor arrives in Kuwait, throughout their trip they will be driving on, looking at, living in, or utilizing buildings and infrastructure built by the country's premier construction company: Ahmadiyah Contracting & Trading Co.

The company, which came into existence on the back of Kuwaiti statehood, has built everything from skyscrapers to palaces to industrial plants and government buildings, as well as leisure facilities including waterfront developments, hotels, and malls. Importantly, Ahmadiyah has constructed an array of critical national infrastructure including airport terminals, hospitals and highways as well as contributing to mega-projects such as Sea City.

The company, founded on humble beginnings, has carried forward traditional Ku-



Al Hamra Tower, Kuwait's tallest structure at 414 meters, was built by Ahmadiyah. Courtesy of Ministry of Information.

waiti business principles of trust, valued relationships and strong partnerships. "When Ahmadiyah was established in 1954 it was slightly pre-independence, just at the start of oil production," explains Vice Chairman Ayad Abdul Mohsen Al-Thuwainy. "As Kuwait grew, Ahmadiyah grew, both by working with the government and with the private sector. Generations later, the two families that started the business, the Al-Thuwainy family and the Lebanese Al-Najjar family, remain strong partners to this day. It is hard to imagine, but the company was founded on a handshake! The initial ten line agreement was simple; win or lose we split everything 50-50, and HH Amir of Kuwait Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, then the Foreign Minister, was the witness to the

agreement and the arbitrator in case of dispute."

Ahmadiyah's relationship with Kuwait was one for better or worse. During the Iraqi occupation, its management continued to look after employees, even though all work had been stopped indefinitely. Following liberation the company, despite suffering huge losses, began operating again to help literally rebuild the country.

Today, new challenges are facing the country, most notably maintaining national development plans in the face of low hydrocarbon prices. According to Mr. Al-Thuwainy, "There are many opportunities to see greater international partnership in the current investment climate here in Kuwait. This is really an opportunity for more public-private partner-

ships (PPPs), which already started successfully in Kuwait a few years ago with the Az-Zour North Independent Water and Power Project. The results of these partnerships have been very positive in terms of delivering on time and on budget."

Given the strong demographic growth that Kuwait is facing, now is an important time for the government to ensure infrastructure meets population demand. Indeed, as the third generation of the Al-Thuwainy family joins Ahmadiyah, Mr. Al-Thuwainy is confident on Kuwait's growth and their own. "We see opportunities in both government and private investment in construction, and when reflecting on the success of the last 60 years, we are looking very positively on our future within Kuwait."

55th

YEAR OF
INDEPENDENCE

25th

ANNIVERSARY
OF LIBERATION

10th

YEAR UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF H.H. SABAH AL-AHMAD
AL-JABER AL-SABAH

Coming Soon:

Globus Vision will continue its coverage in a second report on Kuwait in its milestone year, focusing on youth empowerment, the economic vision for the future, and its remarkable humanitarian leadership.