



NUSACC Year in Review: 2019



United States

January 8 – 12 (Las Vegas, Nevada): NUSACC participated in the **International Consumer Electronics Show (CES)**, held annually in Las Vegas. At the “Leaders in Technology” Dinner, organized by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), NUSACC’s President & CEO met with some of the country’s thought leaders in technological innovation. As part of this year’s dinner, CTA’s President & CEO, Gary Shapiro, interviewed John Krafcik, CEO of Waymo LLC, a self-driving technology development company.



(Photo credit: Digital Trends)



Receiving the delegation in the elegant Law Library of the State Capitol Building are Senator Zach Nunn (center) and Mr. Eric Branstad (center left), a leading business developer in the State of Iowa.

United States

January 14 & 15 (Des Moines, Iowa): NUSACC organizes a “**discovery mission**” to the **State of Iowa** for one of its member companies specializing in agricultural innovation.

Algeria

February 9 – 15 (Algeria): NUSACC and the US – Algeria Business Council organized a **trade & investment mission to Algeria** for U.S. companies. Delegates visited multiple cities across Algeria, where they were introduced to some of the country’s most sophisticated manufacturers. American delegates participating in the mission specialized in opening the U.S. market to foreign producers, including those in North Africa.



Photo to Left: **Hon. John P. Desrocher, U.S. Ambassador to Algeria**, briefs American delegates at the historic El Djazair Hotel in Algiers. Desrocher highlighted commercial trends in Algeria, as well as opportunities elsewhere in Africa to be accessed through Algeria, the largest country on the African continent.

Bahrain

March 1 (Washington, DC): At an **Expert Roundtable** co-hosted by NUSACC and the Embassy of Bahrain, senior leaders from Bahrain highlighted that nation's efforts to become the top **Fintech destination in the MENA region**. Guest speakers included H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid AlKhalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States, and Mr. Maissan Almaskati, Chairman of FinTech Consortium Bahrain and a Board Member of Bahrain Fintech Bay.

More than 30 U.S. companies attended the Roundtable, from start-ups to multinational corporations, including such Platinum Plus members as Boeing and Raytheon.



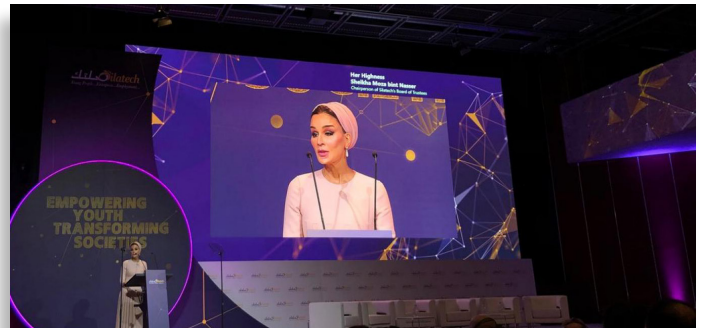
From right to left: Mr. Maissan Almaskati, Chairman of FinTech Consortium Bahrain and a Board Member of Bahrain FinTech Bay; H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid AlKhalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States; David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO; Mr. Yousif Ahmed, Counselor at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



“There is no shortage of reasons why business investors should choose Bahrain as a fintech destination,” suggested Ambassador AlKhalifa. “The Kingdom offers a business-friendly environment, with access to deep, diverse, and talented human capital. Bahrain is proud of its young, educated, bilingual, and tech savvy talent.”

Qatar

March 4 (Geneva, Switzerland): NUSACC supported a capacity-building conference in Geneva, Switzerland, organized by **Silatech**, a **Doha-based NGO** that is helping to create jobs and economic opportunities for youth across the Arab world. The theme of this conference, “Empowering Youth, Transforming Societies,” highlighted Silatech's efforts to empower more than 1 million youths and to create 5 million commercial opportunities by 2022.



H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chair of the Qatar Foundation, keynoted the Silatech conference in Geneva. In 2008, she launched Silatech, where she currently serves as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. In that capacity, she is ably supported by Ms. Sabah Ismail Al Haidoos, CEO.



From right to left: H.E. Ridha Ben Mosbah, Ambassador of Tunisia; Mr. Nabil Jijakli, CEO of Credendo, luncheon sponsor; H.E. Abdellahi Bah Nagi Kebd, Ambassador of Mauritania; H.E. Cécile Jodogne, State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of Foreign Trade; H.E. Mohamed Ameer, Ambassador of Morocco; Mrs. Fabille L'host, Director General of Belgian Foreign Trade Agency; Mr. Qaisar Hijazin, ABLCC Secretary General; Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President and CEO; H.E. Fadi Hajali, Ambassador of Lebanon.

Morocco

March 7 (Brussels): The **Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce** hosted a luncheon focused on commercial relations with the Kingdom of Morocco. David Hamod, NUSACC's President & CEO, participated in the event, organized by NUSACC's “sister” Chamber in Belgium. The keynote speaker was Morocco's Ambassador to Belgium, H.E. Mohamed Ameer. **Hon. Dwight Bush**, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and a NUSACC Board member, visits Morocco regularly and actively promotes the U.S. – Morocco commercial relationship.



Hon. Dwight Bush, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, is a NUSACC Board Member.

Morocco

March 29 (Washington, DC): NUSACC supported **Morocco Day**, organized by the Moroccan American Network and held at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, DC. The event promoted commercial, educational, and cultural exchange opportunities between the Kingdom of Morocco and America's capital, Washington, DC.



Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar

April 6 – 11: NUSACC supported a **U.S. Department of Commerce healthcare mission** to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar. The delegation, including NUSACC member companies, explored rapidly expanding healthcare sectors in three Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. To fight growing instances of chronic disease, for example, these countries are committing significant resources to modernize their healthcare systems.

Oman

April 14 (Sultanate of Oman): NUSACC supported a visit to the Sultanate of Oman by **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, a Platinum Plus member of NUSACC. Working closely with the Omani Embassy in Washington, NUSACC helped to organize high-level meetings with



Oman's State General Reserve Fund, the Information Technology Authority, the Ministry of Information, and others. In late 2019, Oman created a new Ministry of Technology and Communications, headed by **Her Excellency Azza bint Sulaiman Al Ismailia**.



Ms. Teresa Carlson, Vice President responsible for Worldwide Public Sector at Amazon Web Services, served as a NUSACC Board Member until mid-2019.

Bahrain

April 15 - 18 (Kingdom of Bahrain): The **Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC)**, held for the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain, brought together more than 3,000 entrepreneurs and investors from 170 countries.



H.E. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, received David Hamod, NUSACC's President & CEO, during a visit to Bahrain.



Tamkeen, Bahrain's Labor Fund responsible for employment capacity-building, played a lead role in supporting the recent Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) in Bahrain. Tamkeen's Chief Executive, Dr. Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi (center left), presents NUSACC's David Hamod with the seals of Dilmun, part of Bahrain's historic heritage, dating back to the third millennium BC. Also pictured (from left to right): Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Alabsi, Tamkeen's Director of Legal Affairs; Ms. Reem Jasim, Tamkeen's Director of Risk & Control; Mr. Ahmed Hassan Janahi, Tamkeen's Manager for Community Engagement.

NUSACC's President & CEO served as a delegate representing the United States, which included his participation as a judge in the **GIST Tech-I pitch competition**. The three-day event – co-hosted by Tamkeen, Bahrain's fund to build capacity among the Kingdom's youth – showcased Bahrain and its role as an emerging hub for regional entrepreneurship.



(Photo credit: U.S. Department of State)

Photo to Right: VIPs and winners of the GIST Tech-I Competition held during the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Bahrain. Front row, from left to right: David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC; Dr. Robert Langer, Institute Professor at MIT; Hon. Justin Siberell, U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain; Jonathan Ortman, President, Global Entrepreneurship Network. Competition winners (back row, from left to right): Donatus Njoroge of Kenya, Ariuntuya Altangerel of Mongolia, Anatoli Kirigwajjo of Uganda, Heriberto Solano of Colombia, Varinder Singh of India, and Isaac Sesi of Ghana.



(Photo credit: LA Area Chamber of Commerce)

United States

May 2 (Los Angeles, California): NUSACC served as a Partner Organization in the **93rd Annual World Trade Week (WTW)**, organized by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. WTW takes place across the USA every year, but the Los Angeles event is considered the largest of its kind: More than 800 prominent business, government, and civic leaders joined the L.A. Chamber and NUSACC to celebrate the important role that trade plays locally, nationally, and globally.

NUSACC Iftar Dinner

May 28 (Washington, DC): NUSACC's annual **Iftar Dinner**, held at the Ritz- Carlton Hotel in Washington, is widely regarded as the most elegant Iftar in America. The eighth annual event, held in honor of the Arab diplomatic community and the League of Arab States, drew a record number of diplomats and business executives: More than 200 leaders attended the gathering, including three dozen Arab diplomats from 16 different nations. [Click [here](#) to see a short video.]



Ms. Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, Vice President, International Government Affairs at Lockheed Martin International. In her capacity as a NUSACC Board Member, she was a guest speaker at *Iftar* 2019.



Senior Arab Embassy officials, U.S. Government representatives, business leaders, and Iftar sponsors from around the United States attended NUSACC's annual Ramadan *Iftar*.



Sponsors of the annual *Iftar*, led this year by **The Ritz-Carlton Hotel** and the **Embassy of the United Arab Emirates**, help to make the event possible. Additional sponsors this year included Black & Veatch, Chevron, Lockheed Martin, PhRMA, Pragma Corporation, and the Wolf Trap Foundation.



H.E. Amb. Salah Sarhan is Chief Representative in the United States for the League of Arab States. He also serves as an Honorary NUSACC Board Member.



United States

May 30 – June 4 (Los Angeles and San Diego, California): NUSACC organized a “discovery mission” to Los Angeles and San Diego, California. Chamber leadership met with diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and heads of civic organizations to promote partnerships and to raise awareness about business opportunities in the Arab world.

United States

June 10 (Washington, DC): As part of **Overseas Americans Week**, NUSACC hosted a delegation from the Association of Americans Resident Overseas (AARO) and the Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) at NUSACC’s headquarters in Washington, DC. The delegation, as part of its annual “Doorknock” visit, met with dozens of policymakers to raise awareness about the priorities of Americans abroad, including the U.S. business community overseas.



Leaders of the Overseas Americans Week delegation visited NUSACC.



United States

June 17 – 21 (Denver, Colorado): NUSACC supported multiple member companies at the **Outdoor Retailer (OR) show** in Denver, Colorado. This event, widely regarded as the largest global B2B trade event serving the outdoor industry, attracts over 30,000 attendees from more than 60 nations. NUSACC’s trip to the Mile High City also included a “discovery mission” that focused on academia, government officials, business leaders, and NGOs.

Tunisia

June 13 (Washington, DC): In partnership with the Embassy of Tunisia, NUSACC co-hosted an **Expert Roundtable** that explored emerging business opportunities in today’s Tunisia. The Roundtable featured: **H.E. Omar Behi, Tunisia’s Minister of Commerce**; H.E. Fayçal Gouia, Tunisia’s Ambassador to the United States; and Hon. Donald Blome, U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia. Senior executives from more than 30 U.S. companies signed up for the discussion.



From right to left: H.E. Fayçal Gouia, Tunisian Ambassador to the U.S.; H.E. Omar Behi, Tunisian Minister of Commerce; David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO; Hon. Donald Blome, U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia.

Minister Behi said, “We are engaged in diversifying our production. We have undertaken many economic reforms to develop economic partnerships and investments, and there is a large potential to develop exports to Africa.”

Tunisia

June 14 (Washington, DC): The Second **U.S. – Tunisia Joint Economic Commission (JEC)** was held on June 14 at the U.S. Department of State. Presiding on the Tunisian side was H.E. Omar Behi, Minister of Commerce. Presiding officials on the American side included Hon. Gil Kaplan, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, and Hon. Joan Polaschik, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.



From left to right: Mr. Naceur Hidoussi, President, AmCham Tunisia; H.E. Omar Behi, Tunisia's Minister of Commerce; H.E. Fayçal Gouia, Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States; Mr. Iyadh Abid, Advisor, Ministry of Development, Investment, and International Cooperation; Ms. Saida Hachicha, Director General of Trade in the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft.

NUSACC's David Hamod represented the U.S. business community. "These government-to-government meetings help to create frameworks for commerce, thereby 'opening the door' for business. But at the end of the day, the onus is on us, the private sector, to do the deals that will create jobs, economic growth, and prosperity." He concluded, "Here in America, the private sector is the engine of economic growth. Increasingly, that is true in Tunisia as well."



From left to right: Mr. Skip Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Middle East and Africa; Ms. Barbara Ferrar, Trade Specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce; Mr. Daniel Crocker, Senior Foreign Service Commercial Officer at the U.S. Department of Commerce; Mr. Matthew Rees, Interim Coordinator for Prosper Africa at USAID; Hon. Donald Blome, U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia; Mr. John C. Pazartzis, Managing Director for Capital Mobilization & Frameworks at OPIC; Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO; Mr. Noureddine Hajji, Managing Partner at EY Tunisia.



United States

June 19 (Washington, DC): NUSACC participated in the **World Food Prize laureate announcement ceremony** at the U.S. Department of State. **Hon. Michael R. Pompeo**, U.S. Secretary of State, welcomed David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO. The \$250,000 World Food Prize, sometimes characterized as a "Nobel Prize" for food sustainability, recognizes the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.



H.E. Ali Al-Sunaidy chats with Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO. Looking on are Mr. Hamood Al Towaiya, Oman’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Mr. Khalid Al-Shuaibi, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission in New York.

Oman

July 16 (Washington, DC): NUSACC, in partnership with Oman’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, co-hosted an **Expert Roundtable** in New York City featuring **H.E. Ali Al-Sunaidy, Oman’s Minister of Commerce & Industry**. Thirty NUSACC stakeholder companies participated in the interactive Roundtable.

Al-Sunaidy focused his remarks on a “package” of five groundbreaking laws, recently promulgated, that are designed to promote joint ventures and to make Oman even more business-friendly. In addition, he talked about the recent establishment of a new Public Authority for Privatization and Partnership (PAPP).

Developing people and creating a knowledge-based economy that focuses on individuals and their ideas, as well as maintaining peace, are the cornerstones of Oman’s Vision 2040,” Al-Sunaidy said. “Oman is focusing on innovation, technology, and protecting the environment as pillars for completing the vision and leading Oman to a future in tune with the United Nations’ SDG goals.”

United States

July 17 – 19 (Houston, Texas): In 2019, Houston served as host of the **Sister Cities International Annual Conference**. The theme of the 63rd annual gathering was “Cities Mean Business.” NUSACC’s office in Houston supported the event, which drew upwards of 1,000 government officials, business leaders, and citizen diplomats. Sunil “Sunny” Sharma (second from right), Board Member of Sister Cities of Houston, was a driving force behind the high-profile event.



Mr. Toufic Dabboussi, Chairman of the Chamber of Tripoli and the North, hosted Mr. Rabih Mogharbel, NUSACC’s Vice President of Business Development, during a “discovery mission” visit to Lebanon.

Lebanon

July 20 - 27 (Beirut, Lebanon): NUSACC’s Vice President of Business Development, Rabih Mogharbel, visited Beirut. During this “**discovery mission**” to Lebanon, he held meetings with: Mr. Rabih Sabra, Director General at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon; Mr. Toufic Dabboussi, Chairman of the Chamber of Tripoli and the North; Dr. Khaled Hanafi, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers; Mr. Dany Gedeon, General Director of the Ministry of Industry; Ms. Paola Chakhtoura, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Lebanon (AmCham); and others.

Somalia

July 26 (Washington, DC): NUSACC participated in the **2nd Annual Somali Diaspora Summit**, “Enriching Somalia’s Economic Future.” The top keynote speaker was **H.E. Abdirahman Duale Beyle, Somalia’s Minister of Finance**, who was uniquely qualified to talk about the Somali diaspora experience in the USA. (He earned his BA, MBA, and PhD from the University of Wisconsin.)



David Hamod, NUSACC’s President & CEO, also served as a keynote speaker, contrasting the Lebanese diaspora experience with that of Somalia. He noted, “Roughly three-quarters of Somali refugees to the USA are under 30 years old. This means there is a major ‘youth bulge’ underway, and experience tells us that each of these families will want to contribute to their respective communities.”



NUSACC leaders and professional trainers worked with PDI Fellows in 2019 to prepare them for one-year internships with U.S. companies.
(www.pdi-nusacc.org)

Kuwait

September 17 (Washington, DC): Throughout the summer, NUSACC worked closely with **Kuwaiti Professional Development Initiative (PDI)** fellows to prepare them for interviews with major U.S. corporations. Profiles were submitted to prospective American host companies in September. All participating 2019 PDI fellows were placed with multinational corporations.

Kuwait

October 5 (Los Angeles, California): NUSACC’s David Hamod and leaders of the **Hollywood Film Festival** in California welcomed **H.E. Faisal Al-Houli, Kuwait’s Consul General in Los Angeles**. The Hollywood-based film festival is exploring ways to raise the profile of young Kuwaiti filmmakers in the United States.



NUSACC’s David Hamod and leaders of the Hollywood Film Festival in California welcomed H.E. Faisal Al-Houli, Kuwait’s Consul General in Los Angeles.

Saudi Arabia

October 14 & 15 (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia): NUSACC supported the **2nd International Conference of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)**, taking place in Riyadh. Dubbed “SCCA19,” this conference offered insights for commercial, legal, and government professionals involved in contract negotiation, risk management, litigation, conflict management and resolution in the public and private sectors. SCCA, hosted by NUSACC in Washington DC, is a not-for-profit organization established in 2014 to administer arbitration procedures. If arbitration is considered the preferred method for dispute resolution for investors, then SCCA’s goal is to create a safe environment that attracts both foreign and domestic investment to the Kingdom.



(Photo credit: SCCA)



Hon. James Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, is a NUSACC Board member.

United States

October 14 – 20 (Washington, DC): For years, NUSACC has supported the **Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund & World Bank Group** by organizing events on the sidelines of those high-level meetings. (For example, see below: NUSACC hosts the Prime Minister of Egypt.) 2019 was no exception, with NUSACC supporting multiple events involving Arab nations. Several parts of the Development Committee’s Final Communiqué were highly relevant to the Arab world, especially the sections on human capital, regional conflict, climate change, global value chains, and the role of the private sector – including entrepreneurship – as an economic driver.



(Photo credit: IMF)

Egypt

October 15 (Washington, DC): In partnership with the Embassy of Egypt, NUSACC co-hosted a **roundtable luncheon** for **H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt**, and a distinguished delegation consisting of the Central Bank Governor and five senior ministers. The event, which brought together 25 top U.S. companies with senior Egyptian officials, took place at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington. Sponsors of the event included Bechtel, Lockheed Martin, and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).



H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt (center), along with H.E. Tarek Amer, Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (center left), and Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO (center right). Egyptian ministers represented the following: Investment & International Cooperation, Petroleum & Mineral Resources, Finance, Telecommunication & Information Technology, Trade & Industry, Housing.



H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly (center), Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E. Tarek Hassan Amer (center left), Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt; H.E. Dr. Sahar Nasr (right), Minister of Investment and International Cooperation; Mr. David Hamod (center right), NUSACC President & CEO; Ambassador (ret.) James Smith (left), CEO of Crosswinds Strategic Consulting and a NUSACC Board member.

“America is Egypt’s strongest partner – strategically, politically, and economically,” noted Madbouly. In part because of this close relationship, he suggested, commerce in Egypt is on the rebound. “Egypt’s economy is growing at nearly six percent, unemployment has dropped to 7.5 percent over the past three years, and inflation has plummeted from 33 percent to 4.3 percent, the lowest level in many years,” he noted.

“The private sector is key to economic growth,” he said, pointing out that Egypt created more than one million new jobs during the last five years, especially in the

construction sector. But to sustain that pace, he suggested, Egypt needs more foreign direct investment (FDI) and an even stronger private sector. He concluded, “We are bringing about economic reform so that Egypt will be increasingly attractive for investment.”

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Saudi Arabia

October 30 (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia): NUSACC member companies participated in an organizing breakfast of the B20 group in Saudi Arabia, which will host the B20 (part of the G20) in Riyadh in November 2020. The B20 is assembled annually and consists of leading businesses from the G20 and other invited countries. The B20 theme in the Kingdom, “Transforming for Inclusive Growth,” will focus on an Action Council on Women in Business and six Task Forces covering the following: Digitalization; Energy, Sustainability & Climate; Finance & Infrastructure; Future of Work & Education; Integrity & Compliance; and Trade & Investment.



From left to right: Mr. Lewis Shadle, Managing Director, Virginia Beach DigiPorts; Ms. Khlood Al Dukheil, Managing Director of Aldukheil Financial Group, and a member of the Saudi Arabia B20 Executive Committee; Mr. Yousef Al-Benyan, CEO of SABIC, and Chairman of the B20 in Saudi Arabia; Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO.



From left to right: Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, former Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) and former Minister of Economy and Planning; Ms. Martina Strong, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh; Mr. Laurence Fink, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BlackRock; U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, John Philip Abizaid, a former U.S. Army General and former U.S. Central Command Commander; Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO.

Saudi Arabia

October 29 - 31 (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia): For the third year in a row, NUSACC participated in the **Future Investment Initiative (FII)**, held in Riyadh. Organized by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the three-day event drew 300 speakers from 30 different countries, and Saudi Arabia signed 23 deals worth over \$15 billion. The event saw the launch of the FII Institute, which is intended to serve as a knowledge platform for prospective investors interested in the Kingdom and beyond.

Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar

November 4 – 9 (Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar): NUSACC leadership led a “discovery mission” to these three countries, holding high-level meetings with government officials, chambers of commerce, and business leaders. A number of discussions revolved around NUSACC’s Professional Development Initiative (PDI), a capacity-building program for young professionals that began in Kuwait and is now expanding to other countries in the region.



H.E. Ali Al-Sunaidy, Oman’s Minister of Commerce & Industry, welcomed David Hamod, NUSACC’s President & CEO.



H.E. Yousef Al-Jaida, CEO at Qatar Financial Center (QFC), hosted Mr. David Hamod, NUSACC’s President & CEO, during a visit to Doha. From left to right: Mr. Amjad Hussain, Partner at K&L Gates; H.E. Yousef Al-Jaida; Mr. David Hamod; and Mr. Ishaq Burney, General Counsel at QFC.

Oman

November 7 – 9 (Muscat, Oman): NUSACC's David Hamod participated in **SAS 48 in Muscat**, an entrepreneurship challenge designed to encourage creative thinking and product development in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). Organized by Oman's new Ministry of Technology and Communications, in partnership with Omantel, 19 teams of Omani youth (104 competitors) worked to develop ideas into a prototype that could be a web or mobile application using emerging technologies. Concepts revolved around solutions in such fields as healthcare, financial, legal, agricultural, transportation, security, and events management.



The Mayor of Cleveland, Hon. Frank G. Jackson, welcomed H.E. Hamad Al-Hazeem, Consul General of the State of Kuwait in New York.

Kuwait

November 11 (Boston, Massachusetts): H.E. Hamad Al-Hazeem, Kuwait's Consul General in New York, has been visiting select U.S. cities as part of his new responsibilities in the Eastern United States. In each city, he has been meeting with government officials, business leaders, and community decisionmakers. In November, with support from NUSACC, H.E. visited Boston, a center for biotechnology, education, and innovation. The following month, H.E.'s travels took him to Cleveland, Ohio, historically one of America's leading manufacturing regions. In both cities, Al-Hazeem laid groundwork for enhanced cooperation between those regions and the State of Kuwait.

Bahrain

November 11 & 12 (Manama, Bahrain): NUSACC's President & CEO participated in the **18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference**. Organized by the Union of Arab Chambers, in collaboration with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry and multiple ministries, the event focused on "Investing in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Digital Economy." An "Arab Entrepreneurship Rally" competition was organized on the side of this year's conference, reflecting the increasing importance of entrepreneurs as drivers of innovation, job creation, and economic growth.



On the sidelines of the business conference in Bahrain, NUSACC visited H.E. Aymen Tawfiq Almoayyad, Minister of Youth and Sports (center). Representing NUSACC at the meeting were Mr. Mohammed Al-Shroogi (right), NUSACC's Board member from Bahrain, and Mr. David Hamod, President & CEO.



H.M. Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, received VIP visitors participating in the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference. Here, David Hamod of NUSACC pays his respects while H.E. Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, looks on.

NUSACC is part of the **Union of Arab Chambers (UAC)**, a global federation that promotes business and culture with the Arab world. This year's annual meeting, held in Bahrain, brought together last year's President of the UAC – **H.E. Senator Nael Al-Kabariti of Jordan** – with his successor, **H.E. Mohamed Abdo Said of Yemen**. (Al-Kabariti also serves as Co-Chairman of NUSACC.)

VIP Speakers at the Conference in Bahrain



H.E. Senator Nael Raja Al-Kabariti, Chairman of the Jordan Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair of NUSACC.

H.E. Mohamed Abdo Said, President of the Union of Arab Chambers, and Chairman of the Yemen Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry.



H.E. Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hosted the conference.



H.E. Dr. Khaled M. Hanafy, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Chambers, also serves as an Honorary NUSACC Board Member.

Proceedings were hosted by **H.E. Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry**, with analysis provided by **H.E. Dr. Khaled M. Hanafy, Secretary General of the UAC** (who serves as an Honorary Board Member of NUSACC).



Mr. Don De Marino, NUSACC Co-Chair, represented the Chamber at many international gatherings over the years. At the end of 2019, he retired as Co-Chair, capping a distinguished 30-year commitment to the National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce.

Ambassador of the Year

December 18 (Washington, DC): NUSACC recognized **H.E. Fayçal Gouia, Tunisia's Ambassador to the United States**, as the **2019 "Ambassador of the Year."** The award ceremony and luncheon, held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, brought together more than 100 leaders from the business, government, diplomatic, and NGO communities. Eighteen fellow ambassadors attended the award ceremony, including Arab ambassadors, U.S. ambassadors, and others.



More than 100 leaders from the business, government, diplomatic, and NGO communities honored H.E. Fayçal Gouia, including 18 Ambassadors. Pictured here are some of the VIPs.



H.E. Fayçal Gouia (center), Tunisia’s Ambassador to the United States, is named “Ambassador of the Year.” Presenting the award are David Hamod (left), NUSACC’s President & CEO, and George Pickart (right), GE’s Senior Director, Global Government Affairs & Policy.

The “Ambassador of the Year” award, a signature event initiated by NUSACC in 2004, is given annually to a member of the Arab diplomatic corps for his or her outstanding contributions to U.S. - Arab commercial relations. Lead Sponsor of this year’s event was **General Electric (GE)**, and additional sponsors included Black & Veatch, Comet, Lockheed Martin, and the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).



Mr. Samir Khalil, a NUSACC Board member, serves as Executive Director, Middle East & Africa, at PhRMA. PhRMA was a sponsor of the 2019 “Ambassador of the Year” event.

In his acceptance speech, Gouia said, “I am incredibly honored and humbled to accept this award from NUSACC on behalf of the Republic of Tunisia, including the Embassy of Tunisia. This award would not have been possible without the hard work of my colleagues, fellow diplomats at the Tunisian Embassy. I also want to thank my beloved family, who have been at my side throughout this long journey as a diplomat.”



H.E. Fayçal Gouia, 2019 “Ambassador of the Year.”



The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.