

## WOULD PLAY KEY ROLE IN WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Kingdom and the Gulf should focus on recovering the maximum amount of resources using as little energy as possible.

His brother Hanif, who is also chairman of GEMS, said the Kingdom has shown great initiative in improving its environmental credentials.

"We are conscious of the fact that Saudi Arabia has taken very strong steps in the regulation and legislation of this waste. We are actually very impressed with the way the regulatory bodies today are operating in the Kingdom, where all the loopholes are getting tightened."

He added that environmental-related businesses had a great opportunity to expand within the Kingdom and the Gulf.

"I think you're going to see renewable energy come in, despite the fact there is very cheap oil. [We] are looking at solar energy projects in the Kingdom. We feel it has potential."

powering local communities. He added that the UNDP was focused on helping the Gulf cope with risks such as floods and droughts as well as protecting the environment.

More than two percent of the Kingdom's water is usable despite a six-fold increase in population, according to a strong population, according to Dr. Khalil Alasi of consultancy ITCM.

He quoted verse 30 of the Qur'an, which says "We made from water every living thing," suggesting that reusing water is the way forward instead of the current methods currently employed in the Kingdom and other countries.

The company looking to carve a niche for itself in water treatment and recycling in the Arab world is GEMS-Utiliteco, which already has 14 waste treatment centers in the Kingdom.

The company was represented by CEO Amyn Dahiya, who said the

# Monitoring waste transport system vital to environment

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JEDDAH: When it comes to the matter of compliance with environmental legislation, it is not the large-scale industries that produce the problems but the small-scale ones.

Such was the opinion of Thierry Pepe, director of Saur International Contracting, in a short but pointed presentation at the end of the first working day of the Gulf Environmental Forum in Jeddah on Monday.

A major part of that, he said, is not just the waste but transportation and the lack of monitoring of what trucks actually contain as they pump and dump.

"I think there is a long way to go for small industries to apply the rules (on avoiding pollution)," he said. As a former consultant for the

development of waste treatment in Makkah, he had observed the large number of sewage trucks.

"Those trucks are not only transporting domestic effluent, but some small industries are using them to transport their effluent that sometimes contains heavy metals and greases which are very difficult to trace once they are at the sewage plant."

Mixed with domestic sewage, these toxic materials render the recycling of sewage into useable water much more difficult, assuming sewage processors are aware of precisely what is in the raw product. "This was a big problem that we had to face, especially in the Kingdom. We have to face this — heavy industries follow the rules, but there is a big challenge to get the small industries to enforce the rules," he said.

environmental protection, safety, economic viability and operational reliability all bound together with human resources.

He noted that each was an integral part of the company's approach to business and suggested that environmental concerns should be part of an integrated approach to businesses in every company. As just one example of walking the walk, he said,

"Our sanitary and wastewater reuse is currently 73 percent and within two years will reach 84 percent. We have set a target that by 2020 it will be at 94 percent."

The national average for the Kingdom, according to the National Water Company, is 16 percent — with some areas as low as six percent. The conference enters its second and final working day on Tuesday.

# Green energy revolution expected in Kingdom

AMJAD PARKAR | ARAB NEWS

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Nations energy expert Veerle

are more aware," she said. Panel member and United Nations energy expert Veerle

was one of four countries signed up to the "Four Kingdoms" initiative which aims to explore

y. Later speaking to reporters, the prince said he believed the demand for oil would increase as a result of global economic growth. He spoke about the Kingdom's efforts to produce and use reserves of oil to meet future demand," he said and underscored Riyadh's efforts to maintain

Marwan Al-Johani

## Effective measures to recycling garbage stressed



Khalid Shaar, chief operations officer at averda

er the Central, Western and term regions of Saudi Arabia." Khalid Shaar, averda's chief operations officer, told the media.

With an initial team of some 100 operatives in the Kingdom, averda has the capacity to provide more effective and advanced recycling and resource management. The company's wide range of services include source separated collection, on-board weighing and on-line viewing and control. "As far as recycling and resource management goes, the Kingdom in the Middle East, and the Kingdom in particular, are steadily progressing in the right direction," he said. "Accordingly, we are

working very hard to introduce a new level of service that will help the region build an efficient waste-control system. As perceptions about the environment in the Middle East continue to gradually change, we believe that our entry into Saudi Arabia will encourage both the public and private sectors to adopt technologically advanced solutions for their resource management needs."

A key element of averda's Kingdom-based operations is its ability to monitor its own environmental footprint through a fleet management tracking program. Shaar said. The company sees such new technology as the standard model for servicing future environmentally friendly cities. In addition, averda has also specified and deployed a range of hybrid trucks and electrically operated vehicles to safely transport waste and discarded materials in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. Finally, both labor and equipment are integrated and shared across averda's broad range of services to manage costs and minimize downtime.

"We have high hopes for our latest venture, and we are optimistic about the impact we will have in the Kingdom's recycling and resource management sector," Shaar said.

that oil is the wealth of this area.

But I think that it is a great thing that people who are responsible for policy in this (region),

research and development for projects directly linked to energy and the environment.

He added that Saudi Arabia

# Next generation technologies discussed

**K.S. RAMKUMAR** / ARAB NEWS  
**JEDDAH:** Striking a balance in the use of techniques and technologies for environmental protection and for the sustainability of energy, water and food resources were emphasized during one of the sessions on Monday at the Gulf Environment Forum being held at the Jeddah Hilton.

"We need to strike a balance in the use of techniques and technologies for using our energy, water and food resources in the

interest of long-term sustainability of the environment," Dominique Pajot, vice president marketing and technique, Schlumberger Water and Carbon Services, said while taking part in a panel discussion. Pajot and other speakers provided expert insights into the use of techniques and technologies for environment protection.

"Any technique that we use should be a long term sustainable one in the interest of the environment," he said.

Speaking about strategic invest-

ment programs to make techniques and technologies feasible and viable was Mohamed Ghuloom, general manager, engineering division, Bapco. He also dealt at length with the treatment of wastewater for industrial usage.

Saad Al-Mahlafi, deputy for meteorology at the Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME), which has organized the forum opened by PME President Prince Turki bin Nasser on Sunday night, called for a more organized

hydrocarbons. Higgins spoke about next generation energy technologies and dealt with delivering environmental and financial benefits through de-sulphurization of hydrocarbons.

lated from the rest of the world. The rest of the world cannot afford to be isolated from any oil producer."



Providing expert insights into techniques and technologies for environment protection at the Gulf Environment Forum on Monday, are from left, Saad Al-Mahlafi, Professor Fouad Ghazali, Mohammed Ghuloom and Samuel Higgins. (AN photo by Marwan Al-Johani)