

SARA AKBAR

CHAIRPERSON & CEO OILSERV, KUWAIT

Sara Akbar has over 40 years of experience in the oil and gas industry with a unique insight into the Middle Eastern region. She has a wide-ranging international experience and significant operational and project management capabilities. She is also the Chairman of the Board of OILTECH Iraq, an indigenous oilfield services company operating in Iraq. Sara was also a member of the Kuwait Supreme Council for Planning and Development and was also an active member of the Board of Trustees of Kuwait's Silk Territory project. Among her many awards, Sara earned the prestigious 'Leader in Energy' award at the Women in Leadership Awards & Forum in 2009 recognizing her as the first and only woman leader in the Oil and Gas industry in the Middle East. Furthermore, Sara has been the Chairperson of Advisory Board to the American University of Kuwait [AUK] College of Business & Economics [CBE] since 2016. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Merchant of Peace Funds established by the I.C.C. In the past, Sara served as Director on various Kuwaiti companies and industry Societies including the Society of Petroleum Engineers [SPE], Kuwait Society of Engineers [KSE], Kuwait Gulf Oil Company [KGOC] and Kuwait Drilling Company [KDC]. Sara held various senior positions at both government and private oil and gas entities. She started her career in 1981 working for Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and then at Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) where her roles included the Head of the Planning unit and the Manager of New Business Development. In 2005, Sara co-founded Kuwait Energy, the first MENA-based private independent oil & gas exploration & production company. Up until December 2017, she served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Deputy Chairman. Sara received many accolades for her key role in Kuwait's Wild Well Killers fire-fighting team which was responsible for extinguishing Kuwait's oil well fires post the Iraqi invasion in 1991. The heroic act earned Sara the designation of 'Firefighter' and a 'Global 500 Award' presented by the United Nations' Environmental Program. She was also awarded the prestigious 'Leader in Energy' award at the Women in Leadership Awards & Forum in 2009 recognizing her as the first and only woman leader in the Oil and Gas industry in the Middle East. In 2013, she received the AIME Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal. Sara was named among the top 100 Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen of 2017 by Forbes Middle East. In September 2018 she received the Hall of Fame award recognizing her as pioneer in Oil and Gas industry. Sara received her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Kuwait University and has amassed, throughout the years, a wealth of knowledge and experience in leadership, strategic planning and development, portfolio management and strategic relationships worldwide.

