



COUNTRY:	THE STATE OF KUWAIT, "KUWAIT"
CAPITAL:	KUWAIT CITY
LAND AREA:	2.15 MILLION SQ. KM
POPULATION:	3.8 MILLION (2012)
FORM OF STATE:	CONSTITUTIONAL EMIRATE THERE IS A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH WIDE DEMOCRATIC POWER
CURRENCY:	KUWAITI DINAR
GDP:	US\$ 170 BILLION (2012)
REAL GDP GROWTH:	5.00% (2012)
GDP PER CAPITA:	NOMINAL - US\$ 44,500/-; PPP - US\$ 47,000/-
ORIGIN OF GDP:	1 - CRUDE OIL 2 - PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS
FOREIGN RESERVES:	US\$ 29 BILLION
COUNTRY RATING:	AA (MOODY'S) 2013

POLITICAL & ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The political situation in Kuwait is stable and is dominated by the ruling family i.e. the Al Sabah Family. Although political parties are not allowed however there are various groupings such as the Sunni Islamist, the Islamic Salafist Alliance and other secular groups.

GDP growth is expected to decline to 4.6% in 2013 from an estimated 5% in 2012 as oil production slows after two years of sharp increase. The economy will remain vulnerable in the context of regional tensions. The non-oil sector is expected to remain relatively small despite efforts to diversify the economy.

Inflation is expected to average 4% during the next two to three years owing to rising commodity prices and growth in private consumption.

Foreign policy will continue to be founded on Kuwait's long standing strategic alliance with the USA. Kuwait response to popular uprising across the region has been varied, it has supported opposition movements outside the Gulf.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITALIAN COMPANIES

There are opportunities for Italian companies such as:

- Equipment related to oil and gas exploration and maintenance;
- Petrochemical equipment;
- Construction material including marble, ceramic etc;
- Water purification plant;
- Solar energy panels and products;
- As well as usual traditional Italian products: men fashion, food and agricultural products.

There are taxes on profits on foreign joint ventures of around 25% but this is subject to review.

Legal system is based on the British Legal system, although it is also inspired from the Egyptian Legal system, however as far as family matters are concerned reference law is based on Sharia Law. In addition financial contracts may specify "reference law" as is the case in most banking syndicated loans.

Usually British or American Law.

PRINCIPAL BANKS WE WORK WITH/PARTNER BANK

- 1 - AL AHLI BANK, KUWAIT
- 2 - BOUBIYAN BANK, KUWAIT
- 3 - BURGAN BANK
- 4 - COMMERCIAL BANK OF KUWAIT, KUWAIT
- 5 - GULF BANK, KUWAIT
- 6 - NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT, KUWAIT

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (2014)

1ST January, 2014	New Year's Day
13TH January, 2014	Birth of the Prophet
25TH February, 2014	National Day
26TH February, 2014	Liberation Day
26TH May, 2014	Lailat Al Miraj (Ascension Night)
27 July, 2014	Eid al-Fitr (three days)
03 October, 2014	Eid al-Adha (four days)
24 October, 2014	Islamic New year

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE COUNTRY

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LOCAL LEGAL FIRMS

Details provided upon request