

UN Official hails late Amir of Kuwait for supporting poor nations

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 16 (KUNA) -- A UN official late Monday hailed Kuwaiti late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for constantly supporting the developing and poor nations, and expressed hope that support will continue in honor of his memory.

"He was a man of high stature. I was touched by his graciousness and support to impoverished countries and his friendliness," the UN official Anwarul Karim Chowdhury told KUNA on the occasion of the first anniversary of the late Amir's demise.

Chowdhury is Under Secretary General for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

He recalled that the late Amir was very supportive of the South-South cooperation and expressed hope Kuwait will continue that support.

He also recalled when the late Amir, in an address to the General Assembly in 1988, proposed a plan of action to relieve the widening gap between rich and poor countries.

The late Amir had then said that creditor nations should consider writing off interest on their loans to debtor countries, and possibly forego some payments of principal to the poorest nations.

Chowdhury also recalled that the late Amir in that address to the Assembly urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to reconsider their "stringent conditions" affecting countries seeking help from these two institutions.

He was the first leader to ask for an expansion and regulation of scientific and technical assistance from richer to poorer countries.

Chowdhury also recalled that when he was deputy chief of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) during the World Summit for Children in late September 1990, shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the late Amir not only attended the summit but also contributed to the global development for kids and spent all the time in the conference room presenting his thoughts.