



25TH
WPC ENERGY
CONGRESS
Riyadh, 11-15 October 2026



WPC
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25th WPC Energy Congress

special
Programme

Books &
Authors

Heritage Meets Energy

Event Date: 15 October 2026, 12:00 - 13:30

11 — 15
October 2026

Riyadh
Front Exhibition
& Conference Center

wpcenergy2026.org

Books & Authors Overview

The story of energy in Saudi Arabia is also a story of people, heritage, resilience, and knowledge passed through generations.

This special Books & Authors session features **Geraiyen Alhajri**, known as the “**Eye of Aramco**,” in a conversation inspired by his autobiography, **The Empty Quarter: Values, Adventures and Treasures**.

Through personal memories and stories from the Empty Quarter, the session will explore the connection between traditional Bedouin knowledge and the early development of Saudi Arabia’s energy sector. It will highlight how skills such as navigating the desert, understanding its environment, adapting to difficult conditions, and supporting exploration teams contributed to opening the way for the Kingdom’s oil journey.

More than a discussion about a book, the session offers a human perspective on the Kingdom’s energy history. It brings together cultural heritage and industrial development, showing how local experience and values played an important role in one of the most significant periods of Saudi Arabia’s transformation.

Books & Authors

About the Book

The Empty Quarter: Values, Adventures and Treasures is a personal account of life and experiences in one of the world's most challenging environments. Through stories of exploration, survival, and discovery, the book reflects the values, knowledge, and resilience associated with the people of the desert.

Geraiyah Alhajri

Featured Author

Author of *The Empty Quarter: Values, Adventures and Treasures* and known as the "Eye of Aramco."

Tariq Alkhawaji

Moderator

Writer, film critic, and Ithra cultural consultant.

What the Session Will Explore

- The human stories behind Saudi Arabia's early energy development
- The role of Bedouin knowledge in desert exploration
- Values of resilience, adaptability, and courage
- The relationship between national heritage and the modern energy story
- The importance of preserving personal accounts of the Kingdom's development

**Presented in Collaboration With
King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Ithra**



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Pathways to an Energy Future for All

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