

The Kingdom joins the world in celebrating the International Day to Combat Sand and Dust Storms



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joins the countries of the world in celebrating the International Day to Combat Sand and Dust Storms, which falls on July 12 of each year, and is held this year under the slogan "From Source to Impact" (Protecting the Earth and Life from Sand and

Dust Storms), within the framework of the Kingdom's commitment to support international efforts to protect human beings, strengthen monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems, and expand the areas of scientific cooperation to reduce the health, environmental and economic impacts of these phenomena

The Kingdom's efforts in this field are highlighted by the Regional Center for Dust and Sand Storms in Jeddah, which was established in 2022 as part of the Kingdom's environmental initiatives, and operates under the umbrella of the National Center of Meteorology, as one of four global regional centers operating within the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) system for warning and assessment of sand and dust storms (SDS-WAS), which is the center concerned with the GCC node.

The Executive Director of the Regional Center for Dust and Sand Storms, Jumaan Al-Qahtani, stressed that the Kingdom's participation in the International Day to Combat Sand and Dust Storms embodies its environmental and climate commitment, and reflects its leading role in supporting international efforts aimed at reducing the effects of these phenomena on humans, the environment and vital sectors, through the development of monitoring, forecasting and early warning systems, and promoting scientific research, knowledge transfer, and capacity building.

Al-Qahtani explained that the Kingdom has strengthened its international presence in this field by hosting the Regional Center, launching the "International Initiative for Early Warning of Dust and Sand Storms", in addition to supporting scientific cooperation and the exchange of data and experiences between regional centers, countries and specialized organizations, in a way that contributes to raising the level of readiness for the safety of lives and property, and reducing the effects on public health, transportation, agriculture, natural resources and economic activities.

He pointed out that the Regional Center serves as a scientific and technical reference to support monitoring, forecasting and early warning efforts, and is based on an advanced system that includes satellite data, aerosol monitoring systems, laser sensing techniques, numerical models specialized in predicting the movement and spread of dust, in addition to modern devices for collecting and analyzing dust samples, and an electronic portal specialized in providing data and scientific research.

Al-Qahtani pointed out that the center is working to develop studies and research specialized in identifying dust sources, analyzing its components and effects, supporting innovation and modern technologies, organizing conferences, seminars and training programs, exchanging experiences with international centers, and building partnerships with regional and international organizations, in a way that enhances the efficiency of the early warning system, and supports the ability of countries and societies to prepare and respond to the risks associated with dust and sand storms.

Al-Qahtani stressed that these efforts are in line with the objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, the Saudi Green Initiative, and environmental sustainability initiatives, and contribute to enhancing the quality of life, building safer and more adaptable societies, and reaching a more sustainable environment, stressing that the Kingdom will continue to support scientific and technical cooperation, develop monitoring and early warning systems, and contribute to international efforts aimed at reducing the effects of sand and dust storms.