An adventure in the Arabian Gulf

Matthias Bertram was living and working in Kuwait in 1976 during the construction of the Water Supply System to Failaka Island. This article is a personal account of Matthias Bertram's experience working in Kuwait during that time.

**Background and History**

In 1976, the revivals of the Arabian Gulf that had been subdued after World War II began to accelerate. The region was experiencing a period of rapid development, leading to increased demand for infrastructure and water supply. Kuwait, as one of the OPEC countries, was affected by this trend, and the construction of the Water Supply System to Failaka Island was part of this development.

**Infrastructure and Water Supply**

The water supply was partly fed from the coast of Kuwait, close to the island of Failaka. The pipeline was designed to connect the island with the water network of the mainland.

**The Project**

The pipeline was a significant project for the region, with its center in Bahrain, and it may be considered a milestone in the development of the water network of the Mainland.

**Observations**

During the signing of the contract, Japanese consultant had conducted a survey for the critical points of the route with an accuracy of ±0.8 m/sec. This was a challenging task, as the terrain was complex and the route had to be navigated through a coral reef.

**Challenges**

During the construction of the pipeline, the crew encountered numerous challenges. For example, the coral reef was covered by a thick layer of reefs that were difficult to navigate. The Japanese partners had planned an alternative route, but no chance was found for it.

**Conclusion**

The project was completed successfully, and the pipeline was operational. It has since provided water supply to Failaka Island, contributing to the development and growth of the region.