

Third Bahraini aid shipment reaches Yemen

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Third shipment of humanitarian aid for the war-torn people of Yemen was successfully delivered yesterday.

Royal Charity Organisation earlier sent two shipments of humanitarian aid, where the first shipment contained the largest distribution of aid weighing 910 tonnes of medical, food and relief materials, while the second shipment was shipped through Aden International Airport.

Highlighting the humanitarian approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sport Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President and

Shaikh Nasser said that the third batch of humanitarian relief delivery to Yemeni people contained a number of relief items that provides basic needs.

Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) Chairman HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed his sincere appreciation to HM the King. He also praised the support given to RCO by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown

Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Nasser said that the third batch of humanitarian relief delivery to Yemeni people contained a number of relief items that provide basic needs.

Meanwhile, the Saudi led coalition welcomed the initiative of Bahrain for the participation and provision of aid to the people of Yemen.

Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed, Secretary General for RCO confirmed that the third shipment was sent with the help of Bahrain Red Crescent Society to ease the sufferings of the people of Yemen. He also paid tribute to HM the King for his humanitarian initiatives to help the needy all over the world.



Shaikh Nasser delivers the third shipment of aid to the brotherly people of Yemen.



Members of the forum

'Fund research to boost innovation' Experts discuss Bahrain's R&D scene & ways to boost innovation

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

National, regional and international experts gathered in Bahrain yesterday to explore ways to design a national research fund structure and endowment policy that would help Bahraini research and innovation.

The experts engaged in discussions at a forum titled 'Creating endowment policies and research fund structure', conducted jointly by MENA Centre for Investment and the Higher Education Council (HEC) of the Ministry of Education.

The forum looked into the development of a national system for endowment policies and research fund that could be developed in Bahrain with an aim to support and encourage higher education and research. It was attended by officials from universities, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs),



Dr. Kane speaking at the event.

Ministries and Funding Bodies. Speakers at the event included MENA Centre for investment Chairman of Board of Trustees Dr. Zakaria Hejres, HEC Secretary General Riyad Hamzah and Salford University Professor Dr. Kevin Kane.

The experts discussed the current state of Research and Development (R&D) in Bahrain and how it can be improved. They stressed that funding research would result in innovations in various fields. The forum also looked into creating a specialist fund for research that would be supported by interested parties such as SOEs and private enterprise in the hope of enhancing the academic workforce in Bahrain.

"The fund would be directed through the model of chairs, students and readerships to create advanced research in innovation/productivity and new technologies that may benefit many sectors in Bahrain. Thus, resulting in the promotion of both the public and private sectors in the GCC and Global markets," MENA Centre for Investment and HEC said in a joint statement.

Time to become a knowledge economy Private sector must also invest in education, research & innovation

Mohammed Zafran/
DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

This is the right time to fund education, research and innovation as Bahrain could move away from oil dependency and become a knowledge-based economy, an expert has opined.

Funding research will not strain the economy, on the contrary it will help the economy grow, said Higher Education Council (HEC) Secretary General Riyad Hamzah. This is because investment in research could promote innovation which breeds entrepreneurship and economic growth, he opined.

Speaking to *DT News* he said that the difficult economic situation due to the drop in oil prices is no reason to restrain from spending on research. He said that the current economic situation is actually a reason to fund research because it will help diversity the economy and grow a 'knowledge-based economy'.

"Because of the financial situation in Bahrain and the Gulf due to the drop of oil prices, it has become even more important to invest in research. Bahrain



Riyad Hamzah

could become a knowledge-based economy. To build a knowledge-based economy, you need to innovate and you have to create a new ways of contributing to the economy. Innovation and entrepreneurship are very important; these two concepts should be encouraged more in our institutions whether in industries or academic

institutions," he said.

"Investing in research can have a positive impact on the economy by creating new products and new venues for investments; whether it is technological, electronic or anything else. For example, in logistics, we could invest in a research to innovate something that will help Bahrain become a leading country in the field of logistics. I encourage the private sector to invest in research by contributing through endowments. They can also work with the academic institutions and the research institutions.

"This is not a charity, people have to understand its significance because it helps stabilize the economy. We believe that awareness about this is increasing as also the private sector support. We hope to see more of it," he said.