

Crown Prince receives US envoy, outgoing Fifth Fleet commander



HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa with US Ambassador to the Kingdom William Roebuck and the outgoing US Fifth Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister met the US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, William Roebuck and the outgoing US Fifth Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan, at Riffa Palace yesterday.

His Royal Highness highlighted the long-standing ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US, noting both countries' commitment to strengthening cooperation across various fields.

His Royal Highness went on to emphasise HM King Hamad's ongoing support for advancing Bahrain-US ties, which are vital to achieving both countries'

shared interests and strategic goals

His Royal Highness recognised the important role of the US Fifth Fleet in strengthening security cooperation efforts, and stressed Bahrain's firm commitment to providing strategic support and boosting counter-terrorism collaboration with its international and regional allies

His Royal Highness concluded by extending thanks and best wishes to Vice Admiral Donegan for his service in enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

His Royal Highness also welcomed the new US Fifth Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral John Aquilino, wishing him every success in his new role.

2nd 'Sustainable Smart Cities' conference opens

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Minister of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning Affairs, Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, yesterday opened the second Sustainable Smart Cities Conference with the participation of international experts from the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and other Bahraini experts in the field of smart applications and environmental sustainability.

Tamkeen takes part in the conference as a strategic partner, in addition to other key sponsors, including Batelco, Diyar Al-Muharraq, Benefit Company and others. One-hundred representatives from government and private sector organizations are also participating in the event.

The minister, in his speech, pointed out the significance of the conference, as it is part of the specialized ones hosted by Bahrain, where international and local expertise integrated in the interest of the national development process.

He noted the ministry's resolve to activate its Sustainable Green Buildings initiative, which was first launched as an action strategy in 2010 and being implemented in the new building projects of various



Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf

ministries and government buildings implemented by the ministry.

He pointed out the implementation progress of the program of improving efficiency of the use of resources and energy in government buildings, in cooperation with the Finance Ministry, Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry, Central Informatics Organisation and Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies. He talked about the ministry's efforts to find solutions for traffic congestion by launching a package of projects and procedures.

He attached great importance to the establishment of the comprehensive municipal center, which contributes to support the development process.

Three-day Energy Investment Forum and solar expo begins

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Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza inaugurated the first Energy Investment Forum and the Solar Technology Energy & Environment in Bahrain Expo 2017 (STEEB) at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre yesterday. The three-day forum, organised by AGE in cooperation with Tamkeen, was attended by Moroccan Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Sustainable Development Aziz Rebbah alongside officials and experts from the renewable energy field, investment companies and manufacturing companies.

In his keynote speech, Dr Mirza thanked the leadership for their support to such events, lauding contribution of ministries and government bodies to enable the owners of small and medium enterprises to learn about solar energy.

He said the Bahraini government set up the Sustainable Energy Unit in 2014, which is a testimony to the leadership's resolve to diversify energy sources. He outlined the



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza inaugurating the Energy Investment Forum and the Solar Technology Energy & Environment in Bahrain Expo 2017 at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre yesterday

unit's achievements, pointing out the benefits to be drawn from renewable energy.

"The vision behind this initiative is to create a unique platform for researchers and entrepreneurs to meet, debate and come up with possible long-term solutions for implementing renewable energy in the Kingdom," said Eng. Amira Al Hasan, CEO of Arab Gate Expos.

"This forum is one of the many steps to bring awareness

in the Kingdom about solar energy. Through this forum, we are trying to initiate discussions and possible solutions and most importantly how solar energy can be made affordable and within the reach of every individual and how it can be the most sustainable way of energy in the Kingdom," said Eng Raghunadha Vadlamudi, country representative of Solar Industry Association Bahrain.

Speakers from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UK, Italy, India,

Egypt, Estovania, Palestine, Morocco addressed the forum on the policies, regulations, efficiency of renewable energy in their countries.

The forum also covered topics on how to develop solar energy projects in the MENA region, specifically Bahrain, financing and incentives and application related to renewable energy. The forum will further elaborate on various other aspects related to the renewable energy today.