

Tubli Bay walkway to be open for public soon

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Manama

The long-awaited Tubli Bay Walkway will be officially opened for public soon, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry has confirmed. Joint Municipal Services Director Ibrahim Al Jowder said that the first phase of Tubli Bay walkway was completed at a cost exceeding BD500,000.

The official pointed to the importance of coastal development and the establishment of marinas and sea fronts because of their great importance and key role in providing opportunities



The Tubli Bay walkway

for comfort and enjoyment of nature to citizens and residents. He explained that the project is located on an

area of 8, 000 square meters and is expected to open during this month as work is currently underway on the

preparation of designs for the second phase. Al Jowder said that "the walkway extends along the sea front of more

than 400 meters with a distinctive view on the banks of Tubli Bay and extends along several green areas.

The ministry said that it is continuing its strategic plan to develop public coasts to serve as open and service sites for residents and visitors in all areas of the Kingdom in accordance with the directives of the Wise Leadership to promote sustainable urban development in various regions according to the country's economic and strategic vision.

DT News had reported that the walkway was paved in 2015, but facilities such as public restroom, electricity, lighting etc were not available.

Roads revamped in Riffa

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Roads Projects and Maintenance Director at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Sayyed Bader Alawi has said that the ministry has completed the revamp of Roads 2929, 2928 and 2930 in Block 929 in Riffa. The project was part of a plan implemented by the Ministry to revamp roads, increase safety levels on the roads network and accommodate citizens' and residents' needs.

The project serves 118 housing units. Alawi explained that revamp project started at Avenue 41 in Block 929, and extends to cover Roads 2929, 2928 and 2930. Works comprised of levelling, laying new asphalt, ground channels for future usage, painting of ground markings and signage.

By Invitation

Prof. Odeh Al-Jayyousi



Innovative cities: Bahrain as a model of excellence

Cities are designed to achieve many goals including the attainment of order, efficiency, and equity. Cities consume about 75% of world natural resources and 80% of energy. It is projected that by 2040, cities will contribute to 75% of global GDP. Cities were branded as digital, smart and innovative through harnessing information and communication technology to improve urban design and infrastructure systems to support economic, business, industrial, and cultural development. However, disruptive technologies like drones, self-drive cars, and robotics are shaping future cities. Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and nano-technology are likely to define new form of the future city.

In the era of the Internet of Things, Bahrain is leading several models of innovations as manifested in its experience in e-banking, e-government, e-health, soil-less and smart agriculture as illustrated in the Peninsula Farms. The program of economic transformation in Bahrain and the support of SMEs by TAMKEEN is a good example of sound positioning and alignment between financial and social capitals. Bahrain innovative capability is manifested in its ability to attract a critical mass of experts, professionals, and scientists and to develop a sustainable funding in collaboration with private sector and civil society so as to develop an eco-system for innovation in many fields like manufacturing as in the case of ALBA, GPIC and BAPCO, service sector, and higher education and health.

The key question is what ranking Bahrain score in innovation at the global arena. The 2017 Global Innovation Index (GII) prepared by Cornell University and INSEAD reveals

that the top countries in innovation include Switzerland, Sweden and Netherland. Among the top ranking five Arab countries in GII in 2017 are UAE, KSA, Kuwait and Bahrain ranking 35, 55, 56, and 66 respectively out of 130 scale. It is noted that there is a gap between industrialized and developing nations which is reflected in the number of patents and expenditure on R&D. Besides, it is alarming to note that less than 1% of GDP is allocated to research and development in most developing countries.

Leading innovative countries are characterized as hosting global cities. Global cities are correlated with many attributes including investing in innovation, leapfrogging new business models, forming global networks and partnerships, and good governance models. In the Global City Index, Bahrain ranked 8 and Dubai ranked 2 which is a measure that reflects the quality of business culture, ICT infrastructure, think-tanks, banking systems, and logistics. Bahrain succeeded to qualify as one of the most efficient logistics centers which contributes to about 17% of GDP.

Driven by a mission to be a global innovative nation, Bahrain is investing in service and experience innovation in business, science, medicine, tourism, culture, and education sectors through adopting new business models. In essence, the innovative capability of Bahrain is underpinned by sound information and communication technology, green technologies, and innovations in infrastructure systems in water-energy-food technologies.

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