

# Bahrain to host GEC

**GEC will bring together thousands of entrepreneurs**

**Helps to start new ventures around the world**

## Manama

**B**ahrain will host the next edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) in April 2019, opening up new opportunities for regional and global businesses to boost cooperation.

GEC will bring together thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and other startup businesses from more than 170 countries to identify new ways of helping founders start and scale new ventures around the world.

This was revealed during a transition ceremony held in Istanbul highlighting Bahrain's preparations for the event.

"This event comes in line with the country's growing interest to expand investment in entrepreneurship, by facilitating specially designed initiatives to support the growth of a robust entrepreneurial eco-system," Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi Chief Executive of Labour Fund "Tamkeen," said.

A panel discussion was held

during the transition ceremony featuring the Bahraini delegation represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority, Bahrain Economic Development Board "EDB" and the Labour Fund "Tamkeen".

Discussions focused on entrepreneurship and the economic diversity, as well as the economic regulations in Bahrain which allow startups to launch, expand and maintain sustainability.

Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa participated in a panel discussion which revolved around the significance of the tourism sector and how it has become a major contributor to the national economy.

"We are currently working on several plans to develop new beach fronts and public beaches including the development of Bahrain Bay,



Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa

Diving Centre, the Hospitality and Culinary institutes, the Galali beach project and Al Mutturith Island. The launch of the new exhibition and conference centre will positively impact various sectors, furthering

strengthening the Kingdom's position on the world tourism map," Shaikh Khaled told the forum.

"The Kingdom is also witnessing further enhancement to its tourism infrastructure, contributing 6.8% to

the country's non-oil GDP. Bahrain welcomed a total of 12.7 million tourists in 2017 which affirms the significant role of the sector in the Kingdom's economic diversification efforts," he added.



Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Sameer Nass alongside members of the board of directors received at Bait Al Tijjar yesterday the US Ambassador to Bahrain Justin Siberell. Nass congratulated the United States on the 242nd anniversary of their independence, and voiced his pride in the century-long relationship between Bahrain and the United States. Nass also underlined the \$3 billion trade level between both friendly countries, and the pivotal role of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in invigorating and streamlining trade. He voiced the keenness of the Bahraini private sector on stepping-up business with the U.S., and encouraged U.S. business owners and investors to venture in the Bahraini market. Siberell congratulated the new board of directors of the chamber, and voiced his readiness to consolidate efforts with the chamber in all endeavours that aim at streamlining and spurring business.

## Trump-Kim summit site rumours swirl

Speculation is rife over the venue of a potentially historic summit between North Korea's Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump



**1 PANMUNJOM:** One of most likely sites being discussed is **Joint Security Area (JSA)** – only spot along **Demilitarized Zone** where North Korean troops stand face-to-face with South Korean and UN Command forces

But some see JSA as symbol of Korean War rather than place for peace deal

**2 PYONGYANG:** North Korea's capital has seen previous bilateral meetings, including 2000 meeting between Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** and **Kim Jong Il**

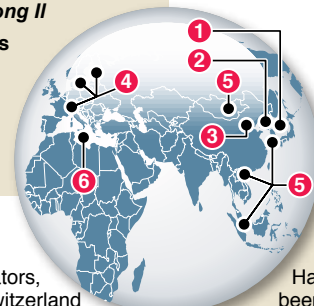
But many observers think summit in either Pyongyang or Washington is unlikely due to security concerns

**4 EUROPE:** Several countries with international reputations as mediators, including Finland, Switzerland and Sweden, have been raised as possible neutral locations for summit

Sweden has an embassy in Pyongyang and represents interests of U.S., Canada and Australia

**6 INTERNATIONAL WATERS:** In 1989, **George HW Bush** met Soviet leader, **Mikhail Gorbachev**, on Soviet cruise ship, **Maxim Gorky**, off coast of Malta

**3 BEIJING:** China is North Korea's main economic supporter, but has toughened up its dealings with Pyongyang in recent months



Meeting between **Kim Jong Un** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** in Beijing on March 26 reaffirms close ties with North's biggest ally ahead of summit

**5 ASIA:** Other locations in Asia, including Singapore, Hanoi or Jeju Island have been raised as possibilities

**Ulaanbaatar** has held sensitive talks with North Koreans in the past and Mongolia maintains friendly relations with both sides



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