

2nd MERTC meet from Jan 23-24

Executives of oil companies, experts and specialists will participate

Manama

The 2nd Edition Middle East Refining Technology Conference (MERTC) will take place under the Patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil, on January 23 and 24.

The conference is organized by the World Refining Association in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority, and with the support from a number of oil companies such as Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco), Sabic, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company, Manufacturing Company of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), and many international companies and consultancy in the field of oil refining industry.

The conference will witness the participation of business executives of a large number of national, regional and global oil companies and their deputies as well as petroleum consultancy companies, technological industries, experts, specialists and managers of companies operating in the field of oil refineries. The will be more than 350 participants, that



Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil

are interested in the field of refining technology in the technical, research and academic institutions, from all over the world.

The Minister of Oil expressed his great appreciation in having the world refining association selecting the Kingdom of Bahrain to introduce the series of MERTC for the second time on the land of the Kingdom;

vital area, and achieved by the first conference of the impressive results, which the Kingdom hosted earlier in year 2017.

The conference will discuss many subjects, including: relevant projects involving refining techniques and future global digital enhanced strategic projects to raise the level of refineries, technical and management of carbon emissions and regional projects and strategies to retain talent and competitiveness in the Middle East, the optimal investment and benefit from the research and commercial development and integration opportunities in refining and petrochemicals, in the hands of experts and specialists. This conference will also represent an opportunity to reach out to the exhibition accompanying the strategic decisions in the oil industry and world markets and discuss projects in the field of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

The conference is organized by the World Refining Association in collaboration with the National Oil and Gas Authority

Ithmaar Bank urges customers to adopt BenefitPay app

Manama

Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail Bank, said the Kingdom has taken a major leap towards transforming itself into a cashless society with the introduction of the National Electronic Wallet Payment System, BenefitPay, and urged its customers to try the easy, secure and revolutionary alternative to cash.

BenefitPay, a joint initiative of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) and the Benefit Company (Benefit), enables purchases via smart phones through a special application. The application enables customers to pay using registered debit cards, the features to be made available shortly include payment using credit cards, prepaid cards and bank accounts. The first of its kind solution, which was launched in July, is the latest milestone in the CBB-led charge to transform Bahrain into a cashless society with the involvement and support of local banks and financial institutions.

"Ithmaar Bank has long played a pioneering role in the establishment and subsequent development of Islamic banking in the region, and we are pleased to work together with the CBB, as well as banks and other financial institutions like Benefit, to reinforce Bahrain's position as a key regional banking and finance hub," said Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim. "The BenefitPay solution is a perfect example of this very type of cooperation, and the pronounced effect it can have on our industry," he said.

BenefitPay streamlines



CEO Ahmed Abdul Rahim

BenefitPay enables purchases via smart phones through a special application

payments by allowing consumers and merchants to eliminate both cash and cards and instead use a smartphone application to pay for purchase electronically, securely, and immediately. BenefitPay is currently available at select stores and the participating merchant list is quickly growing. It enhances convenience for both the buyer and the seller.

"This revolutionary technology could go long way towards transforming Bahrain into an efficient, cashless economy," said Abdul Rahim. "It is both safe and easy to use, and could well redefine the way we shop and even how we interact with cash. To fully realize this great potential however, customers will need to start using the app for themselves," he said.

Facebook to boost 'trustworthy' news

San Francisco

Facebook announced it will ask its 2 billion users to rank their trust in news sources, in its latest attempt to combat the spread of misinformation on the social network.



Quality news

The new "trusted sources" ranking, which starts next week, would aim to "make sure the news you see is high quality" and "helps build a sense of common ground" rather than sow division, co-founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said. To do so, he said, Facebook decided to rely on member surveys as the most "objective" way to rank trust in news sources. The new ranking system would hopefully separate news organisations that are only trusted by their readers or watchers, from ones that are broadly trusted across society.

Major updates

The latest move comes a week after Facebook announced a major update to its user feed that highlights what friends and family share on the network, over advertisements, celebrity and media posts. The company cast the change as part of a refocus on "community" – prioritising social interactions and relationships – while acknowledging it would likely result in people spending less time on the platform.



Fix social network

Known for annual personal goals ranging from killing his own food to learning Chinese, Zuckerberg's stated mission for this year is to "fix" the social network. He plans to target abuse and hate, and interference by nation states.

"The network would seek to prioritise news that is trustworthy, informative, and local. There's too much sensationalism, misinformation and polarisation in the world today. Social media enables people to spread information faster than ever before, and if we don't specifically tackle these problems, then we end up amplifying them."

Mark Zuckerberg,
co-founder and chief executive of Facebook



Cool Trends