

NBB launches Sustainable Finance framework for ESG commitments

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The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has unveiled its Sustainable Finance Framework, a comprehensive guide linking the Bank's financing initiatives to its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategy.

Developed in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank Bahrain as the Sustainability Structuring Advisor, the framework adheres to the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Green and Social Bond Principles and the Loan Market Association's (LMA) Green and Social Loan Principles. It has also been validated through a Second Party Opinion (SPO) issued by ISS Corporate Solutions.

The framework establishes a structured approach for the National Bank of Bahrain to



Dr. Boutros Klink, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank

evaluate parameters in the financing of sustainable projects, such as renewable energy, clean transportation, green buildings and employment generation management, amongst others. These projects are supported by the framework across four main



components which are use of proceeds to define clear criteria for the allocation of funds towards sustainable projects, project evaluation and selection that implements a rigorous process to identify impactful projects, management of proceeds which documents NBB's approach to ensuring appropriate use of proceeds, and reporting to ensure transparency and accountability in fund utilisation.

Commenting on the occasion,



Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of NBB

Usman Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of NBB said, "The introduction of our Sustainable Finance Framework marks a significant milestone in NBB's sustainability journey. This initiative reflects our relentless pursuit of positive en-

vironmental and social impact in alignment with both national and global sustainability goals. By integrating sustainability into our financing practices, we aim to empower clients to achieve their ESG objectives and contribute to building a resilient and equitable future for generations to come."

Dr. Boutros Klink, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Bahrain added, "We are delighted to have built on our strong relationship with the National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and our support for the Kingdom's sustainability ambitions by assisting in creating NBB's Sustainable Finance Framework. We commend NBB for leading the way among financial institutions in setting ambitious emission reduction targets. Standard Chartered Bank is committed to supporting our clients across

our dynamic footprint as they venture into the sustainable finance market and proud to have been part of Bahrain's economic growth for more than 100 years."

As part of its broader ESG strategy, NBB's framework integrates mechanisms for environmental and social risk assessment to promote transparency and accountability in sustainability initiatives. By embedding ESG considerations into its financing activities, the Bank seeks to encourage stakeholders to mitigate risks, capitalise on opportunities in responsible finance, and allocate resources to impactful projects. With strong collaborations with industry peers, regulators, and investors, the Bank reinforces its position as a key catalyst furthering the Kingdom's enduring vision of a more inclusive and sustainable financial ecosystem.

14 Bahraini companies take part in LEAP 2025 Technology Conference in Riyadh

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The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced its support for the participation of 14 leading technology companies in the fourth edition of LEAP 2025 Technology Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The event is one of the largest global gatherings dedicated to technology and innovation.

Tamkeen's support of the Bahrain Pavillion comes in line with Tamkeen's ongoing commitment to fostering the growth of Bahraini enterprises. The pavilion organized by the Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH), and provides Bahraini companies the unique opportunity to engage with the global



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technology scene. The Bahrain Pavilion will feature a distinguished selection of Bahraini tech compa-



nies, including: Twazn, Makkan, Unipal, Numuw Telemedicine, Loyal, Parcel Delivery, Procode, Sellou, DesignEase, Infinite



Clouds, Qeta'at Platform, Travi-lege Solutions, Silent Power for Renewable Energy and the Shaikh Nasser Center for Innovation and Consultancy.

Participating companies will gain valuable opportunities to advance their businesses, secure investment and network with

industry leaders, experts and investors. This will enhance their competitiveness, allow them to explore the latest innovations and foster strategic partnerships that will support their expansion into regional and global markets.

This support aligns with Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2025, which focuses on enhancing the position and competitiveness of Bahrainis in the private sector, equipping Bahrainis with suitable skills for career development in the private sector, and prioritizing enterprise growth, digitization, and sustainability, and supporting the development of the ecosystem surrounding the labor market and private sector.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches 'Heart to Heart' Jewellery collection to celebrate the Season of Love

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Ushering in the season of Love, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 375 showrooms across 13 countries has launched the 'Heart to Heart' jewellery collection. The elegant array of adornments from the world-renowned jeweller comprises of over 100 heart-shaped designs with prices starting from just BD 90 that makes a perfect gifting option. Furthermore, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also giving away branded Calvin Klein & Anne Klein watches with every purchase of diamond jewellery from the Heart-to-Heart collections. The limited-edition collection and offers can be availed across all showrooms of Malabar Gold



& Diamonds until the 15th February Giving customers a wide range of options to choose from, the brand has incorporated numerous light weight & elegant designs in necklaces, pendants, bangles, bracelets, earrings & rings into the 'Heart to Heart' collection. With options available in both responsibly sourced natural diamonds & 18K Gold, the brand has gone out of its way to ensure that the gifting needs of the entirety of its customer base are met.

"It is a well-accepted fact that the gift of jewellery is one among the most pristine and thoughtful gifts that one can present. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always strived to be the perfect gifting partner for jewellery lovers and as we step into the season of

love, customers need not look further than our new Heart-to-Heart collection to find a gift that manages to express all your emotions. With a low starting price point and a free branded watch with every diamond jewellery purchase from the limited-edition collection, we have made it easier and more lucrative than ever to convey your love this season", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

In addition to the elegant array of jewellery, Malabar Gold & Diamonds also has a wide range of collections in gold, diamond & precious gem jewellery for those suited for the varied preferences of its multi-ethnic customer base.