

HM King calls for moderation, rejection of extremism

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa underscored the importance of upholding moderation and rejecting extremism, while strengthening shared human values.

He further highlighted the need to promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation among nations and cultures for the collective benefit of humanity.

Reception

HM the King was speaking as he received Archbishop Dr. Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of Jerusalem of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and Bishop Sean Semple, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf of the



HM the King receives Archbishop Dr. Hosam Naoum, in the presence of Bishop Sean Semple, Reverend Dr. Richard Fermer, and H.E. US Ambassador Alastair Long

Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, at Al Safriya Palace.

They were accompanied by Reverend Dr. Richard Fermer, Dean of Saint Christopher's Anglican Cathedral in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Alastair Long, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bahrain.

His Majesty welcomed the guests and addressed topics that advance a culture of tolerance, compassion and peace among peoples.

Pride

HM King Hamad emphasised that the Kingdom takes pride in its longstanding tradition of



coexistence and religious tolerance, where all faiths live together, united by mutual respect and awareness.

He also highlighted Bahrain's leading global initiatives that promote dialogue among religions and cultures and reinforce peaceful coexistence.

HM the King said that the Kingdom will continue to uphold its message of peace among people of diverse cultures and beliefs.

Appreciation

The attendees expressed their thanks and appreciation to His

Majesty for the care and attention extended to all religions in the Kingdom without distinction, and for providing places of worship for different faiths.

They valued the Kingdom's efforts in promoting the values of peace, coexistence, and compassion among peoples.

Greening the Gulf

Bahrain at the Forefront of a Green Future

● Heat, Drought, and Water Scarcity Take Center Stage

● GWECCC Drives Action on UN Climate and Sustainability Goals

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“Sustainability is more than a goal; it is a responsibility we owe to future generations,” said H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, at the inauguration of the second edition of the Global Water, Energy and Climate Change Congress (GWECCC 2025).

The Congress, held under the patronage of H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, at Exhibition World Bahrain, brings together global leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss innovative solutions for sustainable water and energy management and to address the pressing challenges of climate change.

Climate challenges

Dr. Bin Daina highlighted the urgency of addressing climate challenges.

“We face rising temperatures, droughts, and delayed rainfall, all linked to climate change. Through regional cooperation, innovation, and policy integration, we can address these challenges and secure a sustainable future for our communities,” he said.

H.E. Jasem Mohamed Al Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, praised Bahrain's leadership in promoting sustainability.

Economic growth

“Through innovation, research, and investment in renewable energy, the GCC countries are balancing economic



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurates the GWECCC 2025 Exhibition



H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Mubarak Bin Daina

growth with the preservation of natural resources,” he said.

Al Budaiwi also noted ambitious national targets across the region, including Bahrain's goal to generate 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2025 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Further he stressed the importance of balancing conventional and alternative energy sources.

Conventional systems

“Even with trillions invested in alternative energy, conven-



H.E. Jasem Mohamed Al Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council

tional systems remain essential for global energy security and water supply. Technologies such as carbon capture and storage, AI-driven efficiency improvements, and wastewater reuse are vital to ensure sustainable production and resource management,” he said.

The Congress also heard from global industry leaders, including Ahmad O. Al Khowaiter, Executive Vice President of Technology & Innovation at Aramco. He emphasized the dual chal-



Ahmad O. Al Khowaiter, Executive Vice President of Technology & Innovation at Aramco

lenge of advancing alternative energy while maintaining conventional energy systems.

Vital resources

“We must ensure that vital resources such as water and energy remain available and sustainable for future generations. Collaboration and innovation are key to achieving meaningful progress,” he said.

Marco Arcelli, CEO of ACWA Power, highlighted technological solutions in water and energy



Marco Arcelli, CEO of ACWA Power

management.

“Over the past 15 years, we have reduced water consumption per cubic meter by 87% and decoupled desalination from energy-intensive processes. Sustainability, affordability, and security must go hand in hand — and we need to act fast,” he said, stressing the importance of regional cooperation and cross-sector collaboration.

Energy solutions

GWECCC, Founding Partner, Aramco has enhanced water efficiency, cut CO2 emissions,

Key regional goals:

Kingdom of Bahrain: Generate 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2025 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

United Arab Emirates: Achieve global leadership in solar energy and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Source 50% of energy from renewables by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

Kuwait: Achieve 16% renewable energy by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2060.

and diversified its water sources, while ACWA Power has invested \$7 billion in renewable and low-carbon technologies, reduced energy use for water desalination by 87%, and is replicating sustainable water and energy solutions globally.

The Congress, a flagship initiative supported by all GCC governments, operates under the theme “Sustainable Water and Energy Transition: Innovating for a Secure Future.”

It provides a strategic platform for knowledge exchange, research, and actionable solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global climate commitments.

Regional hub

The Congress also highlighted Bahrain's role as a regional hub for innovation, sustainability, and climate leadership.

The Kingdom's initiatives in renewable energy, water security, and environmental conservation set a benchmark for the Gulf.

Through multi-sector collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise, GWECCC 2025 aims to accelerate the transition toward a sustainable, low-carbon, and water-secure future for the region and beyond.