Bahrain Chamber Explores International Cooperation

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The Bahrain Chamber attended the AIM Investment Summit 2026, held in Dubai under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, and in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Trade. The participation reflected the strong and historic fraternal ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, as well as their growing economic, trade, investment, and social integration.

The delegation engaged with investors, business leaders, and decision-makers to explore promising investment opportunities, build partnerships, and connect Bahraini businesses with international counterparts, supporting greater market access and competitiveness.

Second Vice Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nawaf Al Zayani, and Head of the delegation, said that the Summit provided an important platform to promote Bahrain's investment opportunities, strengthen engagement with investors and decision-makers, and explore areas of cooperation that support the private sector and economic growth.

He noted that the Summit facilitated the exchange of expertise and perspectives, while opening new avenues for promising and sustainable partnerships for Bahrain's private sector.

During his participation in the session titled "Chambers in the Era of Technology," Al Zayani highlighted the role of chambers of commerce in promoting sustainable trade and reshaping the investment ecosystem. He emphasized the importance of digitalizing trade, advancing sustainability, enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to expand internationally, and strengthening cooperation among chambers of commerce. He also highlighted the role of technology and artificial intelligence in connecting businesses with markets, investment opportunities, and supply chains, while enhancing their global competitiveness.

He stressed the importance of translating cooperation among chambers of commerce into practical initiatives that connect businesses, increase exports, attract investment, and strengthen supply chain resilience, thereby supporting sustainable growth amid evolving economic and geopolitical conditions.

In addition to Al Zayani, the delegation included Vice Treasurer Khalid Juma and Board Members Sussan Abu Al Hassan and Abeer Almoayyed. The delegation attended a number of economic sessions and held meetings, including a session on global investment prospects and investment trends in the GCC countries, as well as meetings with the Ajman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Moroccan Agency for the Development of Investments and Exports (AMDIE) to explore cooperation, partnership, and investment opportunities.

The participation reaffirmed the Bahrain Chamber's role in supporting the Kingdom's economic priorities, strengthening its position as an attractive destination for investment and business, promoting economic diversification, and attracting quality investments that contribute to sustainable growth.

'AA' MSCI ESG rating makes Zain one of the GCC's highest-rated companies

- **Zain's ESG rating ranks it among global telecom leaders of 164 companies**
- **Zain Bahrain continues to support the Kingdom's economic development through digital innovation, advanced technology solutions and responsible business practices, in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.**

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Zain Group, a leading TechCo providing innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications across eight markets in the Middle East and Africa, has recently seen its Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating upgraded from 'A' to 'AA', marking a significant milestone in the Group's ongoing commitment of sustainable growth, sound governance and responsible business leadership.

This makes Zain one of the highest-rated companies across the region of all industries within the MSCI ESG assessment universe and places Zain Group in the Leader category among a global peer universe of 164 telecommunications companies.

Zain cemented its position among the highest-performing telecommunications companies in the GCC ,including Zain Bahrain, while reinforcing the momentum of its long-term ESG journey and demonstrating the effectiveness of the Group's approach to identifying and managing material ESG risks and opportunities.

Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi commented, "Achieving an 'AA' ESG rating marks a defining milestone in Zain's transformation into a purpose-driven TechCo. It is a collective, Group-wide achievement that validates the disciplined execution of our '4WARD-Progress with Purpose' strategy. Across Zain's ecosystem, our Boards, governance structures and sustainability teams are embedding sound environmental, social and governance practices into strategic decision-making and operational execution."

He added: "Our progression to an 'AA' rating demonstrates that credible ESG leadership is built through consistent action, transparent measurement and accountability. By ensuring that our governance frameworks remain aligned with evolving international standards and best practices across every business function, we have strengthened our ability to anticipate risks, safeguard stakeholder trust and create lasting value. This progress also advances our purpose: 'Better Lives. Lasting Connections.'"

Rating marks a defining milestone in Zain's transformation into a purpose-driven TechCo and validates the execution of our '4WARD-Progress with Purpose' strategy

BADER AL-KHARAFI, ZAIN VICE-CHAIRMAN AND GROUP CEO

At Zain Bahrain, we see ESG not simply as a corporate responsibility, but as an important component of how we create long-term value for our customers, employees, shareholders and the wider community.

AMMAR AL KETBI, CEO, ZAIN BAHRAIN

Commenting on the achievement, Ammar Al-Ketbi, Zain Bahrain CEO, said: "Zain 'AA' MSCI ESG rating is a significant achievement that reflects how sustainability and responsible business practices are increasingly embedded across our operations. At Zain Bahrain, we see ESG not simply as a corporate responsibility, but as an important component of how we create long-term value for our customers, employees, shareholders and the wider community. This direction is particularly relevant in Bahrain, where sustainability, competitiveness and innovation remain central to the Kingdom's long-term economic development."

The latest assessment recognized Zain's continued advancement across several material areas, with the Group performing above the telecommunications industry average in privacy and data security, labor management, environmental practices and corporate behavior, including internal controls and policies.

Zain's data security practices were identified as leading those of industry peers, supported by pre-emptive measures, established incident-response mechanisms and provisions for conducting due diligence on the data-security practices of suppliers.

The assessment also recognized the Group's efforts to strengthen employee engagement and responsible workplace practices through measures to support a culture in which ethical conduct, employee experience and accountability are treated as core components of long-term business performance.

Zain's 'AA' rating reinforces the strategic importance the Group places on effective oversight, ethical leadership, transparent reporting and disciplined risk management. These practices provide stakeholders with greater confidence that the company is being managed responsibly while supporting its ability to navigate an increasingly complex technological, regulatory and geopolitical environment.

MSCI ESG Ratings assess companies' resilience to financially relevant, industry-specific sustainability risks and opportunities. Companies receive an industry-relative rating on a seven-level scale ranging from 'AAA' to 'CCC', based on their exposure to relevant risks and the effectiveness of their management practices.

Zain Bahrain continues to support the Kingdom's economic development through digital innovation, advanced technology solutions and responsible business practices, in line with Bahrain Economic Vision 2030. This also reflects Zain Group's '4WARD – Progress with Purpose' strategy, which strengthens ESG practices across its operations while creating sustainable value for customers, employees, communities and the wider economy.

BENEFIT Concludes Fifth Edition of "Masar" Fintech Summer Internship Program

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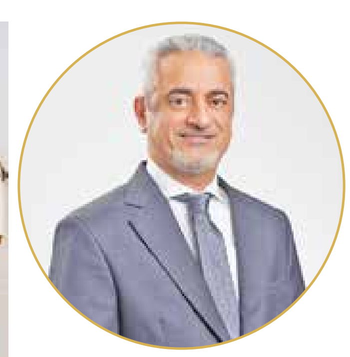

Salah Al Awadhi, Chief Human Resources Officer at BENEFIT

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, announced the successful conclusion of the fifth edition of its annual "Masar" Fintech Summer Internship Program 2026, following two months of practical training and professional development for third and fourth-year university students.

The program provided participants with a well-rounded professional experience in a real workplace environment, giving them the opportunity to work across several departments and teams at BENEFIT. It also enabled them to gain first-hand exposure to the fintech sector, understand how different functions collaborate in delivering projects and services, and develop practical skills that support their transition from university to the workplace with greater confidence.

This year's edition of "Masar" featured a diverse range of training and development activities, combining hands-on learning within departments with enrichment activities beyond the workplace. These activities helped strengthen participants' communication, teamwork, and career readiness skills, while giving them a broader understanding of BENEFIT's role in supporting Bahrain's digital payments infrastructure and electronic financial services ecosystem.

Mr. Salah Al Awadhi, Chief Human Resources Officer at BENEFIT, said: "We are proud to conclude the fifth edition of Masar, which continues to strengthen its role as a practical platform for preparing Bahraini youth and giving them meaningful exposure to the fintech sector. Throughout the program, we saw strong engagement from the participants and a clear commitment to learning and development, reflecting the promising potential of young talent and their ability to contribute to the future of Bahrain's financial sector."

Mr. Al Awadhi added: "At BENEFIT, we are committed to making Masar a truly valuable internship experience that combines practical knowledge with personal and professional development. We believe that investing in young talent is an essential part of supporting the growth of Bahrain's financial services ecosystem, while preparing future professionals who can keep pace with digital transformation and contribute to strengthening the Kingdom's position as a regional financial hub."

The success of "Masar" reflects BENEFIT's continued commitment to bridging the gap between higher education and the needs of the labor market. Through practical training initiatives, the company continues to provide young people with opportunities to learn in real professional environments and prepare for careers in high-growth sectors, particularly fintech.