

Tourism strategy gains private sector support

Chamber calls for stronger focus on heritage, business and maritime tourism Summit



Bahrain is stepping up efforts to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors to accelerate growth in the tourism industry and enhance its contribution to the national economy.

This was highlighted during a meeting between the Minister of Tourism, Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, and the leadership of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where both

sides discussed ways to deepen coordination and expand joint initiatives in the tourism sector.

The minister stressed that the private sector remains a central partner in driving tourism development and improving Bahrain's position as a competitive regional and international destination. She noted that stronger collaboration between stakeholders is essential to delivering effective tourism projects and achieving the objectives of Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022-2026.

She further emphasized the importance of aligning government efforts with private sector participation to broaden tourism opportunities, attract more visitors, and support sustainable economic growth. She also praised the Chamber's continued engagement with the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority in advancing the sector.

The meeting reviewed the latest updates in Bahrain's tourism landscape, including ongoing initiatives aimed at stimulating growth and improving visitor experiences. Participants also explored new proposals designed to expand cooperation with private sector partners and develop joint projects that strengthen the industry's overall performance.

On behalf of the business community, Chairman of Bahrain's Chamber, Nabeel Khalid Kanoo welcomed the continued dialogue

with the Ministry of Tourism, describing the sector as a key driver of economic diversification and investment opportunities.

He highlighted the importance of leveraging Bahrain's cultural and commercial attractions, including traditional marketplaces such as the Manama souq, to enhance the tourism experience and showcase the Kingdom's heritage.

Mr. Kanoo also called for greater focus on business tourism, conferences and exhibitions, maritime tourism, and coastal development projects, along with encouraging investment in innovative tourism concepts that can further elevate Bahrain's appeal.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration and ensuring the sustainable growth of the tourism sector, reinforcing Bahrain's position as a dynamic and attractive destination for visitors and investors alike.

investors alike.

Leading the Way to Excellence

Conference spotlights leadership skills for a changing workplace



Top Firms Honored for HR Excellence

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The importance of strong leadership in driving organizational success and economic growth was highlighted during the Eighth Conference for Leadership Qualification and Development, which concluded in Bahrain.

Held under the theme "The Art of Leadership in Motivating Performance and Achieving Excellence," the two-day event brought together experts, academics, and senior executives from Bahrain and abroad to discuss strategies for developing effective leaders capable of navigating today's rapidly evolving business environment.

The closing ceremony was attended by Aqeel Abdul Ali Bu Hussein, Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Relations at the Ministry of Labour, alongside conference president Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Banna.

Discussions focused on investing in national talent and equip-

ping future leaders with the skills needed to enhance organizational performance, strengthen human capital, and improve competitiveness across various sectors. Participants examined how leadership development can contribute to building resilient institutions and fostering innovation in the workplace.

The conference also explored international leadership models and modern management approaches that help organizations respond to economic challenges, regional developments, and changing workplace dynamics. Speakers emphasized that effective leadership plays a crucial role in transforming challenges into opportunities and supporting sustainable growth.

At the conclusion of the event, Bu Hussein honored speakers and supporting organizations for their contributions to the conference's success and their efforts to advance leadership development and institutional excellence. A number of companies were also

Key Focus Areas

- Leadership development and capacity building.
- Human resource enhancement.
- Organizational excellence and performance improvement.
- Productivity and competitiveness in the labour market.
- Crisis management and adaptive leadership.
- Innovation and sustainable growth.

recognized for their outstanding initiatives in human resource development.

The conference underscored Bahrain's ongoing commitment to nurturing leadership talent and strengthening its position as a regional center for professional training and leadership development.

Investment Firms Manage BD10.3bn in Client Assets

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Mohammed Darwish

Money managed for clients at Bahrain's investment business firms rose to about BD10.3 billion by the end of 2025, with the rise led by non-resident funds in the largest class of firms, Central Bank of Bahrain figures show.

The total covers client assets under Classes 1, 2 and 4. Across Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4, the assets of investment business companies reached about BD11.1bn by year-end, up from about BD10.8bn at the end of 2024.

The main lift came from Class 1 firms. Client assets under their care rose to about BD8.7bn, from about BD7.7bn a year earlier.

Most of that gain came from non-residents, whose assets in Class 1 firms rose to about BD5.4bn, compared with about BD4.5bn at the end of 2024. Resident client assets in the same class moved up more gently, reaching about BD3.3bn from about BD3.2bn.

Class 1 balance sheet assets also grew, reaching about BD724.3m, from about BD704m a year earlier. Assets invested by firms as principal within the same class stood at about BD559.5m, compared with about BD548.7m in 2024.

Together, balance sheet assets and client assets took the Class 1 total to about BD9.4bn by the end of 2025, up from



about BD8.4bn a year earlier.

Class 2 firms went the other way. Client assets fell to about BD1.4bn, down from about BD2.3bn at the end of 2024.

Non-resident assets in Class 2 dropped to about BD961.7m from about BD1.7bn, while resident assets fell to about BD467.7m from about BD588.9m.

The class also saw its balance sheet assets shrink to about BD21.1m, from about BD43.5m. With client assets included, the Class 2 total fell to about BD1.5bn, compared with about BD2.4bn a year earlier.

Class 3 changed little. Its balance sheet assets stood at about BD6.2m by the end of 2025, compared with about BD6.1m at the end of 2024.

Class 4 entered the figures by the end of 2025, with balance sheet assets of about BD8.5m, including about BD0.5m invested by firms as

- Non-resident assets fell to BD961.7 million, down from about BD1.7 billion
- Resident assets declined to BD467.7 million
- Balance sheet assets decreased to around BD21.1 million
- Total Class 2 assets dropped to BD1.5 billion.

principal.

Client assets in Class 4 reached about BD194.1m. Of this, about BD11.2m belonged to residents and about BD182.9m to non-residents.

That left Class 4 with total assets of about BD202.6m by year-end.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Launches Bahrain-Hungary Industrial Partnership Forum

His Excellency Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, inaugurated the Bahrain-Hungary Industrial Partnership Forum at the Gulf Hotel, organized by the Bahrain Businessmen's Association in cooperation with the Bahraini-Hungarian

Trade Events Foundation, with participation from a visiting Hungarian trade and industrial delegation.

In his opening remarks, the Minister highlighted the strong and growing ties between Bahrain and Hungary and emphasized the importance of expanding economic and in-

dustrial cooperation to support sustainable development and attract valuable investments. He noted that the forum serves as an important platform for strengthening private-sector collaboration and advancing practical partnerships and initiatives.

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah bin Hin-

di, Chairman of the Bahrain Businessmen's Association, stated that Bahrain's supportive business environment enhances investor confidence and encourages strategic international partnerships. He stressed the forum's role in building long-term cooperation between Bahraini and Hungarian companies.

