

BTEA reviews tourism growth plans

Board examines Q2 performance, events and Exhibition World Bahrain projects

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) Board of Directors held its third regular meeting of 2026, chaired by Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi.

BTEA Chief Executive Officer Sarah Ahmed Buhiji attended the meeting.

The board reviewed tourism sector performance indicators for the second quarter of 2026, along with development priorities and measures to support sustainable growth and strengthen the sector's resilience.

It also discussed BTEA's marketing and promotional efforts to attract more visitors and reinforce Bahrain's position as a regional and international tour-



ism destination.

The board reviewed the upcoming events calendar, strategic projects and efforts to develop the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism sector.

It also followed up on developments at Exhibition World Bahrain and efforts to attract

major events, exhibitions and conferences to the Kingdom.

Al Sairafi stressed the importance of continuing initiatives that support tourism growth, strengthen private-sector partnerships and develop quality projects that contribute to Bahrain's tourism and economic development.

UNEECO Group Reaffirms Loyalty to Bahrain Through Pledge Ceremony

UNEECO Group organized a pledge ceremony bringing together its leadership, management, and employees to reaffirm their loyalty and unwavering commitment to His Majesty the King and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ceremony was led by Group Chairman Mr. Abdulrahman Juma, alongside Directors Mr. Mohamed Juma, Mr. Khalid Juma, and Mr. Yusuf Juma. Chief Operating Officer Mr. Jayashankar Viswanathan, members of the management team, and staff also participated by signing the pledge as a symbol of their dedication and allegiance to the Kingdom.

The event highlighted UNEECO Group's deep respect for Bahrain's leadership, national



values, and vision for sustain-

able development. Company officials emphasized that the pledge reflects the organization's continued commitment to supporting the Kingdom's progress through responsible business practices, community engagement, and excellence in

service.

UNEECO reaffirmed that it remains proud to contribute to Bahrain's ongoing growth and prosperity while standing united in support of the nation's leadership and future aspirations.

Before AC, Bahrain Had the Badgeer

Its openings were sealed in winter, effectively switching the cooling system off

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Long before electricity reached Bahrain, traditional homes used a natural cooling system known as the badgeer to circulate air and reduce indoor temperatures.

Bahraini heritage enthusiast Hasan Al Majed, who documents the design and construction of traditional Bahraini homes, explained that the badgeer was a roof tower open on all four sides. It captured wind from whichever direction it came, funnelled the air

into the house and helped cool the rooms below.

During winter, the openings could simply be closed when cooling was no longer needed.

Traditional Bahraini homes evolved from early structures made of palm fronds into mud houses built with palm trunks, branches, mud and sea stone. Palm trunks were later replaced by danjal, timber from coastal mangrove trees valued for its strength and resistance to humidity and salt.

Danjal was used not only in roofs but also for livestock pens

and fences. Once it was no longer suitable for construction, it could be reused as firewood or charcoal.

The house itself was designed around the climate. Courtyards helped circulate air, while the liwan, a covered veranda, provided a shaded area for family gatherings and receiving guests. A storage room known as the malaha was used to keep provisions, while families could sleep on rooftops during hot summer nights.

The design of these traditional homes reflected a practical response to Bahrain's heat, humidity and salty coastal environment,



Hasan Al Majed, Heritage enthusiast

relying on natural materials and airflow rather than electricity or mechanical cooling.



The 200-Year-Old Cooling System Hidden Above Bahrain's Homes