Kingdom’s cultural heritage to be showcased at Expo 2020 Dubai

FOLLOWING its award-winning pavilion at the 2015 Expo Milan, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities yesterday announced the participation of the Kingdom in Expo 2020 Dubai, running from 20 October 2020 until 10 April 2021. Expo 2020 Dubai is expected to attract 25 million visitors, with 70 per cent of all visitors coming from outside the UAE; thus giving Bahrain a unique opportunity to promote its cultural sites and enhance its trade relations with the world.

Expo 2020 Dubai is the perfect opportunity to highlight the successes and developments in the Arab world, with Bahrain playing an important role towards those achievements. The overarching theme of Expo 2020 Dubai is ‘Connecting Minds. Creating the Future’, which will be explored through three sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability.

Speaking to Tribune, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and Commissioner General of the Bahrain Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, said, “We are greatly honoured to be trusted by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to represent our country in the most substantial and influential international exhibition.”

“Participation in Expo 2020 Dubai is an exceptional opportunity to introduce millions of visitors from all over the world to the unique cultural and archaeological sites of Bahrain. This opportunity proudly gives the international community yet another reason to admire Bahrain’s constant cultural achievements, which give us all great pride.”

“Bahrain’s pavilion will focus on the theme of Density as an enabler of opportunity, an intricate exploration of the dense natural and urban compositions of Bahrain. Bahrain’s relatively small geography has defined its development throughout the ages and the pavilion will show how the way in which scarcity of land has naturally led to density in its development. This specific regional attribute of density has obliged the Islands to constantly reinvent themselves on the limited land available, and by doing so garnered a mentality of trade, entrepreneurship and innovation, that represents one of the country’s biggest strengths and distinctiveness.”

“We are delighted to showcase the Kingdom of Bahrain’s pavilion specially designed to portray the concept of density and its role in creating promising opportunities. Bahrain ranks among the top ten countries in the world in regard to population density. Moreover, density has become a fundamental and constant feature that enriches the outputs of vital fields and drives development forward,” Shaikha Mai said.

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The pavilion is envisioned as an open path of exploration into the interconnected concepts of creativity, density and opportunity. The 2,000-square metre structure is conceived as a 24m high rectangular building with a central and open exhibition space of 30 meters by 30 meters held by 187 columns of only 12 cm in thickness. The pavilion design is being developed in collaboration with the Emirati architecture firm X:Architects, who will be the architects of record.

“We are hoping to complete the entire pavilion in nine months, where as soon as the tender documents are ready which is by end of January, where depending on the tender procedures we will start working on the project.”

“The structure is quite complex, though it looks very simple; where at the moment we have three different international companies working together to make this project a success.”

Indian Talent Scan Festival concludes

T he Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) yesterday concluded their talent festival, which consisted of 101 events. As many as 675 children participated in the month long competitions, open to children of Indian expatriates residing in the Kingdom.

Speaking to Tribune, General Convener of the Indian Talent Scan, Leo Joseph, said, “The children were divided into four different groups on the basis of their age and there were a total of 150 events across all age groups. The competitions were held simultaneously in three venues every day.”

When asked, Kerez told Tribune that the pavilion is envisioned as an open path of exploration into the interconnected concepts of creativity, density and opportunity. The pavilion design is being developed in collaboration with the Emirati architecture firm X:Architects, who will be the architects of record.

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Mobile environmental education bus inaugurated for Capital and Muharraq governors

The project was implemented by a number of Bahraini artists, who changed the interior design of the bus through replacing the seats by modern furniture, including tables and chairs. They also installed a display screen, a sound system and many other features that make the bus environment-friendly.

An artist’s impression of the Bahrain Pavilion at the expo.