

Al Manaratain Company supports **career progression** of 30% of Bahraini employees through Tamkeen

The company leveraged Tamkeen's Employment Support and Career Development Support Programs including: The National Employment Program, Enterprise Training Support Program and the Wage Increment Support Program

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Al Manaratain has successfully utilized a range of support programs offered by the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), contributing to the career growth of approximately 30% of its Bahraini employees. Al Manaratain is one of Bahrain's leading companies in concrete block manufacturing, with a legacy spanning over 60 years.

This support for Al Manaratain is aligned with Tamkeen's strategic priorities for 2025, which focus on enhancing the position and competitiveness of Bahrainis in the private sector, equipping Bahrainis



with suitable skills for career development in the private sector, and prioritizing enterprise growth, digitization, and sustainability, and supporting the development of the ecosystem surrounding the labor market and private sector.

This support also contributes to the ongoing development of

Bahrain's construction sector, which employs over 160,000 individuals across various roles and specialties. Al Manaratain benefited from different programs offered by Tamkeen to support employment and career progression, including the Wage Increment Support Program, Enterprise Training Support

Program and the National Employment Program.

Through its various programs and offerings, Tamkeen supports enterprises across all sec-

tors and reinforces the private sector's pivotal role in driving Bahrain's economic growth. These efforts include initiatives focused on employment and

career progression to position Bahrainis as the first choice of employment in the labor market.

Founded in 1959 by Mr. Ali Yousif Hassan Al Khameeri, Al Manaratain is considered a dynamic, visionary, and leading company in manufacturing concrete blocks and concrete products. It is one of the main contributors to the local market in the Kingdom of Bahrain as well as the Gulf market in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The company aims to drive innovation and continuously enhance its industry to deliver distinguished products.

Google agrees to **US\$36m** fine over Android search deals

Sydney, Australia

Google has agreed to pay a Aus\$55 million (US\$36 million) penalty for striking "anti-competitive" deals to pre-install only its own search engine on Android mobile phones sold by two leading Australian telecoms firms.

Australia's competition au-

thority said it had launched proceedings in the Federal Court and jointly submitted with Google Asia Pacific that it should pay the fine.

The court would now decide whether the agreed penalty and other orders were "appropriate", the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said in a statement released on Monday.

"Conduct that restricts competition is illegal in Australia because it usually means less choice, higher costs or worse service for consumers," said the commission's chair, Gina-Cass Gottlieb.

Google had cooperated with the competition commission and admitted reaching the deals with telecoms firms Telstra and

Optus, which were in place from December 2019 to March 2021, the body said.

In return for only installing Google's search engine, Telstra and Optus had received a share of the resulting advertising revenue, the commission said.

"Google has admitted in reaching those understandings with each of Telstra and Optus it

was likely to have had the effect of substantially lessening competition," it said.

Google said it was pleased to have resolved the regulator's concerns over the provisions, adding that they had not been in its commercial agreements for "some time".

"We are committed to providing Android device

makers more flexibility to preload browsers and search apps," a Google spokesperson said.

Telstra and Optus entered court-enforceable agreements last year not to make new agreements to pre-install Google search as the default on Android devices, the competition watchdog said.

AUBH students participate in **AFS Youth Assembly 2025, New York**

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Three students from the American University of Bahrain (AUBH), sponsored by the University, represented the Kingdom of Bahrain at the 13th edition of the AFS Youth Assembly. The event took place from 8 to 10 August at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America, under the theme "Defying Adversity: Empowering Young Global Citizens to Lead" and was attended by senior international leaders and youth changemakers from across the world. The AUBH student delegation comprised Muneera Alhamar, Mariam Madan, and Maria Alawadhi. Their journey began with a visit to the United Nations Headquarters in observance of International Youth Day, which is commemorated annually on 12 August. The students actively engaged in a series of panels and workshops addressing themes such as mental health, peacebuilding, green skills, and women's leadership, all packed with interactive activities, great energy, and diverse inspiration.

In addition to their participation in the sessions, the students took part in the Opportunities Fair, which enabled them to explore pathways for advancing their academic and professional



careers. They also contributed to the Culture Festival on the final day of the event, where they showcased Bahrain's rich heritage by wearing the traditional Bahraini Thob Nashel, thereby sharing an integral aspect of the nation's cultural identity with international participants.

Dr. Amal Al Awadhi, Dean of

Student Affairs at The American University of Bahrain (AUBH), commended the students who represented the Kingdom of Bahrain at this prestigious international platform, and noted the significance of their participation in fostering dialogue and engagement with cultures from across the globe, while also enhancing Bahrain's presence in

international forums.

Dr. Al Awadhi commented, "By engaging in such international forums, AUBH continues to realize its vision of cultivating a generation of leaders who embody Bahrain's cultural and intellectual presence on the global stage, demonstrating the capacity for meaningful dialogue, constructive collabora-

tion, and the pursuit of a future shaped by knowledge, ambition, and shared progress."

Dr. Al Awadhi added that the University's sponsorship of its students' participation for the fourth consecutive year reflects its support for national efforts to enhance the global standing of Bahraini youth and affirms the quality of education offered at the American University of Bahrain, which is focused on promoting global awareness and leadership skills, and stated, "The participating students returned with new friendships and networks formed with delegations from around the world, along with fresh insights and inspiration to share with their peers, thereby reinforcing the University's role as an incubator of academic, professional, and leadership excellence."

For their part, the participating students expressed their pride in representing the Kingdom of Bahrain and the American University of Bahrain at the 30th AFS Youth Assembly. They reflected on the value of the experience, noting that it enabled them to enhance their academic and personal growth, broaden their knowledge, enrich their perspectives, build an international network of connections, and engage meaningfully with diverse cultures.

