

business

Wonder News launches regional HQ in Bahrain

Chinese technology group to invest US\$50 Million and create 500 jobs



WonderNews CEO, Ou Zhenxing, in the presence of HH Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, Governor of Capital Governorate, and John Kilmartin - Executive Director ICT of the Economic Development Board announced the opening. Above, a cake cutting held on the occasion

TDT | Manama

Chinese technology group Wonder News yesterday announced launching its regional headquarters in Bahrain, which will offer services to GCC in the e-commerce and FinTech sectors.

The group said it will invest US\$50 million and offer 500 employment opportunities in the Kingdom over the next three years.

The move was announced during a press conference attended by WonderNews CEO, Ou Zhenxing, in the pres-

ence of HH Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, Governor of Capital Governorate, and John Kilmartin - Executive Director ICT of the Economic Development Board.

Wonder News was established in 2015 by Fujian Wangle Technology Co., Ltd., a Chinese company that creates value-added solutions and applications on content platforms, with an emphasis on e-commerce and games.

The company, with over 100 million users globally, is headquartered in Fuzhou, China and has offices in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and Saudi Arabia among

others.

Capital Governor said: "The launch of Wonder News, with its headquarters in Manama, is one of the major results of the memorandum of understanding that was signed between the Capital Governorate and the Shenzhen City in China in September 2016."

"We are excited to welcome WonderNews into the Kingdom and we do value their investment which will create a new cluster within the economy of the Kingdom," added Shaikh Hisham Al Khalifa.

Wonder News CEO, Ou Zhenxing, stated that the com-

pany has over 10 years of experience in providing internet products in the Middle East. "We have a highly-qualified research and development team which, working with advanced technology, has successfully developed and introduced numerous applications to over 100 million users," he said.

John Kilmartin, the Executive Director of ICT at the EDB said, "Wonder News' decision to establish its regional HQ in Bahrain is a testament to Bahrain's increasingly sophisticated tech ecosystem and growing status as an innovation hub."

Faith capital invests in Bahraini start-up

Kuwait City

Faith Capital said it has participated in the seed round of the Bahraini start-up Inagrab.

Inagrab's core product 'Dalooni', helps businesses by connecting them to a sales force that promotes products for a commission.

Faith Capital along with Bahrain Development Bank, 500 startups and Fla6labs will be an integral factor in the scaling and growth of Inagrab.

Since its inception in 2017, Inagrab has been a platform that helps retail businesses scale their operations with the help of A.I and data.

"We embarked on a journey to bridge a very obvious gap and offer a solution that will both be beneficial for the Business owner and the individual (specifically the many in need of



Officials during a photocall

another source of income). That was proven by our quick growth since the inception of Dalooni, and we believe it's time to grow outside the current borders into

neighbouring countries," says Hussain Haji, the Founder and CEO of Inagrab.

"Faith Capital continues to focus its efforts on backing MENA

founders in the GCC region by making its first investment in Bahrain," states Mohammed Jaffar, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Faith Capital.



MIKE ORLOV

Workplace Happiness

There is constant pressure to innovate and position products and services more creatively than ever before. Innovation and creativity are more likely to happen when employees are happy. Employees will not be happy if they have heightened states of on-going daily anxiety where they expect something awful to happen at any moment. Worse is when employees sense debilitating stressful incidents. And if they exist in a fearful state, concerned about a public telling off or fear about losing their jobs, employees will turn into inert-inerts.

In order to inspire happiness at work, leaders should focus on creating safe, positive, and nurturing environments rather than a threatening, bullying, fear-engendering hell. If we can create appropriate safe-places where individuals trust each other and bond with other team members, and bridge gaps between teams, then we are more likely to build sustainable success.

When our employees sense they are understood, and welcomed, they naturally feel happy at work. To feel happy at work, or at home, individuals have to feel like they belong. Happy workplaces contagiously inspire people to greater levels of initiative, to be innovative, to achieve higher productivity and to perform more effectively. Workplace happiness is real and is

attainable but does not happen by accident. Leaders need to set themselves a goal with specific objectives to ensure a happy workplace.

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Encouraging employees to feel a part of the enterprise rather than treating them as carbon units-of-production, enriching work lives through effective job design and enlightening individuals through communicating purpose, vision, values and mission will aid in this creation of appropriate safe-places. Energising people through recognition of a job well done, appreciating them for their positive efforts and praising them publicly will enable a happier work-space.

Delegation through agreeing specific objectives and indicators to be achieved on the journey to achieving these objectives will empower people. They will feel much more in control of their activities and sense the organisation's processes

need them, rather than feeling they are just a part of the processes.

If initiative-taking, innovative and industrious implementers are part of your vision for your employees, help them by creating a happy workplace. Then you will have individuals working with you who share a sense of imagining a positive future for the enterprise as well as for themselves, built on sustainable success and collegiate collaboration and coordination.

A happy workplace is one anchored in a feeling of community with shared and normalised purpose where individuals are given a secure-space and are made to feel welcome. Opening the door to workplace happiness for employees, where they feel they are understood, respected, comfortable and cared for will ensure they feel at home. They will then give more to the future success of the enterprise.

Happy workplaces value relationships, personal growth, positive reinforcement, and brainstorming, a place where everyone's ideas matter. Employees initially seek to further their own personal interests when they join an enterprise, to secure: income; achievement; status. They then strive for recognition and greater responsibility. If they are happy, they will then want to contribute much more as they realise their employer's values do not contravene their own.

Happy employees will then wish to use their knowledge, experience and skills they bring with them. They will also gladly and willingly want to develop more capabilities for the benefit of themselves as well as the company.

Employees are looking for an equitable effort-reward bargain which is not only acceptable but delights and excites. Are you ready to start your movement to build an organisation focusing on workplace happiness, where parity of esteem and unity in diversity underpin development of people and a happy workplace?

(Mike Orlov is a Partner at Stepping Stone Global, a Bahrain-based boutique strategic management consultancy. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management. Email: info@steppingstoneglobal.com)