A pioneer in e-governance

Bahrain ranked fifth in Asia by top UN survey on e-governance

● Bahrain achieved an Online Service Index (OSI) of 0.7986, EDGI of 0.8116 and Human Capital Index (HSI) of 0.7897.

● Mr. Ahmed pointed out that TII is considered one of the most important international telecommunication indices that measures other sub-indices like the Internet usage rate as well as spread of mobile and fixed lines and broadband service.

TDT|Manama
Mohammed Zafran

The 2018 United Nations eGovernment Development Index has offered fifth rank in Asia to Bahrain, stressing the Kingdom's e-governance strides.

The Kingdom also achieved a high ranking of 26th internationally.

This makes Bahrain one of two Arab countries to be categorised as 'Very high E–Government Development Index' (EDGI) countries by the UN.

Only 40 countries received the 'Very High in EDGI' classification amongst 193 countries that were evaluated.

Denmark, Australia, and Republic of Korea came out on top of the 40 countries.

Ranked 21st, the UAE was the only Arab country that ranked higher than Bahrain ranking at 21st. The countries that ranked above Bahrain in Asia are Republic of Korea, Singapore, Japan, and the UAE.

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In its comments on the GCC, the report stated that the countries have managed to make good progress in recent years. "United Arab Emirates has the highest EGDI among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries followed by Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar."

The GCC countries managed to achieve a series of substantial accomplishments related to improving e-government systems and making it easier for citizens to access government portals of other GCC member states.

"During the fifth GCC eGovernment Ministerial Committee, which took place in Bahrain, the proposal of a virtual academy for e-Government training was discussed. Such an institution would contribute towards the development of e-government by providing qualified specialists for GCC comprehensive e-government strategy," the report stated.

Explaining the purpose of the report, the UN stated, "The UN eGovernment Survey report looks at how e-government can facilitate integrated policies and services across the three dimensions of sustainable development, and is produced every two years by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It is the only global report that assesses the e-government development status of the 193 UN member states.

"It serves as a tool for countries to learn from each other, identify areas of strength and challenges in e-government and shape their policies and strategies in this area. It is also aimed at facilitating discussions of intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, on issues related to e-government and development and to the critical role of ICT in development."

Information and eGovernment authority Chief Executive Mohamed Ali AlQaed said that the cooperation and efforts from government entities such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Finance, Supreme Council for Environment and Ministry of Information Affairs helped greatly in propelling Bahrain towards such advancement in the field of e-governance. He said that websites of these government entities were evaluated by the UN for the report.

The Kingdom also achieved fourth position internationally in the Telecoms Infrastructure index (TII) which was part of the UN report. In a statement released yesterday, Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Kamal Ahmed extended his congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, on Bahrain's achieving fourth place internationally in the Index.

The minister pointed out that TII is considered as one of the most important international telecommunication indices that measures other sub-indices like the Internet usage rate as well as spread of mobile and fixed lines and broadband service.

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> I congratulate the country's leadership as Bahrain received this honour.
> **MR AHMED**

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> The efforts of government entities helped greatly in Bahrain's advancement.
> **MR ALQAED**

Country	Sub-region	OSI	HCI	TII	EGDI	EGDI Level	2018 Rank
Republic of Korea	Eastern Asia	0.9792	0.8743	0.8496	0.9010	Very High	3
Singapore	South-Eastern Asia	0.9861	0.8557	0.8019	0.8812	Very High	7
Japan	Eastern Asia	0.9514	0.8428	0.8406	0.8783	Very High	10
United Arab Emirates	Western Asia	0.9444	0.6877	0.8564	0.8295	Very High	21
Bahrain	Western Asia	0.7986	0.7897	0.8466	0.8116	Very High	26
Israel	Western Asia	0.8264	0.8635	0.7095	0.7998	Very High	31
Cyprus	Western Asia	0.7847	0.8083	0.7279	0.7736	Very High	36
Kazakhstan	Central Asia	0.8681	0.8388	0.5723	0.7597	Very High	39
Kuwait	Western Asia	0.7917	0.6852	0.7394	0.7388	High	41
Malaysia	South-Eastern Asia	0.8889	0.6987	0.5647	0.7174	High	48

Top ten countries for e-governance in Asia

Very High OSI		High OSI		Middle OSI		Low OSI	
Corresponding EGDI level		Corresponding EGDI level		Corresponding EGDI level		Corresponding EGDI level	
Australia	Very High	Albania	High	Afghanistan	Medium	Algeria	Medium
Austria	Very High	Andorra	High	Angola	Medium	Botswana	Medium
Bahrain	Very High	Argentina	High	Antigua and Barbuda	High	Cambodia	Medium
Bangladesh	Medium	Armenia	High	Belize	Medium	Central African Republic	Low
Belgium	Very High	Azerbaijan	High	Benin	Medium	Chad	Low
Brazil	High	Bahamas	High	Bhutan	Medium	Comoros	Low
Bulgaria	High	Barbados	High	Bosnia and Herzegovina	High	Congo	Medium
Canada	Very High	Belarus	Very High	Burundi	Medium	Côte d'Ivoire	Medium
Chile	High	Bolivia (Plurinational state of)	High	Cameroon	Medium	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Low
China	High	Brunei Darussalam	High	Cape Verde	Medium	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medium

Bahrain ranked one of the highest in Online Service Index

Healthy and safe summer

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development held a workshop under the theme 'A healthy and safe summer' in cooperation with the Ministry of Health at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam in Segaya. The event was held in coordination with the embassies of India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh and the Nepal, in the presence of many workers and safety supervisors representing different sectors. The Ministry of Labour and Social Development had issued an edict banning outdoor work under scorching summer heat from noon until 4 pm, during the months of July and August.