

UN grants Bahrain body a special consultative status

● **Dr Al Shihabi dedicates honours to HM King and HRH Prince Salman**

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Dr Al Shihabi

The United Nations Economic and Social Council meeting in New York yesterday approved the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisation Affairs to grant the Bahrain Public Relations Society (BPRS) special consultative status with the Council.

On this occasion, the President of the Society, Dr Fahad Ibrahim Al Shihabi, said that granting this special status is the culmination of 15 years of diligent work carried out by the BPRS in order to develop the profession of public relations, communication and media in the region.

Dr Al Shihabi dedicated this honorable national achievement to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Its grant comes under Article 71 of the Charter of the UN, which states that "the Economic and Social Coun-

cil may make appropriate arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organisations which are concerned with questions and issues within its competence."

Under this decision, the BPRS became officially authorised, as an advisory member, to actively participate in the work of the Council and the rest of the UN bodies.

This resolution also gives the BPRS several privileges, including more effective consultation with the international organisation, member states and institutions of the UN.

It also gives the BPRS the possibility to appoint representatives to it at the headquarters of the UN in New York and Geneva.

The request to accept the association as a consultative body was approved after it fulfilled all the international requirements and standards for NGOs, and after its request was discussed carefully and professionally.

Bahrain, South Korea discuss cooperation in infrastructure projects



Ambassador Chung



Minister Khalaf

Sector, Eng. Ibrahim Al Hawaj. They discussed areas of enhancing cooperation between the two friendly countries and a number of issues related to infrastructure projects undertaken by Bahrain and South Korea.

Minister Khalaf referred to the development and advancement of relations between the two countries, praising the advanced Korean expertise in the field of works, construction and infrastructure.

He also expressed the Ministry's aspiration to benefit from the Korean expertise in various fields, especially in the field of protected agriculture projects, fish farming, sanitation and household waste management in order to support the investment wheel.

The Korean Ambassador praised the Ministry's cooperation with the Embassy in terms of efforts towards strengthening cooperation in the field of infrastructure, wishing for continued cooperation, development and prosperity for both countries.

The Kingdom of Bahrain and South Korea are keen on enhancing joint cooperation for infrastructure development projects.

This comes as the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Eng. Issam bin Abdullah Khalaf, met remotely with the South Korean Ambassador to Bahrain, Hae-Kwan Chung, in the presence of the Marine Resources Undersecretary, Dr Nabeel Mohammed Abul Fateh, and the Assistant Undersecretary for the Sanitation

Solar is the best way forward

Bahrain committed to implementing national renewable energy plan

● **Harnessing solar energy and high-efficiency technology a priority**

● **Initiatives save electricity costs and reduce carbon footprint**

● **Kingdom is encouraging investment in renewable energy**

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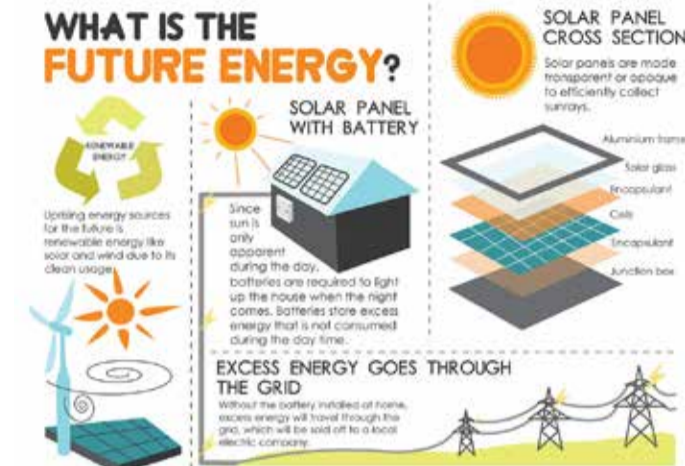
The future looks bright for Bahrain's solar energy industry with new technologies already in place.

In the coming years, solar will have become the most important source of energy for electricity production in the Kingdom. It will increase energy efficiency and lower costs further.

In fact, the Kingdom has already launched an initiative to install solar energy systems distributed on the roofs of government buildings. It was implemented on 535 buildings using the "Boom" system, without any investment costs for the beneficiaries of the clean energy they produce.

This initiative is one of those included in the national renew-

able energy plan, which has a production.



great contribution to encourage investment in renewable energy in Bahrain.

The national renewable energy plan revolves around three main policies and seven projects, and that the national goal aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix by 5%, equivalent to about 250 megawatts by 2025 and by 10% by 2035.

The total energy expected to be produced through this initiative is estimated at 50 megawatts, thus constituting 20% of the national renewable energy target to be achieved for the year 2025.

This will enable the Kingdom to save BD230 million in energy



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An artist's impression of the largest solar energy system project at The Bahrain Mall

At present, the total electricity production in Bahrain is about 3,920 megawatts per day, all of which are produced by natural gas stations.

Through the National Renewable Energy Plan, Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza said: "We aim to have renewable energy stations participating in this production,

Riffa road development project underway

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The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is set to start the road development project for blocks 915 and 916 in Riffa in the Southern Governorate.

The Tender Board has opened the financial bids submitted, and work is currently underway to evaluate them to award the project to the lowest bidder.

The Ministry stated that the project works include the civil



Part of the area where the project will be implemented

and asphalt works necessary to rehabilitate the road network and corridors in the area, which are the construction of sidewalks; the construction of a rainwater drainage network to

solve the water gathering problem; the construction of ground channels, protection and transfer of services that conflict with the project works; as well as the installation of regulatory and

as this will allow us to redirect the use of the natural gas that is saved to be used in supporting other economic sectors."

Dr Mirza said that the SEA has met a wide response and demand from various governmental and non-governmental agencies to offer their roofs and proper spaces to install solar energy systems on them and benefit in saving in electricity costs and reduce the carbon footprint.

Economic pillars

Bahrain is committed to developing the renewable energy sector – particularly implementing solar energy projects – as one of its important economic pillars.

Dr Mirza stressed the leadership's interest in achieving the national goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

He said Bahrain is continuing to advance the sustainable energy sector and strengthen its pioneering role in making the country a centre of excellence in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Kingdom is an example to be emulated in achieving comprehensive sustainable development, thus contributing to the realisation of Bahrain's vision 2030 and the diversification of its economic pillars.

Promoting sustainability concepts through renewable energy and energy efficiency is one of those main pillars.

The SEA head said that several pioneering projects have been started in the field of renewable energy in particular, in addition to the approval by higher authorities of a number of projects that will enter into force during the current and next year, in addition to the government's adoption of initiatives and proposals presented by the Authority.

The project, which is set to start in the last quarter of this year, will be completed in five months.

Ways to strengthen Bahrain-Bulgaria cooperation discussed



Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, Bahrain Ambassador to Bulgaria and residing in Berlin, met with Dr Angel Angelov, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs building. During the meeting, the Ambassador stressed the importance of the relations between Bahrain and Bulgaria, reviewing ways to strengthen them and raising them to broader levels to serve the common interests of the two countries. Dr Angelov stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in many fields. A number of political and economic issues and the efforts of the two countries in combating the coronavirus pandemic were discussed, in addition to issues of common interest.