

Industry Minister pays inspection visit to new BIECC project



Minister Al Zayani is being briefed on the progress of the project while on tour

TDI | Manama

Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani paid an inspection visit to the new Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC) project in Sakhir.

Also Board Chairman of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA), Al Zayani was accompanied by BTEA Chief Executive Dr Nasser Qaedi and Cebarco Board Chairman Khalid Abdulrahim.

The Minister got updated on progress in implementing the project which is one of the biggest ventures carried out

by BTEA.

The new BIECC project, which is implemented in Sakhir, covers an area of 309,000 square metres and will include 10 state-of-the-art exhibition halls with a total area of 95,000 square metres to host international events and exhibitions.

The project also comprises the main state-of-the-art conference centre with an area of 4,500 square metres and a capacity of approximately 4,000 people.

The new BIECC premises, which is hoped to be delivered by the end of the second quarter of 2022, will also feature a number of meeting rooms and multi-use halls.

Adopt technologies to develop e-government

ICT committee meeting discusses Bahrain initiatives to boost digital economy

TDI | Manama

There is a need to keep pace with international developments and adopt the latest practices and technologies in the field of e-government.

In this context, Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa called for exerting all efforts to raise the readiness of various government agencies in accordance with the plans and schedules.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), yesterday chaired the Committee's 18th meeting, held remotely.

Also participating in the discussion were Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and Deputy Premier, Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, and members of the Committee.

The panel reviewed the efforts of the committees and government entities to highlight the kingdom's e-government practices, within the UN e-Government Report.

The committees and government entities focused on the main initiatives being implemented by the kingdom, including the development of the National Strategy for Digital Economy, which is based on using information technology through modern means of communication and high-speed internet.

Indeed, these are the core of digital economy, as many government department and banks are conducting their financial



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak chairs the online committee meeting



Initiatives based on using information technology are the core of digital economy, as many government department and banks are conducting their financial operations through the automated system or the so-called financial technology (FinTech), which saves a lot of time and effort.

operations through the automated system or the so-called financial technology (FinTech), which saves a lot of time and effort.

The Supreme ICT Committee was also informed that the National Portal, the national Open Data Platform and the websites of government entities are being updated regularly, and that a special website that highlights

Bahrain's efforts to achieve sustainable development goals is being developed.

The committee also reviewed the government's plans to enhance and improve performance in the indices of the UN report, including promoting innovation in the public sector, digital literacy, digital transformation, e-participation, and the use of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, smart cities and fighting corruption.

The panel also reviewed a report prepared by the Information and Communications Technology Governance Committee (ICTGC) on the proposed standards and guidelines for developing government systems and applications prepared.

The report aims to reduce systems' development and operational costs through increasing coordination among government systems, enhancing their linkage, and reducing associated risks.

As to the standards and guidelines, they include all stages of systems and applications development projects, in terms of governance and management.

The committee approved the standards and guidelines document and recommended circulating them to all government agencies and adopting them within the review procedures of the ICTGC.

The Supreme ICT Committee also reviewed the indicative guide for drafting information technology contracts.

The guide aims to preserve the rights of government agencies in the technical and technical aspects, raise the efficiency and quality of the services provided, reduce the cost of the services provided and reduce risks.

The guide includes instructions and items, including documenting the scope of work, payments, determining service levels, ensuring software ownership, mechanisms for transferring skills and knowledge to the government entity, and ensuring data confidentiality.

The panel also approved the upgraded version of the "Interactive Conferencing System", which began operating in 2013 and was used by more than 12,000 users in more than 5,200 meetings and included more than 93,000 numbered documents.

Ways to boost Bahrain and Morocco parliamentary diplomacy discussed

● Speaker Zainal holds call with Moroccan counterpart

● They discussed ways of cooperation and activation of joint action

TDI | Manama

Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal yesterday held a phone call with Moroccan House of Representatives' Speaker Habib Al Malki.

They discussed ways of cooperation and activation of joint action, within the efforts of Bahraini-Moroccan parliamentary diplomacy, and building advanced relations between the two kingdoms, in light of the keenness and interest of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

Zainal praised the progressing relations, stressing the importance of reflecting this on the level of parliamentary



Speaker Zainal



Speaker Al Malki

a stronger base of cooperation in legislative fields.

She praised Morocco's firm and supportive stances for Bahrain and taking all the steps and measures it takes to maintain its security, stability, and solidarity in all circumstances, which reflects the close relations based on the principle of a common destiny.

The Moroccan Speaker affirmed the deep relations between Bahrain and Morocco and highlighted his country's firm position of supporting the Kingdom in everything that serves its national unity and sovereignty.

The Moroccan Speaker vowed to support the Kingdom in everything that serves its national unity and sovereignty.

approach, in order to enhance communication and establish

HM King's Advisor receives HRH Crown Prince's Court's Chief



Advisor to HM the King His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa received HRH Crown Prince's Court Chief Shaikh Salman bin Ahmed bin Salman Al Khalifa, on the issuance of the royal order appointing him to his position. The Adviser wished Shaikh Salman success in carrying out his mission. Shaikh Salman expressed his great pride in the royal trust he was given, thanking the Advisor for his congratulations and wishes for success.

Bahrain signs deal under "Belt and Road" Initiative

TDI | Manama

Bahrain and China have signed a memorandum of understanding within the framework of the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

The Chief of Arab Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Mohammed Al Tarifi, praised the initiative due to its positive impact on Arab-Chinese relations.

He noted that the Bahraini-Chinese relations wit-



Al Tarifi takes part in the online forum

nessed a remarkable development in all political, economic, cultural and other fields.

Al Tarifi took part in the 17th Senior Officials' Meeting of the

China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) and the 6th Senior Official Level Strategic Political Dialogue, which was held virtually yesterday.

During the meeting, Al Tarifi delivered a speech in which he stressed the keenness of Bahrain to support the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum.

He noted that the Kingdom will continue its endeavours to develop and enhance the forum's role in developing Arab-Chinese relations.