

# NBB Formalises Institutional Partnerships for EVOLVE 2025

Company submission

The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently hosted a networking event to mark the formalisation of institutional partnerships for the fourth edition of its EVOLVE summer internship programme. The event brought together representatives from participating academic institutions, charitable organisations and training providers, who were given an overview of EVOLVE's evolution, its role in developing Bahrain's future talent, and the collaborative efforts that have contributed to its success over the years. The gathering also saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the institutional partners.



Partner entities supporting the programme include the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) and AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, alongside leading training providers including Emeritus Institute of

Management, Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), INJAZ Bahrain, Bahrain Fintech Bay, Marsh Academy, National Cybersecurity Centre, Mada Translation, American Health Association, and Mumtalakat



Minister of Youth Affairs- H.E Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi

Bahrain Holding Company.

Among the schools, the Ibn Khuldoon National School (IKNS), Bahrain Bayan School,



NBB GCEO- Usman Ahmed

Al Hekma International School, Arabian Pearl Gulf (APG) Private School, Beacon Private School, Naseem International School, St. Christopher's School, British

School of Bahrain, American School of Bahrain, Ahlia School, Shaikha Hessa Girls' School, and Sacred Heart School have joined EVOLVE. Meanwhile, the university segment is engaging students from the American University of Bahrain (AUB), Euro University, University of Strathclyde Bahrain, Ahlia University, British University of Bahrain, BIBF, and Bahrain Polytechnic.

By partnering with national stakeholders across the education and training ecosystem, NBB continues to invest in future generations through valuable training opportunities that contribute to the Kingdom's broader development goals.

(This content was submitted by NBB)

# BENEFIT Showcases Pioneering Workplace Model at the 10th Employee Wellbeing Conference

Company Submission

BENEFIT, the Kingdom's innovator and leading company in Fintech and electronic financial transactions service, took part in the 10th edition of Employee Wellbeing Conference, held under the theme "Towards a Balanced and Sustainable Work Environments."

The two-day event brought together a distinguished group of experts, professionals, and thought leaders from Bahrain, across the Gulf, and around the world.

BENEFIT's participation in the conference, recognized as one of the region's foremost platforms for advancing workplace development and promoting employee well-being, reflects its ongoing commitment to supporting impactful initiatives that raise



well-being standards across the private sector.

The timing of the conference is particularly significant,

as institutions worldwide are increasingly redefining their priorities, moving beyond traditional benchmarks of per-

formance and profitability to embrace work environments that prioritize mental health and holistic support. This evolving

focus is widely acknowledged for its direct influence on enhancing organizational performance, driving productivity, and fostering innovation.

Mr. Adel AL Kooheji, Head of Digital Marketing & Online Media at BENEFIT and President of the Social Committee, participated in a panel discussion on the second day titled "Experiences and Success Stories." The session highlighted BENEFIT's pioneering approach to achieving work-life balance through flexible work policies aligned with international best practices in human capital management. The discussion also explored several forward-thinking initiatives introduced by BENEFIT to enhance employee satisfaction and enrich the overall workplace experience.

Mr. Adel AL Kooheji high-

lighted the wide-ranging and innovative programmes introduced by BENEFIT to cultivate a workplace culture that places individual well-being at its core while enabling employees to thrive professionally. The presentation further reflected BENEFIT's strategic commitment to fostering an inclusive and agile organizational environment, one that actively promotes creativity, enhances productivity, and supports ongoing learning and development. Complementing these efforts are BENEFIT's structured career advancement frameworks, meticulously designed to accelerate professional growth, strengthen internal capabilities, and contribute meaningfully to both individual success and the company's sustained growth trajectory.

(This content was submitted by BENEFIT)

# Stock markets rally after Japan-US trade deal

Wall Street opened higher, with the S&P 500 rising off a record close

- Lowering tariffs on some Japanese goods to 15%, down from 25%
- The deal will also reduce tolls on autos
- Japan pledged to invest \$550 billion in the United States

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stock markets rose yesterday after Japan and the United States hammered out a trade deal to slash Donald Trump's tariffs, including those on the crucial car sector.

Investors were also cheered by news that Washington had reached agreements with Indonesia and the Philippines, stoking optimism that more countries will follow suit before Trump's August 1 deadline.

"News of a trade agreement between the US and Japan is fostering optimism among inves-

## Key figures at around 1330 GMT

New York - Dow:	▲ 0.5% at 44,717.99 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.4% at 6,333.37
Nasdaq Composite:	▲ 0.4% at 20,966.47
London - FTSE 100:	▲ 0.4% at 9,058.35
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 1.2% at 7,837.40
Frankfurt - DAX:	▲ 0.6% at 24,187.97
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 3.5% at 41,171.32 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 1.6% at 25,538.07 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ at 3,582.30 (close)
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 146.62 yen from 146.66 yen on Tuesday
Euro/dollar:	▼ at \$1.1724 from \$1.1755
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.3531 from \$1.3532
Euro/pound:	▼ at 86.64 pence from 86.84 pence
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 0.4% at \$65.08 per barrel
Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 0.4% at \$68.32 per barrel

tors that further deals might be reached before punishing tariffs come into force," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould.

Wall Street opened higher, with the S&P 500 rising off a record close to flirt with its all-time high.

In Europe, London's FTSE 100 was up 0.4%, after hitting another

record high at the open.

Paris piled on 1.2% and Frankfurt also advanced, tracking gains in Asia.

Tokyo surged over 3% after the US president announced a deal lowering tariffs on some Japanese goods to 15%, down from the threatened 25%.

The deal will also reduce tolls

on autos -- a sector accounting for eight% of Japanese jobs -- to 15%, compared with 25% for other countries.

In return, Japan pledged to invest \$550 billion in the United States, Trump said on social media.

Shares in carmaker Toyota rocketed higher by more than 14%, Mitsubishi 13% and Nissan 8%.

European carmakers also rallied, with Stellantis jumping more than six% in Paris.

Mercedes Benz, Porsche and Volkswagen all rose more than five%, while BMW climbed by more than 4%.

The deal is providing optimism that other countries can "seal good deals if they pledge investment into the US," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

Trump also hailed an agreement with Manila to lower levies on Philippine goods by one%age point to 19%, while tariffs on Indonesia were slashed from 32% to 19%.

Shares in Manila and Jakarta rallied.

The announcements boosted hopes of other deals before next Friday's deadline, though talks with the European Union and South Korea remain elusive.

The EU's top trade negotiator will speak to US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick later on Wednesday, but the EU has retaliatory tariffs worth over \$100 billion teed up no deal is reached and US tariffs go into force.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will meet his Chinese counterparts in Stockholm next week, as a separate mid-August deadline approaches for levies on Chinese goods to snap back to steeper levels.

Japan's 10-year government bond yield soared to the highest since 2008 after media speculation that Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba would resign after a weekend election debacle, which he denied.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong hit its highest level since late 2021, while Shanghai was flat.

Eyes are also on the release of earnings from Google parent Alphabet, Tesla and Intel, with looking at performance of

AI investments. If Alphabet's "AI investments pay off, then it may ignite another rally in tech stocks, especially those with AI exposure," said Brooks.

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Japan is home to more than 70,000 companies that are over 100 years old, the highest number in the world. These centuries-old businesses, known as *shinise*, are a testament to Japan's focus on longevity, craftsmanship, and stable family-owned operations—reflecting a unique blend of tradition and resilience in its economic culture.