

Greener growth

Works Minister announces registration opening for Innovation in Irrigation Solution Competition

● **Open from Oct. 23 to Nov. 6; idea submissions due by Feb. 10, 2026 via ministry's official website**

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The Ministry of Works has announced the launch of the Innovation in Irrigation Solution Competition.

His Excellency Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, said that registration for the competition is open from October 23 to November 6, with idea submissions due by February 10, 2026, via the ministry's official website www.works.gov.bh.

The competition is in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

It aims to encourage creative ideas and solutions that optimise the use of surplus treated water, enhance efficiency in agriculture and afforestation, promote resource sustainability, protect the environment, and expand irrigation networks in support of the Kingdom of Bahrain's comprehensive development goals under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Targets

Al Hawaj said that the competition targets individuals, engineering firms, contractors,



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universities, research centres, and other institutions to submit practical innovations that improve water use efficiency and ensure balanced irrigation of trees and crops.

He noted that this will support agricultural and urban beautification efforts across Bahrain.

The Minister added that the initiative also aims to increase the use of surplus treated water in irrigating public parks and expand its application in new projects, offering economic and sustainable irrigation solutions that contribute to environmental and water sustainability goals.

Projects

He underscored that smart irrigation solutions are expected to enhance water management and reduce consumption in road and public area projects.

The Works Minister ex-

plained that the ministry, in collaboration with relevant authorities, has established regulatory mechanisms to ensure the competition meets its objectives of developing and expanding irrigation networks using advanced technology.

He emphasised the ministry's commitment to integrating infrastructure and environmental projects to achieve sustainable development.

Structure

Regarding the competition structure, Al Hawaj said it includes two main categories: one focuses on innovative irrigation solutions in specific locations such as King Hamad Highway, Gulf of Bahrain Avenue, and Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Highway; the other involves selecting an area without treated water services to assess its needs and propose integrated solutions.



"The ministry is committed to integrating infrastructure and environmental projects to achieve sustainable development."

- H.E. IBRAHIM BIN HASSAN AL HAWAJ, MINISTER OF WORKS

Entries will be evaluated based on economic feasibility, cost, durability, sustainability, innovation, creativity, and design quality to ensure high standards and support national efforts to sustain water resources and increase green areas.

He concluded by describing the competition as a national initiative to harness innovation for environmental service and water sustainability, inviting all interested individuals and entities to participate and submit ideas that enhance water efficiency and improve irrigation systems throughout the Kingdom.

BSA praised by NASA for Space Apps Challenge

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The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) commended the prominent role and efforts of the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) in organising the "2025 Space Apps Challenge" competition.

Bahrain recorded the highest global growth rate in the number of participants, with an increase of approximately 80% compared to last year.

The competition took place at two locations: the Bahrain Polytechnic campus and the University of Bahrain campus, reflecting the strong interest in this global scientific event.

NASA highlighted the professional performance of the BSA, recognising it as the fastest responding agency worldwide to NASA's requirements among more than 2,800 organising centres, including numerous

space agencies and organisations participating around the globe.

Efforts

His Excellency Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the BSA, said that NASA's commendation reflects the significant efforts made by the agency's team in preparing and organising this global competition.

He emphasised their keenness to promote Bahrain's name in this international event and to enable their team to gain further knowledge and skills to improve their performance in their respective domains.

Dr Al Aseeri also noted that the agency has made great progress in raising national awareness about the importance of space and its sciences, and pledged to continue these efforts with increasing momentum year after year.



Filipino educators honoured for excellence and contributions



Filipino educators and school leaders receive certificates

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Ninety Filipino educators, school leaders, and distinguished guests from across various educational institutions gathered at the Ramada Hotel, Seef, for the 7th Educators' Convention and Awards Night, hosted by the Philippine Teachers Association Bahrain (PTAB).

The event was held in honor of the global celebration of World Teachers' Day under the powerful theme, "Shaping Minds. Building Nations: Honoring the Resilient Voices of Filipino Teachers in Bahrain."

It served as both a tribute to the vital role of educators abroad and a recognition of their unwavering commitment to excellence and nation-building.

A key moment of the evening was the engaging keynote speech delivered by Dr. Annie B. Domede, whose motivating message highlighted the essential functions of teachers as carriers of knowledge and advocates of social transformation.

As Dr. Annie revealed the full range of global educational challenges, she eloquently stat-

ed, "Filipino teachers abroad may be away from home, but their impact crosses borders, molding minds, constructing nations, and fostering hope wherever they are."

"Filipino teachers abroad may be away from home, but their influence transcends borders—shaping minds, building nations, and nurturing hope wherever they stand."

A central aspect of the program was the "Most Outstanding Filipino Educators in Bahrain 2025" awards, which were given in two distinct categories: The Basic Education awardee, Ms. Nadine Mae Zarate from the Nasser Center for Science and Technology, received accolades for her exemplary performance, significant contributions, innovative practices, and substantial influence on the academic development of her students and the institution she represented.

On the other hand, the Tertiary Level awardee, Dr. Lina S. Calucag, a distinguished educator at the University Technology Bahrain, was recognized for her exceptional contributions to higher education, research, and community involvement.

Knights of Rizal Bahrain Chapter holds 11th knighting ceremony

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The Knights of Rizal (KOR) Bahrain Chapter successfully held its 11th Knighting Promotions, Exaltations, and Awarding Ceremony at the Ramada Resort by Wyndham, Seef District.

Attended by distinguished members of the Order and representatives from the Filipino community in Bahrain, the grand event served as a meaningful celebration of Filipino patriotism and a reaffirmation of the noble ideals championed by the Philippines' national hero, Dr. José Rizal.

The ceremony commenced with a dignified procession-al march that gracefully led into a solemn and touching wreath-laying tribute.

National anthem

This was followed with a powerful rendition of both the Bahraini and Philippine National Anthems, symbolizing the deep respect and cultural ties between the host country and the Philippines.

In the wake of this tribute, the moral compass that directs each Knight was prominently highlighted through the solemn Rizalian Oath, led by Sir



Knights of Rizal (KOR) Bahrain Chapter members

Capt. Noel Borja Escalona, KCR, which further solidified the Knights' unwavering dedication to honor, patriotism, and service.

The Rizalian Code of Ethics was delivered by Sir Emmanuel Borja Morales, KCR, Area Commander for Bahrain and

Kuwait.

Reminder

Marked by eloquence and conviction, his delivery served as a compelling reminder of the ethical principles and noble virtues that define a true Knight of Rizal.

Symposium on pearls and marine heritage

● **30th Cultural Season**

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As part of its 30th Cultural Season, the Abdulrahman Kanoo Cultural Centre organised a symposium titled "Seaweed and Pearl Oysters in Bahrain: Their Environment and Their Heritage and Economic Role."

The event featured Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim from the Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT,) and Dr. Manaf Al-Khazaei from the Arabian Gulf University, with media personality Sima Haji moderating the discussion.

During the symposium, Dr. Ibrahim highlighted the pearl oyster's significance, linking its name to Bahrain's history, economic development, and cultural identity.

He noted that Bahraini pearls have, for centuries, provided a vital source of livelihood and global recognition due to their rarity, value, and exceptional quality.