

Alba's On-the-Job training placements see **unprecedented uptake** in 2025



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Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) held a felicitation ceremony on 25 August 2025 at its Oasis Hall to honour students who successfully completed the Company's On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programmes held throughout the year.

The ceremony was attended by Alba's Chief Executive Officer, Ali Al Baqali, along with senior executives, who

commended the students for their dedication and commitment during their OJT placements.

2025 has already seen unprecedented growth in OJT placements at Alba, with 300 trainees enrolled year-to-date – representing a 35% increase compared to the same period in 2024. Notably, the number of year-to-date trainees in 2025 has already surpassed the total for the entire previous year, which recorded 280 trainees. Of

the current year trainees, 38% are female, reflecting Alba's commitment to advancing gender diversity in the industrial sector; further, 95% of trainees are from Bahrain-based universities and institutions, underscoring the Company's strong engagement with the local academic community.

Commenting on the occasion, Alba's CEO Ali Al Baqali stated: "When we nurture young minds, we shape the destiny of our nation. This

programme is more than training, it's a bridge between ambition and achievement, and Alba is proud to be part of that journey."

Alba's OJT Programmes represent a key pillar of its corporate social responsibility strategy, designed to provide participants with hands-on experience across operational and support functions, enhancing their readiness to contribute meaningfully to Bahrain's workforce and industrial development.



World's first commercial CO2 'graveyard' opens in Norway

Oslo, Norway

The world's first commercial service offering carbon storage off Norway's coast has carried out its inaugural CO2 injection into the North Sea seabed, the Northern Lights consortium operating the site said yesterday.

Northern Lights, led by oil giants Equinor, Shell and TotalEnergies, involves transporting and burying CO2 captured at

smokestacks across Europe. The aim is to prevent the emissions from being released into the atmosphere, and thereby help halt climate change.

"We now injected and stored the very first CO2 safely in the reservoir," Northern Lights' managing director Tim Heijn said in a statement.

"Our ships, facilities and wells are now in operation."

In concrete terms, after the CO2 is captured, it is liquified

and transported by ship to the Oygarden terminal near Bergen on Norway's western coast.

It is then transferred into large tanks before being injected through a 110-kilometre (68-mile) pipeline into the seabed, at a depth of around 2.6 kilometres, for permanent storage.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology has been listed as a climate tool by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the

International Energy Agency (IEA), especially for reducing the CO2 footprint of industries like cement and steel that are difficult to decarbonise.

The first CO2 injection into the Northern Lights geological reservoir was from Germany's Heidelberg Materials cement plant in Brevik in southeastern Norway. But CCS technology is complex and costly.

Without financial assistance, it is currently more profitable



for industries to purchase "pollution permits" on the European carbon market than to pay for capturing, transporting and storing their CO2. Northern Lights has so far signed just three com-

mercial contracts in Europe.

One is with a Yara ammonia plant in the Netherlands, another with two of Orsted's bio-fuel plants in Denmark, and the third with a Stockholm Exergi thermal power plant in Sweden.

Largely financed by the Norwegian state, Northern Lights has an annual CO2 storage capacity of 1.5 million tonnes, which is expected to increase to five million tonnes by the end of the decade.

KFH fosters unified culture to **drive innovation and global growth**

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Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has initiated a comprehensive "Leadership Cultural Training Programme" as a cornerstone of its post-acquisition strategy. The ongoing programme, themed "Bringing Our Values to Life," is designed to cultivate a unified corporate culture and empower employees to embody the group's new brand values.

This strategic initiative marks a pivotal moment in the Group's transformation, following a historic acquisition that has established KFH as one of the largest Islamic banking entities in the world. The programme is tailored to align all staff, beginning with leadership, with the core principles and ambitious vision of the newly integrated organization.

The training programme is focused on embedding KFH's



core values of being Open, Brave, and Imaginative, while upholding the foundational Islamic principles of integrity and transparency. The initiative aims to create a cohesive and dynamic work environment that will propel KFH Group towards its goals.

"As we embark on this transformative journey, fostering a shared culture is paramount to our success," said Dr. Shadi Zahran, Group CEO of KFH - Bahrain. "This programme is more than just training; it's an investment in our people and the future of our organ-

isation. By empowering our team with a unified vision and a strong set of values, we are building a solid foundation for innovation, excellence, and sustainable growth. Our collective commitment to these principles will be the driving force behind our ambition to

lead the global Islamic finance industry."

Dana Bukhammas, the Group Head of Human Resources Transformation and Development, stated, "Transformation begins with people. When organizations prioritize the people agenda in their journey, they

unlock new heights of success. We are dedicated to driving change by placing our people at the heart of everything we do. We take immense pride in our team and their remarkable ability to lead this transformation and realize our shared vision. Adding to our confidence, as part of KFH Group, we are proud to have received nine international awards from the Brandon Hall Group Excellence Awards 2025 in the Human Resources field, and one of them is the Golden Award for Employee Experience during the acquisition.

The Cultural Training Programme is being rolled out across the organisation, with all employees set to participate. This inclusive approach ensures that every member of the KFH team is a key participant in this new chapter of the bank's history.