



Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

AND In line with national efforts to foster entrepreneurship and fuel innovation

ANNOUNCING THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS IN THE BAHRAIN AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2ND EDITION

FROM 15TH NOVEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Manama, Bahrain - Sunday, 15th November 2015:

In line with the Kingdom's efforts to promote entrepreneurial innovation and development, a press conference was held today (Sunday, 15th November 2015), to announce the call for applications and nominations in the second edition of The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board.

Speaking on the occasion, **His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, Tamkeen Chairman and Acting Chief Executive said**, "The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship aims to cultivate a stimulating business environment in Bahrain one which empassions entrepreneurs towards leadership and innovation and inspires them to embrace the entrepreneurial spirit. We express profound support towards the active engagement of the public and private sectors in laying the groundwork for economic development and ensuring its sustenance."

Shaikh Mohammed added, "The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship is aligned with the Economic Vision in building a stronger foundation for unprecedented growth, and supporting the private sector to become the engine of growth of the national economy."

The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship is organised by Tamkeen in partnership with the Bahrain Economic Development Board and Bahrain Development Bank, and knowledge advisors comprising of E&Y Bahrain, UNIDO AICEI and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Tourism.



The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship will accept applications and nominations for enterprises and individuals beginning from 15th November up to 31st December 2015, in 6 award categories: Microenterprise of the Year, Start-up of the Year, SME of the Year, Sustainable Business Award, Enterprise of the Year with International Footprint, and Female Entrepreneur of the Year and the 7th award category: the Lifetime Achievement Award, is aimed at long-standing entrepreneurial pioneers.

For his part, **His Excellency Mr. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Tourism** said: "The Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Tourism does not only provide support and encouragement to entrepreneurs in their businesses ventures, but also offers them sustenance & support mechanisms to overcome obstacles in business. Participation in The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship second edition, which is in line with the Kingdom's Economic Vision, fuels the spirit of excellence, creativity and innovation, and at the same time, enables entrepreneurs to identify and seize opportunities, and adapt new strategies in accordance to changing business conditions."

Application and Nominations can be done through the website at www.bahrainae.com wherein an eligibility criteria has been set and applicants are required to address a set of questions and provide information related to its relevant category that would include company description, financial statements and contact details.

Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive of the Bahrain EDB, commented on the award: "Entrepreneurs and their businesses play an important role in the growth of Bahrain's economy. The EDB, together with partner organisations such as Tamkeen and the BDB, has worked hard to create a supportive environment that will allow entrepreneurs to thrive in Bahrain, where they have access to the advice and capital necessary to develop their businesses. Incentives such as the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship go a long way to rewarding the innovation of our entrepreneurs and ensuring their success in the future."

While businesses will initiate the nominations made on behalf of a third-party or through direct application, a panel of judges will evaluate applicants based on a qualitative and quantitative criteria. The diverse panel of well-respected judges will comprise of high-profile Bahraini figures and some of the region's most well-known entrepreneurs and business figures.

Commenting on the success of the Award, **Mr. Nedal Saleh Al Aujan, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Development Bank** said, "The second edition is a testimony to the success achieved by The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship during the first year which has received favourable response from participants across all sectors. The patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, further ensured the



participation of a greater number of entrepreneurs, who entrusted their hopes and aspirations on his sincere intention to uphold the objectives of the Award in championing entrepreneurship, and in serving as a catalyst in transforming their aspirations into realities. This award was launched in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision for economic development driven by innovation and partnership."

Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO Bahrain said, "It is a great pride for UNIDO and the Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment (AICEI) to serve as knowledge advisors in the second edition of The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship. We hope to further promote the stature of the event in the international community, and invite judges of international calibre. On the other hand, AICEI will offer greater opportunities through strategic growth programmes."

Furthermore, **Mr. Essa Al Jowder, Office Managing Partner of Ernst & Young Bahrain:** "Entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in economic development, they introduce new products and services, facilitate productivity, stimulate growth of new industries, open gateways toward new job opportunities, support local communities and contribute in the creation of a new culture of entrepreneurship. We help them achieve their goals further by helping enhance the business environment through financial solutions that pave the way forward."

For more details about The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, visit www.bahrainae.com or social media channels @bahrainae.

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Profiles of Award Partners

About Tamkeen

Tamkeen is a semi-government organisation in Bahrain established in 2006 under Law Number (57) as part of the country's national reform initiatives, with the task of making the private sector as the key driver of sustainable economic development.

Underpinned by its 3 strategic pillars – enhancing quality, serving customers, and achieving results - the organisation provides an integrated range of programmes to create a solid foundation for a modern economy – such as SME financing, skills training, and entrepreneurship.

At the same time, these programmes address key challenges facing Bahrainis and businesses in the private sector at various stages of their development - from start-ups to mature companies, and from students to senior executives.

To date, Tamkeen's programmes have served more than 120,000 Bahrainis and businesses.

More information available at www.tamkeen.bh Or contact us through our social media channels @TamkeenBahrain.

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB)

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) is a dynamic public agency with an overall responsibility for attracting inward investment into Bahrain, and is focusing on target economic sectors in which the Kingdom offers significant strengths.

Key areas of focus include manufacturing, ICT, and logistics and transport services as well as other sub-sectors. The Financial Services sector in Bahrain is particularly strong and the EDB supports in the continuing growth of the banking industry and key sub-sectors, including Islamic Finance, Asset Management, Insurance and Re-Insurance.

For more information on the Bahrain EDB visit www.bahrainedb.com.

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB)

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) is an effective public policy instrument which assists in the creation and development of SMEs in Bahrain. Over the years, the services provided by BDB have been fundamental in the development of the SME segment in Bahrain and are catalysts for the establishment of start-ups and in the growth of existing SMEs.

BDB supports entrepreneurship in Bahrain by providing both financial (loans, financing tools, and venture capital) and development (business advisory, coaching, training, incubation) products & services across the island. The services assist individuals and companies across the business spectrum from pre start-up all the way to expansion utilizing unique and specialised programmes and business models.

BDB is an entrepreneurial organisation and has enhanced their product and service offer over the years, by delivering an innovative platform of both financial and development services and products which are tailored to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and sector specific industries in line with the National Economic Strategy. These industries include ICT, Tourism, Manufacturing among others.



BDB has and continues to reach out to the public in an effort to foster an entrepreneurial, innovative, and enterprising society highlighting the importance in developing a National Economy driven by the private sector through its core objective and mandate of supporting entrepreneurs and SMEs in Bahrain.

UNIDO (AICEI)

The UNIDO ITPO Bahrain was established in 1996, with the aim of facilitating the mobilization of foreign resources to enhance industrial partnership and cooperation between companies in both the Kingdom and other nations. As industries throughout the world confront the growing challenges of international competition; investment and technology are proving to be two essential components to success in the global market. However, many developing countries and countries with economies in transition face enormous difficulties in attracting investors as well as in gaining access to technology and markets.

Under the banner of South-South cooperation the Bahraini and Indian Governments together with UNIDO established in 2001 under ITPO Bahrain the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment (AICEI). The AICEI is operating with the objective to develop and strengthen indigenous capabilities of developing countries for Investment & Technology Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development.

EY Bahrain

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

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The MENA practice of EY has been operating in the region since 1923. For over 90 years, we have grown to over 5,000 people united across 20 offices and 15 countries, sharing the same values and an unwavering commitment to quality. As an organisation, we continue to develop outstanding leaders who deliver exceptional services to our clients and who contribute to our communities. We are proud of all our accomplishments over the years, reaffirming our position as the largest and most established professional services organisation in the region.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism is ambitious to transition from an economy based on oil wealth, to a capable, globally competitive economy, where the Government draws its features with the private sector leading the pioneering initiatives. The Government adopts the principle of building our society on the principles of fairness, competition, and sustainability, in order to create the means of dignified life of the Bahraini citizen and take advantage of its full potential.

Vision

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism aspires to be a model for timely customer service and to contribute towards achieving a private sector driven, globally competitive, sustainable, diversified and knowledge economy , whilst shifting focus from the role of an operator to that of an enabler and a regulator.

Mission

To take an active role in developing the national economy by encouraging and promoting inward investment and organic business development and by providing high quality facilities and services to investors, whilst



جائزة البحرين لريادة الأعمال
The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship

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Celebrating Entrepreneurship . Inspiring Innovation

adhering to Bahrain's multilateral commitments, international standards and best practices, for the wellbeing of consumers and the community at large.

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