



جائزة البحرين لريادة الأعمال  
The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship

الاحتفاء بالريادة . إلهام الابتكار  
Celebrating Entrepreneurship . Inspiring Innovation

*Under the patronage of*

*His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa*

*Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of Bahrain Economic  
Development Board*

**NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE BAHRAIN AWARD FOR  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

*Businesses encouraged to apply and submit nominations*

Manama, Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014:

The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, the largest entrepreneurship award in the Kingdom, being held under the patronage of **His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Bahrain Economic Development Board** is officially open for nominations and applications. Launched to coincide with the Bahrain Noor El Ain Festival, the Award is designed to support Bahraini businesses and recognise the efforts and contributions of businesses and entrepreneurs to Bahrain's economy.

With applications being accepted until January 25 2015, businesses will have the opportunity to both apply as enterprises or nominate enterprises or entrepreneurs of distinction for the five award categories: Micro-Enterprise of the Year (micro enterprises and productive families), Startup of the Year (companies established for less than 36 months), Enterprises of the Year (SMEs), Enterprises of the Year (Large Companies), and Sustainable Business Award.

In addition to these categories, there will be a People's Choice Award that will follow a different mechanism that takes the public vote into consideration. This comes alongside the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is aimed at long-standing entrepreneurial pioneers.

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 their enterprise growth, economic impact, optimisation of talent and diversity, leadership and innovation, business responsibility and entrepreneurial spirit. 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.

Speaking about the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, Tamkeen Chairman and Acting Chief Executive Shaikh Mohammed Bin Essa Al Khalifa said: "As part of **His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of Bahrain Economic Development Board** vision to ensure the continued development and growth of the Kingdom, the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship forms the perfect opportunity to recognise key achievements and efforts made by Bahrain's passionate entrepreneurs that have helped in further expanding Bahrain's economy and infrastructure."

The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship is done in partnership comprising Tamkeen, the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), the Bahrain Development Bank; and Knowledge Advisors BCCI, EY Bahrain, the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment Training - United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) Investment & Technology Promotion Office in Bahrain and The Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC).

HE Kamal bin Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Acting Chief Executive of the EDB, stated, "Bahrain has long been a country that has valued entrepreneurship and innovative thinking, which we believe is a great tool towards promoting further diversification of our economy as well as improving the overall standard of living and the generation of quality jobs and investment in the Kingdom. These awards will help us identify and acknowledge a generation of innovators, who will grow to be leaders in their fields, and will help place Bahrain on the regional and global map of innovation".

In support of the Awards, Shaikh Hesham bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Deputy General Manager – Development Services, BDB commended the initiative: "The Bahrain Award for

Entrepreneurship is the first collaborative initiative of its kind in Bahrain, and is absolutely key in supporting our continued efforts to grow small and medium businesses in the Kingdom.”

Eng. Nabeel Al Mahmood, BCCI Chief Executive, praised the recognition the award grants to entrepreneurs and said, “The BCCI is proud to be supporting this unique initiative. We believe that this award will contribute in motivating and creating more business innovation, and will also show that the Kingdom’s appreciation of Bahrain’s business community.”

Dr. Hashem Hussein from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation said, (UNIDO) “UNIDO is proud to join as a partner of the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, as the award’s objectives align well with UNIDO’s goals to grow investments, income diversification and in creating youth employment opportunities.”

Knowledge Advisor and Office Managing Partner of EY Bahrain -Essa Al Jowder commented on the importance of such an award, “Entrepreneurs provide one of the main engines of growth in any healthy economy. They act as vital agents of change by developing new products and services, implementing more efficient production methods, and creating new business models and industries. They generate jobs, support local communities and build prosperous societies”.

Information on the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, including the eligibility criteria, evaluation criteria, and application forms is available on the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship Website on [www.BahrainAE.com](http://www.BahrainAE.com) or “the award section” on the Bahrain Noor El Ain website [www.bahrainnoorelain.com](http://www.bahrainnoorelain.com)

For further information, or to find out how to participate in the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship, interested entrepreneurs and businesses can visit [www.BahrainAE.com](http://www.BahrainAE.com), follow Twitter, instagram and Facebook account on BahrainAE, contact the award’s hotline on 17000710 between 7.30am and 11pm or email [info@BahrainAE.com](mailto:info@BahrainAE.com)

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## Profiles of Award Partners

### About Tamkeen

Tamkeen is tasked with developing Bahrain's private sector and positioning it as the key driver of economic development. Established in August 2006, Tamkeen is one of the cornerstones of Bahrain's national reform initiatives and Bahrain's Economic Vision.

Tamkeen has two primary objectives: Firstly, fostering the creation and development of enterprises, and secondly, providing support to enhance the productivity and growth of enterprises and individuals.

To achieve these objectives, Tamkeen's strategy focuses on quality enhancement, customer care and having a results oriented approach. Through this strategy, a number of innovative programmes are provided to Bahrainis and businesses in Bahrain, which include training, consulting, financing, entrepreneurship support and others. These programmes help develop the capabilities of Bahrainis and enterprises and integrate new critical concepts for a vibrant sustainable private sector.

To date, Tamkeen's programmes have benefited more than 100,000 Bahrainis and businesses.

### About 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](http://www.bahrainedb.com).

### About 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 specialized programs and business models.

BDB is an entrepreneurial organization 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.

#### **About BCCI**

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry is considered one of the leading Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the region. It has kept pace with economic development in Bahrain since its inception. The Chamber has played an effective role in enhancing the importance of the role played by the private commercial and industrial sector in the country's development. Since its launch, the Chamber has also contributed to the welfare and prosperity of the society through the development and support of its commercial and economic events, as well as providing various services to such events and broadening their scope to keep up with the aims of economic development in Bahrain. The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry provides the following services: Supporting national products. Advocating the interests of members and the private sector towards the competent authorities and likewise representing them in related local, regional and international committees, bodies, and institutions and defending their interests

#### **About UNIDO**

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.

#### **About 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.

**About The Ministry of Industry and Commerce**




The Ministry of Industry and Commerce 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.

**Ministry of Industry & Commerce (MOIC) Vision**

MOIC 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.

**Ministry of Industry & Commerce (MOIC) 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 adhering to Bahrain’s multilateral commitments, international standards and best practices, for the wellbeing of consumers and the community at large.

<b>HOTLINE</b>	17000710
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@BahrainAE.com">info@BahrainAE.com</a>
<b>Media Inquiries</b>	Maheen Ali <a href="mailto:Maheen@bahrainnoorelain.com">Maheen@bahrainnoorelain.com</a> +973 17 533 532
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.BahrainAE.com">www.BahrainAE.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/BahrainAE">http://www.facebook.com/BahrainAE</a>
	<a href="http://twitter.com/BahrainAE">http://twitter.com/BahrainAE</a>
	<a href="http://instagram.com/BahrainAE">http://instagram.com/BahrainAE</a>