

world
**Entrepreneurs
Investment**
forum 2017



“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

31 October - 2 November 2017

Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre
Kingdom of Bahrain



Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship and Innovation
31st October to 2nd November, 2017
Kingdom of Bahrain



1200
Participants



90
Countries



36
partners



31
Dignitaries



50 +
speakers



229
Exhibitors



3,000
bilateral
meetings



74
Letters of
Intent



\$ 240 M
Estimated
Investment



4
Side Events

The World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017 in Figures

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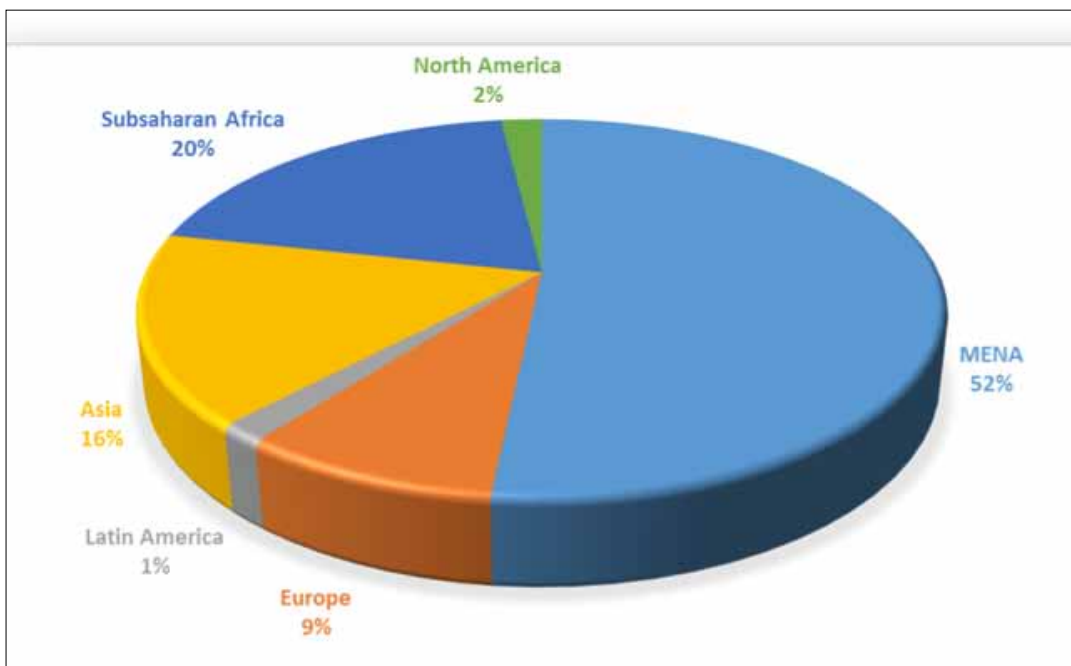
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

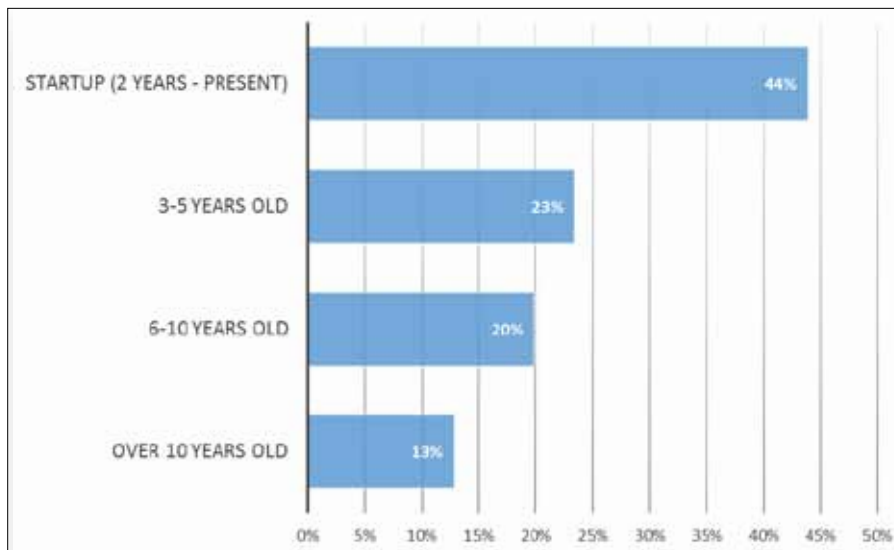
“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Bahrain the United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s (UNIDO) and through its Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Bahrain and a sizeable number of 35 regional and international partners organized the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2017 under the main theme of “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”.

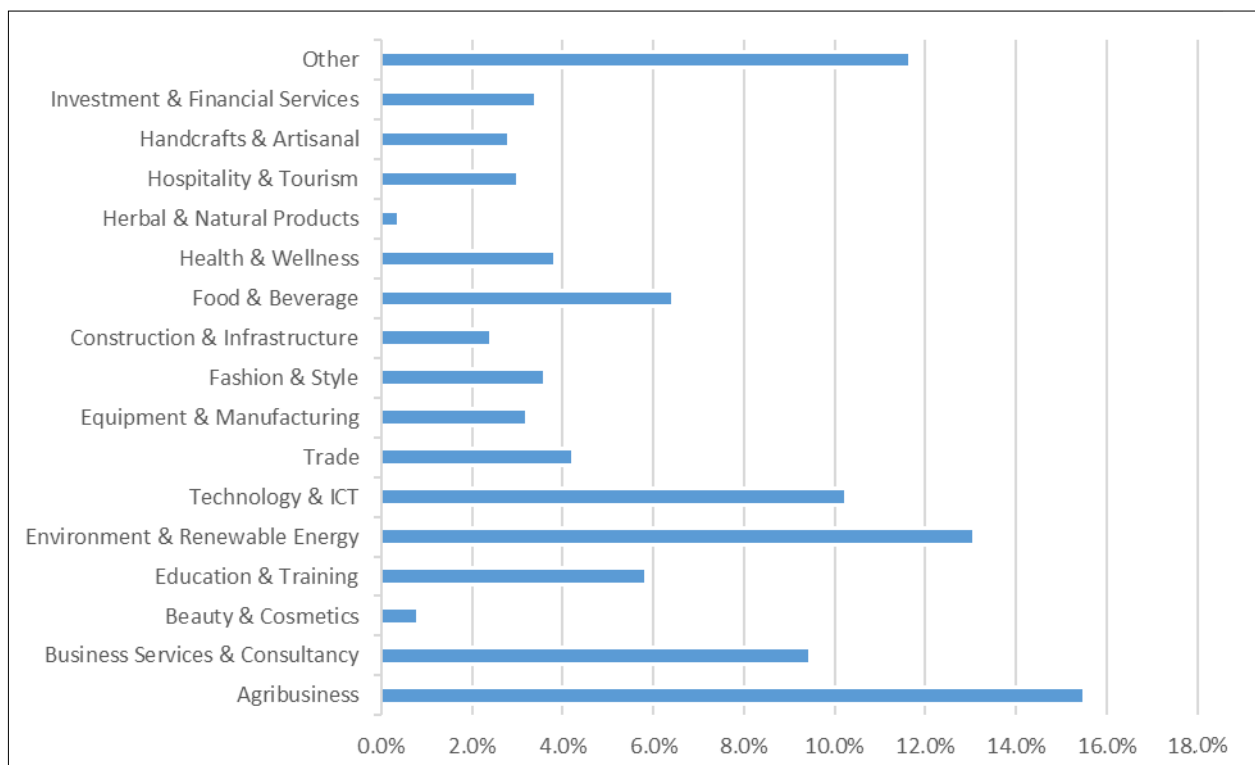
1,200 Experts and entrepreneurs from over 90 countries gathered at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre in Manama calling upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to facilitate the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises by developing economic infrastructure and incubation management systems to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.



WEIF Participation by Region



Entrepreneurs Participating - based on year established



Sectoral Distribution of Entrepreneurs Attending WEIF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

The Forum concluded with the strongest support for entrepreneurship and innovation as drivers of job creation, economic growth, and the realization of social gains. The international community was urged to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as key strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially at a national level. The key role that entrepreneurs can play in bringing more jobs and prosperity to the Maritime-Continental Silk Road - the modern-day successor to the ancient trade routes linking Europe and Asia - was also highlighted during the Forum, as well as the importance of global impact investment and that in striving to achieving the SDGs entrepreneurship and innovation are and will remain as key factors.

“Women in Industry” was another key theme of the Forum; with over 60 per cent of participants being women, this further highlighted the importance of the role of women in entrepreneurship for development. “We are united in our belief that the empowerment of women at all economic levels is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and entrepreneurship;” read the Forum’s outcome declaration.

During the 3-days of WEIF; the entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur bilateral meetings were also a core component of the Forum program; which resulted in 3,000 bilateral meetings, leading to the signing of 74 letters of intent with an estimated investment of 240 million USD. ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with its partners will provide the needed follow up to help in materializing these letters of Intent. The importance of “strong partnerships between entrepreneurs, women and men alike, to share best practices in line with linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs;” was also highlighted in the final WEIF 2017 Manama Declaration.

The closing ceremony held on November 2nd at the United Nations House in Manama in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain and in the presence of HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; where by the final recommendations and communique of the Forum were submitted to HE Mr. Miroslav entitled “Manama Declaration – Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurships and Innovation”.

The various events and activities organized through WEIF and its secretariat hosted at UNIDO ITPO Bahrain signifies the pioneering role of WEIF in becoming the only United Nations Forum on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa receives HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations during WEIF 2017



SPECIAL VIDEO MESSAGE

by HE Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations to the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017



**Your Royal Highness,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to greet the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum. More than 20 years ago, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization established its first Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Manama. Over the years, the so-called Bahrain model has created more than 16,000 jobs and raised more than \$2 billion in investment.

Today, in 52 countries, it continues to advance entrepreneurship and change lives for the better.

I commend you for focusing this year's forum on the Sustainable Development Goals. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development will continue to be a key driver of progress as we support Member States in this essential work.

Thank you for your leadership and support.

The United Nations will remain your close partner. Please accept my best wishes for a successful forum.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization official statement delivered by HE Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy to the Director General of UNIDO



“I am very honored to welcome you to the UNIDO World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017, taking place under the patronage of His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This year’s Forum has been organized with the goal of developing partnerships between entrepreneurs and sharing international best practices and successes on entrepreneurship and innovation. The theme of the Forum,

“Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation”, highlights the extreme importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in achieving sustainable development worldwide.

Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, and promoting impact investment, have been at the forefront of UNIDO’s work in developing countries and economies in transition for many years. At the first World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum held in 2015, UNIDO Director General, Mr. LI Yong, stated that “economic growth is driven by entrepreneurship, as well as by continuous economic diversification, increasing trade, industrial upgrading and technological innovation.” This is more important today than ever before, as we all work together worldwide towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The role of impact investment and innovation is further highlighted by the Sustainable Development Goals, and especially in Goal 9, which seeks to “build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.” The UNIDO ITPO Network has contributed to reducing development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements and fostering entrepreneurship in developing countries and economies in transition for over 40 years now. This worldwide Network currently includes offices in the Kingdom of Bahrain, two offices in China - Beijing and Shanghai, and offices in Germany, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Kingdom of Bahrain has been UNIDO’s trusted partner for many years, and the opening of ITPO Bahrain in 1996 was an important building block to this longstanding and strong relationship.

ITPO Bahrain and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain have worked together on developing innovative programs in the areas of investment promotion and economic empowerment of youth and women through entrepreneurship development and incubation systems. ITPO Bahrain’s Entrepreneurship Development and Investment Promotion Program, EDIP, started as an initiative to foster enterprise development for investment, thus far generating over 16,000 jobs and US\$2 billion in investment. Currently implemented in 52



countries, the EDIP Program has changed the lives of countless entrepreneurs worldwide who can now champion their own destinies. In addition to UNIDO's ITPO Network, UNIDO also assists entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises through our Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges.

These exchanges aim to help local enterprises to successfully meet the challenges of globalization and to take advantage of the emerging opportunities that evolve from industrial subcontracting, outsourcing and supply chain opportunities.

During the First World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum in 2015, the Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Development was adopted to outline a set of recommendations derived from the two days of deliberations and discussions held among the 85 experts and 650 entrepreneurs from 80 countries, who participated in the Forum on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, held from 19 to 21 January 2015. The importance of the Manama Declaration was further signified by its circulation during the 2015 United Nations General Assembly.

Today, we are here to continue the work that was outlined for us in the Manama Declaration, which calls upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and international organizations to cooperate in facilitating the empowerment of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises around the world. It asks us to take a coordinated and inclusive approach in promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important drivers of entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the Declaration calls for cooperation in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programs for promoting entrepreneurship. Let these important areas of cooperation guide our discussions today and throughout the Forum.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain's continuous support and commitment to UNIDO. In particular, I wish to thank His Royal Highness, Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, for partnering with us on this important endeavor. I truly believe that together, through ITPO Bahrain and our many other areas of cooperation, UNIDO and the Kingdom of Bahrain can come closer to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development worldwide. UNIDO is proud to be your partner, and to provide support in our common efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I further wish to thank all of you here today to participate in the important event. I wish the Forum every success."

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

During the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015.

The SDGs go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

UNIDO’s mandate is fully recognized in SDG-9 which calls to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

Bahrain has manifested interest and strong commitment towards the SDGs and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Building on its Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Action Plan 2016-2018, the Government, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Information and e-Government Authority (IGA), with support from the UN, is working towards its Voluntary National Review on SDG Readiness – as part of the 2018 High-level Political Forum –, and its first national SDG report.

Manama is Bahrain’s capital and also its largest city. It enjoys a distinct reputation as a regional and international tourism and cultural hub, as was evident by its selection as the Capital of Arab Culture in 2012, the Capital of Arab Tourism in 2013, the Capital of Asian Tourism in 2014 and Muharraq being named the capital of Islamic Culture in 2018.

Bahrain’s manufacturing industries contribute 14.7 per cent of the gross domestic product and, according to the Index of Economic Freedom issued by the Heritage Foundation 2017, Bahrain ranks 44th globally. The Human Development Report 2016 ranked Bahrain 47th globally and 4th among GCC and Arab States. The country’s financial and banking sector is one of the most important non-oil sectors. Bahrain currently has about 403 financial institutions due to the country’s regulatory system, which has encouraged regional banks to set up a base, contributing to 17.6 per cent (all the financial corporations) of total GDP. In the World Bank’s 2017 “Doing Business” report, the country ranks 63th globally for the ease of doing business and 4th for paying taxes. In the World Economic Forum’s 2016-17 “Global Competitiveness Index”, it ranks 48th globally. Bahrain is characterized by its diversified economic structure, which is based on modern and integrated infrastructure and sophisticated legislation. It pursues economic freedom as a strategic option to encourage both domestic and foreign investments.

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.

Through the UNIDO ITPO Network of in 8 countries (Bahrain, China, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nigeria and Russian Federation); ITPO Bahrain provides a wide spectrum of services offered to Investors/Entrepreneurs ranging from Business Counselling to the setting up of joint ventures. Thus providing a unique combination of value-added services to client institutions and entrepreneurs who want to forge new alliances in international industrial investment and technology transfer.

Drawing on these links, ITPO Bahrain is redressing the industrial development imbalance by bringing investment and the latest technology to Bahrain for those mostly in need of a promotional helping hand. At the same time, the ITPO is opening up new opportunities for investors and technology suppliers to find potential partners.

[Arab Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training](#)

The promotion of foreign direct investments and its positive correlation to domestic investment has led ITPO Bahrain to establish the Arab Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training (ARCEIT), whereby the Center will function and provide services according to this vision:

- A Center of Excellence to foster the facilitation of domestic investment
- An originator of a variety of Investment & Technology Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development activities.
- A disseminator of knowledge and information on industrial investment opportunities, technologies and markets
- A forum for exchanging experiences and insights into entrepreneurship development
- A resource institution to support, nurture and institutionalize the Investment & Technology Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development activities in the region.

With a mandate to

- Contribute to the economic empowerment of youth and women regionally and internationally
- Unleash and stimulate the spirit of entrepreneurship through various awareness and support programs for women and youth
- Assist in developing eco-systems for the development of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) through capacity building programs, technology transfer, financing and incubation systems
- Share and disseminate best practices for the development of value added services to entrepreneurs through local support institutions
- Institutionalize counseling programs aimed at facilitating enterprise growth
- Developing linkages between financial institutions and entrepreneurship programs
- The establishment of business incubators as they play a key role in the development and growth of MSMEs through a range of services offered

In line with the Bahraini Governments drive to diversify the economy and develop the micro, small and medium enterprises, UNIDO-ITPO / ARCEIT in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce and the Bahrain Development Bank have developed the “Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion Program (EDIP)” in the year 2000 and have been implemented since then. Accordingly, due to the overwhelming success ARCEIT has transferred the EDIP Modality into 52 countries from Uruguay, to West Africa, through the MENA region and all the way to China. In 2013, and in light of the overwhelming success, ARCEIT has been transformed from an Arab Regional Center into the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment.

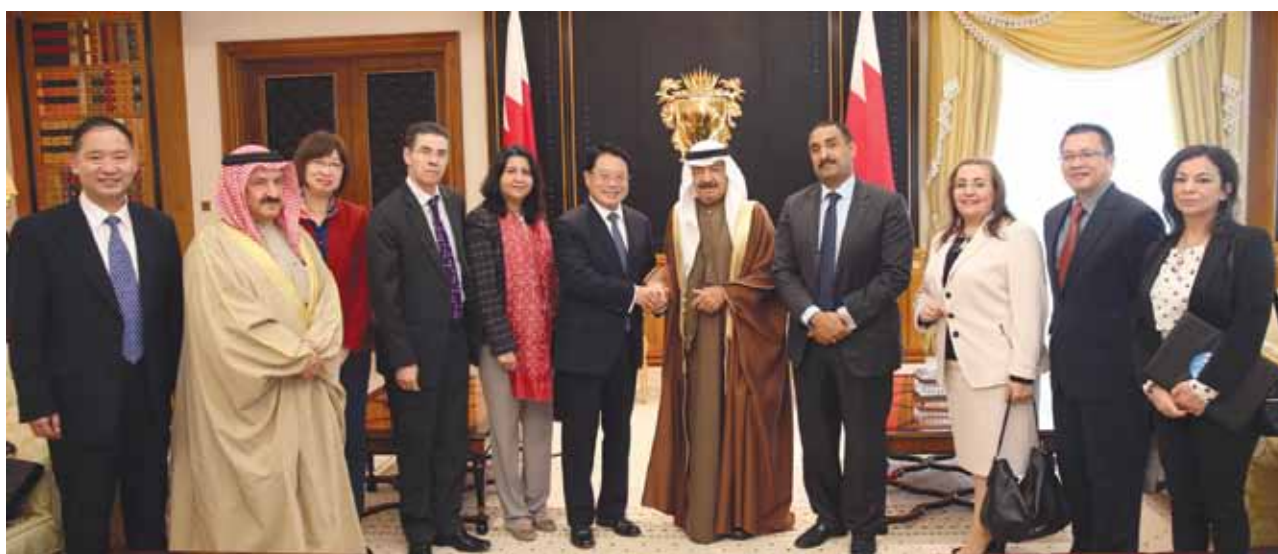
In striving to achieve economic prosperity, the private sector/entrepreneurs are a key partner for development; through contributing to the diversification of the national economy, creating jobs and alleviating poverty.

One of the most fundamental objectives of economic development is the provision of what has been generally referred to as ‘life-sustaining’ necessities including food, shelter, and health care. A nation is expected to ensure that the needs of its population are adequately met. It is also imperative that provisions of basic necessities are carried out through broad distributions to reach the targeted segments of the population.

Another objective is to raise the standard of living of the people in general, which would naturally require expansion of employment and entrepreneurial prospects. Growth of both supply and demand of labor, and availability of real opportunities to earn wages, are requisite conditions that enable the population to achieve and surpass the accepted general expectation on standard of living.

Additionally, economic development relates to ensuring the expansion of economic activities, so as to give greater developmental flexibility to a nation and its population. Diverse economic sectors provide protection against systemic and cyclical risks that are specific to the respective sectors.

Thus, economic development ensures the increase in job creation; provided that support is rendered to entrepreneurs in order to facilitate enterprise creation which in turn stimulates innovation and creativity. Moreover; the need to put in place and maintain a conducive



business environment that stimulates enterprise creation and growth, especially for the micro, small and medium enterprises; which will in turn play a positive role in bridging the technology gap and render more competitive MSMEs.

In the past decade or so; the main focus of all development initiatives was solely on the enterprise; with very little intervention or attention to the entrepreneur. With the start of the new century, research and studies have concluded that much of the support has to be converged towards the human capital behind the enterprise i.e. the entrepreneur himself.

The MSME sector, which has the highest capital – employment ratio and it is this sector, which provides opportunities for the youth and unemployed people to exhibit their entrepreneurial potential, by being job creators rather than job seekers. It requires

entrepreneurs who perceive opportunities, organize resources to set up and successfully run enterprises. For, entrepreneurial growth requires focus on human resources in addition to inducement by finance, infrastructure, etc. Considering that promotion of entrepreneurship is a key to economic growth and primary engine for creating a country's wealth, many governments of developing countries and economies in transition have renewed their focus on this vital factor of production.

Hence; it is essential for governments around the globe to involve the private sector represented by entrepreneurs and MSMEs. With this been highlighted, unemployment among educated youths emerges as a major challenge there has to be a strong emphasis on creating employment opportunities for the large pool of young people entering the labor market today and in the coming years.

It is through the overwhelming success achieved during the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum held in Manama in January of 2015; that UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with its major partners is keen on building on this momentum in organizing the second edition of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017 under the theme “Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship & Innovation within the Maritime-Continental Silk Road”.

The WEIF 2015, was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of Bahrain, under the theme “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” and officially inaugurated by HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa the Deputy Prime Minister in the presence of HE Mr. Li Yong, the UNIDO Director General and a number of senior officials and dignitaries.

The WEIF 2015 was organized in cooperation with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries; the Islamic Development Bank; and through the support and sponsorship of the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment, Global Entrepreneurship Network, Tamkeen Bahrain, International SME Network (INSME), MENA OECD Investment Center, the Arab Thought Forum, the Federation of GCC Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture; EU-Africa Chamber of Commerce, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, Al Baraka Bank, Bank Al Khartoum, the Bahrain Development Bank, Entrepreneurs Organization-Bahrain Chapter, the Arab Businesswomen Council, and the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society.

The WEIF 2015 was attended by 800 entrepreneurs from 80 countries; whereby through the financial support of BADEA and a number of donors the African participation reached 33% compared to 36 % from the MENA Region, 19% from Europe, 8% from Asia, 2% from North America and 2% from Latin America.

The forum sessions, with 85 experts and speakers, showcased best practices and highlighted a number of vital topics that are key in the development and success of entrepreneurs and MSMEs namely; Fostering Entrepreneurship Development; Financial Mechanisms for Entrepreneurship Development; Gender Dimensions of Entrepreneurship; Support Institutions for Entrepreneurs -Role of Chambers; Role of business infrastructure (industrial parks and zones); and an entrepreneurs debate entitled "Entrepreneurship Development: challenges, opportunities and recommendations".

As a result of the entrepreneur's debate and the two days of deliberations the "Manama Declaration 2015 on Entrepreneurship for Development" has been derived. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain communicated this declaration to its permanent mission in New York and has requested that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly within its current 96th session under agenda item 19 "Sustainable Development". It is worth noting that HE Mr. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General has sent a special message praising the forum and its drive towards entrepreneurship development.

2000 Entrepreneur to entrepreneur bilateral meetings were organized to promote cooperation, partnerships, joint-ventures, access to markets and resources and investment in various industries and strategic locations. Overall, 88 Letters of Intent were signed for an estimated investment value of USD 150 million.



WORLD ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT FORUM 2017 RATIONALE

Due to changing economic realities, it is not possible for governments to absorb all the unemployed youth in the public sector. It has been recognized that the answer to employment generation lies in the promotion of the private sector notably the entrepreneur through the promotion of investments, both foreign and domestic. Many governments deem the creation of long-term, decent and productive work a priority. The private sector is a primary driver of economic growth, creating 9 out of 10 jobs globally. However, in many countries women and men face obstacles in engaging in productive activities: the educational and training system does not provide them with the skills required to land a job in the private sector; they are perceived as high-risk due to their age and limited entrepreneurial experience, consequently finding it difficult to access capital to start-up or grow their business; business development services are often lacking, hard to access, and not geared towards the particular needs of young entrepreneurs; and they are often less knowledgeable about networks, markets and investment opportunities and sources of information than older players.



WEIF Official Opening Ceremony

To tackle these issues and boost employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO ITPO/AICEI provide services that assist governments and support structures to serve young women and men. Services are geared to increase young people's employability and provide them with the necessary tools to create and develop sustainable enterprises, and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

MSMEs contribute to poverty reduction, as they are the main source for economic activity that supports bottom-up economic growth, structural change and innovation. They create employment and generate income for the entrepreneur, the employees and often suppliers, and hence reduce economic and social disparities.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear that women are, and will continue to be, powerful drivers of development. When men and women become more equal, economies grow faster, fewer people remain in poverty, and overall well-being increases. Studies have reported that raising female employment to male levels can have a direct impact on GDP growth rates, increasing it by as much as 34% in some countries, and that countries' productivity can increase by as much as 25 % if discriminatory barriers against women are removed. Therefore, the Forum elaborated on the role of women in entrepreneurship and investment, i.e. how women are and can be engaged in upgrading existing enterprises and/or in new enterprises.



Thus, entrepreneurship development contributes to economic empowerment through job creation in two folds: (i) through expanding existing MSMEs; and (ii) the creation of new enterprises leading to job creation for the entrepreneur him-/herself and in due course with the right growth support structures and services he/she will in turn recruit others.



Therefore, the objective for all stakeholders involved (Government, private sector, financial institutions, civil society, educational institutions, and academia) had to focus on: (1) strengthening existing entrepreneurs so that they can become active actors in the economic development of their countries, and (2) developing an enabling eco-system for the creation of new enterprises.

The Forum presented a platform for Governments, private sector, academia, financial institutions, civil society and entrepreneurs from around the globe to explore possibilities of cooperation, joint investments and business partnerships with potential counterparts.

Hence the Forum objectives are summarized in;

1. Introducing international best practices and successes on entrepreneurship and innovation
2. Facilitating business partnerships and investments for domestic enterprise creation and expansion,
3. Highlighting best practices for governments and financial institutions on productive and sustainable job creation,
4. Creating a platform for entrepreneurs from around the globe to develop joint investments and trade facilitation.

Forum Themes and Sessions

With over 50 speakers and experts representing esteemed regional and international dignitaries, delegates and investment experts provided opening remarks that focused and stressed the need to facilitate entrepreneurship development in an effort to meet the SDGs. Obstacles faced by countries in pursuing these productive activities were discussed, emphasizing that major difficulties result from the lack of business skills and entrepreneurial exposure of youth, which makes them highly risky for the private sector and consequently making it difficult for them to access capital or the market.

Key Note Speeches on the Forum Main Theme “Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship & Innovation

The ten key note speakers representing senior officials and dignitaries highlighted the need to collectively coordinate the efforts of governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations towards unleashing entrepreneurship and innovation through developing conducive ecosystems that take into account linking financial and non-financial services.



WEIF Keynote Speakers Panel

WEIF Plenary Session – Keynote Speakers



Video Statement HE Nael Kabariti, Chairman general Union for Arab Chambers



HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman UNIDO Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment



HE Yousif AlBassam, Chairman Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa



United Nations – Bahrain Statement Amin Shirkawi, UN Resident Coordinator



HE Ms. Dan Liang, Chairperson of Board of Directos, United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance



HH Shaikha Hessa AlSabah, President Arab Businesswomen Council



HE Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation of the federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



HE Mr. Marcello Pitella, President Basilicata Region-Italy



HE Dr. Phillip Auerswald, Co-Chair and Executive Director Global Entrepreneurship Research Network



HE Mr. Receop Ali Erdogan, Vice President KOSGEB, Turkey



HE Mr. Nejib Friji, Director International Peace Institute, MENA Office



Ms. Nima Abu Wardeh, BBC Middle East Correspondent (Master of Ceremony)

1. Forum Sub theme: Maritime-Continental Silk Road”

The countries of the East and West of the traditional Maritime-Continental Silk Road have created strong ties through trade and investment which led to cultural exchange for the people of the countries of the Silk Road over hundreds of years.

Accordingly, revitalizing these economic ties through joint investment and trade facilitation would undoubtedly lead to peaceful partnership, inclusive development, mutual learning and mutual benefit. Hence; through the ITPO Bahrain role as a secretariat to the MCSR Entrepreneurs Alliance which functions under the umbrella of the MCSR Cities Alliance; the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017 will be organized with the ultimate goal of sharing and developing partnerships between entrepreneurs in addition to sharing best practices. In addition to that Bahrain being a financial hub with over 400 financial institutions, will facilitate access to finance and allow developmental funds/financial institutions to get a closer understanding of linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs both start-ups and growth.



Speakers at the Maritime Continental Silk Road Entrepreneurs Alliance Panel

The MCSR Entrepreneurs Alliance aims at creating a platform for entrepreneurs and financial institutions from the countries of the MSCR to deliberate on the challenges, opportunities and recommendations for promoting joint investment opportunities, trade facilitation, partnerships, technology transfer and know how; thus leading to effective economic, innovation and trade cooperation.

The MCSR Cities Alliance is an institutional mechanism aimed at facilitating the coordination of policies, building of partnerships, formulation of initiatives and access to finance, leading to intensified trade, investment and exchange among participating cities. It was established “in the spirit of peaceful partnership, inclusive development, mutual learning, and mutual benefit to further promote exchange, cooperation and build a bright future for the 21st Century Maritime-Continental Silk Road.

With the above rationale in mind; the panel addressed the means of creating and shaping the MCSR Entrepreneurs Alliance.

The Panel also included the

1. Exchange of letters between UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain and the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance which stipulates institutionalizing UN MCSR Entrepreneurs Alliance at ITPO Bahrain.
2. Naming HE Mr. Adnan Kassar, President of Fransabank and Honorary Chairman of the General Union of Arab Chambers as an honorary chairman for the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance.
3. The Basilicata Region in Italy joining and signing the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance Charter



2. Forum Sub theme: Global Impact Investing

The session presented the concept of “Global Impact Investing” and its role in realizing and attaining the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. The cost of solving the world’s most critical problems runs into the trillions—including an estimated \$2.5 trillion annual funding gap needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries alone. Private capital through financial institutions, private investors and entrepreneurs is urgently needed in order to fill this gap and address pressing global challenges.



Panel Session on Global Impact Investing



3. Forum Sub Theme: Women in Industry

As a follow up to the main panel on women entitled “Scaling Up Women’s Economic Empowerment through Innovative Approaches” held during the UNIDO 50th Anniversary, the Forum addressed the challenges, threats and opportunities facing women in their endeavor to be more active in the industrial arena, such as: access to financial resources and new technologies, building support networks, improving technical and managerial skills and addressing social and cultural barriers.

Understanding the relationship between gender (in)equality and economic growth in a particular context is important to better shape strategies and interventions. A more balanced and inclusive framework for economic competitiveness and industrial growth can diminish existing inequities and enable women more prominent participation in the development of industrial policies. Moreover, women empowerment and gender equality are crosscutting issues important for the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals agreed by UN member states.



The opportunities and obstacles of scaling up women’s economic empowerment, the role of female entrepreneurs in partnerships for development and the implications for achieving the 2030 agenda, in particular SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure will be at the core of the discussions.

This theme combined Goal 5 and 9 in order to achieve “gender equality and empower all women and girls” while promoting “inclusive and sustainable industrialization”.

The Panel also included the

1. Awarding of certificates for the 21 African Experts from 21 countries who successfully completed the specialized capacity building program under the theme “Gender Equality in Manufacturing” that was organized by UNIDO, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Government of Finland.
2. Acknowledging HE Dr. Azza Fahmy as a Distinguished International Creative Women Entrepreneur by the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain
3. Acknowledging HE Mr. Fadi Yaziji as an Art - Entrepreneur for Peace and Human Development by the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain

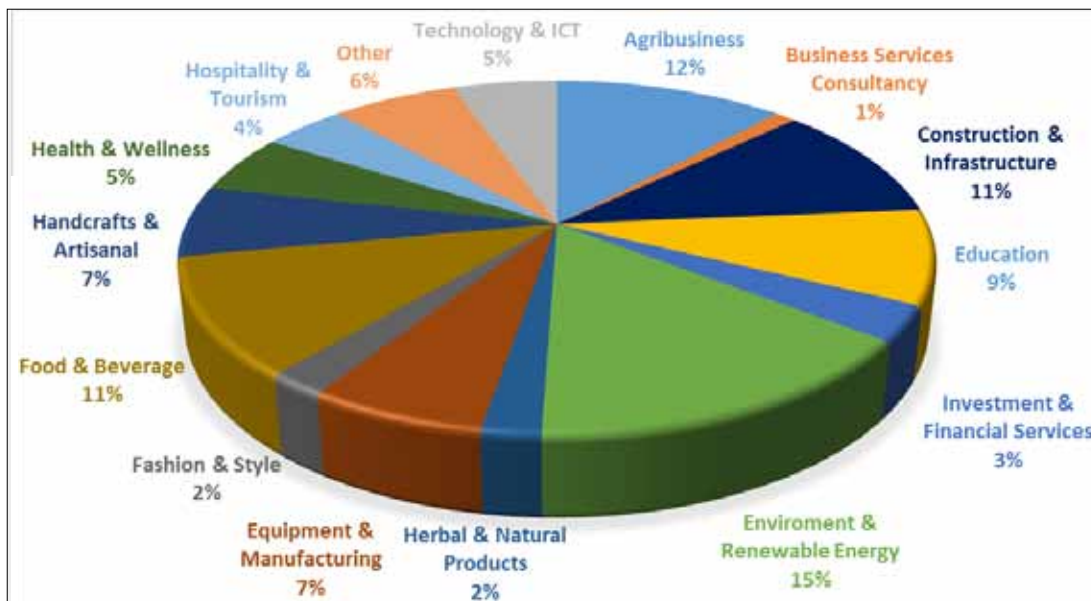


Acknowledging HE Dr. Azza Fahmy

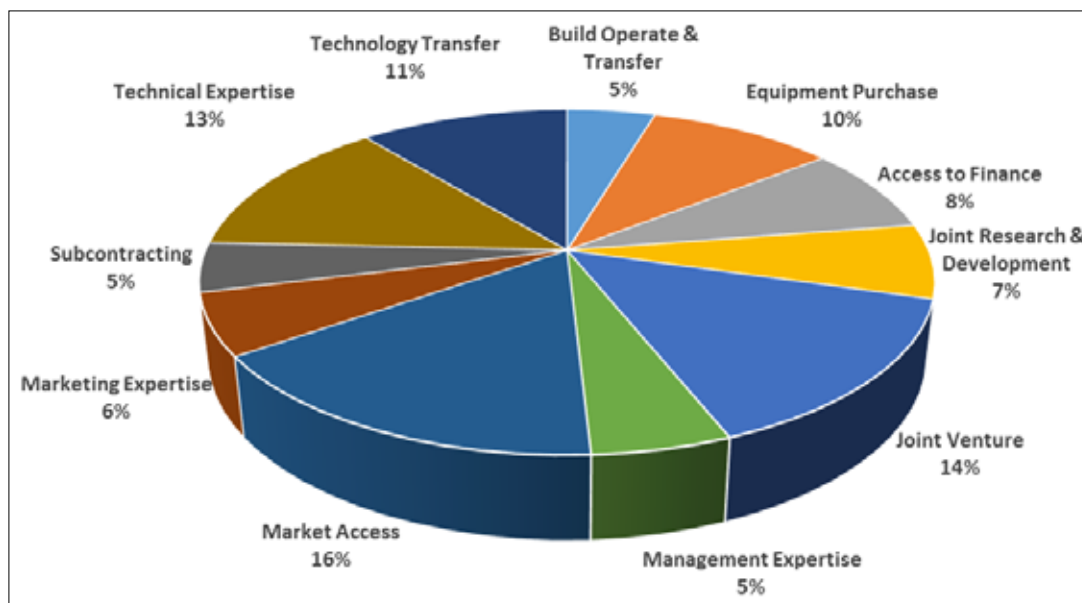
ENTREPRENEUR TO ENTREPRENEUR BILATERAL MEETINGS

One of the main objectives of the WEIF is to serve as a platform for the 1,000+ entrepreneurs from around the world to meet and explore possible business partnerships towards developing joint investments; trade facilitation and sharing best practices. As an integral part of WEIF 3,000 bilateral meetings have been arranged, leading to the signing of 74 letters of intent in various sectors with an estimated investment of 240 million USD. ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with its partners will provide the needed follow up to help in materializing these letters of Intent.





Letters of Intent Signed by Sector



Forms of Cooperation - Letters of Intent



FINAL CLOSING CEREMONY AND THE MANAMA DECLARATION 2017

The WEIF closing ceremony was held on November 2nd at the United Nations House in Manama in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain and in the presence of HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; where by the final recommendations and communique of the Forum were submitted to HE Mr. Miroslav entitled “Manama Declaration – Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurships and Innovation”.



Dr. Hashim Hussein submitting the WEIF 2017 Manama Declaration to HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

SENIOR LEVEL BILATERAL MEETINGS

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

A number of bilateral meetings have been organized during WEIF for the senior level dignitaries; namely;

- o For HE Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy to the Director General of UNIDO with;
- o HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; which was also attended by the ITPO Coordination Team and ITPO Bahrain.
- o HE Mrs. Manal Al Bayat, Senior Vice President Dubai Expo 2020
- o For HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations with
- o His Majesty King Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- o HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister; present at the meeting HH Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Advisor to the Prime Minister and HE Shaikh Khalid Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bahrain
- o For HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Environment with HE Ms. Dan Liang, Chairperson of the United Nations Maritime Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance in the presence of Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and the Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investments



MAJOR PARALLEL AND SIDE EVENTS

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

1. Signing of MoU between Dubai Expo and UNIDO to host WEIF 2020

In line with the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain mandate to promote prosperity through entrepreneurship and the Dubai Expo 2020 theme of “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future” as well as the subthemes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability; UNIDO and Dubai Expo 2020 officially signed an MoU which formalizes the joint cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development in addition to that the organization of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2020 in Dubai as part of the Dubai Expo.





Dignitaries attending the UNIDO - Dubai Expo 2020 MoU signing Ceremony

Accordingly, the MoU was officially signed, in Dubai, by HE Ms. Reem Ebrahim Al-Hashimi Minister of State and Managing Director for the Dubai World Expo 2020 and signed by Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi in the Presence of HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In his statement at the signing ceremony HE Mr. Miroslav praised the cooperation and quote “It is commendable that both sides will cooperate closely to promote investment and entrepreneurship for development as a means of supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. I also welcome Dubai’s decision to host “The World Entrepreneurship Investment Forum in 2020””.



2. Private Sector engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals in Bahrain

UNDP and UNIDO Bahrain in cooperation with the UN Global Compact, the Global Resources Initiative and the UNDP Private Sector Division organized a special workshop under the theme “Private Sector engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals in Bahrain”; the workshop aimed at ensuring an integral and sustained engagement and contribution to the SDGs by the private sector in Bahrain.

The main objective of the workshop was to look into the possibility of developing a Global Compact for Entrepreneurs which focuses on developing and empowering entrepreneurs to be active players in achieving financial independence and at the same time contribute to their societies and communities. As every dollar invested in an entrepreneur will create a multiplier ripple effect on his family, community and eventually the national economy.

The 2-day workshop was organized with the participation of 60 delegates representing a number of major banks, entrepreneurs, industrialists and officials.



3. Building capacities for gender equality in manufacturing (Oct. 25 to 30)

Prior to WEIF and in an effort to achieve the SDGs and SDG 9 in specific; a specialized capacity building program on Gender equality in Manufacturing was held in close cooperation between the UNIDO Institute and ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with the Government of Finland and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). The course was attended by 22 African participants and decision makers from 21 African Countries. The focus in 2018 will shift to the MENA Region,



in 2019 Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2020 the Asian continent. The recommendations of the course represented the major areas of discussion during the WEIF women panel. The five-day training program targeted government officials engaged in the design and implementation of industrial policies, gender focal points of the relevant national ministries (e.g. industry, economy, labor and trade), regional organizations and representatives of associations focusing on the economic empowerment of women.

The training course was organized in modules focusing on different aspects of the two-way relationship between industrial development and gender equality. Theoretical explanations illustrated by country case studies as well as examples of UNIDO projects with strong gender components.

The participants were equipped with the knowledge on:

- Applying basic concepts and principles of gender equality to industrial development issues;
- Identifying gender patterns in manufacturing, including the manner in which industrial development impacts women's economic empowerment and the ways gender inequality impacts industrial performance and competitiveness;
- Describing roles, opportunities, and constraints for women in industry, such as occupational segregation, gender-wage gaps and the growth of informal sectors;
- Identifying bottlenecks and prioritize policy measures to promote women's entrepreneurship in different contexts.

The main aim of the program was to develop initiatives and methodologies that would enhance the role of women working in industry and the role of women who own manufacturing facilities. Accordingly, taking into consideration the 5 days of discussions followed by the special panel on Women in Industry as part of WEIF, we have been successful in developing a road map and action plan for Africa towards Gender Equality and Inclusive & Sustainable Industrial Development.

4. Bahrain Entrepreneurs Expo

As integral part of WEIF 2017; and in effort to further promote Bahrain Entrepreneurs, the SME Fund in Bahrain – Tamkeen fully sponsored in cooperation with UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism the 1st Bahrain Entrepreneurs expo through which 209 Entrepreneurs who have been supported by the Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Program (EDIP) have exhibited their products and services. In addition to that a special Bahraini Entrepreneurs Food Festival was organized whereby 20 Chef-Preneurs cooked lunch for the participants and shared their hand crafted sweets over the 2 days of the forum



Senior Dinitaries officially inaugurating the Bahrain entrepreneurs Expo



5. WEIF 2017 Official Gala Dinner Reception



MEDIA COVERAGE

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

An extensive Media campaign was planned, developed and implemented prior, during and post WEIF 2017 jointly between UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, the UNIC Manama and the United Nations Multimedia Division in New York.

A curtain raiser press conference at the Ministry of foreign affairs to brief the media preparations for the World Entrepreneurs Forum 2017 was held on October 24th. The press conference was held in collaboration with MoFA and UNIDO and was attended by Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain, Mr. Amin El Sharkawi, UN Resident Coordinator and Mr. Samir Imtair Aldarbi, Director of UN Information Center for the Gulf Countries (UNIC Manama).



UNIC Manama lead the media team to ensure that media will be informed on the WEIF2017 and that all their inquiries are responded to. A press Center was established at the conference site. UNIC Manama shaped a social media team who worked under UNIC Director’s direct supervision. A special Twitter and Instagram accounts with the name “weifofficial” were established to cover the events during its three days, this is in addition to UNIDO-Bahrain, UNIC Manama and other partner’s social media accounts. The huge efforts of the Social Media Team made the Hashtag “#WEIF2017” the first in Bahrain’s twitter trends at the opening day.

The participation of two journalists from the United Nations Multimedia Division provided a noticeable and extensive coverage at all UN News and media websites and social media accounts in English, Arabic and other UN official languages.



ANNEX 1 (ORGANIZERS & PARTNERS)

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”



MANAMA DECLARATION

“Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through
Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017

31 October – 2 November 2017 / Kingdom of Bahrain

We, participants in the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation” held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, met in the Capital, Manama, from 31 October to 2 November 2017 along with experts and entrepreneurs gathered from 90 different countries engaged in this forum.

Appreciating Bahrain’s leadership efforts towards sustainable development, we express our gratitude and encouragement to HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister, for his personal and government’s contribution to the global efforts.

Recognizing the UNIDO role towards fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the considerable achievements of the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum of January 2015 held in Bahrain and the momentum it created regionally and worldwide, we welcome the progress and environment it created, effectively enabling the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.

We once again reiterate our gratitude and support to the WEIF secretariat in Bahrain for its role in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and in its efforts to integrate entrepreneurs from around the world; hence we reconfirm organizing WEIF every two-years in Bahrain and in between in any country which requests to host it.

Having examined all aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation during the three day deliberations and discussions, and being aware of the crucial importance of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

- We express our strong commitment to achieving the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are impetus leading to the creation of jobs, spurring of economic growth and the realization of social gains;

- We are united in our belief that the empowerment of women at all economic levels is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and entrepreneurship;
- We recommend that all efforts are deployed to translate our collective belief that achieving sustainable development through entrepreneurship and innovation can be accomplished via strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth;
- We call on the international community to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as central objectives in their national strategies of sustainable development;
- We recommend that developing strong partnerships are built between entrepreneurs, women and men alike, to share best practices in line with linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs;
- We urge stakeholders to foster the dynamic private sector as the main engine behind economic growth, structural change and innovation, as we identify the pressing need to promote competitive MSMEs as the main driving force behind the empowerment of women and youth;
- We recommend that the active involvement of women in all sectors related towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through entrepreneurship and innovation are adopted to foster both public and private sectors;
- We recommend that sound economic policies, legislation and programs be adopted as important strategies and elements of sustainable development to strengthen and ensure women's empowerment at the national, regional, and global levels;
- We call upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to cooperate in facilitating the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; through developing economic infrastructure, incubation management systems, etc.
- We urge the international community, United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations, think-tanks, institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take these recommendations into account when shaping their policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.





STATEMENT

President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

H.E. Miroslav Lajčák

World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017

[Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre]

2 November, 2017 | Thursday
Manama | Bahrain

Introduction

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to address this important Forum. At the outset, I want to congratulate the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) for organising this event. I also commend the many partners and sponsors who are supporting the convening of the Forum.

I am pleased that you are building on the success of the 2015 Forum which adopted the Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship for Development. Since you last met, the global community has taken several important steps. First, We adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda addressing Financing for Development. Second We adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. And Third we agreed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Your focus on “Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation” is therefore complementary to our efforts to implement these frameworks. I am pleased to learn of your fruitful deliberations over the past two days. The engagement between the many stakeholders participating is a practical means of forging actions that will bring progress in Sustainable Development Goals implementation.

Excellencies, let me speak about three issues.

I. Big challenges require Big Responses

The first is that we face unprecedented challenges in the quest for development. World leaders have pledged to lift people out of poverty, ensure sustainability and leave no one behind. These are bold promises and they require bold action. But, there are many challenges in the way of meeting these goals.

At the global level, there is much political and economic uncertainty. Many regions and countries face the threat of conflict and instability. There are also multiple effects of climate change such as severe weather events and disasters which retard our development gains. We also face a global refugee crisis of an unprecedented scale. Irregular migration, urbanisation, unemployment, inequality, deforestation: and the list goes on.

In the face of such extraordinary challenges, our response must likewise be extraordinary. Poverty will not disappear just by wishing it away. Instead we will need to take focused and innovative action to eliminate it. Rapid and sustained economic growth is crucial to eradicate poverty, improve livelihoods, create jobs and reduce inequalities. Growth needs to be inclusive and spread across all sectors of society. Entrepreneurship and innovation are strong engines for economic growth, income generation and the creation of decent jobs for all. Ultimately, they are key to the economic transformation and diversification we need.

Young people face dim prospects in many regions. High unemployment robs both them and us of the chance to reap the full benefit of their potential. Disaffected youth becomes the fertile ground for extremism and criminal activities. We must therefore invest in youth to ensure that they acquire relevant skills and get relevant opportunities. Their innovation and dynamism can be a catalyst for development. Do we still remember a little company that sold the idea that other people would care what you ate for lunch today? Well look at FaceBook now. And not just FaceBook, social media is now a whole industry spawning other innovative and impactful ideas.



In an increasingly globalized world, no country or region can meet the challenges alone. The Forum has been a unique opportunity to forge partnerships, exchange best practices and explore options for mobilising financial resources.

II. Innovation and Entrepreneurship are Crucial

The second issue I would like to expand on is the critical importance of entrepreneurship and innovation. The transformational approach embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals gives us a framework for catalysed actions across many areas. The growth we need will not come solely from Government policies. Instead, we need to harness the financial and productive capacity of other stakeholders such as the private sector.

We must however offer better incentives to induce entrepreneurs and innovators to invest in sustainable development goals. This will help unleash and foster a dynamic private sector and ensure competitiveness.

Let me emphasise here, in particular, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which very often constitute the majority of business activity within countries. Supporting SMEs is a proven strategy to build a robust economy from the ground up. In addition, access to financial services and innovation offer valuable opportunities for women and young people as well. Helping businesses get off the ground and sustaining them through their initial phases helps generate employment, income and economic growth.

I trust that the discussions at this year's Forum will spur further action in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation towards sustainable development.

III. Financing Needed for successful SDG implementation

My third and final point is on the means of implementation. Our lofty ambitions, while laudable, are insufficient to truly meet the needs of our people and planet. If we do not close the resource gap we will get to 2030 with unmet targets, dashed hopes and devastated people. While estimates vary, the gap between existing development funding and what is required to achieve the SDGs is said to be at least US\$3 trillion – annually.

Traditional means of financing alone will not bridge the gap. We must therefore forge innovative partnerships between governments and the private sector, between civil society and entrepreneurs. A multi-stakeholder approach is critical. Public-Private Partnerships can

be channelled towards sustainable development objectives. Blended financing can also be an innovative means of channelling funds into mutually beneficial programmes. We must also harness the multiplier effect of technology to increase the speed, reach and sustainability of development.

While countries work to maximize domestic resource mobilisation, we must continue to strengthen international cooperation and capacity building. Commitments on Official Development Assistance, technology transfer and market access must be fulfilled in a timely manner.

By drawing on all viable sources we can begin to build a more adequately financed response to the global challenges which the SDGs are seeking to address. I am pleased to learn that the Forum has been a good platform for facilitating match-making, joint investments and partnerships. It is my hope that the seeds planted will yield an abundant harvest for those directly involved. I hope too that they will have a multiplier effect on our broader sustainable development efforts.

In mid-2018, I will convene a High-Level event on Sustainable Development Financing to support discussions among Member States and other stakeholders. I look forward to your continued active engagement and cooperation on this important issue.

Conclusion

As I close, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me recall that SDG9 which addresses innovation was reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) this past July. In its Declaration, the HLPF acknowledged – and I quote “the importance of supporting entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, which add new momentum for economic growth and job creation and expand opportunities for all” – end of quote.

I commend the Kingdom of Bahrain and UNIDO for putting these words into action by organising this World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum. I encourage you to continue your leadership and engagement in support of sustainable development. I wish all of you success in the ventures that lie ahead.



ANNEX 4 (WEIF DETAILED AGENDA)

“Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”

Invest in Bahrain Forum and World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017

Tuesday October 31

10:00 – 10:30 **Official Opening ceremony Invest in Bahrain Forum and World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017**

HE Mr. HE Mr. Zayed Al Zayani, Minister, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism
Video Statement by HE Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations
HE Mr. Ali Alghanim, Chairman, Federation of Chambers of the Gulf Cooperation Council
HE Mr. Khalid Almoayed, Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
HE Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy to the Director General of UNIDO
Naming HE Mr. Adnan Kassar as Honorary Chairman of the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance

10:30 – 11:30 **Official Inauguration of Bahrain Entrepreneurs Exhibition**

11:30 – 13:15 **WEIF Keynote Speeches - Plenary Session**

<u>Entrepreneurship for Development and Innovation towards achieving the SDGs</u> Master of Ceremony: Ms. Nima Abu Wardeh, BBC Middle East Correspondent Moderator: HE Mr. Nejjib Friji, Director International Peace Institute, Middle East and North Africa Office
Video Statement by HE Mr. Nael Kabariti, Chairman General Union for Arab Chambers
HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment
HE Mr. Yousif Al Bassam, Chairman Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
HE Ms. Hala Al Ansari, Secretary General Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain
United Nations – Bahrain statement HE Mr. Amin El Sharkawi, UN Resident Coordinator
HE Mr. Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President & Chief Executive of Al Baraka Banking Group
HE Ms. Dan Liang, Chairperson of Board of Directors, United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance
HH Shaikha Hessa Al Sabah, President Arab Businesswomen Council
HE Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
HE Mr. Marcello Pittella, President Basilicata Region -Italy
HE Dr. Philip Auerswald, Co-chair & Executive Director Global Entrepreneurship Research Network
HE Mr. Recep Ali Erdogan, Vice President KOSGEB, Turkey

13:00 – 17:00 **Side Event Workshop: “The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda: Opportunities for the Private Sector in Bahrain (Organized by UNDP, UN Global Compact and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain)**

13:15 – 13:30 **Exchange of letters between UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities**

Basilicata Region joining and signing the United Nations Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance Charter

14:30 – 16:30 **Session 1: Maritime-Continental Silk Road (One Belt One Road for Development)**

Moderator: Mr. Peter Wong, Executive Chairman China Chamber of Tourism
Mr. Zhao Yongli, Director of Division of UN Programs China International Center For Economic And Technical Exchanges (CICETE)
HE Mr. DaiXing Chen, Member Standing Committee Shenzhen Communist Youth League Committee
HE Mr. Nabil Itani, Chairman Investment Development Authority of Lebanon
Mr. Giovanni Zazzerini, Secretary General International SME Network
Mr. Rasmus Tscherning Managing Director Creative Business Cup, Denmark
Mr. Hu Xin, Vice Director of Bolong Institute for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Dr. Jia Xiao Fang, President China International Health & Medical Tourism Association
Ms. Paula Leon Regional Director Asia Pacific, AIESEC
Mr. Mahir Humbatov, Research Analyst at the Center for Strategic Studies Azerbaijan
Mr. Afif El Barhoumi, Investment Promotion Expert, UNIDO-ITPO Bahrain
Expected Outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch the MCSR Entrepreneurs Alliance and Action plan • Officially Inaugurate the MCSR Cities Alliance Focal Point in Cooperation with ITPO Bahrain and MCSR-CA

14:45 – 16:00 **Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur Bilateral Meetings**

20:00 – 22:00 **Gala Dinner Reception – Arcapita Main Lobby**



Wednesday November 1

09:00 – 14:15 **Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur Bilateral Meetings**
09:00 – 16:30 **Side Event Workshop: “The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda: Opportunities for the Private Sector in Bahrain (Organized by UNDP, UN Global Compact and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain)**
09:00 – 11:00 **Session 2: Women in Industry**

Moderator: HE Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui , President Center of Arab Woman for Training and Research

HE Dr. Abla Abdel Latif, Chairwoman Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Development - Egypt
Dr. Sabah Al-Junaid, a member of the Supreme Council for Women Head of AGU’s Geoinformatics Department the Arabian Gulf University
HE Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russian Federation.
Mrs. May Ali Babiker Eltahir, Manager Social Capacity Development Division, Islamic Development Bank
Amb. Abdelmoneim Ismail, Secretary General Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development
Dr. Shehla Akram, Founder & President Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Lahore Division
Dr. Azza Fahmy, Chairwoman and Creative Director of Jewelry of Egypt
Mrs. Tazima H. Majumdar, Board Member Women Entrepreneurs Association Bangladesh
Ms. Adot Killmeyer-Oleche, Chief of UNIDO's Institute for Capacity Development
Ms. Fatou Diaw, President, African Business Women Association Senegal
Featured Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate ceremony Course on Gender Equality in Manufacturing • Naming Dr. Azza Fahmy as an International Creative Women Entrepreneur • Naming Mr. Fadi Yaziji as an Art - Entrepreneur for Peace and Human Development
Expected Outcome: Launch the Women in Industry Program

11:20 – 13:00 **Session 3: Global Impact Investing Panel**

Moderator: Ms. Lucia Cartini, Coordinator Investment & Technology Promotion Office Network - UNIDO

Mr. Peter Wong, Executive Chairman China Chamber of Tourism
Dr. Waheed Al Qassim Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Association of Banks
Mr. Justin Murara, Chief Socio Economist, African Development Bank Group
Ms. Renata Brkić, High Commissioner to Croatia World Business Angels Forum
Dr. Dunya Ahmed Scientific Committee Chairperson Institute Inspiration Economy EU & MENA
Dr. Tommaso Saltini, Team Leader E4Impact Foundation
Ms. Alexandra Tarazi, Manager, Local Networks, United Nations Global Compact
Mr. Bessem Soua, Head Business Acquisition Division, Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
Ms. Elaine Gold, Consultant, MENA Region Creative Business Cup
Ms. Suzan Mohammed Al Ajjawi, Acting Director Environmental Policies & Planning, Supreme Council For Environment
Mr. Andreas Hora Research Coordinator, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies
Expected Outcome: Launch of the Global Impact Investing Technical Assistance Program

13:00 – 14:00 **Entrepreneurs Food Festival**

November 2

10:00 – 11:00 Official Closing Session

- **Final Communiqué and Recommendations submitted to HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák President of the United Nations General Assembly in its seventy-second session**
- **Press Conference**

Moderator: Mr. Samir Al-Darabi, Acting Director United Nations Information Center – UNIC
HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák President of the United Nations General Assembly in its 72 nd session
HE Dr. Shaikh Abdulla Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for International Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Kingdom of Bahrain
Dr Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and Executive Secretary of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum
Mr. Amin El Sharkawi, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

10:00 to 16:00 Delegates and Entrepreneurs Study Tour and Site visits



Brief Statement

President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

H.E. Miroslav Lajčák

UNIDO – Dubai Expo 2020 MoU Signing

I am pleased to witness the signing of the memorandum of understanding on cooperation between UNIDO and EXPO Dubai 2020 LLC-SO in which both sides will cooperate closely to promote investment and entrepreneurship for development as a means of supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. I also welcome Dubai’s decision to host “The World Entrepreneurship Investment Forum in 2020”.

This Partnership proves the significant contribution that can be made by the private sector toward an inclusive and sustainable development.

I also welcome the party’s intention to share knowledge around investment and Entrepreneurship for development to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Let me thank HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain for his support to the United Nations and the SDGs and his commitment to its achievements. Having the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forums, 2015 and 2017 organized under His patronage and full support is very much appreciated.

And moreover, having the 2020 Forum in Dubai is another prove to the Region’s interest and commitment to encourage all counterparts to work together with The UNIDO Investment & Technology Promotion Office efforts to “Achieving the SDGs through Promoting Entrepreneurship & Innovation”.



-A A+

(<http://www.albiladpress.com/images/news/2017/11/101115.jpg>)

الأربعاء 01 نوفمبر 2017

أناب صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء، سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة آل خليفة مستشار صاحب السمو الملكي رئيس الوزراء صباح اليوم الثلاثاء لافتتاح فعاليات "منتدى استثمار في البحرين 2017" في نسخته الثانية عشر الذي تنظمه وزارة الصناعة والتجارة والسياحة بمركز البحرين الدولي للمعارض والمؤتمرات. وبهذه المناسبة، نقل سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة تحيات صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء إلى القائمين على تنظيم المنتدى والمشاركين فيه، وتمنيات سموه بأن يحقق المنتدى ما يصبو إليه على صعيد تنمية القطاع الاستثماري في المملكة وتعزيز النجاحات التي حققتها البحرين كبيئة جاذبة للاستثمارات بمختلف أنواعها.

وأكد سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة آل خليفة حرمي الحكومة برئاسة صاحب السمو الملكي رئيس الوزراء على دعم وتطوير المقومات المحفزة للاستثمار في مملكة البحرين من خلال رؤية متكاملة تستهدف تنشيط كافة القطاعات الاقتصادية وتشجيع رؤوس الأموال والقطاع الخاص على الاستثمار في الفرص والمشروعات الواعدة التي تهيئها المملكة. وقال سموه إن معدلات تدفق الاستثمار الخارجي إلى المملكة تشهد نموا مضطربا بفضل ما تتمتع به البحرين من مقومات وبيئة أعمال متميزة ومنفتحة تركز على بنية تحتية متطورة، ومنظومة قانونية وتنظيمية شاملة تتمتع بالمرونة ومواكبة التطورات العالمية.

سمو رئيس الوزراء بنيب سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة لرعاية افتتاح "منتدى استثمار في البحرين 2017"

PM 12 : 26 - 2017/10/31

المنامة في 31 أكتوبر/ بنا / اناب صاحب سمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء، سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة آل خليفة مستشار صاحب سمو الملكي رئيس الوزراء صباح اليوم الثلاثاء لافتتاح فعاليات "منتدى استثمار في البحرين 2017" في نسخته الثانية عشر الذي تنظمه وزارة الصناعة والتجارة والسياحة بمركز البحرين الدولي للمعارض والمؤتمرات.



وبهذه المناسبة، نقل سمو الشيخ سلمان بن خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة تحيات صاحب سمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء إلى القائمين على تنظيم المنتدى والمشاركين فيه، وتمنيات سموه بأن يحقق المنتدى ما يصبو إليه على صعيد تنمية القطاع الاستثماري في المملكة وتعزيز النجاحات التي حققتها البحرين كبيئة جاذبة للاستثمارات بمختلف أنواعها.

سمو نائب رئيس المجلس الأعلى للبيئة يجتمع مع رئيسة منظمة الأمم المتحدة لطريق الحرير البري والبحري - اتحاد المدن

PM 04 : 44 - 2017/11/02

المنامة في 2 نوفمبر / بنا / اجتمع سمو الشيخ فيصل بن راشد بن عيسى آل خليفة نائب رئيس المجلس الأعلى للبيئة مع السيدة دان لينغ رئيسة منظمة الأمم المتحدة لطريق الحرير البري والبحري - اتحاد المدن، وذلك خلال أعمال المنتدى العالمي لريادة الأعمال والاستثمار 2017 والذي أقيم تحت رعاية صاحب سمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء الموقر حفظه الله ورعاه.



وتم خلال الاجتماع بحث سبل توثيق التعاون وتبادل الخبرات بين الجانبين في مجال تحفيز رواد الأعمال

والاستثمار في الصناعة النظيفية والطاقة المتجددة بهدف المحافظة على البيئة.

Support for young entrepreneurs hailed in Bahrain

By: dt news, Posted on 03-Nov-2017



Manama : Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) Deputy President His Highness Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al-Khalifa received Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (UNMCSR) chairperson Dan Liang.

The UNMCSR chief arrived in the Kingdom in Bahrain to attend the 2017 World Forum for Entrepreneurship and Investment, being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa.

HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al-Khalifa and the UNMCSR chief discussed means of strengthening joint cooperation and exchanging expertise to support and motivate young entrepreneurs to invest in the sectors clean industries and alternative energy to protect the environment.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2017

f t i ARCHIVES | ADVERTISE

'WIEF 2017' begins in Bahrain

By: dt news, Posted on 31-Oct-2017



Manama : Top entrepreneurs and experts from all over the globe will converge on Bahrain for the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2017 (WIEF 2017) which begins today at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, the forum expects the participation of experts and entrepreneurs from 90 different countries and around 1,000 entrepreneurs and representatives of MSME and entrepreneurship support

Lajčák for innovative action to tackle global challenges

By: dt news. Posted on 03-Nov-2017



Manama : Extraordinary efforts will be required to overcome global challenges such as poverty, climate change and extremism, said Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) while speaking at the closing of World Entrepreneurs Forum yesterday.

The three-day exhibition held at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre opened on October 31 was attended by several experts and entrepreneurs from 90 countries.

Nine-year-old girl's stall steals the show at Bahrain expo

By: dt news. Posted on 02-Nov-2017



Manama: A nine-year-old girl hogged limelight at the Bahrain Entrepreneurs Exhibition held at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Centre yesterday.

Young entrepreneur Jumana Al Zenji was among the hundreds of entrepreneurs exhibiting at the major event. She occupied a small stall to display her two-year-old business 'Juju's Sweet Spa'. Her stall was a major attraction as the youngest participant in the event. Visitors were taken by surprise to find a 9-year-old business girl among the entrepreneurs.

دبي تستضيف منتدى رواد الأعمال بموجباها اليونيدو توقع مذكرة تفاهم مع (دبي إكسبو 2020)



كتبت نوال عباس:

الجمعة ٠٣ نوفمبر ٢٠١٧ - 01:30

أعلنت منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية الصناعية (اليونيدو) مساء أمس عن توقيع مذكرة تفاهم مع دبي إكسبو الجهة المنظمة لإكسبو دبي 2020. وتضمنت الاتفاقية على استضافة دبي للمنتدى العالمي لرواد الأعمال والاستثمار 2020.

الايام نت - محليات

العدد 10434 الخميس 2 نوفمبر 2017 الموافق 13 صفر 1439

الايام نت < محليات

نائب رئيس المجلس الأعلى للبيئة يجتمع مع رئيسة منظمة الأمم المتحدة لطريق الحرير البري والبحري



<http://alay.am/vPxsuL>

رابط مختصر

استمع

اجتمع سمو الشيخ فيصل بن راشد بن عيسى آل خليفة نائب رئيس المجلس الأعلى للبيئة مع السيدة دان لينغ رئيسة منظمة الامم المتحدة لطريق الحرير البري والبحري - اتحاد المدن، وذلك خلال أعمال المنتدى العالمي لريادة الاعمال والاستثمار 2017 والذي أقيم تحت رعاية صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير خليفة بن سلمان آل خليفة رئيس الوزراء الموقر حفظه الله ورعاه.

