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Labour Fund partners with BIHM to train 1,800



Raees, Dadabhai, Al Qassimi and AlShaikh at the contract signing

BAHRAIN'S Labour Fund has signed a BD3.2 million (\$8.48 million) contract with Baisan Institute for Hospitality Management (BIHM) to fund the training of more than 1,800 Bahrainis in diverse fields of the hospitality sector. The agreement was signed by Abdullellah Ebrahim Al Qassimi, acting chief executive of the Labour Fund, and Qutub Abbas Dadabhai, chairman of the Board of Directors of BIHM.

The signing ceremony was held at the Bahrain Hotels Company premises at the Gulf Hotel and was also attended by Aqeel Raees, chairman of the Specific Council for Vocational Training – Hospitality Sector, and Dr. Ahmed Abdul Ghani Al Shaikh, vice-president of the Human Capital Development at the Labour Fund.

"The hospitality sector is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the Kingdom and has been identified by the Labour Fund as having a real need for qualified and professional Bahraini staff and the potential to offer sustainable employment," said Al Qassimi. "There is increased demand for hospitality staff not only in upcoming hotel and resort projects but also in new projects such as the growing catering sector, new fast-food outlets, restaurants, commissaries, supermarkets, bakeries and entertainment," he added.

This initiative by the Labour Fund encompasses training for all job levels of the sector. There will be 1,500 trainees for diverse entry-level positions, 300 middle-level positions and 50 are planned to take a BSc. in hospitality management aimed to assume high positions in the sector.

Moreover, the initiative will also entail sponsoring 20 participants currently working in the human resources departments of the hospitality sector to complete their professional qualifications in Human Resource Management. The training programmes will be delivered based upon internationally recognized curriculum from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association (EI-AHLA) and Northwood University in the USA. The duration of this project will span five years and will offer 6 to 48-month long programmes.

Dadabhai told news reporters that the agreement will help to place Bahrain in the forefront of hospitality education in the Gulf. "With BIHM's track record in providing employment through the training programmes, BIHM has built an excellent rapport with all major companies in this sector and looks forward to serving them by providing the right Bahrainis to fill up the positions. BIHM looks forward to meet the tremendous demand for well-trained Bahrainis in this sector by working together with these companies," he said. "The fact that 90 per cent of businesses operating in the hospitality sector are franchises provides immense employment opportunities and career growth for nationals and exposure to best practice."

Dr Ahmad A.Ghani Al Shaikh reiterated that Labour Fund's training programmes are open to all eligible Bahraini nationals aim to provide the right learning environment to make Bahraini nationals the employees of choice for this sector and other major sectors as well. ■

BD3.2m deal to train 1,800 in hospitality sector

BAHRAIN'S Labour Fund has awarded a BD3.2 million contract to the Baisan Institute for Hospitality Management (BIHM) to train more than 1,800 Bahrainis.

The agreement was signed by Labour Fund acting chief executive Abdul Elah Al Qassimi and BIHM board chairman Qutub Dadabhai.

The ceremony was held at the Bahrain Hotels Company premises at the Gulf Hotel and was also attended by Specific Council for Vocational Training - Hospitality Sector chairman Aqeel Raees and Labour Fund vice-president for human capital development Dr Ahmed Abdul Ghani Al Shaikh.

Under the contract, 1,500 Bahrainis will be trained over five years for diverse entry-level positions, 300 for middle-level positions and 50 for a Bachelor Science (BSc) degree in hospitality management.

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By SOMAN BABY

Labour Fund as having a real need for qualified and professional Bahraini staff and the potential to offer sustainable employment," said Mr Al Qassimi.

The initiative will also entail sponsoring 20 participants currently working in the human resources departments of the hospitality sector to complete their professional qualifications in Human Resource Management.

The training programmes at BIHM will be based on internationally-recognised curriculum from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association and Northwood University in the US.

The project will span five years and will offer six-month to four-year programmes.

Mr Dadabhai said the agreement would help to place Bahrain in the forefront of hospitality education in the Gulf.

"BIHM looks forward to meet the tremendous demand for well-trained Bahrainis in this sector by working togeth-



■ At the signing are, from left, Mr Raees, Mr Dadabhai, Mr Al Qassimi and Mr Al Shaikh

er with these companies.

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Facilities

Mr Dadabhai revealed that BIHM is moving ahead with its plans to invest in a bigger state-of-the-art facilities.

Dr Al Shaikh reiterated that Labour Fund's training programmes were open to all eligible Bahraini nationals.

"Our aim is to provide the

right learning environment to make Bahraini nationals the employees of choice for this sector and other major sectors as well," he added.

The Labour Fund is continuing to implement its strategic plans which aim to enhance the competencies, skills and employability of Bahraini nationals and identify what the different economic sectors have to offer in terms of value-added jobs, said Mr Al Shaikh.

"The Fund will shortly launch a professional accounting and finance training programme to provide internationally recognised

certification to more than 600 Bahraini nationals, he revealed.

The Labour Fund has already launched three projects to qualify more than 600 health care and nursing staff in collaboration with the College of Health Sciences and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - the Medical University of Bahrain.

Thirty-four Bahrainis will benefit from the Aeronautics Maintenance Engineering programme at Bahrain Airport Services Aircraft Engineering Training Centre.