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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



UNIDO INVESTMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION OFFICE
(ITPO) BAHRAIN



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UNIDO NETWORK OF INVESTMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION OFFICES

BAHRAIN

UNIDO INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION OFFICE (ITPO) BAHRAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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FOREWORD

FOREWORD



Dear Friends and Colleagues

On behalf of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization – Investment and Technology Promotion Office Bahrain (UNIDO ITPO Bahrain), it gives me great pleasure to announce that 2019 has been hallmarked as one of our most successful and significant years towards achieving our mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development further moving forward towards supporting Bahrain and our partner countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; especially SDG 9.

Special mention pertaining to such achievement is the massive success of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019 (WEIF 2019) held in Bahrain, under the theme “Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”, held in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/221 entitled “Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development”.

The WEIF 2019 was held concurrently with the Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa; focusing on “Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”, and bringing together 1,500 participants from 83 countries representing ministers, officials, dignitaries, experts, entrepreneurs, investors, NGOs, financial developmental funds, banks, academicians, support institutions and chambers, with the goal of forging joint investments, sharing innovative best practices, leveraging domestic and foreign direct investments, and establishing new partnerships in favor of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain has placed great effort in co-organizing and contributing to several key global events throughout the year, including the International Youth Conference 2019 (Shenzhen), the International Startup Summit/Teknofest (Istanbul), the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (Russia), the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Beirut), the World Business Angels Forum (Istanbul), the International Conference on 4th Industrial Revolution 2019 (Bahrain), International Brands & Franchise Expo 2019 (IBFEX), the Regional High-Level Forum on Green Economy (Bahrain), and our vital involvement in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2019 held in Bahrain.

Significant successes in 2019 were also achieved by the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment (AICEI), particularly through the delivery of the Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Program (EDIP) dubbed the “Bahrain Model for Entrepreneurship”.

I am also particularly proud of the initiatives taken in 2019 towards addressing youth and women economic empowerment, including a series of successful business plan competitions and specialized EDIP programs, namely for public high-school students and business plan Olympics in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Bahraini women in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Women, and throughout the annual “Youth City 2030” event in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth & Sports.

In light of all the programs and activities held during the year; ITPO Bahrain has promoted 3,080 projects of which 1,710 projects have reached negotiation stage and 601 have been concluded with an estimated total investment of \$177 million USD; thus leading to the creation of 2,000 jobs.

In closing I wish to announce that ITPO Bahrain has undergone an Independent Evaluation for the project cycle 2017 to 2019 with an overall assessment of 5.5 out of 6. The evaluation process has been a learning curve to UNIDO ITPO Bahrain as it allowed us to realize our strength and improve our performance; thus encouraging us to continue achieving major results through developing innovative new programs and initiatives.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and esteemed partners of ITPO Bahrain and all those involved for sharing these successes with us, and enabling us to continue taking great strides towards our mandate.

Best regards,

Dr. Hashim Hussein

Head of UNIDO ITPO – Bahrain

UNIDO OVERVIEW



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. The mission of UNIDO, as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States. The relevance of ISID as an integrated approach to all three pillars of sustainable development is recognized by the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will frame United Nations and country efforts towards sustainable development in the next fifteen years. UNIDO's mandate is fully recognized in SDG-9, which calls to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation." The relevance of ISID, however, applies in greater or lesser extent to all SDGs.

Accordingly, the Organization's programmatic focus is structured in four strategic priorities:



CREATING SHARED PROSPERITY



ADVANCING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT



STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE AND INSTITUTIONS

Each of these programmatic fields of activity contains a number of individual programmes, which are implemented in a holistic manner to achieve effective outcomes and impacts through UNIDO's four enabling functions:



TECHNICAL COOPERATION



ANALYTICAL AND RESEARCH FUNCTIONS AND POLICY ADVISORY SERVICES



NORMATIVE FUNCTIONS AND STANDARDS AND QUALITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES; AND CONVENING AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE



TRANSFER, NETWORKING AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION.

UNIDO Network of ITPOs

Investment and technology are key drivers of economic transformation. Both national and foreign investment strengthen inclusive and sustainable industrial development, leading to increased productivity and competitiveness, as it infuses capital and disseminates innovative technologies and know-how. Investment and technology can thus boost employment and generate income. To bridge global investment and technology gaps, UNIDO established its first Investment Promotion Services (IPSs) in 1976. The IPSs would later evolve into the UNIDO Network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs).

UNIDO's ITPOs are strategically located in both hemispheres, and promote investment and technology flows between investors and technology suppliers in their host countries as well as for potential partners in developing countries. The ITPOs provide support, advisory and technical services to enterprises and business development organizations. The UNIDO ITPO Network has contributed to reducing development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements between developed, developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The UNIDO ITPO Network falls under the mandate of the UNIDO Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation (TII) – to support countries in their efforts to develop the potential of the manufacturing sector to drive socio-economic progress through trade, investment and innovation.

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain

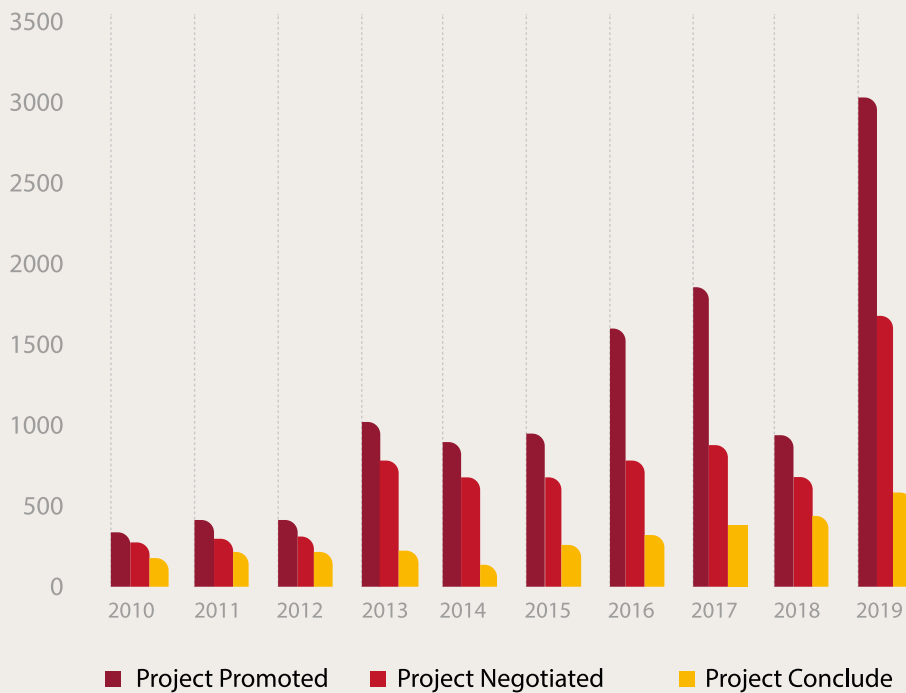
The UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Bahrain was established in 1996 and is funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain through annual voluntary contributions to UNIDO, administered by the Ministry of Finance. ITPO Bahrain offers a wide range of technological and investment services and know-how to developing countries and shares Bahrain's extensive knowledge, experience and expertise in policy making towards economic and technological development. Over the years, ITPO Bahrain has developed its own strategy to provide business services to existing and potential enterprises to create a sound basis for the attraction of foreign direct investment. ITPO Bahrain's interventions are in line with Government priorities and policies and contribute to the strategic objectives of UNIDO. The Office is also an integral part of the UNIDO ITPO Network.

INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

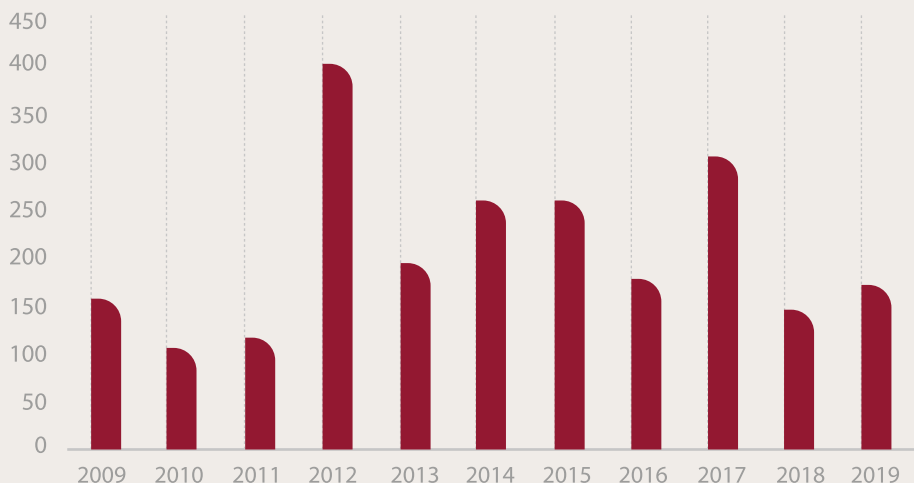
Investment Promotion: Summary Results

In light of the programs and activities held during the year; ITPO Bahrain has promoted 3,080 projects of which 1,710 projects have reached negotiation stage and 601 have been concluded with an estimated total investment of \$177 million USD; thus leading to the creation of 2,000 jobs.

Number of Projects



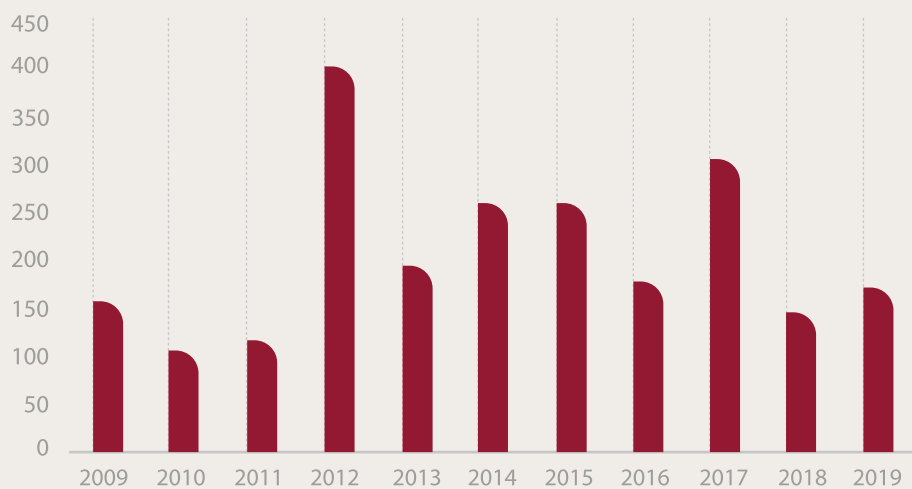
Estimated Investment



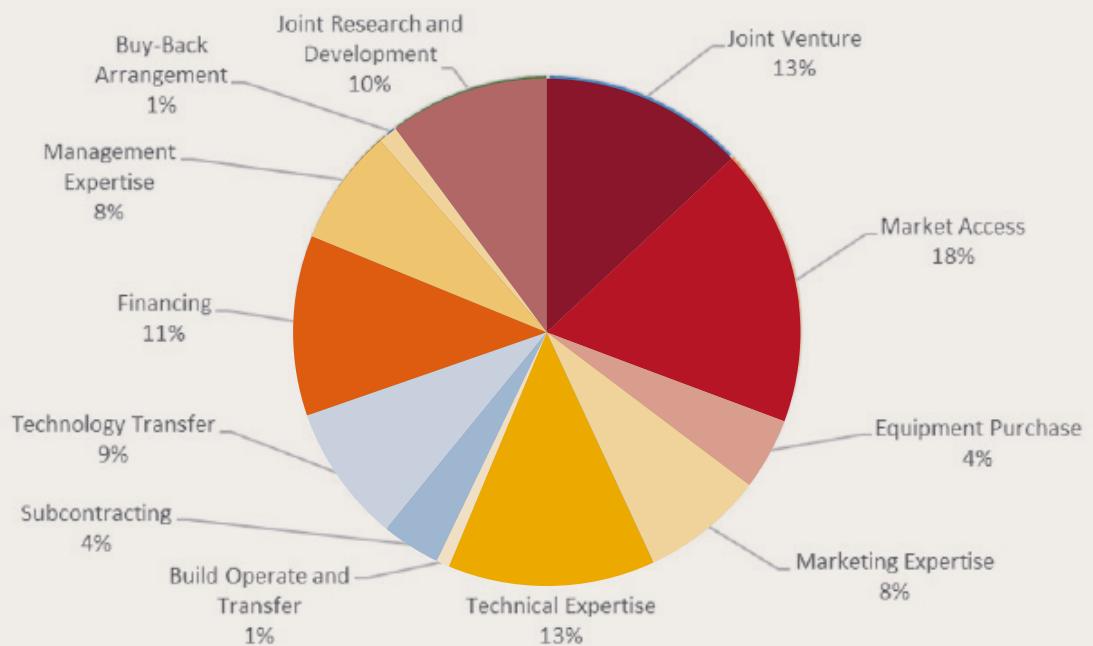
ITPO Bahrain Independent Evaluation (2017-2019)

The ITPO Bahrain has undergone an Independent Evaluation for the project cycle 2017 to 2019 with an overall assessment of 5.5 out of 6. The evaluation process has been a learning curve to UNIDO ITPO Bahrain as it allowed us to realize our strength and improve our performance; thus encouraging us to continue achieving major results through developing innovative new programs and initiatives.

Jobs Created



Types of Agreements



WORLD ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT FORUM 2019

Official Launching of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019 at UNIDO 18th General Conference, Abu Dhabi

In line with the UNIDO 18th General Conference held in Abu Dhabi, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain organized the launching of WEIF 2019 as an integral part of the special side event under the theme “A perspective from Arab and African countries on how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation” on November 4th by Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General. In addition to that at the same time aimed at addressing three main objectives: (1) the 4th Industrial Revolution and sharing international best practices and successes on promoting domestic investment to leverage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) linked to entrepreneurship and

innovation. (2) Highlighting best government practices to enhance economic development and adopt systems, financial inclusion tools for productivity and sustainability. (3) Creating linkages with financial institutions for entrepreneurs/investors and develop joint programs with developmental financial institutions.

Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation provided opening remarks to the side event.



(L-R) Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers; Mr. Taha Ayhan, President, Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue & Cooperation; Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation; Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture; HE Dr Diene Keita, Minister of Cooperation and African Integration, Conakry – Republic of Guinea; HE Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador; HE Ms Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director Corporate Management and Operations



HE Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices

Key note speakers at the WEIF launching included; HE Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO; HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain; HE Eng. Yousef Al Bassam, Chairman of the Board of Directors Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

In addition, to a panel session moderated by Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and included the following panelists; HE Dr Diene Keita, Minister of Cooperation and African Integration, Conakry - Republic of Guinea; Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers; Mr. Taha Ayhan, President, Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue & Cooperation; Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture.

The Entrepreneurs Testimonials panel session featured 5 women entrepreneurs that have been supported by the Bahrain Model for Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion Program (EDIP); namely Bahrain, Sudan, Morocco and Sierra Leone.

The side event also included closing remarks provided by Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices.

Official Opening – ABIC and WEIF 2019 in Bahrain

The WEIF 2019 was officially inaugurated on November 11th concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain.

On November 12th the WEIF 2019 was officially inaugurated with an opening statement by HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment and HE Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director Corporate Management and Operations in addition to an opening statement by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director emphasized in her opening remarks the need for more sustainability, inclusiveness and partnerships and the critical part that women and youth play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs. Furthermore, she highlighted the achievements

of the UNIDO ITPO Bahrain office stating that "ITPO Bahrain successfully contributes to reduce development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements while fostering entrepreneurs in developing countries for over 40 years", which is needed to create a better world for all.

High level speakers at the opening included HE Eng. Yousef Al Bassam Chairman of the Board of Directors Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; HE Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Arab Union of Chambers; HE Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador and HE Mr. Jonathan Ortman, President Global Entrepreneurship Network

During the opening ceremony HE Mr. Mohamed EL KETTANI, Chairman of the Board of the Center of Small Solidarity Enterprises emanating from the Mohammed V Foundation for solidarity – Morocco; was acknowledged for his pioneering and visionary role towards the economic empowerment of youth and women in the Arab region and Africa.



On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister inaugurating in the presence of senior high level dignitaries the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference held concurrently with the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019.

WEIF Official inauguration in Bahrain

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with the Union of Arab Chambers, the Bahrain Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Union of Arab Banks, Al Baraka Banking Group and 35 partners have successfully organized the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019 (WEIF 2019), which was held concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference (ABIC) from 11 to 13 November 2019 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain; under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain.

Both events brought together 1500 participants from 83 countries representing: Ministers, officials, dignitaries, experts, entrepreneurs, investors and NGOs, financial developmental funds, banks, academicians, support institutions and chambers; with the ultimate goal of forging joint investments between entrepreneurs and to exchange knowledge, share innovative best practices, leverage domestic and foreign direct investments, and to establish new partnerships in favor of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on innovative approaches afforded by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).



83 COUNTRIES



1500 PARTICIPANTS

One of the main features of WEIF is the Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings which were organized over the 3 days of WEIF, allowing for high-level representatives and entrepreneurs to discuss investment and business opportunities thus leading to 1400 bilateral meetings being held and resulting in the signing of 106 letters of intent with an estimated investment of 22 million USD.



The WEIF 2019 closing ceremony was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States and a written statement sent by Mr. Antonio Gueterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressing WEIF 2019 where he conveyed that “the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides us with a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging emerging technologies with entrepreneurial spirit and investment, we can accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is critical as we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.” In addition to announcing the Manama Declaration – 3 “Achieving the SDGs: Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”.

WEIF Main theme and panels

WEIF 2019 themed “Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”; intended to emphasize the pressing need to promote domestic investment for leveraging foreign direct investment, thus leading to job creation, but in the context of the challenges and opportunities laid out by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

During the various panel sessions WEIF 2019 promoted and highlighted the role of bankable impactful investment and innovation towards economic development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while showcasing the current

challenges and opportunities towards sustainable economic development in developing countries, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Countries. Challenges included the stability of these regions and the underlying economic and social factors that are poised to address them.

Hence the 8 panels held as part of WEIF included 52 high level speakers representing Ministers, and experts who addressed a number of topics, namely;

Ministerial Panel on the Role of Entrepreneurship Towards Addressing Challenges in the Arab Region & Africa

In line with the high level of unemployment and the need to create jobs in the MENA region and Sub-Saharan Africa; the panel addressed the role and vision of various governments towards promoting economic development and innovation through entrepreneurship in the back drop of the 4th digital revolution. The panel was moderated by Mr. Nejib Friji, Director of the International Peace Institute for the MENA Region and included the participation of HE Mr. Aymen Tawfiq Almoayyed, Minister

Youth and Sports Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Mr. Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof, Minister of Entrepreneur Development of Malaysia, HE Mr. Jibril Rajoub, Minister of Youth and Sports of the State of Palestine; and HE Mr. M. Amadou Thiam, Minister of Institutional Reforms and Civil Society of the Republic of Mali.

Financial Inclusion 4.0 for Entrepreneurs

In line with the status of financial inclusion and access to finance; this panel moderated by Mr. Wissam Fatouh, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks, focused on addressing existing financing schemes and the road forward to ensure that entrepreneurs are better equipped to receive funding. Hence the session included a wide spectrum of speakers representing major bankers as HE Mr. Mohamed Kettani, Chairman of Wafatijari Bank; in addition to senior experts in angel funding, crowd funding and fintech.

The panel served as a platform for addressing the 2017 Global Findex database used by the World Bank to measure financial inclusion; and which indicates that 1.7 billion adults lack an account globally; let alone financial services.

High level panel on Institutionalizing Innovation

Institutionalizing Innovation as a theme was addressed into three panels as it represents the core focus of the forum. The high-level panel brought about an international perspective as envisaged by major players namely the Islamic Conference Youth Forum; the World Women Entrepreneurs Association, Seventh Generation Advisors and the leading Egyptian Center for Economic Studies. The panel composition gave it the flexibility to highlight the challenges faced by youth and women within the back drop of the economic implications to safe guard the environment.



The second panel focused on the means to instill innovation in entrepreneurs at an early stage; and how innovation can be embedded in all aspects of the enterprise and how we can develop ecosystems that enable innovation. This session was moderated by Mr. Gong Weixi, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices and included a number of high-level speakers who shared their experiences on the topic. One of the main recommendations of this session is that innovation should be addressed from the grass root as well as a top down approach as it entails a strong partnership between the public and private sector.

The third panel aimed at how to promote innovative entrepreneurs and enterprises in the area of culture and creative industries. The panel was led by the Creative Business Network in Denmark and highlighted the Nordic countries best practice in unleashing innovation that touches all aspects of our lives whether through artificial intelligence, medical breakthrough and even music.

Education 4.0

The panel themed “Best practices and Testimonials” featured a number of support institutions from Morocco, Sudan and Nigeria who were able to develop a conducive ecosystem that led to achieving successes to their entrepreneurs. Hence, the panel also included some of these successful entrepreneurs that have been able to start and grow their businesses. This panel is under the theme “Education” as it all originates from the first building block represented by the urgent need to develop and adapt the existing educational systems from the school level to universities.



Major Side Conferences

- 1. International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment: Role of Education and Universities;** co-organized in cooperation with the Kingdom University and through the support of the Arab African Universities Association and the Union of Arab Universities; underlined the need for innovation and investment as well as the role of education and universities to strengthen entrepreneurial spirits. The Conference was attended by representatives from over 30 universities in the Arab Region, Africa, Europe and north America.
- 2. Sustainable Investments for Agenda 2030 – Investing in Green Industry;** organized in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Environment and the financial support of GPIC; focused on “How can smart investments in green technology contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, boost economic growth and inspire innovation?”. It further aimed at creating a platform where Municipal and regional Governments, international organizations, investors and the private sector can come together to discuss viable and profitable solutions to environmental challenges through business investments.
- 3. Start-up Youth Investment Summit;** co-organized in cooperation with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum aimed at exploring the means of further promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the 56 member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; it further featured the official launch of the Youth Business Virtual Hub.

Smart Zone Expo

As an integral part of WEIF; ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with BTECH, AMG Group and the financial support of Tamkeen organized a Smart Zone Expo; during which 37 innovators from the Arab region and featured projects by students from the Bahrain Entrepreneurship & Innovation program (conducted by ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with Ministry of Education), showcasing their innovations and technologies. The expo received great positive feedback from investors and innovators as it allowed for the entrepreneurs to discuss joint cooperation with various participants.

Capacity building program “Gender Equality in Manufacturing” in the MENA Region

A specialized Women Course on Gender equality in Manufacturing was held in close cooperation between the UNIDO gender office and ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with the Government of Finland and Supreme Council for Women. The awarding ceremony took place during which 33 young women and men from the MENA region received a certificate for their successful completion of the 5-days program. The program equipped the participants with skills to better analyse and design policies and programmes to promote women’s economic empowerment.

Major Achievements: Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings

Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings were organized over the 3 days of WEIF, allowing for high-level representatives and entrepreneurs to discuss investment and business opportunities thus leading to 1400 bilateral meetings being held and resulting in the signing of 106 letters of intent with an estimated investment of 22 million USD.



1400 BILATERAL MEETINGS

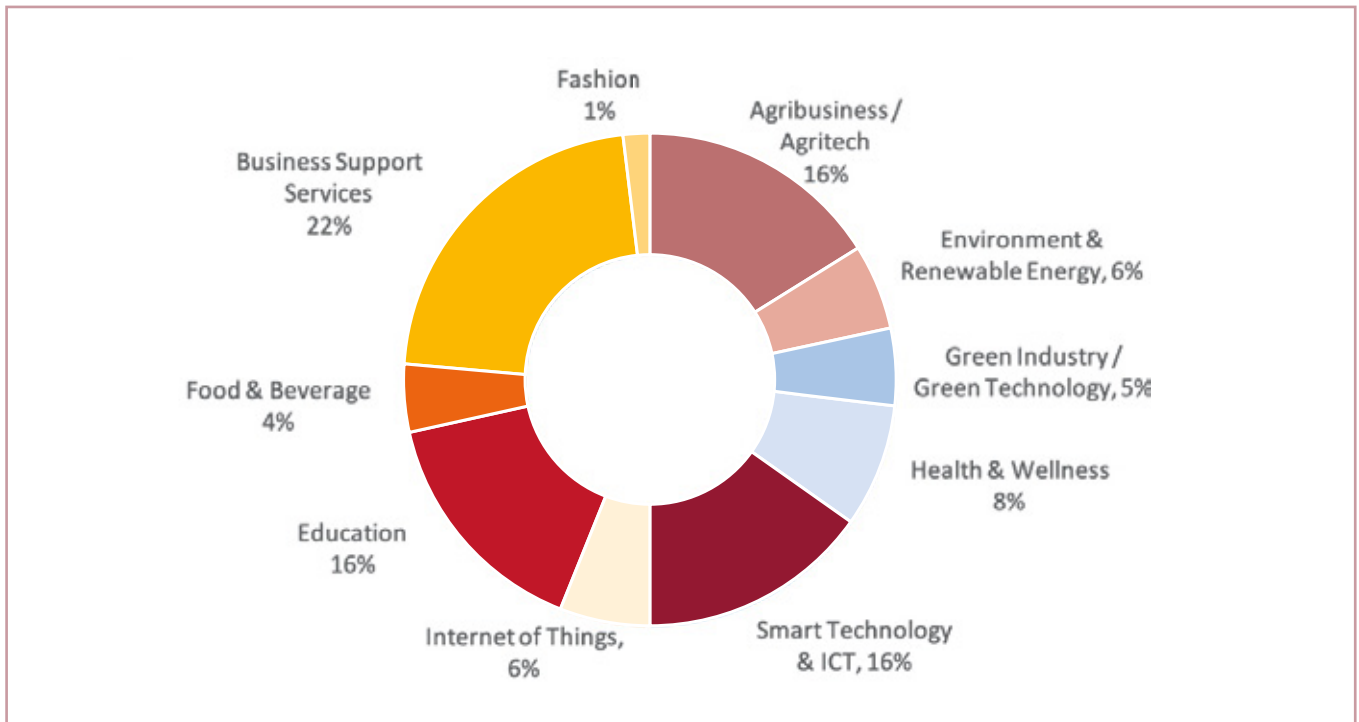


106 LETTERS SIGNED

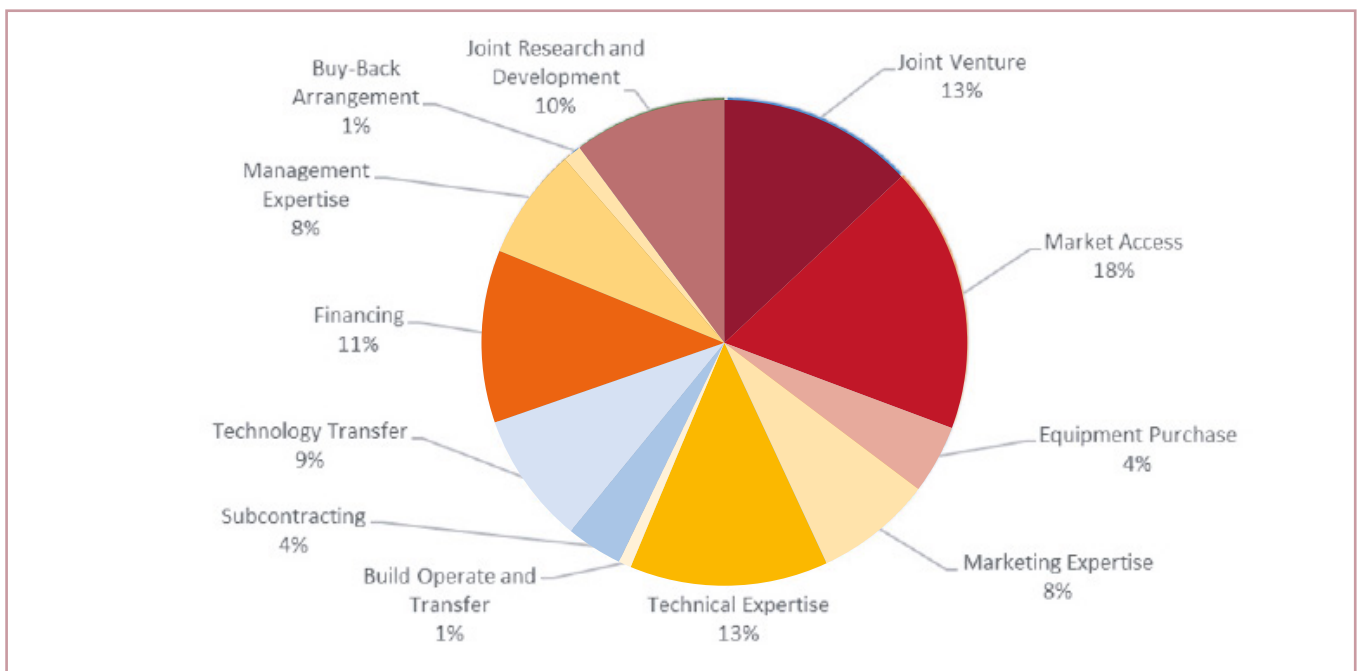


INVESTMENT OF 22 MILLION USD

Business Sectors



Types of Agreements



Arab Entrepreneurship Rally

Competition 2019

On the side-lines of the WEIF and for the first time in the Arab Region; the Arab Entrepreneurship Rally – Business Plan Competition 2019, targeting university students from the Arab Region for boosting innovation and entrepreneurship was organized by the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain - AICEI, the Union of Arab Chambers, and the financial support from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) in the value of 100,000 USD. The Rally attracted 753 applications from the 22 Arab countries applied. After the first phase of screening the remaining 417 applications were judged by a technical committee which identified top teams from 18 Arab countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Lebanon.



753 APPLICATIONS



22 ARAB COUNTRIES



The top 18 shortlisted teams received a 3-day extensive boot camp at the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain aimed at developing their pitching skills and fine-tuning their business plans. In addition to that they were featured in the WEIF Smart Zone Expo where they presented their innovations / technologies and to connect with investors and other potential business partners. On November 10th the teams presented their business ideas to a panel of VIP judges to decide on the winning teams.

The winning teams pitched in front of the ABIC and WEIF participants and have received financial support from a number of Arab Investors reaching 170,000 USD in addition to the 100,000 USD award prize money.

The final awarding ceremony announcing the top three teams from the Arab region was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

The top three finalists were:



1st Place

(50,000 USD) Team from Lebanon, Mr. Waddah Malaeb of DLOC Biosystems. DLOC Biosystems designed a biological system that enabled human cells to grow outside of the human body. Omran of Smart wheelchair.



2nd Place

(25,000 USD) Team from Egypt, Mr. Abdelrahman Mohamed Omran of Smart wheelchair. The Smart Wheelchair incorporates advanced technology and sensors that allow quadriplegics control their wheelchair through brain signals.



3rd Place

(10,000 USD) Team Saudi Arabia, Ms. Duaa Zeyad Mahmoud of Ghallah. This system is designed to improve the management of palm plantations, through smart monitoring techniques. The system aims to maintain plantation health and improve crop output.

WEIF 2019 Closing Session

The closing session was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and concluded with a consensus that a more inclusive and sustainable environment for entrepreneurs, especially youth and women on the macro, meso and micro-level is key to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that all stakeholders have to closely work together to ensure a successful implementation of structural change in favor of entrepreneurship and economic development – this call of action was summarized in the 3rd Manama Declaration and announced by Dr. Hashim

Hussein, Head of ITPO Bahrain. The Declaration will be submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations General Assembly for its endorsement. A specialized Women Course on Gender equality in Manufacturing was held in close cooperation between the UNIDO gender office and ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with the Government of Finland and Supreme Council for Women. The awarding ceremony took place during which 33 young women and men from the MENA region received a certificate for their successful completion of the 5-days program. The program equipped the participants with skills to better analyse and design policies and programmes to promote women's economic empowerment.



Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director read the written statement sent by Mr. Antonio Gueterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressing WEIF 2019 where he conveyed that “the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides us with a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging emerging technologies with entrepreneurial spirit and investment, we can accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is critical as we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.”



Media Coverage

WEIF received a wide range of coverage provided by the UN Media Team from New York, the media team from UNIDO, the African Union of Universities TV, in addition to traditional and social media channels locally, regionally and internationally. Furthermore, the WEIF was completely broadcast live to enable digital participation.

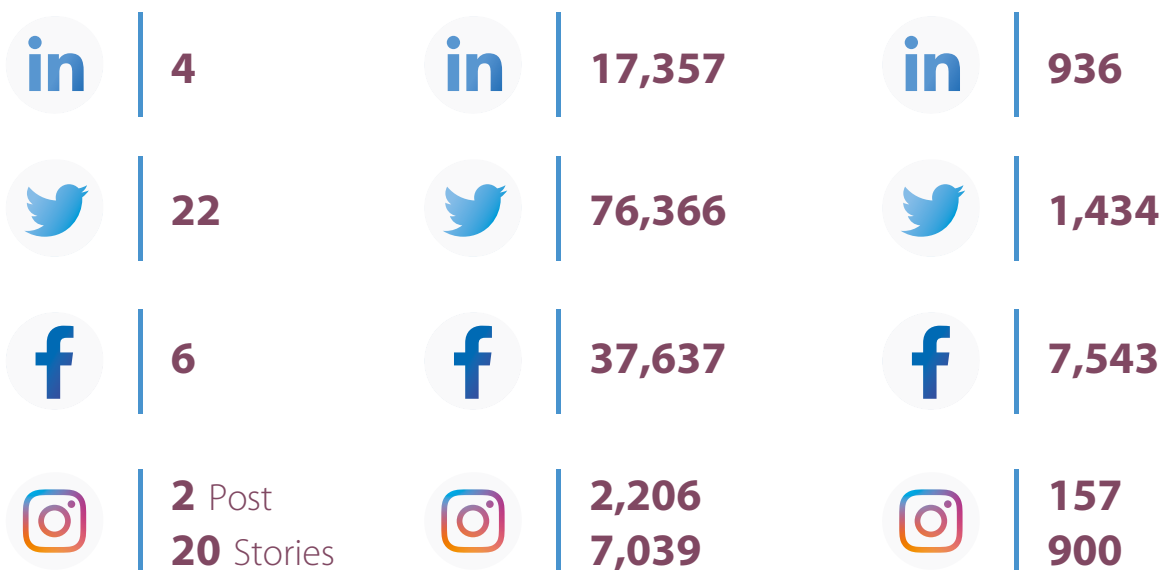
The collaborative efforts on social media received over 140,000 impressions, and over 10,000 engagements*, based on the Social Media Statistics report from Advocacy and Media Relations Division (EPR/ETR/AMR). The Media tools used included: Live streaming, Instagram, facebook, linkedin, flickr, twitter, TV, Radio, newspapers, magazines, and more.

Overall Social Media Statistics

Posts: 54

Total impressions: 140,605 - refers to the number of users who have come across a particular content on a social platform

Total engagements: 10,960 - measures times people interacted with a post, e.g. public shares, likes, comments, link clicks, etc.



POSTS

IMPRESSIONS

ENGAGEMENTS

TOTAL
POST

54

TOTAL
IMPRESSIONS

140,605

TOTAL
ENGAGEMENTS

10,960

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2019 Shenzhen-China

From Manama to Shenzhen: Promoting Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment – One Belt One Road

As a follow-up to the WEIF 2019; ITPO Bahrain under the banner of “From Manama to Shenzhen” and jointly with the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion organized the 2019 International Youth Innovation Conference (IYIC) in Shenzhen on November 14 to 16, 2019 under the theme “Youth Innovation and Sustainable Development”.



Looking closely at both events, it is evident that their visions are in full synergy towards development and economic prosperity through the promotion of investment and innovation. Both conferences served as international exchange platforms for youth from around the world, whilst facilitating the sharing of experiences and communication between them to address future challenges and trends in the world. Additionally, both conferences played a positive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 through Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The IYIC was a great success, with over 1500 participants and 10,000 virtual participants live streaming from 100 countries, representing: entrepreneurs; innovators; government officials; support institutions; universities; financial institutions; and NGOs.

The 34 panel sessions organized through the 110 speakers, guests and dignitaries addressed issues, challenges and opportunities towards the main theme of unleashing “Youth Innovation to achieve Sustainable Development”.

Three high level technology competitions were also organized mainly on Artificial Intelligence and Science and a special dedicated expo showcasing the latest innovations of 200 entrepreneurs.

It is worth noting that the IYIC 2019 was supported by the Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government and co-organized by UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and a number of UN Agencies.

The ITPO Bahrain support to IYIC entailed;

- Dr Hashim Hussein attending on behalf of UNIDO and delivering opening remarks at the official IYIC inauguration.
- Facilitated the participation of HE Mr. Ayman Tawfiq Almoayyad, Minister of Youth and Sport Affairs of Bahrain.
- Organized a delegation of 25 experts and entrepreneurs; in addition to dignitaries including
- HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman Board of Trustees Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment
- HE Mr. Taha Ayhan, President Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum
- Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary General Union of Arab Universities
- HE Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Union of Arab Chambers

- HE Mr. Terry Tamminen, President Seventh Generation Advisors
 - HE Dr. Sawsan Kamal Bahrain Member of Parliament
 - HE Dr. Zakaria Hejres, Chairman, MENA OECD Investment Center
 - Mr. Osama Al Khaja, Senior Advisor Kuwait Finance House
 - Mr. Ubaydli Al Ubaydli, Chairman Union of Arab ICT
 - Ms. Buke Cuhadar, Vice President of Global Operations Global Entrepreneurship Network
 - Dr. Faiza Mohamed Osman, Director of East Africa office of the association of African universities
 - Mr. Omer Oz, President Advisor KOSGEB (Turkish SME Agency)
 - Coordinated E2E bilateral meetings, whereby Ms. Sonya Janahi CEO of Maya Chocolates signed a letter of intent with Bliss cakes in the value of 40 Million USD, currently ITPO Bahrain is following up on this to produce cakes and chocolates in China.
 - Managed two panel sessions under the theme "From Manama to Shenzhen boosting investment and innovation"
- Panel 1: Role of support institutions in promoting economic development and innovation
- Panel 2: Creating joint cooperation between entrepreneurs/ investors in China and developing countries



Arab Private Sector Forum and the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit 2019

Under the patronage of HE Mr. Saad Hariri the Prime Minister of Lebanon, ITPO Bahrain co-organized in cooperation with Union of Arab Chambers and the League of Arab States; the Arab Private Sector Forum (APS Forum) under the theme "The 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development for a more Inclusive Arab Economy". The Arab Private Sector Forum addressed a number of pressing topics namely, the fourth industrial revolution during the upcoming economic phase; the Arab Private Sector Vision for Sustainable Development and Growth; Arab women and economic empowerment; and Entrepreneurship and SME's: Key to the knowledge economy.

The outcomes and recommendations of the APS Forum were submitted to the 4th Arab Economic and Social Development Summit that is to be held on January 20th 2019; under the patronage of HE General Michel Aoun the President of the Republic of Lebanon. The Summit was attended by Heads of Arab States, Governmental dignitaries, Ministers, and officials representing the private sector, financial institutions and banks, chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture.



Further to the above, the ITPO Bahrain involvement comes in line and as a follow up to the MENA Arab Banking and Financial Week themed “Public Private Partnership for achieving SDGs” which was co-organized in cooperation with the Union of Arab Banks in Beirut on Nov 12th to 16th, 2018; under the patronage of HE Mr. Saad Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister.

During the MENA Banking Week; one the activities organized by ITPO Bahrain was the special panel under the theme “Global Entrepreneurship Week: Financial Inclusion for Women and Youth in the MENA region”. The ITPO Bahrain panel concluded with a set of recommendations and that were fully integrated in the final MENA Banking week recommendations. These same recommendations

2019 SDG Investment Fair, United Nations – New York

The investment gap towards achieving the SDGs remains significant. Additional long-term resources need to be mobilized from all sources to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable finance is still a small fraction of overall financial activity in private markets, as it is only now beginning to be mainstreamed into the business models of the financial industry. In addition, it needs to be ensured that investment for the SDGs is inclusive and leaves no one behind.

The SDG Investment Fair was established in 2018 to facilitate direct informal interaction among representatives of governments of developing countries, the private sector and financial intermediaries with a view of accelerating the mobilization of investment for the SDGs. In 2019, the SDGI Fair 2019 themed “Closing the SDG investment gap”, was scaled-up further to increase its impact towards the closure of the SDG investment gap.

Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain attended the SDGI Fair and participated in the special panel themed “Partnership Arena: Innovative mechanism to finance MSMEs”; through the financial inclusion of entrepreneurs and MSMEs where he provided ITPO Bahrain 20 years of experience in over 52 countries in promoting domestic investment for leveraging foreign direct investment, thus leading to job creation and a

served as the basis for discussions in the APS Forum on January 16th, 2019.

Accordingly, and in line with the challenges and opportunities faced by the Arab Region in the area of economic development and the pressing need to create jobs for youth and women; UNIDO ITPO Bahrain played a major role and shared its best practices in promoting domestic investment for leveraging FDI. Accordingly, as per the final Arab Summit approved recommendations UNIDO ITPO AICEI Bahrain and the UACs have started in February 2020, in developing centers in Arab Chambers aimed towards “Promoting Domestic Investment for Leveraging FDI - based on the EDIP Modality”, starting with Egypt.

bigger contribution of the private sector to achieve the SDGs.

It is worth noting that the fair served as a central platform focusing on national and international efforts to mobilize sufficient investment for sustainable development. It aims to do this through a combination of policy discussions, peer learning, engagement and partnerships with key actors from public and private sectors.

Arab Sustainable Development Week

In line with achieving the SDGs, the League of Arab States and under the patronage of HE President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, organized the Arab Sustainable Development Week in cooperation with the World Bank Group and UNDP. The Week addressed three main themes namely; integration between the various development partners; towards a better life; and a new horizon for an ever-changing world. The ASD week looked into ways to support this objective by bringing together more than 1,300 senior officials and decision makers concerned with sustainable development issues in the Arab region.

Accordingly, Dr. Hashim Hussein was requested by the Office of the Bahrain Prime Minister to take part in the Bahrain Delegation and provide the ITPO Bahrain programs and activities for achieving the SDGs in the Arab Region through promoting entrepreneurship and innovation towards economic empowerment.

2nd Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS)

The 2nd GMIS under the theme “nature inspired technologies”, was held in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation under the auspices of HE President Vladimir Putin, with a strong involvement from UNIDO. The Summit highlighted topics related to industrial policy, circular economy, women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, investment promotion and more.



Dr. Hashim Hussein attended GMIS and participated in the panel session themed "Investment Promotion 4.0 – AI in Investment Promotion". Whereby his intervention centered on that achieving the SDGs and the investment gap estimated at 2 trillion USD, coupled with the pressing need to create jobs globally; in the backdrop of industry 4.0 and the repercussions it presents in terms of: the higher the level of technology utilized the lesser the number of jobs created and that existing jobs are undergoing drastic change in the skill sets required to do them. Hence, based on the 2016 World Economic Forum Global Challenge Insight Report themed "The Future of Jobs, Employment, Skills and Workforce Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution", which states that; "the implications of accelerating disruptive change to business models are far-reaching—even daunting—for employment and skills, rapid adjustment to the new reality and the opportunities it offers is possible, provided there is concerted effort by all stakeholders."

- For government, it will entail innovating within education and labor-related policymaking, requiring a skills evolution of its own.
- For the education and training sector, it will mean vast new business opportunities as it provides new services to individuals, entrepreneurs, large corporations and the public sector. The sector may become a noteworthy new source of employment itself.
- For businesses to capitalize on new opportunities, they will need to put talent development and future workforce strategy front and center to their growth."

The Report also predicts that jobs will be disrupted by the Industry 4.0; with men gaining one job for every three jobs lost, whereas women will gain one job for more than five jobs lost.

With the above into perspective, the promotion of investment focusing on creating a new breed of entrepreneurs/investors becomes crucial and essential. This new breed of entrepreneurs

are those willing to embrace the new economic sectors such as AI, 3D printing...etc., and at the same time who are capable of playing a positive role in this fast changing evolving ecosystem. This can only be achieved through institutionalizing holistic approach/techniques that focus on promoting domestic investment and innovation, which in turn facilitate the mobilization of foreign direct investment.

Thus, a holistic approach calls for a full overhaul of the existing ecosystems in developing countries and all its components represented by the support institutions, educational inputs, research and development, financial schemes, and institutions; etc.

This can and will only be attainable through a real genuine partnership between the public and private sector, as well as an active role of ITPOs in institutionalizing programs that provide detailed and well defined added value services targeting MSMEs and investors along the different stages of the investment life-cycle starting from the ideation stage, to start-up, growth, expansion and eventually maturity.

ITPO Head Meeting on the sidelines of GMIS

It is worth noting that along the side lines of GMIS the UNIDO ITPO Coordination unit organized an ITPO heads meeting which was attended by Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director of the UNIDO Department of Trade, Investment and Innovation; and Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of the Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator of ITPO Network.



The meeting discussed the ITPO Network strategy for the coming year and what ITPOs can collectively do to support countries in addressing the 4th Industrial revolution. Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General also contributed to the meeting and expressed the positive contribution of each ITPO to GMIS and the concept "Investment Promotion 4.0".

Aseela International Forum

In line with the request received from the Bahrain Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Dr. Hashim Hussein to attend and present ITPO Bahrain programs and activities during the Aseela International Forum at the panel themed "Sustainable Development and the Constraints on Countries in the Global South". In his intervention during the panel Dr. Hashim showcased the ITPO Bahrain success in creating synergies in the framework of South-South Cooperation, especially in the area of investment.

Teknofest - Take Off Istanbul 2019: International Technology and Aviation Startup Summit

ITPO Bahrain has been an active partner to the Teknofest in 2018 and 2019, organized by the Turkish Technology Team Foundation. T3 is a group of young entrepreneurs and young professionals with the aim of creating nationwide awareness of the importance of developing high-tech projects with national capabilities. T3 Foundation conducts technical training and workshops including; Robotics and Coding, Microcontrollers and Electronics, Internet of Things (IoT), Energy Technologies, Production and Design, Aerospace and Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, Mobile App Programming, and Cybersecurity.

One of their flagships events is Teknofest which in a short period of time has developed into one of the leading technology and aviation conferences and exhibitions held in Turkey, and has become a magnet for aviation enthusiasts with over 50,000 visitors.

As part of ITPO Bahrain's support to Teknosfest the event was promoted within the network of entrepreneurs and investors. In addition to that, Dr. Hashim was a speaker in the Summit and addressed the need to promote entrepreneurship and innovation from an early age and the means of creating partnerships among entrepreneurs and investors.

UNIDO Field Representatives Workshop: Arab and Europe & Central Asia Regional Divisions

To further continue and enhance the capacity of UNIDO field offices and strengthen their role; the UNIDO Department of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Integration has organized a workshop for field representatives of the Arab and Europe & Central Asia Regions. The workshop served as a convening event for in-depth interactive discussions and coordination to support closer integration between UNIDO HQs and field operations.

Due to ITPO Bahrain's long and extensive experience regionally and internationally in promoting domestic investment for leveraging foreign direct investment Dr Hashim Hussein was requested to take part in this workshop and present ITPO Bahrain's strategy towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

Global Entrepreneurship Congress

The Global Entrepreneurship Network, through the support of ITPO Bahrain and in collaboration with the Labour Fund-Tamkeen, held the 11th GEC for the first time in Bahrain. The decision to host the GEC in Bahrain came due to its strong economic position and role in advancing entrepreneurship both locally and worldwide. The GEC focused on 3 main themes: Global Entrepreneurial Revolution, High-Performance Ecosystems, and Inclusive Economies.

The opening speech was delivered by HE Mr. Zayed Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, followed by a special keynote speech from Jonas Kjellberg, co-founder of Skype, author and investor.

The congress was attended by more than 3000 people from 170 countries, including entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and policymakers and other leaders in relevant fields. It is worth noting that the 51% worth of international participation throughout the event made it the highest in GEC history. 110 sessions were delivered throughout the 4-day event by over 240 speakers. ITPO Bahrain played an active role in the GEC through the promotion of the forum with 340 participants in addition to that ITPO Bahrain was being requested by GEN to organize a special session under the theme "Achieving SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation thus leading to Financial Inclusion for Women and Youth". The session included high profile speakers namely, Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Union of Arab Chambers; Mr. Baybars Atlantus, Chairman World Business Angels Forum and others.



In addition to holding discussions that tackle entrepreneurial challenges on an international level, the GEC conference also provided a global platform that allowed Bahrain to educate those around the world about its strong economic environment in addition to the programs and policies in place to protect, support and attract investments and entrepreneurship. The event also provided examples by showcasing some of its most successful and promising Bahraini entrepreneurs.

As an integral part of GEC, and under the patronage of HE Mr. Zayed Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Tourism, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain also organized a certificate ceremony for 75 EDIP program participants.

Official launch of the Iklim Al Kharoub Economic Zone in Lebanon

Under the patronage of HE Mr Saad Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, the Iklim Al Kharoub Economic Zone in Lebanon project foundation stone was officially laid in June 2019. The zone is a 15 million USD investment led by the Lebanon Fund for Development & Innovation and has been supported by ITPO Bahrain since 2017.

The Iklim Economic Zone occupies an area of 370,000 sqm and aims at promoting the region as a key investment destination, attracting, facilitating and retaining investments in agriculture, agro-processing, circular economy and tourism. Thus leading to job creation, additional economic activity, manufacturing and promotion of exports of goods and services; the promotion and financing of investment from domestic and foreign sources.



ITPO Bahrain through its partnership with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is actively supporting this major project as a role model to be replicated in other parts of Lebanon and Arab Countries; and has already started developing an Agro – preneurs program based on the EDIP Modality with special focus on women and youth economic empowerment; thus leading to the promotion of domestic investment for leveraging FDI and technology sourcing and partnerships through the ITPO Network and major partners.

Good Manufacturing practices workshop for GCC Enterprises

The Business Environment, Cluster and Innovation Division in UNIDO headquarters in cooperation with the Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States project (AFTIAS), ITPO Bahrain and the Federation of Chambers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, organized a 5-day capacity building program in Bahrain under the theme Good Manufacturing Practices. With 15 participants from the GCC countries, namely Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Oman, the first three days of the workshop aimed at acquainting SMEs in the Agrofood on the latest means of good practices, HACCAP, and Food safety management systems leading to food chains ISO 22000. The remaining two days included factory visits to a number of ITPO Bahrain supported entrepreneurs in the agro food sector in addition to technical counseling sessions on how the participants can adopt these new interventions.



Bahrain Festival for Innovation and Creativity: From Manama to Matera – Boosting Culture and Investment

Under the patronage of HE Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in conjunction with celebrations on the awarding of the historic Italian city of Matera as the 2019 European Capital of Culture in Italy, “the Bahrain Festival for Innovation and Creativity, from Manama to Matera” was inaugurated on the 11th of May. The city of Matera was registered in the UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1993 and maintains historical relations with all cultures, particularly within the Arab region.



The event, which was co-organized by UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and the Bahrain International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW) at their premises in Andalus Garden, highlighted the unique connection between Bahrain and Italy, with a full programme of cultural and historical events, as well as exhibitions for Bahraini and Italian art, cooking, handicrafts, calligraphy and photography.

In attendance was a delegation from Matera, composed of the Foundation ENI Enrico Mattei (FEEM) as Lead Partner; Foundation Matera-Basilicata 2019, University of Basilicata UNIBAS and the Municipality of Tursi working in collaboration with local officials including HE Domenico Bellato, Italian Ambassador in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The delegation’s visit included a number of meetings, organized by ITPO Bahrain, on the means of promoting cooperation between Matera and Bahrain in various areas, such as developing joint investments towards boosting investment and creativity. The delegation met with H.E Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities; Dr. Riyadh Hamza, President University of Bahrain and officials of the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat).

The Bahrain Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his sincere appreciation for the excellent organization of this festival, and the role of ITPO Bahrain in promoting culture and investment among craftsmen and cultural entrepreneurs in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Italian city of Matera in specific and Italy in general. He also pointed out how this event enhances cooperation with the Italian Republic, therefore reflecting the Kingdom of Bahrain’s policy in communicating with the countries of the world for the benefit of all and to promote common interests.

Regional High-Level Forum on Green Economy

The 2019 Regional High-Level Forum on Green Economy; hosted by the Supreme Council for Environment was organized as a collaborative effort between the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and in close partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator’s office in Bahrain, the UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia-ESCWA, The United Nations Development Program and the International Solar Alliance.

The event was attended by HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Chairman the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), HE Sheikh Nawaf Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of the Electricity and Water Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Dr. Mohammed Mubarak Bin Daina, Chief Executive, Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain , HE Amin El Sharkawi, UN Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Ali Yousef Alnuaimi, Deputy Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as a large number of representatives of United Nations organizations and the public and private sectors.

During the event, participants including senior government officials, representatives from international financial institutions, and non-profit organizations, as well as the private sector, converged to discuss timely issues and the ways for advancing green economy transition. The sessions touched on topics aimed at promoting green finance in order to meet SDG goals through public-private partnerships, creation of regulatory and policy standards and guidelines for a green economy and increasing capability to support holistic action on green economy at an international level.

As a regional event, the 2019 Regional High-Level Forum on Green Economy is being presented as a strategic platform for knowledge sharing wherein participants at the event can improve and enhance their level of understanding across green trends and the benefits, advantages and opportunities to be gained. The event also serves as a networking opportunity for the region's most active players in championing the green economy which will result in the forging of cooperation initiatives that address the needs of other countries as they expand their efforts in sustainable practices.

Innovate the Package

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with the Union of Arab Chambers, the World Packaging Organization (WPO) and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, organized a special workshop themed "Innovate the Package". The workshop conducted by Ms. Soha Attallah, Vice President of World Packaging Organization aimed to introduce the participants to the latest developments in the packaging industry, in addition to serving as a platform to provide counseling and advice on best practices in packaging. The workshop was a major success, with the participation of 50 entrepreneurs from various sectors such as; agriculture, food and beverage, personal care, household, cosmetics, beauty, pharmaceutical, medical, industrial, transport, point of sale, and luxury brands.



It is worth noting that as part of the workshop, the Arab Star Pack Professional Competition was also launched during the event. The competition aims at increasing awareness on current packaging trends from the aspects of marketing and functionality, to enable Arab SMEs and entrepreneurs to ensure compliance with international standards in packaging and labelling, and hence, improve the competitiveness of the Arab agro-food and other industrial sectors.

Companies in various industrial sectors, brand owners operating in Arab countries, packaging manufacturers, professional designers and design agencies, were invited to compete in the competition.

MEET ICT Conference & the Bahrain International Technology Exhibition BITEX 2019

Under the patronage of HE Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain for the ninth year in a row was a major partner in the MEET ICT Conference & the Bahrain International Technology Exhibition (BITEX) 2019.

ITPO Bahrain is keen on promoting the ICT sector as it entails and falls in line with our active efforts to promote entrepreneurship, investment and innovation. In addition to that it serves as a platform for out techno-preneurs to get acquainted with the latest developments in the digital world and at the same time, serves as a mechanism to promote their innovations and technologies, make business connections, and empower them to exchange their knowledge and expertise through numerous activities derived by MEET ICT & BITEX 2019."

ITPO Bahrain, through its EDIP Program, has been actively involved in the development of Bahraini ICT SME's from idea generation to commercialization and growth.

The International Brands & Franchise Expo 2019 (IBFEX)

Under the patronage of HE Shaikh Khaled Bin Humood Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority and in cooperation with UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, the Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Investment (AICEI), MENA Centre for Investment, the Franchise Association of the Middle East (FAME), and with the strategic partnership of Tamkeen, and in association with Quick Media Solutions Co WLL, the International Brands and Franchise Expo - 2019 was held in Bahrain.

ITPO Bahrain has been a pioneer in promoting the concept of franchising in Bahrain and the region. Franchising in the MENA region has been predominantly geared towards importing

franchise concepts for many years, however, the approach ITPO Bahrain has taken is to work on successful local entrepreneurs and support them in converting their traditional businesses into franchise concepts. Accordingly, through the support extended by ITPO Bahrain to the Franchise Association for the Middle East (FAME) and IBFEX, we have been successful in achieving that especially with the 33 Bahraini local concepts who have been developed or are on the right path in becoming international brands through the support services offered by ITPO Bahrain and FAME.



ITPO Bahrain's methodology and vision for franchising is that it is a practical tool towards promoting investment and trade facilitation between countries, while fostering improved economic development in both target and destination locations through the franchisor and franchisee. Franchising has become a process of integrating economy, culture, and governance across national borders.

FAME major objectives are;

- Raising the interest of MSMEs and entrepreneurs in franchising,
- Introducing regional and international franchising support institutions (private/public),
- Presenting on franchising and associated international best practices,
- Displaying information on the Franchise industry,
- Stressing the importance of Franchise capacity building programs and Franchise associations,
- Facilitate commercial tie-ups between Franchisors and Franchisees, and
- Empower entrepreneurs with knowledge and tools towards developing Franchise concepts.

The lack of technical support and representation in the region necessitated the launch of the Franchise Association for the Middle East (FAME) in 2012, which provides strong and efficient coordination for franchisors through a network of franchises and similar organizations spreading awareness and coherence to MSMEs. The association involves multiple countries and aims to empower the franchise spectrum while safeguarding the prime interest of franchisors and franchisees against possible malpractice.

Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain participated as a panelist in the high profile "Impact Investment Summit" and a speaker in the panel themed "Increasing the Financial Inclusion of Migrants Through Innovation and Entrepreneurship".

Dr. Hashim also joined the WBAF Ministerial Roundtable which was moderated by H.E. Mehmet Simsek, Former

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. The roundtable brought together 4 ministers and 4 global leaders including government ministers from various countries, angel investors, policymakers, and representatives of innovation and science parks, chambers of commerce and industry, and government investment promotion agencies. The discussion revolved around the need to develop an international dialogue between public and private institutions in an effort to support early and post-early stage equity markets throughout the 4th industrial revolution.

World Business Angels Forum (WBAF)

ITPO Bahrain for the fourth year in a row has been a co-organizer of the World Business Angels Forum. This year's event, which included 22 panel sessions with 88 international speakers from 72 countries, was attended by 1500 dignitaries and experts in the area of financial inclusion. The forum held in Istanbul encompassed a series of side forums, conferences, investor pitching stations and exhibition.



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1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum

The 1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum was held under the title “Effective partnerships towards sustainable growth” in the United Arab Emirates, in coordination with the Emirates Businesswomen Council; the Economic Businesswomen Council in the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce; UNIDO ITPO Bahrain; Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment (AICEI); and with the participation of a number of businessmen, NGOs and government representatives.

The forum was a dynamic interactive platform, which was held to strengthen ties and expand cooperation areas between the business community in the UAE and its counterpart in Egypt, to serve the vision of the UAE 2021-2030 and Egypt Vision 2030.



2019 Bahrain International Design Week

Under the patronage of HE Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa, Governor of Capital Governorate; UNIDO ITPO Bahrain co-organized the Bahrain International Design Week 2019 – BIDW.

BIDW is dedicated to gathering artists, creators and designers offering the latest in unique style and design spanning personal, architecture / interiors design, and services design. The BIDW caters to all types of designers from different design fields. Its aim is to provide opportunities for designers who seek to demonstrate their skills to the international market. The exhibition also acts as a One-Stop- Shop for visitors who are looking for new and unique designs, or to learn and pursue design careers. The event focuses on disseminating international best practices and supports the promotion of MSMEs in these fast-growing sectors.

The 3-day Exhibition was held in the Avenues Mall, Bahrain, and showcased 100 Bahraini and international entrepreneur's numerous innovative and talented designs across a variety of sectors. The exhibition, which was organized into three categories: personal design, architecture and interior design, and Design Zone, attracted upwards of 20,000 visitors, influencing many designers, creators and architects. In addition, to a number of specialized technical workshops on jewelry design, perfume bottles, fashion, home design and others.

The International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution 2019

Under the patronage of HE Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Oil and Gas; ITPO Bahrain co-organized in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers 1st International Conference and Exhibition on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, under the theme "Transitions and capabilities of GCC countries in the face of industrial variables".

Through the support of ITPO Bahrain; Dr. Olga Memodovic, Deputy Director, Department of Trade, Investment & Innovation in UNIDO, attended and took part in the conference as a VIP speaker in this event, delivering a presentation on "New Industrial Revolution: Challenges & Opportunities for Smooth Transition".



The conference was also supported by a number of local, regional and international organizations and companies. With over 400 participants including dignitaries, officials, technicians, experts, specialists, universities, and specialized training institutes in this field, the conference revolved around the use of digital technologies, surrounding the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including: intelligence Industrial, Internet, virtual reality, added printing (3D), robotics (Robotic) and large information processing (Big Data) in service and productivity processes. These technologies present challenges as well as opportunities of great impact and importance to the oil industry of Bahrain and the region.

The Conference had two main objectives: to discuss the impact of the transition to Fourth Industrial Revolution on Ecosystem, Infrastructure, Efficiency and Competitiveness of Industrial Operation in general, and to explore the impact of Augmented Reality, Robotics, IOT and Artificial Intelligence on value chain support and optimization. The influence of Digital revolution on specific industries that are vital to GCC economy – Oil, Engineering, Metal, Power and Logistic Services was also investigated. Furthermore, an exhibition encompassing 75 innovations was organized in parallel to the conference; which included the participation of regional and international companies covering various industries, including oil, energy and metallurgical, logistics, engineering, and others, showcasing relevant modern technologies. This allowed for exchange of information, knowledge and expertise relevant to the development and transformation of those industries to the fourth generation of industrial processes.

ARAB INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INVESTMENT (AICEI)

OVERVIEW

The Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment (AICEI) was established under the banner of South-South Co-operation through the joint efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Bahraini Government and the Inter Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training (IRC)-Government of India. The Center functions with the objective of strengthening indigenous capacities of selected countries in the Arab-Asian region, particularly in the areas of promoting domestic investment and facilitating foreign direct investment which results in job creation, poverty alleviation and economic growth.

VISION

- A Centre of excellence to foster entrepreneurship development in the Arab region
- An originator of a variety of investment & technology promotion (ITP) and entrepreneurship development (ED) activities
- A repository of knowledge and information on industrial investment opportunities, technologies and markets
- A forum for exchanging best practices on entrepreneurship development
- A resource institution to support, nurture and institutionalize the ITP and ED activities in the region

MISSION

- Augment the supply of entrepreneurs/investors through business skills development and business counseling
- Tap into the latent entrepreneurial potential among the youth in the Arab region
- Facilitate new enterprise creation
- Enhance and upgrade the competitiveness of existing enterprises
- Promote partnerships among entrepreneurs/investors
- Develop resource persons on entrepreneurship development and investment & technology promotion
- Generate and disseminate best practices on entrepreneurship development & technology promotion
- Facilitate the creation of conducive business environment for the emergence, sustainability and growth of MSMEs

The Centre functions with the objective of strengthening local capacities of selected countries in the Arab, Asian, and African regions. Specifically, it promotes domestic investments and facilitates direct foreign investments, which results in job creation, poverty reduction, and economic growth. The ITPO Bahrain and UNIDO Headquarters closely coordinate the activities of AICEI in order to ensure maximum synergy among the institutional participants.

What is Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion (EDIP)?

The EDIP is a package approach aimed at developing the capacities of potential entrepreneurs in order to boost their capabilities and assist them in developing their own private businesses. The process is based on an approach that deals with building entrepreneurial capabilities in addition to enterprise planning, implementation and management.

The EDIP is multifaceted in the sense that it need not only assist in developing start-up entrepreneurs (Enterprise Creation Program) but rather represents a major mechanism for upgrading and expanding existing enterprises (Enterprise Growth Program). Through the provision of value added services, tools and programs to potential entrepreneurs. Moreover; it facilitates and promotes domestic investment

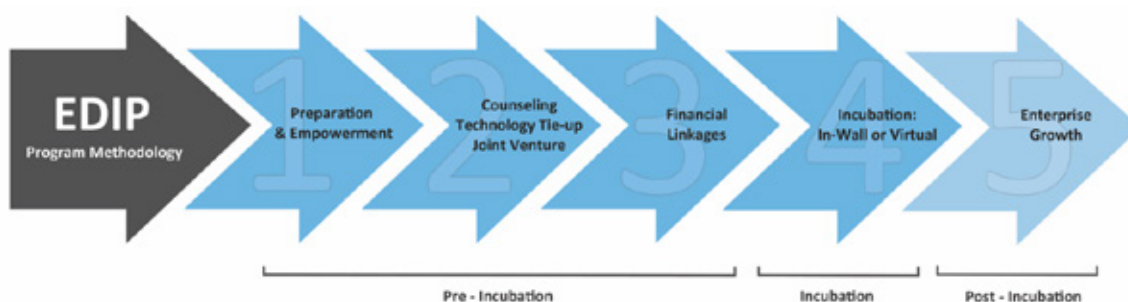
which undoubtedly leads to the attraction of foreign direct investments mainly through the linkage with the UNIDO ITPO Network, thus leading to job creation and a more diversified economy.

Further to the above the EDIP has evolved into a practical well-structured Incubation System in addition to that it encompasses non-financial and financial services.

The EDIP consists for five steps:

- A. Pre-Incubation
 1. Preparation & Empowerment
 2. Business Counseling & Technology Tie-up leading to full-fledged joint ventures
 3. Financial linkages
- B. Incubation (In-Wall and Virtual)
- C. Post Incubation and Growth programs

The EDIP Modality



Summary of EDIP Activities

During 2019; 9 EDIP programs were held targeting 181 potential entrepreneurs of which 61% were females. The first specialized program for retirees was also held, with 25 participants for the University of Bahrain.



9 EDIP PROGRAMS



181 POTENTIAL ENTREPRENEURS



61% FEMALES



Dr Hashim Hussein, Head, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain (Center), with participants of the first specialised EDIP program for retirees from the University of Bahrain.

Table of Training programs:

The table below; provides a summary on capacity building programs conducted by AICEI

Dates	Country	Partners	Participants	Organized in
18 to 22 March	Morocco	Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, the Centre for Small Business Solidarity, and the University of Hassan II.	21	Casa Blanca
18 to 20 June	Lebanon	Beirut Arab University	22	Beirut
14 to 17 July	Sudan	UNIDO Office in Sudan and UNIDO Field Office in Kassala	8	Bahrain
19 to 22 August	Sudan	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Bank of Khartoum	20	Sudan
1 to 4 October	Lebanon	Union of Arab Chambers and representatives from 14 Arab Chambers	24	Beirut

Entrepreneurship Program for Bahraini Women

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), organised and delivered an EDIP capacity-building program to support female Bahraini entrepreneurs. The program was held in order to support those who wish to transition from government jobs and pursue their own entrepreneurial journeys.

During the 5-day program, a group of 40 women were given an extensive overview on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Bahrain, as well as the different investments opportunities and support services available to them. ITPO Bahrain's varied services that offer a wide-ranging role in advancing and sustaining entrepreneurial ventures were thoroughly introduced. Other support services available to entrepreneurs were also

introduced, and many of these service providers were invited to attend and deliver sessions. The workshop also featured 8 success stories, most of whom were successful female entrepreneurs in areas including floristry, food and beverage, health and wellness, IT, event organizing, and education.

Upon concluding the first phase of the program, the second phase which included providing individual counseling to the group of women, commenced in the UNIDO ITPO Bahrain office. During a course of a month, both ITPO and SCW staff met individually with the women to start the implementation stage. Their project areas varied from cosmetics, design, food and beverage, art, education, IT, Fitness, and many more.

With continued cooperation between the SCW and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, ongoing support will be provided to all the participants in the program to help their projects materialize.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program: Public High schools

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Bahrain, developed a specialized pilot program on Entrepreneurship and Innovation for 8 public secondary schools across Bahrain, with a total of 200 students actively participating. The program aimed to teach students the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and promote entrepreneurial concepts, in an effort to spark an entrepreneurial spirit that may one day translate to problem-solving entrepreneurship. The program is also one of many local and global efforts around the world that attempts to tackle unemployment.

For a smooth-running program, a 3-day Training of Trainers was conducted by ITPO Bahrain and provided to 8 teachers from each of the chosen schools. Each teacher was assigned a role to not only act as a point of contact between the students and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, but to also assist the ITPO staff with giving presentations and to provide regular counseling.

The pilot program was conducted over a 10-week period, during which the students were put into teams and required to produce an innovative idea, a business plan and a presentation for final judging. During the preparation period, ITPO staff visited the schools 1-3 times a week, providing workshops that further developed their understanding of entrepreneurship, marketing, financial planning, the sustainable development goals, and Bahrain's economic vision of 2030. A number of AICEI staff and entrepreneurs were in charge of each school who would present their personal journey to the students in order to inspire them.

In addition to classroom sessions, field trips were also organized for the participating schools to visit the Bahrain Business Incubator Center to see the various start-ups located there, as well as to Bahrain Development Bank, the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and to the Women Mall-Incubator Riyadat.

Further to this, the students were asked to draft business plans in teams, with feedback constantly provided by AICEI counselors and the assigned teachers.



In the 10th and final week of the program, the top two teams from each school were selected to present their projects to an experienced team of judges, who proceeded to select the top 3 winners. All top 16 teams (55 students) were invited to attend the final ceremony and were provided a booth to exhibit and present their ideas freely to all attendees. HE Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, Minister of Education, attended the ceremony and toured the exhibition, briefly hearing about the projects of each of the teams directly. The minister stressed that such a fruitful and successful project is one of the ministry's many efforts aimed at encouraging innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship amongst the youth, so that they make actively contribute to solving global problems. While all the students presented highly impressive and innovative ideas, the top 3 teams were: Further to this, the students were asked to draft business plans in teams, with feedback constantly provided by AICEI counselors and the assigned teachers.

Winners:



1st Place:
Isa Town Secondary
Boys School - Trust
Booking App



2nd Place:
Al-Ma'arifa Secondary
Girls School- The
Glasshouse Café



3rd Place:
Ahmed Al Omran Boys
Secondary school -
Saydaliyat App

A special Award was presented to a team from Ghazi al-Gosaibi Secondary School for Girls for their Life Bottle project. This award was presented due to their notable team work efforts which resulted in a detailed and confident presentation.

It is worth noting that all awards presented were fully sponsored by AICEI entrepreneurs namely; Ms. Huda Janahi, Mr. Hadi Diwani, Ms. Sonya Janahi and Ms. Ala'a Abdulrahim. In addition to that the winning teams were invited to attend WEIF 2019 and had been given the opportunity to display their ideas in the Smart Zone.

ITPO Bahrain inaugurates Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center in Casa Blanca

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed El Kettani, President of the Centre for Small Business Solidarity and Chairman of the Attijariwafa Bank, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain officially inaugurated the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center based on the EDIP Modality in Casa Blanca.



Prior to the Center's inauguration, ITPO Bahrain, through the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment (AICEI), organized a specialized capacity building program aimed towards developing Business Counsellors for the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises.

The program was attended by 22 experts who graduated from the University of Hassan II, with a master's degree in the field of counseling and entrepreneurship development. It is worth noting that the program was held in Casablanca, Morocco, from the 18th to the 22nd of March, in cooperation with the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, the Centre for Small Business Solidarity, and the University of Hassan II.

Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum visit to Sudan

ITPO / AICEI Bahrain organized the visit headed by HE Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum to Sudan. The visit included meetings with senior officials from the Sudan University of Science and Technology in addition to the Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship Centers in Khartoum.

The delegation attended the opening ceremony of the Sudan Center for Self Employment and Entrepreneurship (SCSEE), which consists of 11 Universities; developed by ITPO / AICEI Bahrain.

Youth City 2030

The Youth City 2030 is an annual event organized by Bahrain's Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs (MYS) and focuses on Bahraini youth.

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain participated in the event by conducting a 4-week EDIP program to inspire more than 80 individuals aged between 15-25 years and help them develop their capacities towards achieving economic empowerment, and transforming their ideas into sustainable enterprises. In addition, it presented an opportunity to open a dialogue with the youth of the future and provided a platform for them to voice their aspirations and interests, and encourage them to pursue them further. ITPO Bahrain also supported Mahmood AbdulSamad, owner of REPS Fitness Studios and an EDIP entrepreneur, to deliver his youth fitness programs and increase awareness in health & wellness.



For a month, the Youth City project involved various workshops and programs aimed to develop the youth and encourage them to nourish their skills and develop new ones, whether in media, information technology, arts, languages, science and sports or any other areas. This included workshops in scientific, artistic and technological fields; interior design; fashion design; drawing, sketching; illustration; sculpture and pottery-making and many more. Furthermore, the event sought to develop environmental and health consciousness amongst the youth.

Innovate Green Competition

ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with the UN Environment West Asia Office launched the Innovate Green Competition, with sponsorship from the First Energy Bank. The competition targeted university students in the Middle East and North Africa regions, and aimed at stimulating and unleashing entrepreneurship and innovation. The main objective of the competition was to provide students with an opportunity to make a positive impact on society by addressing environmental issues through social and technological innovation, whilst contributing to their own economic benefit and ultimately supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A total of 129 applications were received from 11 Arab states, out of which 107 were qualified to enter the competition. An evaluation committee was formed consisting of experts from UN Environment and UNIDO in Bahrain, that assessed how innovative the idea of each application was and looked into the viability of the presented business plan. After a rigorous evaluation process three winners were selected.

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Professor Riyad Hamzah, President of the University of Bahrain, the three winning projects were awarded today at a ceremony which was held at the university's premises.

The first-place winning innovation, Mushtich, comes from Lebanon. A team of three young university students have launched a project which offers bio-based material aiming to replace petroleum based plastic materials, such as Styrofoam, while offering the similar properties needed in protective packaging, thermal insulation, acoustic applications, water and fire tolerance. The material is 100% renewable, biodegradable and customizable. The team received the grand prize of \$10,000 for their innovation.

The second-place winning innovation comes from Egypt, Backbenchers. A group of youngsters developed a concept which uses wood and plastic waste to develop a state-of-the-art wood-plastic composite with superior properties, that enables it to be utilized in various applications. The new material is a recycled translucent wood-plastic composite, with superior optical and mechanical properties. The sheets have a remarkable potential to be used in several industries ranging from construction to solar energy and can replace other plastic sheets, such as acrylic and polycarbonate sheets. The team received \$7,000 for their environmental innovation.

The third-place award of \$3,000 was given to Underwater, a project coming from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which puts forward a concept that uses an Underwater Compressed Air Energy Storage System (UCAES) for excess energy storage. The product prototype is a low-cost solution that is both environmentally friendly in how it is manufactured, as well as how it operates. The system works by pumping air into mounted underwater balloons where it can be stored and eventually released back to the surface to drive generators during times of increased energy demand.



During his opening remarks, the Regional Director of UN Environment West Asia Office highlighted the importance of supporting the young people of the Middle East and North Africa region, and investing in their innovations to achieve sustainable development and protecting the environment. Dimassi stressed the importance of private sector partnerships in the implementation of similar initiatives targeting young people in the region.

In his remarks, Dr. Hashim hailed the Arab innovators who participated, and expressed his appreciation to the caliber of innovations presented. He further stressed on the importance of impactful investments as we move towards sustainability for the future and achieving the SDGs and reiterated his firm commitment of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment towards unleashing the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation across the MENA Region, while supporting such initiatives related to the area of green economy.

On behalf of First Energy Bank B.S.C (c) and its CEO, Mr. Mohamed Shukri Ghanem, Mr. Fawaz Al Jowder, Chief Operating Officer stated that the Bank expresses gratitude in sponsoring the Innovate Green Competition, which aims to stimulate innovation and creativity among university students in the Middle East and North Africa region.

"First Energy Bank is proud to sponsor such competitions, which are part of the Bank's corporate and social responsibility to promote technology and energy in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Middle East, where we all work for a promising future for the region and support sustainable development goals" said Mr. Al Jowder.

Mr. Al Jowder added that "The desire to create and innovate makes us always present at such events. The positive outcome of sponsoring such events are in line with the Bank's constant drive to make a positive impact on society by addressing environmental issues through social innovation and our constant belief in supporting creative youth, especially that the Kingdom of Bahrain provides an ideal environment for promoting and accomplishing such honorable achievements." Finally, Mr. Al Jowder concluded by congratulating the winners and wishing success to all participants.

The awarding ceremony was followed by an open Q&A session which witnessed engaging dialogues between the winning teams and the young entrepreneurs from Bahrain who were attending the ceremony.

The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced the launch of the fourth edition of the Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship for the year 2019. UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, for the fourth time, has continued its ongoing support to the Award, and has been once again named as a technical judge in the award, in addition to attending the high level semi-final pitching sessions held in November 2019.

The prestigious award was established in 2015 through an initiative led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. It is a premier national program aimed to motivate and inspire local business owners to contribute to Bahrain's economic prosperity. Subsequently, the Award continues to be the leading local platform structured to enhance business innovations and promote the culture of entrepreneurship in the Bahraini community.

The launch of this year's edition stems from the national efforts and endeavors to empower the private sector to become the driving force and the primary incentive of economic growth in the Kingdom. Accordingly, the Award materializes the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, as Tamkeen continues to extend its commitment to support and strengthen the entrepreneurship sector in Bahrain.

The Bahrain Award for Entrepreneurship continues to be one of the most prestigious Bahraini Awards in this field, and further asserts the Award's importance in holistically developing the performance of Bahrain-based organizations and strengthening the Kingdom's entrepreneurial eco-system regionally and internationally.

Creative Business Cup 2019

For the second year in a row the AICEI has been an active partner in the Creative Business Cup held in Denmark; where by Dr. Hashim Hussein was a VIP judge for the top 35 finalists of the competition in addition to being a speaker on his vision towards achieving the SDGs through entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Bahraini Women Innovation and Creativity Exhibition

On the occasion of the Bahraini Women's Day, marked December 8th, and under the banner "Women in Higher Education and Future Sciences", the Supreme Council for Women in cooperation with ITPO / AICEI Bahrain and the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society organized the "Bahraini Women Innovation and Creativity Exhibition" at the Riyadat Women Incubator.

21 innovative women entrepreneurs were chosen to showcase their innovations and received the AICEI counseling

and mentorship interventions, together with a number of support institutions namely Bahrain Fintech Bay, Flat6Labs and others.

From Paris to Manama - Virtual Reality Exhibition and Masterclass

In an effort to promote entrepreneurship and investment in the 4th Industrial Digital Revolution the Bahrain Internet Society in collaboration with ITPO / AICEI Bahrain, and the French Embassy to Bahrain organized a Virtual reality exhibition. Held under the international framework of "Digital November", a concept that fosters and stimulates a digital culture to grow and develop through creating synergies between international mainly French and local partners.

The exhibition featured French 360° movies and interactive games/stories in virtual reality, whose authors are recognized internationally and have been prized several times. Contents produced by a number of Bahraini entrepreneurs where also featured on how virtual reality can be useful in many fields, including industry or real estate.

Following the exhibition, Mr. Charles Ayats, a renowned French VR specialist and the creator of "the Scream VR", conducted a masterclass for creators, producers and broadcasters.

These two parts of the project "From Paris to Manama – the VR Expo" are aiming at strengthening the digital community here in Bahrain, but also to offer the possibility to a large audience to discover these new immersive worlds, and these new ways of creating.

Bahrain Game Jam

The Bahrain Game Jam is a game development challenge set in Bahrain, where a group of developers can form teams to develop games over the span of 48 hours. The Game Jam was organized by the Bahrain Internet Society in Collaboration with UNIDO ITPO / AICEI, the Bahrain Polytechnic and Unreal Bahrain. It is worth noting Unreal Bahrain is the local gaming development community in Bahrain and was developed by Mr. Yusuf Buhaza one of our EDIP program participants.

With 100 participants from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Mexico; the Jam was held in under the theme "One for All & All for One" and also included panel discussion on "Economical Impact of Gaming in MENA region". All the finalists to the Jam received business counselling by the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI business counselors, mentors and experts.



Prizes awarded included:

1st Place BHD 1000 :

(Spit Out – 3 Polygons)

2nd Place BHD 600 :

(Jellies – Shurooq)

3rd Place BHD 400:

(Nalikes Studio – Yalghard)

Certification was also provided for:

- Best aesthetic award – Athos
- Game for a cause award – well's not well (former chils)
- Next challenge award – Potato Players
- Most Innovative Award – Three Muscats
- Public Choice Award - Potato Players

ENTREPRENEURS SUCCESS STORIES

1. Butterfly Technology

Alaa Mohamed Abdel Rahim Butterfly Technology is a Bahraini company that specializes in discovering and converting new and innovative ideas and inventions into products that are ultimately sold in the local and international market.



Alaa Mohamed Abdel Rahim, one of the EDIP participants, is an engineer and an inventor herself, is the founder and CEO of Butterfly Technology. She founded Butterfly Technology in 2016 after her successful invention of an electronic nail polish mixer in 2013. This achievement was the onset of 8 local and regional awards and recognitions, including The Medal of Competency by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed Al Maktoum Childhood Creativity Award in the United Arab Emirates; and Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for distinguished academic performance in the United Arab Emirates.

It is also worth noting that Butterfly Technology was chosen to be the leading business presenting the Kingdom of Bahrain in the global forum “Creative Business Cup (CBC)”, in Denmark, 2019. And during a special mention the CBC competition the jury said “We believe that supporting budding entrepreneurs is the key to re-energizing a country and bringing it to the forefront of innovation and creativity. We truly hope that they [Butterfly Technology] continue in their endeavors and keep working alongside CBC to find the next best start-ups for the future”.

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One of the goals of Butterfly Technology is to create a generation of Bahraini inventors that are able to compete competitively on a global level. This means holding exhibitions and conferences, providing trainings and qualifications, consulting and research

services, and all other necessary resources for Bahraini inventors to turn their ideas into a prototype and finally a commercial product. Butterfly technology also pays special attention to Bahrain's youth through dedicating much of its events to them, aiming to build their confidence in the area of innovation and technology from an early age.

In 2019, with the support of UNIDO ITPO and under the patronage of His Excellency Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Capital Governorate Social Programs and Community Affairs Director, Butterfly Technology held "Bahrain's Young Inventors Forum". The forum, which is considered the first of its kind in Bahrain, was held for young age group of 9-14-year-old inventors, and aimed to identify promising personalities, encourage the youth to apply their education and skills to create a project, thus allowing them the opportunity to exhibit and promote it, and most importantly; provide most of them with their first real entrepreneurial experience through the opportunity to attend a formal forum. Along with an exhibition, the forum included various speakers and covered a wide range of topics such as: the importance of marketing, the Importance of Networking, the role of media and technology in entrepreneurship, identifying and building entrepreneurial qualities, and the United Nation's

Sustainable Development Goals.

Since inception, butterfly technology has organized exhibitions, competitions, trained more than 600 individuals, and helped in the development of more than 80 promising prototypes, many of whom went on to receive their own recognition.

Besides Alaa's personal awards and prizes, her company has acquired its own list of notable achievements such as Microsoft Imagine Cup competition in 2014 (first place Locally, first place in the Arab World, and third place globally); The 44th Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions (Gold Medal); iENA Sixty-sixth Exhibition for Inventions and Inventors in Germany (Bronze Medal); and The Seventh International Invention Fair in the Middle East, Kuwait (Gold Medal).

Recently, Alaa introduced a Lab, "it's basically a gym for the mind" she explains. The coffee shop style lab offers all equipment's, machines, space, and other resources that individuals need to work on their inventions and prototype. Currently she intends to focus on the newly introduced lab and while continuing to hold and participate in events that will not only promote the inventors she currently supports, but also identify new ones.

2.CRAVE- Ahmed Al Shafei



Ahmed Al Shafei is the owner of "CRAVE", a Bahraini owned restaurant that offers innovative dishes and flavors, friendly service and a unique overall dining experience. The restaurant tends to take popular international dishes and transform them into unique, new, trendy items catered specifically to local taste.

Essentially, CRAVE was inspired following a trip to the United States in 2015, where he was introduced to the "Donut Burger", a concept he was eager to bring back to Bahrain. Starting off with a menu of only 11 items, The Donut burger quickly became a best seller, and while his menu grew to offer more than 60 items today, the donut burger remains one of the bestselling items to this day.

In 2015 Ahmed launched CRAVE with his brother Yousif, who has since moved on to start and focus on a separate business. Crave started off with only 2 employees and operated for only 5 hours a day. This was done so that the market can be tested well before making further investments. "That was the best thing we could have done at the time, because it allowed us the courage to make mistakes and learn from them without suffering from significant losses" he recounts. Additionally, as an employee at the time, work responsibilities did not allow him to dedicate longer hours to the business. While he started his business in 2015, he continued his career in finance until eventually deciding to quit and exclusively dedicating his time to Crave in 2019.

Today, Crave is located in one of Bahrain's most lively and prime locations, has 15 employees, and operates for 12 hours a day.

The restaurant tries to keep up with changing food trends through studying the market thoroughly, aiming to provide the most creative and delicious version found in the market. Following up with trends, CRAVE incorporated many other innovative items such as the "do-it-yourself BBQ box", liquid nitrogen desserts, as well as the all vegan burger which is currently also a best seller.

Social media, mainly Instagram tends to be their primary marketing method. Additionally, his brothers' combined work experience in marketing and architecture has not only helped create the initial architectural concept for the restaurant, but also continues to maintain an effective marketing strategy.

"My many years of experience in Finance has also been very beneficial to our business as money management is a crucial part of starting and sustaining a successful business" Ahmed

added. Recognizing the intense competition in his field, Ahmed strives to change the menu every 3 months to keep up with the fast changing trends and tastes, and innovative marketing campaigns on a regular basis.

His wife has also played a big role in the advancement of the business. "My wife has taken the EDIP program and has shared with me all what she has learned; this has helped a lot". Since then, Ahmed continues to receive business counseling from UNIDO ITPO business counsellors when needed.

Like any other business owner, Ahmed found that difficulties experienced entailed accepting that sometimes progress must come from trial and error, "Mistakes make you want to give up, but overcome them by not stopping and moving forward". However, despite all risks and challenges, Ahmed finds that owning your own business has been an increasingly more enjoyable and suitable choice for him- "the harder I work the more I achieve". "Being an employee has its perks, you don't need to worry about every single stakeholder involved" he added, while elaborating that owning a business on the other hand, includes taking into account the needs, desires and benefits of customers, employees, etc.

Over the years Crave has gained a lot of positive recognition and enjoyed many milestones along the way, such as magazine and TV appearances, however he adds "In my viewpoint, running your own business is a milestone on its own".

While expanding geographically is among Ahmed's long-term future plans, he is currently focused on increasing his revenue. In addition to that, they have recently introduced catering services and dedicated a whole team exclusively in charge of



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