FIRST INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT FORUM

on ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INVESTMENT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

19–24 JANUARY 2015

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BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT
MANAMA – KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
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Special Statement by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General, on the occasion of the “First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum”, Bahrain, 19 January 2015

I am pleased to greet the participants in this forum, and I welcome your focus on entrepreneurship and investment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The economic and financial crisis of the past several years has been, above all, a global employment crisis. It has affected all countries and regions, and all segments of society, with especially negative consequences for the prospects of young people, as we have seen so vividly across the Middle East and North Africa region over the past few years.

It is increasingly being recognized that industrialization, if conducted in an inclusive and sustainable manner, can create jobs, generate income, increase productivity, transform economies and be a major driver of development. Reaping these and other benefits depends, first and foremost, on fostering a dynamic private sector. In particular, countries need to promote competitive small- and medium-sized enterprises, which are the main source of economic activities and the largest employer in many developing countries -- and the main engines of empowerment for women and young people.

Promoting entrepreneurship and expanding access to financial services are among the central challenges developing countries face in growing a vibrant private sector. Your forum can foster exchanges of expertise and best practices, forge partnerships and identify investment opportunities. Your gathering is also very timely, taking place as United Nations Member States shape a post-2015 development agenda and a meaningful agreement on climate change.

As we move towards a new era of sustainable development, I will count on your leadership and support. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will remain your partner in this important work. Please accept my best wishes for a successful forum.
**First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum on**

“Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”

The Arab Thought Forum, headed by H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan in cooperation with the UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Bahrain, officially named Manama as the Arab Capital for Entrepreneurship and Innovation for the year 2014.

The official announcement ceremony was held in Bahrain on 14 February 2014 under the patronage of H.E. Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Governor of Manama, and in the presence of H.E. Mrs. Samira bin Rajab, State Minister for Information Affairs.

The initiative aims at developing and implementing a series of events, forums, workshops and programmes that would enhance entrepreneurship culture and expose youth in the region and around the globe to entrepreneurship, innovation and private sector initiatives thereby stimulating the spirit of entrepreneurship among the youth and facilitating economic diversification for job creation.

One of the major events agreed upon was the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum on “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”, which took place in Manama from 19 to 21 January 2015.

Thus, under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain, the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (IEIF) on “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” was officially inaugurated by H.R.H. Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain, in the presence of Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General, numerous senior officials and dignitaries from around the world, and with the participation of 800 entrepreneurs from 80 countries.

The Deputy Premier conveyed the Prime Minister's greetings to all participants, and hoped that the forum would provide a platform to take advantage of the world’s experience and expertise as well as to enter partnerships that will develop entrepreneurs’ businesses.
He applauded the Kingdom’s hosting of such a key world forum as this reflects the distinguished status and leading role of the country in the field of entrepreneurship. The Deputy Prime Minister also referred to the international appreciation for the Bahrain Model for Entrepreneurship Development and Enterprise Creation, which was developed and implemented by UNIDO and that is an exemplary model for many countries that are keen on developing entrepreneurship.

He re-affirmed the continuous keenness of the government, led by H.R.H. the Prime Minister, to encourage entrepreneurship through preparing and implementing training programmes for Bahrainis and motivating them to launch their own enterprises, while consolidating support to small and medium-sized companies and entrepreneurs through business incubators to ultimately increase their contributions to the national economy.

The Deputy Prime Minister further praised the advanced level of cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); he also highly praised UNIDO’s role in supporting the Government of Bahrain’s plans and programmes to achieve sustainable comprehensive development by providing the necessary expertise and technical assistance for various projects and programmes.
“It is a great honour for me to visit the Kingdom of Bahrain and to participate in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum. I would like to thank His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, for the patronage of this Forum on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development as well as for the financial and logistical support of this international event.”

Mr. Li Yong started by highlighting the crucial need to focus on entrepreneurship development and to explore investment opportunities for the international community to be able to address the growing global challenge of youth employment. He also mentioned UNIDO’s role in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development through the approval of the historic Lima Declaration in December 2013 as the Declaration re-affirmed the central position of industry for the three dimensions of sustainable development namely economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the Lima Declaration also recognized that “economic growth is driven by entrepreneurship, continuous economic diversification, growing trade relations, industrial upgrading and technological innovation”.

The Director General stressed the need to foster entrepreneurship as it generates employment and wealth but also catalyzes and shapes the diffusion of innovation as well as of technologies. However challenges in developing countries and in many developed countries are resulting in a diminishing number of start-up businesses, which is one of the indicators to measure the dynamism of the private sector. At the same time, many countries are also faced with the challenge that a majority of their youth is unable to find jobs after finishing their studies.

“Globally, some 200 million people are currently unemployed, many of them young people. By 2020, some 600 million jobs will need to be created in order to absorb the growing young population. According to the World Bank, the MENA region is facing the highest rate of youth unemployment.”

“While youth faces enormous challenges, particularly with regard to employment and livelihoods, it also represents an opportunity for the future. This makes it even more important to invest in youth, making it possible for future generations not only to survive but also to thrive. It is imperative to establish an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and innovation, which will in turn create jobs and drive economic growth.”
policy environment now so that children and youth can benefit from investments in education, employment and livelihood creation that will allow them to become productive adults today and in the future.

Today’s youth are tomorrow’s drivers of entrepreneurial activity in their communities, regions and countries. An increasing number of Governments worldwide recognize the importance of investing in developing entrepreneurial culture among youth as a crucial foundation for any sustainable and dynamic private sector. Growth has decelerated sharply in the region, falling to 2.2 per cent in 2013, well below the global average. Trying to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability in this environment will be a key challenge for 2014 and the coming years.”

The Director General further stated that entrepreneurship is the foundation of a sustainable and dynamic private sector and that it will provide many solutions to the complex development challenges, which require innovative responses and creative approaches. Therefore, Mr. Li Yong stressed the imperative of establishing an enabling policy environment to allow youth to benefit from investments in education, employment and livelihood creation, which in turn will allow them to become productive adults, today and in the future. The Director General concluded his opening remarks by reiterating that today’s youth are tomorrow’s drivers of entrepreneurial activity in their communities, regions and countries. As such, this requires an increasing number of Governments worldwide to recognize the importance of investing in developing entrepreneurial culture among youth as the groundwork for any sustainable and dynamic private sector.

“I would like to express my great appreciation for a long-standing and strong partnership between UNIDO and the Kingdom of Bahrain. Over the years, this strategic partnership has been strengthened, as underlined by the establishment of the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in 1996 with the ultimate goal of promoting and facilitating foreign direct investment with the cooperation and support of financial institutions. In further promoting the economic and industrial development of the Kingdom and the region, the UNIDO ITPO Bahrain emphasizes that the road to economic diversification and prosperity requires the strong focus on job creation through entrepreneurship development. It is for this reason that in 2001 UNIDO jointly with the Bahraini and Indian Governments established the Arab Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment Training (ARCEIT), which serves to further promote South-South cooperation.”
Forum Sessions

A number of esteemed regional and international dignitaries, delegates and investment experts provided opening remarks that focused on the private sector as a global driving force for economic growth, particularly for productive job creation. Obstacles faced by countries in pursuing these productive activities were discussed, emphasizing that major difficulties result from the lack of business skills and entrepreneurial exposure of youth, which makes them highly risky for the private sector and consequently making it difficult for them to access capital or the market.

With 85 experts and speakers, the six forum sessions showcased best practices and highlighted a number of vital topics that are key in the development and success of entrepreneurs and MSMEs.

I. Fostering Entrepreneurship Development

Different models of entrepreneurship awareness, empowerment and development were discussed including UNIDO’s Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Programme, UNIDO’s productive work for youth approach, Intel’s Programme for Entrepreneurship Development and Innovation. Different factors like Technology Tie-Ups, Regional Support Structures, and Networking Opportunities were promoted and assessed. A consensus developed whereby entrepreneurship for youth is best fostered when there are more resources and support structures to identify opportunities in the private sector and assist entrepreneurs in developing the skill set required to access the available opportunities.

II. Financial Mechanisms for Entrepreneurship Development

Panellists discussed the best way to provide MSMEs with access to finance via different schemes and financial models to support entrepreneurs, including through interest rate financing, collateral insurance, grants, crowd funding and so on. There is a need to establish a mechanism to help entrepreneurs access information regarding the financial instruments and industrial best practices available, used both locally and internationally. In conclusion, it was acknowledged that young entrepreneurs have great difficulties in gaining access to traditional sources of financing and therefore government bodies should support and promote mechanisms and institutions that provide young entrepreneurs with the capital they need to attain resources and seed capital to develop their business feasibility models.
III. Gender Dimensions of Entrepreneurship
Panellists from the Arab Region, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe discussed the impact of gender on specific dimensions of entrepreneurial development and growth. Which are the resources that promote economic empowerment and entrepreneurship among women? The panellists also spoke about focusing on gender inclusive economic development that benefits women in business, such as Women Fora, Incubator Centres for Women and in general transforming the role of women to driving forces for innovation and entrepreneurship. The session concluded on the need for business initiatives that impact women in business and help them overcome gendered constraints that women entrepreneurs face in the economy.

IV. Support Institutions for Entrepreneurs – Role of Chambers
The session addressed the main elements in MSME promotion and the support offered by chambers and business organisations. Chambers usually focus on the creation of an enabling legal and regulatory environment, on partnerships in local economic development, on information and referral, business opportunity exchange, on networking and access to business incubator systems, on providing and facilitating access to business opportunities and markets, on facilitating access to finance and linkages, and on capacity building programmes. The session concluded by stating that chambers should play a bigger role in facilitating setting up a business and in assistance to transitional growth within the industry.

V. Role of business infrastructure (industrial parks and zones)
In this session, panellists discussed the best initiatives in business infrastructure and analyzed international facilities such as science parks, industrial parks, technology parks, research centres, and industrial clusters and business incubators that have been utilized efficiently within the region and globally. The session focused on how development of infrastructures is essential for economic and industrial progress; the session concluded on the challenges of developing these concepts in developing and developed countries and on a focus on entrepreneurial support and transition is required.

VI. Entrepreneurship Development: challenges, opportunities and recommendations
This session served as an open debate for entrepreneurs from around the globe and stimulated them to share their challenges and opportunities associated with initiating entrepreneurial start-ups and expanding existing businesses on the global field. It also facilitated deliberations that led to the Manama Declaration 2015 “Entrepreneurship for Development”.
Manama Declaration 2015 “Entrepreneurship for Development”

The Manama Declaration 2015 on “Entrepreneurship for Development” is a set of recommendations derived from the two-day deliberations and discussions held among 85 experts and 800 entrepreneurs from 80 countries participating in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum on “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”.

Through the joint efforts of UNIDO and the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Declaration has been circulated as a document of the United Nations General Assembly, under agenda item 19 in six languages (English, Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish and Chinese) under reference A/69/748.

One of the major IEIF achievements is that a permanent secretariat has been established for the IEIF Forum at the UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Bahrain to review and follow up on the progress as well as to identify additional areas of cooperation and action to promote investment in entrepreneurship. Ultimately, it is suggested to organize the IEIF on a yearly basis. The event will be hosted alternatively in Bahrain and in any country which requests to host it; currently, both Dubai and Turkey have already officially requested to host the 2016 IEIF.
United Nations

General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 19
Sustainable development

Note verbale dated 26 January 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to attach hereto the Manama Declaration adopted at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, held from 19 to 21 January 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations requests that the above-mentioned document be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.
Annex to the note verbale dated 26 January 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Manama Declaration adopted at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum

The 2015 Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Development is a set of recommendations derived from the two days of deliberations and discussions held among the 85 experts and 650 entrepreneurs from 80 countries participating in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, held from 19 to 21 January 2015 under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and attended by Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development

The participants in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development:


Recognizing that industrialization, if conducted in an inclusive and sustainable manner, can create jobs, generate income, increase productivity, transform economies and be a major driver of development;

Noting that realizing these and other benefits depends, first and foremost, on fostering a dynamic private sector, and recognizing in particular the need to promote competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the main source of economic activities and the largest employer in many developing countries — and the main engines of empowerment for women and young people;

Desirous of further promoting entrepreneurship and expanding access to financial and support services, which are among the central challenges developing countries face in growing a vibrant sector,

Declare the following:

1. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General’s message to the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum;
2. We commend UNIDO’s leadership for their support to entrepreneurs, and count on it to remain a close partner to entrepreneurs;
3. We greatly commend and appreciate the support of the UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment, the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries, the Global Entrepreneurship Week, the International Network for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the European
Union-Africa Chamber, the Middle East and North Africa-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Centre, the International Business and Professional Women’s Association and others;

4. We call upon Governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and international organizations to cooperate in undertaking the following steps to facilitate the development of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises around the world:

To take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers;

To consider partnership with the private sector in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models, and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while safeguarding workers’ rights;

To strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourage them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks to facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

To expand alternative sources of financing and diversify retail financial systems to include microcredit and microfinance;

To cooperate in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programmes for promoting entrepreneurship;

5. We recommend establishing a special secretariat within the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Bahrain for the Forum and propose convening the International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum every two years, whether in Bahrain or in any country willing to host, in order to review and follow up progress and to identify additional areas of cooperation and action to promote investment in entrepreneurship;

6. We urge the international community, the United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take the aforementioned recommendations into account in shaping their policies and in supporting entrepreneurship for sustainable development;

7. We greatly appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the participants by the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
Parallel Events

High-Level Bilateral Meetings of the UNIDO Director General

Headed by H.E. Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General, the Organization’s official delegation held a number of bilateral meetings with high-level officials and dignitaries from the Kingdom of Bahrain and from the Region.

Courtesy visit to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain

His Majesty the King commended the United Nations’ vital role in developing sustainable development programmes in various countries throughout the world, as well as its efforts in establishing international security and stability. H.M. the King pointed out Bahrain’s achievements in the field of education and underscored the importance of establishing vocational training centres to develop the youth’s capabilities in all areas. The UNIDO Director General praised the progress achieved by Bahrain in various fields and expressed his gratitude for H.M. the King’s wise vision, through which many achievements were made in various areas, with a strong focus on the sustainable preservation of the environment.
**Courtesy visit to His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain**

H.R.H. Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain, and the official UNIDO delegation headed by Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General.

During the visit to H.R.H. Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain, Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General, presented His Royal Highness with a token of appreciation for his patronage of the IEIF and to honor the country’s firm commitment to UNIDO’s mandate and to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

**Meetings where also held with:**

- H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain
- H.E. Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa, Minister of Finance of Bahrain
- H.E. Mr. Zayed R. Al Zayani, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain
- H.E. Mr. Abdulatif Al Zayani, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- H.E. Mr. Yusouf Al Bassam, Chairman of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
- H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Hanai, Vice President for Finance of the Islamic Development Bank
- H.E. Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Ageel, Secretary General of the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting in Qatar
- Mr. Ferruh Gurtas, Director of Corporate Affairs for Middle East and Africa of Intel Corporation
Visit to the Kuwait Finance House in Bahrain

Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO, praised the significant role played by Kuwait Finance House in Bahrain in promoting entrepreneurship as well as in supporting economic development and enhancing living standards in Bahrain. Mr. Abdulhakeem Alkhayyat, the Managing Director and CEO of KFH-Bahrain expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Li Yong for his praise, which also emphasized the important role of Islamic financial institutions.

“It is a great honor to receive such a testimony from a high-level UN official in one of the most important international forums that was attended by more than 800 industry leaders, decision makers, officials and entrepreneurs from over 80 countries. It will boost our growing portfolio of international awards and certificates that we have received so far in recognition of our continued efforts to support economies and providing innovative financial services”.

“I am very pleased to extend my sincere thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors and all employees at KFH-Bahrain to Mr. Li Yong for the great recognition he gave to the Bank; may Allah aid him in fulfilling his role in helping people around the world.”

Mr. Li Yong, visiting the Bahrain Business Incubator Centre, established by UNIDO in 2003

Cultural Night at the Al Jasra Centre for Handicrafts
UNIDO signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa

The signed Memorandum of Understanding stipulates that both parties will cooperate to promote economic development, investment, entrepreneurship, job creation, economic integration in addition to inclusive and sustainable development.

H.E. Mr. Yousif Al Bassam, Chairman of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General

UNIDO signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Intel Corporation

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at fostering entrepreneurship and innovation skills among youth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and at closing the digital gender divide in Africa as well as at fostering economic growth and innovation in the region.

Mr. Ferruh Gurtas, Director of Corporate Affairs for Middle East and Africa of the Intel Corporation, and Mr. Lamine Dhaoui, Director of the Business, Investment and Technology Services Branch of UNIDO
Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur (E2E) Bilateral Meetings

The attendees included 800 entrepreneurs from 80 countries as well as representatives from the UN system, government bodies, chambers, financial institutions and other entrepreneurial support institutions.

There were over 2,000 bilateral meetings held between entrepreneurs to promote cooperation, partnerships, joint-ventures, access to markets and resources and investment in various industries and strategic locations. Overall, 88 Letters of Intent were signed for an estimated investment value of USD150 million.

The International Green Economy and Technology Forum

Under the patronage of H.H. Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for the Environment, the International Green Economy and Technology Forum was officially inaugurated on 19 January 2015, in the presence of Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General.

The forum shed light on the latest global trends in green economy and technologies and showcased successful regional and international case studies. The forum also brought together key international experts specialized in green economy and technologies, along with decision-makers, government officials and leaders of the public sector as well as investors from Bahrain.

The forum served as a platform for sharing knowledge and experience of sustainable development initiatives and green business ventures among the 200 participating experts and entrepreneurs from the Arab Region, Europe, Asia and Africa.
The Arab Youth Conference

Under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Al Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, President of the Arab Thought Forum, who was represented by H.R.H. Princess Rahma Bint El Hassan of Jordan, the Arab Youth Conference was officially inaugurated on 21 January 2015.

The conference focused on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Economic and Cultural Empowerment as well as on developing a Charter of Arabic Economy in support of the role of SMEs to alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment in Arab countries.

The conference served as a platform for 150 youth activists from the Arab region to discuss and deliberate, especially with selected members of the ATF, on the means of attaining economic empowerment for youth.

The Innovation Process and Productivity Workshop

A high-level workshop focused on productivity accounting for Bahrain was organized by the MENA Centre for Investment in cooperation with UNIDO, Tamkeen, and Ebtikar Association.

The two-day workshop, which was attended by 90 experts, was specifically designed for ministries involved in issues pertaining to economic growth, industrial development, productivity performance and innovation for engineers and management personnel. The workshop looked into measuring productivity, dividing productivity growth into its components for policy-making purposes, improving the culture for product and process innovation and including the role of the National System of Innovation.
**Annexes**

**Forum Background and Rationale**

The Lima Declaration, signed by all UNIDO Member States, in December 2013 towards “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)”, recognizes that industrialization is a driver of development as it increases productivity, contributes to job creation and generates income. Moreover, industrialization offers opportunities for social inclusion by means of empowerment of women and creating decent employment for the youth. The Declaration also acknowledges the challenges that many countries continue to face, such as “unemployment and poor access to financial resources”. Therefore, in its efforts to contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO focuses on “enhancing productive capacities in a way that supports the structural transformation of the economy; encourages economic growth and the creation of decent jobs, particularly, in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector”. The Lima Declaration states that “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)” recognizes that “economic growth is driven by entrepreneurship, continuous economic diversification, growing trade relations, industrial upgrading and technological innovation”.

Effective economic development can be achieved through ISID promoting economic empowerment and the creation of decent jobs for all, including youth and women. Therefore, UNIDO promotes inclusive economic development contributing to maximizing job creation and a competitive private sector through entrepreneurship training, access to financial services, sectoral studies, investment promotion, upgrading of companies, technical training and institutional capacity building.

It is in this framework that the Forum was organized by UNIDO. The Forum showcased and discussed the main issues facing entrepreneurs worldwide. Stakeholders from the Public Sectors, Private Sector Associations, Academia, Entrepreneurs, Development Agencies, Multi-bilateral Finance Institutions, and Civil Society Organizations took part in the forum to capitalize on each other’s expertise and experience in the area of entrepreneurship development and investment promotion, while building new partnerships and investment opportunities geared towards economic development through entrepreneurship development.

Due to the high-level and variety of participants, the forum was an important opportunity for all stakeholders to acquire the latest expertise in the field of entrepreneurship development, to expand their networks, to build new partnerships and to develop new joint projects for entrepreneurship development and investment promotion.

**Forum’s Rationale**

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

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

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

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear that women are, and will continue to be, powerful drivers of development. When men and women become more equal, economies grow faster; fewer people remain in poverty, and overall well-being increases. Studies have reported that raising female employment to male levels can have a direct impact on GDP growth rates, increasing it by as much as 3–4% in some countries, and that countries’ productivity can increase by as much as 25% if discriminatory barriers against women are removed. Therefore, the Forum elaborated on the role of women in entrepreneurship and investment, i.e. how women are and can be engaged in upgrading existing enterprises and/or in new enterprises.

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

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

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

**Forum Objectives**

The major objectives of this Forum are the following:

1. Raising the interest of young graduates and institutional stakeholders in entrepreneurship,
2. Presenting methodologies (UNIDO and partners),
3. Introducing international good practices, experience and successes,
4. Facilitating business partnerships and investments for domestic enterprise creation and expansion in employment intensive sectors,
5. Providing recommendations for the governments from Africa and the Eurasian region on productive and sustainable job creation,
6. Developing new projects in the area of entrepreneurship.

**Organizers and Partners**

1. Kingdom of Bahrain
2. United Nations Industrial Development Organization
3. General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture for Arab Countries, Lebanon
4. Islamic Development Bank, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
5. Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Sudan
6. Global Entrepreneurship Network, United States of America
7. International SME Network, Italy
8. Federation of GCC Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Sponsors**

1. Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment, Kingdom of Bahrain
2. Tamkeen, Kingdom of Bahrain
3. Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
4. Arab Thought Forum, Jordan
5. Council of Arab Businesswomen, Egypt
6. MENA OECD Investment Center, Kingdom of Bahrain
7. EU-Africa Chamber of Commerce, Belgium
8. Al Baraka Bank, Kingdom of Bahrain
9. Bank Al Khartoum, Sudan
10. Bahrain Development Bank
11. Entrepreneurs Organization, Bahrain Chapter
12. Bahrain Businesswomen Society
Media Clippings

GULF Daily News
The voice of Bahrain

VOL XXXVIII No. 307 (GGDN 024) WEDNESDAY, 21st JANUARY 2015 200 Fils/2 Royals

FORUM HAILED BY UN

MANAMA: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday praised Bahrain for hosting a major international investment conference.

Promoting entrepreneurship and creating access to financial services are key to developing countries creating a vibrant private sector, the UN Secretary-General said. He asserted that the economic and financial turmoil during the past several years has led to a global employment crisis.

In his message that was delivered at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain, Hotel and Spa, Mr Ban said the crisis has affected all countries and regions with especially negative consequences for the prospects of young people.

More than 75 countries are taking part in the inaugural edition of the three-day forum, being held under the patronage of His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Deputy Premier Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was deputised by the Premier to attend the opening session.

Industry and Commerce Minister Under-Secretary for Industrial Affairs Osama Al Arayssi, who delivered a speech on behalf of Industry and Commerce Minister EARNEST AL EYANAT, said the key initiatives to boost the SME sector in the kingdom include identifying and addressing gaps in government policies, improving access to both finance and markets apart from exploring latest technologies.
PROMOTE BAHRAIN

MANAMA: The Premier yesterday urged more conferences and exhibitions to promote entrepreneurship and economic diversification and improve Bahrain's investment environment.

Chairing yesterday's Cabinet meeting, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa underscored the importance of the International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, recently held in Bahrain successfully under his patronage.

He had assigned Deputy Premier Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa to open the symposium which was organised by the UN Industrial Development Organisation.

The Premier thanked the parliament budget review committee and the government work team for their efforts to achieve consensus on the Government Action Plan.

In another development, the Premier assigned the Housing Ministry to co-ordinate with relevant authorities to survey the most affected and dilapidated houses in Arad and submit a detailed report.

The needs of Bahrain’s local market in livestock and chilled meat were also on the agenda of the weekly meeting.

The session reviewed the needs of consumers following the ban on imports of chilled meat.

The Cabinet assigned Deputy Premier Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa to co-ordinate with Bahrain Livestock Company and the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to meet the needs of the local market for freshly slaughtered and chilled meat.
علي بن خليفة في افتتاح المنتدى الاستثماري:

تجربة البحرين في ريادة الأعمال تحظى بتقدير دولي

الحكومة تعمل على تشجيع البحرينيين وتحفيزهم على إقامة المشاريع

مدير البحرين: البحرين تلعب دوراً قيادياً في تنفيذ برامج المنظمة للتنمية الصناعية

كتبت: عبير الحميص فوزي

أبدى سمو الشيخ حمد بن خليفة، رئيس الوزراء، سمو الشيخ علي بن خليفة الشخيخ، نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء، إعجابه فعاليات المنتدى الاستثماري الدولي الأول لرواد الأعمال، الذي تنظمه المنظمة العالمية للتنمية الصناعية (البحرين)، على مدى يومين، بالتعاون مع وزارة الصناعة والتجارة، بمشاركة أكبر، حيث عمل من各种 الدول حول العالم.

وأكد سموه أن استضافة البحرين لهذا المنتدى العالمي مهم وملحوظ، حيث تؤكد الصناعة والريادة لجميع العالم في مجال ريادة الأعمال، منها خلال دخول البحرين للتدريب ورواد الأعمال، ويشمل النظام الصحي والبيئي، والنموذج السعودي للتجارة ورواد الأعمال، وهو ما يدفع لترنت من الفرص والمبادئ فيمتلكان البحرين لل addTargetهم ورواد الأعمال.

بفضل المكتبة على الصناعات الاقتصادية، وسط حضور ورواد الأعمال من خلال حضور ورواد الأعمال، يضيف استضافاً للنواب في مجال إدارة الأعمال، منها خلال دخول البحرين للتدريب ورواد الأعمال، ويشمل النظام الصحي والبيئي، والنموذج السعودي للتجارة ورواد الأعمال، وهو ما يدفع ل עוال من الفرص والمبادئ.

وقد سموه إن الحكومة برئاسة
برمجة تدريب البحرينين وتفعيلهم على إقامة المشاريع
دور "اليونيو" بارزة في دعم برامج الحكومة وال تقديم الدعم الفني للخطط

المنطقة العربية، شارك رئيس الوزراء، مصطفى بن تيمور، في تدريس برنامج التدريب البحري، ونشرته رئيس الوزراء، مصطفى بن تيمور، في مقر البحرين، ونشرتهم رئيس الوزراء، مصطفى بن تيمور، في مقر البحرين، ونشرتهم رئيس الوزراء، مصطفى بن تيمور، في مقر البحري
نيابة عن صاحب السمو الملكي رئيس الوزراء

سمو الشيخ علي بن خليفة يفتتح فعاليات

(المتندى الاستثماري الدولي الأول لرواد الأعمال)

مدير عام (اليونيدو): البحرين ستلعب دورا قيّدا

العالم يتجه نحو تحديثات سياسية وأمنية

لن تحل إلا بالقضاء على الفقر من خلال رؤى الأعمال
تنامي عدد الدول العربية على الاحترام بالنموذج البحريني لريادة الأعمال

نورا
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لا يمكنني قراءة النص العربي من الصورة.
بان كي مون: فرصة مثالية لتبادل الخبرات وتعميق الفرص

مندش الاستثمارات لرواد الأعمال ينطلق بحضور عالمي لافت من 75 دولة

تنمية روح المبادرة كفيلة بمواجهة المعوقات

المنظمة المستقلة أسس رؤية مصرى للاقتصادية

إرادة مشتركة لمواجهة تحديات القرن العشرين

استدامة اللغة العربية لـ "البويندر"... اتحاد الغرف العربية
Private sector role ‘vital to boost development’

By AYMASH SATEEN

MANAMA: Promoting entrepreneurship and expanding access to financial services are key to developing countries growing a vibrant private sector, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said.

According to him, the economic and financial crisis of the past several years has been, above all, a global employment crisis.

A speech delivered on his behalf at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain, Hotel and Spa, the UN secretary general said the crisis has affected all countries and regions, and all segments of society, with especially negative effects on young people, who have seen their employment severely curtailed across the Middle East and North Africa region over the past few years.

"It is increasingly clear that industrialisation, if conducted in an inclusive and sustainable manner, can create jobs, generate income, increase productivity, transform economies and contribute to ambitious development goals," he said.

He said that staging those and other initiatives primarily depends on fostering a dynamic private sector.

"In particular, countries need to promote competitive small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are the main source of economic activity and the largest employer in many developing countries," he said.

"SMEs can also be engines of empowerment for women and young people."

Mr Ban said he hoped the two-day forum would foster exchanges of expertise and best practices, forge partnerships and identify investment opportunities.

"The UN mandate makes us shaping a post-2015 development agenda and a meaningful agreement on climate change and such gatherings help is moving towards a new era of sustainable development," he said.

Being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the inaugural edition of the three-day event has drawn participation from more than 70 countries.

His Highness Premier Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa was deployed by HRH the Premier to patronise the opening session.

Industry and Commerce Minister Hamad bin Abdulrahman Al Arigi, who delivered an address on behalf of industry and Commerce Minister Zagid Al Zayani, said key initiatives to boost the SME sector in the kingdom include identifying and addressing gaps in government services for them as well as improving their market access and enables of developing technology used in these enterprises.

UN Industrial Development Organisation’s (UNIDO) director-general Li Yong, who also spoke, said Bahrain’s success in small, medium-sized enterprises was evident in many initiatives taken in training.youths to start their own enterprises.

The UNIDO International Entrepreneurship and Investment Promotion programme, known as “We Bahrain Model,” has already been adopted by more than 42 countries and at least another six are studying it.

UNIDO stresses the importance of creating the right conditions to do more in support of aspiring Bahraini female entrepreneurs.

“We want to expand the entrepreneur programme in Bahrain, targeting more women interested in going into business and helping them to training and financing opportunities,” Mr Arigi said.

The Entrepreneurship and Investment Promotion programme is aimed at helping potential entrepreneurs and increases their ideas into commercial ventures in the manufacturing and service sectors.

Mr Arigi highlighted the aim of the programme, which has been recognised all over the world as an effective means of facilitating economic development, vein Li said.

The success of the model led to the establishment in 2013 of the Arab Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Dubai, which activities include technical and financial advice, investment networking, business incubation and business incubation training. The centre also plans to launch a network for young entrepreneurs.

"We are all for young men and women interested in entrepreneurship and investment promotion," Mr Arigi said.
FIRST INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT FORUM

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