

1. Social Responsibility in Islamic Banks | 30 July 2017

Dr. Wahid Al Qassim, CEO of Bahrain Association of Banks , said that the association supports the entry of Bahraini banks into integrated social responsibility projects that meet the needs of development in Bahrain as a whole and to keep abreast of the government's efforts aimed at solving the problems of job creation, housing, environmental protection and others.

In his paper, Dr. Al Qassim called for the launch of what can be called a special social responsibility agency in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is responsible for drafting the social responsibility strategy in the banking and financial sector in line with the general strategies and plans, And the amendment of the negative tracks resulting from the misdeeds, in cooperation with various stakeholders of experts and NGOs, and this strategy to shift social responsibility from local to regional and global, and to strengthen the status of the Kingdom Bahrain on the global map of social responsibility.



2. Meeting with Benefit | 28 September 2017

Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) organized an open meeting in Shaikh Saleh Kamel Hall in Al Baraka Banking Group headquarters, where CEO of Benefit Abdulwahed Janahi, a company specialized in providing supporting services to local banks, presented its current projects and future plans.

The 1997-established Benefit is owned by 14 local banks and it represents the network connecting all the ATMs and point of sales in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The company was licensed as a supporting financial services provider but is now serving overseas markets.

During the meeting, Janahi pointed out that the company provides various services, including operating ATMs and point of sales in Bahrain and GCC. He added that Benefit is also managing a credit information Centre for corporates and individuals, while at the same time it offers payment services, direct deduction, a payment gateway, a platform for online transactions and many more.



Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the event, Dr Waheed Al Qassim, CEO of BAB, stressed the importance of this meeting, stating that discussions and debates witnessed during it reflect BAB's success in capturing common needs of most of the local banks.

3. Banks Bahrain Reception 2017 | 14 October 2017

BAB has organized the Bahrain Banks Reception at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington DC. On 14 October 2017. Approximately 350 VIPs & representatives from all over the world attended the Reception. The reception was headed by their Excellences Sh. Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al Khalifa; the Minister of Finance, Rasheed M. Al Maraj; Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, Adnan Ahmad Yousif; chairman of BAB, and Sh. Abdullah bin Rashed Al Khalifa; Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Washington DC. In Addition, the Supreme Council for Women was part of the reception in order to highlight Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa International Award for the Empowerment of Bahraini Women.



4. Digital Banking Event | 1 November 2017

In partnership with CBB, EDB and BIBF, BAB Digital and Cybersecurity Committee held an event for “Digital Banking: Leveraging Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges” on Wednesday 1 November 2017, at Al Baraka Towers, Bahrain Bay.

Topics discussed as the following:

- Digital Disruption: Age of Agility and Artificial Intelligence
- Why do Cyber Attacks Increase? Who’s Next?”
- Bahrain’s FinTech Scene”.
 - The development of an ecosystem that nourish digital financial services.
 - Policies and regulations that promote the future of financial services.
 - Human capital development that support future requirements of financial service.



Bahrain CEO Luncheon | 28 November 2017

JPMorgan with BAB cordially organized Bahrain CEO Luncheon on 28 November 2017 at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain, During the luncheon there was a correspondent banking panel discussion with JPMorgan subject matter experts in Compliance, Payment Innovation and Cyber Security covering the topic of “The Future of Global Payments: Compliance, Innovation & Cyber Security”. The main speakers at the luncheon are:

- Mr. Daniel White, EMEA Financial Crimes Compliance , JPMorgan Chase (London)
- Mr. Matt Loos, Head of Global Payments Innovation, JPMorgan Chase (New York)
- Mr. Kevin Jones, Head of Cybersecurity EMEA, JPMorgan Chase (London)



5. The 5th Middle East “Banking Forum” in Abu Dhabi

Mr. Adnan Yousif, the Chairman of the Association, along with the CEO Dr. Waheed Al Qassim participated in the 5th Middle East Banking Forum, hosted by the UAE Banks Federation (UBF) under the theme of “Harnessing the Forces of Global Disruption” in Abu Dhabi. Over 500 banking and finance leaders, experts and executives from the country and wider region.

The forum discussed the new technology used in banking, market trends, competition, and the challenges facing banking work during the coming period. It also discussed SMEs and their importance in the growth of the economy and job creation as well as improve the creditworthiness of small and medium enterprises, to encourage banks to lend.



6. Future of Finance | 25 November 2017



On 25 November 2017, Bahrain Association of Banks organized a Seminar about “Future of Finance”. The guest speaker at the seminar was Mr. Paul Smith, the President of “Chartered Financial Analyst” (CFA) Institute

He highlighted

1. Why Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matter to banks & financial institutions?
2. Should integration of ESG into investment polices be voluntarily permitted or effected by law and regulations?
3. Impact of ESG on the Credit Framework.

7. Committees update to BAB Board of Directors | 20 November 2017

On 21 November 2017, BAB Board of Directors had their 4th and last meeting for the year 2017. During the meeting, the board discussed BAB 2018 Budget and strategy. In addition, BAB Permanent Committees heads also gave a presentation and updates about their roadmap and accomplishments.



8. BAB Mentoring Program | 15 November 2017

BAB in cooperation with the University of Bahrain organized the first open meeting of "BAB Mentoring Program". Mr. Mohammed Al Mutaweh - CEO of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, shared with the students of Banking and Finance his story of success.



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