

Gateway Gulf to showcase projects worth \$26 billion

■ New global forum, Gateway Gulf, will bring together a select group of 500 global investors and CEOs to unlock opportunities across the GCC

Manama

The region's economic transformation and investment opportunities will be the highlight of the first Gateway Gulf in Bahrain this week under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB).

The event, which will take place from 8 to 10 May at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain Bay, brings together over 500 global investors and business leaders to explore ways of unlocking the opportunities being created by the economic transformation in the GCC. The event provides a direct route into accessing the GCC market by showcasing major regional investment-ready projects worth USD \$18 billion, with projects in the planning phase driving up the value of the project pipeline to USD \$26 billion. The event also offers an opportunity to match funding with large-scale infrastructure projects in Bahrain.

Bahrain is also fast-tracking substantial public and private sector investment projects worth over USD \$32 billion

across the manufacturing, logistics, infrastructure, healthcare, education, and tourism sectors, supporting the Kingdom's goal of long-term, sustainable economic growth.

Ahead of the event, Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive, Bahrain Economic Development Board, commented: "A key part of our role at the EDB is to talk to international investors and we have found that they are very excited about the potential to enter and expand in the Gulf market. However, they would like to know more about how to unlock those opportunities – which is why we have created Gateway Gulf."

The event will include high-level plenary sessions led by key business leaders across strategic growth sectors, including manufacturing, tourism, real estate, power, water and energy, and will address some of the key business issues currently facing the region as it opens up new investment opportunities to the private sector.

"Bahrain was the fastest growing economy in the GCC in 2017, a trend the IMF expects to continue into 2018. This strong growth momentum, paired with the Kingdom's strategic location, supportive and cost-



Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

effective business environment and talented workforce, offers international companies a powerful launch pad to access growth across the region," Khalid Al Rumaihi added.

Highlights of the event include a panel session titled 'Aligning Fiscal Policy with Economic Growth', which will discuss ways in which policy makers can meet the challenges of achieving economic growth and creating a sound fiscal policy. The session will feature Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance, Bahrain;

Dr. Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, Minister of Finance, Kuwait; Mohamed Boussaid, Minister of Economy and Finance, Morocco; Faisal bin Fadhil Alibrahim, Vice Minister of Economy & Planning, Saudi Arabia; and Michèle Lamarche, Lazard Frères.

Another panel session titled 'Unlocking the FDI Puzzle' will include speakers such as Stuart Jones, Bechtel; Anil Kumar, Ransat Group; Fadi Ghandour, Wamda Group & Aramex; Yusuf Ali, Lulu Group; Shaikh Dr. Meshaal bin Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, KDIPA; and Khalid Al Rumaihi, who will discuss efforts the GCC countries should undertake to enable investors to tap into the opportunities the region presents.

Other sessions at Gateway Gulf will shed light on Cloud Computing, FinTech, Blockchain, and Oil and Gas with a list of high-profile speakers including Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister of Commerce and Investment, Saudi Arabia; Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait; and Zayed Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Bahrain

■ The event will take place from 8 to 10 May at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain Bay

■ The event provides a direct route into accessing the GCC market by showcasing major investment-ready projects



InQvest Partners launched in Bahrain

Manama

Fintech Consortium announced the launch of its global fintech investment platform, InQvest Partners, which has also established a presence at Bahrain Fintech Bay, further committing to the Kingdom.

InQvest Partners will pursue investments and deploy capital through its debut investment vehicle, InQvest Fintech Holdings, as well as its US\$100 million Global Fintech Fund, which is backed by regional and international institutions and investor groups, including local institutional partners in Bahrain.

InQvest Partners, through Fintech Consortium's global presence in Singapore, New York and Bahrain, is focused on investing in fintech opportunities in the United States and Europe, as well as the fast-growing markets of South-East Asia and the GCC. It offers a unique proposition that would support its investments in financial technology and facilitates their growth and deployment across markets.

Gerben Visser, Founder of

Fintech Consortium and CEO of InQvest Partners said "We believe that InQvest Partners is very well positioned to leverage on the network, domain expertise and operational capabilities that FinTech Consortium has developed over recent years. Furthermore, we have been fortunate to work along-side bright, talented and driven FinTech entrepreneurs, assist them in the early stages of their growth journey, and through InQvest Partners to add growth capital to compliment those relationships is tremendously exciting and rewarding."

Maissan Al Maskati, Chairman of Fintech Consortium Bahrain and InQvest Partners said "We are pleased to make this announcement today and build on the success Fintech Consortium has had in supporting and nurturing fintech innovation. Through a dedicated and global fintech investment platform we will be able to further the offering of our hub network across North America, Asia and the Middle East, and accelerate fintech firms through their next phase of growth"

RUW honours competition winners



RUW Chairman with the winners

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal University for Women met with the winning team of Injaz Bahrain competition, in the category "Best Company" for universities, which was organized by Injaz Bahrain under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Injaz Bahrain. In addition, he met with the winning team of TradeQuest Challenge Which was organized by Bahrain Bourse in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Tourism, where the Royal University

of Bahrain won second place in this competition.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal University for Women, Fahad Al-Zamil, praised the girls' academic and professional excellence and the pioneering role played by the academic staff in preparing and training the students. "We are working at the Royal University for Women to provide our students with the necessary intellect, skills and knowledge to cope with various challenges, We have made this through the achievements of our students in all

forums, and we are fully confident that the students of the Royal University for Women have exceeded the concepts of excellence and leadership."

The President of the Royal University for Women, Professor Mazin Jumaa, expressed his pride for the students' victory in the competition. He said: "This achievement is an effective translation of the University's efforts in providing and developing the best ways of education, knowledge and abilities in the field of business administration and in the various majors taught by the University".