

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training received the Chairman of the BQA Board of Directors, the Chief Executive and the Organizing Committee of the 2017 INQAAHE Conference and the UNESCO Regional Meeting:

Our wise leadership that believes that the quality of education and training is the gateway to prosperity and development, has been the driving force behind the Bahrain's global notable status and reputation in the quality assurance in higher education.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training in the Kingdom of Bahrain received Mr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed Al Fadhel, the Chairman of the BQA Board of Directors, Dr. Jawaher Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive and the Authority's senior staff at his office in Al Qudaibiya Palace.

During the meeting, His Highness expressed his thanks and gratitude to the remarkable efforts of the Chairman of the Authority's Board of Directors, the Chief Executive and senior management. His Highness also praised the Authority's great efforts in organizing the 2017 INQAAHE Conference and its topics and themes. Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa stressed the importance of the benefit of such conferences and use of their outcomes as a platform to apply the best practices and plans to enhance the Authority's mandate to keep abreast with the world latest standards in higher education. On his part, Mr. Al Fadhel extended his sincere thanks to His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, for his continuous support and follow-up of the Authority's efforts in developing education and training sectors across the Kingdom of Bahrain. Dr. Al Mudhahki paid tribute to the Bahrain's wise leadership that has been the driving force behind the leading Reform Project, of which quality education and training has a substantial portion.



## Edixtorial

It is the happiness that engulfs us upon realizing our lofty aspirations for raising the flag of our beloved homeland. The visit of the Authority's delegation to His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training in the Kingdom of Bahrain, chaired by Mr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed Al Fadhel, the Chairman of the BQA Board of Directors, to thank His Highness for his patronage of the 2017 INQAAHE Conference and the UNESCO Regional Meeting in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Arab States that were held under His Highness auspices during the period from 28 February to 2 March 2017, was a moral boost to the Authority and its staff members to continue on the right path that has been shaped carefully and efficiently to be "the watchful eye" as quoted by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The words of praise and appreciation that have been given to the Authority and its staff members will continue to be an inspiration and a motive for us to exert more efforts in the field of quality of education and training so as the Kingdom of Bahrain will remain the leader in this field at the regional level and an effective member at the international level.

The support of the wise leadership to the Authority is highlighted in this Issue 4 of the "Q GATE". BQA is a leader in the field of quality of education and training. It has become a destination for many authorities and institutions operating in this field. This is to benefit and inspire from its national model of excellence and strength, which would not have been achieved had it not been for the vision of our wise leadership to make the quality education the first, second and third objective and goal. Quality education makes man, builds glory, and prospers the homeland.

## BQA Milestones

Since its establishment in 2008 pursuant to the Royal Decree No. 32 of 2008, and its reorganization by the Royal Decree No. 83 of 2012, the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) seeks to transfer its expertise in the field of quality assurance of education and training and qualifications frameworks to other institutions. BQA has qualified reviewers and specialists and applies several educational and training strategies that enable it to have access to and benefit from the successful experiences and models in this field regionally and internationally. It believes in the importance of improving the quality of the performance of all educational and training institutions across the

Kingdom, as well as sustaining the quality assurance through the provision of the best strategies that support the education and training sectors in the Kingdom to keep abreast with the latest developments in their work activities.

This interest has been clearly demonstrated by the BQA delegations, internal and external workshops, memorandums of understanding and cooperation with strategic partners and similar authorities since its establishment. Some 12 delegations were received to exchange experiences between the BQA and similar authorities from (Sultanate of Oman, Kurdistan, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen,

Qatar, Kuwait, Scotland, Malaysia, Russia, Britain and the Republic of Estonia), and a number of external workshops were organized as well.

As one of the first established education and training quality authorities in the region, BQA provided its experiences in the establishment and development of qualification frameworks to other authorities in the region such as the Omani Qualifications Framework, the Gulf Framework and the Saudi Qualifications Framework. In addition, BQA reviewers participated in reviewing several schools in the Republic of China because of their experience in this filed.

Signing of

6

MoUs with countries



Quality education and National Educations in Bahrain – Al Raa TV Programme



The Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) issued its eighth Annual Report 2016 under the theme: «Lifelong learning». The Annual Report highlighted the most important results and achievements of the reviewed education and training institutions, national examination and the National Qualifications Framework processes.



As part of the continuous training workshops, BQA represented by the Directorate of Private Schools and Kindergarten Reviews, organized a training workshop for six private schools that were judged «inadequate» to train them on how to fill out the Impact Statement Form with the participation of school principals, and a number of the Ministry of Education staff on Tuesday, 13 December 2016.



Marking the Accession Anniversary of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalif and the Kingdom's National Day, the Authority organized a celebration ceremony at the Authority's Headquarters in Seef District on Thursday, 15 December 2016 under the patronage of the BQA Chief Executive, Dr. Jawahar Shaheen Al Mudhahki



The BQA Chief Executive, Dr. Jawahar Shaheen Al Mudhahki chaired the periodic meeting of the Joint Executive Committee of the Unified National Examination System Plan to discuss the launching of the pilot phase of the 2018 Unified National Examinations for Grade 6 as scheduled. Present were representatives of the Ministry of Education under the chairmanship of Acting Undersecretary for Curriculum Affairs Dr. Fawzi Al-Jowder and a representative of the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Roy Blatchford.



In cooperation with the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, the Vocational Safety & Health Committee, BQA, organized a series of first aid training and awareness lectures for its staff members, delivered by Mr. Salah Salman Al-Bader, Head of the First Aid Committee of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, over two consecutive days on 26-25 December 2016.



On 5 December 2016, the Education & Training Quality Authority celebrated Bahrain Women's Day in conjunction with the Kingdom's celebrations on the occasion under the theme: «Women from Legal and Justice Perspective». The ceremony included a lecture delivered by Shura Council member, Advocate Dalal Jassim Al-Zayed titled «History of the Development of Women's Rights and their Role in Bahrain's Constitutional and Legal System.»



Dr. Jawahar Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive, received Dr. Fadil Habib, the Educational Advisor on Human Rights who presented her a copy of his book entitled "Guidebook on Women subjected to Domestic Violence."



On Thursday, 12 January 2017, Dr. Jawahar Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive, received an academic delegation from the Royal University for Women and West Virginia University, USA, headed by the President of the Royal University for Women, Prof. Mazen Juma. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the «National Qualifications Framework Projects» seminar organized by the General Directorate of the National Qualifications Framework, BQA.



Dr. Jawahar Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive, on Thursday, 12 January 2017, received HE Dr. Ahmad Shahizan Abdulsamad, the Malaysian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, on the occasion of the expiry of his tenure as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.



The NQF Advisory Committee, BQA, held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Jawaher Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive, on 12 January 2017. It recommended the listing of one vocational training institution, and placement of one academic programme offered by a higher education institution. The Committee also held its second meeting during 2017 and recommended that an academic programme of a higher education institution be placed on the NQF.



A seminar to get acquainted with the security and safety standards in the educational buildings was held by the Education & Training Quality Authority. The seminar was delivered by Captain Bassem Khalaf, Head of Hazardous Materials Section at the Directorate of Protection and Safety of the General Directorate of in the Civil Defense. It was attended by Dr. Jawaher Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive.



On Thursday, 12 January 2017, the «National Qualifications Framework Projects» seminar was organized by the General Directorate of the National Qualifications Framework, BQA. Present were representatives of educational and training institutions and a number of concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



The Board of Directors of the Education & Training Quality Authority held its first meeting for the year 2017, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed Al Fadhel, on Thursday, 9 March 2017. The Board of Directors approved the 26th set of review reports that was issued by the Authority on 5 April 2017 upon being accredited during the Development of Education and Training session chaired by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training.



The Social Committee, BQA, organized the «BQA Sports Day», under the patronage and participation of Dr. Jawaher Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive. The event was held under the directives of the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to mark the 7th of February as the Bahrain's Sports Day.



On 5 March 2017, the Education & Training Quality Authority conducted the fifth cycle of Grade 12 National Examinations for more than 10,000 students from 48 government and private secondary schools in the Kingdom. On 7 March 2017, the Authority's Chief Executive toured Al Noor International School to review Grade 12 National Examinations process. She also toured the National Marking Center, accompanied by Dr. Roy Blatchford, Education Advisor at the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, along with a number of the Authority's directors, the executive management members, and national examinations officials.



The Kingdom of Bahrain represented by the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) hosted the 2017 INQAAHE Conference and the UNESCO Regional Meeting in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the Arab States from 27 February to 2 March 2017.



The Documentary Film on the occasion of the 9th BQA Anniversary.



"In Brief" TV Programme interview with Dr. Jawaher Shaheen Al Mudhahki, BQA Chief Executive