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Local News

Bahrain-India Society to build stronger ties

By SOMAN BABY, Posted on » 11 December 2008

The newly-formed Bahrain-India Society (BIS) will be officially launched at a ceremony attended by Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa later this month.

Telecom technocrat Dr Sam Pitroda will be a guest of honour at the event, scheduled to be held at 8pm on December 21 at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa.

BIS was formed as a non-profit organisation recently by a group of leading Bahraini and Indian businessmen and community leaders with a view to contributing to the development and strengthening of the centuries-old friendly relationship between the two countries, said chairman Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

"Indians constitute the single largest expatriate community in Bahrain, and their current number is estimated at around 300,000."

Indian Ambassador Balkrishna Shetty is the patron of the society, which currently has 61 members, including the board of directors.

There is an increasing demand for new membership, said Mr Al Sho'ala.

Dr Pitroda is in Chicago, US, and is considered to have been responsible for India's communication revolution.

He is the chairman and chief executive officer of World-Tel Ltd, an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) initiative.

Dr Pitroda will speak on telecommunication related subjects.

The society, said Mr Al Sho'ala, has already received good response from the leadership and people of both countries.

"The society is confident to take the cordial and friendly relationship between our two countries to new heights at all levels," he said.

"We are natural partners, and we hope the new society will become an effective channel in creating even greater understanding between the two nations."

The objectives of the society, according to its constitution, are:

- * Forging closer ties of friendship and understanding between the peoples of Bahrain and India.
- * Promoting ties of co-operation between the two countries in the economic, cultural, sports and scientific fields, in conjunction with the relevant parties.
- * Developing ties of friendship and co-operation between the residents who are nationals of India and Bahrain in the social and cultural fields.
- * Arranging exchange of expertise and information in the cultural and social spheres.
- * Promoting the establishment of sister cities in Bahrain and India, and forging ties of co-operation and co-ordination between the educational institutions, scientific research institutes and training programmes in both countries.

The society aims to promote its objectives by the following methods:

- I Organising meetings, conferences and other events in the two countries, in coordination with the relevant parties.
- I Promoting the organisation of exhibitions and festivals in the two countries.
- I Organising exchange of visits to promote co-operation and understanding between the peoples of the two countries.



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