

BAHRAIN AND UAE AGREE JOBS PACT

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Ministry spokesman.

The agreement also provides for the co-operation of the two countries in training and human resource development and social affairs programmes.

Mr Al Sho'ala said that his five-day trip to the UAE was "fruitful and successful".

He said that UAE President Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan had pledged the full co-operation and support of the UAE to facilitate greater movement of nationals and the use of training and human resource de-

velopment facilities that Bahrain offers.

"I am gratified that the different rulers of the emirates have also extended similar support to the pact," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

Mr Al Sho'ala and his delegation yesterday met the rulers of Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman and Sharjah, Shaikh Saqr bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Shaikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi and Shaikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi respectively.

The pact will help provide more employment opportunities for nationals in both countries.

"We are extremely proud that about 3,500

Bahrainis live and work in the UAE, contributing to the impressive achievements of the country," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

The delegation also met Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Mr Al Sho'ala also praised the high level of social services extended in the UAE.

"We are extremely proud of the significant projects registered in the social welfare programme. We visited several centres and their experiences will be extremely useful for us in Bahrain," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala also commended the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other chambers in the UAE, who have agreed to extend their full co-operation for the success of the pact.

Mr Al Sho'ala said Bahrain's activities and efforts relating to labour and social affairs run parallel to the efforts exerted by other GCC states.

He returned to Bahrain last night and made a statement reiterating the views he had expressed on his visit to the UAE.

He will be travelling to Cairo tomorrow to attend a meeting of Arab labour ministers.

While in Cairo, he will take the opportunity to discuss the issues of bilateral relations further with Mr Al Jarwan, as well as with other GCC ministers of labour and social affairs.

A Bahrain Labour Ministry official said the UAE would play a major role in the First Arab Exhibition of Rehabilitation Centres and Productive Families Projects, which will be held in Bahrain in April. The event is being organised by the ministry and will include participants from 14 Arab countries.

Jobs pact agreed by Bahrain

By AMIRA AL HUSSAINI

MANAMA: Bahrain and the UAE agreed yesterday to a jobs and training pact designed to boost employment.

They signed an agreement yesterday for full co-operation in all fields relating to labour and social affairs between the two countries.

The move will allow for organising exchange programmes in training and jobs, as well as the chance for the two countries to study each other's experiences in social welfare.

It will also re-emphasise current efforts aimed at making Bahrain the region's training hub.

So far, a total of 3,500 Bahrainis work in the UAE.

The number is expected to rise once the agreement comes into full force.

Pleasure

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdunabi Al Sho'ala signed the agreement on behalf of Bahrain with UAE Labour and Social Affairs Minister Saif bin Ali Al Jarwan.

Mr Al Sho'ala, speaking to the *GDN* from Abu Dhabi, expressed his pleasure that such an agreement had been signed.

"I am happy that Bahrain and the UAE have agreed on full co-operation in the fields of labour, training and human resource development and social affairs," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala said the agreement would lead to the creation of more job opportunities for nationals in both countries and for the cross-border movement of labour.

Under the agreement, there will be exchange visits as well as exchange of information in all areas of activities between the two ministries, said a Labour

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