

# Training centre's role is praised by minister

● 18 workers are honoured at ceremony

By SOMAN BABY

THE Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) has become a significant organisation in the map of training in Bahrain, says Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

He said the institute was also a shining example of the Government's commitment to strengthening training and human resources development programmes.

Mr Al Sho'ala was speaking as chief guest at BTI's annual staff reception at the Sheraton Hotel.

He also presented awards to 18 BTI employees in recognition of their outstanding achievements for last year.

Mr Al Sho'ala pledged the continued support of the Government to BTI and praised the private sector's contributions to its development.

"The institute has many chal-



■ An employee receives her award from Mr Al Sho'ala, watched by Dr Al Mahdi, left, and Industrial Relation manager Omran Khayami

lenges ahead, and I am confident that the efficient BTI team can meet them with confidence," he said.

Mr Al Sho'ala congratulated the award winners, who represented every individual in the institute.

BTI director Dr Naji Al Mehdi thanked the Bahrain Government, the business community and the staff members for their continued support to the insti-

tute.

He said BTI last year won the direct recognition of the Business and Technology Education Council and the Personnel Development Institute, both based in Britain.

On the institute's training achievements, Dr Al Mahdi said a total of 5,417 people, both from job-seekers and people at work, were trained last year.

"It represented 1.5 million participant hours. The number of applicants for full time programme exceeded the 3,000 mark," he said.

"This reflects the confidence of the business community and the industries in our training programmes. Some of the trainees were employed by the industries even before they were graduated."

"This year, we look forward to training 5,500 people, in 1.6m hours. This will be in addition to a number of short training programmes for job-seekers."

Dr Al Mahdi said the number of Bahraini staff at BTI had increased from 50 to more than 60 per cent in one year.

"This has been the result of an intensive staff training programme, with the number of training hours increasing to 20,000 from 12,000," he said.

"We have also developed a new five-year training strategy, based on the concept that BTI is a service organisation committed to serving the people of Bahrain."

Award winners: Abdul Ghalfer Abdulla, Abdul Jalil Al Qubalti, Abdulla Ahmed, Ahmed Mirza Abdulla Al Hayki, Ali Al Madh, Ali Mirza Nohammad, Ashraf Zaier, Bazim Al Bahane, Fadhel Badow, Hameed Saleh, Jaime Dizon, Jim Hibbits, Majed Hassan, Mohammed Ibrahim Al Mubarak, Nadia Sayed Mohammed Sayed Baqer, Phillip Kallenou, Raj Rodrigues, Rajalakshmi Hebsur, Ronald Bendanio, Sara Al Shehahi, Sayyed Jameel Sayyed Kadhim, Tawfiq Rajabi, Terry Dewis and Zakareya Ibrahim Al Kadhim.