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# Committees hold talks on workforce

TWO committees consisting of employers from the private sector met for the first time at the Employment Services Bureau (ESB) premises in Isa Town, yesterday.

The meeting was aimed at offering solutions to the main challenges of developing Bahrain's workforce and maximising opportunities for job seekers.

The formation of the committee was a direct result of two symposia held between private sector employers and Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala earlier this year.

Designed to give employers a say on how to deal with maximising work and training opportunities for Bahrainis, the symposia were hailed as successes and led to the direct involvement of employers in finding a mutually acceptable plan of action.

"I'm delighted to see private sector employers showing such commitment to developing the workforce of Bahrain," said

Mr Al Sho'ala.

"Working together in this way, we can help the nation's development and lead other Gulf States by our example."

The two committees will work on four major issues identified by employers as being key factors in helping the workforce.

The first committee chaired by Bharat Jashanmal will look at improving attitudes and human resource management processes. The second committee chaired by Mazen Al Umran will evaluate the labour law interpretation and look at Bahrainisation.

Mr Al Sho'ala said he was willing to be flexible with the private sector on these issues, by actively encouraging the participation of employers and would listen to any ideas for a workable solution.

Draft proposals are expected to be submitted to an overall group by the end of September with a view to presenting these to the minister on October 26, this year.

Volunteers taking part in the committees are Abdul Hussain Faraj, Abdulla Al Ansari, Ahmed Al Dain, Shukri Qarooni, Stephen Ide, Maurice Burke, Bharat Jashanmal, Mohammed Janahi, Tariq Al Saffar, Peter Hansen, Chris Jenkins, Adel Mattar, Sylvia Burdon, Afnan Al Zayani, Aqeel Raees, Mohammed Mansour, Yousif Awadi, Ali Birch, Jan Byland, Mohammed Hasani, Aziz Juma, Zeenat Dawani, Mazen Al Umran, Siddarth, Kishore Mathur, Samir Engineer and Ismail Kazerooni.

Bahrain Credit general manager Ali Birch said he had no idea such a modern facility was available at the ministry.

"The ESB will certainly make the recruitment of Bahrainis easier for our company in the future," he said.

The ESB, which was opened by the Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman Al Khalifa on July 23, last year, celebrates its first anniversary this month.