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'Give 2000 young trainees a chance'

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THE Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are urging private sector employers to take on 2,000 young Bahraini trainees as part of a planned training scheme aiming to provide work for secondary school leavers.

Representatives from banks and businesses in Bahrain attended a meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Labour, held under the patronage of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Abdul Nabi Al Shorafa to hear more about the planned Employment and Training Scheme. The project for Bahraini job-seekers entering

the labour market is aimed at filling a gap in the training field for secondary school leavers or those who dropped out of education before the secondary school level.

A study by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs shows that demand for employment and training by school-leavers currently outstrips the number of places available and the situation is set to worsen over the next four years unless action is taken.

In a presentation at the meeting, Director of BTI Dr Naji Ahmed Al-Mahdi highlighted the need for a training scheme in the private sector targeting school leavers in Bahrain. He

said that every year 6,000 students leave school and 3,500 of these are seeking jobs with little knowledge or practical skills to offer employers.

He added that statistics also show that during the coming four years a total of around 32,200 school leavers will be looking for employment and there are simply not enough places open to the young job-seekers.

"There is an urgent need for an additional 2,000 training opportunities for secondary school leavers and another 1,500 places for those who abandoned school education before the secondary level," said Dr Al-Mahdi.