

Bahrain geared to

● Top training institutes are supported

BAHRAIN is committed to preparing its youth to meet the requirements of the labour market.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala said this would be done by providing them with quality training.

He reiterated the ministry's support to international training institutions, which are based in Bahrain to prepare young nationals for long term careers.

Mr Al Sho'ala was speaking at the CareerCraft Bahrain's second "Passport to Work" Open Day celebration at the Bahrain Training Institute (BTI), in Isa Town.

The celebration was aimed at introducing trainees, who have completed the "Passport to Work" training programmes, to potential employers in Bahrain. Mr Al Sho'ala praised the role of CareerCraft Bahrain in improving the skills of young nationals already at work and of those who were seeking jobs.

By SOMAN BABY

"As specialists in career designs, the company is helping young nationals develop fulfilling long term careers in local companies," he said.

"I am happy to note that CareerCraft's objective is to place young Bahrainis in jobs where they can work to their full potential.

"Our ministry is committed to supporting the work of such international training institutions."

Mr Al Sho'ala welcomed the visiting Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Azerbaijan Republic Ilgar Ragimov Elkhan Oglu, who also attended the celebration.

Mr Oglu, in his speech, praised the progress achieved by Bahrain and expressed the desire of his country, a newly independent state of former

Soviet Union, to enhance economic and social ties with Bahrain.

He also hailed the effective steps taken by Bahrain's Labour and Social Affairs Ministry to establish the country as a regional centre for training and human resources development.

BTI director Dr Naji Al Mahdi said the BTI and CareerCraft teams had been working closely since the birth of the Passport to Work programme in Bahrain in May this year.

"We have already placed 50 people successfully into career positions and have another 75, who are currently undergoing our very strict, but very successful screening and selection procedure," he said.

Dr Al Mahdi attributed "this early success" to the support of the Labour and Social Affairs Minister,

demands of market



■ Mr Al Sho'ala, fifth from left and Mr Oglu, third from left, with Assistant Under Secretary for Labour Affairs Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, right, Dr Al Mahdi, left and other officials

the instructors, the private sector and the trainees themselves.

"BTI aspires to be a high profile, model organisation in the training and in the establishment

of training standards in the Gulf region," he said.

"An important aspect of its philosophy is its commitment to provide quality training that is

highly client-oriented through the creation of the appropriate environment to nurture excellence."

Passport to Work manager

Karen Dove said the Open Day celebration was aimed at helping the trainees show their projects to potential employers.

"It also helps them to understand the employers' needs and to demonstrate what is required in a good employee," she said.

CareerCraft Bahrain general manager Keith Hodgkinson said his institution had prepared a profile of successful trainees.

Titled High performance people, the profile will be sent every two weeks to companies in Bahrain who want to recruit

young nationals to various positions. Meanwhile, Mr Al Sho'ala yesterday held talks with Mr Oglu.

At the talks, Mr Al Sho'ala stressed the importance of exchanging visits among officials in both countries in order to boost bilateral, social, and labour relations.

A round of talks was also held yesterday at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry between the Chamber's President Ali bin Yousif Fakhro and Mr Oglu.