

Bahrain to promote role as Gulf training hub

By SOMAN BABY

MANAMA: Bahrain's training facilities are to be aggressively marketed at a major international conference and exhibition, scheduled for early next month in Egypt.

The high-level delegation from Bahrain, estimated to comprise between 30 and 50 members, will be led by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdunabi Al Sho'ala.

The conference and exhibition are being organised from November 4 to 7 by the International Federation for Training and Development Organisations (IFTDO), the largest international forum of organisations involved in training and development projects.

The US-based organisation holds its annual conferences in different countries.

"This is the first time IFTDO is coming to the Middle East," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

"Next year's conference will be held in Dublin.

"We have invited IFTDO to hold its 1999 conference and exhibition in Bahrain." He said Bahrain's delegation

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would be the single largest group from any Arab country, outside Egypt.

"This reflects the importance given by Bahrain to issues related to training and human resources development," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

"Besides marketing our training facilities, the conference and



■ **Mr Al Sho'ala** exhibition will also be used to introduce the incentives being provided by the Bahrain Government to international training institutions of proven track record."

He said the Bahrain stand at the exhibition would feature various training institutions from Bahrain, which would demonstrate their facilities and strategy for human resources development.

More than 2,000 delegates, representing top training institutions from around the world, will take part in the conference and exhibition in Cairo.

Mr Al Sho'ala will be one of the keynote speakers at the opening session.

Bahrain's delegates will include the officials of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, Bahrain Promotions and Marketing Board (BPMB), Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bahrain Society for Training and Development (BSTD), specific councils for vocational training, private sector training institutions and companies which have established their own training centres.