

ILO plans to boost Bahraini skills

By SOMAN BABY

A SCHEME to improve Bahraini skills is to be launched by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The scheme will help Bahrainis to become successful entrepreneurs and consolidate the country's status as the regional centre for training in human resources development.

A three-member delegation from the world body has just left Bahrain after a five-day visit, which they made at the invitation of Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdunabi Al Sho'ala.

Nabil Khoury, regional director based at ILO's regional office in Beirut, Anthony Twigger, vocational training specialist, and Martin Clemensson, consultant from Geneva, held talks with Mr Al Sho'ala, officials of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other organisations.

They reviewed the employment and training opportunities being provided for Bahraini nation-

als and also discussed schemes related to self-employment.

Mr Khoury said the efforts of the Government in providing training facilities for Bahraini nationals were commendable.

"Notwithstanding these efforts which have largely been successful, the need to address the evolving trends and plan for the future is imperative," he said.

The team presented a report to the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry.

The project, which is expected to begin next year, will focus on three main areas:

- Labour market research and analysis, with compilation of statistics.
- Implementation of training programmes which will upgrade the skills of Bahraini workers.
- Schemes which will help Bahrainis to become

successful entrepreneurs.

Mr Al Sho'ala said the observations made by the ILO experts were encouraging.

"While the importance of training and human resources development has been realised, the current drive of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry is to improve the quality of the programmes and to cover areas that have hitherto not been included," he said.

"The experts were of the view that Bahrain is best suited to be the regional centre for training and human resources development."

Mr Al Sho'ala launched a major marketing programme at a seminar hosted by his ministry at the Diplomat Hotel last week.

The programme envisages projecting the image of Bahrain as a centre of excellence and as the regional centre for training and human resources development, in addition to being an international base for banking, finance, insurance, trade and commerce.