

Bahrain

World training base plan

● Expo highlights Bahrain facilities

BAHRAIN is attracting interest as a potential base for training and educational institutions from around the world.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, who has just returned from Basel, Switzerland, where he led a delegation to an international exhibition.

He said the response from training institutes of global reputation was encouraging.

The exhibition, organised by Worlddidac, a professional organisation based in Berne, Switzerland, brought together almost all the major names in the field of training and education

the world over.

These included manufacturers of training tools and equipment and institutes providing training systems, programmes and courses.

"We utilised the opportunity to highlight the various facilities and incentives being provided by the Bahrain Government to international training institutes and companies serious about setting up their activities in Bahrain," said Mr Al Sho'ala.

"A number of organisations have expressed their willingness to set up their base in Bahrain and serve the needs of the entire region.

"In addition, the occasion was utilised to invite the participation of international companies at the Middle East Training and Educational Exhibition, scheduled to be held in Bahrain in 1998."

Mr Al Sho'ala hosted a reception at the Basel Hilton, which was attended by chief executives and top officials of Worlddidac and major interna-

tional companies involved in training.

In his speech at the reception, Mr Al Sho'ala outlined the pioneering role played by Bahrain in education and human resources development.

The event included a presentation by Bahrain Training Institute director Dr Naji Al Mahdi, detailing the training programmes and facilities currently available and the existing opportunities for international companies to promote their institutions on a commercial basis in Bahrain.

Bahrain Promotions and Marketing Board chief executive Jack Bennett also gave a presentation in which he highlighted the various incentives and

facilities being provided for investors.

He spoke about the country's sound infrastructure and its status as a centre of excellence.

Other members of the delegation included Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the UN Mission in Geneva Ahmed Al Haddad, Assistant Under-Secretary for Planning and Training Abdulrahman Zayani, head of civil engineering at Bahrain University Mohammed Syed, chairman of Arabian Exhibition Management Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and CareerCraft director Alan Miles.

Mr Al Sho'ala said several companies were likely to send their representatives to Bahrain soon to conduct feasibility studies and determine the market potential and their areas of involvement.

BD10m mall set for gala opening

AL A'ALI Complex merchants received their store keys last night after the contractor officially turned over the BD10 million centre to its owner.

Hundreds of shopkeepers and invited guests attended the gala reception inside the complex, to mark its completion.

The 29,000-square-metre complex, on the King Faisal Highway in Seef, between the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre and Le Royal Meridien Hotel, is the second largest shopping centre in Bahrain.

Contractor GP Zachariades presented the mall to Haji Hassan Trading & Contracting Company chairman Haji Hassan Al A'ali.

Complex manager Tahani Al A'ali said the 100 store merchants would now begin fitting their shops.

"Each merchant will submit

his shopfront plans to our architects to be sure there are no design conflicts or obstructions," said Miss A'ali.

She said all 100 confirmed occupants had indicated they would be ready for the complex's grand opening scheduled for September 1.

"More than 80 per cent of the complex's retail space has now been rented and we expect more leases to be signed during the next couple of months," said Miss A'ali.

The Al A'ali Complex will be the second of Bahrain's three new shopping malls to open this year.

The 28,000-square-metre General Organisation for Social Insurance centre, in Exhibition Avenue, staged its soft opening last month.

The 30,000-square-metre Seef Mall is scheduled to open in December.



■ RECEPTION ... At the reception are Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, third from left, Information Under-Secretary Abdul Hassan Ibrahim, second from left, Assistant Under-Secretary for Tourism Khadem Rajab, right, Mr Al A'ali, fourth from right, Ms Tahani, third from right, Adil A'Ali, second from right, Mr Zachariades, fourth from left, and Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait director Murad Ali Murad



The ultimate family shopping experience