

'Making a difference'

BCICAI hosts 12th Annual International Conference

- The conference was held on a virtual platform
- The event was inaugurated by a host of dignitaries which included India's Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava

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The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) hosted its 12th Annual International Conference held under the patronage of Zayed bin Rashid Alzayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The conference which was held on a virtual platform was attended by more than 350 members from different parts of the world.

The event was inaugurated by a host of dignitaries which included India's Ambassador to Bahrain Piyush Srivastava, Hasan Alghannami, Representative of the Minister Zayed R. Alzayani, Jamal Fakhro, Managing Partner of KPMG Bahrain, CA Anil Gupta, President ICAT, Abbas Al Radhi, Chairman of Bahrain Accountants Association (BAA) and CA Nihar Jambusaria, Vice President of ICAL.

Speaking at the inaugural session Ajay Kumar Chetwani, Chairperson of BCICAI talked about the theme of the Conference "Making a Difference" and how it is a powerful mantra capable of helping to achieve things which bring about a



Participants during the conference

positive impact to everything around us.

Piyush Srivastava highlighted the strong bilateral ties between India and Bahrain which provides immense potential to grow economic cooperation in various sectors such as Health, Pharmaceuticals, IT, Fintech, Energy, Infrastructure among others.

Al Ghannami stressed on how Difference is being made by the Bahrain Government through

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introduction of various incentives and economic relief programmes by which the economy is protected by restoring confidence, stimulating investment, and keeping people employed, with the ultimate goal of achieving sustained business and economic health and social well-being.

Fakhro emphasised on how Making a Difference mindset will enable one to look at the opportunities which are also being created even during this Pandemic especially the technological possibilities, the enhanced role of women and focus on productivity.

Gupta highlighted the key role of Indian Chartered Accountants are playing in various organisations in Bahrain and offered support of ICAT in any Bahraini initiative including setting up of any oversight Board or helping with capacity building using state of art training facilities of ICAL.

Al Radhi praised the close

cooperation between BAA and BCICAI which has over the years manifested in high-quality events benefitting the accounting professionals in Bahrain. Jambusaria noted how Accountants should let go of the fear of technology but use its power to deliver on the sustainability goals set by the United Nations.

The conference covered a range of technical, motivational and inspirational topics which were covered by seven eminent speakers which included Viswathan Anand (Five-time World Chess Champion), TN Manoharan (Past President of ICAT and Ex-Chairman of Canara Bank), Aruchalam Murugandam (Social Entrepreneur), Social Worker Dr Malvika Iyer (Bilateral amputee and social worker), Dr Arjun Vaidya (CEO of Dr Vaidya's New Age Ayurveda), Richard Threlfall (Partner, KPMG International) and Gaurav Jain (Executive Director, Grant Thornton India).

Alba, HJJ in deal to explore upstream opportunities

- The virtual signing ceremony was held in November 2020

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Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), the world's largest aluminium smelter ex-China, announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hangzhou Jinjiang Group Co. Ltd (HJJ), a leading alumina producer with an annual nameplate capacity of 10 million tonnes in China.

The virtual signing ceremony - held in November 2020 - was attended by Alba's Chairman of the Board Shaikh Dajj bin Salman bin Dajj Al Khalifa, the Owner of HJJ Dou Zhenggang and the Company's Chairman Madam Wang Yuanlao in the presence of Alba CEO Ali Al Saqqali and other top officials from Alba and HJJ.



Alba's Chairman Shaikh Dajj bin Salman bin Dajj Al Khalifa, the Owner of HJJ Dou Zhenggang and the Company's Chairman Madam Wang Yuanlao in the presence of Alba CEO Ali Al Saqqali and other top officials from Alba and HJJ signed the deal

The MoU serves as a framework to form a strategic potential collaboration between both entities in terms of securing Al-

ba's alumina requirements.

Alba's Chairman of the Board Shaikh Dajj bin Salman bin Dajj Al Khalifa said: "This Memorandum of Understanding translates Company's strategy to have a vertically integrated business model as well as partially hedge against Alumina price volatility and supply constraints."

"We are also excited to explore more avenues for collaboration with HJJ which will further consolidate Alba's status as one of the world's leading aluminium producers."

The Chairman of Hangzhou Jinjiang Group Co. Ltd Madam Wang Yuanlao added: "This MoU represents the first and important step for Aluminium Bahrain and Hangzhou Jinjiang Group as they commence a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

The MoU will remain in effect for three years and can be extended based upon mutual agreement amongst both parties.

Al Salam Bank launches 'Ladies Card' promotional campaign

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In celebration of Bahraini Women's Day, Al Salam Bank has launched a 'Ladies Card' promotional campaign exclusive to the bank's new and existing female customers that hold Al Salam credit and prepaid cards.

The campaign offers opportunities to win valuable prizes between 1st of December and 31st March 2021.

The Ladies Card promotional campaign features three different high-end prizes, including a 31mm Rolex watch, a Bvlgari bracelet, and a necklace from Al Zain Jewellery. Ladies that are currently Al Salam Bank customers will be eligible to qualify for the promotional campaign draws when conducting purchase transactions via both prepaid cards and credit cards issued by Al Salam Bank.

Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank, said the promotional campaign is for female customers who hold either prepaid cards, Gold, Platinum, Signature, and Infinite credit cards.

The campaign follows the existing promotional campaigns which are currently on credit and prepaid cards until the end of December, which offer the opportunity to win three cash prizes of US \$10,000, alongside a grand



Mohammed Buhijji, Head of Retail Banking at Al Salam Bank

prize of a half Kilogram of gold.

Al Salam Bank's female customers who hold prepaid and credit cards are eligible to enter the raffle draw on a 31mm Women's Rolex watch when spending BHD 2,000 per month for three months, an equivalent amount of \$0-6,000 by 31 March 2021. As for the draw on the Bvlgari bracelet, total monthly purchases to be eligible to enter the draw on Al Zain Jewellery's necklace, the spend required is BHD 500 per month for 3 months, reaching a total of BHD 1,500 by the end of the promotional period on March 2021.

Top honour for ABG's Dr Wajeeda Awadh

Becomes first Bahraini woman to receive a PhD in FinTech domain



Dr Awadh's studies were sponsored by Al Baraka Banking Group. Above, Dr Awadh during an honouring ceremony

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Al Baraka Banking Group's (ABG) Dr Wajeeda Awadh, the Section Head of Digital Banking and FinTech at the Group Headquarters, has become the first Bahraini woman to receive a PhD in the FinTech domain.

Dr Awadh, whose studies were sponsored by Al Baraka Banking Group, received her PhD in Management with a research focus on FinTech from Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation in Malaysia.

Commenting, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, President & Chief Executive at ABG, said, "Digital transformation is at the heart of what we do and we're extremely proud to have dedicated experts like Dr Wajeeda Awadh helping to drive and

further accelerate our digital journey."

The Head of IT & Senior Vice President, Ahmed Alballooshi, stated, "Wajeeda is a young and highly motivated individual with a thirst for knowledge and has set the bar high for all young members in the Group."

In addition to her role at ABG, Dr Awadh also lends her digital expertise, acting as an external expert to several universities advising on their FinTech courses. Previously, she also served as Head of the Bahrain TechAwards in 2019, which took place in Dubai, and was a member of Women in FinTech Bahrain (WIFBH), an initiative of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, aimed at promoting the sector and the role of women within it.