

# The Meridian Series

26<sup>th</sup>

2013  
September

## Innovation and Development: *The Role of Human Capital*

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The Meridian Series presents a professional and informative seminar; highlighting and discussing the importance of 'human capital' in relation to socio-economic innovation and development in today's world.

### Hosted by :

Professor Amer Al Roubaie.  
Professor Abbas J. Ali  
Dr. Mansoor Al'Aali

### Venue

Golden Tulip Hotel , Bahrain  
08:00 - 14:00

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[www.themeridianseries.com](http://www.themeridianseries.com)



\* Pre-Application Required

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## ***WHAT IS THE MERIDIAN SERIES?***

The Meridian Series encompasses a new and innovative group of professional conferences and seminars that are due to take place in Bahrain within the following months. The Meridian Series focuses on providing Bahraini individuals with the chance to attend professionally hosted and organized conferences and seminars in Bahrain, that are lead and hosted by some of the worlds' most established and renowned Professor's and Academicians.

The Meridian Series, which is organized and managed by SALT [SALTid.com] seeks to provide the highest levels of quality, professionalism and competence to its delegates and attendees.

### Innovation

Innovation is a key driver of knowledge creation and economic growth. It empowers individuals, groups and organizations to find solutions to social and economic challenges. In Bahrain, as well as in the rest of the Gulf countries, job creation, economic diversification and the act of inventing new products and services are increasingly seen as vital for the future development of the region. Policymakers seek to ensure that national economies benefit from the information revolution by building capacity for the creation of new ideas, technologies, organizational know-how and innovation. Ideas, knowledge and information are exchanged, utilized and disseminated through modern technologies to empower domestic enterprises and national economies. In recent years, the increasing focus on knowledge has encouraged public and private institutions to invest in the development of new products and new technologies to gain competitive advantage and sustain economic growth.

The objective of this seminar is to highlight the importance of innovation and human capital development in the new economy. We are truly confident that this seminar will have a profound impact on the way in which people think about their future contribution to social and economic development and also to the way enterprises think about investing in new ideas and new methods to increase productivity and enhance competition. The seminar is to stimulate our creative thinking and enhance our capabilities to contribute to the growth and development of the Bahraini economy.



**“ INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT:  
THE CASE OF GCC COUNTRIES**

Prof. Amer Al Rubaie

## Program Outline

Innovation has been a key driver behind rapid socio-economic transformation in many countries. Due to the rise of globalization and advancement in information and communication technologies (ICTs), support for innovation as an important enabler for stimulating economic growth, increasing productivity and creating jobs has been strengthened. In Western countries, innovation accounts for about 80% of productivity growth which in turn induces the ability of the economy to create wealth and sustain development. In the new knowledge-based economy, innovation is one of the important pillars which need to be implemented if growth has to be realized. Thus endorsing rapid economic change and sustaining development requires nations to build capacity for innovation by investing in education, research and development, science and technology and human capital. Innovation is about new ideas and creative thinking which entails collective efforts by key players including individuals, enterprises and states. In the Gulf countries, as well as in the rest of the Arab world, readiness for innovation is still low to induce rapid modernization and reduce global dependency.

## Objective of the Event

- To highlights the importance of innovation in view of the current development in Bahrain.
- To increase participants awareness about modern economic growth by focusing on the creation of new ideas and promoting innovation.
- To acknowledge the role of education and other research centers in research and development.
- To encouraged young people taking part in creativity and generating new ideas.
- To shed some light on the role that the state plays in promoting innovation.
- To increase awareness about the importance of science and technology in development.
- To highlight the importance of innovation in solving local problems including water management, environmental risk, food production, population growth and energy growth.
- To emphasize the need for innovation in implanting Bahrain Vision 2030.
- To show the contribution of global collaboration and international exchange to innovation.
- To highlight the role that Information and communication technologies (ICTs) play in building capacity for innovation



**INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT:  
The Role of Talent Management**



Prof. Abbas J. Ali

Abbas J. Ali is Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Management and Director School of International Management, Eberly college of Business, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His current research interests include strategy and international management. He has published more than 160 scholarly journal articles and fifteen book chapters. He has authored seven books, including, Strategic Management: Concepts and Cases, Pearson Education (2011), Islamic Perspectives on Management and Organization, Edward Elgar (2005) and Business and Management Environment in Saudi Arabia (2008), Routledge. He serves as editor of the International Journal of Commerce and Management (Emerald Group), Advances in Competitiveness Research, Competitiveness Review (Emerald Group), and Competition Forum. Ali serves on the editorial board of more than 12 professional journals. His editorial opinion and political commentaries appear in various newspapers and electronic media outlets in several countries. He has conducted training workshops for senior managers and employees in several countries.

## Program Outline

- Identifying talent trends in the Region
- Identifying existing talent
- Identifying practical strategies for effective cultivation and nurturing of human capital in the region
- Addressing and identifying areas that underpin growth and productivity
- Identifying strategies for effective management of talent that improve performance and business effectiveness, and ultimately sustain business success.
- Understanding the nature of competition in today's global market and how to utilize talent to position local organization to compete effectively in the Gulf region and beyond.

## Objective of the Event

- Redefining the skills and capabilities required of human-resources for today's development and growth
- The Meaning and Importance of Talent Management
- What Talent Management Bring to the Region
- Drivers of Talent Management in the Region
- Global Talent Trends
- Family Business and Competition for Talent
- How to address the growing talent shortage
- Unlocking the talent
- How to attract talent
- How to retain talent
- Assessing talent



***Building the IT Professionals  
for the IT Job Markets***



Dr. Mansoor Alaali

Dr. Mansoor Alaali is currently holding the position of the Dean of Student Affairs, Ahlia University, Kingdom of Bahrain. He obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Aston in Birmingham, U.K. He taught Computer Science and Information Technology courses at the University of Bahrain for over 20 years. Dr. Alaali is a leading IT consultant in Bahrain. He has developed solutions to a number of major commercial and technical systems from 1989 till date. His consultancy roles included the analysis, design and overall management of major Information Systems. Dr. Alaali also acted as a consultant for the recruitment of senior IT professionals for a number of companies. Dr. Alaali has numerous publications in the form of books, book chapters and research papers which appeared in a number of international conferences and refereed journals.

## Program Outline

- Definition of the dynamic software technology.
- Available variety of the IT job domains.
- The qualities of the IT innovator.
- Required technical & business knowledge innovations of Software Technology Products.
- IT Organizations & Individuals IT Innovation techniques.
- Research conducted by IT Professionals.
- The IT professional interview.
- IT professional certifications.
- Up-to-date IT jobs.
- The characteristics of the Software entrepreneur.

## Objective of the Event

- Define the dynamic software technology.
- Learn about the variety of the IT job domains.
- Learn about the qualities of the IT innovator.
- Gain an insight into the technical & business knowledge innovations of Software Technology Products.
- How Can IT Organizations & Individuals Learn about IT Innovation.
- How can IT Professionals Conduct IT Research.
- Learn about the IT professional interview.
- Why IT professional must get IT professional certifications.
- What are the up-to-date IT jobs.

## **Program & Registration Details**

|          |                                                        |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 AM | Registration                                           |
| 08:45 AM | Morning Tea                                            |
| 09:00 AM | Keynote Speaker (Prof. Allam Ahmed, President of WASD) |
| 09:10 AM | Honoring Ceremony                                      |
| 09:15 AM | Session 1 (Prof. Amer Al-Roubaie)                      |
| 10:40 AM | Session 2 (Prof. Abbas J. Ali)                         |
| 12:00 PM | Coffee /Tea break                                      |
| 12:30 PM | Session 3 (Dr. Mansoor Al Aali)                        |
| 14:00 PM | Panel Discussion                                       |
| 14:30 PM | Lunch                                                  |

**Cost:**  
**BD 375**

### **Confirmation Details**

Confirmation of attendance will be based on the received and complete paperwork. This includes official application form, CPR copy and letter of confirmation.

### **Cancellation / Substitutions**

No cancellation will be allowed once a registration form is received. However, substitution is allowed. Please contact the organiser via phone or email for more information.

### **Account Transfer Details**

All Cheques / Bank Drafts must be made payable to " Salt Advertising " crossed and marked "A/C payee only"

### **Contact us**

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### **Benefits for the Participant:**

- Understanding innovation and its multi-disciplinary dimensions.
- Explaining why we in this part of the world should support innovation.
- Developing overall awareness of the importance of innovation.
- Understanding the ingredients that influence innovation.
- Highlighting the role of enterprises in promoting innovation.
- Understanding the role of education in promoting innovation.