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eGovernment Excellence Award Jury ends Evaluation Process of Over 200 eProjects

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – 22nd March, 2014 - Under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology, the organizing committee of the eGovernment Excellence Award 2014 announced that the jury has finalized the evaluation of entries for this year's awarding event as part of the eGovernment Excellence Award.

The organizing committee provided insights about the growing number of entries for this year's award compared to the past years. Participants submitted over 204 eProjects under the banner of three sectors – Government, Multi-Sector and NGOs. It also highlighted the jury's commitment to standards of transparency and the internationally-accepted good practices.

The jury committee of this 7th year ceremony is composed of highly-experienced international, and local members in the ICT field. The diversity of their areas of specialization are perfectly aligned with change of requirements in the awards' categories following the addition of three new categories this year - Best Application for Smart Devices, eEntrepreneur and eParticipation Awards.

The jury consists of seven members, chaired by Danish Technological Institute Senior Consultant and UK-based Brunel University Associate Research Fellow Jeremy Millard who possess more than four decades of experience in the use of technology in the organization development.

Jury members include National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance for Education and Training in Bahrain Senior Director Dr. Mohammed Baqer - representing Education sector; VIVA Bahrain Online Marketing Executive Mr. Mohammed Zainal - representing Telecommunication sector; University of Bahrain IT College Dr. Hayat Ali - representing Academic sector; Bahrain Airport Co. (BAC) ICT Manager Mr. Mohammed Abosaif - representing Private Sector; Alba Information Record IT Manager Mr. Esam Hadi - and Ibdar Bank IT Head Mr. Syed Azhar representing the NGOs sector.

The committee focused on investigating and evaluating the registered projects to identify the winners. Disqualified participants also benefitted from the committee's individual reports which comprised remarks and instructions given by the committee members to assist them in developing and improving their projects. The evaluation feedback in presenting suggestions would progress and enlighten participants to take into consideration. The award is primarily designed to enhance the concept of governance and transfer



information in order to ensure that services are optimally offered for the general public.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak AlKhalifa, Deputy Prime Minister will honor the winners during the official opening of the Bahrain International eGovernment Forum events with expected presence of over 700 attendees.

This year's eGovernment Excellence Award is divided into three sectors. The Government sector includes six categories - Best eContent, Best eService, Best eProject, Best Application for Smart Devices, eParticipation and eEconomy. The Multi-sectors includes four categories - Best Application for Smart Devices, eEconomy, eEntrepreneur, eNGO. The Citizen category includes one - Best eConcept. The Citizen selection will be made, based more on effective participation and number of the highest value of transactions conducted on the eGovernment portal during one year.

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Photo Caption:

- Group photo of jury members of Bahrain eGovernment Excellence award 2014

About eGovernment Authority:

The eGovernment Authority (eGA) was established in August 2007 by Royal Decree No (69). Reporting to the Cabinet, the eGA is responsible for coordinating and executing eGovernment initiatives in line with the strategies, plans, and programs set by the Supreme Council for Information Communication Technology (SCICT), headed by H.H. Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The eGA's role entails everything from proposing overall policies and appropriate legislations to the SCICT for approval to overseeing the execution of the approved SCICT programs. This includes suggesting required IT programs, facilitating communications and services between all government entities, opening new eChannels for eGovernment services, and offering technical and knowledge-based support to the ministries and other government entities.

Currently, the eGA is working on executing the plans contained within Bahrain's eGovernment strategy to achieve the ambitious Bahraini initiatives, it offers over 300 governmental services electronically via various communication channels within 3 years to all citizens, residents, and businesses of Bahrain.

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