Al Khaja: The award became a Knowledge program that copes with the methodologies of Bahrain Center for Excellence

More than 100 Projects are Evaluated in eGovernment Excellence Award

Jury Chairman "Participating projects of the public sector reflect apparent progress compared to last year"

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – 3rd April, 2013 - *eGovernment Excellence Awards 2013* jury announced the completion of the evaluation process of the award's participating projects. The jury will also prepare the reports for those who were unlucky to win the award. Announcement of the Excellence Award winners will take place during the official opening of Bahrain International eGovernment Forum 2013 on 8th of April. His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology, will honor the winning entities and projects.

Jury Chairman Mr. Jeremy Millard expressed his appreciation for the increasing volume of participations which exceeded 100 projects and development of governmental entities' electronic projects as they have been dramatically and significantly improved compared to last year. The participating bodies adopted award standards and requirements based on international practices as essential principles in their work and projects, and have taken them as indicators of success to provide citizens with better services – such step reflect the growth of awareness and importance of excellence.

"The committee's task was not only to identify and sort the winning works, but to also assist those which did not reach the winning stage by supporting these entities with prepared reports for developments. The reports include jury members' notes and instructions to enhance the unsuccessful projects, with clear form and precise details," stated Millard.

"The eGovernment Excellence Award became an integrated program that copes with the methodologies of Bahrain Center for Excellence in transferring knowledge management for all governmental entities with a major move in the level and performance of the services provided by the public sector," stated eGovernment Authority Vice CEO Dr. Zakareya Ahmed AlKhaja.

"The eGovernment Authority has taken on the position of encouraging innovation and supporting excellence through the eGovernment Excellence Award as it has become one of the streams of promoting such culture and adopting it as a platform.

Dr. AlKhaja has further added that the eGovernment Authority is keen to benefit from the projects and innovations created by the participants in the award. It will also work on adopting the distinguished concepts and applying them by collaborating with the relevant bodies.

The winning projects in the *Government Sector* category will be officially qualified to represent the Kingdom of Bahrain in the *GCC eGovernment Award 2013* which will be organized in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the end of this year. Furthermore, GCC eGovernment authorities have approved the standards and the eGovernment Excellence Awards in Bahrain as it aims to exchange and develop experiences in various ICT aspects between these nations. They have also stimulated GCC governments to utilize IT in governmental works in order to achieve the goals of applying an eGovernment system largely represented by attaining easier, more transparent and less costly cooperation between the government and service beneficiaries. The GCC awarding ceremony is held once every two years.

<div align="center">-   **End -**</div>

<u>Photo Caption:</u>

- During the open data workshop, conducted by the eGovernment Authority for private sector companies.

About the eGovernment Authority

The eGovernment Authority was founded by Royal Decree No. (69) in August 2007. It is a subsidiary of the Council of Ministers and aims at coordinating and executing e-government programs in accordance with the strategies, plans and programs set by the Supreme Committee for Information Technology, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister.

The eGovernment Authority assumes many tasks ranging from proposing overall policies, legislation and appropriate decisions for the implementation of e-government programs and proffering them to the Supreme Committee for approval to activate the e-government programs, including the proposal of programs required for information technology, data, provision of services, facilitation of communication between all state agencies and establishment of electronic channels to provide e-government services, in addition to providing technical support and assistance to the ministries and other government agencies.

The eGovernment Authority works on the implementation of an e-government strategy in Bahrain showing the action plan required to implement the ambitious Bahraini e-initiatives in addition to providing government basic services the number of which has exceeded 250 government services electronically and via multiple communication channels for all citizens and residents and businesses.

For further information, please contact:
Sahayer Ibrahim Al Hashimi
eGovernment Authority
Bahrain
Tel: +97317 388 252
Fax: +973 17388338
email: salhashimi@ega.gov.bh