



IXP Workshop on Peering and Interconnection in the Arab World “Towards unlocking regional interconnection opportunities”

Manama - Bahrain, 2 October 2018

Information for participants

LOCATION & ACCESS

Bahrain, officially the Kingdom of Bahrain, is an Arab constitutional monarchy in the Arabian Gulf. It is an island country consisting of a small archipelago centered around Bahrain Island, situated at the north eastern coast of Saudi Arabia, to which it is connected by the 25-kilometre (16 mi) King Fahd Causeway. Bahrain's population is 1.343.000 (c. 2014), including 666,172 non-nationals.

1. Bahrain International Airport (BAH)

Bahrain International Airport is the international airport of Bahrain, located in Muharraq, an island about 7 km northeast of the capital Manama. It serves as the hub for the national carrier Gulf Air.

2. Transportation

Modern and safe transportation network is available in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Visitors can use modern ride-hailing apps to move around the island (Careem, Uber). Taxis are also a reliable transportation mode in Bahrain. They can be hailed on any major road, however it is recommended to book the ride in advance. Prices are determined by meter, or by negotiating with the driver before boarding the taxi. Always check the meter is activated as you enter the car.

For booking a taxi

Arabian Taxi

Tel. +973 1746 1746

www.arabiantaxi.bh

Speedy Motors Service

Tel. +973 1768 1999

www.speedymotors.com

Shuttle service will be provided by TRA Bahrain to transfer all participants from Bahrain International Airport to their hotel. The service will be assured for arrival and departure.

VENUE OF THE WORKSHOP of IXP

The IXP Workshop will be held on 2nd October 2018 at:

The Ritz Carlton Bahrain

Al Seef District

Bldg 112, King Mohammed VI Ave

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain



1. Transportation from and to The Ritz Carlton

Shuttles will be provided by TRA Bahrain to transfer the participants from and to their respective hotels during the full length of the event.

2. Hotels

The list of recommended hotels situated nearby the meeting venue is presented in Annex 1. Please consult your travel agent for more options.

Kindly be advised that it is recommended for participants to reserve their hotel accommodations via telephone or e-mail before 15 September 2018.

Our partnered hotels listed in Annex 1 will offer special rates to the participants on the event dates. For availing the special rates, please send your registration form with all the necessary details to the contact email detailed in “Stay in touch” section of this document.

REGISTRATION & VISA PROCESS

1. Registrations

Registrants should send the list of attendees with all necessary details as indicated in the registration form to TRA Bahrain Coordinator (details in “Stay in touch” section).

2. Visa Process

A valid passport and visa are required to enter Bahrain except for nationalities from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates that DO NOT REQUIRE A VISA.

Diplomatic or Official passport holders are requested to contact the nearest Bahraini Embassy or Consular Mission in order to get additional information about visa process.

Holders of ordinary passport of countries NOT mentioned above will need a visa to enter Bahrain. Participants are strongly advised to seek information on requirements applicable in their case from Bahraini diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries at least 15 days prior to the trip. To apply for a visa, participants have to apply online for an e-visa at <http://www.evisa.gov.bh/> or at the nearest Bahraini diplomatic or consular mission by providing the following documents:

- Valid passport.
- A roundtrip airline or bus ticket. If travelling with a vehicle, title of the car or documentation that proves you are able to drive it.
- Hotel booking in your name or in the name of the person with address/phone number of the place where you will stay.
- If applicable, invitation letter received from Bahrain.

Eventually, the Consular Mission may ask for additional information. Please find the nearest Consular mission: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/>.

The participants, whose flights make a stop in other countries, must pay special attention to the requirements of these countries, since they may need an entry or transit Visa to the country or change of airport.

Visa on arrival are also available for 67 countries. However participants eligible to a visa on arrival are strongly recommended to obtain a visa prior to the visit.

Additional information

Visa eligibility check: <https://www.evisa.gov.bh/VISA/visaInput?nav=A0S&A0S=a>

In case of special assistance needed to obtain visa, please contact Red Scarf Agency (details in “Stay in touch” section).

ABOUT BAHRAIN

1. Key Facts & Figures

Government	Unitary Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy
King	HM Sheikh Hamed Bin Isa Al Khalifa
Prime Minister	HRH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
Area	765 km ²
Population	1.343.000(2014 estimate)
Capital	Manama

2. Climate

The IXP meeting will take place during fall, with average temperatures in Manama comprised between 26 and 33°C.

3. Time zone

GMT +3 hours

4. Language

Arabic is the official language of Bahrain, however English language is widely used in the Kingdom.

5. Religion

The state religion of Bahrain is Islam and most Bahraini citizens are Muslim. Other religions, mainly Christianity and Hinduism are represented in Bahrain due to the significant expat community working and living in the Kingdom.

The island has numerous places of worship such as mosques, churches and temples.

6. Money

Currency

Bahrain's currency is the Bahraini Dinar (BHD). The Bahraini dinar is a convertible currency and there are no restrictions on its import or export.

Exchange Rates

The dinar is pegged to the US dollar and rarely fluctuates.

1 US Dollar = 0.378 BHD

1 Euro = 0.437 BHD

For current exchange rates, see www.xe.com

ATMs & Credit Cards

Banks are opened from 7.30am to 3pm Sunday to Thursday.

Major credit cards are widely accepted throughout Bahrain. Most banks have ATMs that accept Visa, Cirrus and MasterCard cards, while the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) has ATMs that take Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus, Maestro and Amex cards.

Moneychangers

Money (both cash and travellers cheques) can be changed at any bank or money changing office. There is little to choose between banks and moneychangers in terms of exchange rates. Currencies for other Gulf States are easy to buy and sell.

7. Electricity

AC power voltage in Bahrain is 220 V/50Hz, frequency 50Hz. Find below used outlets (UK plug)



8. Tourism & Entertainment

The storied location of ancient Dilmun and the epicenter of the Gulf's pearling past – Bahrain has a history to reflect on with pride. There's even a claim that it was home to the Garden of Eden. Nowadays the country has its own Formula 1 Grand Prix, a growing art and foodie scene frequented by Manama's sizeable expat population, and all the hallmarks of wealth, modern Arabian style.

Top experiences in Bahrain

- Souqs Manama Souq, Muharraq Souq
- Forts Arad Fort, Bahrain Fort, Riffa Fort
- Museums Bahrain National Museum, Beit Al Quran
- Nature Tree of Life, Dar Island, Hawar Islands
- Formula 1 Race Track

For additional information, visit Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority website:
<http://www.btea.bh/>

SERVICES AVAILABLE DURING THE IXP MEETING

1. Information Desk

The Information Desk will be located outside the main conference room and will provide information on many issues of interest such as city tour and transfers, mail,

medical care, communications, etc. It will also be the place where lost items should be delivered and collected.

2. Internet

Internet access free of charge will be available at the event venue. Participants will also be provided with fax service.

3. Shuttles

Shuttle services will be provided from and to the airport, and during the full length of the event from and to the hotels, and from and to the social activities. All Shuttles are made available for the duration of one day before the event and one day after the event.

4. Security

For security reasons, all participants should be permanently using their badges during the meetings and in all social activities.

5. Medical Assistance

Emergency and urgency medical assistance will be provided free of charge within the premises where the meeting takes place. Nevertheless, it is advised to take out international travel insurance to cover any medical expenses in case of medical treatment.

STAY IN TOUCH

TRA Bahrain Coordinator

Mr. Adel Mohamed DARWISH

Head of International Relations

Tel: +973 1753 2125

E-mail: adarwish@tra.org.bh

ANNEX 1 RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Hotel	Distance to venue	Daily Net Rate	Preferred Net Rate	Contact
The Ritz Carlton ★★★★★	0 m	Single Deluxe Room BHD 133	Single Deluxe Room BHD 84	Tel: +973 1758 0000 http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/middle-east/bahrain <i>To avail preferred rate, please contact TRA Bahrain Coordinator</i>
Asdal Gulf Inn Boutique Hotel ★★★	500 m	Single Standard Room BHD 48	Single Standard Room BHD 35	Tel: +973 663 113 11 E-mail: info@asdalgulfinn.com https://asdalgulfinn.com/ <i>To avail preferred rate, please contact TRA Bahrain Coordinator</i>
Swiss-Belhotel Seef Bahrain ★★★★	500m	Single superior room BHD 57	Single superior room BHD 40	Tel: +973 66310 000 Email: reservationsbse@swiss-belhotel.com https://www.swiss-belhotel.com/ <i>To avail preferred rate, please contact TRA Bahrain Coordinator</i>
Fraser Suites Seef Bahrain ★★★★	800 m	Standard serviced apartment BHD 80	Standard serviced apartment BHD 60	Tel: +973 17 569333 Email: sales.bahrain@frasershospitality.com https://bahrain.frasershospitality.com/en <i>To avail preferred rate, please contact TRA Bahrain Coordinator</i>
S Hotel Bahrain	900m	Single superior room	Single superior room	Tel: +973 173 80380 Email: reservation@s-hotelbahrain.com http://www.s-hotelbahrain.com/

★★★		BHD 51	BHD 30	<i><u>To avail preferred rate, please contact TRA Bahrain Coordinator</u></i>
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THANK YOU
