



● Officials with the first batch of cadets

Young Bahrainis aiming high as trainee pilots...

The sky's the limit for young Bahrainis thanks to a pioneering project to train them as commercial pilots, right here in their own country. Bahrainis aged 18 to 30 years are being offered interest-free loans to train at the newly-formed Gulf Aviation Academy.

The Cadet Pilot Training Programme is a joint venture between the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB), Tamkeen (formerly the Labour Fund, which is charged with creating career opportunities for Bahrainis) and the government investment arm the Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, of which the academy is a subsidiary.

BDB offers loans to cadets and Tamkeen will pay the interest on the loans.

With a total budget of more than BD6 million from BDB and Tamkeen, the programme aims to train 100 pilots to qualify for their Airline Transport Pilot's Licence.

"This is an excellent initiative for Bahrainis and for the nation's economy," says Mumtalakat chief executive officer Talal Al Zain.

"By working together, Mumtalakat, BDB and Tamkeen can offer Bahraini graduates the opportunity to train for their commercial pilot's licence in Bahrain rather than training abroad.

"It also offers a great opportunity for Gulf Aviation Academy, which will offer pilot and crew training to Bahrainis and airline personnel from across the region."

Commercial piloting is a high-value job and will generate significant social and economic benefits for Bahrain's economy and help meet the growing demand for pilots.

"This is the first step in a long-term government strategy to help develop Bahraini skills and talent for the aviation industry. We're delighted to be playing our part in supporting the nation's 2030 Vision," says Mr Al Zain.

The academy is the first of its kind to be based in Bahrain.

In August the academy (GAA), announced the names of the first batch of Bahraini cadets

to be accepted into the Cadet Pilot Training Programme.

An event was held at the Bahrain Business Incubator Centre to brief the cadets on the Ab-Initio (from the beginning) programme, which is part of the process to gain the Airline Transport Pilot's Licence ("ATPL").

Of the 20 selected cadets 25 per cent have completed a university degree, 50 per cent are currently university students and the final 25 per cent have graduated from high school.

The youngest cadet, Khaled Ali Bubshait, is 18, while the oldest, Ahmed Al Laith, is 29. There is one female amongst them, Fatima Younis Ali Turabi.

Starting from October 1, the cadets went off to Oxford, England to complete the internationally-certified commercial pilot training programme, under the auspices of the academy.

Once the two-year programme is complete, the academy will support the cadets in their job search in Bahrain and across the region.

"All of the institutions involved in this programme are extremely proud of the first batch of cadets selected. Aviation is a prestigious and exciting career choice and the GAA's programme is enabling Bahrainis, who may have dreamt of this career, to take their first steps in achieving their ambition," says Mr Al Zain.

Bahrain is working to become a regional centre for aviation. Air transport infrastructure is of strategic importance to the country due to its geographical location and it will help drive economic growth for the country in the future.

Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) is working very closely with Mumtalakat and Tamkeen to help finance the training programme for these Bahraini graduates.

"This programme will be particularly important in meeting the increasing demand on the commercial aviation sector," says senior vice-president, banking services Adnan Al Balushi.

"We are proud to be a part of this and other initiatives in Bahrain that support our young generation in achieving their goals and meeting their commitments."



Congratulations and Best Wishes to

**His Majesty
King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa,**

**His Royal Highness the Prime Minister
Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa,**

**His Royal Highness
Crown Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa,
Deputy Supreme Commander and the people of the
Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of**

National Day