KHOSH SOLUTIONS – WINNER OF INJAZ BAHRAIN-UNIVERSITY BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

SCW, MOICT & EXPORT BAHRAIN LEAD WOMEN-OWNED ENTERPRISES INTO GLOBAL MARKETS

SONY'S NEW HEADPHONES HAVE IMPROVED FEATURES

CONTACTLESS BOOK BORROWING SERVICE LAUNCHED IN SHARJAH
Can you detail KHOSH Solutions for our readers?

KHOSH Solutions is a Bahraini-based specialized in upcycling of e-waste in a creative and entertaining way. KHOSH means ‘Perfect’ and our goal is to provide perfect solutions for the increasing e-waste that is negatively affecting the health and the environment.

Since starting operation in November 2019, it had an exciting and very constructive journey with its product and activities in regards to increasing e-waste awareness. Partnering with our stakeholders, KHOSH Solutions is committed to creating an e-waste management eco-system which will contribute to the economy of Bahrain, its people and serve as a benchmark in the region. KHOSH Solutions believes in making the environment a better place to live.

KHOSH solutions is the first company in the region that works on upcycling e-waste to jewelry and artwork in a creative and innovative manner to engage the customers to create these artworks to increase their creative thinking and assembling techniques. KHOSH Solutions offers a socially responsible solution for e-waste providing our stakeholders peace of mind by ensuring that our business is contributing to reducing the carbon footprint in Bahrain. We promote environmental awareness by encouraging individuals to contribute to reducing the e-waste through entertainment, creativity and engaging activities.

How did the idea of KHOSH Solutions originate?

Nowadays technology becomes part of our life. From year to year, the old technology change with more progressed new technology which cause a growing in e-waste. Therefore, technology becomes a lifecycle issue, which is present as risks and opportunities. KHOSH solutions come to make the risks of the technology to opportunities, by upcycling the old technologies into an innovative artwork.

As university students we hear about the old way of submitting projects using CDs for different courses with several instructors; an average of 6 CDs is submitted individually each semester. Fortunately, our University the Royal University for Women—with a vision of becoming one of the leading universities in Bahrain—offered new ways of submission for projects and assignments such as online applications as Turnitin and Moodle, to make the instructors’ and students’ life easier and eco-friendlier. Hence a question popped into our mind ‘Where will all the old CDs go?’ We were searching for a concept that can transform yesterday’s technology into a beautiful piece of art and manage the created waste. Our company believes in the added value of diversity; having members from different nationalities, colleges, skills, and interested which led the company to CDimensions our first product.

Then we had researched the negative side of e-waste, so we start collecting different materials which are old Printed Circuit Boards (PCB). PCB is an essential part of most of the electronic devices, PCBs contain precious materials such as golds and slivers. Therefore, KHOSH Solutions had the opportunity to work on the second product CBoard to create from PCBs a creative piece of art. KHOSH Solutions convert what people think
is trash into treasure.

How long did it to develop KHOSH Solutions?
KHOSH Solutions goal is to provide perfect solutions for reducing e-waste that is negatively affecting the health of everyone and the environment. Since starting its operations in November 2019, KHOSH Solutions had an exciting and very constructive journey with its product and activities aiming at increasing e-waste awareness. Partnering with our stakeholders, KHOSH Solutions is committed to creating an e-waste management eco-system which will contribute to the economy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, its people and serve as a benchmark in the region.

KHOSH Solutions strategy had several aspects, and for each aspect different steps were followed: The first aspect, to develop our product by improving the different designs and using different e-waste material after conducting marketing research and studying the e-waste materials, the first step was the product testing and studying the e-waste materials, the next step was to conduct the market research and develop a customer awareness, develop the promotional campaign and study the e-waste materials. KHOSH Solutions is offering a concept and a lifestyle where creativity meets sustainability, where art is used to serve a good cause and to transform e-waste into a valuable piece of art. From that perspective value pricing strategy has been applied since it relies on the message and creativity the customer perceived in our product and especially after conducting a competitive analysis, a market gap has been discovered as no direct competitor has been identified. Nevertheless, ZAIN Bahrain and BAPCO were recognized for their IT recycling initiatives, but None of them can be considered as direct competitors since the e-waste upcycling is not their main activity, moreover, there is no company in the Gulf region (GCC) take advantage of upcycling e-waste into artwork. Other individual initiatives to upcycle CDs or circuit boards and spread awareness exist the market but still can’t be classified as competitors: CDs and circuit boards is only one of many e-waste recycling ideas they offer and none as jewelry or accessories.

KHOSH Solutions was honored as a company with the Best Social Impact Award in the University Track of the INJAZ Bahrain 12th Young Entrepreneurs Company Competition 2020, and it was the celebration of the company’s hard work and achievements the company members. We are still committed to continue and maintain the company’s success. Putting goals for future scalabilities, aiming to produce the products in fully recycled materials to contribute to preserving and protecting the environment and spread awareness. In addition, expand the company within the GCC region, offering personal workshops, e.g. in schools, education facilities to enhance customer engagement, awareness and creativity. Online tutorials on e-waste upcycling to inspire more people from all over the world. Several Product Development ideas are being tested and future partnerships and collaborations are currently being evaluated.

BEFORE BUYING A USED CAR.. CHECK ITS HISTORY VIA BAHRAIN.BH

Buying a used vehicle can sometimes be an overwhelming experience especially when you will spend your money not being sure of the car issues before the purchase.

Before rushing into buying a used vehicle, take the time to thoroughly check the history and records of your desired selection via Bahrain.bh as cars that are sold with hidden history may cost more than new ones.

The user-friendly online service “Vehicle Record Enquiry”, provided by the General Directorate of Traffic (GDT) in collaboration with the Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA), enables citizens and residents who are interested in buying and selling used vehicles within the kingdom of Bahrain to view information and past records before the purchase via Bahrain.bh.

Taking the car for a mechanic inspect may still lead to an expensive repair down the road. Thus, be your own detective to uncover the number of former or existing accidents in order to determine the vehicles true value by checking it through the eService offered which will provide with the vehicles records excluding accident records registered prior to 2009.

Take the time to thoroughly check the history of your desired selected vehicle in order to spot the number of previous owners be it a motorcycle, car, bus etc. by accessing the national portal (Bahrain.bh) at any time and place.

To use the service, all you need is the registration type, vehicle number and chassis number.

For any suggestions or enquiries on the services, please contact us via the National Suggestions & Complaints System Tawasul at bahrain.bh/tawasul or bahrain.bh/app or call 80008001.

Get updated with all of our latest news or eservices by following our social media accounts @IGAbahrain.
The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MOICT) have announced their new collaboration through “Export Bahrain” in developing and intensifying Bahraini exports and facilitating entry into the global markets.

The aim is to support Bahraini women-owned projects by providing them with facilities and consultations to develop their products and services in order to enhance their participation in regional and international trade.

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and Chairman of SME Development Board Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani commended the new collaboration inked between MOICT and SCW.

“Bahraini women enjoy a global outlook, and this collaboration will provide confidence and create new outlets of export opportunities for Bahraini women,” he said.

“By utilizing Export Bahrain, women-owned businesses can scale and expand their business into new markets, and tap into global opportunities. Supporting women has always been at the heart of all our endeavors and this collaboration will seek to reinforce these efforts and accelerate growth opportunities for women business owners,” said Al Zayani.

Export Bahrain is a critical national initiative that will push the role of women exporters in the Kingdom by joining their efforts and resources in cooperation with the Supreme Council for Women.”

The minister expressed his gratitude for the efforts taken by SCW, led by her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King.

“The Supreme Council for Women has led notable nation-wide programs and initiatives to develop the participation of women and their contribution to the national economy, especially amidst this challenging time,” he said.

Supreme Council for Women Secretary General Hala Al Ansari said that the cooperation with MOICT and “Export Bahrain” was established in accordance with the mandate of the SCW to support the participation of women in public life as well as integrate their efforts in national developmental plans.

The objective of the program is follow-up the implementation of one of the initiatives of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women dedicated to raising the competitiveness of Bahraini women, in addition to, diversifying their contribution to the national economy.

The collaboration is in line with the SCW’s partnerships with the various institutions concerned with economic development through services, facilities and support such as the Riyadat Financial Fund, business incubators under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, and SCW.

She noted that cooperative, consultant, training and technical services such as the Riyadat Center, she added.

This newly developed program, comes at a very important time in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the business sector as a whole, including women-owned projects.

She said the SCW will, through its “Remote Consultant” platform and its multiple services, direct the beneficiaries to the “Export Bahrain” program.

Al Ansari expressed confidence that both the SCW team and the “Export Bahrain” team will work together to provide Bahraini women entrepreneurs and business owners with the support and guidance necessary to develop their products and services according to international standards of competitiveness and quality, in a way that enhances their access to opportunities in global markets.

She noted that the collaboration will lead to creating more economic opportunities for business owners, working with a wider network of local and international partners to raise the balance of foreign trade through their exports.

The SCW Secretary General said Bahraini women have a major stake in the free market, owning 42% of active individual CRs (Commercial Registrations) in the first quarter of 2020, in addition to owning 48% of VCRs (Virtual Commercial Registrations), that can be implemented easily and conveniently on virtual business platforms across the globe.

Dr. Nasser Qaedi, Chief Executive of Export Bahrain, said that Export Bahrain has facilitated more than $32 million in exports over the 18 months since its inception, targeting 32 markets around the world.

“We have supported current and new exporters including women-owned companies which accounted for 20% of all exporters, and our support has spanned across multiple economic sectors to export various products and services,” he said.

“Export Bahrain has had an important role in taking Bahraini products and services to new markets and placing them on the global map as future competitors with other international brands. More than 25% of our exporters have access to new markets, more than 30% of exporters have exported for the first time, while more than 15% have exported services.”

He added, “our diversified practical solutions have been designed to create a successful export framework for all Bahraini exporting companies.”

“In order to create an ideal market without borders, Export Bahrain has provided customized solutions, including providing e-commerce solutions and export credit solutions to provide competitive credit terms, international links via the export facilitation platform, support for the shipping and logistics process, and support for smart market information for quick access to information related to other markets,” he said.

“Moreover, Export Bahrain provides solutions and tools for existing export projects and supports projects in Bahrain to start the export journey as well as its international growth in larger markets, because we want Bahraini companies to make their mark globally and to have their export potential recognized.”
CONTACTLESS BOOK BORROWING SERVICE LAUNCHED IN SHARJAH

A ‘smart locker’ service launched on Monday facilitates a round-the-clock borrowing of books via the Sharjah Public Library (SPL) website. The books ordered through the smart locker will be reserved for three days and can be collected any time during this period. According to the SPL, the new system caters “especially to the needs of members who are unable to visit during the opening hours of the library.” It uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology that allows members to use their Emirates ID or SPL’s membership cards to collect and return books. The service consists of 38 lockers equipped with a touch screen that is connected to the SPL’s digital network and CCTVs.

Eman Bushulaibi, Director of SPL, said: “Our smart locker service will offer its users an advanced personalised service, allowing members to engage with the SPL’s array of offerings in new and improved ways. “Globally, cultural entities are devising inventive ways to keep the public engaged with the written word, especially during the ongoing pandemic. With the new service, our members can order and pick up books at their convenience in a contactless manner. This new feature furthers the library’s efforts to implement precautionary measures that will keep all our valued customers safe.”

The Future Is With Investment in Technologies!

By Dr. Jassim Haji

Several top technology companies posted increase in their revenue and profit during COVID-19, which indicates that future is with investment in technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud, Big Data and other modern innovations.

Huawei Technologies has posted revenue grew 13.1 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2020 despite the global coronavirus pandemic. The Shenzhen company generated 454 billion yuan (US$64.8 billion) in revenue in the first six months of the year, up from 401.3 billion yuan during the same period in 2019, which indicates they are on the right track.

The net profit margin was 9.2 per cent in the first six months, up from 8.7 per cent in the same period last year. Huawei’s key business segments consumer, carrier and enterprise produced revenue of 255.8 billion yuan, 159.6 billion yuan and 36.3 billion yuan respectively with positive growth.

Also over the last few weeks, the biggest tech companies in the world reported their quarterly earnings. And while they showed signs of pain as the coronavirus pandemic took hold on most of the world in March, investors still rewarded them for their resilience in the current economic downturn. Google’s parent company Alphabet was up 7%. Netflix reported nearly double the amount of new subscribers it had anticipated for the quarter. Apple made up for of its lost iPhone sales with digital services like App Store sales and subscriptions. Another Big Tech company, Microsoft, reported a 15% sales jump for last quarter, and is now the most valuable publicly traded company in US.

Future of homes are driving strategies of Tech companies

The first priorities of Big Tech companies is to be focused on telehealth, remote learning, and broadband and need to look for solutions that can be presented now, and accelerated, and use technology to make things better.

It’s a future in which homes are never again exclusively personal spaces, but are also, via high-speed digital connectivity, our schools, our doctor’s offices, our gyms, and, for many of us, those same homes were already turning into our never-off workplaces and our primary entertainment venues before the pandemic, and surveillance incarceration “in the community” was already booming. But in the future that is hastily being constructed, all of these trends are poised for a warp-speed acceleration.

This is a future in which, for the privileged, almost everything is home delivered, either virtually via streaming and cloud technology, or physically via driverless vehicle or drone, then screen “shared” on a mediated platform. It’s a future that employs far fewer teachers, doctors and drivers. It accepts no cash or credit cards.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 09, 2020

PR THIS WEEK

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS OPENS 2 NEW SHOWROOMS AS PART OF ITS GLOBAL EXPANSION PLAN

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest global jewellers retail has opened two new showrooms in India as part of its global expansion plans. The new showrooms were opened at Kumbhalmam in Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh in Punjab. Malabar Group Chairman Mr. M. P. Ahamed inaugurated the showrooms through an online event. Senior directors, management team members, investors, and customers of Malabar Gold & Diamonds from over 10 countries attended the event via Zoom cloud video call.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues with its global expansion plan and is scheduled to open new showrooms in Patna in Bihar, Kammam in Telangana, Luchous and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, Thane and Vashi in Maharashtra, Dauraha in New Delhi, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Malleswaram and Kammanahalli in Karnataka, Bhubaneswar in Orissa, and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh this year. Outside of India, the company is scheduled to open showrooms in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Singapore, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

“We plan to become the number one gold retail brand in the world, in terms of both showroom count and sales. As part of this plan, we will triple the number of showrooms in the next five years”, said Malabar Group Chairman Mr. MP Ahamed. “We have taken adequate precautionary steps and safety measures in our showrooms in the wake of Covid 19 pandemic. What makes our brand appealing to the global consumers is our highly diversified product range, immaculate designs, and impeccable after sales services”, he added.

“We have earned the trust and confidence of millions of customers with our transparency, facilities and services offered across our showrooms globally”, said Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

SOUTHERN GOVERNORATE UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE

The Southern Governorate has gone hi-tech, unveiling its new look electronic website.

Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa patronised the launch of the upgraded portal as part of efforts to reach out to citizens.

The virtual launch ceremony was attended by Deputy Southern Governor Brigadier Isa Thamer Al-Dossary and other directors and officials.

He stressed the Governorate’s new initiatives to cope with the digital switch, and provide an updated channel of communication to reach out to citizens and follow up on their needs and development aspirations. Southern Governorate’s Information and Follow-up Director Dr. Mouinah Ibrahim Al-Sabaii addressed the virtual inauguration ceremony, shedding light on the features of the website, including electronic services, live streaming, webcasts and podcasts.

CREDIMAX ANNOUNCES NEW “DONATION” FEATURE ON THAMEEN LOYALTY PROGRAM FOR THE RHF

CrediMax announced its latest feature on its Loyalty program “Thameen” where cardholders are now able to redeem their points and “donate” to the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF). This comes as part of CrediMax’s ongoing initiatives to provide valuable offers and redemption choices to its loyal cardholders.

“Our cardholders are at the center of everything we do and we continuously aim to provide them with innovative features that enrich their lifestyle whilst helping make an impact in our community.” said Mr. Ahmed A. Segadi, CrediMax Chief Executive. “We are pleased to further strengthen our relationship with Royal Humanitarian Foundation by providing our loyal cardholders the option to directly donate their Thameen points to RHF” added Mr. Segadi

“The Royal Humanitarian Foundation praised CrediMax’s initiative in launching this new feature on CrediMax’s “Thameen” loyalty program, where cardholder will be able to redeem their points and donate to social, educational and health projects that benefit the families under RHF” commented Dr. Mustafa AlSayeg, Secretary General – Royal Humanitarian Foundation. “Such initiatives further support the principle of community partnership set by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

The ownership of humanitarian work strengthens the social development in the Kingdom of Bahrain and instills a spirit of giving and belonging, as well as spreading a culture of giving and involving all members and institutions of society in humanitarian work” added Dr. AlSayeg.

BAHRAIN PARTICIPATES IN IPU WEBINAR ON COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Bahrain’s efforts to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) were highlighted during a webinar held under the theme: “Webinar for Parliamentarians: COVID-19 and Climate Change”. A parliamentary delegation hailed the high level of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches to curb the pandemic, leading the royal directives to deliver social and economic packages in support of citizens.

Council of Representatives Speaker, Parliamentary Executive Committee Chairperson, Speaker Fauzia bint Abdulla Zainal directed the delegation to take part in the virtual session which was held by the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU).

The participants who took part in the webinar discussed the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate change and the environment.

Bahrain’s Permanent Representatives to the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Shura Council First and Second Deputy Chairmen Jamal Fakhroo and Jameela Salaman and other MPs and Shura Council members also took part in the webinar.

The delegation urged international concerted efforts to overcome the challenges resulting from the pandemic outbreak and put in place global plans to mitigate the fallout on vital sectors related to the world economy.

It stressed the importance of ensuring the flow of basic commodities and exchanging information and results of medical researches, in addition to supporting countries in need of help to ensure the flow of basic commodities in place of global plans to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The delegation reiterated Bahrain’s keenness on strengthening cooperation with relevant international organisations, stressing the importance for all countries to continue implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
SONY’S NEW HEADPHONES HAVE IMPROVED FEATURES

Song has just announced the long-awaited follow-up to its popular WH-1000XM3 noise-canceling headphones. The brand new WH-1000XM4 headphones look exactly the same, but feature improved noise cancellation and, finally, the option to simultaneously pair with two devices at once over Bluetooth.

The 1000XM4s use the same Q1N processor for noise cancellation, but Song says it has added a new Bluetooth audio system on a chip that analyzes music and surrounding ambient noise 700 times per second. Combined with a tweak to the algorithm, this makes the 1000XM4s better at hushing voices and mid-frequency everyday ambient sound.

In terms of audio quality, the 1000XM4s should sound identical to their predecessors. They use 40mm drivers just like the M3s, and Song isn’t making any claims about improved output. The upscaling feature of the headphones has been improved using AI, however. Battery life is still the same, topping out at up to 30 hours of continuous playback, and all the controls and buttons are unchanged from the M3s.

Song seems to have fixed the mediocre voice call quality of the M3s with these new headphones. The company has added “new Precise Voice Pickup technology, which controls five microphones in the headphones optimally, and performs advanced audio signal processing to pick up voice clearly and precisely.” Hopefully that’ll make the 1000XM4s a better option for all of your video chats and voice calls. There’s also an (optional) new “Speak to Chat” feature that will temporarily pause your music as soon as you start talking and resume after you’ve finished a conversation.

Multipoint support is the other big new thing. Song’s noise-canceling headphones are finally joining the competition by adding the ability to simultaneously pair with two devices at once. Song says that customers will need to install a firmware update for the best multipoint performance, so just keep that in mind if you end up buying a set.
BAHRAIN TO HOST AFC CUP WEST ZONE MATCH IN OCTOBER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced Bahrain as hosts of the 2020 AFC Cup West Zone matches in Groups A.

AFC has also confirmed the Kuwait Football Association and Jordan Football Association as the host Member Associations for the 2020 AFC Cup West Zone matches in Groups B and C respectively.

The AFC Cup action in the West Zone will kick off on October 23, 2020 with Group C leaders Qadsia SC from Kuwait taking on Oman’s Dhofar Club.

Meanwhile, teams from Groups A and B will restart their campaigns three days later on October 26 with matches from all three groups scheduled to conclude on November 4, 2020, AFC said on its website.

The single-leg West Zonal Semi-finals will take place on November 23 and 24 before the final two teams compete in the West Zonal final on December 1, 2020 for a place in the AFC Cup final against the winners of the Inter-zone play-off on December 12, 2020, AFC added.

BAHRAIN HANDBALL ASSOCIATION HOLDS VIRTUAL SESSION

The Bahrain Handball Association (BHA) organised a webinar which focused on local competitions for the current season.

Heads and representatives of member clubs also took part in the consultative virtual session which also discussed the new season.

BHA Chairman Ali Isa Ishaqi said that the meeting aimed at exchanging viewpoints with clubs and approving the most appropriate alternative as the world continues to grapple with the novel coronavirus.

He said that any decision would take into account the current situation of clubs, as well as the participation of national teams in the continental and international competitions.

The heads and representatives of clubs outlined their stances regarding the resumption of the current handball season as well as the upcoming one in different age categories.

“All the proposals will be studied thoroughly so as to reach a consensual agreement that takes into account the situation of clubs in these current circumstances”, he said, adding that the association would communicate with clubs within a few days.