



# GATEWAY GULF

INVESTMENT FORUM BAHRAIN 2024

## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay,  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Hosted by  **EDB BAHRAIN**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

# PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 1

## 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION - PLENARY SKYLINE HALL
08:30 - 09:30	<b>Manama Circle Opens</b>
09:30 - 09:40	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>
09:40 - 10:10	<p><b>Panel   Investing for Resilience in a Fast-Changing Global Reality</b></p> <p>Economic, natural, technological, and geopolitical forces are reshaping the reality in which investors must perform – as well as the future of it. How are investors prioritising resilience across the multiple challenges, from inflation and demographic change to the digital transformation and energy transition, and what can governments welcoming investment do to support investors in building that resilience?</p>
10:10 - 10:25	<p><b>One-on-One   Designing the Next Economic Chapter</b></p> <p>As the GCC advances its position as a global economic hub, two transformative forces are reshaping its economy: comprehensive digital transformation and deepening regional economic integration. How do these parallel tracks create new possibilities for economic development, and how can governments leverage them to architect an innovative model for sustainable economic growth.</p>
10:25 - 10:40	<p><b>One-on-One   Diversification, Digitalisation and Driving Growth</b></p> <p>Global trade's evolving landscape reveals an urgent need for diversified trade routes in an increasingly complex world. Digitalization serves as a crucial tool for building resilient trade networks and streamlining procedures across international commerce.</p>
10:40 - 11:20	<p><b>Panel   Adapting to a Shifting Global Trade Landscape</b></p> <p>Governments worldwide are seeking to nearshore manufacturing, particularly in high-technology, fast growing sectors. Meanwhile, key trade routes are disrupted by geopolitical tensions. How are manufacturers responding to these challenges, and what are the implications for the world's major trading hubs and global supply chains?</p>
11:20 - 11:35	<p><b>One-on-One   Towards a Future-Ready Workforce</b></p> <p>With over half of local GCC populations under 25 years old, training and educating young people is essential to unlocking sustained growth in the region that benefits all its citizens. What skills does the present and future workforce need, and how can they be widely nurtured?</p>

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION - PLENARY SKYLINE HALL
11:35 - 12:05	<p><b>Panel   AI's Transformative Power</b></p> <p>The financial impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the GCC is expected to reach as high as US\$300 billion. Across enterprises, leaders are exploring strategic AI collaborations to help improve their operations and expand revenue sources, meanwhile, as of 2023, over 62% of workers in the GCC reported using AI in their job functions. How is this rapid uptake reshaping different business sectors both globally and regionally?</p>
12:05 - 12:30	<p><b>One-on-One   Transforming Legacy: Where Luxury Meets Innovation</b></p> <p>Sectors like maritime to luxury travel and hospitality are evolving rapidly to meet new market demands and changing consumer expectations. The discussion will examine shifting consumer behaviors, sustainability imperatives, and the future of premium experiences, while exploring how government tourism strategies are reshaping the global travel landscape.</p>
12:30 - 14:30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
14:30 - 15:15	<p><b>Focus Session   Shaping the GCC's Economic Future Through Resource Development</b></p> <p>The GCC is already a global player in aluminum production, accounting for approximately 10% of global output, driven by leading establishments in Bahrain and the UAE. GCC nations are now exploring how to expand their production of steel, gold, copper, phosphate, and even lithium to further contribute to economic diversification and support national development strategies.</p>
15:15 - 16:00	<p><b>Focus Session   Decarbonising Industry</b></p> <p>Households account for less than 20% of the region's energy use, meaning transport, commerce, and manufacturing play crucial roles in decarbonization efforts to keep global warming well below 2°C. What practices and innovations are industry leaders championing?</p>

**PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 1****3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

TIME	SESSION - MANAMA FOCUS SESSION
14:30 - 15:15	<b>Focus Session   How Is E-commerce Reshaping Trade and Logistics?</b> Fast-moving consumer goods travel longer distances in less time as online marketplaces become ever more global. What innovations allow the highly efficient logistics sector to adapt to this demand? How are regional shipping hubs like Manama supporting the logistics sector's adaptability?
15:15 - 16:00	<b>Focus Session   The GCC: Venture Capital Hub</b> Venture capital investments are experiencing compounded growth in the GCC, even as the VC market contracts in Europe and North America. What key factors, such as supportive government policies, deployment of private capital, talent development, and technological infrastructure, will ensure that the region's innovators thrive despite potential challenges?

## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 2

### 4th NOVEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION - PLENARY SKYLINE HALL
09:30 - 09:40	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>
09:40 - 10:20	<b>Panel   Tourism as a Growth Accelerator in the GCC</b> Tourism is critical to the region's economic diversification strategy, and billions are being invested in hospitality and entertainment. What key opportunities, from combined leisure and business offerings, sports, and ecotourism to joint regional tourism initiatives, will ensure strong returns for both investors and the region?
10:20 - 10:40	<b>Panel   Industrial Evolution: Shaping the GCC's Manufacturing Future</b> Exploring the GCC's evolving industrial landscape beyond hydrocarbons, this session examines strategies for diversification across metals, manufacturing, and heavy industries. The discussion will focus on technological advancement and economic value creation as the region positions itself to become a global manufacturing hub.
10:40 - 11:00	<b>One-on-One   Building Foundations for an AI-Powered Economy</b> As Artificial Intelligence reshapes the global economy, governments must balance innovation with responsible development. How can the public sector create the right conditions for AI growth while ensuring its benefits are broadly shared across society?
11:00 - 11:40	<b>Panel   The Next Ten Years of Banking</b> Banking is one of the strongest sectors in the region, with financial corporations being the largest single contributor to its GDP. Strong capitalisation, high profit margins, and the accelerating adoption of digital banking and financial technology trends point to a positive outlook for the coming decade. What opportunities should financiers be watching for in the years ahead? And how can the challenges posed by varying regional regulatory standards be addressed?
11:40 - 12:00	<b>One-on-One   Learnings from the GCC's F1 Pioneer</b> When Bahrain hosted its first Formula 1 Grand Prix in 2004, it was the only circuit in the region. Today, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia also hosting F1 events, the region has become a major destination for the sport. What lessons can others learn from Bahrain, the GCC's F1 pioneer?

## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 2

### 4th NOVEMBER 2024

TIME	SESSION - MANAMA FOCUS SESSION	
12:00 - 12:30	<p><b>Focus Session   A New Generation of Private Wealth</b> Family businesses hold a large influence over the GCC's economy, with over a quarter of the region's wealth originating from ultra-high-net-worth individuals. As economies in the region are poised to achieve their economic visions for this decade, younger generations are taking a more active leadership role in family businesses. How will this generational shift shape future investment strategies?</p>	Lunch
12:30 - 13:00	<p><b>Focus Session   Crafting the GCC's Investment Proposition</b> Exploring the GCC's evolving industrial landscape beyond hydrocarbons, this session examines strategies for diversification across metals, manufacturing, and heavy industries. The discussion will focus on technological advancement and economic value creation as the region positions itself to become a global manufacturing hub.</p>	
13:00 - 1400		