

RETHINKING **GLOBAL INVESTMENT** FOR NEW TRADE DYNAMICS

November 02 - 03, 2025

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

Hosted by

EDB BAHRAIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 1 | NOV 2

TIME	SESSION TITLES
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks
9:30 AM	Navigating Uncertainty In Global Markets As the world heads into tariff uncertainty, capital markets globally are acting accordingly. How does that impact access to capital and risk appetites for financial and investment authorities globally, and specifically in the GCC, which has a more balanced portfolio between Asia and the Western markets.
10:15 AM	The Rise of Both Free Trade and Tariffs While Global powers are raising tariffs, GCC nations have maintained their openness to trade with nations from East to West, ushering in an era driven by the long history of openness to business by regional nations. From sovereign strength to strategic geography, how can the future of the region look like in the new era.
10:45 AM	GCC Tourism: Market Opportunities and Strategic Partnerships As tourism across the GCC evolves, nations are developing distinct yet complementary positions within the regional landscape. This conversation explores how each nation is shaping its tourism offering, identifying emerging market opportunities, and building partnerships that strengthen their competitiveness and enhance the broader Gulf tourism ecosystem.
11:05 AM	Multinational Tourism: The Global Luxury Travel Perspective As global luxury travel evolves, leading hospitality, cruise, and retail operators are reimagining how affluent travellers discover emerging destinations. This session examines how the private sector creates bespoke, multi-destination experiences—and why regions like the GCC, with its connectivity and cultural richness, represent compelling investment opportunities for the next generation of experiential tourism.

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11:35 AM	Private Capital: Shaping Global Capital Flows Globally, private capital funds manage over \$6 trillion in assets, reshaping economies and driving cross-border investment at unprecedented scale. The GCC serves as both a critical source of strategic and visionary capital driving investments in regional markets, and a supporter of global economies through long-term capital deployment in frontier and critical sectors.
12:15 PM	Intelligence and Infrastructure: Reshaping Workforce Dynamics Artificial intelligence is fundamentally transforming workforce requirements across the GCC as major technology companies reassess their regional strategies. With AI projected to contribute \$277 billion to the GCC economy by 2031, how is this technology creating new skill demands for current workers whilst reshaping talent requirements for the next generation entering an increasingly digital economy?
12:35 PM	Lunch
3:00 PM	Powering Heavy Industry: The Renewable Transition Energy-intensive manufacturing faces unique challenges in reducing carbon emissions whilst meeting production demands. This session explores practical solutions, infrastructure requirements, and the evolving landscape of sustainable industrial operations.
3:20 PM	Retail Renaissance: The Future of GCC Shopping Destinations Hypermarkets have evolved into comprehensive mixed-use destinations—integrating shopping, hospitality, and leisure experiences. How are leaders leveraging their platforms to drive both operational excellence and sustained growth across diverse markets.
3:35 PM	Beyond Carbon: Manufacturing's Next Frontier The GCC is emerging as a competitive manufacturing hub, leveraging renewable energy and advanced technologies to balance industrial expansion with decarbonisation. This session explores how the region is creating a new model for sustainable manufacturing that serves both economic diversification and global supply chain demands.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 2 | NOV 3

TIME	SESSION TITLES
9:30 AM	Building Legacy: Investing Across Generations and Geographies Aviation has become essential to economic diversification, connecting regions to global markets and contributing significantly to GDP through tourism, trade, and employment. This session explores how airlines are expanding networks, enhancing connectivity, and shaping the future of travel whilst supporting broader economic transformation
9:50 AM	From Vision to Reality: Economic Diversification Through Strategic Investment Bahrain's economy is already the most diversified in the GCC, with non-oil activities making up 86% of government revenue, and ambitions across strategic infrastructure development, AI-driven innovation and increasingly progressive policies. This session explores the transformational connectivity projects including digital freight corridors and autonomous mobility, and the investment opportunities emerging from Bahrain's proven diversification model.
10:10 AM	Aviation and Connectivity: Driving Economic Growth Aviation has become essential to economic diversification, connecting regions to global markets and contributing significantly to GDP through tourism, trade, and employment. This session explores how airlines are expanding networks, enhancing connectivity, and shaping the future of travel whilst supporting broader economic transformation
10:30 AM	Next-Generation Logistics: Connecting Cluster Markets Examining how digital transformation and multimodal integration are creating new opportunities for Gulf economies to serve as strategic connectors between major global trade routes. This session explores how innovations in port automation, sea-air corridors, and cross-border digital documentation are reshaping logistics efficiencies and unlocking new economic possibilities within the region.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE | DAY 2 | NOV 3

TIME	SESSION TITLES
10:50 AM	Attracting Global Innovation: Digital Finance and Progressive Regulation The digitalisation of financial services is reshaping how capital flows, transactions are conducted, and market participants operate globally. Progressive jurisdictions are leveraging regulatory innovation and technology adoption to attract diverse market participants and capital flows. This session examines how forward-thinking regulatory approaches, digital infrastructure development, and technology adoption position jurisdictions as preferred hubs for modern financial services, and how digitalisation serves as both a catalyst for attracting capital and a mechanism for financial stability, whilst expanding financial inclusion across populations and business segments.
11:10 AM	Healthcare Capital: Strategies for Medical Innovation The healthcare sector represents one of the most promising investment opportunities across GCC markets, driven by ambitious national transformation plans and an openness to innovation. Governments are creating favorable environments for public-private partnerships to attract international healthcare expertise and capital. This transformation offers substantial opportunities in specialized care, medical tourism, digital health, and pharmaceutical manufacturing.
11:40 AM	The Experience Economy: Sports, Innovation, and Investment Sports has long been a vehicle for pushing innovation's limits and provides an entertainment platform for enthusiasts and spectators. How can nations leverage the intersection of innovation and entertainment to strengthen their economies and attract investment.
12:10 PM	Lunch