

# Expo to give students a career head start

● Youngsters to get expert jobs advice

By SOMAN BABY

PREPARING students for a successful career will be the focus of a major conference and exhibition opening in Bahrain today.

Gulf Careers 2000 is being organised by the Bahrain Management Centre (BMC) at the Bahrain Conference Centre, Holiday Inn.

It will be held under the patronage of Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala.

BMC careers education development advisor Ettaline Moore said the event would be the Gulf's first major careers conference and exhibition.

The conference will take place today and tomorrow while the exhibition will run until Thursday.

Ms Moore said business people and educationalists from

**'Time to look beyond medicine and engineering'**

By ANDEYA AHMED

YOUNG people will be given the opportunity to see different job opportunities offered in the market at Gulf Careers 2000, which starts today.

The two-day event will cover the general concepts of careers.

"We have many jobs available in Bahrain, which young people have not been prepared to get involved in," said Bahrain Training Institute director Dr Naji Al Mahdi, the keynote speaker.

"Through this conference we hope to guide young people to get involved in different jobs and the various decisions

they can take on careers they would approach.

"Such conferences bring careers into focus as well as the needs of school and university leavers."

He said the conference would also highlight the importance of getting rid of the traditional attitude when guiding young people to jobs they can serve in.

"The traditional attitude of parents towards jobs is seeing their children as doctors and engineers," said

Dr Al Mahdi.

"There are other areas that young people are needed in and not just the top professions, which we need them to get involved in.

"These include tourism, marketing and hotel jobs, which are not traditional jobs.

"This conference will give young people the opportunity to match their capabilities, dislikes and likes to the careers they can prove successful in to make a better life for themselves and the society around them."

Bahrain and experts in career guidance and information from Britain would speak at the conference.

"It will enable interested parties, along with organisations from the private and public sectors, to join together and look at how we are preparing our current and potential workforce," she said.

"It will also act as a forum to influence what should happen to prepare job seekers for the year 2000 and beyond."

Ms Moore said the exhibition would highlight the opportunities in the world of work.

It will include demonstrations of the latest computer packages,

which are used to help when choosing a suitable career.

About 100 people from the GCC states have registered for the conference.

A total of 16 papers will be presented.

Bahrain Training Institute director Dr Naji Al Mahdi will make the keynote address on the topic, New and emerging occupational areas for employment in Bahrain.

Bapco general manager administration Hussain Redha will speak on Competencies and skills for the year 2000.

Muharrag Secondary Technical School principal Hassan Mohammed Ameen and Ahmed

Al Omran School assistant principal Abdul Hakim Al Shair will give an overview of education in Bahrain.

Sana Maki from the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry's labour studies and research section will present statistics on school leavers and an overview of young people entering the workforce for the past three years.

Jawad Group managing director Faisal Jawad will present the experiences of a local employer in recruiting and training a local workforce.

Batelco human resources general manager Mariam Janahi will talk about training in a larger

organisation. Tomorrow's session will start with a talk on the opportunities in the hotel industry by the Specific Council for Training in Hotels and Catering chairman Abdulnabi Daylami.

CareerCraft executive director Alan Miles will present a paper titled Training is not enough.

Papers will also be presented on computers in career guidance and Bahrain University's training programmes.

The closing session will be addressed by Assistant Under-Secretary for Planning and Training at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry Abdulrahman Zayani.