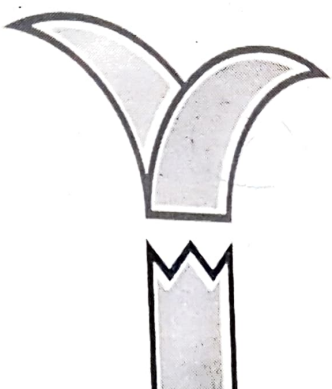


Training institute is playing a major



■ EMBLEM ... Mr Al Sho'ala, right, with Dr Al Mahdi after unveiling the new BTI emblem

THE Bahrain Training Institute (BTI) is breaking new ground in providing training to Bahraini job-seekers and industry.

The number of job-seekers enrolled at the institute grew by more than 40 per cent last year, compared with the previous year, said BTI director Dr Najib Ahmed Al Mahdi.

Participation in the institute's programmes for employed people grew by another seven per cent.

Dr Al Mahdi was speaking

By INDIRA CHAND

last night at the BTI's annual staff reception at the Holiday Inn's Bahrain Conference Center.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala presented awards to 17 outstanding staff.

Mr Al Sho'ala also unveiled BTI's new emblem.

"We had a very successful year last year," said Dr Al Mahdi.

He said a total of 2,097 job seekers were enrolled in various programmes last year, an in-

crease of 43pc over 1994.

A further 2,215 participants were enrolled in programmes for industry, representing a seven per cent increase over the previous year.

For the job-seekers, the number of teaching hours increased by 30pc to 859,000 hours, from 661,000 hours in 1994, said Dr Al Mahdi.

For industry, teaching hours increased by 24pc to 247,000 hours, from 199,000 hours in 1994.

"In terms of total students, the number increased by 22pc to

4,472 students last year, compared with 3,672 in 1994," said Dr Al Mahdi.

The number of staff increased proportionately to 179, from 146 in 1994.

Of them 67pc (or 107) are Bahrainis, compared with 52pc Bahrainisation in 1994.

However, the institute's budget remained unchanged at BD1.74 million.

"We were able to increase our efficiency due to the hard work of the staff and rescheduling of certain programmes," said Dr Al Mahdi.

role in helping Bahraini job-seekers



■ HONOUR ... The Minister presents award to Khalil Al Hashmi, and right, Emma French-Mullen

"We were able to increase our output without increasing our expenses."

The institute's income increased by 37pc to BD690,000 last year, from BD502,000 the previous year.

The highlights of the year also included the introduction of two new programmes in accounting and human resource development, said Dr Al Mahdi.

The BTI also got excellent ratings from British educational bodies - the Royal Society of Arts, Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) and

National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

The institute also received a grade of high excellence from BTEC for its human and material resources.

"We have had a very good year and we look forward to an equally good year in 1996," said Dr Al Mahdi.

He said the challenges facing the institute include the challenge of changes in technology and expectation, culture and work ethics and delivering the best value for money in training.

Bid to hone skills

THE Bahrain Training Institute has become the pillar of training in Bahrain, BTI instructor of electrical and electronics technology Ali Al Madah said yesterday.

Speaking on behalf of Bahraini staff at the institute during the annual staff reception, Mr Al Madah said the BTI had undergone a transformation in its efforts to deliver high quality training.

"The basic target is to create a new generation of technicians with the right skills to replace expatriates,"

said Mr Al Madah.

Head of mechanical technology department Dudley Mulford said the institute was making every effort to provide industry with the trained and skilled workers.

"What Bahrain's industries (large or small, service or manufacturing) need right now is a massive injection of skilled Bahraini personnel in all disciplines from business to engineering," said Mr Mulford, speaking on behalf of non-Bahraini staff.



■ **DISCUSSION ...** *Labour and Social Affairs Minister Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala yesterday met Egyptian Ambassador Mahmood Sami Ahmed Esmat and discussed bilateral relations.*