

## **Microsoft Bahrain Bags Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award for 'Imagine Cup'**

A global competition targeting students and fresh graduates between 16 and 26 years old  
Over 3500 students in Bahrain participated throughout the last 7 years

Microsoft Bahrain was awarded the 'Best Corporate Social Responsibility 2014 Award' for the 'Imagine Cup' competition. The award was presented by H. E. Kamal Bin Ahmed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications to Hamad Al Saei, Public Sector Manager, Microsoft Bahrain during the opening ceremony of MEET ICT Conference & Exhibition 2014. The award recognizes Microsoft's ongoing commitment to youth's development by inspiring them to reach their full potential and ultimately helping them secure a better future.

"We are extremely thrilled to have won this prestigious award for the second consecutive year," said Sherif Tawfik, General Manager for Microsoft in Bahrain and Oman. "At Microsoft, we believe in the innovative power of the region and its talents; Imagine Cup is not just a competition, it is part of our commitment to supporting youth and encouraging them to innovate and achieve their potential. Our Bahraini team won the third place in the 2014 Worldwide Finals and raised the Kingdom's flag high; our true reward is when we see young people taking the lead in changing not only their lives but the lives of others around them, making a real impact in their local communities and on the global platform." Tawfik extended his thankful recognition to Microsoft's local partners Tamkeen, Bahrain Economic Development Board, eGovernment Authority and Bahrain Development Bank for their continual support and collaboration, "We dedicate this award to our local partners as without their commitment it would not have been possible to achieve such marvelous results."

Each year, BTECH awards companies, organizations and individuals who have positively contributed in the development of the ICT industry, products and services, on a regional and global level. The selection of the winners is carefully handled by a group of international judging panel.

Ubaydli Ubaydli, President, Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) organizers of the Meet ICT Conference & Exhibition celebrated Microsoft's accomplishment and applauded their efforts in providing the youngsters in Bahrain the means to develop competencies and skills that will accentuate their academic, professional and personal lives. "We thank Microsoft for their ongoing commitment to Bahrain and we congratulate them for receiving the Best Corporate Social Responsibility Award which was bestowed upon them in recognition of their support to our youth helping them create a better future."

Imagine Cup is a cornerstone of the Microsoft YouthSpark initiative, the company's commitment to creating opportunities for 300 million youth by 2015. Students competing in the competition often participate in other YouthSpark programs such as DreamSpark and the Microsoft Student Partner (MSP) program to help build their skillset, further develop their projects and help bring their ideas to life. DreamSpark, also a part of the Microsoft YouthSpark initiative, provides professional developer tools and resources to students at no cost; students participating in Imagine Cup utilize the resources available to them through DreamSpark to help further develop their projects on Microsoft Platforms.

For more information about Imagine Cup and other programs of YouthSpark initiative, please visit: [www.imaginecup.com](http://www.imaginecup.com); [www.youthspark.com](http://www.youthspark.com); [www.dreamspark.com](http://www.dreamspark.com)

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About Microsoft Gulf:

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ:'MSFT') is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. Microsoft Gulf opened its Dubai-based headquarters in 1991. Microsoft Gulf today oversees Microsoft activities in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen. Microsoft Corporation's address on the World Wide Web is: [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) Microsoft Middle East's Web site is [www.microsoft.com/en/xm/](http://www.microsoft.com/en/xm/)

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