

THE REGION IS POSITIONED FOR RAPID GROWTH

- GDP, which was US\$341.6bn in 2000 is forecast to be worth US\$2trn in 2020.
- The GCC household consumption reached US\$1.7 trillion in 2016



WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST?

THE NEW FRONTIER FOR STARTUPS IN THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC)



BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES, UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

- Welcoming technology companies to lead digital transformation
- Political urgency to diversify from oil to other industries such as technology
- Rapid growth will see US\$1B investment in regional startups in 2018

- Centrally located in the GCC with easy access to other hubs in the region
- Causeway to Saudi Arabia only takes 40 minutes to drive with over 12 million visitors annually

BAHRAIN IS THE GATEWAY TO THE GULF

source: <http://www.bahrain.com/>

BAHRAIN

LAUNCHPAD TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain is a founder member of the GCC which consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE

THE MOST LIBERAL & BUSINESS FRIENDLY MEMBER IN THE GCC

source: <http://www.bahrain.com/>

- 100% foreign-owned companies
- Incorporating in Bahrain gives the ability to trade anywhere in the GCC

PEOPLE-EMPOWERING CHANGE

- 35% of the population is under 25 years old
- 78% of secondary school graduates go on to earn a bachelor degree



source: <http://www.bahrain.com/>

WHY BAHRAIN?

RANKED #1 freest economy in MENA and RANKED #18 worldwide

RANKED #1 globally by expats as the best place to live

Economic Freedom Score



100%
Foreign Ownership Allowed

Source: bahrain.com

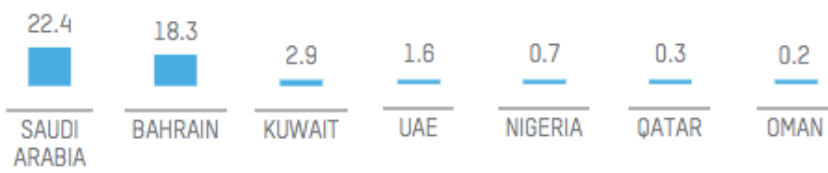
BAHRAIN IS 1 OF THE 5 CITIES IN THE WORLD CHOSEN FOR A NEW AWS DATA CENTER



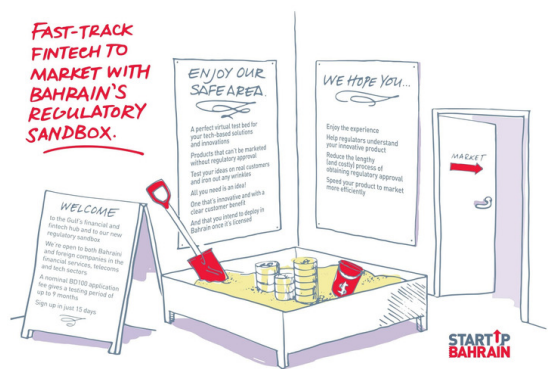
ESTABLISHED FINANCIAL HUB

Over 400 financial institutions

Asset Management AUM - Dubai (\$2bn), Bahrain (\$18bn), Saudi (\$22bn)



ONLY ONSHORE FINTECH REGULATORY SANDBOX IN THE GCC



GROW YOUR BUSINESS

BAHRAIN OFFERS STARTUPS:

- Up to **US\$2M** of financial support from the Bahrain Development Bank
- 50%** of business costs covered through Enterprise Support Programme
- New visa** upon arrival for visitors from 66 countries
- Up to **70%** of salary subsidies for the first 2 years

LOWEST CORPORATE INCOME TAX IN THE GCC



Source: ¹The Global Competitiveness Report, World Economic Forum 2013 – 2014, ²KPMG Corporate Tax Report, 2014 *20% for branches of foreign banks