

# Future 'depends on education'

By **MOHAMMED AL A'ALI**

BAHRAIN'S future depends on top quality education for students at all levels, says Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi.

"Education is important to our developmental projects and future programmes and without it everything falls apart," he said yesterday.

"The ministry is currently assessing its educational system in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help formulate a strong educational system."

Dr Al Nuaimi was speaking at the opening of the Fifth Quality of Higher Education Conference, at the Diplomat Radisson SAS Hotel.

The three-day event has been organised by the university, under the patronage of Dr Al Nuaimi, who is also university board of trustees president.

Present at the opening ceremony were Social Affairs Minister Dr Fatima Al Balooshi and university president Dr Shaikha Mariam bint Hassan Al Khalifa.

Dr Al Nuaimi stressed that improving the quality of education in schools and other institutions was not down to the ministry alone.

"Bahrain University is a partner in any plan, because it is supplying us with teachers, the ones who will carry out the ministry's projects and programmes," he said.

"The university is currently in the final stages of getting its College of Education programmes internationally approved and this will help develop the quality and output of teachers in schools."

The college expects to receive official accreditation by the end of this year.

Dr Al Nuaimi said that the university was also on its way to get-

## Ministry puts system under spotlight



■ At the event, from left, are Dr Shaikha Mariam, Dr Al Nuaimi and Dr Al Balooshi



■ Dr Ghuloom and Dr Shobar

ting accreditation for other programmes.

"This will help enhance the quality of the certificate offered and the quality of graduates expected to take up jobs in the labour market," he said.

Moves for international accreditation for various programmes at the College of Engineering and College of Business Administration are also going ahead.

College of Arts dean and acting College of Education dean Dr Ibrahim Ghuloom said that education was going through many chal-

lenges, especially when it comes to meeting market requirements.

"The university, with directives from the leadership, is doing whatever it can to improve the quality of higher education and hopefully this will lead to better graduates being pumped in to the labour market," he said.

Organising committee chairman Dr Khalil Shobar said that the event aimed at raising the quality of education at the university's colleges, with experts from all over the world taking part.

### Accreditation

Dr Shobar, who is College of Education's curricula and instruction department head, said that international accreditation organisations had already visited the university over the past two years.

Participants at the conference are being divided to four groups.

Discussions focus on total quality management, academic accredi-

tation, classification systems and related international awards and modern systems of higher education and challenges of quality assurance.

Experts from all around the world have been invited to the event to give their feedback and experience on what's being presented at the university.

A total of 52 research papers will be discussed at the event.

Three are being presented by Bahrain University lecturers, including Bahrainis Dr Khalid Bugahoo and Dr Faisal Al Mulla.

Other participants are from Germany, the US, the UK, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Sudan.

A two-day workshop on the accreditation process at the College of Education also began yesterday at the hotel just for college lecturers, after the end of the of the conference sessions.