Innovative solutions urged to solve water challenges in GCC

THE use of artificial intelligence (AI) could go a long way in promoting sustainable water management practices in the region, experts said at a symposium.

Technology should be used to address water challenges in the GCC region which suffers from a lack of water resources due to the arid climate and population expansion, they added during an online panel discussion.

'AI Applications in the Water Sector: Towards Sustainable and Smart Management' was organised jointly by the GCC general secretariat's energy department, the Gulf Water Sciences and Technology Association (WSTA) and the Arabian Gulf University (AGU).

AGU Water Resources Management professor and WSTA scientific committee chairman Walid Zubari, who moderated the symposium, underlined the need for innovative solutions to water problems in the region.

"The GCC region faces unique water challenges, requiring effective management of water resources," he said.

"Through the application of AI, the level of management can be raised in three main issues: optimisation, forecasting and analysis, including demand management, detection of waste sites, detection of leaks and improvement of desalination processes," he added.

The seminar was a significant opportunity for GCC countries to learn about the latest developments of AI in this field, exchange expertise between specialists and explore opportunities for local application of these technologies.

Meanwhile, International Water Management Institute in the Middle East and North Africa regional representative Dr Youssef Brouziyne and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, UK and Ireland, head of education and an expert in digital and smart systems Dr Zeyad Al Shibaany presented the latest applications of AI in water resources management, reviewing the challenges facing the adoption of these technologies and how to overcome them, as well as future trends and opportunities provided by this technology to improve water management in the Gulf countries and the Arab region.

They also provided insights into how to use AI in water management and discussed current obstacles and future opportunities.

"AI is a strategic necessity to achieve water sustainability in the GCC countries as every drop of water becomes more important in facing the challenges of water scarcity," they stressed.

The experts also answered questions from more than 120 academics, researchers and interested people from different countries who joined the online discussion.

GCC general secretariat energy department director Dr Mohammed Al Rashidi pointed out that the issue of water scarcity was one of the top priorities for GCC nations in view of multiple challenges, such as increasing demand for water and the lack of natural resources, and these called for the adoption of advanced technologies.

He said that AI offered great possibilities in the water sector, such as predictive analytics to improve water consumption, and the use of smart sensors to detect and reduce waste.

However, he stressed the need to address some of the challenges related to data availability, regulatory frameworks and capacity building to ensure that these technologies are effectively integrated into the water sector.

WSTA chairman Abdulrahman Al Mahmoud said that AI offered tremendous capabilities to provide innovative solutions to manage water resources efficiently and effectively.

■ *Participants in the online panel discussion*

■ *The Foreign Minister holds remote meeting with newly appointed ambassadors*

Envoys present credentials

FOREIGN Minister Dr Abdullatif Al Zayani received credentials from several newly appointed ambassadors to Bahrain during a remote meeting.

The Foreign Minister received credentials from Major General Yacub Mohamed of Tanzania, residing in Abu Dhabi; Mogobo David Magabe of South Africa, residing in Riyadh; Manuel Hernandez Gamallo of Spain, residing in Kuwait; Charles Kingston of New Zealand, residing in Riyadh; and Akram Karimi of Tajikistan, residing in Riyadh.

Dr Al Zayani commended the ties between Bahrain and the ambassadors' respective countries. He emphasised the shared commitment to further enhancing these relations to serve mutual aspirations and goals, wishing them success in performing their diplomatic roles.

The ambassadors expressed pride in presenting their credentials and reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties across various domains, wishing Bahrain continued growth and prosperity.

BAHRAIN MIDDLE EAST BANK

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION
At 31 December 2024

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
At 31 December 2024

	2024 US$ '000	2023 US$ '000
ASSETS		
Balances with banks and financial institutions	185	67
Placements with financial institutions	1,309	1,069
Investment securities	4,162	4,162
Loans and advances	-	-
Exposures to related parties	-	-
Investment property	1,129	2,494
Other assets	25	60
TOTAL ASSETS	6,810	7,852
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to financial institutions	127,374	127,632
Due to customers	1,176	1,188
Other liabilities	2,366	2,526
Total liabilities	130,916	131,346
EQUITY		
Share capital	100,000	100,000
Accumulated losses	(224,106)	(223,494)
Total equity	(124,106)	(123,494)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	6,810	7,852

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 US$ '000	2023 US$ '000
OPERATING INCOME		
Interest income	402	81
Interest expense	(2)	(1)
Net interest income	400	80
Fee and commission income	-	19
Other income	152	222
Foreign exchange gain /(loss)	341	(44)
Total operating Income	893	277
Impairment reversal - net	8	-
NET OPERATING INCOME	901	277
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Staff expenses	790	792
Other operating expenses	723	674
Total operating expenses	1,513	1,466
NET LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS FOR THE YEAR	(612)	(1,189)
BASIC AND DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (IN US$ CENTS)	(0.15)	(0.30)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 US$ '000	2023 US$ '000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net loss for the year	(612)	(1,189)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	2	14
Foreign exchange loss / (gain)	(341)	44
Loss on sale of investment properties	3	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Other assets	47	5
Due to financial institutions	-	(166)
Due to customers	(12)	(748)
Other liabilities	(91)	183
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,004)	(1,857)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from disposal of investment property	1,362	-
Net cash flows used in investing activities	1,362	-
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	358	(1,857)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	1,136	2,993
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 31 DECEMBER	1,494	1,136
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS COMPRISE:		
Balances with banks and financial institutions	185	67
Placements with financial institutions with original maturities of three months or less	1,309	1,069
TOTAL	1,494	1,069

Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Share capital US$ '000	Accumulated losses US$ '000	Total equity US$ '000
Balance at 1 January 2023	100,000	(222,305)	(122,305)
Net loss and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(1,189)	(1,189)
Balance at 31 December 2023	100,000	(223,494)	(123,494)
Net loss and total comprehensive loss for the year	-	(612)	(612)
Balance at 31 December 2024	100,000	(224,106)	(124,106)

These condensed statements have been extracted from the Consolidated Financial Statements as at 31 December 2024, which were reviewed by Ernst and Young, and approved by the Board of Directors on 18 February 2025.

For more information, please refer to consolidated financial statements available on the Bank's **website: www.bmb.com.bh**

Sh. Khalifa Bin Duaij Bin Khalifa AlKhalifa
Chairman

Emad Yousef Al Monayea
Vice Chairman

Abdulla Mohamed Dawood
Chief Executive Officer

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