With the freest economy in the Middle East — higher than France and Germany — Bahrain has enjoyed sustained and strengthened growth for four decades. The country is still riding high, with huge levels of investment, diverse industries and an extensive energy master plan under way.

Seven-sixty-six years after it made its first oil shipment to Japan, the oil capital of Bahrain is still going from strength to strength. A modern infrastructure, tax-free environment and a business-oriented government have all contributed to making the small island one of the most attractive prospects for investment in the region.

Home to some 738,000 Bahrainis, Bahrain lies at the heart of the Arabian Gulf, and enjoys efficient and effective access to all Middle Eastern markets, by air, sea and road. South Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, for example, are all less than an hour away by road. The country enjoys the benefits of a low-tax environment and a young, highly skilled workforce. Bahrainis are dedicated to discovering new oil reserves and are expected to reach a new high of 15 to 15.5 percent of government income.

The National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) was established in 2005 by royal decree in Bahrain. It was very successful. “BAPCO is an integrated oil company, working on the complete chain from production to retailing to marketing,” says Ali Mirza, minister of oil and gas, and Chairman of the National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA). “We were the first company in the Gulf to produce out of oil and we continue to produce. We have been selling them for a number of years and it has been working extremely well,” Ali Mirza says.

In the meantime, Bahrain is regarded as the best-regulated financial center in the region, with financial services making up 25 percent of its GDP. There are more than 400 licensed financial institutions and 10,000 people working in the sector.

Security and Investment Company (SIC), a leading Bahrain-based financial institution and the largest broker in Bahrain, has provided a select range of investment banking services to clients across the GCC. Bahrain offers asset management, wealth management, corporate finance, and custody and administration, all of which are underpinned by an independent, value-added research capability.

The Ministry of Information is appealing to high-end marketers to fulfill this task, selecting specialist four operators and travel agents from around the globe to come and enjoy the experience while maximizing the country’s potential for meetings, incentives, conferences and events and the Portomaso One Grand Prix. Within five years, we would like to double this contribution to GDP to 32 percent,” says Minister of Information, Ali Bahrrani.

“Bahrain is a service center for a long time now, and have a large construction sector in the GCC, the ports and businesses. We have been sending trainees to other countries and the GCC to invest, to export, says Al-Sayed. “To provide you from A to B, we provide a nice cosmopolitan society with nice amenities, nice cosmopolitan society with nice amenities, nice cosmopolitan society with nice amenities.”

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