



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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NATIONAL U.S. – ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECOGNIZES BAHRAIN’S ABDULLA BIN RASHID ALKHALIFA AS 2022 “AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR”

The National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) announced today that H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid AlKhalifa, the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Ambassador to the United States, has been selected as NUSACC’s 2022 “Ambassador of the Year.” (Please see His Excellency’s bio [here](#).) This award, begun in 2004, is given annually to a member of the Arab diplomatic corps in the USA for his or her outstanding contributions to U.S. - Arab commercial relations. The invitation-only award ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 8, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in downtown Washington DC.



H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid AlKhalifa, the Kingdom of Bahrain’s Ambassador to the United States.

“Shaikh Abdulla has been a great friend of our Chamber over the years,” noted David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC. “We are pleased and proud to recognize the extraordinary work that he has done in the United States on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Few ambassadors have traveled as extensively in the USA as he has, building bridges at all levels: in government circles, within the business community, and with civil society. The partnerships that he has formed will positively influence Bahrain – U.S. relations for decades to come.”

Ambassador Alkhalifa said, “It is a humbling honor to be recognized by the National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce, which has proven to be an invaluable partner to both of our peoples. Increasing bilateral trade between our two nations is an ongoing goal, supported not only by the tireless efforts of those in the Kingdom of Bahrain, but also through the stalwart support of our friends here in the United States, like NUSACC. Commerce, trade, and communications serve as the foundations on which the prosperity and security of all civilizations are supported.”



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In partnership with the Embassy of Bahrain, NUSACC co-hosted H.E. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Bahrain's Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism.

From right to left: Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, Lockheed Martin; David Hamod, NUSACC; H.E. Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism; H.E. Shaikh Abdulla Bin Rashid AlKhalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States; Shannon Kellogg, Amazon Web Services.

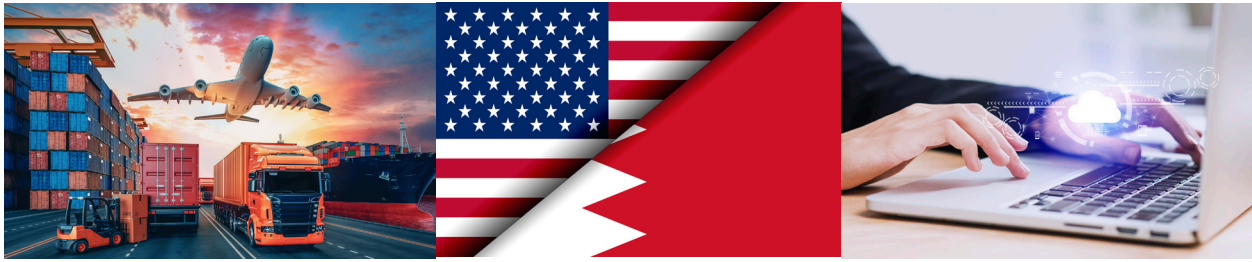
Working closely with the leadership in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as implementing his "Beyond the Beltway" outreach, Ambassador AlKhalifa's tireless efforts during his tenure have so far helped to bring about such business-friendly achievements as:

☞ **Extending Global Sea-Air Hub Status to the USA.** In 2021, Bahrain launched the fastest regional multi-modal logistics hub in the Middle East. By March 2022, during the visit of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Alkhalifa, Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the United States was granted "Official Partner Status" in the Bahrain Global Sea-to-Air Hub.

☞ **Establishing a U.S. Trade Zone (USTZ) in Bahrain.** Considered to be a unique and original model, the USTZ will help boost bilateral trade between the two countries by creating a regional trade, manufacturing, logistics, and distribution hub for U.S. companies doing business in Bahrain.

☞ **Creating Business-Friendly Visas.** In 2022, Bahrain introduced a permanent residency visa intended to attract fresh talent and investment. This Golden Residency visa will be renewed indefinitely, including the right to work in Bahrain, unlimited entry and exit, and residency for close family members. This development comes on the heels of Bahrain's new ten-year multiple entry visa, established in 2020, which is offered exclusively to U.S. passport holders (enabling them to come and go easily).

☞ **Extending Global Entry to Bahrain.** Global Entry is one of four branches of America's Trusted Traveler Programs, one that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival at U.S. airports. In January 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) launched a full Global Entry partnership with Bahrain, the first agreement of its kind in the MENA region.



☞ **Adopting a Cloud-First Policy.** Amazon Web Services (AWS) opened a hub in Bahrain in 2019, the first of its kind in the MENA region, to provide cloud computing services. This step has enhanced investment in ICT in Bahrain, a critical sector for capacity-building among Bahraini young professionals. In 2022, consistent with the country’s Cloud Computing Services Law, Bahrain granted U.S. sovereignty over data – stored in Bahrain-based data centers – of U.S. beneficiaries.

☞ **Promoting Freedom of Navigation.** In August 2019, Bahrain was the first country in the Gulf region to announce that it had joined the U.S.-led International Maritime Security Construct. The goal of the Construct is to promote freedom of navigation in the region, which is integral to maintaining free-flowing global trade.

These business-friendly reforms build on the U.S. - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which entered into force in 2006. In 2021, U.S. - Bahrain two-way trade exceeded \$2 billion, up from \$1.5 billion in 2020. Enhanced trade and investment are key to diversifying Bahrain’s economy away from hydrocarbons and toward a knowledge-based economy.



The National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC), currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, is America’s longest serving organization dedicated to U.S. - Arab business. NUSACC is widely regarded as the voice of American business in the 22 countries of the Arab world and the premier portal to the United States for Arab commercial enterprises. NUSACC is the only organization of its kind to receive the “E” Award for Export Service – conferred by the President of the United States – the highest recognition that any U.S. entity may receive for supporting export activity.

The Chamber is an independent, membership-driven entity that is funded by its 50,000 members and stakeholders. NUSACC is the only business entity in the United States that is officially recognized and authorized by the League of Arab States and the Union of Arab Chambers. As such, NUSACC is a “sister chamber” of the national chambers of commerce throughout the Arab world, including the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry.