**Interview 3**

**Demographic Data**

* Gender: Male
* Age Group: 36-45
* Job Title: Director of Geographic Information Systems Department
* Department: G.I.S
* Experience: +10 years

**Questions and Answers**

1. **Thank you for your time. This interview is about challenges and opportunities that face technological innovation, and I’ve read about your background a little bit.**  
   Yes, I worked in archives in the past. I was responsible for government systems administration, and now I focus on systems built on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), like buildings and planning.
2. **What challenges face the performance of Open Government Data in the Kingdom of Bahrain?**  
   We can divide the challenges into categories. One category is how ready the platform is to provide data to users. The e-Government Authority is working on the Open Government Data Portal and providing technologies like API and Excel files. Developing this portal has made it easier to provide users with data. Another challenge is data classification—determining whether it’s Open Data and how beneficial it is, whether it’s suitable for Open Data, or whether it should be restricted to government and private entities. Additionally, we face decisions about whether data is more valuable as a paid subscription or as Open Data. Studying the market gap to identify what data is needed by private entities or researchers is another key challenge.
3. **Are there any fields that have the opportunity to benefit from the Open Government Data to drive innovation?**  
   Yes, one of these fields is research at universities. Providing Open Data to private entities for subscription helps in applications that support business and innovation. There are opportunities in the SMEs sector as well as in using pricing schemes for services that can drive innovation.
4. **What are the other fields besides SMEs?**  
   Researchers and universities can improve innovation across various fields, such as healthcare or specialized studies. For example, researchers can compare areas with facilities like gyms to areas without them and analyze their impact on healthcare and innovation.
5. **What’s the impact of technological innovation in supporting the performance of Open Government Data?**  
   Improving GIS infrastructure with AI and deep learning has maximized data usage, transforming it into knowledge for decision-makers and researchers. A planned platform aims to provide free access to researchers, supporting scientific research while maintaining privacy and security.
6. **Is this platform currently in use?**  
   Statistics sector oversees the Open Government Data. We collaborate with them to provide data but focus on infrastructure and support.
7. **How is the performance of Open Government Data measured? Are there technologies you use for certain KPIs?**  
   We work with the statistics sector and the Niad platform. Our focus is on maintaining data exchange between government entities and using geographic data to streamline services, such as automating processes in the Benayat platform for real estate projects.
8. **But you don’t have a measurement methodology for data performance like the number of datasets, right?**  
   Measurement responsibilities lie with the statistics sector. We concentrate on providing data and support.
9. **What are the future trends in the e-government sector, Open Government Data, and technological innovation?**  
   Technological innovation is advancing rapidly. A newly established Innovation Authority focuses on expediting the process and applying new technologies. The Kingdom of Bahrain aims to leverage technology for economic and social growth, focusing on digitalization to benefit citizens and save time.
10. **What are the new technologies you’re working on?**  
    We are using deep learning for detecting building violations and real estate development through platforms like RERA and Akari. The goal is to automate processes, such as issuing building licenses within minutes, using tools like building information models (BIM).
11. **What are the future trends you see in e-government, Open Government Data, and technological innovation?**  
    The government is focusing on partnerships with the private sector, facilitated by transparency and data sharing. Future efforts include aligning projects with government work programs to measure success and enhance collaboration.