Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA) Hosts the first Regional virtual E-Workshop platform **Chimex** powered by Amazon Web Services

**New York, 15 June 2020:** The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bahrain, and UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) Bahrain, in partnership with the Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR), the Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA), and the Bahrain Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), had their Annual conference. This year conference hosted over 150 high-level government officials, business leaders, and development agencies among others, from across all regions of the globe for the first time electronically with a novel online platform Chimex that was developed and powered by Amazon Web Services (AWS).

The annual conference hosted participants from 15 countries and spanned over 3 days. It requires usually travel and personal contact, which the C19 Pandemic has put severe restrictions on. BIPA had to choose between canceling the conference and finding a creative way to run a virtual e-workshop using innovative technologies. Before COVID-19, conferences, travel and physical meeting were the norm, while now with social distancing, closure of most airports and travel ban, life should continue, and we need to come up with innovative technologies to continue business as usual.

Chimex is leveraging the Amazon Chime SDK, a set of real-time communications components that developers can use to quickly add audio calling, video calling, and screen sharing capabilities to their own web or mobile applications. This SDK was the base to build a customized virtual conferencing e-workshop solution, which is a set of real-time communications components that developers can use to quickly add audio calling, video calling, and screen sharing capabilities to their own applications. Most of the Chimex use cases utilized server application that manages meeting and attendee resources, and serves those resources to the client application, and client application that receives meeting and attendee information from the server application, and uses that information to make media connections.

The first release of Chimex had single track (no breakouts), communication fostering between attendees, encourage interaction, more than a webinar format, and gamification of the Event, rewarding interactions, hashtags on twitter/Instagram, preserving the valuable collaboration that occurs in a physical event even while converting this to a virtual event.

The AWS virtual conference platform enabled the attendees to collaborate online and discuss means to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the overarching theme of 'Promoting conducive policy, enabling business and legal environment, and integration in the Arab States Region.' Held exclusively for the first time utilizing Chimex, the AWS online custom developed platform on the 14th and 15th of June 2020, the e-workshop included expert panel discussions and regional perspectives. The second day saw the continuation of talks and began the process of formulating research agendas from the findings of the event as post-workshop activity by UNOSSC's Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks (GCTTN) to strengthen investment policies using informed policymaking.

"The virtual conference exceeded all of our expectations, as we received a lot of positive feedback from participants, as well as from our international counterparts and partners, stated Dr. Ra'ed Ben Shams, the Director-General of BIPA. “We were able to provide the usual breadth of workshops without compromising any quality of the discussions or the output, even in the current C19 pandemic environment. It worked so well, we plan to make this format our first choice, added Dr. Shams.

Teresa Carlson worldwide vice president public sector at Amazon Web Services stated: “I was exceptionally pleased with the proactive approach of using a novel online platform to attend the conference. It was seamless and mimicked the offline experience well. I hope more events emulate the practice in hopes of it becoming an industry norm”.

To experience a demo version of Chimex, please reach out to :-

BIPA team email **:-** [**m.alsabba@bipa.gov.bh**](mailto:m.alsabba@bipa.gov.bh)and AWS team email:-[**nidbasha@amazon.com**](mailto:nidbasha@amazon.com)