

Inspired plans secondary school campus in Bahrain

MANAMA: Inspired, a UK-based group of international schools on four continents, plans to secure a site near British School of Bahrain (BSB) to build a secondary school campus, it has emerged.

The company's founder and group chairman Nadim Nsouli told the *GDN* in an exclusive interview that its medium-term plans include securing yet another site serving another catchment area with a second BSB in the country.

Inspired became the operator of BSB last December following the signing of an education agreement valued at up to \$150 million with then owner GFH Financial Group.

One of the leading schools in the country, BSB provides education to 2,500 students.

According to him, the company's vision is to "bring its global best practices to make the school the best in the region by leveraging its world-leading educational experts and access to state-of-the-art learning platforms".

"An Inspired education extends beyond the confines of traditional academia to tuition in life and public speaking, study methods and time management.

"We firmly believe it is vital that our students are adequately equipped to meet life's challenges in a competitive world," he added.

"Integrating, innovative, challenging and enriching academic, performing arts and sports programmes, Inspired's students leave with outstanding results, a love of learning, confidence and a firm value system that prepares them to embrace the challenges life throws at them in their future endeavours."

By AVINASH SAXENA

The addition of BSB expands Inspired's portfolio to over 30 schools in 11 countries, providing education to more than 24,000 students.

Mr Nsouli said the group will actively evaluate expansion opportunities for the school in Bahrain due to the increasing demand for premium education.

When asked about the reasons for the company's foray into Bahrain, Mr Nsouli said Inspired believed the kingdom was

the ideal launchpad for the rest of the GCC, where the market demand for quality premium education remains poised for further growth.

"The GCC is a very interesting region, as it is a \$1.5 trillion economy with huge demand for education given its young population, and the need for

economic transformation and growth in order to be able to match the needs of this growing population," he said.

According to him, Inspired got a lot of support from the Economic Development Board and the government, with both organisations well aligned in their efforts to enable the private sector to bolster economic growth in the country.

"We have been following the Bahraini government's efforts in transforming the economy and enabling the private sector to lead the economic growth and given education is the seed for innovation and growth, we wanted to be the first player in the market to lead in the education sector," he said.

"We also believe that the private sector will play an increasingly important role in education in Bahrain."

Elaborating on the education market in Bahrain, Mr Nsouli said, being the first country in the GCC to provide education, the kingdom was always known for its educated local

workforce which reflected the importance of education in the community.

With offices in London, Johannesburg, Bogota, Sydney and soon in Dubai, Inspired has regional teams to support the growing family of schools in Europe, Australia, Latin

America, the Middle East and Africa.

"To manage this diversity, we draw upon our wide range of educational and operational management expertise to share best practices across our group."

avinash@gdn.com.bh



■ Mr Nsouli