



DANAT

BAHRAIN INSTITUTE
FOR PEARLS & GEMSTONES

Chairman's Speech

Ladies and Gentleman, dignitaries and honorable guests, welcome to the 2019 CIBJO Congress held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is an honor to be here with you today and I thank you for joining us in Bahrain. You are the elite of the global jewellery, gem and gemmological community and we are proud to welcome such an illustrious group of delegates to our home so "Ahlan wa Sahlan".

When it came to setting Bahrain's Vision 2030, our government was keen to look forward and explore modern industries but not at the expense of forgetting the roots of our economic prosperity and heritage; the pearling industry. Bahrain's pearling history spans 4,000 years, with pearls fished from its waters prized for their superior quality, attracting world renowned jewellers such as Cartier to its shores. Hence as part of the Vision 2030, the government set forth an ambition to revive the natural pearling industry through holistic planning that incorporated tourism, culture, environment and commerce. DANAT is privileged to be part of the government's grand vision for the future.

At DANAT, our focus is preserving and protecting the natural pearling industry in Bahrain as well as beyond. We achieve this by advocating the highest standards in professionalism, integrity and transparency as well as adding value to the market through our verification services, educational courses and specialist research. It is our commitment to research in innovative technologies that will enable DANAT to make groundbreaking contributions to gemmological fields of study, particularly related to natural pearls. With this in mind, we see the CIBJO Congress as a platform through which we, as a worldwide and interconnected community, can come together to share ideas, exchange information and work together for the betterment of the gemmological, gem and jewellery industry.

With a growing middle class globally, and greater disposable income than ever before, as well as cutting edge technological developments, the opportunities for our industry's development and expansion are limitless but we must not take this for granted. As leaders in our industry, we are at the forefront of innovation, and responsible for responding and directing market trends and consumer behaviour to ensure a sustainable future for our precious natural resources as well as leaving a legacy for the next generation to build upon. It is these topics, amongst others, that we shall explore and discuss throughout the CIBJO Congress. Thank you for your time and for allowing us to share with you Bahrain's heritage, culture and ambitious plans for the future.