GAME DEVELOPERS SPREAD THEIR WINGS

The game development community which faced setback in the beginning has been successful in overcoming the barriers

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Game development community has registered a tremendous growth in Bahrain in a period of 19 months as it has grown from casual enthusiastic group to a recognised community.

In December 2013, *DT News* had shed light on the status of game developing community, which was neglected in the Kingdom despite international boom for the industry. But the 'game' has been changed completely. Bahrain Game Developers founder Ameen Al Tajer said that the community is getting enough support and recognition nowadays. The community, which includes a group of enthusiastic people trying to grow the game development industry, started with a single member. But now it has got 350 members in their online group. Many of them meet regularly, said Mr. Al Tajer.

The group initially started generic session in order to raise awareness. Meanwhile, they worked within the community through multiple social media networks like *Facebook, Instagram* and *Youtube*. They have also developed their own website called *bahraingamedevelopers. com*. Now they have their own podcast show on *Youtube*. "We talk about many things related to game development through podcast show," Mr. Al Tajer said.

The community is seriously focusing on technical aspects of the gaming world. They are conducting several workshops to tackle different aspects in the field of game development, covering highly technical aspect like programming to the non-technical parts like game writing and storytelling. Recently, the community had involved in the 'Game Jam' event, which was conducted at Bahrain Polytechnic. The gaming community members served as the communication partners in the event. "We not only conducted workshops for the participants, but also made sure that they were comfortable with the skills set for them," he said.

The gaming community does not want to limit itself only to workshops. Al Tajer wants to bring something new for his gaming community members. He is planning to give a new shape to the community in a bid to support the personal projects of the game developers. Mr. Al Tajer is also thinking of bringing the members together to work on any group project. "This will help the individuals to gain skills required to work as team," he said. The gaming community is also planning to organise some sessions from October onwards to tackle important aspects of game development.

The sessions would include beginners to moderate game developers, Mr. Al Tajer said.

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The game developers busy in brainstorming activities.