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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

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April



YEAR OF ZAYED

Loyalty and Gratitude to
an Exceptional Leader
Who Built His Nation
and Achieved Glory

Government
Accelerators Enhance
UAE Leadership and
Excellence Worldwide

Innovation in the
UAE: a Culture and a
Work Style

economy.ae

For communications and suggestions : communication@economy.ae

Editorial Team at the Ministry of Economy

General Supervisor : Entisar AlFalasi
Managing Editor : Emad Diyab Al Ali
Translation Supervisor : Lobna Salah ElDine
Coordination : Mohamed Ibrahim
Distribution : Salah Al Abri
Photography : Mohamed Shafy
Design & Layout :  DESIGN
SMART VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Offices of the Ministry of Economy

Emirates	Phone	Fax
Abu Dhabi	02 613 1111	02 626 0000
Dubai	04 314 1555	04 358 1811
Sharjah	06 528 1222	06 528 5333
Ajman	06 747 1333	06 754 7979
Ras Al Khaimah	07 227 8000	07 228 0099
Umm Al Quwain	06 766 4426	06 766 4426
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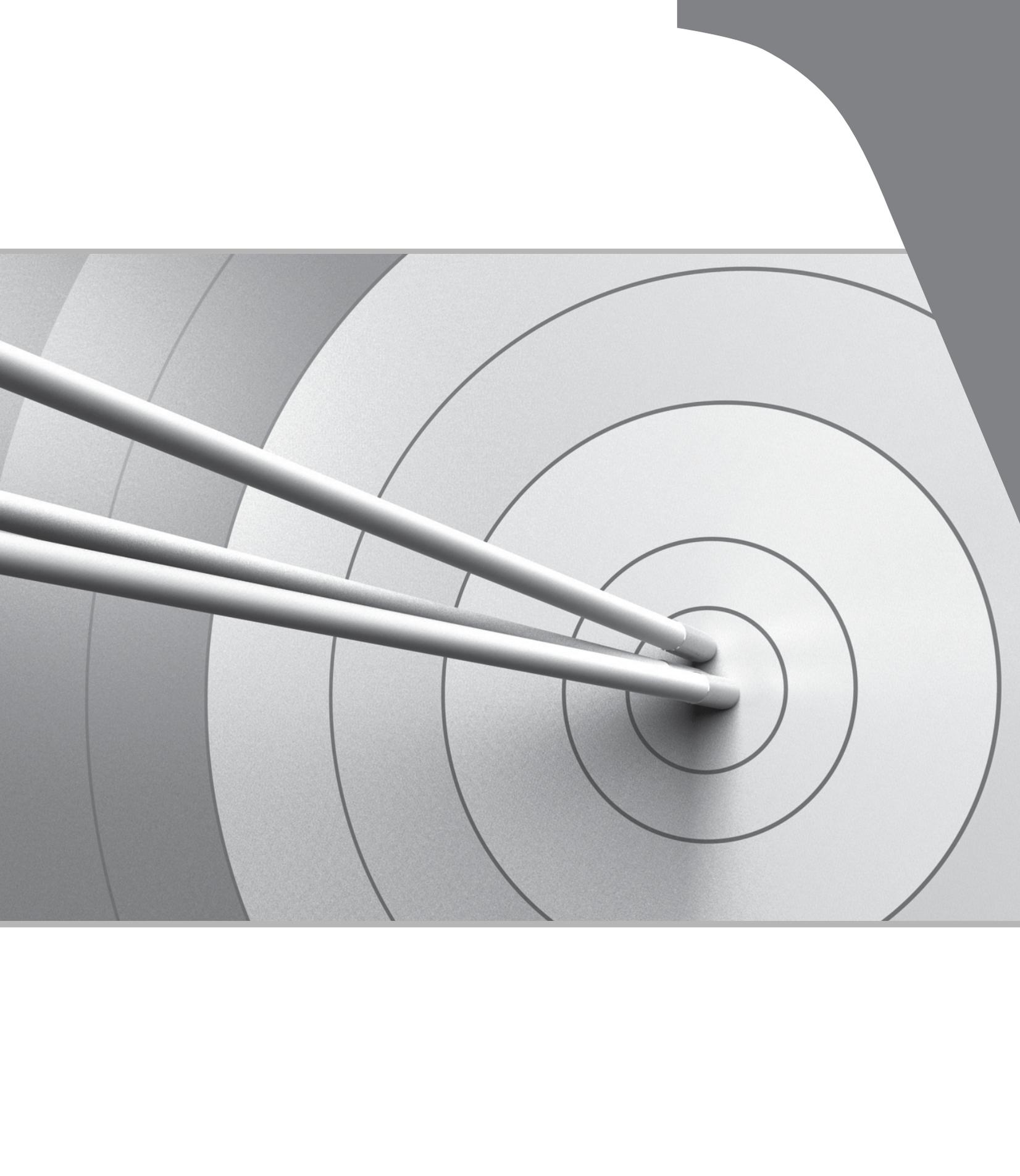
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Vision

“Internationally competitive and diversified economy under the leadership of efficient and knowledgeable nationals”.

Mission

“To develop the national economy and create a pro-business environment that contributes to the country’s balanced and sustainable development through the enactment and modernization of economic legislations and foreign trade policies, the development of national industries and exports, the promotion of

investments, the regulation of competition and the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector, the protection of consumer and intellectual property rights, and the diversification of economic activities, under the leadership of competent nationals and in line with international standards for creativity, excellence, and knowledge economies”

Values

Transparency, Respect of Rights, Excellence, Team Spirit, Participation and Creativity.



**Eng. Sultan Bin
Saeed Al Mansoori**
Minister of Economy

The Year of the Founding Father

2018 is a special year as it honors the founding leader Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (Zayed Al-Khair) and marks the 100th anniversary of his birth. Sheikh Zayed is the maker of the miracle of the Emirates, the beacon of light and the pioneer of enlightenment, who achieved the country's long-awaited dreams and brought it glory.

During the 'Year of Zayed', the UAE celebrates the most precious and most significant year that marks its immortal loyalty to the founder of the state and driver of its advancement; Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah receive him in his mercy. It is a year that all hearts look forward to since His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE may Allah protect him, named the year 2018 as "the Year of Zayed" as a recognition and demonstration of loyalty to the historic leader who founded the most beautiful homeland and made the greatest history.

The achievements of Sheikh Zayed (Zayed Al-Khair) part of everyday life in the UAE. This is an absolute fact and a fundamental principle. However, the "Year of Zayed" celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and highlights the presence of our father, leader and Arabian sage, may he rest in peace, in our lives and in the life of the UAE under new contexts and lofty meanings.

Our love for Zayed is settled in our hearts and minds before, during and after the "Year of Zayed". Emirati people share an endless love for Zayed as recognition of his knowledge and good deeds. It is a natural and intuitive matter which is shared by Emirati people among all Arabs. The presence of this father, builder, leader and symbol is doubled at the beginning of the "Year of Zayed" in terms of exploration, research and both official and public celebrations.

This year's celebrations are trying to match the gifts and achievement

granted by Zayed to his nation, may he rest in peace.

In this sense, the "Year of Zayed" is a new opportunity to translate the language of love and pride into the language of hope, work and excellence. Sheikh Zayed was keen to manage time wisely, and this is a lesson we should understand and adopt. This is a particularly special time in the UAE because it is necessary to build daily, on what has already been founded and established.

Through the "Year of Zayed", we are approaching UAE's future entitlements, especially UAE 2021, Abu Dhabi 2030 and UAE 2071.

We should, therefore, work together guided by the legacy of our father and pioneer Sheikh Zayed Al-Khair, may he rest in peace, and by the approach of our distinguished leader, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may Allah protect him.

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YEAR OF ZAYED

Loyalty and Gratitude to an Exceptional Leader Who Built His Nation and Achieved Glory

In every UAE heart, the memory of the late father and founder of the UAE Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan will remain immortal. He is the leader and the man who spared no effort to support his people and build his country.

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of the father Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who died in 2004, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, declared the year 2018 in the UAE as the Year of Zayed. It will be a national occasion to celebrate the founding leader and highlight his role in the establishment and development of the UAE and his local and international achievements.

Objectives

The declaration of 2018 as the Year of Zayed, aims at enhancing

the status of the late Sheikh as a symbol of patriotism, perpetuating his legacy through future projects and initiatives that are in line with his vision and values, promoting awareness among the public all over the world about his achievement and accomplishments, instilling his principles and values as one of the world's greatest and most inspiring leading figures, and preserving his legacy through future initiatives consistent with his values and vision.

Vision

To celebrate in 2018 the life, heritage and values of the late UAE founder Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Mission

To commemorate in the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and to introduce future

generations to his legacy, encourage them to realize his vision of prosperity, tolerance and peace, and be inspired by his values and achievements as an international leader.

Higher National Committee for the Year of Zayed

Under the chairmanship of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and the membership of a number of ministers and representatives of governmental and federal bodies, the Higher National Committee for the Year of Zayed was formed to be the main driver of the Year of Zayed initiative.

The role of the Committee is to provide strategic guidance to the Founder's Office and the local committees, as well as to adopt strategic initiatives and follow them up throughout the year.

The year 2018 will witness a number of strategic events and initiatives that will be held in the UAE and at the international level in celebration of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the values he cherished throughout his life.

Under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan,



“ The real wealth is the sincere hard work that benefits Man and his society. That work is immortal; it is what gives value to the Man and the country ”

The late founder of the UAE, father Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may he rest in peace

President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces launched the official slogan of the Year of Zayed initiative to embody the exceptional characteristics of the late Sheikh, such as wisdom, respect, building human capital and sustainability.

The innovative slogan reflects the leadership personality of the late Sheikh Zayed as a great symbol of the nation. He laid the foundations for the country's growth and development and created a unique model in the region, where he made the UAE a global destination characterized by the capabilities of developed countries; hence, it continues to shape the bright future of present and future generations..

The year 2018 will be the most precious year to the hearts of all UAE people who sense the good implications behind the Year of "Zayed Al Khair". They will be proud of a year that bears the name of the founding father who created history and instilled goodness, tolerance and justice. The wise leadership will follow his footsteps on the path of glory and continue the journey of success to attain the prosperity of the UAE.

The Year of Zayed will be full of the achievements, initiatives and events that embody the life of a man who made a history full with achievements and laid the foundations of a country that has become a global competitor.

Call to Continue Giving

The Year of Zayed came to document an extraordinary and brilliant history filled with the achievements, giving

and wisdom of a man so precious to the hearts and minds of UAE people. Starting from today and over the next twelve months, the memory of Sheikh Zayed shall be intensified on the centennial anniversary of his birth.

2018 will be different in many aspects, where it will carry a renewed confirmation of the collective, implicit and public recognition of the role of the late father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in building the Emirates of pride, dignity, honor, glory, customs, traditions, values, and authentic principles.

The Year of Zayed will list and recall all the achievements of the great leader and the sage of Arabs who built a country that sets an example in terms of its development, excellence, modernization, and urbanization. A country that plans to reach outer space, conquer the

impossible, communicate with what has been obscure for a long time, and dismantle the secrets that rendered many countries helpless despite their development. Late Sheikh Zayed once said that, "The present we are now living on this good land is a triumph over the past and the cruelty of its circumstances."

the foundations of its modern renaissance and achievements at the local, regional and international levels. The Year of Zayed aims to globally commemorate the personality of the late great leader and his principles and values as an example of one of the world's leading figures that is most inspiring

UAE, who laid the foundations of the modern development witnessed by the UAE at all levels. He is a symbol of wisdom, goodness and generosity in the UAE and the Gulf, and at the Arab and international levels. His Highness the President of the UAE considered that the Year of Zayed will be a year in which the country



His words are a real translation of a present reality and a remarkable life in which the status of the UAE soared to the skies of progress and pride.

Exceptional Status

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, declared 2018 as the Year of Zayed to celebrate the role of this distinguished leader in establishing the country and consolidating

by virtue of his patience, wisdom and vision. It also seeks to strengthen his status as a symbol of patriotism and to instill his legacy through future projects and initiatives consistent with his vision and values.

In declaring 2018 as the Year of Zayed, His Highness the President of the UAE reflects the unique status of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the hearts of all Emiratis. He is the founding leader of the

remembers the great achievements and heritage of this exceptional leader so that the Emiratis can live in an era of goodness and giving, which will remain engraved in their hearts forever. "The Year of Zayed is a year in which the nation will preserve Zayed's legacy, the people of the country will live up to Zayed's values, and we will all work together in accordance with Zayed's vision," said His Highness the President of the UAE.

A Journey Full of Achievements

When talking about the Year of Zayed, we must remember the biography of the great Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Zayed bin Khalifa bin Shakhbout bin Ziyab bin Isa bin Nahyan Al Nahyan Al Falahi. He was born on May 6, 1918 in the Emirates of the Reconciled Coast. He was born on the island overlooking the Gulf "Abu Dhabi", which was reportedly named Abu Dhabi due to the large number of antelopes living there. Sheikh Zayed was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and his body was not accustomed to the softness of silk. He opened his eyes and saw that his people were suffering from years of deprivation and oppression. His personality as a leader formed amidst this society, which was deprived of



everything but dignity. He was a child having fun and running around Qasr al-Hosn, the seat of ruling in Abu Dhabi, which was built by Sheikh Shakhbout I in 1793 after moving to Abu Dhabi from Liwa, and where Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan II was born and lived his childhood and youth.

Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed died in 1926 and his son Zayed moved at an early age to Al Ain, which he ruled later.

A Prestigious Figure

For two years, Sheikh Zayed received his education at the hands of Abdullah bin Ghanem. Then as a youth, he pursued further education on his own, learning the Quran, Hadith, the rules of Islamic law and the biography of the Prophet

“ *UAE is one of the world's most rapidly advancing countries in terms of economic growth*

Mohammad. Surah Al-Fatiha was the first thing he heard in his early years. He began to recite its verses and memorized them under the light of a dim lamp that ignites with olive oil. Gradually he recited more and more verses and became fascinated with memorizing them. He also learned and memorized poems of Arabic poetry, such as the writings of Mutanabi and Abi Tammam, and Nabataean poetry. He lived in the desert, learned its values and customs, and acquired the required

life skills in his society, such as hunting, equestrian and archery.

In the course of time, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan became a distinguished personality characterized by openness, courage, insight, patience and wisdom. Zayed dedicated his full efforts to develop all the qualities of leadership. He soon realized the rules of tribal balance game and the principles of resolving disputes between the different parties. He wisely realized that the struggle for survival would remain the obsession of all tribes, and that the ensuing conflicts would not end until the general conditions change. He became known during the talks to resolve the dispute over the border region of Buraimi, where he was highly respected and appreciated by the people.

Ruling Al Ain

Sheikh Zayed assumed the rule of Al Ain in 1946. The scarcity of water, money and resources was not a hindrance to the development of the city of Al Ain. He set a precise plan to invest the city's capabilities and worked diligently to achieve that plan. He was in full communication with his people who could easily access him and tell him what they need. He was humble and implicitly assured his people that he is one of them. Under his reign, Al Ain turned into a green paradise. However, Zayed felt that the people needed many reforms. The scarcity of water, money, and resources did not lead him to despair, but rather he began repairing the old Aflaj (water channels) and digging new wells to expand the cultivated land, including Falaj Al Saruj in Al Ain.

Thanks to Zayed's approach, the first school in Al Ain was opened in 1959 under the name "Al-Nahyan School", along with the first commercial market, a road network and a medical hospital. Sheikh Zayed transformed his dream into reality. However, the most important achievement at that difficult stage in the history of Al Ain was Sheikh Zayed's decision to reconsider the ownership of water and make it available to everybody despite its scarcity, in addition to harnessing it to increase agricultural areas. He pursued the road of reform and was known as the «Man of Great Reform». All these reforms and achievements were denoting that Zayed is the promised man to rule the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Assuming Leadership

With the approval of the ruling family, Zayed took over the reins of power in

Abu Dhabi on August 6, 1966, hence succeeding his brother Shakhbut after a full agreement of the ruling family. A new phase of achievements started, where he set up a huge program of development and began to push his people to dedicate their efforts for the services of this program. He also called on foreign competencies to support this program with their expertise. A few days after taking power, Zayed announced the establishment of an official government with departments and divisions, and assigned them with the tasks necessary for ruling the country.

The priority was to set up schools, houses, medical services, a port, an airport, roads, and a bridge between Abu Dhabi and land. The roar of machines was everywhere, and thousands of Emiratis moved from huts into clean healthy houses. Modern roads spread over desert sands, fresh water and electricity became available in every house, and education transformed from Katatib system to modern schools of different stages that spread across every part of the country. Dozens of new classes were opened to erase illiteracy among older people, and clinics began providing medical services to Bedouins in the desert after they were deprived of health care. The development process succeeded in compensating centuries of underdevelopment and stagnation. Moreover, Zayed paid special attention to the environment and invested a lot of money in the process of planting the city of Al Ain and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. "The process of development, construction, and advancement does not depend solely on those with positions of



responsibility, but also on all the efforts of every citizen in this country," he once said.

Federal Country

On December 2, 1971, a federation of six emirates (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Sharjah, Umm Al Quwain) was formed under the name of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed was elected President of the Federation, and Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum was elected the Vice President. Ras Al Khaimah soon joined the federation, which was officially announced on February 11, 1972. When the British announced their desire to withdraw from the Gulf after 150 years of total domination, Sheikh Zayed seized the opportunity to wisely plan the political future of the region. He convinced Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, then ruler of Dubai, to join him in building



a federal country of nine emirates, namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain, in addition to Bahrain, and Qatar, which preferred to work for full independence. Zayed redoubled his efforts to establish a union with the remaining Emirates.

Comprehensive Renaissance

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan intensified the development efforts after the union and increased the pace of work in all vital and important sectors. The green areas, agricultural lands, and agricultural crops expanded, where according to the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the total area of green land in the UAE reached about 1.2 million acres in 1998, while the total area of agricultural land reached about 617 thousand acres, including 591 thousand acres for palm cultivation.

Water and electricity networks spread throughout the country to provide for the needs of citizens and agriculture. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Water and Electricity, the total water consumption per day was between 250 million and 300 million gallons, while the unified electricity link project between the emirates of UAE contributed to meeting the energy needs of the UAE.

UAE witnessed a great industrial renaissance under the leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who established industrial zones and institutions supervising the industrial affairs in the country. Large amounts of money were invested in the process of promoting the national industry to secure alternative sources of income; these amounts reached about AED 13.7 billion in 1995. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Finance and Industry, the total number of industrial enterprises in 2003 was about 2795 companies and factories. In addition, focus was made on paving the roads and constructing bridges. The total length of the network of roads in the country exceeds today seven thousand km of paved highways.

Education for All

Sheikh Zayed, may he rest in peace, dedicated his full attention and support to education. He opened Al-

“ *The importance of focusing on the development of the human in the post-oil era* ”

Nahyan School in 1959 in Al-Ain and since then the number of schools and universities in the country increased. Education for all UAE citizens was one of Sheikh Zayed's most important initiatives for the development of the UAE. As part of this initiative, schools and educational centers were built across the country, and teachers from other Arab countries were brought in to teach younger generations.

Sheikh Zayed's efforts culminated in the establishment of many accredited educational institutions, such as the Emirates University, Higher Colleges of Technology and Zayed University. The UAE also hosted many private universities and colleges, such as Abu Dhabi University, Ajman University of Science and Technology and others. The UAE was also one of the first countries to introduce computer skills into their curricula. On the other hand, the achievements of Sheikh Zayed in the medical field were shown in the increased number of medical institutions operating in the country, including private and government hospitals, health centers and pharmacies that provide health care to citizens and residents in the UAE.



INNOVATION in the UAE: a Culture and a Work Style

16 National Indicators for Measuring progress in Implementing the "Innovation Strategy"

The country's wise leadership has endeavored to foster innovation as a culture and a lifestyle within an integrated system. Through its comprehensive strategy, the UAE Government is promoting the role of innovation as a key driver of government development and economic growth, as well as enhancing the position and the reputation of the UAE Government as a global innovation center. The UAE Innovation Month is being held today under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It includes 100 major events and hundreds of sub-events across different emirates over the course of the month.

Strategy

In October 2014, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, may Allah protect him, launched the National Strategy for Innovation, which aims to make the UAE one of the most innovative countries in the world over the next seven years. The strategy, which operates within four parallel tracks, includes 30 national initiatives to be implemented over the next three years as a first phase, including a set of new legislation, support for innovation incubators, specialized national capacity building, a private sector stimulus package, building global research partnerships and changing the government work



“ ***Increased efforts to turn innovation into a work style that promotes development and sustainability*** ”

system towards greater innovation in 7 major national sectors, i.e. renewable energy, transport, health, education, technology, water and space.

Innovation Year

In manifestation of the leadership's keenness to promote innovation, and under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, the Council of Ministers adopted at its extraordinary meeting at Fujairah Castle the Declaration of 2015 as the Innovation Year in the UAE. The Council issued directives to all federal agencies to intensify efforts, strengthen coordination and initiate a review of public policies to create an environment conducive to innovation in order to advance the UAE towards the world's highest ranks in this field. His Highness the President of the UAE said, "The Declaration of 2015 as an Innovation Year comes to support the efforts of the Federal Government

to gather sincere national energies, intensify outstanding research efforts, and strengthen efforts to create national cadres that will lead our future in this sector towards further progress, prosperity and innovation."

UAE wise leadership believes in promoting a culture of excellence, creativity and innovation in order to entrench the educational system to prepare the builders of the future. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stressed that under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may Allah protect him, the UAE attaches primary importance to education and valedictorians since the scientifically superior human resources are the driving force of creativity, innovation, ambition and civilizational and humanitarian development.

UAE Week

In August 2015, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced allocating an Emirati Innovation Week in November (starting on the 22nd and ending on the 28th). His Highness called on all government, private and

academic institutions to participate. His Highness allowed the public to propose the week's events through social media. In order to define the week as the most important destination for innovation and innovators in the region, where he said, "Innovation today is not an option but a necessity, not a public culture, but rather a work style. Governments and companies that do not innovate lose their competitiveness and are destined to failure."

This week was a platform for federal and local government agencies, leading private sector companies, universities and educational institutions to organize their events and showcase their innovations in the context of efforts exerted to spread the culture of innovation.

On November 20, 2016, the second edition of the Innovation Week was launched and lasted until November 26th, with a remarkable participation of governmental, private, academic and various sectors of the community to strengthen the UAE's position as a global center for innovation, capacity building and dissemination of a culture of innovation across the UAE. It motivated government agencies, the private sector and individuals to adopt the concept of

innovation as a method of work for sustainable development, and to launch and implement innovative initiatives and ideas that serve the community, contribute to developing a milestone in the country's renaissance and dedicate innovation as a daily lifestyle for individuals and an effective practice for managing everyday affairs and tasks.

Following its success in 2015 and 2016, UAE Innovation Week was announced to be extended for a full month during February 2018 as a national event celebrating innovation across the UAE. The event aims to enhance the country's status as a global center for innovation, capacity building and dissemination of innovation culture in the UAE, and to stimulate government agencies, the private sector and individuals to adopt innovation practices, as well as to launch and implement innovative initiatives and ideas. In 2016, UAE Government launched "My Ideas" initiative to encourage federal government employees to present their ideas and innovative projects.

Government Innovation Center

Mohammed bin Rashid Government Innovation Center was established in 2014 to stimulate the culture of innovation and develop business in the government sector through an integrated system that enhances the competitiveness of UAE Government to be among the most innovative governments in the world.

The achievements of the Center include the Innovation Diploma in cooperation with the University of Cambridge, UK, which is the first of its kind; in addition to the Government Innovation Lab, which is a group of

“ Innovation in the UAE: A far-sighted vision to compete and excel in government work

workshops based on the methodology of reaching innovative and realistic solutions for the challenges faced by government agencies. It allows participants to think from the perspective of solutions rather than the perspective of problems. Furthermore, the Center hosts the Innovation Dialogue that aims to radically transform the functioning of the government sector, enhance cooperation and complementarity of efforts between various government agencies at the national level, and stimulate innovation in the main axes of the national strategy. Moreover, the Center introduced the position of Innovation CEO, which is a new position in every federal government agency. UAE Government is the first to introduce the position of Innovation CEO.

Future Museum

Future Museum was opened in March 2015. It focuses on the robotics sector and artificial intelligence as one of the most vital future sectors that will have a direct and influential impact on the social and economic aspects of societies, including health, education and all other important aspects of

people's lives. The museum is the largest research center that focuses on predicting the most important future trends in the scientific and technical fields. It will develop partnerships with all government agencies around the world to develop technical solutions to the challenges they face. It will also contribute to the development of innovative curricula for students from all over the world – in collaboration with the world's best universities and specialized research centers.

3D Printing

In May 2016, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, may Allah protect him, inaugurated the world's first printed and ready to use building made through 3D printing technology. It hosts the temporary building of the Dubai Future Foundation, and is located on the Emirates Towers campus. 3D printing is characterized by its competitive

“ Omar bin Sultan Al Olama: UAE's interest in innovation reflects the futuristic vision of its leadership



advantages that are associated with low cost and fast delivery; and it will be one of the most important axes of sustainable economy in the UAE. The building is a modern design model and a new achievement fulfilled by the UAE, hence evidencing its global precedence within strategic sectors.

4 Parallel Tracks

The National Innovation Strategy operates through four parallel tracks aimed at creating an environment that stimulates innovation, developing government innovation, and driving the private sector by stimulating companies and building national talents and capabilities. The first track focuses on creating an environment which stimulates innovation by providing an enabling institutional environment and an innovative legislation supportive of innovation, expanding support of innovation incubators, focusing on research and development in innovation fields and providing technological infrastructure that supports and stimulates innovation in all sectors. The second track focuses on the development of government innovation by transforming it into an institutional work and developing an integrated modern tools to help government agencies innovate and guide all government agencies to reduce their expenses by 1% in order to allocate this percentage for supporting innovation projects and launching training and educational programs in the field of innovation at the state level.

The third track focuses on pushing the private sector towards greater innovation by stimulating companies to establish innovation and scientific research centers, adopting new technologies, encouraging and

supporting national companies to develop innovative products and services, attracting leading international companies in all sectors of national priority, in addition to strengthening the country's status as a global center for testing new innovations, creating communities and regions dedicated to innovation in some sectors, and encouraging research institutions to focus on applied research in national priority sectors.

The fourth track of the National Innovation Strategy focuses on building highly skilled individuals by enhancing national talent and capacity for innovation with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, developing innovation-specialized education materials in schools and universities, and fostering a national culture that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship and respects risk-taking through cooperation between the government, the private sector and media institutions.

16 National Indicators

The National Innovation Strategy includes 16 national indicators to measure the progress in implementing the innovation strategy in government agencies, such as the percentage of innovative ideas in each government agency, and the percentage of government agencies that have successfully allocated 1% of their budget to support innovation. Some innovations are related to the private sector, such as the index of corporate spending on R & D and the proportion of «knowledge workers» of the total workers in the state and others.

Indicators that measure progress in the implementation of the National

Innovation Strategy also include the Global Innovation Index, which measures the innovative capabilities of countries; the Intellectual Property Protection Index; the number of patents per each million inhabitants; the availability of scientists and engineers in the country; as well as other strategic indicators.

Future Vision

His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, stressed that the official interest in innovation in the UAE reflects the vision of its leadership and its ability to anticipate its future

“ *The vision of Mohammed bin Rashid and Mohammed bin Zayed for government work has established the pillars of innovation, creativity and achievement in the UAE*

and the future of many sectors that innovation serves globally.

He stressed that by using artificial intelligence, the UAE is creating a new kind of economy capable of stimulating the future of humanity in various vital areas, where it celebrates the innovators and their distinctive ideas for a whole month.

The UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence highlighted the importance of the role of young people in the process of innovation, pointing out that the UAE has become a model in this field based on its belief in the role of youth in overcoming the challenges, making the future and strengthening UAE position among developed countries in various fields.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY:

10

Initiatives to Interact with the Innovation Month

The Ministry of Economy interacted with the events of the third session of the UAE Innovation Month 2018, which continued throughout February. Under the patronage of His Excellency, the engineer Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, the Ministry's participation in the events included more than 10 innovative initiatives, activities and events organized in a number of UAE emirates under the supervision of a specialized team composed of different sectors and departments of the Ministry, and held in cooperation with federal and local government agencies.

This year, the Innovation Month comes under the slogan "Innovation Starts with You". The Ministry of Economy announced different initiatives aimed at developing the infrastructure and electronic means supporting innovation and creative thinking in the economic field, as well as dedicating and stimulating innovative practices in the institutional work systems at the level of the Ministry, the public, the private sector and the community as a whole, in addition to building innovative national capacities capable of designing innovative solutions to the challenges facing the state 's sustainable economic and social development process.



Smart Platform

During the innovation month, the ministry's innovative initiatives included launching the Corporate Social Responsibility Smart Platform, one of the social responsibility initiatives under the National Strategy for the Year of Giving. It is a smart and innovative platform developed according to the global best practices with an Emirati touch to stimulate community-based private sector contributions.

The platform provides a comprehensive database of the private sector companies and establishments on the one hand, and the enterprises and projects benefiting from community contributions on the other hand, in accordance with the development priorities and trends of the country, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable growth through innovative and unique means.

The agenda of the initiatives also included launching an electronic platform for innovation in cooperation with the strategic partners of the Ministry. It is a digital platform that supports innovation by connecting the government and semi-government institutions and private sector entities facing challenges on the one hand with the owners of solutions and innovations from the UAE academic sector on the other hand. The platform creates a link that promotes exchange and support of ideas, scientific research and innovative practices.

“

Ten innovative initiatives, activities and events have been organized in a number of UAE emirates

Innovation Guide

The Ministry of Economy has also launched Corporate Innovation Guide, which aims at fostering the culture of innovation in the private sector by enabling companies in the UAE to identify how to move towards innovative performance models inspired by the experiences of the best developed countries in the field of innovation.

In order to stimulate employee innovation, the Ministry has launched an internal innovation



“ ***A specialized team has been formed from different sectors and departments of the Ministry to oversee the Innovation Month initiatives*** ”

award aimed at fostering a knowledge society and building creative national capacities by encouraging employees to practice creative thinking and make innovative proposals, thereby enhancing opportunities for creating an environment conducive to innovation, creativity and productivity. It contributes to pushing the efforts forward to build the knowledge economy in the country.

Recreational Event

The Ministry also organized the Innovation Recreational Day in Abu Dhabi's Umm Al Emarat Park, in collaboration with the Insurance Authority. The event included a variety of innovative platforms, including a platform showcasing the Ministry's services through

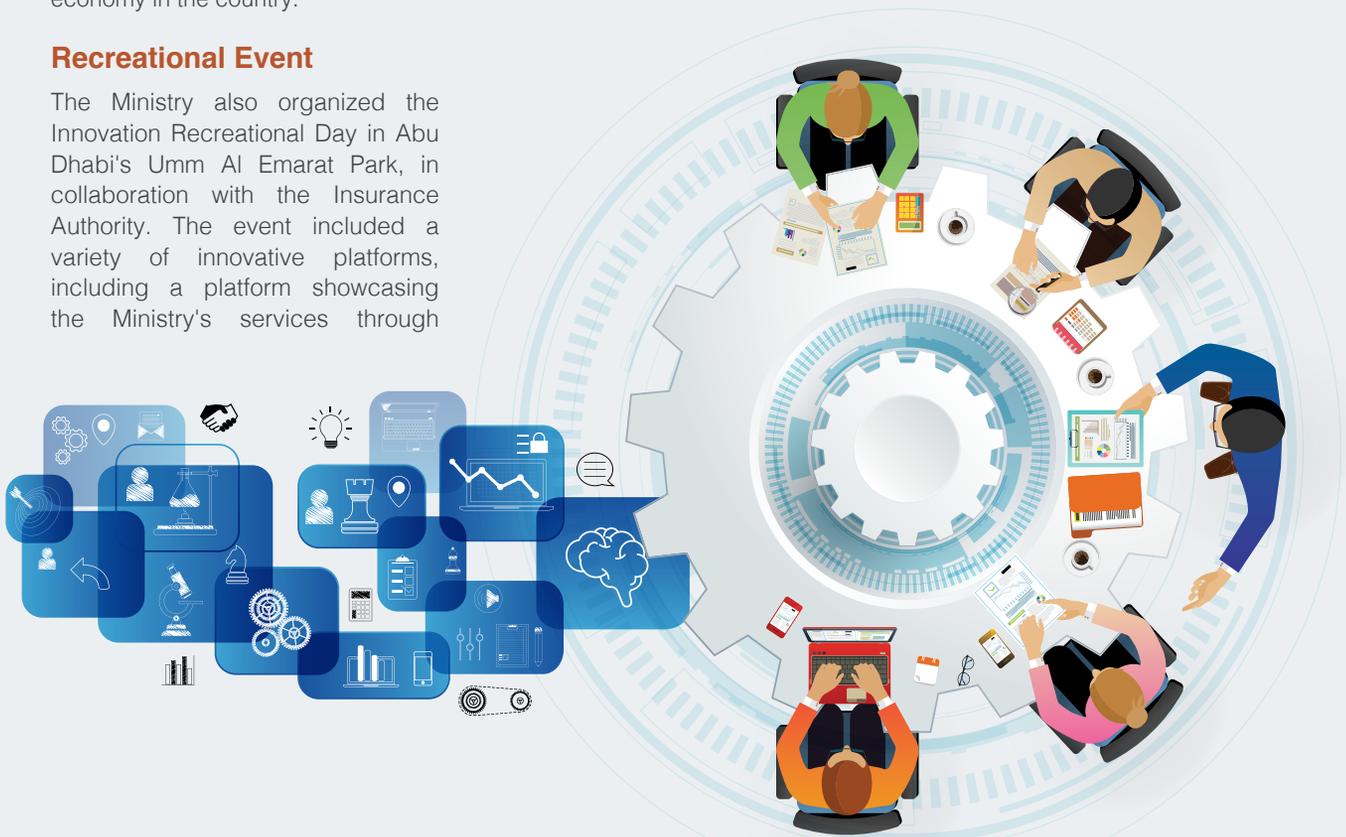
workshops, in addition to innovative insurance product platform, and innovative projects platform for school and university students, factory owners, government institutions and sponsors. Awards honoring outstanding innovators in each field were awarded.

In cooperation with Sharjah Technical Committee for Innovation, the Ministry participated in the UAE Innovation Month in Sharjah through a number of agencies headed by the Minister of Economy. The Ministry participated in the innovation platform at the Sharjah

Center for Space and Astronomy through organizing four workshops in a number of areas supervised by the Ministry, such as innovation in sustainable tourism, patents, intellectual works, and trademarks. In addition, the Ministry presented its electronic and intelligent services, and allowed the opportunity for a number of inventors to present their inventions on the Ministry's platform.

Trademarks

The Ministry launched the Smart Trademark Registration, an idea developed by the Information





Technology Department at the Ministry to show a quick response code on trademark registration certificates, where it is read through smart and specialized devices to verify the authenticity of the certificate. This allows the competent governmental authorities a direct and electronic access to verify validity and origin, and facilitates the procedures for the user in an innovative manner using modern technologies.

The Ministry launched a website for small and medium-sized enterprises, which is a comprehensive website that includes all the legislation and laws related to this sector, in addition to the services provided by the National Program for Small and Medium Enterprises, including linking bidding and financing

“ **Many events were held in cooperation with federal and local government agencies.** ”

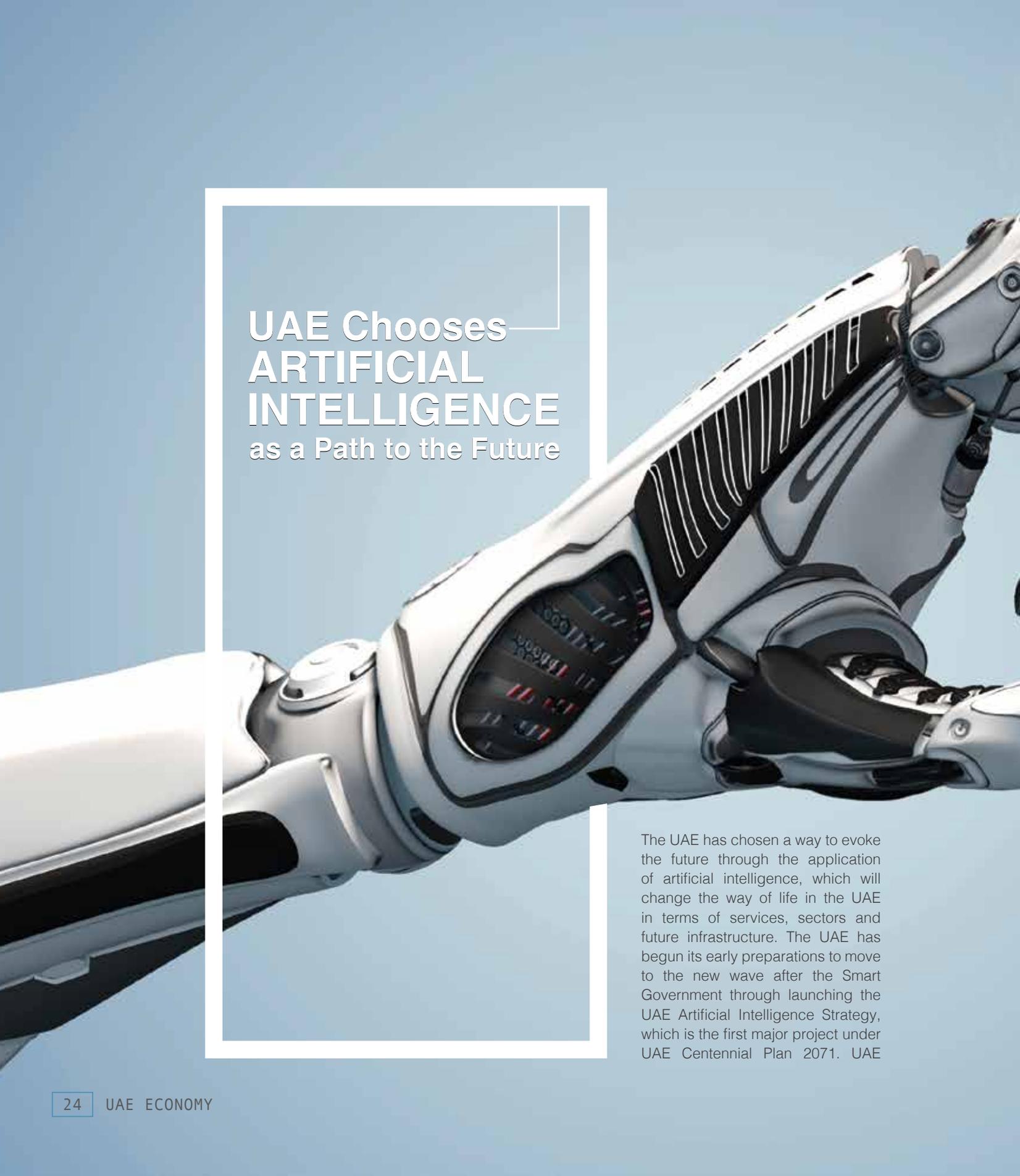
services with the concerned parties, as well as providing entrepreneurship training and qualification programs.

Intellectual Property

The Ministry has also been keen to develop innovation in intellectual property related areas by launching the Industrial Property Automation Program, an advanced electronic program developed in accordance with international standards and serves inventors, universities, research centers and technical examiners to assist them in completing examination tasks and

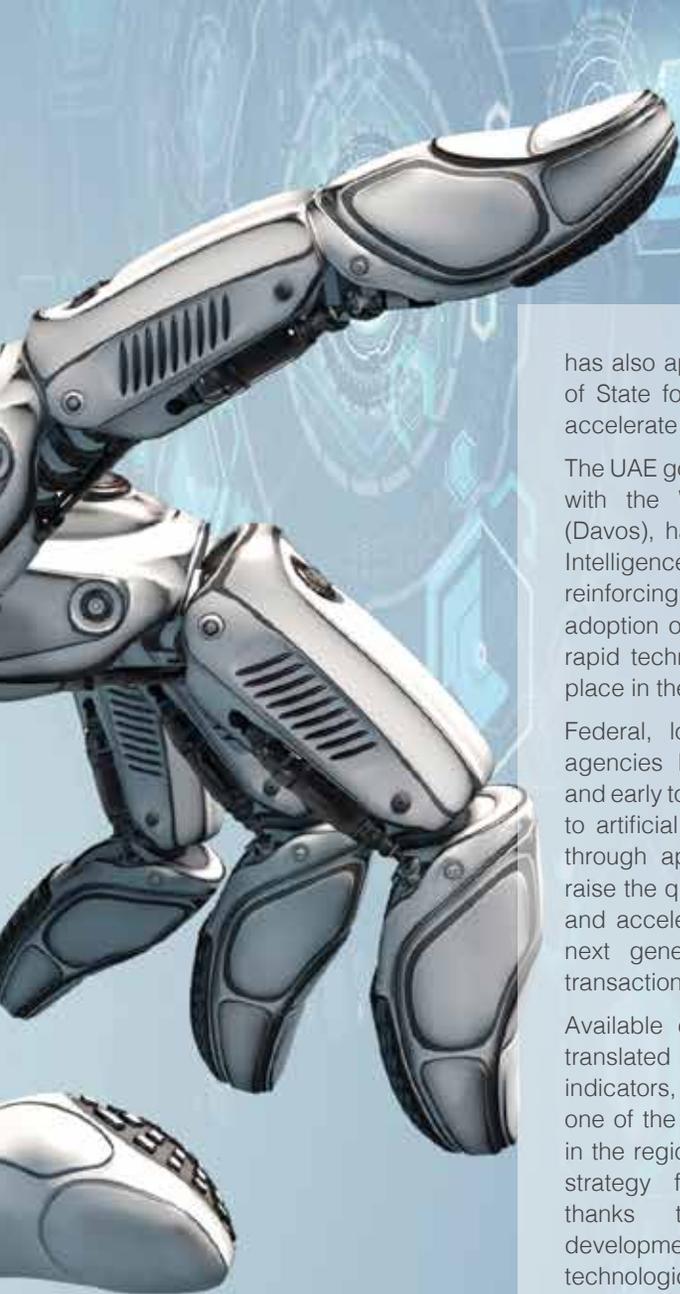
providing all electronic services related to the International Patent Registration Center.

The initiatives of the Ministry of Economy included introducing new innovative applications to the foreign trade sector, which contribute to the provision of services and enhancing the knowledge environment related to foreign trade according to the criteria of efficiency, speed and quality. The applications included those related to non-oil foreign trade data, and investment and agreements with the countries of the world. Such applications would enhance the level of customer satisfaction and UAE's position as a hub for trade, which ultimately enhances the efficiency of UAE institutions and develops their business environment to match global standards.



UAE Chooses ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE as a Path to the Future

The UAE has chosen a way to evoke the future through the application of artificial intelligence, which will change the way of life in the UAE in terms of services, sectors and future infrastructure. The UAE has begun its early preparations to move to the new wave after the Smart Government through launching the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which is the first major project under UAE Centennial Plan 2071. UAE



has also appointed the first Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence to accelerate progress on this level.

The UAE government, in cooperation with the World Economic Forum (Davos), has launched the Artificial Intelligence Protocol project, reinforcing the future vision and adoption of its tools in line with the rapid technological changes taking place in the world.

Federal, local and private sector agencies have responded quickly and early to keep pace with the move to artificial intelligence applications through applications developed to raise the quality of life in the country and accelerate the transition to the next generation of services and transactions.

Available data on the ground, as translated by the development indicators, indicate that the UAE is one of the most prepared countries in the region to adopt a sustainable strategy for artificial intelligence thanks to the technological development and advanced technological policies and programs adopted by the UAE in the past two decades.

"The UAE government is looking to take advantage of artificial intelligence applications to solve problems and overcome current and future challenges in all sectors and services," explains Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence.

"The applications of artificial intelligence will change the way

“ *The UAE has begun its early preparations to move to the new wave after the Smart Government by launching the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy*

of life. It will go beyond its current capabilities in direct education and will invest in the field of curriculum development according to the best standards through the analysis of large accumulated data related to student behavior, abilities and responsiveness to educational means, in addition to other data enhanced by artificial intelligence to achieve better efficiency for the benefit of humanity," adds Al Olama. Block format

His Excellency pointed out that artificial intelligence technologies are capable of stimulating the country's GDP by 35% until 2031, in addition to reducing the government expenditure by 50%. He pointed out that the UAE aims to become the center of artificial intelligence in the world by 2030.

Al Olama said that the current generation of young people in the UAE has advanced technological tools that provide access to knowledge and ideas of greater size and quality than what was ever available to any scientist or historian in the past; hence, the UAE is an attractive environment for developing further applications in artificial intelligence.



His Excellency pointed out that the UAE will seek to introduce the importance of artificial intelligence applications through involving private and government sectors. The UAE is working to spread the culture of artificial intelligence programming in the community in order to reach endless applications in this regard.

AI Olama stressed the UAE's keenness to build global partnerships to enhance the use of the unprecedented services provided by artificial intelligence technology and its role in improving human life. It transcends the geographical boundaries to include

“ *Artificial intelligence strategy is the first large project under UAE Centennial Plan 2071* ”

the whole world since it is a shared global responsibility that requires concerted efforts to ensure a better life for future generations.

Future Vision

His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, pointed out that the vision of UAE's leadership is far-reaching to predict the future of artificial intelligence technologies and their impact on leading the major shifts that will be witnessed by the vital sectors, as well as the accompanying changes in the mechanisms of their work and their reflection on people's lives.

Infrastructure

Hamad Obaid Al Mansouri, Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), said that in the midst of major transformations in the world of technology and telecommunications, the UAE is looking at new horizons that put the country at the forefront of the global trend of transition to artificial intelligence and the fourth industrial revolution.

He added that the UAE, with its high-tech infrastructure, is ready to continue its path towards the transition to artificial intelligence applications. The UAE is fully aware of the exceptional importance of data as the new oil of the next era and the raw material to form patterns and analyze them to activate artificial intelligence and achieve unprecedented leaps in productivity and efficiency at the economic, cognitive and scientific levels.

Al Mansouri pointed out that the advanced technological infrastructure, especially the fifth-generation telecommunications, is the main incubator for future applications, including applications of artificial intelligence.

He added that the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority TRA is aware of the need to take the lead in terms of developing the technological infrastructure, and providing the best platform for innovation for the public and private sectors. The UAE is keen to participate in the development of the fifth-generation telecommunications technology to be at the forefront of countries adopting it by 2020.

Al Mansouri pointed out that the UAE has provided additional bands of spectrum to increase the readiness of the telecommunications sector

“ **Artificial intelligence changes the shape of life and multiplies GDP** ”

to encompass future technologies, including fifth-generation technologies.

UAE at the Forefront

The UAE is at the forefront of the Arab world and the Middle East in terms of global indicators for measuring the competitiveness and

development of countries in the ICT sector. The UAE ranked fifth in the smart e-government services index and ranked 26th in the network readiness index.

Dr. Aisha Bin Bishr, Director General of Smart Dubai Office, said, "The UAE continues to lead the way to



the future not only in the region but globally. The country is transforming artificial intelligence, which was closer to science fiction a decade ago, and still is in many countries around the world, into a tangible reality in the life of society. The UAE has started to develop artificial intelligence applications and test its technology since many years."

She added that UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy is a national umbrella that transforms the experience of artificial intelligence into a reality that changes the lives of people in the UAE for the best.

Dr. Bishr stressed that Dubai Smart Government will dedicate its full potential to contribute to the UAE's Artificial Intelligence Strategy through a road map, the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the artificial intelligence models developed in cooperation with government institutions in Dubai.

"We will develop and organize the tools of artificial intelligence technology, which will be an integral part of the governmental work system in the country, in order to

cope with the rapid changes and achieve qualitative development in the overall performance at all levels by building a complete and intelligent digital system that addresses the challenges first hand and offers practical, fast, quality and efficient solutions," she added.

Knowledge Economy

Experts confirm that the UAE is moving in the right direction towards building a knowledge economy by adopting and developing artificial intelligence applications based on the belief of UAE's leadership that technology is a key component of the country's economic diversification strategy.

The UAE government is always at the forefront of the technological race to stimulate the private sector to catch up with it, which is uncommon at the global level. It has launched smart government projects and initiatives, in addition to the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

One of the UAE government authorities was the first facility

management authority in the world to use Microsoft's "HoloLens" 3D technology to enhance its operations, improve productivity, accelerate innovation and provide quality internal services that improve the efficiency of government work. This is an evidence of a global entrepreneurial ambition.

E-security

Artificial intelligence is primarily an intelligence embodied by machinery, not people. Machines have had the ability to process and analyze data since a long time, but artificial intelligence means to be capable of acting intelligently according to that data.

Experts point out that decisions made by applications will be better than people's decisions in the future. In order to make artificial intelligence a reality, we need to make clear and significant progress in many areas, particularly participatory artificial intelligence, where virtual assistants and basic applications can communicate among them and organize the results. Applications will also need to be able to organize their own tasks, write their own programs, and develop their own software without any human intervention.

In terms of e-security, artificial intelligence functions are based on monitoring the network, along with the vast amounts of data transmitted through it, and detecting suspicious situations and potential odd trends by comparing them with normal behavior and practices.

Artificial intelligence works very effectively by analyzing large data,

“ Artificial intelligence enhances services and infrastructure

where it routes, blocks, or prioritizes specific data traffic. Artificial intelligence, for example, can help reduce DDoS attacks by detecting cases when data traffic becomes suddenly heavy in a certain area of the server. It identifies this behavior as anomalies, and therefore makes a decision to block this type of data traffic.

There is widespread acceptance of e-security (provided by artificial intelligence) by various sectors, which are considered the main and traditional target of Internet hackers, including financial institutions, energy, and the public sector. The energy sector invests in artificial intelligence in order to protect its infrastructure. For example, there is always an urgent need to secure a nuclear power plant against infiltrations and hackers to prevent a potential disaster.

All business sectors are a potential target of cyber-attacks; hence, artificial intelligence plays a fundamental role as a valuable tool capable of formulating and developing a range of advanced solutions. For example, artificial intelligence can be invested in a way that leads to understanding the behavior of the user, the network, and the context of business through self-learning over time, where it interacts with any deviations from the rule within real time.

Experts point out that with every opportunity on the horizon, there are

major security challenges. Leaders of the e-security industry must educate the market about the pros and cons of this technology and should help information security managers identify the uses that require the application of these technologies in order to maximize benefit today and reap its incremental value in the future.

The best tools and programs in this area will help information security managers improve security effectiveness, operational efficiency, and business empowerment.

Regardless of the progress and development of artificial intelligence technologies, cybercriminals will continue to design increasingly sophisticated attacks, which is an indicator of the need to verify artificial intelligence technologies that meet security requirements. Ideally, artificial intelligence will help in addressing real-time threats; hence it will allow people the time to monitor new and evolving risks in order to keep the ever-evolving e-security landscape at the forefront.

Multiple Areas

Artificial intelligence and machine learning have the ability to increase efficiency and improve operations in many areas, such as health care, education, anti-poverty and security. It is important to take advantage of artificial intelligence and human intelligence in order to provide transparency, vision, and detection and prevention capabilities to maintain the security of enterprises within the digital world. Artificial intelligence and



machine learning will vastly expand the scope and size of security experts' capabilities, allowing them to detect threats and attacks before they occur. Artificial intelligence machines now perform many very useful tasks, which humans cannot perform. By benefiting from artificial intelligence in enhancing human functions, artificial intelligence will have a positive impact on society, companies and culture, to an extent matching the expansion of the Internet itself.

According to Gartner, the world's leading research and advisory company, the Middle East and North Africa region's spending on information security technology and services will reach \$ 1.8 billion in 2017, i.e. by an increase of 11 percent compared to 2016. Moneer asserted that artificial intelligence and machine learning would boost human capabilities in the development of defense lines against cybercrime and hacks, which are growing in terms of number and impact, and are overcoming most of the security teams in light of the growing number of alerts made by traditional tools and programs.

“ **Federal, local and private sector entities responded quickly to keep pace with the move to artificial intelligence applications** ”

Therefore, the capabilities of self-learning and automation supported by artificial intelligence can raise the level of effectiveness, reduce costs, and maintain work environments more secure against cyber threats. Artificial intelligence solutions currently available in the market can have a more proactive impact; they can overcome pre-implementation attacks by identifying patterns, in addition to the predictive capabilities of artificial intelligence to detect advanced threats globally. Moneer added that by combining the real-time threat survey with advanced machine learning capabilities and analysis processes of the threat response platform, artificial intelligence can help organizations make decisions faster and more intelligently to predict, prevent, detect and respond to threats.

UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which is the first large project under UAE Centennial Plan 2071 and represents the new wave after the Smart Government – on which the future state services, sectors and infrastructure will depend.

The UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy is targeting several vital sectors in the country, including the transport sector by reducing accidents and operating costs, the health sector by reducing the incidence of chronic and hazardous diseases, the space sector by conducting rigorous experiments and reducing costly error rates, the renewable energy sector by managing facilities and smart consumption, the water sector by conducting accurate analysis and studies to provide accurate resources, the technology sector by raising the percentage of production and public consumption, the education sector by reducing costs and increasing the desire to learn, and the environment sector by increasing the rate of afforestation and agriculture of appropriate plants.

This strategy is the first of its kind in the region and the world to improve government performance, speed up achievement and create innovative and highly productive work environments by investing the latest technologies and artificial intelligence tools and applying them

in various fields of work with high efficiency. The strategy focuses on optimizing the use of human and material resources in a creative way that speeds up the implementation of developmental projects and programs.

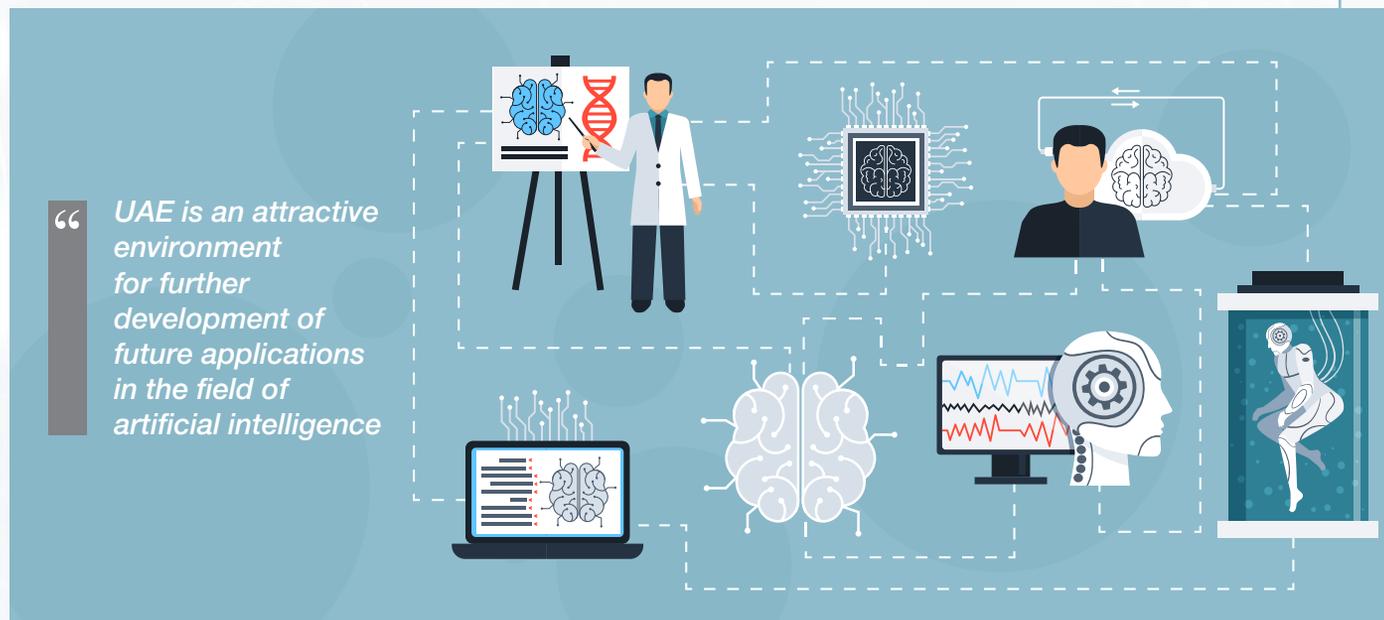
UAE Artificial Intelligence Strategy is the first of its kind in the region in terms of the sectors it covers, the scope of its services, and the

Authority (TRA), the efforts of telecommunications operators in the UAE are contributing to the expected surge in artificial intelligence in the country, according to CommScope Inc.

Vimi Oshiga, the Vice President of CommScope Service Providers in the Middle East and Africa, said that the fifth-generation wireless networks (5G) will be

promise a combination of speed, response time and devices with little energy use.

He pointed out that the structural changes in the fifth-generation wireless networks will enable operators to adopt Fronthaul networks options that enhance high response capabilities and performance. Sectors, such as mobile solutions, logistics,



integration of its future vision. It seeks to develop and organize artificial intelligence technology tools in order to make them an integral part of the government system.

Fifth-generation Networks Support Artificial Intelligence

Under the supervision of the Telecommunications Regulatory

used to support "Internet Objects" technologies and high-speed response applications.

He explained that these applications will be used for the first time in different applications, such as industrial applications that use production robots that work wirelessly with fast response time. Oshiga pointed out that fifth-generation wireless 5G networks

manufacturing and healthcare will need this technology in their work.

According to the Hype Cycle Report on Emerging Technology, new technologies often go through a fundamental stage when they first appear – starting with extreme enthusiasm and ending with hard work and widespread adoption of these technologies.



SHARJAH

is an Attractive
Preferable Destination for
Investment Companies

The Emirate of Sharjah has become the focus of interest for Arab and foreign investment companies in light of the many incentives and facilities offered to the business sector in various fields, making it a preferred destination for investors in the UAE.

Arab and foreign investors have always positioned Sharjah as their preferred investing destination because they realized its importance as a gateway to huge markets in the region with a population of about 2 billion and an estimated demand of 10 trillion US Dollars in 2020. In addition, the emirate offers large areas of land allocated for investment in industrial and free zones served by an advanced logistics services sector.

The emirate of Sharjah is booming with promising opportunities, especially in the tourism and travel sector, which is expected to grow to more than AED 5 billion in 2019; the transport and logistics sector, which will reach AED 7 billion in the same year; and more than AED 8.76 billion for the health care sector. The emirate's environment and sustainability sector is expected to make significant strides, with a value estimated between AED 87.6 billion and more than AED 171 billion in 2030."

Strengthening Partnerships

The emirate of Sharjah has achieved a total of AED90 billion in gross domestic products (GDP) with a growth of 3%. It continues to strengthen its economy through unique initiatives aimed at strengthening partnerships



and historical ties with Arab major entrepreneurs who were among the first beneficiaries of the business atmosphere in the emirate several decades ago. The volume of Arab investments in the Emirate of Sharjah reached AED 2.5 billion by the end of 2015.

Ease of Living

Living and working in the UAE and in the Emirate of Sharjah in particular is one of the goals that Arabs and foreigners aspire to due to the emirate's security and ease of living, starting up enterprises and developing them.

Attracting Major Companies

Sharjah has been able to attract a large number of companies with various sizes and investments from

“ *Sharjah attracts the major companies through a unique investment environment – the Annual Investment Forum* ”

all over the world thanks to its rich investment environment offered by the Government of Sharjah in terms of international trade, low investment costs. In addition to the entry of major companies interested in investments that made the emirate follow the footsteps of the global economic cities.

The most important factor to attract companies is the ability of companies to reach the markets of neighboring cities and countries smoothly and easily due to the presence of airports and ports at the

highest level, which can compete with international airports and ports. Free zones have also played a key role in creating a rich environment for investment in the country, which have become the top destination for everyone.

Sharjah has become a preferred destination for investment in the region and the world because of its strategic location and its proximity to the major markets, in addition to its facilities and services in various business sectors, which enhance the contribution of foreign direct investment to the country's GDP and supports economic development in the region.

“ ***Free zones in Sharjah are ideal destinations for local and foreign investment*** ”

Sharjah has firmly positioned itself on the investment map in the region and has become a preferred destination for those looking for a safe place that provides an open business environment for investors through a variety of facilities and a rich and diverse infrastructure. Sharjah has consistently sought to enhance cooperation between the public and private sectors through the establishment of sustainable partnerships between the two sides.

Facilitations Provided to Investors

The Emirate of Sharjah offers a number of integrated measures



aimed at providing facilitations to investors through furnishing them with all the data and logistic services they need to ensure strong basis for their projects, and providing them with the opportunity to invest in the sectors that Sharjah currently considers vital to its economy. Participation in the Annual Investment Forum is of the highest importance since it is an important and vital platform that brings together investment leaders represented in individuals and companies from all over the region and the world under one dynamic umbrella in the presence of a group of prominent academic figures, experts, executives, investors and

businessmen. The Forum is a great opportunity for investors to explore different investment opportunities and make decisions about the future destination of their investments.

Free Zones are Ideal Investment Destinations

The free zones in the UAE are in line with international standards and have become a desirable investment destination due to their ability to meet all requirements and encourage foreign investment by providing 100% foreign ownership and making it exempt from taxes and customs duties. The free zones



“ *Sharjah has succeeded in attracting a large number of companies of various sizes and investments from all over the world* ”

are distributed across the country and Sharjah has become the center of the best free zones due to its advanced infrastructure suitable for all kinds of light, medium and heavy commercial and industrial activities. Moreover, Sharjah is a center for the distribution of goods and products from various countries producing in UAE markets and in all parts of the world.

The Sharjah Airport Free Zone Authority and the Hamriyah Free Zone Authority adopt the best international standards in the provision of quality services that will help attract investments to operate

in a secure investment environment with strong infrastructure and modern management that is free from bureaucracy and enjoys free movement of capital, as well as complete exemption from product and customs taxes on materials imported to these zones and materials exported abroad from them. In addition, the free zones provide full ownership of the company, which provides great opportunities for the industrial, commercial and service enterprises to success and continue to prosper since the provision of facilities to free investments is a top priority of these zones. This priority comes in line with

the directives of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, to continue the efforts of development and modernization and to move forward in driving the progress of the Emirate by implementing and activating all innovative and developmental ideas, and achieving the goals within the international standards of quality and excellence.

The two free zones host about 15000 companies from 157 countries and attract the largest companies operating in various commercial, industrial, service and other activities. The two free zones complement each other in terms of the quality of their existing activities. Each zone has its advantages, and the management of the two zones are keen to attract new investments through researching and exploring new potential investors across the world, particularly in Europe, the Americas, and Australia in manifestation of an expansionary strategy targeting investment and capital centers around the world.

In recent years, the two free zones have achieved remarkable achievements through well-planned strategic plans, which have relied



heavily on the importance of expansion and globalization that has contributed to raising growth rates. This has been achieved through ensuring close proximity to investors, approaching them professionally, meeting their needs and reaching them wherever they may be to explain the integrated picture and motivate them to move forward in investing in Sharjah.

A Unique Work Environment

As an ideal destination for investment, the two zones are providing integrated solutions to attract international and regional investors who are looking for a unique business environment which has an excellent services and managed by a multinational team with a wide range of local and international expertise to apply the best international standards and to provide outstanding services in cooperation

with national competencies committed to delivering the mission of the two zones to the fullest within a comfortable working environment centered around customers and investors from regional and global companies that operate in the two zones, which constitute a destination to expand and launch operations locally and globally. The two zones are committed to global standards in environmental protection and the preservation of staff health and safety, and their efforts are reinforced by the commitment of the two zones to their responsibility towards the local community through participation and sponsorship of many activities that support their causes.

Miscellaneous Services

The two zones provide investors with a range of administrative and licensing services under one roof, as well as technical support services

“ *A rich investment environment provided by the Government of Sharjah in terms of international trade and low investment costs* ”

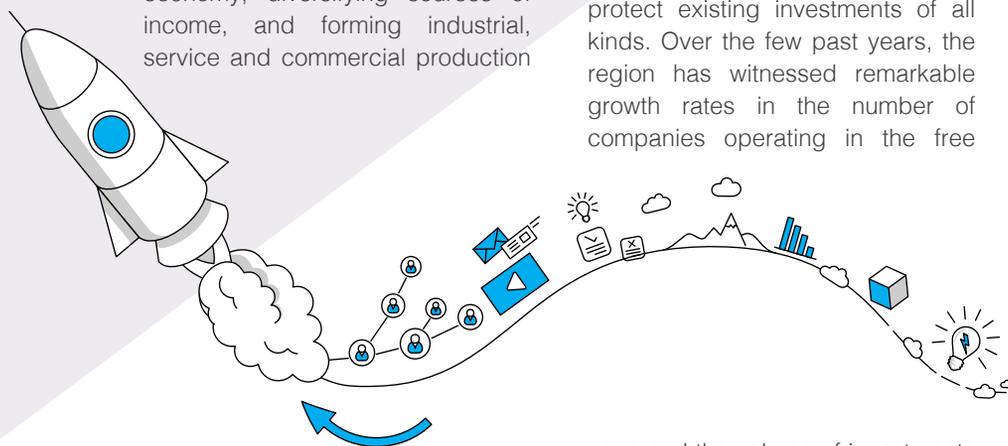
through a range of services provided by the Department of Information Systems in the field of technology solutions that meet the needs of technology companies that are eager to expand globally.

The two zones also offer a range of support services, including engineering and project management; hence offering a range of optional services and solutions to investors through focusing on interior design, facilities management, agricultural services, security and other services that help create an ideal working environment for companies operating in both zones.

Sharjah International Airport Free Zone

Sharjah Airport Free Zone Authority was established by the Emiri Decree No. 2 of 1995 issued on May 8, 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah. In its plans, the Free Zone considers the importance of the International Trade Agreement and the membership of the UAE therein and encourages investment and manufacturing through facilitating procedures to achieve the highest return from future plans to support the local and national economy.

It also contributes directly and indirectly to supporting the national economy, diversifying sources of income, and forming industrial, service and commercial production



units. This is in view of the fact that it attracts new capital that contributes to the economic life and the opportunities it provides to qualified and trained national cadres in this field.

The Sharjah International Airport Free Zone is the heart of the

Government of Sharjah in terms of free trade. It covers more than 6.1 million square meters of industrial and commercial land, and hosts thousands of companies from tens of countries and thousands of investors, employees and workers.

Investment Sectors

The Sharjah International Airport Free Zone attracts the largest companies operating in various activities and sectors. This comes within the framework of providing the potentials and fundamentals to attract more of these investments from national and foreign capital and contribute to enhancing investor confidence and providing the appropriate environment to encourage and protect existing investments of all kinds. Over the few past years, the region has witnessed remarkable growth rates in the number of companies operating in the free

zone and the volume of investments that these companies employ.

The investment sectors are divided into three sections:

Commercial Sector: General Trade, Import & Export.

Industrial Sector: Light & Medium Industries, Assembly & Processing, Storage, Packaging and others.

Services Sector: Information Technology, Media, Aircraft Maintenance...

Land, Sea and Air Transport Services

Sharjah International Airport is adjacent to the Free Zone and is one of the oldest airports in the Gulf region and the largest gateway to Central Asia. Cargo companies use it to add more effectiveness to the transportation of goods to other countries, and this is an added advantage for companies investing in the free zones. Moreover, the existing companies in the Sharjah Airport Free Zone benefit from customs privileges on all goods transported between all ports of Sharjah and the free zone. The other UAE airports and ports also provide a range of options with low transportation costs along with sophisticated and advanced services and means of communication that are interconnected by highway network.

Its unique geographical position has given the Sharjah International Airport Free Zone many advantages, where it has become a commercial

building overlooking the eastern and western coasts to facilitate investors' work since it is adjacent to Sharjah International Airport and is only a few minutes away from the cities of Sharjah, Dubai and the main ports in the United Arab Emirates overlooking the Arabian Gulf. Moreover, it is located 120 km from Khorfakkan port adjacent to the Indian Ocean.



All these features make this free zone an ideal destination for those looking for successful investment for all businesses that need to be fast and efficient. It offers state-of-the-art facilities, including equipped and air-conditioned executive offices, warehouses of various sizes and attached offices, rental land built to suit the needs of investors, container storage area and warehouse storage providing an ideal base for manufacturing, assembly, packaging, importing, re-exporting, business and value added activities.

Services Offered to Investors

The services offered by the Sharjah Airport Free Zone Authority to all those wishing to invest include licensing procedures (commercial, industrial and service / professional licenses),

sponsorship procedures and visas for the investor's employees, as well as low-cost labor and energy, low cost accommodation for workers in the locations, consultancy services in the field of computer and Internet training, legal services, express mail services, customs clearance office, banks, restaurants, post office, travel agency, medical clinic, transportation to and from the city, security services and other services that make this free zone the ideal business city in the Middle East.

Development Efforts

Over the past years, the Free Zone has achieved unprecedented growth rates at the local and international level in the number of companies operating and the volume of investments employed by these companies as a result of the

“ *The investments of major companies made Sharjah follow the footsteps of global economic cities* ”

development efforts in the region and the resources that have been used to find an efficient workforce capable of handling the burdens and responsibilities, especially with regard to the development of an infrastructure capable of accommodating the current and future trends of the market. The success of the plans and programs of the zone is reflected through vital projects that were implemented to meet the increases in the number of companies and expansions carried out by companies in the Free Zone in the past period.

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority

The Hamriyah Free Zone Authority was established in Sharjah under an Emiri decree issued on November 12, 1995, with an area of about 22 million square meters of industrial and commercial land, as well as free space for future expansions. It has a seaport with a depth of 14 meters, i.e. Al Hamriyah Port, which mainly serves the free zone. The port is designed to receive giant vessels for petrochemicals and various goods. It also includes docks for unloading cargoes of general goods, in addition to an internal port at a depth of 9 meters to accommodate small and medium sized vessels.

The Hamriyah Free Zone is strategically located in the emirate of Sharjah between three continents, and has an advanced infrastructure and a modern roads network, making it a link between neighboring countries and the world, whether by land, sea or air. It is the second largest free zone in the UAE and is among the largest free zones in the Middle East. This Free Zone is invested by thousands of companies from all over the world, representing a number of light and heavy industrial sectors, such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, steel, construction, food, and marine navigation. It offers a stable and secure environment with convenient services, complementary facilities and world-class infrastructure that contributes to the investment boom, as well as the easy access to commercial licenses through fast

and simplified procedures that make this zone one of the fastest growing zones in the Middle East.

The Hamriyah Free Zone is committed to taking into account the best and latest technical and scientific means to attract more companies specialized in maritime industries, and designing, building and maintaining vessels of various types and sizes. It has also become an attractive factor for local and international investments due to its services, facilities and advantages. It plays a vital role in the fields of industry, commerce and serving the national economy by virtue of its well-equipped infrastructure and capabilities that give foreign capitals wider options in the markets of the UAE and the surrounding countries.

International Companies

The investment in the internal port of Hamriyah Free Zone includes

international companies specialized in marine navigation, petroleum drilling, engineering, services, food industries, maintenance of petroleum equipment, engine oil industry, ship and marine boats building. This is an added value that goes in line with the strategy that aims to make this free zone a model industrial zone in the Middle East. It is equipped to attract more heavy and medium industries thanks to the availability of an advanced infrastructure and all the facilities and incentives provided to local and foreign businessmen and investors.

Thanks to these advantages and efforts, the Hamriyah Free Zone has become a major attraction for foreign industrial, commercial and service investments and has contributed directly and indirectly to support the national economy.



Stimulating Corporate Social Responsibility

Increases Productivity and Promotes Sustainability



“ *Annual national social responsibility index based on project contribution* ”

The Government of the UAE is seeking to radically transform the concept of corporate social responsibility by moving from merely contributing to charitable activities into launching well-organized development initiatives at the national level; in other words, the Government of the UAE aims to establish innovative sustainable development projects in line with the country's strategy for comprehensive development at the humanitarian, social, economic and environmental levels.

In line with the modern and comprehensive concept of corporate social responsibility, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued Cabinet Resolution No. 2 of 2018 on Corporate Social Responsibility.

The purpose of the resolution is to establish the organizational framework for the social responsibility contributions and mechanisms of their documentation, administration and channeling in the country, to set the general framework for incentives and privileges related to exercising social responsibility, and to define the roles and responsibilities of the concerned authorities in order to organize and stimulate the corporate social responsibility.

In the implementation of the resolution, it should be noted that the social responsibility is based on purely voluntary grounds exercised by corporates that are driven by their urge for institutional giving and contribution to social development through voluntary contributions to projects listed in the Social Responsibility



One of the environmental initiatives of the Ministry of Economy's social responsibility

“ ***Developing the regulatory framework for social contributions and mechanisms of their documentation, administration and channeling in the UAE*** ”

Smart Platform of the National Fund for Social Responsibility. The resolution states that:

Corporate social responsibility practices include contributing to the development of society through the provision of cash and in-kind contributions, the adoption of eco-friendly policies in production and work, and the promotion of innovation and scientific research.

National Fund

The resolution stated the establishment of the National Fund for Social Responsibility, as a federal administrative body attached to the Minister of Economy and has legal personality, financial and

administrative independence, and the legal capacity to carry out the functions entrusted to it. The Ministry of Economy shall bear the constituent expenses of the Fund. The National Fund for Social Responsibility is responsible for creating a Smart Social Responsibility Platform; organizing the inclusion of companies, enterprises, beneficiaries, projects and programs in this platform; promoting and disseminating the culture of social responsibility; and following up the implementation of social responsibility projects and programs included in the platform.

Indicator

The Fund annually announces the results of social responsibility and is in itself a national annual indicator of social responsibility, which is based on the percentage of contribution to social responsibility projects and programs, and the criteria and rules established by the Board. The Fund shall have a Board of Trustees headed by a Minister, who shall issue a resolution

“ ***Practices of corporate social responsibility includes contributing to the development of society through the provision of cash and in-kind contributions*** ”

on the formation of the Board, the number of its members, their remuneration, duration of membership, and frequency of meetings.

The Fund creates a Smart Social Responsibility Platform designed to organize voluntary contributions to projects and development programs included in the platform, and to document and coordinate social responsibility efforts with a comprehensive database of all listed companies and enterprises.

The platform also includes studies on social responsibility, educational and training manuals, incentives, benefits, terms and conditions for obtaining marks, and the Board's Social Responsibility Passport.



The cabinet issues decision number 2 of 2018 on the Corporates Social Responsibility (CSR)

Significant Importance

The Ministry of Economy stressed the importance of the resolution issued by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on corporate social responsibility. It commended His Excellency's resolution on establishing a national fund and a smart platform to motivate companies to perform their social roles.

HE Juma Mohammed Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Sector in the ministry of economy, said that the Ministry appreciates the resolution of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to maximize the corporate social role. He noted that the resolution supports and confirms the strategy prepared by the Ministry to stimulate and encourage corporates to perform their social role.

“ ***Adopting eco-friendly policies in production and work, and promoting the spirit of innovation and scientific research*** ”

He explained that this strategy includes 11 initiatives to develop and support the working environment of private sector companies and urge them to carry out their social responsibility in the Year of Zayed Al Khair.

Al Kait stressed that these initiatives include granting financial concessions, incentives and facilities to outstanding private sector companies in the area of social responsibility, most notably allocating them with a percentage of government procurement contracts. He also confirmed that these incentives will be included in the federal law on social responsibility to be developed within the framework of the relevant legislative system that aims to achieve the goals of the Year of Zayed Al Khair.

Al Kait mentioned that the new initiatives include a smart corporate social responsibility platform that aims to provide information on the federal government's development strategy and the related projects and initiatives, and to enable companies to access the details of such initiatives, programs and projects. Moreover, there is an initiative entitled Social Responsibility Passport that includes awarding big rewards to

the top five outstanding companies in corporate social responsibility.

He stressed that the Ministry aims to make a radical shift in the concept of corporate social responsibility, by moving from merely contributing to charitable activities into launching well-organized development initiatives at the national level.

Al Kait stated that the resolution of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid is very important as it provides the framework and legal and financial cover for the Ministry's





“ **Ministry of Economy is launching 11 initiatives to develop and support the work environment of private sector companies to urge them fulfill their social responsibility in the Year of Zayed Al Khair**

strategy and initiatives, noting that these initiatives include granting financial concessions, incentives and facilities to outstanding private sector companies in the field of



social responsibility, most notably allocating them with a percentage of government procurement contracts. He also confirmed that the Ministry is looking forward to including these incentives in the executive programs of the new resolution on social responsibility issued last February.

He stressed the importance of the resolution's keenness to include the creation of a smart corporate social responsibility platform that provides information on the federal government's development strategy, projects and related initiatives, and enables companies of accessing the details of such initiatives, programs and projects.

Performance Control

Officials and experts praised the resolution issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on corporate social responsibility. They also highlighted the comprehensive economic, social, environmental and other aspects of the resolution that organizes the provision of cash and in-kind contributions, adopts eco-friendly policies in production

and work, enhances the spirit of innovation and scientific research, contributes to solutions to problems or challenges facing society, and develops sustainable social responsibility strategies.

The establishment of the National Fund for Social Responsibility under the resolution will regulate the role of companies and control their performance in relation to social responsibility. The Fund will establish a smart platform that organizes the inclusion of companies, enterprises, beneficiaries, projects and programs therein; promotes the culture of social responsibility; follows up the implementation of projects and programs included in the platform; and awards the corporate social responsibility mark for companies and establishments that comply with the standards, conditions and controls issued by the Board.

The Fund regulates resolution-making and increases the involvement of the private sector in building a more cohesive and prosperous society in our beloved country, whose federal and local governments have spared no effort to facilitate the work of companies and their activities in all sectors.

Government Accelerators Enhance UAE LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE WORLDWIDE

Al-Gergawi: Government Accelerators are working to accelerate the implementation a number of initiatives to improve the performance of vital sectors in the country

Since it has all the elements of progress, advancement and development, the Government of the United Arab Emirates seeks to achieve leadership and excellence globally. It has developed future mechanisms of work, one of which is government accelerators as an effective tool to improve government work and achieve the fastest and most influential results. This step embodies the aspirational vision of adopting an accredited mechanism in the fields of government work based on principles of flexibility, openness, innovation, partnership and integration, where the focus is made on working in a team spirit and achieving the best results according to the highest standards of cooperation and coordination among all federal agencies.

“ *Al Mansouri: The program to increase the number of modern start-up companies aims to enable Emirati entrepreneurs to transform their experimental ideas into successful entrepreneurial companies*

“ **Government accelerators are one of the innovative approaches adopted by the UAE Government in stimulating effective partnership between federal and local government agencies**

In order to develop innovative solutions to the challenges, the Government of the United Arab Emirates is transforming ideas and initiatives into action-oriented plans and programs that lead to the achievement of the best results and the UAE Centennial 2071 to promote the UAE's world leading position. Government accelerators are one of the government's innovative approaches to stimulate effective partnership between federal and local government agencies.

The third batch of government accelerators is implementing the initiatives approved under the government's annual meetings held last September to address 11 challenges led by teams from seven federal government agencies, in the sectors of economy, infrastructure, judiciary, environment, technology and Emiratisation. The teams work to address the defined challenges within 100 days in order to contribute to the partnership and coordination among all federal and local governments and to achieve the promotion of comprehensive and sustainable development of the UAE. This development can be achieved through launching a national program that includes strengthening the work of venture capital funds

and the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive national consensus plan on the UAE infrastructure, a system for the adjudication of minor claim misdemeanors and civil lawsuits (not exceeding AED 100,000), and a unified smart application for addressing and spatial guidance at the level of the UAE.

The idea of government accelerators as a future mechanism of action is aimed at increasing the pace of the national agenda and its performance indicators, accelerating the services, programs and policies, and implementing the government's strategic projects through innovative spaces where joint teams can work along with first-class staff from federal and local government agencies, the private and academic sectors, and civil society organizations to achieve tangible and sustainable results

in a short period of time; hence, entrenching a culture of innovation and excellence in government work.

Best Services

In the context of the work of Government Acceleration Team, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, affirms that the most important endeavor

“ **The Government Acceleration Team addressing the challenge led by the Ministry of Economy is aiming at developing and supporting a plan to support and increase innovative start-up companies within 100 days**



“ **Government accelerators are a mechanism for future work to increase the pace of achieving the objectives of the national agenda and its performance indicators** ”

of the Government of the United Arab Emirates is to provide the best services to facilitate people's lives and achieve their happiness through a unique model of a team with high efficiency and productivity that adopts innovation and fulfills achievements beyond the set goals and aspirations, which are reflected in the provision of integrated services

“ **The third batch of government accelerators addresses 11 challenges with the participation of special teams from 7 federal government agencies** ”

that reduce time and effort and meet the needs with the highest efficiency.

The ability of government accelerators to provide a number of support services to government teams allowed the UAE to go beyond the concept of the race against time, and to venture into the future as expressed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who believes that "Successful countries are not measured by their size, but rather by their speed to achieve achievements, devise solutions to the challenges, and move towards the future and formulate it actively for the benefit of the country and the world." The team is the first of its kind in the world, and expresses a new phase that will realize the aspirations of the people and establish the foundations for future generations in four key areas: national indicators – policies, programs and initiatives – government services – and excellence in government work, through leading and innovative work methods that achieve rapid and sustainable results.





The Third Batch of Government Accelerators

The third batch of government accelerators is accelerating the implementation of UAE government's initiatives approved last September in Abu Dhabi.

His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, said that government accelerators represent an innovative approach adopted by the Government of the UAE to stimulate integration and promote effective partnership among federal and local government agencies to support efforts to achieve the UAE Centennial 2071. He said that the third batch of accelerators will accelerate the implementation of initiatives approved under the UAE government's annual meetings held last September in Abu Dhabi to enhance the performance of vital sectors including economy, infrastructure, judiciary, environment, technology and Emiratisation by addressing

“ *Transforming ideas and initiatives into working plans and programs that lead to the achievement of the UAE Centennial 2071 in order to strengthen UAE's leading position in the world* ”

11 challenges led by seven federal government agencies guided by a vision of the future.

He added that the UAE is entering a new phase in building the future by focusing on results and working in a team spirit according to the highest standards of coordination and cooperation among all parties to develop innovative solutions that address the challenges and transform initiatives into work plans and programs the results of which are sensed by the community, and leads to fulfilling UAE's vision and enhancing its leading position globally.

Supporting Innovative Start-Up Companies

The Government Acceleration Team addressing the challenge led by the Ministry of Economy is aiming at developing and supporting a plan to support and increase innovative start-up companies within 100 days under an initiative that responds to the outcomes of the annual meetings of the Government of the UAE by launching a national program this year that includes in its early stages promoting the work of venture capital funds, reducing registration fees for the second category of brands, and supporting the network of incubators in the state.

HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, said that the program of increasing the number of start-up companies aims to enable young Emirati entrepreneurs and university students to transform their experimental ideas and research projects into successful entrepreneurial companies capable of achieving tangible and economically feasible results.

Spatial Data

The Government Acceleration Team addressing the challenge led by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development to increase the utilization of spatial data in land and infrastructure projects at federal and local levels is working on building a unified database and reviewing it in an interactive map to support decision-making within 100 days through the development of the main visions for the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive



“ **7 Federal Agencies Lead Joint Teams to Address 11 Challenges within 100 Days**

national consensus plan for the infrastructure of the UAE.

The Minister of Infrastructure Development, Dr. Eng. Abdullah Balheif Al Nuaimi, stressed that the comprehensive plan for the development of UAE areas aims at developing a system to enhance the integration between the federal bodies concerned with infrastructure and their local counterparts, and also the integration among the local bodies themselves, which results in working at the state level as a one map.

Al Nuaimi pointed out that the priority of the comprehensive plan in the next phase is to reduce the gap between federal and local governments, and among the local governments themselves, which will positively affect the system of compatibility in land use and roads.

The challenge of the Minor Claims Courts, led by the Ministry of Justice, aims to facilitate and accelerate the adjudication of lawsuits, where court procedures, methods of execution and representation of litigants will

be developed during 2018. The Acceleration Team aims to reduce the time required to complete civil and criminal claims, and to establish a system of minor claims courts in the UAE within 100 days through the establishment of a system for one-day adjudication of minor misdemeanors and civil lawsuits (not exceeding AED 100,000).

The Minister of Justice, Sultan Saeed Al Badi, stressed that the initiative of the Minor Claims Court system aims to establish a unified model in all jurisdictions of the UAE at both the federal and local levels, and to review the procedures and methods of executing the rulings and representing litigants to facilitate and expedite the adjudication of claims.

He said that the team is working to review and develop all relevant laws and legislation and to identify the types of claims and proceedings at the civil and criminal levels to be covered by the Minor Claims Courts.

Addressing and Spatial Guidance

The Government Acceleration Team addressing the challenge led by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment to increase the utilization of a unified smart application for

“ **Creative and leading work methods to achieve quick and sustainable results**

addressing and spatial guidance in the UAE is working to create a unified smart addressing system in the UAE "SENIAR" and to reach 2,000 actual users within 100 days.

In terms of the challenge of increasing the number of UAE nationals working in the sectors of communications, technology, aviation, transportation, real estate and service centers, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation is leading teams to implement a number of joint national initiatives approved by the annual meetings of the Government of the UAE. The Government Acceleration Teams will work to build partnerships with companies and enterprises in the strategic sectors to enhance the participation of national cadres by providing suitable job opportunities and qualifying UAE nationals to join them effectively and sustainably.

The initiative focuses on four challenges: Increasing the number of UAE nationals in the Aviation and Transport Sector, Telecommunications and Technology Sector, Real Estate Development Sector and Service Center Sector. Acceleration teams will employ at least 4,000 UAE nationals in the four sectors through the Emiratisation of jobs and creating new opportunities within 100 days.

The Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation, Nasser Al Hamli, said that the Ministry has worked in the past to build and strengthen



strategic partnerships with sectors of telecommunications, technology, aviation, transport, real estate development, along with service centers and government agencies that organize the work of these sectors in order to support the Emiratisation file.

Exchange of Real-Time Data

The Government Acceleration Team addressing the challenge led by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) to improve the time taken to exchange real-time and accurate data between local registries and the national registry is working to increase the number of queries in the national economic registry by 55% within 100 days. As for the Government Acceleration Team addressing the "Applying Once

Challenge", it will ensure that 90% of residents present their personal data and supporting documents only once to obtain approval for practicing business, which is done through an electronic platform within 100 days.

The "Start Your Business in 15 Minutes" initiative is one of the initiatives approved under the UAE Government's annual meetings to reduce the processing time of registration applications and to reduce needed procedures and time by eliminating manual procedures and paperwork.

TRA Director-General, Hamad Obaid Al Mansouri, said that the service aims to reduce the time spent in exchanging data between local registries and the national registry in the completion of government transactions.

7 Challenges

Economy Challenge: To promote the work of venture capital funds and support incubators network.

Infrastructure Development Challenge: To develop solutions to increase the utilization of spatial data in land use projects.

Justice Challenge: To launch Minor Claims Courts to facilitate and accelerate the adjudication of claims.

Climate Change and Environment Challenge: To increase the use of "SENIAR", a unified smart application for addressing and spatial guidance.

Human Resources and Emiratisation Challenge: To empower UAE nationals to work in value-added and sustainable economic sectors.

TRA Challenge: To improve the time of data exchange between local registries and the Trademarks National Registry.

Cabinet General-Secretariat Challenge: To upgrade the mechanisms for reviewing priority legislation.



Ministry of Economy Celebrates Sports Day at Jebel Jais



In the presence and participation of HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, the Ministry of Economy organized a series of sports, entertainment and cultural activities for its employees on the occasion of the National Sports Day in Jebel Jais, Ras Al Khaimah.

The celebration was attended by the Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs; Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs; and Juma Mohammed Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade

Affairs, along with a number of managers and employees from various sectors, departments and offices in the Ministry of Economy.

The activities included a series of open sports and entertainment competitions held in cooperation and coordination between the National Tourism Program in the Ministry of Economy and Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority.

Minister Al Mansouri was briefed on the recently opened Jebel Jais Flight Project, the world's longest zip-line through which the emirate has

entered Guinness World Record. Al Mansouri toured all the facilities of the project with the participation of Ministry of Economy staff, many of whom lived the adventure and passed the longest zip-line track in the world.

HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri said on this occasion, "The National Sports Day initiative has become an excellent annual occasion to confirm the meanings of affection and harmony that unite the UAE society and to affirm pride in national identity."



A Leisure Trip for the Ministry of Economy Staff to Dubai Safari



The Ministry of Economy, represented by the Minister's Office, organized a leisure trip for the Ministry's staff last February to "Dubai Safari" under the framework of Happiness and Positivity Initiatives.

Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs; Mr. Humaid Bin Butti, Assistant Undersecretary for Corporate Affairs; Mr. Yousuf Al Refai, Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services; Mr. Abdullah Al Fan Al

Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary; and many employees participated in the Safari.

Dubai Safari is one of Dubai Municipality's major projects. It provides a new home for more than 2,500 animals gathered from around the world. Some of these have been transferred from the existing zoo in Jumeirah, Dubai. As its top priority, this distinct park aspires to be one of the top 10 animal parks in the world.

The park is divided into three main villages: the Arab village, the African village, and the safari village, in addition to the valley area, which is distributed according to scientific and research systems, and hosts the natural life of each animal. In addition, the park hosts different types of trees that are compatible with different environments in the park, along with varied facilities, restaurants, animal pens and others.



Strengthening the economic and investment cooperation with Malaysia



In February, the Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammed Najib Tun Abdulrazak received at the Malaysian government headquarters in Kuala Lumpur the UAE Minister of Economy Sultan Saeed Al Mansouri and the accompanying delegation. The

meeting discussed aspects of joint cooperation and enhancing relations between the two countries in the light of the keenness of the wise leadership in the UAE and Malaysia to improve the vision of partnership, strengthen bilateral relations and transfer them

into a wider horizons, especially in the economic and investment fields since the past decades have witnessed the development and prosperity of relations at all levels.

The meeting discussed enhancing the cooperation process, especially in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, enhancing partnership in the implementation of international Halal food standards, cooperating in various fields of Islamic economy, as well as discussing ways to upgrade partnership channels in the tourism sector between the two countries. The meeting also discussed the request of the Malaysian government to run direct flights from the UAE to the Langkawi tourist area.

Exploring Prospects of Cooperation with Sweden in the Fields of Innovation and Small Enterprises



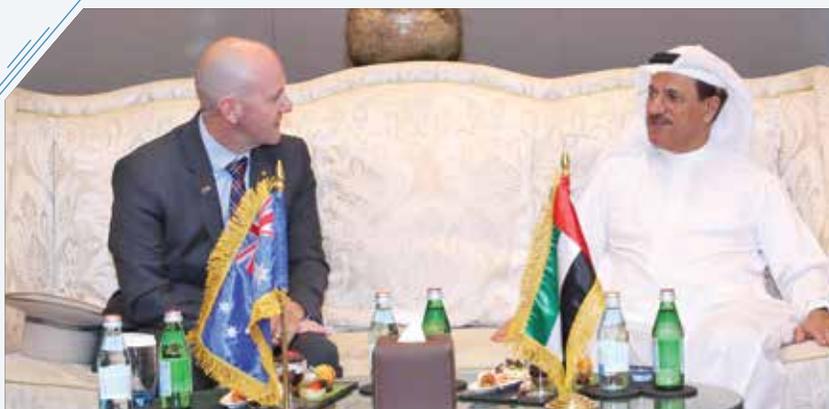
HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed with HE Mikael Damberg, Minister of Projects and Innovation in the Kingdom of Sweden, ways

to enhance joint cooperation between the UAE and Sweden in the sectors and areas of interest to the two countries, especially innovation, information technology,

small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurship and renewable energy. They also explored promising opportunities to boost the level of trade exchange between the two countries.

During the meeting held last February, Minister Al Mansouri stressed the UAE's keenness to develop and strengthen its bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Sweden, particularly in the vital sectors, especially those that serve the development process in the UAE and enhance its efforts towards a knowledge economy based on innovation and creativity, by relying on qualified cadres equipped with science and knowledge.

Exploring Prospects of Economic Cooperation with Australia



HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy discussed with HE Steven Ciobo, the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism

and Investment, ways of developing economic cooperation between the UAE and Australia in a number of sectors of mutual interest.

HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri said that the UAE enjoys strong economic relations with Australia and that the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has witnessed a significant growth in the last period, driven by the exchange of visits, delegations and economic activities. The last and most important economic event in recent months was the first joint economic committee between the two countries, which was held by the end of last year in Sydney, and resulted in important recommendations and agreements to strengthen cooperation and partnership across a number of vital areas.

Presenting Pillars of UAE Economy to Members of the "National Defense"



HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, delivered a lecture on the economy of the UAE at the headquarters of the National Defense College in Abu Dhabi in the presence of Major General

Rashad Mohamed Salem Al-Saadi, Commander of the National Defense College.

The lecture was held at the college headquarters in Abu Dhabi last January and was attended by

a group of students of the fifth national defense course (economy course) and members of the steering committee and the college supervisor.

HE delivered a presentation in which he listed the determinants of the UAE Vision 2021 and its focus on building a competitive global economy based on knowledge and innovation and led by national competencies. He also explored the most important components and developmental pillars of the national economy, and stressed that the process of progress and economic growth witnessed by the UAE over the past decades is still continuing its positive trend under the wise guidance and vision of UAE leadership.

Higher Committee for Consumer Protection Discusses the Impact of Applying VAT



The Higher Committee for Consumer Protection, chaired by HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Committee, met to discuss the

impact of applying value added tax (VAT) in the country's markets since the beginning of this year.

The meeting, which was held last January at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in

Dubai, focused on the importance of developing coordination among all federal and local authorities concerned with the application of the tax to best deal with the resulting challenges. The meeting discussed means of developing cooperation mechanisms to enhance market supervision and ensure consumer protection. The Committee stressed the importance of activating the role of competent local authorities to follow up the markets in all Emirates, strengthen their supervision, and effectively participate in receiving complaints and deciding on them. The Committee also stressed the importance of intensifying inspection tours and taking punitive measures against violators.

Launching a Joint System for Applying VAT



The Ministry of Economy and the Federal Tax Authority have launched a joint system to follow up the

procedures of applying VAT and combating violators in cooperation with the economic development

departments and concerned authorities in the UAE, in order to strengthen measures to protect consumer rights and ensure stability of markets.

These points were stressed during the coordination meeting held at the Ministry of Economy in Dubai last January, in the presence of Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs; Khalid Al Bustani, Director General of the Federal Tax Authority; representatives of the economic development departments; and entities concerned with consumer protection in various Emirates.

Ministry of Economy Explores Economic and Trade Cooperation with Moldova



Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs, HE Yuri Osorilo, Minister of State for Agriculture, Regional Development and

Environment of Moldova, discussed the areas of joint cooperation and means of developing them by taking advantage of the diverse

opportunities and possibilities enjoyed by the two countries. These points were discussed during a meeting held by the two sides at the Ministry's headquarters in Abu Dhabi in January, in the presence of HE Juma Mohammed Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs and a number of officials of both sides.

The meeting witnessed the follow-up of the results of the last visit made by UAE delegation to Moldova last February, which constituted an important step towards highlighting the most important areas of cooperation and ways to develop them in a way that serves the interests of both parties.

Roundtable Meeting with a Mexican Trade Delegation



The Ministry of Economy held a roundtable meeting with a Mexican trade delegation. The meeting was headed by HE Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade

Affairs, and HE Rogelio Garza, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Mexico, in the presence of Francesca Elisabeth Mendes Escobar, Mexican

Ambassador in the UAE, and the representatives of government agencies and the private sector of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by HE Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs, and was held on the sidelines of the World Business Forum for Latin American Countries, at the Atlantis the Palm Hotel in Dubai. The parties discussed a number of vital topics to enhance the trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, particularly focusing on aviation, logistics, agriculture, food security, halal industry, renewable energy and financial technology services known as Fintech.

Strengthening Cooperation with Slovakia in the Fields of Agriculture and "Halal" Industry



HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed with HE Gabriella Machina, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Development of Slovak Republic, ways to develop economic and trade partnerships between the

two countries. The meeting focused on discussing the opportunities and elements of investment cooperation in the field of agriculture and food products. Moreover, the two ministers discussed the mechanisms of enhancing cooperation and

coordination in the fields of Halal industry.

HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri praised the growth of economic and trade relations between the UAE and the Slovak Republic over the past years, pointing out that the economic potential and opportunities enjoyed by the two countries open up wider horizons to raise their foreign trade rates to the benefit and interests of both countries.

The meeting was held in Dubai last February and was attended by HE Abdullah Al Maeeni, Director General of the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology and HE Abdullah Al Awar Executive Director of the Dubai Center for the Development of Islamic Economics.

Exploring the Latest Technologies for Cultivating and Producing Natural Pearls



HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, visited the Natural Pearl Cultivation Project in Al Roms City, Ras Al Khaimah, which is one of the leading

national entrepreneurship projects in the Emirate. It has successfully established a brand of regional and international reputation and has used and developed the latest

technologies in the field of natural pearl cultivation.

The visit was attended by HE Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs and HE Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs.

During the visit, the project owner, Mr. Abdullah Rashed Al Suwaidi, gave a detailed presentation on the process of cultivation and the technologies used during the various stages of production, starting with the quality and samples of oysters cultivated to the stages of pearl extraction in different sizes and forms, and finally the commercial marketing process.

Strengthening Trade and Investment Cooperation with Costa Rica



HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed with HE Alexander Mora,

Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, areas of trade and investment cooperation between the two

countries along with a number of mechanisms to activate and develop economic partnerships, and elevate them to more advanced levels.

These points were discussed during the meeting held at the Ministry's headquarters in Dubai last February, in the presence of HE Francisco Chacon Ernandes, Ambassador of Costa Rica in the UAE; HE Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs; HE Abdullah Al Fan, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy; and a number of senior officials from both sides.

A Tripartite Agreement to Support Innovation Pioneers



The Ministry of Economy, the Department of Economic Development in Abu Dhabi and the UAE Scholars Council have signed an agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation between the three parties to support the Technology

and Innovation Pioneers (TIP) platform, encourage innovators and inventors in the country, support the advanced science file, and contribute effectively to increasing the number of patents registered in the UAE.

The agreement was signed in March by HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy; HE Sara Bent Yousef Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Science File and Chairman of UAE Scholars Council; and Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Hajri, Head of Economic Development Department in Abu Dhabi. The signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of launching the Automation Program of the International Center for Patent Registration, organized by the Ministry of Economy, in the presence of HE Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs and HE Dr. Mohammed Al-Mualla, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Academic Affairs of Higher Education.

Developing Cooperation with Tunisia in the Fields of Tourism and Investment



HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, received HE Salma Al-Loumi Al-Raqiq, Minister

of Tourism and Traditional Industries of Tunisia, and discussed ways and opportunities to develop

cooperation in the fields of tourism and archeology.

During the meeting, Minister Al-Mansouri affirmed the importance of completing cooperation in the previous investment files which succeeded in establishing a vital investment base that strengthened the partnership of the two countries, in addition to intensifying the dialogue to explore new ways of economic and trade cooperation and establishing investment projects in the fields that serve the economic agenda of the two countries in the coming period.

Exploring Aspects of Cooperation with Korea



HE Dr. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed with HE Kim Dong-yun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy

and Finance of the Republic of South Korea, the possibilities of joint cooperation and enhancing the current activity of economic and trade

relations between the two countries in many vital sectors. The two parties also discussed opportunities for potential partnerships in the various forms of Islamic economy.

These points were discussed during an extensive meeting held by the two sides at the Ministry of Economy in Dubai last February, in the presence of HE Abdullah Mohammed Al Awar, Executive Director of the Dubai Center for the Development of Islamic Economics; HE Abdullah Sultan Al-Shamsi Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy; Mr. Abdullah Saleh Al Hammadi, Director of the National Tourism Program at the Ministry; as well as senior Korean government officials visiting the UAE.

Development of Trade and Investment Partnerships with Paraguay



HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed means of boosting economic and trade relations between the UAE and

the Republic of Paraguay and ways to open wider horizons for private sector partnerships between the two sides in areas of mutual interest.

These points were discussed during a meeting held at the Dubai World Trade Center last February, which was attended by HE Al Mansouri with HE Costavo Litty, Minister of Industry and Trade and HE Lea Jimenez, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Paraguay, in the presence of HE Abdullah Sultan Al-Shamsi, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy; Angel Parcini, the non-resident Ambassador of Paraguay in the UAE; and a number of officials of Paraguay delegation visiting the UAE.

Development of Economic and Trade Cooperation with Spain



Eng. Mohamed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs, met with HE José Luis Kaiser, Director General of the International Trade and Investment Office in the Kingdom of Spain and his accompanying delegation at the Ministry of Economy headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The two sides discussed ways of developing economic, trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, reviewed the existing economic relations and highlighted the joint efforts that were exerted during the past period to strengthen partnership in various sectors of common interest.

Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Education Sign a Memorandum of Understanding



The Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Education signed a memorandum of understanding on joint cooperation in the field of

protection of intellectual property rights and patent registration. The signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of the event organized

by the Ministry of Economy to launch the Automation Program of the International Center for Patent Registration in the presence of HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy.

The MoU was signed by HE Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy for Economic Affairs and HE Dr. Mohammed Al-Mualla, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Academic Affairs of Higher Education, in the presence of a number of senior officials from the Ministry of Economy and a number of concerned government agencies.

Exploring Trade and Investment Cooperation with France



HE Eng. Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, and Mr. Ludovic Boey, Ambassador

of France in the UAE, discussed means of enhancing joint economic and trade cooperation by focusing

on sectors of mutual interest and opportunities for future partnerships, especially in the fields of innovation and small and medium enterprises.

These points were discussed during the meeting that was held at the of the Ministry of Economy headquarters in Dubai last March. The two sides reviewed the current developments in economic and trade relations along with existing partnerships and investments and their future prospects. They focused on the importance of strengthening platforms gathering businessmen, investors and entrepreneurs of small and medium enterprises.

Developing Economic Cooperation between UAE and Egypt in 13 Developmental Sectors



The Ministerial Meeting of the UAE-Egypt Joint Economic Committee, chaired by HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy and Eng. Tareq Qabeel, Minister of Trade and Industry of Egypt, reviewed the opportunities

and challenges in order to enhance the prospects for joint cooperation in 13 developmental sectors, including trade, customs, industry, technology, tourism, finance, specifications and standards, electricity, renewable energy, transport, aviation and water resources

management. The discussions reflected mutual understanding and a common desire to reach new and more significant levels of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The committee meeting was held last March in Cairo, and was attended by Mr. Juma Mubarak Al-Junaibi, UAE Ambassador to Egypt; Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs; Mr. Mohammed Saleh Shalawah, Advisor to the Minister of Economy; and Mr. Jamal Al Jarwan, Secretary-General of the UAE International Investors Council. The UAE delegation included a number of officials and businessmen.

#Visit UAE Exhibition in Russia



In March, the National Tourism Program of the Ministry of Economy organized a mobile exhibition in the Russian Federation to introduce the sustainable tourism elements of the UAE and promote the various tourism

destinations of the different emirates in cooperation with the tourism departments and a number of local governmental institutions in the country, along with representatives of national airlines and a range of

hotel facilities, travel agencies and holiday program organizers.

The three-day exhibition started in the city of Yekaterinburg in the Russian Ural region, and headed on the second day towards the city of St. Petersburg in the west of the country, and concluded its tour on the third day in the Russian capital Moscow. The event included a number of activities and presentations to highlight the destinations, services and tourist attractions in the UAE.

At its last stop in Moscow, the exhibition was attended by HE Maadhad Hareb Al Khaili, UAE Ambassador to Russia, who was briefed on the exhibition's various activities and pavilions.

Promotion of National Tourism in Three Indian Cities



The Ministry of Economy organized a mobile tourism exhibition in the Republic of India under the slogan "Visit the UAE" last February. It lasted

for four days and included three major Indian cities, with the participation of tourism departments and authorities in different emirates of the UAE, along

with a number of local government agencies concerned with the tourism sector, and a group of institutions and companies of tourism, aviation, hotels, and travel agencies in the country.

The exhibition included a number of activities and events aimed at highlighting the tourist attractions and introducing the landmarks, services and facilities provided by the national tourism sector in various emirates of the UAE. The exhibition started its tour from Bangalore in South India, moved to Ahmedabad city, and finally concluded its activities in Bombay – northwest India.

Developing Cooperation with Australia in the Food Industry



HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, discussed with HE Niall Blair,

Minister of International Industries in the Australian Government of New South Wales, ways to develop

economic cooperation between the UAE and Australia, especially New South Wales, by focusing on a number of sectors of common interest, namely agriculture, food and halal products and innovation.

The meeting was held in Abu Dhabi last February and was attended by HE Eng. Mohammed Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Shehhi, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs; HE Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade Affairs; and a number of officials from the Ministry of Economy and the delegation accompanying the Australian official.

Letter of Intent Signed with Greece on SME and Innovation



The Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece signed a Letter

of Intent on enhancing cooperation in areas related to small and medium enterprises, innovation

and technological cooperation. The Letter of Intent was signed in March by HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, and HE George Cattrogalos, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Greece, during a meeting held on the sidelines of the UAE-Greece Business Forum, which was organized in Dubai in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, the UAE Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Exploring Opportunities to Promote Trade Cooperation with Poland



The Ministry of Economy discussed opportunities to enhance trade and investment cooperation between the UAE and the Republic of Poland in the fields of agriculture, food

products and innovative agricultural investments.

These points were discussed during a meeting held between HE Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Saleh, Undersecretary

for Foreign Trade Affairs and HE Zbigniew Babalski, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting, which was held in February, discussed ways to strengthen economic and trade relations between the two countries in various fields of mutual interest. The two sides focused on increasing cooperation to increase trade exchanges in the field of food industry and coordination to promote partnership between the two countries at the private sector level, particularly business institutions specialized in trading food products and agricultural investments.

Developing Trade Relations with Argentina



HE Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, discussed ways of developing economic and trade relations between the UAE and

the Argentine Republic during a meeting held with HE Miguel Brown, Secretary of Commerce in the Argentinian Ministry of Production,

and his accompanying delegation visiting the UAE to participate in the Gulfood Exhibition 2018.

The meeting, which was attended by HE Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, discussed opportunities to enhance trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, and focused on developing trade exchanges, investments and projects in the fields related to agriculture, food production and halal industry. The two sides also discussed means of strengthening partnership at the level of the private sector in this field.

Enhancing Cooperation with Ethiopia in the Field of Agricultural Investment



HE Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, discussed means of enhancing cooperation frameworks with Ethiopia in the fields of agricultural investment and food industries.

The meeting discussed aspects of cooperation in the fields of agricultural investment, food industries, tourism, logistics, shipping and air transport, while reviewing the opportunities

to consolidate economic and trade ties and develop prospects for joint relations between the two countries.

These points were discussed during a meeting held with HE Iyana Zweidi, Ethiopian Minister of Trade, and the accompanying delegation at the Ministry's headquarters in Dubai on the sidelines of the Ethiopian delegation visit to the UAE to participate in Gulfood Exhibition 2018, which took place from 18-22 February at Dubai World Trade Center.

Strengthening Investment Cooperation with Ireland



HE Abdullah Al Saleh, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, discussed the fields of trade and investment cooperation with Ireland during his meeting with HE Paul Cavanna, Ireland's ambassador to the UAE. During the meeting, the two sides discussed prospects and possibilities of

cooperation in sectors of interest and means of developing links between investment development institutions from both sides.

The meeting, which was held at the Ministry's headquarters in Dubai last February, was attended by Hind Al-Yoha, Director of Investment

Department at the Ministry. The Irish side was represented by a representative of the Irish Investment and Development Corporation.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of the bilateral relations between the UAE and Ireland, especially at the economic and commercial levels, and reviewed the business environment, investment climate, facilities and incentives. They stressed the importance of exchanging visits at the governmental and private sectors levels to explore wider prospects for economic partnerships during the coming period.

Ministry of Economy Implements 12 Initiatives and Events to Celebrate the International Day of Happiness



The Ministry of Economy celebrated the International Day of Happiness on March 20th. Its agenda included 12 initiatives and events aimed at enhancing the environment of happiness and positivity among the Ministry's staff, clients, and the general community.

The Ministry of Economy celebrated the International Day of Happiness

through 12 different initiatives and events aimed at different groups in the community, including the "Happiness Discounts" initiative, the "We Reach You With Love" initiative and the "Touch of Happiness" initiative.

The Ministry implemented a number of initiatives aimed at enhancing the happiness of its clients, including the "We Make You Happy Today" initiative

and the "100% Happy Day" initiative. In addition, the Ministry's Happiness Executive Team implemented the "Happiness" initiative, and through the "Happiness Delivery" initiative, the Ministry printed the smiley face and expressions of happiness behind the smart receipts to create an atmosphere of happiness and smile on the faces of its clients and to congratulate them on the International Day of Happiness.

In addition, a number of internal initiatives were implemented and aimed at promoting a positive and happy spirit in the work environment and raising the level of satisfaction and happiness of employees through happiness and positivity workshops and happiness and positivity lottery, and others.