



German Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020

جمعية المداقة الإماراتية الألمانية
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UAE – Israel economic ties are intensifying since the Abraham Accords



On August 13, 2020, the United Arab Emirates, Israel and the United States reached a joint statement, the Abraham Accords. On September 15, 2020, the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement was signed by leaders from the United States, Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, to begin the normalization of relations between Israel and the surrounding Arab nations. The UAE thus became the third Arab country (after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994) to agree to formally normalize its relationship with Israel. Israel, in exchange, agreed to suspend plans for annexing part of the West Bank. Following that, several agreements were signed by the parties, related to visa exemption, aviation, economic cooperation, financial services, protection of investments and technology financed through the Abraham Fund. The newly launched Abraham Fund is planned to mobilize more than USD 3bn in private sector-led investment and development initiatives to promote regional economic coopera-

tion in the Middle East. Additionally, Dubai's DP World announced its partnership with an Israeli group, DoverTower to jointly bid to privatize Haifa Port on the Mediterranean, one of Israel's two main sea terminals, and to examine opening a direct shipping line between the Red Sea port of Eilat and Dubai's Jebel Ali.

The two countries expanded their cooperation in the field of greentech innovation too, by signing a deal in January, 2021, aiming to facilitate trade specifically in green technologies and to focus on sustainable development projects in the broader Gulf region. In the same month, Masdar Clean Energy, a renewable energy company based in Abu Dhabi, and EDF Renewables Israel, a subsidiary of French utility EDF, signed an agreement to support the clean energy objectives of Israel and to explore renewable energy opportunities in the country. Masdar and EDF Renewables Israel will collaborate on a number of existing renewa-

ble energy projects as well as work together on new programs announced by the government of Israel. Also in January, a virtual launch for the UAE-Israel-Bahrain Trade Forum was held and was attended by some of the world's leading business leaders, solution providers, investors, innovators and industry giants, who discussed investment opportunities.

In March, 2021 the UAE announced the establishment of a USD 10bn fund for strategic sectors in Israel, after a constructive phone call H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has received from H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel. Through this fund, the UAE will invest in and alongside Israel in energy, manufacturing,

water, space, healthcare and agri-tech sectors, supporting development initiatives and promoting regional economic cooperation between the two parties. Beyond all these, the UAE became the first Arab nation to lift visa requirements for Israeli citizens, and Emirati nationals can visit Israel freely as well. However, due to the spread of the Corona pandemic, the UAE suspended its visa-free agreement with Israel till July 1. It is hoped that the Abraham Accords will spur economic growth, enhance technological innovation, and further improve the relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirate by diplomatic engagement, increased economic integration and closer security cooperation, and eventually will lead to more peace deals between Israel and the Arab nations.

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Structural work is complete on German Pavilion, Dubai Expo 2020

The World Expo 2020, hosted by Dubai, will take place from the 1st of October 2021 to the 31st of March 2022, under the theme of 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future'. It will be divided into three districts, dedicated to the subthemes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability, defining the main drivers of the progress towards a sustainable future. The German Pavilion, "Campus Germany", will be located in the Sustainability district, and it will be a progressive, foresighted, optimistic place of knowledge, research and human interaction.

Germany has a long history of innovation and environmentalism, it is the country where the energy revolution known as the "Energiewende" was born, a place where civil society, science and industry are actively committed to ensure a sustainable future. The Campus Germany addresses education that is fundamental in the host region's agenda, so visitors will encounter a bunch of campus-related features, such as an enrolment process, a welcome event, a curriculum covering the topics of energy, cities of the future and biodiversity. The tour ends with a celebration in the Graduation Hall. The goal of the German Pavilion is to give visitors an amusing, unforgettable experience and also to raise awareness on global challenges, showing ideas to shape a sustainable future. The Dubai Expo, as all world expos, will also serve as a marketing platform to promote the participating countries.

The structural work on the German Pavilion is almost complete; since August 2019 an average

of 166 construction workers have been on the site every day, spending approximately 472,000 hours to erect the Campus Germany under the supervision of construction firm NUSSLI Adunic. Dietmar Schmitz, Commissioner General of the German Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai said that "reaching this stage is always a major milestone. In the past few months, we've been confronted with challenges we'd never have even considered." The pavilion is planned and designed in a sustainable way by LAVA firm of architects, with the usage of minimal components, materials and building mass to create spaces, and the same is true for the interior. "The exhibition is a call for sustainability. With powerful information, surprising interaction and high emotional value, it will make a strong case for a more sustainable future and spotlight innovations and solutions 'made in Germany' that could help turn that better future into reality," said Dietmar Jähn, a managing director at facts and fiction, a Cologne-based agency which is responsible for the exhibition and its content.



International Women's Day in the UAE:

Celebrating the pivotal role women played in the development of the UAE and the country's great efforts towards gender equality

Since the foundation of the federation, the UAE has stood out as a beacon of hope for the advancement and empowerment of women who have played an essential role in the development of the Emirates, said H.E. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hamed, Chairman of the Department of Health in Abu Dhabi, on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD), on 8th March 2021. He expressed his gratitude toward Emirati women: "over the past fifty years, you, as Emirati women, have continued your unwavering efforts to adorn our nation with glory and pride and give more and unconditionally for the sake of your homeland. Today, you continue to be a key component of the ambitious vision that the UAE has set for the next fifty years." He congratulated H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF), and "Mother of the Nation," who, according to Al Hamed, "set a true example all around the world of the endeavors to support women and boost their role and status within the society." He also underlined the important role women had in the combat against the Corona pandemic and expressed his sincere respect and appreciation for their great efforts. On the same day, UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, stated that the latest measures taken by the UAE have helped women get more rights and better protection. «The UAE has made significant strides towards equality and



Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak

leads the MENA region in women's empowerment, particularly given the recent legislations that offered women more rights and better protection,» said UN Women in a statement issued to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on International Women's Day.

In 2019 and 2020 some eleven new laws and legislative amendments were approved in the UAE with the goal to strengthen women's rights and ensure their empowerment. In 2019, a resolution was issued by President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to increase the political participation of women in the Federal National Council to 50% during the 2019 elections. Furthermore, the UAE became the first Arab country granting parental leave to private sector employees, through the Federal Law Number 8 of 2020. Equal wages for women and men in the private sector are stipulated by the Decree of



Federal Law Number 6 of 2020. President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyay approved to amend the Penal Code and Criminal Procedural law, repealing the article giving lenient sentence in so-called honor crimes.

The UAE has made several efforts to support women globally as well, by the many initiatives it launched, most notably through women's health telemedicine clinics of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Volunteering Programme, which is the first global telemedicine initiative that provides free diagnosis, treatment and prevention services for women, in addition to UAE's humanita-

rian aid to many countries, prioritizing women and children. approved to amend the Penal Code and Criminal Procedural law, repealing the article giving lenient sentence in so-called honor crimes. The UAE has made several efforts to support women globally as well, by the many initiatives it launched, most notably through women's health telemedicine clinics of the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Volunteering Programme, which is the first global telemedicine initiative that provides free diagnosis, treatment and prevention services for women, in addition to UAE's humanitarian aid to many countries, prioritizing women and children. partners. .

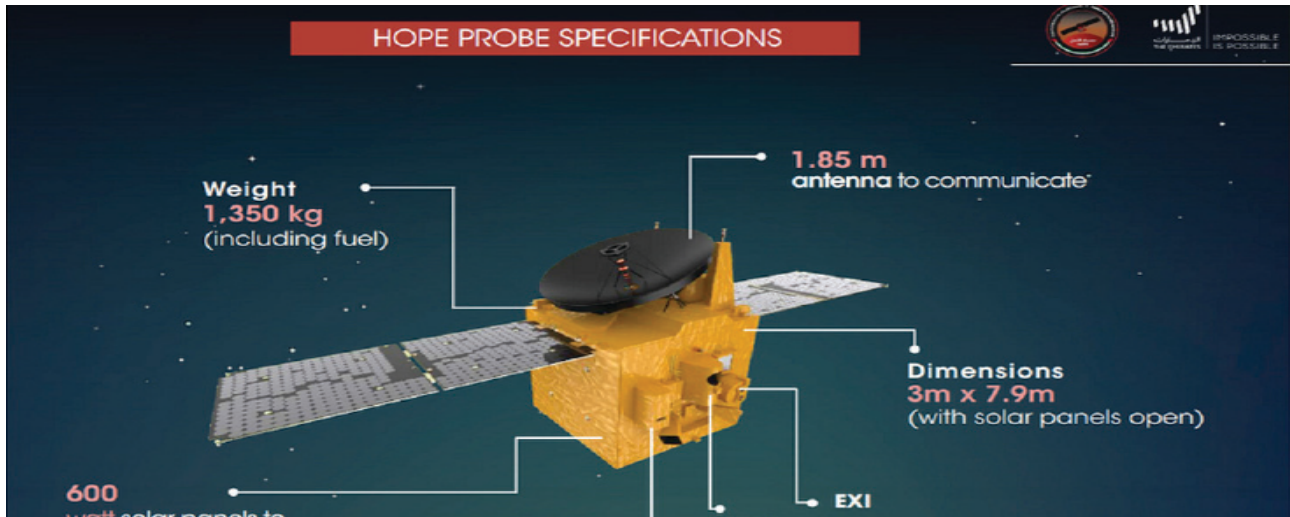
UAE Hope Probe ready for science data gathering

The Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) has announced that its commissioning and testing phase is completed and it is ready for transition to the science orbit. The completion of testing is ahead of schedule and the transition to science maneuvers are going to take place earlier than planned. The UAE Hope Probe inserted the Mars orbit on the 9th February 2021. That was the riskiest part of the journey, the attempt had a 50% chance of failing, as for entering the Mars' orbit, the probe needed to burn approximately half its 800 kg of onboard fuel to slow down enough not to overshoot. It took seven month and 494mn km for the Hope Probe to accomplish the journey, making the UAE the fifth country to ever reach the red planet. Omran Sharaf, the EMM Project Director said "in that time, we've been busy calibrating the Hope Probe's three instruments, commissioning and testing the spacecraft's instrumentation subsystems and using every opportunity to gather



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data while we've been in our capture orbit". The probe's elliptical capture orbit sees it travelling as close to Mars' planetary surface as 1,063 km and as far away as 42,461 km. Over 825 images of Mars were captured by the probe generating 30 GB new data on Mars' atmospheric composition. The first of two planned transition to science maneuvers is scheduled for 22nd March 2021,



Hope Probe Specifications

partners. The EMM is going to study the Martian atmosphere, the relationship between the upper layer and lower layer, furthermore, unprecedentedly, scientists all over the world will have full access to a holistic view of the Mars' atmosphere at various times of the day, through different seasons. The mission is part of a larger investigation that planetary scientists have been pursuing for decades, hoping to discover the reason for a drastic climatic change in the Martian atmosphere that transformed Mars from a wet, warm, potentially habitable planet into a dry and cold one, and to understand how and why Mars loses its hydrogen and oxygen into space. The Mars program is part of the Emirates' endeavor to diversify its economy by utilizing science and technology and to reduce its reliance on oil.

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UAE's art scene uses technology during time of pandemic



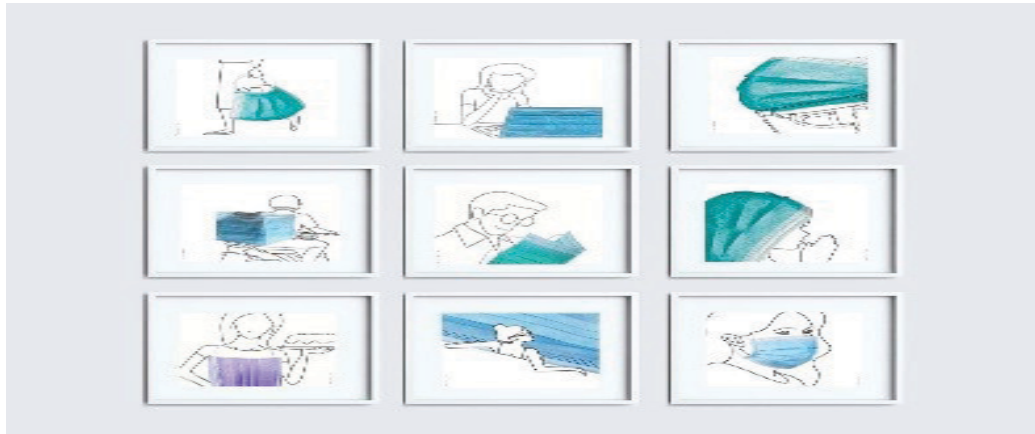
Noura al-Kaabi photographed by Mona Al-Marzooqi / The Nation

UAE's art scene was indeed affected by Covid-19 but that did not yield an artistic standstill at all. Quite the opposite was the case: new technologies were incorporated and will leave an impact on modern arts even after the pandemic, H.E. Noura al-Kaabi, UAE's Minister of Culture and Youth, predicts.

Before Covid-19 came to the global playing field, UAE had made several efforts to push Emirati Art forward. In 2019, it became one of the 58 member states at UNESCO's executive board, after signing an USD 50m agreement with UNESCO and Iraq to rebuild Mosul's cultural heritage in 2018. H.E. Noura al-Kaabi also highlighted the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement with Israel. In this context, opportunities of residents exchanging knowledge and perspective open up. H.E. Noura al-Kaabi especially underlined the opportunity for two-way literature transfers between

the countries to enhance intercultural exchange. In 2020 Covid-19 occurred and forced many artists to rethink their work. Art is often an experience based on all senses – digitally of course, you can't use all senses and need to reinvent ways, in which art is accessible anyways to people's minds. Instead of letting Covid-19 holding art back, artists unified in this global challenge and made their work tangible with technology. They started interacting virtually and used their new free time for their art and self-reflection. Technology helped to continue culture, as H.E. Noura al-Kaabi explained: "culture is never on hold." Creatives hosted virtual exhibitions to make art accessible to the public and museums offered virtual tours.

UAE's government supported the creatives by giving out 140 financial grants to residing artists across 25 fields of innovation. Due to the



Philip Joseph, 'Mask Series' (2020) as shown in new Tashkeel exhibition

increased use of technology, the big question of intellectual property arises from the pandemic. Artists share their work online and need rights to protect it. Therefore, the Ministry of Culture and Youth and the Ministry of Economy work together closely on further laws on intellectual property. For H.E. Noura al-Kaabi, it is furthermore of great relevance to educate creatives about their options to protect their own artwork. She also links the creative sector to the economy, by explaining that these licences are business licences and therefore create jobs in that business environment. She highlights the great importance of the arts in UAE as a future-oriented, vibrant and crucial sector, also in the light of the possibility to promote UAE's culture and innovation globally.

Taking the challenges of Covid-19 and transforming it into new technological approaches to art show the resilience of UAE's art scene. H.E. Noura al-Kaabi is optimistic about the future and about taking advantage of practices learned during the pandemic. But the first step post-Covid will be the individual reconstruction of the creative scene's elements. After that, the lessons learned and the interconnectedness will stay and

be further incorporated. Certain events will also be replaced by digital means. The future will hold questions on how digital platforms can be utilized.

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UAE Short News

Terminal operating system 'Zodiac' is now completely implemented by DP World – UAE Region

The Jebel Ali Port's Container Terminal 3 (CT3) by DP World – UAE Region is now fully connected to the terminal operating system 'Zodiac'. This marks an important step of the 'smart transformation' process in its ports and logistics hub. Zodiac consists of 18 internal integrated systems, including the cranes' automation system and berth planning. Furthermore, it manages the rail and inland container depot (ICD), provides fleet management and control to the container freight station.

Zodiac includes solutions for remote control of the ports facilities. CT3 can now integrate with any terminal that uses the same automation system. On the possible uses of the system, Mohammed Al Muallem, CEO and Managing Director, DP World - UAE Region, explains: "It has the ability to promote an immediate and direct connection between all facilities and assets of the station, including cranes, large bridges or trucks for transporting and loading containers, in addition to the smart sensors, Internet of Things, and the big data system that we own to enable swift handling of shipments from the ship to the warehouse of the merchant." Furthermore, it allows real-time container location tracking, clearance, and delivery with billing systems.

The implementation of Zodiac is in alignment with DP World – UAE Region's vision of integrating technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution into their work and to allow customers to connect with the global supply and supply chain.

First meeting of Emirates Health Services Establishment took place

The Emirates Health Services Establishment (EHES) held its first meeting under Chairman Dr. Mohamed Salim Al Olama, Head of Board of Directors and in the presence of Dr. Youssif Al Serkal, Director-General and other board members. The launch of EHES is in line with UAE's Vision 2021 National Agenda to provide a sustainable and effective healthcare system with qualitatively high standards for Emirati society.

Also in the light of Covid-19-pandemic, Dr. Al Olama explained: «the EHES provides an effective and efficient organisational environment adaptable to the evolving needs of society and the current global health challenges related to COVID-19 pandemic.» The purpose of EHSE is therefore to provide a qualitative addition to the health sector. It will stimulate and support studies and research, support the establishment of health and preventive units and departments, childhood and maternity care centres, vaccination and school health centres, ambulance services, blood banks, and health training centres.



Also, cooperation with governmental bodies, conferences, workshops and concluding agreements and partnerships with local and internal parties will contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal health sector. The EHSE Board of Directors is put together of representatives of the relevant government bodies from the seven emirates and a representative of the youth category to ensure sustainable and high-quality healthcare services. Dr. Al Olama further said about EHSE: «this organisational transformation will place the establishment at the forefront of healthcare service providers in the world, by focussing on providing sustainable and high-quality healthcare services in line with the UAE vision and global standards.»

Virtual opening of Culture Summit Abu Dhabi

Under the theme of “The Cultural Economy and the Economy of Culture”, the Culture Summit Abu Dhabi returned to the UAE capital for the fourth year on 8th March 2021. This year, the Summit took place online.

Organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism, the summit was a gathering of global experts in the fields of design, heritage, media, public policy, technology and business. Events included speeches, panel discussions, case studies, artist talks and performances. On the importance of the summit and culture in general, Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, chairman of DCT – Abu Dhabi explained: «culture is a lifeboat for humanity at large under the exceptional circumstances the world is reeling under due to the over-

whelmingly negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has on mental health; and as the fallout of this pandemic is projected to persist, culture becomes our ideal refuge.»

Culture has also meaning to politics, economy and society as a whole. The creative economy distributed “trillions of dollars every year, and its impact and influence is often underestimated,” as Audrey Azoulay, Director General, UNESCO stressed in her opening address at the Culture Summit Abu Dhabi 2021. In the light of cultural relevance, the United Nations General Assembly made 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy and Sustainable Development. This seems even more important in the context of Covid-19 pandemic which damped the fast pre-covid growth of the cultural industry significantly. Therefore, the Summit was also a great opportunity to discuss question on post-covid cultural economy and how it can contribute to societal questions as decreasing inequality or advance sustainability goals.

SDGs are an important part of UAE's strategic vision

UAE considers the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a multifaceted approach to development in their own strategic vision, at home or abroad by looking beyond just GDP as a measure of worth, as Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, Director General of EXPO - 2020 Dubai Bureau, and Chairperson of the National Committee on the Sustainable Development



Goals, explained. "From a domestic perspective, it incorporates access to opportunity, through quality education and healthcare. It has inspired the appointment of Ministers for Youth, Tolerance, Happiness and the Future. And it demands not just of governments, but of the whole of society, if we are to achieve our collective goal of a smarter, cleaner and healthier future for all," she said in a keynote address on the Global Goals as part of Expo Talks. She further stressed that commitment to the SDGs yields a successful and sustainable development of community in UAE.

Dubai issues 1,000 long-term 'cultural visa' to artists and creators around the world

The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority announced to issue 10-year 'cultural visa' to international creators. This offer is part of the cultural visa initiative, launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in 2019. It supports Dubai's position as a global center of culture, incubator for creativity and a hub for talent. To be accepted for a cultural visa, applicants must meet several criteria, which relate to such as years of residence in the country or record of creative/knowledge-related achievements. "The long-term cultural visa provides talented people with a stable base in Dubai and contributes to enhancing the emirate's growth by stimulating the creative economy», said Hala Badri, Director-General of Dubai Culture, «this will result in creating more jobs in the sector, especially as Dubai has a strong cultural foundation and diver-

se creative sectors that offer attractive opportunities to intellectuals and creative people." The visa will boost Dubai's cultural and creative sector and hence the creative economy.

DEWA wins 2020 Middle East and Africa Renewables Deal of the Year

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has won the "2020 Middle East and Africa Renewables Deal of the Year". DEWA has won the award from Project Finance International (PFI) magazine, for the photovoltaic 5th phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Solar Park. H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, who received the award, said: «Supporting the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, which guides us to unprecedented success and achievements, DEWA continues to contribute effectively to the sustainable development of the UAE. The 900MW 5th phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model is a quality addition to our successful clean and renewable energy projects using the best global technologies. The 5th phase will be implemented by Shuaa Energy 3, established by DEWA and the consortium led by ACWA Power and Gulf Investment Corporation. DEWA received the lowest global bid of USD 1.6953 cents per kilowatt hour for this project, which will use the latest solar photovoltaic bifacial technologies, with Single Axis Tracking to increase energy production. We promise to continue



wise leadership to enhance the UAE's pioneering position in all sectors.» He added that the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is the largest single-site solar park globally with a planned production capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030. 270,000 residences will be provided with clean energy with the 5th phase which means an annual reduction of 1.18mn tones carbon emissions.

Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan revealed

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan that lays out the future of sustainable urban development in the city. The aim is to make Dubai the best city in the world to live in from a leisure and working perspective, by enhancing people's quality of life. The plan seeks to increase environmental sustainability, preserve the emirate's cultural and urban heritage, provide sustainable and flexible means of mobility, foster greater economic activity and attract foreign investments to new sectors. Nature reserves and rural natural areas are planned to constitute 60% of Dubai's total area, the land area used for hotels and tourist activities will increase by 134%, while the land area allocated to education and health facilities by 25%. Areas used for commercial activities will increase to 168 km² and the length of public beaches by 400%. The 2040 Urban Master Plan is expected to develop integrated communities according to the highest planning standards, with green places, commercial centers and recreational facilities.

Mohamed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations opened in Abu Dhabi

On March 14, 2021, the third edition of the Mohamed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations (MBZMFG) opened in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The virtual event was organised by the Education Affairs Office at the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court under the theme "Thriving the Next Normal". More than 13,000 young participants joined the sessions, those were divided along three main themes: A Changing World, New Opportunities, and The Next 50 Years. The Majlis welcomed 36 speakers, including 12 ministers, 6 high-ranking federal and local government officials, several international experts in various disciplines, and a group of prominent local and international entrepreneurs. MBZMFG is an interactive platform connecting the UAE's leadership with its youth to enhance their skills, empower them and to create better opportunities for them in the future. MBZMFG 2021 consisted virtual dialogues, where young participants could exchange views and ideas and cooperate in establishing a new, innovation-based and youth-led culture. ment activities. The economic zone offers more attractive rates for multiple year licenses.



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