



Accreditation of the new Ambassador of the UAE to Germany, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama

جمعية المداقة الإماراتية الألمانية
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UAE prepares for the future ahead of 50th anniversary



National anniversary 2019

In 2021, the UAE will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In light of this, H.H. Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Abu Dhabi, and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Emir of Dubai, have announced that their future efforts will focus on the expansion of the knowledge economy in order to detach the country from the fossil fuel industry.

The UAE's 50th anniversary marks 50 years since the historic union of the emirates. Furthermore, directives have been issued for the formation of a committee to supervise the preparations for the Golden Jubilee.

The committee is responsible for leading the UAE's celebrations, developing a comprehensive preparatory plan and forming teams to organise events and activities.

All members of society will be involved in this, with the committee involving the private sector in the composition and implementation of these exceptional celebrations as well in the plans to expand global reach and impact.

Part of the anniversary will be the introduction of Vision 2021, a long-term plan to transform the UAE into one of the leading economic forces in the world by the year 2021. Vision 2021 was launched in 2010 during a cabinet meeting. In the 1970s, the country's cities belonged to the so-called Trucial States – a collection of different sheikhdoms that allied themselves with the British through a series of treaties.

On 2nd December 1971, the UAE celebrated the federal unification of the six emirates, formally creating the UAE established today. The Emirate Ras Al Khaimah later joined the union on 10th February 1972.



In addition to the 50th anniversary celebrations, further projects in this context are planned for 2021:

The **Dubai Plan 2021** addresses the extension of the urban environment, including the exploration of natural and built assets, and deals with the living conditions of the people of Dubai and its visitors in their interaction with this environment and the economic and social services provided.

In addition, the plan also focuses on the economy, which is the city's development engine, fuelling its advancement.

The goal of **Smart Dubai 2021** is to shift to a 100% digitised future within the next four years.

In January 2016, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed launched the **Dubai Health Strategy 2021**, which comprises four main approaches, six goals, 15 programmes and 93 initiatives, all of which are designed to make a leap forward over the next five years.

The aim is to provide the highest quality of healthcare to patients with chronic diseases, promote a culture of early detection and raise awareness of the importance of regular check-ups.

Sharjah Tourism Vision 2021 aims to attract more than 10 million tourists by 2021. To make the vision a reality, the Sharjah Commerce and

Tourism Development Authority, will cooperate with partners from the tourism sector.

Ajman 2021 focuses on building a happy society that will contribute to building a green economy backed by excellent government in alignment with the UAE Vision 2021, National Agenda and Spirit of the Union.

The United Arab Emirates has also sent an unmanned spaceship on its way to Mars as part of the mission **Hope 2021**. It is the first mission to Mars from the Arab world.

The aim of the mission is to study the climate on Mars and discover the reasons for the lack of an environment that facilitates life. Due to the eruption of Covid-19, **Expo 2020** will take place from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Expo 2020 Dubai is committed to hosting an extraordinary event that celebrates humanity's resilience and creativity, including significant technological advances in medicine and science.

Expo 2020 is the first world exposition to be held in the Middle East, Africa or South Asia, and the largest event to take place in the Arab world. Expo 2020 Dubai will last for six months, starting in October 2021.

H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama, Ambassador of the UAE to Germany, undertakes inaugural visits in Germany



H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama and the German Federal President,
H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

After her appointment as the new Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Germany, the former UAE ambassador to Brazil, Montenegro and Kosovo H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama toured across Germany for her first official visit to her new host country.

On 1st May 2020, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama and Head of Economic Affairs the UAE Embassy to Germany H.E. Khalfan Al Matrooshi discussed the bilateral economic relationship with Helene Rang, CEO of NUMOV, the German Near and Middle East Association.

The UAE is the number one trading partner for the German economy in the Arab world. At the initiative of NUMOV, the UAE ambassador to Berlin offered insights into the future of business in the

UAE to German stakeholders. The UAE's economy is shaped by diversification and the exploration of new opportunities based on a responsible and sustainable management of resources. H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama presented her credentials to the German Federal President, H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier at Bellevue Palace in Berlin on 10th June 2020.

On 23rd June 2020, the UAE ambassador's inaugural visit to the Saxon State Chancellery was attended by H.E. Michael Kretschmer, the Prime Minister of Saxony. The visit had the purpose of discussing the development of further cooperation between Saxony and the UAE. Her stay included a visit to the VW Gläserne Manufaktur with H.E. Martin Dulig, Minister of Economic Affairs of Saxony, where the production of the eGolf was presented to them.

On 26th June, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama discussed opportunities for specialist training and scholarships for physicians from the UAE as well as bilateral research projects at the National Center for Tumor Diseases NCT and UCC Dresden, a major science centre in the healthcare sector. On the same day she also met Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen, principal of the Dresden University of Technology, which is among the 11 Universities of Excellence in Germany.

The visit once again emphasised that science and innovation are integral elements of the bilateral relationship between the UAE and Germany. During her visit to Saxony, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama met the Mayor of Dresden, Dirk Hilbert.



They discussed the UAE's excellent political and economic relations with Dresden. The ambassador also signed the Golden Book of the city.

On 5th August, the UAE ambassador met with H.E. Dr. Mark Speich, State Secretary for Federal and European affairs and International Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia, to discuss the strengthening of the relations between the UAE and North Rhine-Westphalia, cultural exchanges as well as economic cooperation.

Five days later H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama met with the Mayor of Dortmund, Ullrich Sierau. They discussed matters of mutual interest and possibilities to advance bilateral relations between the UAE and this future-oriented scientific and high-tech location.

At a meeting on 25th August, Bremen State Councillor Dr. Olaf Joachim, who heads the representative office of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen in Berlin, and H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama discussed possibilities for strengthening bilateral economic relations, especially in the areas of infrastructure, logistics, renewable energies and aerospace.

In addition, the ambassador visited the Hanseatic City of Hamburg with a diplomatic delegation on 7th September to deepen the already strong bilateral ties through consultations with representatives from the political, economic and cultural sphere.

On 9th September, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama met Prof. Norbert Aust, President of the Hamburg



H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama and Prime Minister of Saxony,
H.E. Michael Kretschmer

Chamber of Commerce, and its CEO Dr. Malte Heyne. They discussed a wide range of topics related to trade and the promotion of bilateral economic relations.

On 10th September, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama and Dr. Carsten Schirarend, Director of the Hamburg Botanical Garden, discussed opportunities for bilateral cooperation, academic exchange on environmental studies and joint activities for the upcoming 200th anniversary of the Hamburg Botanical Garden.

Concluding her series of visits on 16th September, H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama also met Prof. Dr. Jan Hecker, foreign policy advisor to the German Chancellor, to discuss the bilateral relations between the UAE and Germany.



Emirati Women's Day

“Preparing for the next 50 years: women are the support of the nation”

The sixth annual Emirati Women's Day was celebrated on 28th August 2020. Whether they are politicians, tech entrepreneurs, managers, cooks, ballerinas, figure skaters, or trying to climb Mount Everest, Emirati women have excelled in all areas.

H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi, Supreme Chairperson of the Family Development Foundation, Chairperson of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Maternity and Childhood and Head of the UAE's Women Federation, announced the theme for this year's Emirati Women's Day, revealing that the motto will be 'Preparing for the next 50 years: women are the support of the nation'.

H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi noted that women will play a central role in shaping the country's development. Furthermore, Noura Al Suwaidi, Director of the Women's Union, said that her organisation is working with partners from the private and public sectors to update the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Emirati Women 2015-2021.

H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi launched the Emirati Women's Day in 2015 to recognise the crucial role of women in the country. The annual celebrations coincide with the founding of the General Women's Union in 1975. In 2017, H.H. Sheikha Fatima was honoured by UN Women, a United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women as a global champion of gender equality.



H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi

Since a decree by H.H. Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Emir of Abu Dhabi, the UAE has been taking gender equality forward by ensuring that half of the 40 members of the Federal National Council are women. After the last elections in October 2020, the members of the Council are now equally represented.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan also stated “On Emirati Women's Day, we extend our gratitude to all mothers, sisters and daughters for their contributions to our nation, and their instrumental role in the frontline response to Covid-19. We congratulate and honor you, and we remain committed to the empowerment of all women.”

UAE launches its first interplanetary mission



First Arabian rocket launch to mars



Satellite "Al Amal"

At midnight of 19th June 2020, the United Arab Emirates sent a satellite called "Al Amal" into space. Al Amal, Arabic for "hope", is on its way to Mars. It is the first interplanetary mission of the UAE and is expected to enter into an elliptical orbit in February to observe the weather on Mars. The Emirati researchers are interested in weather changes during the course of the day as well as the seasons. In addition, Al Amal will send high-resolution images of the surface of Mars back to earth.

The collected information will help in gaining a better understanding of the atmosphere of Mars. For this purpose, the data will be freely accessible to scientists from other countries. An impressive aspect of the UAE mission is that it was commissioned by the government only in 2014 and cost less than USD 200m. Moreover, delays were not an option as Al Amal is intended to be in operation on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the state in December 2021. Furthermore, Earth and Mars must be close to each other for the rocket launch, and as this is only the case every 26

months, Al Amal absolutely had to be launched in the summer of 2020. In order to achieve this, the UAE cooperated with US universities and the Japanese Space Agency.

The satellite was launched from southern Japan. The probe is supposed to supplement the eight currently active space probes on Mars as much as possible according to H.E. Sarah al-Amiri, the UAE Minister of Science and Deputy Project Manager for Al-Amal. The UAE is new to space travel as the country's space agency is only six years old.

Furthermore, the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center in Dubai was only founded in 2006 and has already launched four essentially self-built satellites into space. Additionally, several new missions are being planned, as well as a biosphere in the Arabian Desert to test techniques for colonising the red planet in a hundred years. This year the so-called Mars Science City is also scheduled to open its doors in the UAE, simulating life on Mars.

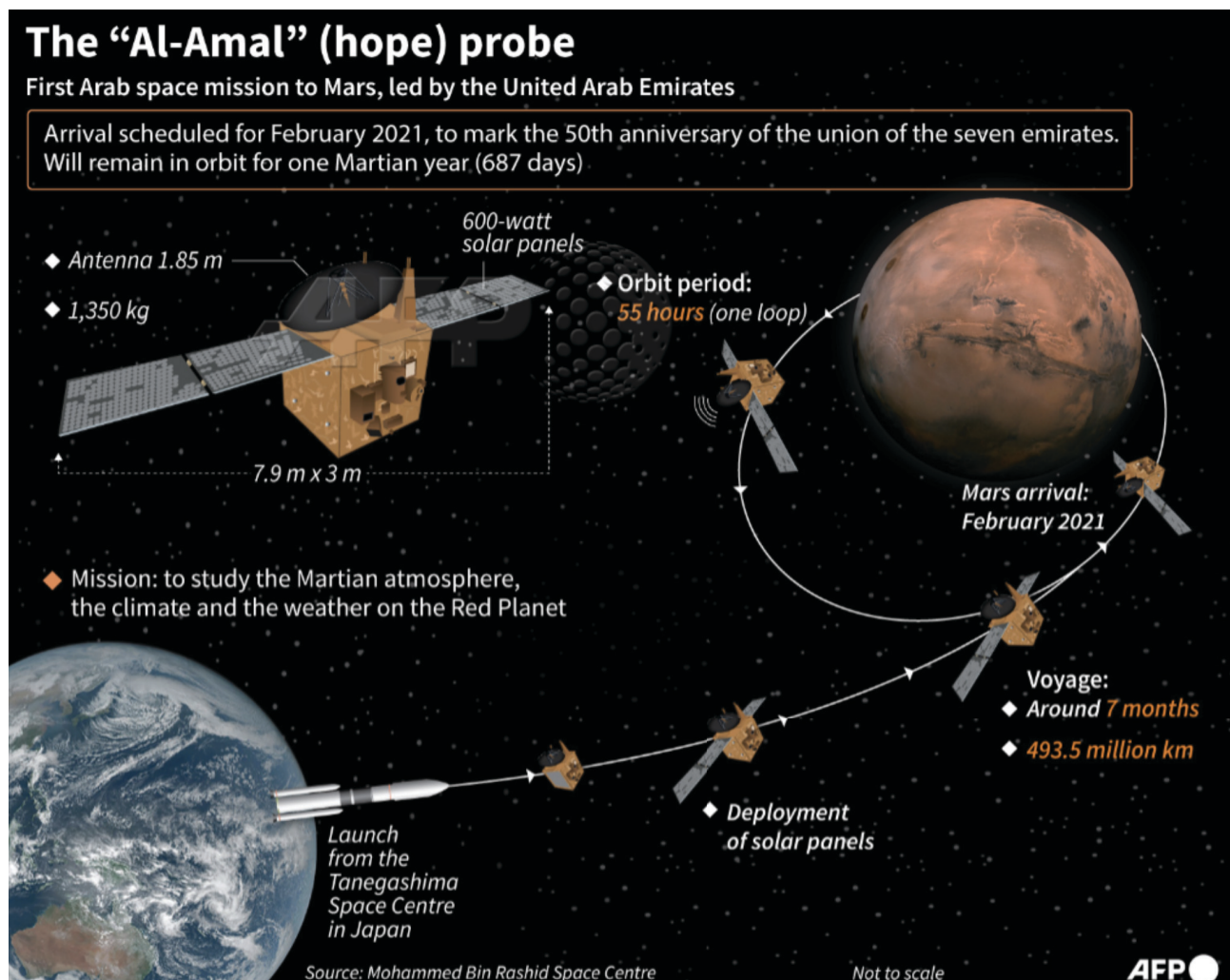


The main focus will be on research in the fields of energy, water and food. This will be the first project in the UAE's 100-year Mars strategy. The country has its sights set on the goal of colonising Mars within the next 100 years, which is also the vision of the Mars 2217 programme.

The first humans are expected to land on the Red Planet as early as 2037. To this end, scientists are researching the effects of isolation and shielding on the human psyche and body on behalf of the UAE from November onwards. In recent years, the focus has shifted steadily towards

technology. The UAE is regarded as a leader in numerous areas of digital transformation.

Aerospace fits into the portfolio of the “knowledge-based economy” which the country is striving for. The UAE has also signed a strategic partnership agreement with NASA for the training of four Emirati astronauts. This partnership aims to prepare the astronauts for advanced space missions by providing them with the highest level of expertise and experience. The training programme will prepare Emirati astronauts physically and mentally for future space missions.





New Cabinet of the UAE, July 2020

There was a major cabinet reshuffle in the UAE in July 2020. As part of the reshuffle, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Prime Minister and Vice President of the UAE, merged ministries and departments. The changes aim to create a government that is faster in its decision-making, effectively adjusted to changes and optimised to seize future opportunities.

The changes and newly created ministries and departments include the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology; the UAE Government

Media Office; the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, which was created through the merger of the Ministry of Energy and Industry and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development; and the Ministry of Culture and Youth.

The Federal Electricity and Water Authority, Emirates Post, Emirates Transport and Emirates Real Estate Corp are now attached to the Emirates Investment Authority and the National Media Council will be merged into the Ministry of Culture and Youth.

Ministry	Minister
Vice President, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense	H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior	H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs	H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister of Finance	H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence	Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan
Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future	Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi
Minister of Federal Supreme Council Affairs	Ahmed Juma Al Zaabi
Minister of Health and Prevention	Abdul Rahman bin Mohammad bin Nasser Al Owais
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure	Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei
Minister of Climate Change and the Environment	Dr. Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi
Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology	Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber
Minister of Justice	Sultan bin Saeed Al Badi
Minister of Education	Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi
Minister of Culture and Youth	Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi
Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization	Nasser bin Thani Al Hamli
Minister of Community Development	Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid
Minister of Economy	Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri



Advanced manufacturing solutions presented at GMIS 2020

The Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation summit (GMIS) 2020 Virtual Edition consisted of a series of online webinars that took place weekly, starting on 30th June 2020 and culminating in a two-day virtual summit that was held from the 4th to 5th September 2020.

The GMIS 2020 was a joint initiative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates. It operated as a platform to promote advanced manufacturing and innovation through multi-stakeholder dialogue, action and partnership.

Uniting influential delegates, including visionary world leaders, expert industry CEOs and specialist researchers, the summit aimed to place manufacturing at the heart of economic regeneration and government policymaking, utilising it as a tool for global cooperation and collaboration.

In April 2019, representatives of GMIS and Deutsche Messe AG announced a strategic partnership to host the third edition of the summit in Germany alongside Hannover Messe, one of the world's largest industrial technology trade fairs. In collaboration with Deutsche Messe AG, GMIS established a German Higher Committee for GMIS 2020, consisting of members from the government, industries and associations in Germany. This committee played an advisory

role and provided guidance with regards to the GMIS 2020 theme, agenda and opening ceremony as well support in creating awareness of the event among relevant stakeholders.

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the GMIS 2020, originally scheduled to take place alongside the Hannover Messe industrial trade fair from April 2020, was postponed due to the public health risks associated with mass gatherings.

Since then advanced innovation has been meeting urgent medical needs with the production of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing kits and the development of vaccines to ensure quality infrastructure and adequate standardisation in laboratories. Maintaining vital supply chains, ensuring detection, monitoring new Covid-19 cases and assisting in transportation of medical supplies through robotics, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things have assumed a growing importance.

Given the centrality of advanced manufacturing to these efforts, it has been decided to convene GMIS 2020 as a digital series leading up to a virtual summit focusing on globalisation, including the creation of sustainable and inclusive global value chains, which will enable participants to share their ideas on the future of manufacturing from the safety of their own homes or workplaces.

Dubai Expo 2020 set to offer global exchange platform despite pandemic

The Dubai Expo 2020, which was scheduled to take place in October 2020, has been postponed to October 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bureau of International Expositions (BIE), which regulates the World Expos, stated that the construction of the pavilions of all participating countries will continue and will be completed by the end of 2020.

The organisers of the exposition and the government of the UAE are working together to develop policies to ensure the safety for all participants and provide a Covid-19-free exposition. In the last week of August, a four-day virtual meeting was held to exchange ideas and make the Dubai Expo possible and exceptional.

Dimitri Kerkentzes, Secretary General of the BIE, remarked that Dubai, the UAE and all the participating countries have made impressive contributions to organising the Dubai Expo 2020 despite the pandemic. H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director-General of the Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau, expressed her belief that the medical treatments and preventive interventions will witness tremendous advancement, as has already been visible through the development over the past few months since the start of the pandemic.

Therefore the goal of 25m visitors still applies. The minister further mentioned the preparedness of the UAE to host a world-class event whatever size and whether the audience is



The German Pavilion (CAMPUS GERMANY)

present physically or virtually. The organisers have guaranteed reduced fees for the participants, which includes a 15-month cap on electricity connection fees and a reduction in telecommunication fees. Dietmar Schmitz, Germany's commissioner general to the Expo, stressed the importance of the Dubai Expo 2020 as a key event for bringing the global community together in times of a global pandemic and lockdown measures, emphasising the relevance of interaction and intellectual exchange.

The German Pavilion will have the title "Campus Germany". The theme of the pavilion is "Sustainability" and it is located next to the main path of the Expo, comprising a total area of about 4,600m² and expecting to host more than three million visitors.

UAE and Germany establish lasting cooperation on educational and cultural projects



SAWA Museum Academy

The United Arab Emirates and Germany maintain strong diplomatic relations, which were intensified after the two countries signed a joint declaration of intent on the occasion of the visit of H.E. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed to Berlin in June 2019.

The existence of various bilateral cultural and educational programs demonstrates the pronounced cooperation between the two countries. In addition to German schools in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai, there are regional offices and Goethe-Institut language-learning centres in the emirates. Several exchange and scholarship programmes regarding university education are supported by the two sides.

The DAAD offers extensive support in terms of the execution of higher education to Emirati students in Germany and vice versa. In recent years the structures of collaboration between

universities and training centres linking Germany and the UAE have deepened, which has led to a nourishing exchange in the academic environment as well as strengthening the promotion of practical professions and training paths, in which the UAE aims to invest in with the support of German expertise in the respective fields.

To ensure comprehensive networking in all areas of education, cooperation between the two countries is not just limited to the university sector, but is also reflected in the vocational training programmes offered in the UAE. The Gulf state is in the process of stepping up its efforts to promote practice-oriented education in order to meet the future demands of its workforce.

Since there is a shortage of qualified personnel in many technical areas, the government is aiming to prepare the national labour market for future challenges.



Therefore, two vocational training institutes have been established in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with the support of the GIZ. The main goal is to prepare young Emiratis for the demands of the local job market.

The project ensures that graduates are equipped with the theoretical and practical knowledge required to take up certain professions. The training plans are developed taking into account the practical experience of the globally recognised German dual system, which enjoys an excellent reputation worldwide.

The two institutes offer a wide range of diplomas for Emirati students in the professional fields of technology, management and health care and are based on German standards in vocational training.

Bilateral cooperation has recently also developed in a positive direction with regard to the expansion of cultural offerings. At the end of April 2013, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, the Sharjah Museum Department (comprising 16 museums) and the Goethe-Institut signed a declaration of intent in Berlin for long-term cooperation in the museum sector.

As a result, the Emirati State Cultural Foundation ADMAF and the Ludwigsburg Film Academy started a cooperation in the field of film in March 2019, which includes the exchange of knowledge in dramaturgical vocational training and represents an enrichment for both cultural spheres. Another such transcultural exchange programme is the SAWA Museum Academy, a

joint initiative of the Sharjah Museums Authority, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region and the University of Applied Sciences for Engineering and Economics in Berlin (HTW). This academy offers a professional qualification programme for students of museum studies and young museum professionals from the MENA region and Germany.

The first phase takes place in Sharjah and the second in Berlin, providing participants with expert training on intercultural issues across the diverse operational areas that museums cover.

A further pillar of collaboration between the two countries is the representation of common values. Germany and the UAE agree that intolerance is a major cause of terrorism and violent extremism and note the importance of intensifying efforts in this regard.

For this reason, the UAE Embassy in Berlin in cooperation with the Apostolic Nunciature in Germany organised a cultural event in February 2019 to mark the Year of Tolerance 2019 in the UAE and the historic visit of Pope Francis to the UAE.

This cultural event not only supports interreligious dialogue between Muslims and Christians, but also between East and West in order to accelerate cultural exchange between followers of all religions. In this context, the UAE and Germany recognise that tolerance, peaceful coexistence, respect for others and cultural pluralism and diversity are fundamental global values.



Upcoming fairs and exhibitions in the UAE

GITEX Global, 6th - 10th December 2020, Dubai

GITEX Global is a five-day exhibition and conference for computer, information and communication technology. The exhibition will take place from the 6th to 10th December 2020 at the Dubai World Trade Centre in the UAE. Returning for the 40th time, it show-cases transformational ideas that will shape the future of government and business in the next decade. Companies of all sizes take part in GITEX to present their solutions and products from tech powerhouses to smaller innovative enterprises.

Gulf Traffic, 8th - 10th December 2020, Dubai

Attending **Gulf Traffic** online or in-person will help you to meet influencers in the global traffic and transportation industry as well as source from global suppliers. As the longest-running traffic and transportation exhibition and conference, Gulf Traffic unites the industry in a conglomeration of networking and lead-generating opportunities to help businesses reach new heights. Gulf Traffic is scheduled to take place at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre from the 8th to 10th December 2020.

SteelFab, 11th - 14th January 2021, Sharjah

SteelFab enjoys the top position in the MENA region and is a name to reckon with globally among trade events dedicated to metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing needs. Supporting the regional industry, the event has become a vital wheel in the manufacturing sector, which powers the region's non-oil economy.

The metal fabrication industry is evolving quickly to keep up with modern trends and technologies. The 17th SteelFab 2021 will help to advance the equipment of metal manufacturers in the region. SteelFab will take place at Sharjah Expo Centre from 11th to 14th January 2021.

World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 18th - 20th January 2021, Dubai

The **World Future Energy Summit (WFES)** is one of the leading international events to accelerate sustainability and the global transition to clean energy, and its next edition is set to be held from 18th to 20th January 2021 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. Combining an exhibition, technology showcase, investment incubator and business forum in one event, the summit convenes leaders, innovators and global thinkers to share ideas and create the blueprints for a sustainable future.

Intersec 24th - 26th January 2021, Dubai

Intersec is the largest international exhibition for security, safety and fire protection, where innovators, end-users and government agencies come together to collaborate, share knowledge and prepare for future challenges. Last year's 22nd edition had over 1,000 exhibitors from more than 56 countries across 7 product sections: commercial security, smart homes, information security, fire and rescue, safety and health, homeland security and policing, and perimeter and physical security. The fair will be hosted at the Dubai World Trade Centre between 24th and 26th January 2021.



EuroTier Middle East 8th-10th March 2021, Abu Dhabi

EuroTier Middle East is the world's leading trade fair for professional pet owners and is a worldwide brand that stands as one of the leading global platforms for innovations in animal husbandry and breeding in its sector. EuroTier provides innovations and knowledge for almost all farm animal species along the entire value chain. In addition to numerous lectures and workshops, the largest animal show for sheep and goats as well as cattle will be hosted at the same time. Further, the fair offers an extensive hosted buyer programme, which brings important customers to the fair and thus contributes to lasting success for the participating exhibitors. The fair will take place in the Abu Dhabi International Exhibition Centre from the 8th to 10th March 2021.

Middle East Energy (MEE) 15th-17th March 2021, Dubai

Positioned as a global energy event with exhibitors and attendees converging from all over the world, **Middle East Energy (MEE)**, previously known as Middle East Electricity, brings together energy manufacturers and suppliers to showcase new technologies and innovative solutions covering the entire energy value chain. Connecting businesses for over 40 years, MEE has been an essential part of the economic expansion of the Middle East, introducing new products to the region to build infrastructure, real estate and commerce. It is now helping governments, organisations and SMEs to diversify the generation and supply of energy and build a sustainable future. MEE will take place from 15th to 17th March 2021 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

ARABLAB 22nd-24th March 2021, Dubai

ARABLAB will return 2021 as one of the most important trade fairs in the international laboratory and analytical technologies industry. The upcoming edition of the show was originally scheduled for 2020, but circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic led to its postponement until 22nd to 24th March 2021 at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre. ARABLAB is a highly renowned business platform with over 1,000 exhibitors presenting state-of-the-art laboratory and analytical instruments, quality control tools and even nanotechnologies and robotics solutions.

INDEX 31st May- 2nd June 2021, Dubai

INDEX offers a simple but powerful proposition: connecting buyers and contractors to interior design brands, products and services from across the globe. The world-renowned exhibition has been facilitating the transformation of interiors and making sourcing new suppliers easy for over 30 years. The show will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

ArabPlast 15th-18th November 2021, Dubai

The 15th edition of **ArabPlast** invites industry specialists to a unique and a lucrative opportunity to showcase nuances of progress in innovation and cutting-edge technologies from around the world. For over 28 years, ArabPlast has been an exclusive event for the plastics, petrochemical, packaging and rubber industries. Because by 2030, plastics and chemicals will account for the largest share of growth in global demand for crude oil.



UAE Short News

Sharjah – Several projects to enhance investment climate near completion

The Sharjah Investment and Development Authority, Shurooq, has shared details of its latest array of projects developed in strategic partnership with leading international companies, offering a range of investment opportunities across its portfolio of large-scale real estate, tourism, commercial and hospitality projects.

This step reinforces business continuity and sustainability in the construction and infrastructure sectors and promotes the balanced diversification policy of Sharjah, which aims to improve the investment environment across the emirate and develop new projects in other sectors, such as renewal energy, healthcare, logistics and hospitality.

Among the list of almost completed and to be completed projects are the House of Wisdom, a 'future library' concept comprising of indoor and outdoor reading spaces and a 105,000-book collection, and Sharjah Sustainable City, the first fully integrated, net-zero energy community in the emirate, consisting of environmentally friendly residential units, green houses with modern technology and vertical farms, driverless cars, a multi-service commercial centre and a school.

A wide range of fiscal and monetary incentives have been implemented by the Sharjah government and the UAE to support businesses through

the economic setbacks caused by the pandemic outbreak, which have helped stimulate strategic investment sectors and protected the UAE's economic strength and resilience.

Ajman – Ajman Payment adds G3 cards to local payment gateway

Ajman's Department of Finance has revealed the addition of third-generation (G3) cards to the existing Ajman Pay payment options, making it the first intelligent and local payment portal in the UAE to connect to e-Dirham's G3 cards and offer the option within its payment gateway.

Ajman Pay has introduced several smart payment options since 2019, including credit, debit and prepaid cards, checks, its e-wallet, international e-wallets such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, direct debit from a bank account, and payments through service centres and smart kiosks. It has not only fulfilled its sustainability goals, but is also setting a milestone in the green economy, with its digital transformation strategy to be supported across all government services with the goal of enabling a seamless, customer-centric user experience and highly secure transactions that meet the highest international quality standards.

However, G3 is only an intermediate step, as there are plans to continue to improve the Ajman Pay system through new channels and options.



Fujairah – NBF launches SME community platform NBF Connect

The National Bank of Fujairah (NBF) has announced the launch of 'NBF Connect', an exclusive banking platform for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the first of its kind in the UAE, standing out for its combination of bank and SME community under the slogan «for SMEs, by SMEs». The new community platform will serve as a contact point for SME members to access a range of services, solutions and knowledge sharing opportunities. Members will also be offered exclusive features such as human resources services, legal support, e-commerce, and marketplace management provided by other SMEs. To enable participation in sector-specific discussions, NBF Connect provides a discussion platform as well as features such as a news and event centre, where members can receive the latest SME news and business trends as well as a calendar of the latest SME events.

The broad platform offers business owners and entrepreneurs tailor-made solutions and unique services to improve their growth. In the long term, the platform should make a positive contribution to the service sector and the entire ecosystem. Head of Business Banking at NBF, Rehan Ali, remarked that NBF is the first bank to specifically address the needs and aspirations of SMEs, which are the engine of growth and development and contribute up to 40% of Dubai's GDP. The platform thus embodies the long-term commitment to the vibrant business ecosystem of the UAE.

Ras Al Khaimah offshore free zone offers benefits for global businesses

Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) has enhanced the international attractiveness of Ras Al Khaimah as a gateway to the global economy with the introduction of RAKEZ Global Product (RGP). RGP has emerged as an innovative free trade zone, enabling investors to establish a new branch or start a new business through one of RAKEZ's authorised Corporate Service Providers (CSPs). As a mid-shore product, it combines some of the key advantages of setting up a company in offshore and free zones in one offer.

Key features include the ability to establish a business remotely with e-documents and no physical presence required, the ease of domicile migration from within the UAE or worldwide, and premier facilities options such as co-working rooms, offices, warehouses and land for development. In addition, companies can benefit from the absence of taxation, access to the UAE's over 100 double taxation treaties as well as the eligibility to apply for a residence visa and corporate bank account in the country.

RGP establishment starts from AED 10,535 (EUR 2,870) with two-visa eligibility and is suitable for holding company, trading and general trading, e-commerce, media, consulting, shipping, transport, logistics and investment activities. The economic zone offers more attractive rates for multiple year licenses.



Abu Dhabi to build world's biggest indoor farm in order to improve sustainability

Abu Dhabi plans to build the world's largest indoor farm as part of its programme to improve the UAE's food security and become more self-reliant. The project, called 'GreenFactory Emirates', is set to produce 10,000 tonnes of fresh food annually. It will consist of a 17.5-hectare plot with a cultivation area spanning 160,000 square metres and is being developed by Abu Dhabi's RainMaker Capital Investment in partnership with GrowGroup IFS from the Netherlands.

H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri, Minister of State for Food Security, has hailed the project for its tremendous importance in food production, highlighting the concerted efforts of the UAE to improve its domestic production of food and noting that the private sector and agricultural technology will play a vital role in the transition towards more sustainable food systems.

Dubai mega project reaches construction landmark with bridge installation

The major construction project 'One Zaabeel' in Dubai has reached a milestone with the installation of a bridge which connects the two towers that make up the project. The bridge is known as 'The Link', is 192-metres long and weighs 7,700 tonnes. Once completed, One Zaabeel will comprise of luxury residences, a hotel, offices and retail spaces, and will be connected to Dubai World Trade Centre. The two towers comprising the project are 304m and 241m tall. Under development by Ithra Dubai and designed by the Japanese company Nikken Sekkei, One Zaabeel is located at a crossroads between the old and new city and in close proximity to Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai International Airport and the Gold Souks of Deira. The project is also known for having one of the world's largest cantilevers connecting the two towers.

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