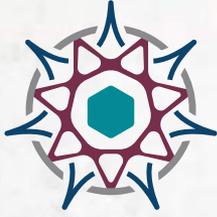


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United Arab Emirates



United Arab Emirates



United Arab Emirates

A comprehensive introduction to its origins and phases of development in various spheres of life



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## Foreword



Dear reader,

While we explore the unique achievements of the United Arab Emirates, including its advanced position in the region and the world, we must remember the legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and his quest to build its foundation and its future direction by guiding the country's journey of development, with relentless work, effective management, and the collaborative effort of Emiratis from across the country.

We continue today, following in his footsteps, led by the visionary leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates, may Allah protect him, and the persistent follow-up by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, and H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and by their brothers' members of the Federal Supreme Council the Rulers of the emirates. This will enable our country to continue its journey of development and successfully apply Future Foresite.

The UAE focused its' efforts on preparing Emiratis for the opportunities of the future. From the start, it empowered women, and invested the abundant capabilities of Emirati youth in the country's development. Hence, becoming a global leader of various vital sectors including Future Food Security, Peaceful Nuclear Energy, Space Exploration, and other sectors associated with the fourth industrial revolution.

Such strategies enhanced the UAE's competitiveness, putting it on a par with developed countries in various fields. Most importantly, the Emirati passport ranking as the most powerful Passport in the world, hence, allowing ease of travel for Emiratis. These strategies also made the UAE a global center for economic, commercial, and logistic activities, thereby, connecting the world by land, by air, and by sea.

The UAE became a beacon for tolerance and human brotherhood, with the historic visit of Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church, and Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque and their signing of The Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together. Furthermore, The UAE captured world attention for being the source for the largest humanitarian foreign aid, overlooking cultural, geographical, ethnic, and religious difference.

The UAE became an open exhibition for various cultural and literary activities, hence, becoming a destination for seekers of knowledge and fine art. Also, it continued to enrich other societies through creative initiatives such as The World Government Summit, One Million Arab Coders, The Literacy Challenge, and Arab Reading Challenge.

This book reviews the main achievements of 2018, and main initiatives of 2019 which is The Year of Tolerance. It discusses local, regional, and international UAE initiatives, and it describes the journey of development, with its solid foundations that was started by our founding leaders, that aims, first and foremost, to develop people.

These achievements come from effective guidance, and the relentless effort of Emiratis who believe in their leadership, and who's life principles are moderation, tolerance, and dialogue. We are confident that the future will bring more pioneering achievements locally, and positive contributions globally.

**Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber**

Minister of State, Chairman of the National Media Council

# 01 Geographical Information

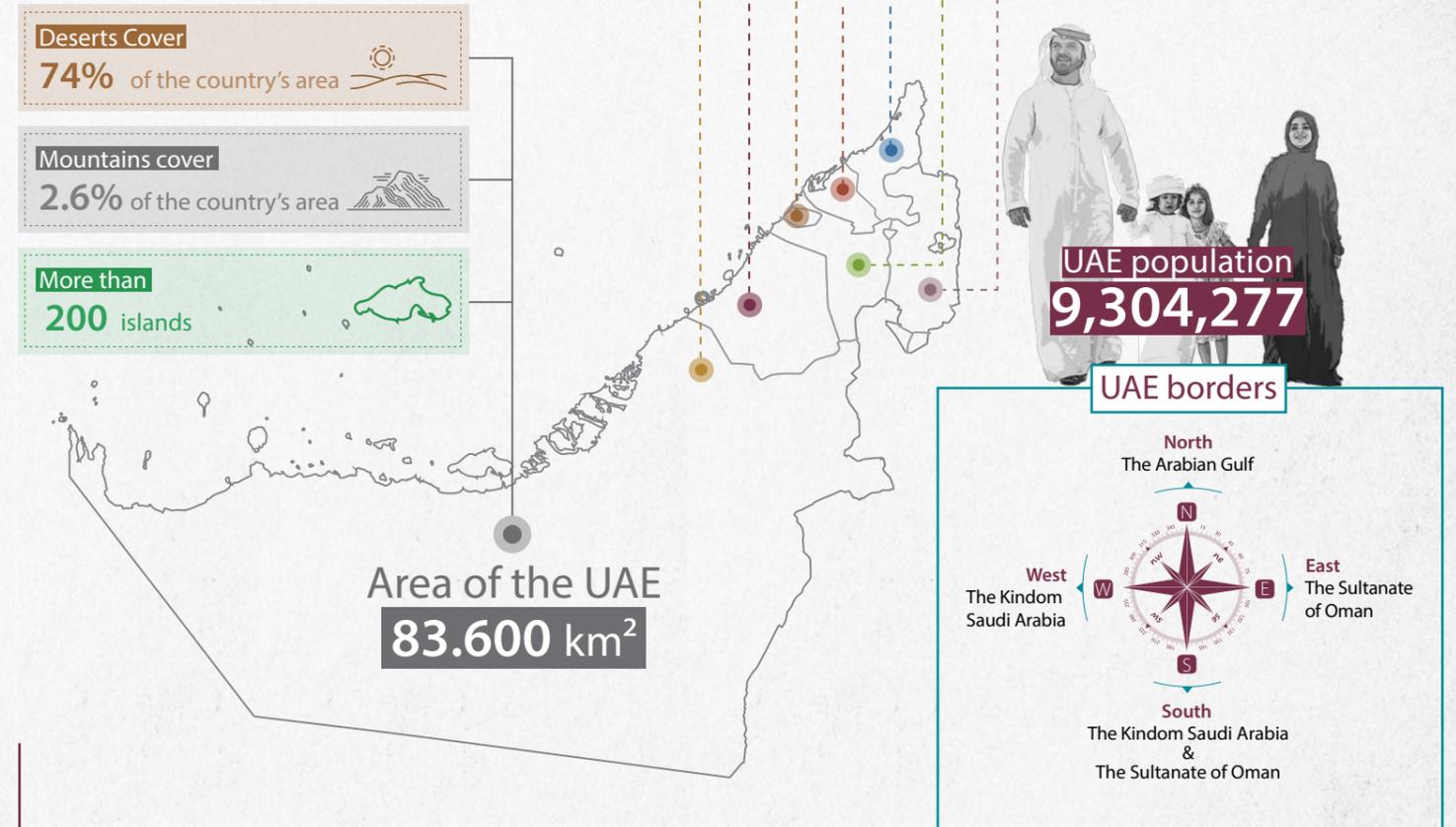


The United Arab Emirates is located in Asia. It is situated in the southeastern region of the Asian continent, and in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. It is overlooking the Arabian Gulf on the north and northwest, bordering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the west and south, and the Sultanate of Oman to the southeast.

The total area of the United Arab Emirates is approximately 83,600 square kilometers. Its population is 9,304,277 according to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority's report on 31 December 2017.

The desert covers most of the United Arab Emirates, yet it has a diverse natural scene; there is, for example, the Liwa Oasis, which is a natural oasis adorned by palm trees and has high red sand dunes that extend eastward connecting it to Al Ain city which has a moderate climate, and relatively low humidity, compared with the other cities of the United Arab Emirates. There are also steep mountains and vast coastal plains. The international waters of the United Arab Emirates contain 200 islands varying in size, origins, formation, and importance.

The federation of the UAE has seven member emirates:



## 02 The Political System



The United Arab Emirates is a federation with a constitution and full sovereignty. It has its official capital, flag, coat of arms symbol, and national anthem. The government functions according to the constitution of the United Arab Emirates. The country follows a moderate foreign policy, one that reinforces effective, and balanced, relationships with the international community.

The United Arab Emirates was formed on December 2, 1971.

The system of government follows the constitution of the UAE, which has the main rules for the political and constitutional structure, the main purpose of the establishment of the federation, and its objectives at the local and regional levels. It also highlights the main social and economic pillars of the federation, and lists public freedoms, rights, and responsibilities.

It also guarantees for all citizens of the United Arab Emirates equal rights and opportunities, as well as safety, security, and social justice.



The Political System of the UAE has several federal institutions led by the Federal Supreme Council which is the highest constitutional authority. The Council consists of Their Highnesses the Rulers of the seven emirates, and is responsible for formulating general policy of the UAE. It, also, looks into all that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Federation and the common interests of the member emirates. Its responsibilities include electing the president and the Vice President, endorsing federal laws, as well as other responsibilities.



The Constitution of the United Arab Emirates provides for five federal authorities:

- The Federal Supreme Council
- The President and the Vice President
- The Cabinet
- The Federal National Council
- The Federal Judiciary

## 03 The founding father



*The Late Sheikh  
Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan  
Founder of the United Arab Emirates*

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, was born in 1918 in Abu Dhabi. His father named him after his grandfather Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa, who ruled Abu Dhabi from 1855 to 1909. He, like others of his generation, attended the “kuttāb”, but his real learning grounds were the daily gatherings held by his father when he ruled Abu Dhabi from 1922-1926.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, learned many leadership characteristics from his father. Following the death of his father, Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed, he moved with his family to Al Ain city. His mother Sheikha Salama bint Butti bin Khadim Al Qubaisi paid special attention to his upbringing, especially since at the time of his father's death he was an eight year old child conscious of happenings surrounding him, until the values and characteristics he was raised with came to define his character.

In 1946, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was appointed ruler of Al Ain city, where he focused his attention on resolving the challenges of the agricultural sector. He ordered the digging of wells, the building of irrigation systems known as Falaj, the reclamation of land, and provided financial and in kind contributions to the farmers. As a result, the agricultural sector expanded causing growth in markets across the city.

Furthermore, education was a main focus during his tenure which is why he ordered the establishment of schools, he officially opened the first one in 1959. Soon afterwards, schools for girls were established across the city. He also built the first hospital, expanded the road network, hence, accelerating the development and modernization of the city.

On 6 August 1966, the elite of Abu Dhabi Emirate elected Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Immediately, noting the reality and likely future of his people, he pledged to strive to change their living conditions, and, henceforth, he dedicated his energy to the academic, technological, political, and economic development of his country. To the people, this was an auspicious beginning bringing with it hope and a promising future. He paid special attention to construction projects, and so they began to build public services departments, road networks, housing projects, hotels, electricity and telecommunication lines, schools, and hospitals. His reign also marked the beginning of the emirate's scholarships programs.

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan used to plan, supervise, and follow-up on all matters associated with the development of the emirate down to the smallest detail. This was the case because the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, at the time, was in need of many projects especially those associated with infrastructure and economic development. Focusing on his primary aim to transition the emirate from the setting up phase to prosperity, he employed all revenues, generated from crude oil extraction and exportation, in the development of the emirate.

He walked two paths, increasing his efforts to transform the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and attempting to unite the emirates into a single entity.

In 1968, and after the United Kingdom announced its plans for an impending withdrawal from the region, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan began talks with Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum the ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, may Allah rest their souls in peace, to form a union between the two emirates. They met on 18 February 1968 and agreed to form a union between the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and to invite the rulers of other emirates to join the union.

As soon as the formation of the United Arab Emirates was announced, on 2 December 1971, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was elected President, and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum was elected Vice-President. This achievement was celebrated and welcomed locally, regionally, and internationally.

## 03 The founding father



On 2 November 2004, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan passed away at the age of 86. He was known throughout his life as a promoter of tolerance and opponent to all forms of prejudice and cruelty. He was keen to strengthen cooperation, and resolve disagreements and disputes through enlightened and calm dialogue, and to secure solutions that are agreeable to all relevant parties in the region and the world.

He treated everyone with utmost respect despite differences in nationality, gender, religion, and status. In the end, his lasting legacy is that he created a vibrant society, that is multicultural and multiracial where everyone lives in harmony.

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Abu Dhabi Radio Station.

1969

On 2 December 1971, Sheikh Zayed is elected first president of the country by the rulers of the Emirates who are the members of the "Federal Supreme Council".

1971

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens the 1st annual exhibition of the Association of (Dhabian) Women's Renaissance.

1972

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Zayed Hospital, a 100-bed hospital in Larkana Pakistan.

1975

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Umm Al Nar Refinery, and explores with visitors all sections of the Refinery.

1976

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens the Gas Liquidation Factory on Das Island.

1976

A Paris-based international institution names H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Personality of the Year.

1977

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan becomes the first president, in the world, to receive the Gold Panda Award, from the WWF.

1988

On 28 December 1999, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is named Islamic Personality of the Year in the 3rd Dubai International Holy Quran Award.

1992

1997

1997

1999

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his brother H.H. Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, open Sharjah-Al Dhaid road.

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Zayed Port-Phase 1

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Jebal Ali earth station for Satellite communication.

The President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Ras Al Khaimah International Airport.

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens Al Ain Cement Factory.

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan opens the United Arab Emirates University.

H.H. the President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan establishes Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation.

On 15 June 1997, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan receives an honorary doctoral degree, in Agriculture, from Ain Shams University in Egypt.

## 04 The President



*His Highness Sheikh  
Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
President of the United Arab Emirates*

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, is the second President of the United Arab Emirates. He was born in 1948 in Qasr Al-Muwaiji in Al Ain City. He received his elementary education in Al Ain City, and spent his early years learning about politics and diplomacy at the court of his father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace. He frequented his father's court, Majlis, to learn the art of statecraft.

After the United Kingdom announced its plans for withdrawal from the Gulf region, in 1968, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan began to re-structure the government of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in line with the demands of this new situation. He appointed H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Deputy Ruler and Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Planning Council.

In 1969, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was designated as Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and was appointed Head of the Department of Defence in Abu Dhabi. He was awarded the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Abu Dhabi Defence Force, which he was able to transform into a multifunctional force that included infantry, air, and naval units, all equipped with the latest military equipment. He also directly supervised the established of Zayed II Military College in Al Ain City.

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan played a major role in the negotiations concerning the formation of the union between the Emirates. As the Crown Prince of The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, he chaired the meetings of the crown princes and deputy rulers of the emirates, that were held in Abu Dhabi, including the meeting that was held in June 1970. He focused his efforts on the needs of the union as demonstrated in the political and economic development of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi specially after it became the capital of the young country, the United Arab Emirates.

On 1 July 1971, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was appointed Chairman of the first Council of Ministers for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and also received the ministerial portfolios for both defence and finance. After the formation of the federation, while retaining his Abu Dhabi Emirate responsibilities, he became Deputy Prime Minister in the federal Cabinet formed in December 1973. In February 1974, following the abolition of the first Council of Ministers for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, he became the first Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, which is the government entity that took over all the responsibilities of the abolished Council. As Chairman, he supervised development and modernization projects across the emirate, paying particular attention to infrastructure and services sectors. He also worked to create modern government administration and legislation systems that were needed for economic and social development.

On 7 May 1976, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was appointed Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, following a Federal Supreme Council resolution to unite the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates under one command and one flag. In July 1976, and after the Abu Dhabi Financial Investment Authority was renamed Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, he was appointed Chairman, as, at the time, he was responsible for the ministerial portfolio for finance in Abu Dhabi Executive Council. As Chairman, he set specific targets to secure revenues from investing government and financial assets. Similarly, as Chairman since 1972, he lead Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to become one of the most important sovereign funds in the world, specially since its capital increased from USD 120 million to USD 500 million in 1975. The Fund's successes coincided with that of its projects in Africa and Asia.

The duration of time that H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan spent as the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi is noted for development and progress especially in areas associated with enhancing the capabilities of Emiratis by investing in the human capital of the Emirate.

## 04 The President

In 1977, and under the leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Abu Dhabi Executive Council proposed the first development plan for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. A budget of AED 23.8 billion was allocated for this three-year plan. One key initiative, launched during that time by Abu Dhabi Executive Council, was the formation of what became known as 'Sheikh Khalifa Committee', which was responsible for allocating land and residential real-estate to the citizens of Abu Dhabi Emirate. Furthermore, Abu Dhabi Executive Council, providing support beyond the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, allocated funds for the agricultural sector in the Northern Emirates.

Education was a main focus for H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. As the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, he oversaw all the Emirate's education affairs. In 1986, believing that technology would make a vast contribution in developing the skills of students in schools and other educational institutes, he ordered the addition of creative computer laboratories in Abu Dhabi schools, and donated the latest models of computers to the United Arab Emirates University. In 1988, he oversaw the establishment of The Higher Colleges of Technology.

The period of time, during which H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was Crown Prince and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, witnessed numerous challenges, which led to adopting a tentative perspective of the future, hence the decision to form The Gulf Cooperation Council was created; he played a major role in its formation.

History will also remember that H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, was one of the architects of the Peninsula Shield Force, which was formed in 1983. The creation of this unified defence system for the Gulf Cooperation Council came after lengthy studies on the defence resources of the Gulf countries, to develop a strategy that guarantees continued peace and protection of our peoples.

On 3 November 2004, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was elected President of the United Arab Emirates following the passing of his father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, on 2 November 2004.

Since that day, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan led a journey of progress that has had an impact on all aspects of life in the United Arab Emirates, implementing plans that are focused on the development of the country's human capital. This is because he believes that the development of leadership capabilities of future generations is the primary objective of any successful government. This belief prompted him to put education, culture, health, and the family above all else. Upon receiving his constitutional responsibilities as President, he declared this stage of development to be "the stage of empowerment", which was designed in accordance with the UAE's Vision 2021.



## 05 The Vice-President



*His Highness Sheikh  
Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum  
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai*

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him, was born on 15 July 1949 and was raised in the household of his grandfather Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum. He graduated from Mons Officer Cadet School - Aldershot, which is now part of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. Upon his return to Dubai, in the late sixties, his father Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, may Allah rest his soul in peace, issued a Decree appointing him as the Head of Dubai Police and Public Security. In 1971, another Decree was issued where he was assigned the responsibility of forming 'the Dubai Defense Force' which was later merged with The United Arab Emirates Armed Forces. He was also appointed, within the same year, Minister of Defence of the United Arab Emirates which made him the youngest defence minister in the world.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was renowned since his childhood for his interest in Equestrian sports. Passion for such sports was his gateway to excellence in leadership. He watched closely as the project to establish the United Arab Emirates developed from the nucleus that was the Trucial States Council to the federal agreement signed on 18 February 1968 by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, may Allah rest their souls in peace. This agreement is regarded as the nucleus of the union of the United Arab Emirates.

On 4 January 2006, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum became the Ruler of Dubai following the death of his brother Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah rest his soul in peace. Upon becoming The Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, rapid development took place and numerous local and regional initiatives were implemented. He continued the transformation of the Emirate of Dubai toward becoming an international commercial and tourism center. A transformation that began the day he launched The Dubai Shopping Festival in 1995, which came with an increase in the number of tourists visiting the country. He then developed an infrastructure capable of adapting to the rapid growth taking place in all fields.

The Emirate of Dubai is experiencing vast growth in the field of Digital economy, especially since H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him, established Dubai Internet City, Dubai Silicon Oasis, and Dubai Media City. These, along with many other projects, have directly contributed to the diversification of the economy of the Emirate of Dubai. But the pivotal step, in transitioning to a digital economy, came with the launch of the UAE Smart Government Initiative. However, many years ago the Dubai eGovernment initiative provided electronic services to citizens and residents, when it was launched in 1999, hence becoming the starting point for the UAE Smart Government Initiative. In 2013, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched the Mobile Government initiative in order to make government services available to the people through their mobile devices around the clock.

In the field of humanitarian aid and charity, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum provided support and aid to the poor, the sick, and those affected by disasters. His organization, the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Charity, delivered many initiatives to those in need inside and outside the country. The organization, furthermore, participated in international rescue and relief operations in areas affected by disasters and war, by providing various types of aid such as building houses of worship, schools, hospitals, and housing facilities. It also completed the drilling of wells and built other facilities inside and outside the country.

## 05 The Vice-President

Since H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him, became Prime Minister, The Cabinet of the United Arab Emirates witnessed many achievements on both the local and regional levels. He unveiled the Government Strategy Plan which included objectives such as securing sustainable development throughout the country and investing federal resources more efficiently through a variety of creative initiatives. One of the most important initiatives is the Ministerial Retreats, during which Cabinet members retreat to discuss national issues and strategic priorities as well as the UAE National Agenda. The Agenda includes a set of objectives and projects, in the sectors of education, healthcare, economy, police and security, housing, infrastructure and government services that are aimed at fulfilling the UAE's Vision 2021.

The UAE Smart Government Initiative for providing services to the public wherever they may be around the clock, and other such initiatives emerged from the Mohammed Bin Rashid Policies Council (Majlis). This Council aims to strengthen communication with all segments of the community, as well as to become a platform for enriching discussions about many cultural, social, and intellectual topics. It also became a platform to launch creative social initiatives.

In 2018, The United Arab Emirates celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the government career of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum who dedicated his life, intellect, and aspirations to the service of his people. H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, was the first person to express his pride and gratitude with regard to his accomplishments and services to the people of the UAE and those in need abroad. Likewise, many Emiratis expressed, through various means, their appreciation for his efforts to raise high the stature of the country, and their pride in being part of this homeland.



## 06 The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi



*His Highness Sheikh*

*Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*

*Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces*

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, is the son of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, "Father of the Nation" and the first President of the United Arab Emirates, and the brother of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, The President of the UAE.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed was born in Al Ain City on 11 March 1961. He is the third son of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace. He was raised by his father and his mother H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, "Mother of The Nation" President of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairperson of The Family Development Foundation, and President of Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood. When he turned eighteen, he completed his education in schools in Al Ain and Abu Dhabi, then in the UK and the UAE.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has a military background, as he graduated in 1979 from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, in the United Kingdom, where he trained in armour, helicopter flying, tactical flying and paratroops. Afterwards, he joined the Officers' Training Course in the Emirate of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. He held a number of positions in the military, from Officer in the Amiri Guard (the country's elite security force), to Pilot in the Air Force, to other higher positions until arriving at his current position as Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Following the directives of both Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, The President and Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was able to develop the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces in terms of strategic planning, training, organizational structure, and promoting defense capabilities. H.H. Sheikh Mohamed's direct guidance and leadership, led the UAE Armed Forces to become a leading institution that is widely admired by many international military organizations.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan also holds a number of political, legislative, and economic roles in the country. He is known for his unwavering commitment to enhance educational standards in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and to raise them to be on par with the best international standards. Hence, since becoming the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Education Council, (currently named the Department of Education and Knowledge), he has worked tirelessly to forge partnerships with prestigious world-class educational institutions and think-tanks, a number of which have subsequently announced plans to either establish a base in Abu Dhabi or join strategic joint ventures with local academic establishments. He is also a member of the Supreme Petroleum Council and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Both bodies are under the chairmanship of the President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him.

As for personal interests, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is well-known for his passion for hunting and falconry, a passion which was passed on to him by his father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace. He is also interested in poetry, especially Nabati Poetry, which is why he regularly lends support to poetry competitions and other cultural events, by allowing them to be held under his patronage and attending in person as many of them as he can. In addition, he consistently demonstrates commitment to cultural, artistic, literary and innovation-based initiatives in the community by attending and following many events in the country.

Like many of his fellow countrymen, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan follows a number of sports. He regularly meets with Emirati sportsmen and women to listen to their opinions, and to recognize their achievements, especially when they perform well in international competitions.

## 06 The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

In his long journey, working hard and making many contributions, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has received numerous citations and decorations from the United Arab Emirates and many other countries including Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Malaysia, Pakistan, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, China, South Korea, Montenegro and Kosovo, as well as the United Nations and many other organisations.

Following the ways of his father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, he established 'the Mohamed bin Zayed Majlis'. He also created the Majlis because he firmly believes in the importance of dialogue, understanding the others' point of view and reaffirming the high value of exchanging ideas in order to enrich debates and contribute to a deeper understanding of and better solutions for the various issues that can impact future societies and human life. And, so, every year, the Majlis would host a distinguished number of scientists, religious scholars, thinkers, intellectuals, experts, and creators from around the world. They would share their perspectives and experiences on general public issues and vital concerns related to the requirements of our age, as well as explore future prospects in this unique intellectual forum. The Majlis affirms that dialogue and diverse ideas have become the language of civilization and progress.



## 07 The Federal Supreme Council

The Federal Supreme Council is the highest constitutional authority in the UAE, and the highest legislative and executive authority. It formulates general policies and approves federal legislations.

It consists of Rulers of the seven emirates, constituting the federation, or their deputies in their emirates in case of absence or unavailability. Each Ruler has one vote in the council resolutions.



United Arab Emirates



**His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan,**  
President of the Federal Supreme Council, President of the UAE,  
Ruler of Abu Dhabi



**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Vice President of the Federal Supreme Council, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai.



**His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi**  
Member of the Federal Supreme Council, and Ruler of Sharjah.



**His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi**  
Member of the Federal Supreme Council, and Ruler of Ajman.



**His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla**  
Member of the Federal Supreme Council, and Ruler of Umm Al-Qaiwain.



**His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi**  
Member of the Federal Supreme Council, and Ruler of Ra's al-Khaimah.



**His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi**  
Member of the Federal Supreme Council, and Ruler of Fujairah.

## 07 The Federal Supreme Council



### Responsibilities of the Federal Supreme Council

- 01 Formulating the general policy on all matters concerning the Federation as per the provisions of the Constitution and considering the achievement of the objectives of the Federation and the common interests of the member emirates.
- 02 Endorsing the various federal laws prior to their issuance, including laws of the annual general budget of the Federation and the closing accounts.
- 03 Sanctioning the decrees on matters, that by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution are subject to ratification and approval of the Supreme Council.
- 04 Ratification of treaties and international agreements through decrees.
- 05 Approving the appointment of the Prime Minister of the Federation, accepting his resignation, and requesting him to resign upon the suggestion of the President of the Federation.
- 06 Approving the appointment of the President of the Supreme Court and its judges, accepting their resignations and dismissing them in the cases specified by the Constitution.
- 07 Assuming supreme control over the affairs of the Federation in general.
- 08 Any other relevant responsibilities stipulated in the Constitution or in the federal laws.

# 08 The UAE Cabinet and Future Government



The Cabinet of Ministers is the executive branch of the UAE. It facilitates all internal and external affairs, of the Federation, in line with the Constitution and federal laws. It operates under the supervision of the President and the Federal Supreme Council. It is made up of a Cabinet President, two Deputy Prime Ministers, and the ministers of the UAE. Secretariat responsibilities are assigned to the Secretary General of the UAE Cabinet.

On 19 October 2017, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The President of the UAE, may Allah protect him, approved the latest ministerial reshuffle making it the 13th Cabinet of Ministers. It strengthened the presence of Emirati youth in the government, as they are the population segment most capable of keeping up with the world's rapid developments.



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
THE CABINET**

## Members of the current Cabinet



**His Highness Sheikh  
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence



**Lieutenant General  
His Highness Sheikh  
Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Interior



**His Highness Sheikh  
Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister  
of Presidential Affairs



**His Highness Sheikh  
Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Finance



**His Highness Sheikh  
Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign  
Affairs and International Cooperation



**His Excellency Sheikh  
Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan**  
Cabinet Member and  
Minister of Tolerance



**His Excellency  
Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Cabinet  
Affairs and Future



**His Excellency  
Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Economy



**His Excellency  
Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Health and  
Prevention and Minister of State for Federal  
National Council Affairs



**His Excellency  
Sultan bin Saeed Al Badi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Justice



**His Excellency  
Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al-Zeyoudi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of  
Climate Change and Environment



**His Excellency  
Nasser bin Thani Al Hameli**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of  
Human Resources and Emiratization



**His Excellency  
Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
Foreign Affairs



**His Excellency  
Obaid bin Humaid Al Tayer**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
Financial Affairs



**Her Excellency  
Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
International Cooperation



**His Excellency  
Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
Defence Affairs



**Her Excellency  
Hessa bint Essa Buhmaid**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of  
Community Development



**Her Excellency  
Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Culture and  
Knowledge Development



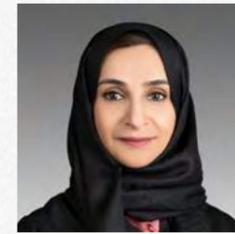
**His Excellency  
Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Al Mazroui**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Energy and  
Industry



**His Excellency  
Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Education



**His Excellency  
Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif AlNuaimi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of Infrastructure  
Development



**Her Excellency  
Jameela bint Salem Al Muhairi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
General Education



**His Excellency  
Dr. Ahmad bin Abdulla Humaid  
Belhoul AlFalasi**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State for  
Higher Education and Advanced Skills



**His Excellency  
Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Sultan Al Jaber**  
Cabinet Member and Minister of State



**Her Excellency  
Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi**  
Minister of State



**Her Excellency  
Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi**  
Minister of State for Happiness and  
Wellbeing



**Her Excellency  
Shamma bint Sohail Faris AlMazrui**  
Minister of State for Youth Affairs



**His Excellency  
Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh**  
Minister of State



**Her Excellency  
Maryam bint Mohammed Saeed  
Hareb Al Mehairi**  
Minister of State for Future Food Security



**Her Excellency  
Sara bint Yousuf Al Amiri**  
Minister of State for Advanced Sciences



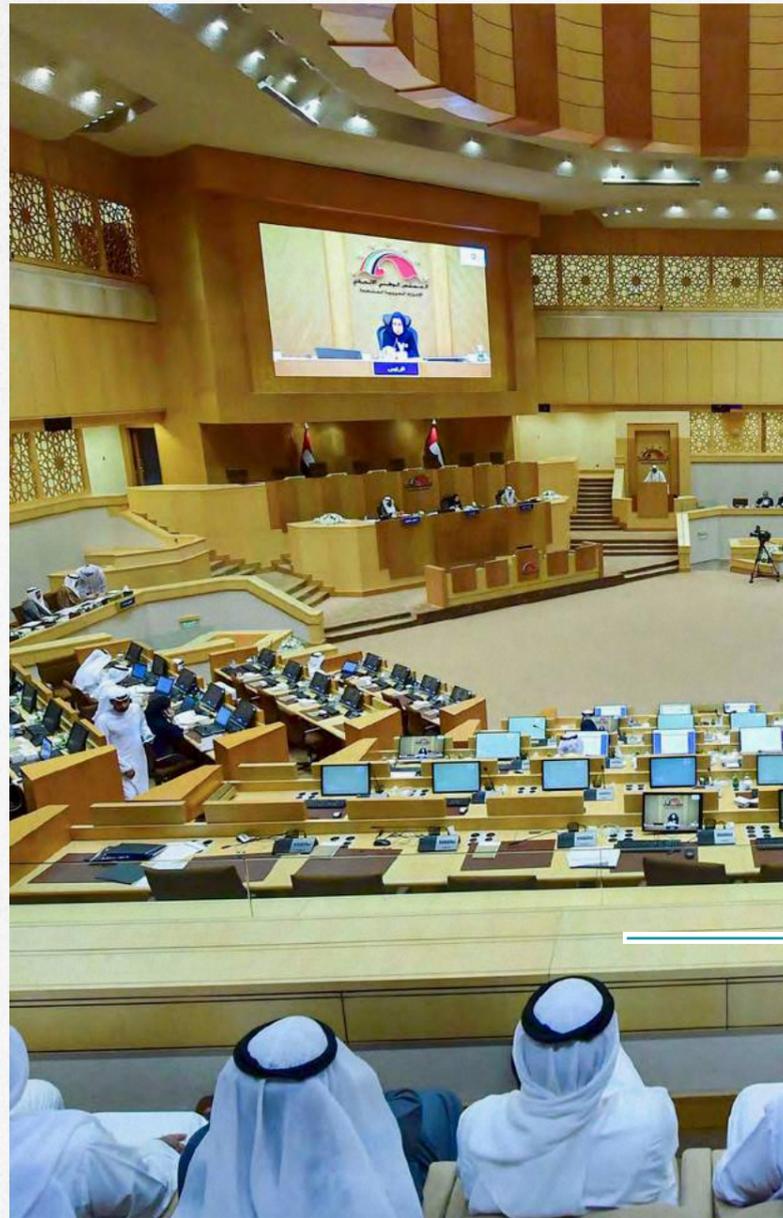
**His Excellency  
Omar Sultan Al Olama**  
Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence



**His Excellency  
Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh**  
Minister of State



## 09 The Federal National Council



The Federal National Council was established in 1972 and witnessed the development journey of the UAE. It has contributed to establishing exceptional relationships between federal authorities and local governments, as well as reviewed and passed federal draft laws and decisions referred by the government of the UAE.

It has a critical national responsibility which is to contribute to the building of the rule of law and institutions. It also seeks to enhance the consultative approach, known as Shura, and increase the participation of citizens in decision-making and enable them to contribute to the country's development journey.



The Council has many achievements, both internally and externally, secured through the exercise of its constitutional specialties to modernize and develop the legislative environment and to discuss issues relating directly to the affairs of the homeland and citizens. The Council is aligned with the United Arab Emirates other policies and main causes, hence, fulfilling its main role which is to be a venue for Shura.

The wise leadership of the UAE continues, determined to enhance the participation of citizens in the political decision-making process and through gradual developments in parliamentary life. This is in accordance with the political program proposed in 2005 by the President of the United Arab Emirates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, and in line with the private nature and circumstances of the Emirati society. The president proposed an approach utilizing strategies with clear objectives and plans with programs for institutions, supported by hard work which resulted in the monumental achievements completed in the foundation phase. Specifically, the development of parliamentary life which witnessed important steps that have enabled the Federal National Council to exercise its constitutional responsibilities to implement the empowerment program which included the implementation of the constitutional amendment No. 1 of 2009, concerning the promotion of the participation of women members and electors and the organization of elections for the membership of the Council which took place during the years 2006 and 2011 and 2015.

The launch of the sixteenth legislative chapter, after the third Elections concluded on 3 October 2015, saw the growth of the electoral college from 6595 voters, in the first election in 2006, to 224,279 voters. The election is part of the empowerment program, and the growth of the electoral college is proof of the leadership's efforts to empower Emiratis, to participate in the development of the political system, and to enhance the role of the Federal National Council in all fields of national work in the UAE.

The appointment of Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi President of the Federal National Council on 18 November 2015, the first female leader of a parliamentary institution in the Arab world, became the embodiment of all the achievements of Emirati women who contributed to both the development of the country and to the decision-making process. The UAE leadership supports the empowerment of Emirati women and seeks to increase their participation in all fields of life.

As per the directives of the President of the United Arab Emirates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, Emirati women's representation in the FNC, will be increased to 50% in the 2019 parliamentary term. This pioneering step shows that the UAE is focused on empowering Emirati women for their effective contribution in all vital sectors in the UAE.

# 10 Year of Tolerance



The UAE is a shining example of the values of tolerance, harmony, and respect for differences. Tolerance is a fundamental value in Emirati society, which is due to the practice of moderate Islam, noble Arab traditions, and the wisdom and legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace.

The UAE embraces more than 200 nationalities, living their lives with dignity and respect because its laws and policies promote justice, equality and respect as well as criminalize hate, intolerance, and causes of difference and division among the people.

The UAE is committed, and have signed all the international treaties associated with rejecting violence, extremism, and discrimination. It has become a meeting place for eastern and western cultures where peace and togetherness is guaranteed. A haven of religious tolerance, the UAE is home to several churches and temples where worshipers practice their faiths and religions in an atmosphere of safety and security, and mutual respect.

## Minister of Tolerance

The post of the Minister of State for Tolerance was first introduced in 2016 when the Prime Minister and Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him, announced structural changes to the twelfth Cabinet of Ministers and other fundamental changes to the federal government.

## Year of Tolerance

On 15 December 2018, the President of the United Arab Emirates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, declared the year 2019 as the Year of Tolerance. The announcement aimed to highlight the United Arab Emirates as a global capital for tolerance and stress the importance of tolerance because it is regarded as a continuation of the legacy of the founding father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace. This initiative is a sustainable effort aimed at strengthening the values of tolerance, dialogue, accepting others and open-mindedness towards other cultures.

The Year of Tolerance declaration specified several main pillars as a focus for initiatives and efforts:

- 01 To deepen the values of tolerance and co-existence among cultures by teaching the youth the values of tolerance.
- 02 To establish a reputation for the UAE as the global capital for tolerance through a series of major initiatives and projects, including research and social studies focusing on dialogues between cultures and civilisations.
- 03 To enhance cultural tolerance through implementing multiple social and cultural initiatives.
- 04 To enhance the tolerance-dialogue, and accepting others differences, through targeted media initiatives and projects.
- 05 To formulate laws and policies that strengthen the values of cultural, religious, and social tolerance.

# 11 The UAE in Global Competitiveness Reports



The UAE continues to enhance its position, and ranking, in Global Competitiveness Reports, to fulfill its 2021 vision which aims to make the country one of the best countries in the world, by 2021, which is when the UAE would celebrate the Golden Jubilee of its formation as a federation.

The Global Competitiveness Report 2018 is one of the most important global competitiveness reports; it is considered by many academic institutions to be a measure of international best practices because it evaluates how countries manage their resources to achieve prosperity and well-being for the people.

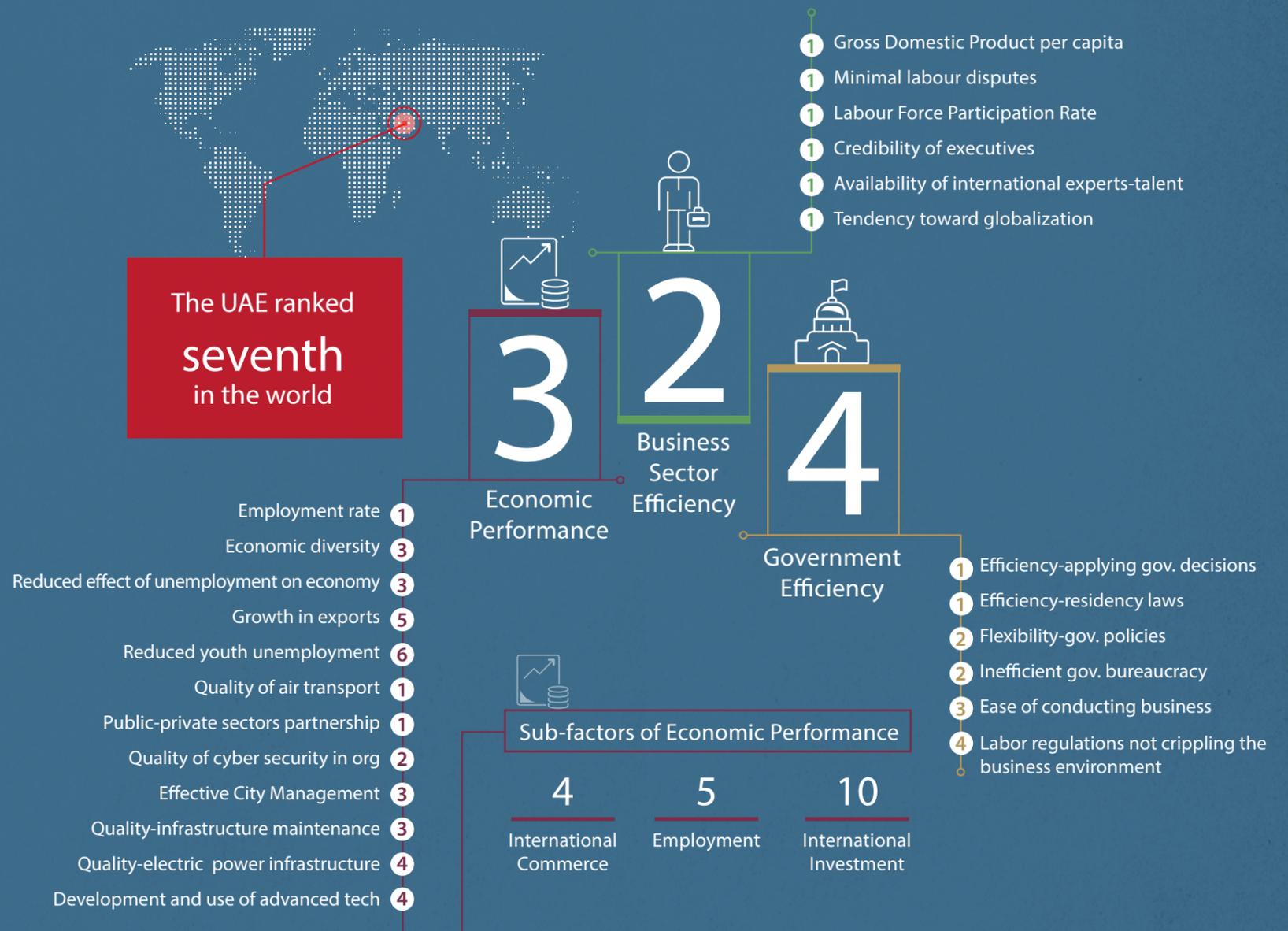
The report has several main factors, each with a number of sub-factors, and many Competitiveness indicators that cover all areas and the elements affecting them. The report uses data from two sources;

## UAE Ranking For 2018

By advancing 3 places, in the 2018 Report, the UAE ranked seventh out of 63 countries. This is the highest ranking achieved by the UAE in all Global Competitiveness Reports; it ranked, and for the second consecutive year, first in the GCC, Middle East, and Africa.



## 2018 UAE ranking according to main factors and sub-factors



# 11 The UAE in Global Competitiveness Reports



## The Logistics Performance Index by the World Bank

The Logistics Performance Index is issued annually by the World Bank to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance. The report measures the competitiveness of 160 countries and is based on a worldwide survey of companies operating in the field of trade logistics including global freight forwarders and express carriers. They provide feedback on the logistic services provided by the countries with which they trade. The report measures performance along the logistics supply chain within a country; it offers two different perspectives, international and domestic.

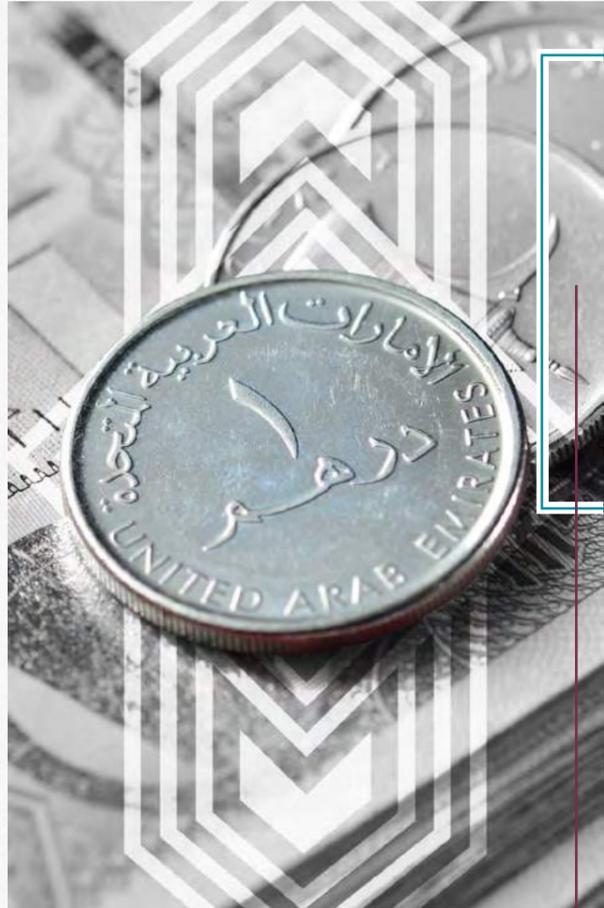
## The United Arab Emirates performance 2018

The United Arab Emirates ranked eleventh on the Logistics Performance Index, improving by two positions from the previous report. It leads the Arab countries in ranking, and is ahead of several other leading economies.

### UAE ranking in sub-indices



# 12 Economic Growth



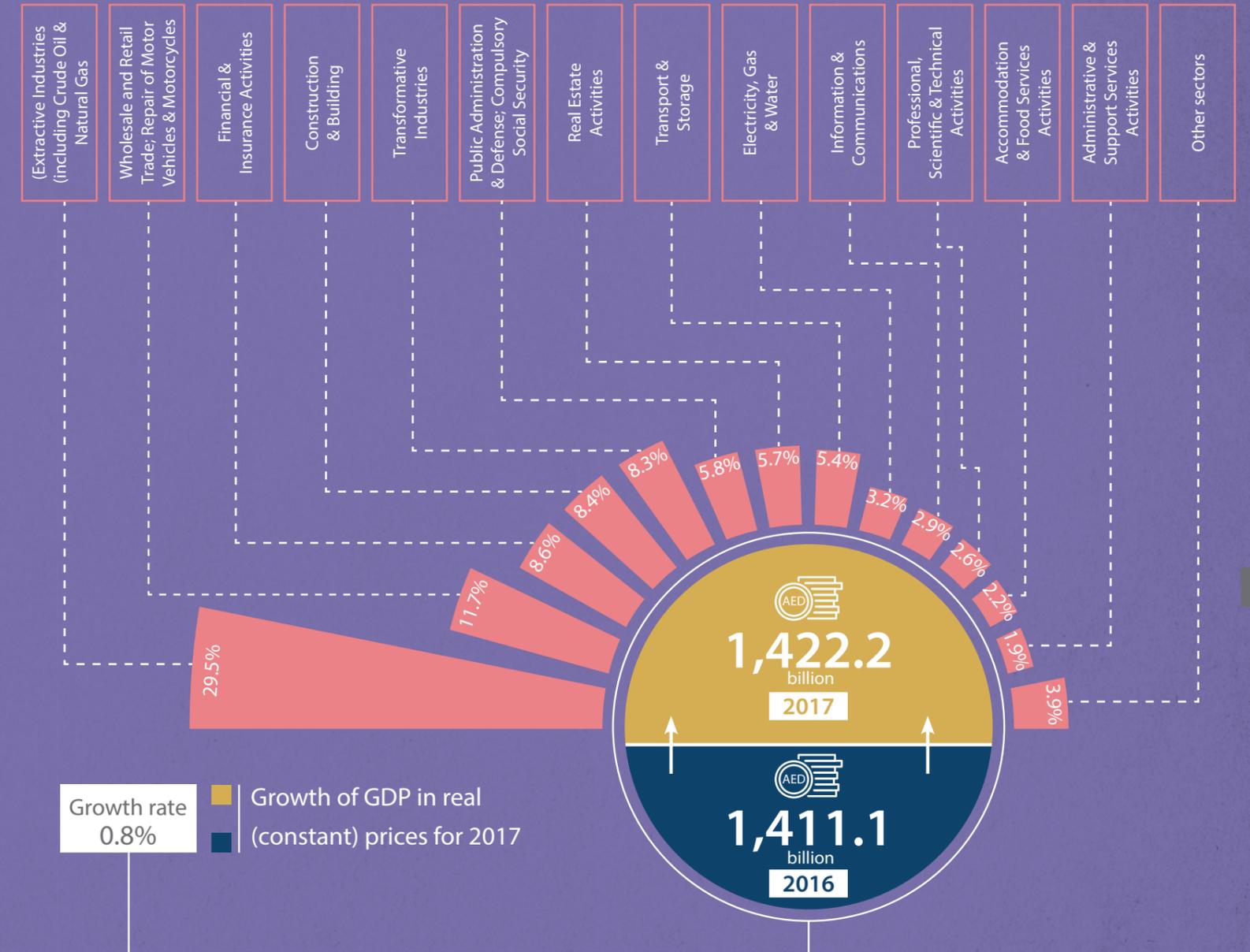
## The Local Currency

The United Arab Emirates Dirham is the official currency of the UAE. The Dirham has been pegged to the US Dollar since February 2002.

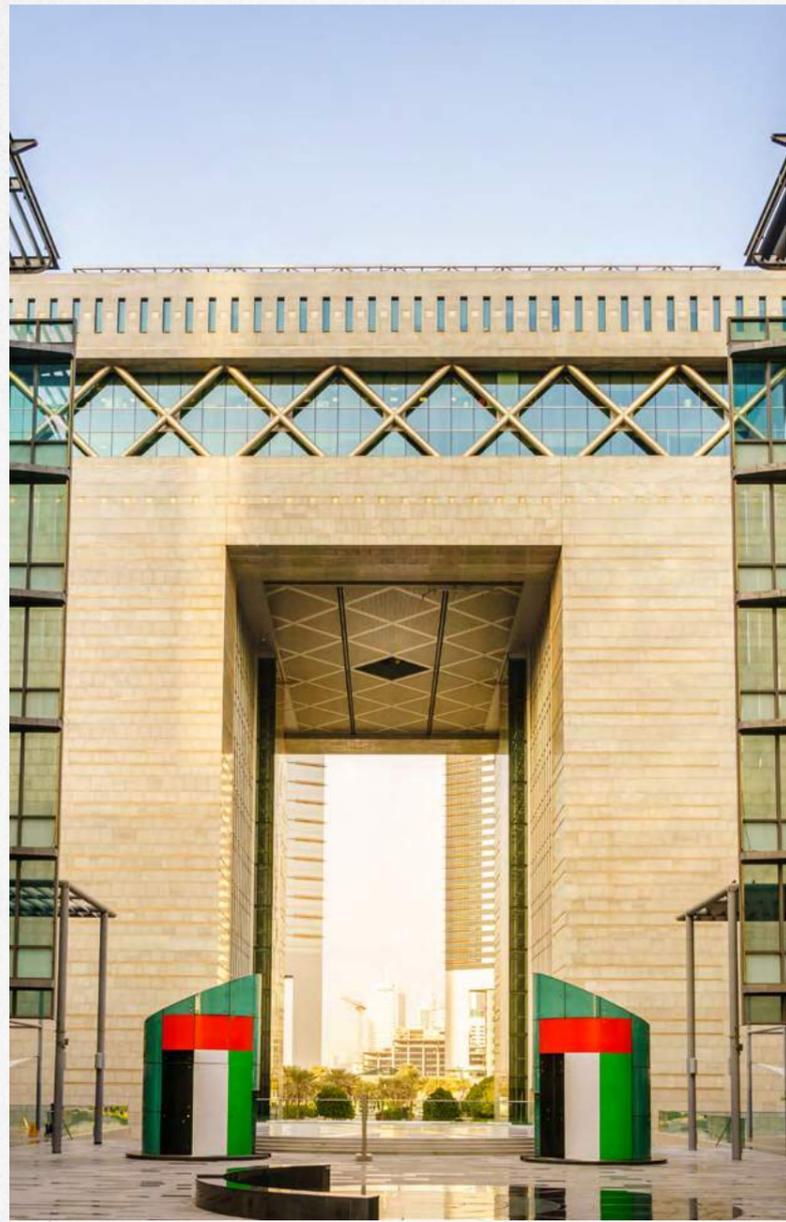
The United Arab Emirates enjoys a stable economy, political system, and investment environment, which together enable economic growth. The country's strategies, conducive to economic diversity, created a flexible economy and continuous growth. The United Arab Emirates economy maintained its advanced position as the second largest economy in the Middle East. The United Arab Emirates continues to be one of the most important regional destinations for trade, investment, and other economic activities.

As part of its economic diversification strategy, to reduce its dependency on oil as the main source of revenues, the country promotes non-oil sectors, develops the infrastructure, enhances electronic capabilities, supports entrepreneurship and innovation, and enables ease of conducting business. Furthermore, it strengthens trade and tourism, and supports growth in the sectors of export and import of goods and services, re-exports, and foreign investment. It also, continues to develop infrastructure projects, and support sectors such as Small and Medium Enterprises, manufacturing, transport, renewable energy, tourism, and education.

## Sector contribution to the Gross National Product (in current prices) for 2017



## 12 Economic Growth



Today, the United Arab Emirates is focused on making available all that is needed to support future development, that is why all pioneering initiatives and projects are geared toward making quality investments in innovation, technological advancement, research and development, artificial intelligence applications, and concepts associated with the fourth industrial revolution. All investments align with the principles set by the Higher Policy for Science, Technology, and Innovation, the National Strategy for Advanced Innovation, and The UAE Centennial 2071 project.

The United Arab Emirates has implemented Legislative and regulatory changes. This, and the size of its foreign trade and its Policy of Openness, continue to attract foreign investments which is a testament to their success. These policy changes also complement the requirements for sustainable development, economic prosperity and a decent living for citizens and residents of the United Arab Emirates.

### The Post Oil Era



The developments in the world oil markets, taking place since mid-2014, raised many questions about the impact that the significant decline in international oil prices might have on economic conditions in the main oil exporting countries, including the UAE, and whether the continuation of such low prices will lead to problems in areas such as public finances, implementation of economic development plans, employment opportunities for young people, as well as other economic and social dimensions in those countries.

The UAE seeks to become a role model-country that has succeeded in transforming its economy, from relying on natural resources to utilizing advanced industries and scientific research, through the skills and talents of its people. This was confirmed by H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Force during the “UAE Retreat on Post-Oil” which was held end of January 2016.

This Ministerial Retreat, titled “UAE Post-Oil”, represented the road map for the UAE’s journey toward the Post-Oil Phase. The Retreat was attended by the UAE’s wise leaders; they focused on the importance of investing in people who constitute the bases for development and the starting point for economic growth, diversity, and balanced-comprehensive improvement in all sectors. Although the contribution of oil revenues to the national economy does not exceed 30%, government institutions are currently working to develop a holistic strategy that would enable it to eliminate its dependency on oil revenues.

# 13 The Transport Sector



## Maritime Transport

The geographical location of the United Arab Emirates, in the eastern region of the Arabian Peninsula is of special significance enabling it to become an International center for maritime transport connecting Asia to Africa and beyond to Europe.

Along with a unique infrastructure for transporting petroleum and petroleum products, the United Arab Emirates developed 10 ports meeting international standards, that are scattered along the shores of the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

The United Arab Emirates has many ports that are geographically distributed in accordance with its needs and the main commercial activity of its regions. Every emirate has a minimum of one port.

## Main seaports in the UAE



Khalifa Port

Khalifa Port has a strategic location at the halfway point on the road connecting Abu Dhabi and Dubai. It was inaugurated on 12 December 2012 by the President of the UAE H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him. It is the first semi-automated port in the Gulf region. Construction of the port was carefully planned to keep likely environmental impact to an absolute minimum. The eight kilometer long breakwater, the longest in the Middle East, allows the Gulf's currents to flow freely, hence, protecting and preserving the local marine ecosystem.



Jebel Ali Port

Jebel Ali Port is the largest marine terminal in the Middle East. Strategically located in Dubai, at the crossroads of international trade routes, it provides market access to over 2 billion people. As an integrated multi-modal hub offering sea, air and land connectivity, complemented by extensive logistics facilities, Jebel Ali Port plays a vital role in the economy of the United Arab Emirates. It is a premier gateway for over 80 weekly services connecting more than 140 ports worldwide. The Port's total handling capacity is 19.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units, and has over 180 Shipping lines.



Fujairah port

The port of Fujairah is one of the most important facilities in the emirate. It has a special location, on the east coast of the UAE, outside the Strait of Hormuz. It is considered the largest fuel station in the region, reducing 24 hours of the time needed for ships to sail 124 Nautical miles into the Gulf. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, inaugurated this port in 1978 as he saw that it was necessary to have a port in Fujairah. It was built, at first, of two 370-square-meter berths. Today, it has 19 berths including 9 oil berths, a berth for giant oil tankers, and 2 berths under construction for small oil tankers.

# 13 The Transport Sector



## Civil Aviation

The Civil Aviation sector is one of the most important economic sectors in the United Arab Emirates. It experienced, over the last few years, massive growth, perhaps, unprecedented in the region and the world. It accounts for 15% of the United Arab Emirates' Gross Domestic Product.

The United Arab Emirates leads the Arab countries in investments in the aviation sector, controlling approximately 40% of the aviation sector in the Arab world. The General Authority for Civil Aviation in the United Arab Emirates estimates that investments in this vital sector will increase over the next two decades, from the current AED 85 billion to AED 1 trillion.

## UAE Airports

1. Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH)
2. Al Ain International Airport (AAN)
3. Dubai International Airport (DXB)
4. Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC)
5. Sharjah International Airport (SHJ)
6. Ras Al Khaimah International Airport (RKT)
7. Fujairah International Airport ( FJR)

## National Carriers



In a historic event in 2018, Dubai International Airport received its "billionth" passenger, crowning its long history which began in 1960. Dubai International Airport needed fifty years to receive its first 500 million passengers, and only, the last, seven years to receive the same number of passengers. The annual report by Airports Council International shows that Dubai International Airport retained its position as the world's largest airport for international passengers for the fifth consecutive year, as its annual traffic reached approximately 89 million passengers in 2018.

# 13 The Transport Sector



## Road Transport

### Road Network

The United Arab Emirates has the best road network in the world. This is according to the Global Competitiveness Report, issued by the World Economic Forum for the year 2018-2017, where the UAE holds the first position in the index of road quality. The combined length of road networks in the Emirate of Dubai is 13,500 Kilometers, and over 15,000 kilometers in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

### Hyperloop

The United Arab Emirates will be the first country in the world to operate a hyperloop network, as the first one will begin operations in the year 2020. Its 10 kilometer track will run from the Abu Dhabi-Dubai border to Al Maktoum Airport, and to be connected later to Abu Dhabi International Airport. Hyperloop systems use electro-magnetic levitation technology that makes the vehicle float above the track, which allows the transportation of passengers and freight at speeds exceeding 1,100 kilometers per hour.

## Licensed Vehicles in the UAE

By the year 2020, the number of licensed vehicles in the UAE is expected to reach 3.53 million cars.

## Railway Network

The United Arab Emirates has an advanced, and expanding, railway network for the transport of passengers and freight. It includes Etihad Rail, and Dubai Metro which is a rapid transit rail network of group travel systems, transporting passengers throughout the city of Dubai and its suburbs.



The Etihad Rail project, when launched, would be a leap of quality that would bring vast economic benefits to the commercial, manufacturing, and logistics sectors. Its strategic role is to provide a fast and sustainable transport network in line with the highest standards of efficiency and safety. The Etihad Rail network, upon its completion, will connect ports, factories and production centers, as well as residential areas in the UAE. Furthermore, it will be part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Rail Network.

Dubai Metro, with its red and green lines, was designed to include the most advanced rail systems. It provides a selection of high quality services which includes retail stores, free WIFI, ATM machines, as well as easy access for wheelchairs. It is connected to Dubai bus network and Dubai Tram network. It has many other features that makes it the ideal mode of transport around Dubai. Furthermore, construction work on "Route 2020" is underway, this will provide group travel systems through seven additional stations to the World Exposition 2020 (Expo 2020) exhibition site in Dubai.



The Dubai Tram is considered the first tramway project outside Europe powered by a ground-based electric supply system extending along the track, thus removing the need for catenary cables. It is also the world's first tramway that uses Platform Screen Doors in passenger stations, fully aligned with the tram's doors opening and shutting mechanism, providing maximum convenience, safety and security for passengers, and at the same time protecting the quality of the air-conditioning in the interior of both stations and carriages from external climatic conditions.



# 14 The UAE's Strategy for the Future



The objectives of "The UAE Strategy for looking ahead to the Future", which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Future, are to forecast opportunities and challenges in all vital sectors of the United Arab Emirates, to analyze them, and to develop long-term plans enabling action at every level which would secure results that serve the interests of the United Arab Emirates.

The strategy aims to create government systems that make anticipating the future part of the strategic planning process in government organizations, to launch studies and scenarios to forecast the future of all vital sectors, and to set plans and policies based on the findings. The strategy has three main axes, each with its own set of duties and missions to be completed within a set time frame:

- Government mechanism
- Building capabilities
- Future Priorities

## The UAE Centennial 2071

The UAE Centennial 2071 project has a comprehensive strategic framework that aims to invest in Emirati youth and equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to cope with an ever-evolving environment, and in order to make the United Arab Emirates the best country in the world by its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2071.

## Future Priority Sectors

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 01<br>Sustainable Social Development     | 02<br>Infrastructure & Transportation                 | 03<br>Energy & Minerals Wealth                     |
| 04<br>Positive & Happy Lifestyle         | 05<br>Government & Gov. Services                      | 06<br>Technology & Smart Systems                   |
| 07<br>Economy, Economic & Trade Security | 08<br>International & Political Relations, & Security | 09<br>Sustainability, Environment & Climate Change |
| 10<br>Food & Water Security              | 11<br>Human Capital & Innovation                      | 12<br>Health                                       |
| 13<br>Education                          | 14<br>Financial Resources                             | 15<br>Cyber Security                               |

## 14 The UAE's Strategy for the Future



### Activities and Initiatives of Future Foresight in the United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and Future provides a group of activities and initiatives, as part of "The UAE Strategy for looking ahead to the Future", which are intended to be shared regionally and internationally. These activities and initiatives include the following:

#### The Global Future Councils

The government of the UAE, in cooperation with the World Economic Forum in Davos, hosts the Global Future Councils featuring 50 specialized councils and more than 700 experts. The 50 councils focus on foreseeing the future in a number of sectors relating to development, science, economy, and politics. This effort aims to prepare a clear future agenda to tackle the many challenges the world faces today, as well as attempt to forecast future directions for many scientific and technological developments and revolutions.

#### The Future in 60 Minutes

The Future in 60 Minutes are dialogue sessions, each taking 60 minutes, hosting global futurists to share their knowledge and expertise in the field of future foresight. Each session focuses on looking at future trends in context of the priority sectors specified in "The UAE Strategy for looking ahead to the Future".

#### The UAE's Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy

The Strategy aims to strengthen the United Arab Emirates' position as a global hub for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and to contribute to a competitive national economy that is based on knowledge, innovation and future technological applications that integrate physical, digital and dynamic biological technologies.

#### Arab Network for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

This Network answers the need for a regional, Arab, space where leading start-ups and businesses, policy-makers, regulators, organizations and academia can collaborate. The Network's primary purpose is to develop the partnerships and policies needed to stimulate the enormous potential of science and technology, deliver rapid growth and generate sustainable, positive impact for all.

#### 'Tomorrow's Leaders Make the Future' Initiative

The United Arab Emirates Government launched, in cooperation with a number of local schools, an initiative titled 'Tomorrow's Leaders Make the Future'. The initiative is part of the supplementary activities associated with the Government annual meetings in 2017, and aims to involve future generation in visualizing scenarios that will shape the goals for UAE Centennial 2071.

#### Future Foresight Manual

The Manual aims to shed the light on the concept of future foresight and its importance for the Government. It also seeks to develop the skills and capabilities of government entities to enable them to develop strategies, policies, programmes and services based on the outcomes of short, mid-term and long-term future foresight.

#### 100 Global Trends for 2050

This book serves as a reference for policy makers concerned with future planning, to help them anticipate and manage change at the political, social, economic and technological levels. The book presents 9 main themes that branch into 100 global trends for the year 2050. The themes are: Natural Resources and Environment, Economy, Infrastructure, Demographic, Security and Defense, Advanced Technologies and Sciences, Governments, Citizens, and Knowledge, Skills and Jobs.

#### Future Foresight Training Programme

The Future Foresight training programme is provided in collaboration with the University of Oxford. The programme aims to qualify a generation of specialists, in the field of future foresight and drawing future scenarios based on the United Arab Emirates' vision. It focuses on training the participants on the skills of analyzing future options, Scenario Planning, and Future Foresight tools, in line with "The UAE Strategy for looking ahead to the Future", as well as highlighting the vital sectors in the United Arab Emirates.

# 15 The UAE and space exploration



The United Arab Emirates, based on its' National Strategy for Innovation which focuses on seven priority sectors one of which is "Space", launched several initiatives including the "National Space Program" which is the largest scientific plan of its kind in the region, the "Khalifa Sat" satellite which was developed by a team of Emirati engineers at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center, Al Yah 3 satellite which will provide services to 145 countries, Emirates Mars Mission – Hope Probe which moved from the design stage to the assembly stage, as well as the selection of the first two astronauts to represent the country in the International Space Station and all international forums.

## The National Space Program

The United Arab Emirates National Space Program is the largest national strategic plan aimed at driving the UAE forward in space exploration over the next century. The program includes a one hundred year plan to build the first human settlement on the Red Planet by 2117, a plan to send the Emirates Hope Probe to Mars in 2021 which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates, and a plan to train and prepare Emirati astronauts.

## DubaiSat-1

DubaiSat-1 is the first Earth-observation satellite owned by the UAE. Since it was launched in 2009, it has supported urban and environmental planning in the UAE.

## The National Space Strategy



The government of the United Arab Emirates approved the "National Space Strategy 2030", which is aimed at achieving country's vision in the field of space exploration, technologies, applications, and services. It also constitutes one of the pillars and enablers of the regulatory framework for the space sector in the country which consists of four components; National Space Policy, Space Sector Law, Space Regulations, and National Space Strategy. The Strategy is considered a national reference for priority initiatives of stakeholders and institutions operating in the space sector.

The strategy is concerned with the UAE's industry and space activities until 2030, achievement of the objectives of both the UAE's Vision 2021 and UAE Centennial 2071, which includes government space activities, commercial activities and scientific activities carried out by public and private sector operators, academic institutions and research centers. It also covers international space activities belonging to other countries that participate and contribute to organizations operating in the United Arab Emirates.



It aims to achieve six main objectives, through

**21** programs & **79** initiatives

## 15 The UAE and space exploration



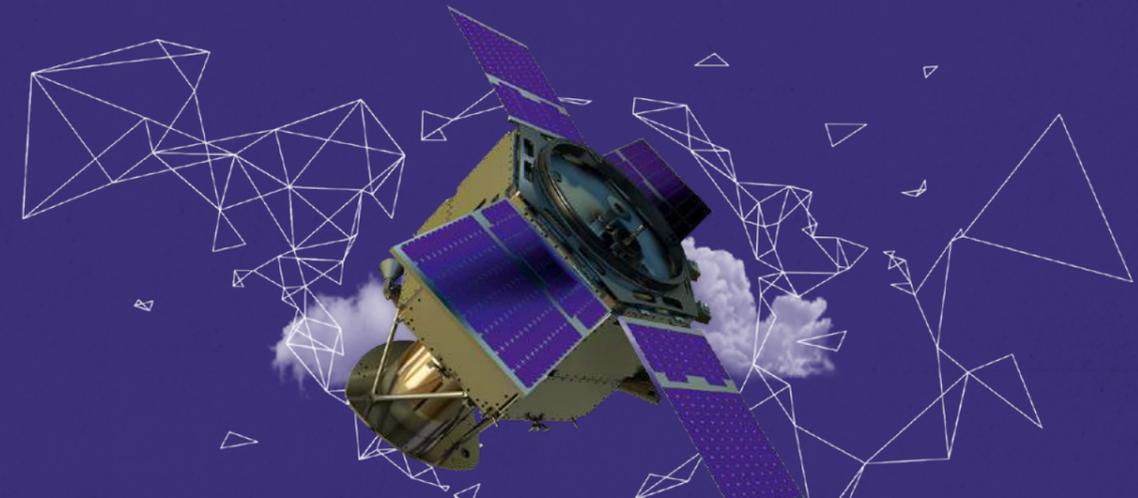
### KhalifaSat

Monday 29 October 2018 added a historic event to the list of achievements of the United Arab Emirates, when "KhalifaSat" was successfully launched into space. This achievement is a source of inspiration for generations of Emiratis, because it is the first fruits of the advanced technologies sector in the United Arab Emirates, and because it's been designed and built by an elite team of Emirati engineers.

The launch of KhalifaSat was supervised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center, in collaboration with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Limited and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The launch of the satellite presents a step closer to The United Arab Emirates Space Agency's plan which is to have 12 satellites by the year 2020. This achievement marks the beginning of a new stage of space exploration, for the United Arab Emirates, noting that its' investments in the satellite sector exceeded AED 20 billion (approximately USD 5.445 billion).

### Facts about KhalifaSat

- 1 The first satellite to be developed within the space technology laboratories of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, by 100% Emirati hands.
- 2 The Manufacturing team consists of 70 engineers, all of whom are Emirati youth aged between 27 and 28 years old.
- 3 KhalifaSat is two meters tall and weighs up to 330 kilograms and has 5 patents.
- 4 KhalifaSat was launched from the earth station at the Tanigashima Space Center in Japan aboard the H-IIA rocket on 29 October 2018.
- 5 KhalifaSat is the United Arab Emirates' third observation satellite, which brings the total to 9 satellites. The number is expected to reach 12 satellites in the year 2020.
- 6 KhalifaSat is characterized by a high-precision imaging system with an accuracy of 70 centimeters from 600 kilometers above the surface of the globe.
- 7 Once KhalifaSat entered its low Earth orbit at an altitude of approximately 613 kilometers, it began capturing satellite images and sending them to the ground control station at the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center.
- 8 The images provided by KhalifaSat are used as part of the requirements for urban planning and management projects which ensures optimisation of land use and of national infrastructure development projects in the United Arab Emirates, as well as effective monitoring of major engineering and construction projects.
- 9 Images from KhalifaSat will be used to monitor environmental changes at the local and global levels and are planned to provide detailed images of ice caps in the North and South Poles, helping to detect the effects of global warming.



## 15 The UAE and space exploration



### The first Emirati astronaut to go to the International Space Station

Wednesday, 25 September 2019, will be the date for the launch of the first Emirati astronaut to the International Space Station. This will be the first trip by an Arab astronaut to the station, as part of The UAE Astronaut Program which began in 2017, and aims to train and prepare a team of Emirati astronauts and send them to space to perform various scientific missions.

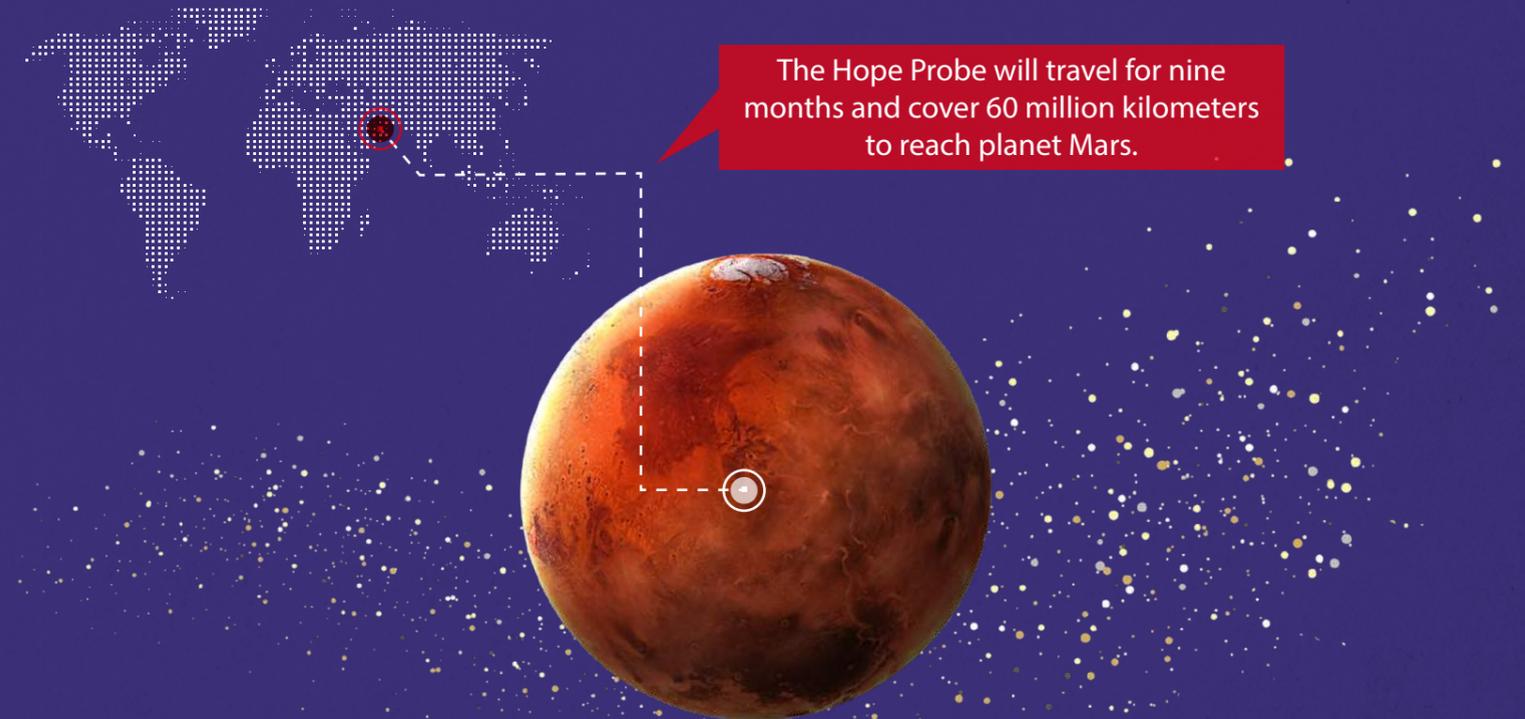
The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre announced that, in line with the approved plan, two Emirati astronauts are readied to go to space. One of the astronauts will join a Russian space mission aboard the Soyuz MS15, to spend eight days in the International Space Station, and then return to Earth aboard the Soyuz MS12. The second astronaut will be a reserve-astronaut, and will continue to train for other future missions.

### Emirates Mars Mission

The United Arab Emirates, officially, entered the international race for space exploration when the President of the United Arab Emirates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, announced the formation of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency, and the commencement of work on the first Arab-Islamic probe to be sent to Mars. This project which is led by an Emirati team will send the probe on a scientific voyage of discovery to the Red Planet, during the next seven years, by the year 2021.

This will make the United Arab Emirates one of nine countries in the world that have space programs to explore the red planet.

The United Arab Emirates Space Agency is working tirelessly, in collaboration with the Emirates Foundation for Advanced Science and Technology, to build, test, and launch the first probe by an Arab country to planet Mars. The probe, named "Hope Probe", will reach planet Mars in 2021 coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates.



# 16 Nuclear Power



Barakah

Barakah was selected as the site for the UAE's nuclear power plant, based on several environmental, technical, and commercial factors, and following a comprehensive evaluation process completed by local and international experts.

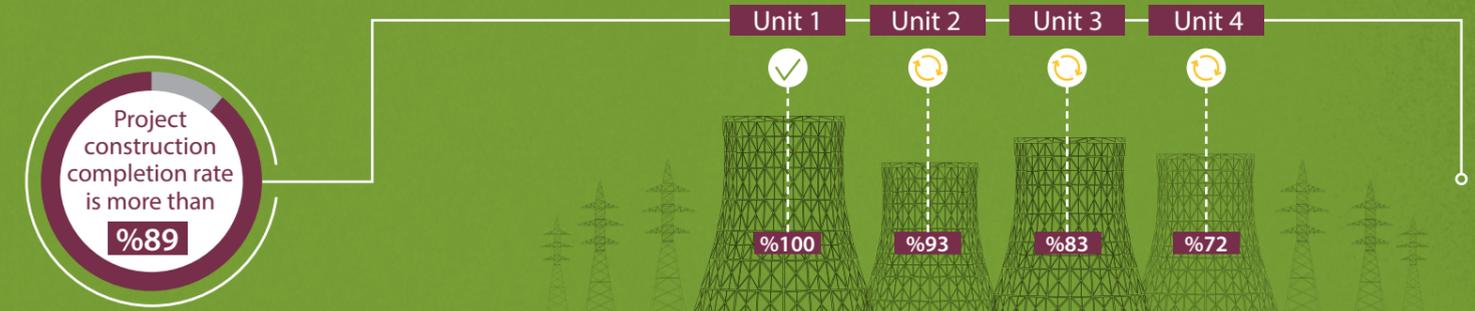
The United Arab Emirates is developing a peaceful nuclear program to provide an environmentally friendly solution and a more sustainable one to meet the country's energy needs. By the year 2020, nuclear reactors will become the second energy source in the United Arab Emirates after natural gas, producing about 25% of the country's electricity and promoting sustainable economic development.

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation announced in 2018 the completion of construction works on the first unit of the four unit-plant, and in accordance with the highest international safety, security, and quality standards. Currently, efforts are directed toward operational readiness in order to secure the licences to operate the plant from the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

## Units' construction completion rate



Now that the construction of Unit 1 has been completed, the remaining construction works at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant project are progressing steadily and safely.



In 2018, the UAE secured a special achievement when it became the thirty-first country in the group of countries with a peaceful nuclear program. This came after the International Atomic Energy Agency delivered its third and final report, on their routine review mission of the UAE's nuclear program, to the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation as part of the requirements to issue the licence to operate the first reactor unit.

When operations commence, the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant will deliver safe, reliable, and clean electricity to the United Arab Emirates' electricity grid, and will reduce annual carbon emissions by approximately 21 million tons which is equivalent to removing 3.2 million cars from the roads.

The Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant is located in Al Dhafra region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, overlooking the Arabian Gulf, and approximately 53 kilometers west-southwest of the city of Ruwais. The Plant's APR-1400 nuclear reactors, designed by Korea Electric Power Company, is a third generation pressurized water reactor.

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, while building the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, reached an important, international, safety milestone which is the achievement of 50 million safe work hours without a Lost Time Injury. This accomplishment reflects the company's commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality and is the result of its continuous workplace safety improvement programs.

# 17 Empowering youth to lead the future



The Government of the United Arab Emirates values Emirati youth and aims to empower them so that they would shoulder responsibilities, innovate, and achieve prosperity for the Emirati community ultimately building a sustainable future. The leadership of the United Arab Emirates creates empowerment opportunities, for Emirati youth, through effective legislation and execution which also strengthens their leadership capabilities.

The Future Government, which was formed in February 2016, appointed the youngest government minister in the world; Shamma bint Sohail Faris Al Mazrui was appointed Minister of State for Youth Affairs at the age of 22. Furthermore, Saeed Saleh Mezar Saeed Al Rumaithi, at the age of 31, became the youngest member to ever join the Federal National Council.

The United Arab Emirates has a group of organizations, associations, and government projects that care for the wellbeing of Emirati youth. They aim to identify the challenges facing Emirati youth, to understand their aspirations, and to capitalize on all available opportunities to develop their abilities so that they are able to accomplish individual and national achievements. This is all to create readiness in a generation capable of shouldering responsibilities; the generation of the leaders of the future.

## Youth Development and Wellbeing Index

The Index, a first of its kind in the region, measures, and fulfills, the needs of Emirati youth. The index helps in making better policies and investments to improve opportunities for youths, because it analyzes their needs in all main fields including education, health, safety and security, traditions and values, and living conditions.

## Institutions caring for Emirati youth

### Emirates Youth Council

The Council represents the aspirations and causes of Emirati youth to the government. It has 13 men and women who serve as government advisors on youth issues. It will develop a strategy and conduct studies about the role of youth in community development, by opening all channels to listen to their opinions and their challenges. This will create suitable solutions and increase their participation in all sectors. It seeks to know their opinions on key causes, strengthen their national identity and good citizenship, as well as represent them in international events.

### The Federal Youth Authority

The Federal Youth Authority, which was formed in 2018, coordinates, with local youth councils, the development of the country's annual agenda for youth activities and initiatives. Also, it aims to ensure that the objectives, plans and activities of these councils are consistent with the country's Youth Empowerment Strategy. The Federal Youth Authority is responsible for the establishment and management of youth centers and clubs, the organization of events workshops and activities, the establishment of a database to document the data, activities, and initiatives of youth councils and clubs.

Knowing that achieving the UAE's Vision 2021 requires skills, energy, enthusiasm, and discipline on the part of Emirati youth, the United Arab Emirates focused its efforts in many fields to empower them. These efforts are not new but are part of a system. Some of these efforts are:

- Providing educational opportunities for Emirati youth — Establishing the Youth Shura Consultative Council —○
- Providing support in the field of business entrepreneurship — Establishing associations and clubs —○
- Providing jobs and careers — Establishing awards and competitions —○
- Providing marriage grants — Establishing various youth leadership programs —○
- Establishing the Youth Empowerment Strategy — Creating Events and forums —○

# 18 Women Empowerment



Womens' institutional work began early, with the "Association of (Dhabian)Women's Renaissance" in 1973. When similar organizations emerged in all emirates, H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (Mother of The Nation), President of The General Women's Union, Supreme Chairperson of The Family Development Foundation, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, implemented the unitary ideology of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and established The General Women's Union on 28 August 1975, under which all Women's associations operate.

More than four decades later, and in a gesture noted around the world, H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak launched Emirati Women's Day to be celebrated on 28 August of every year, coinciding with the anniversary of the establishment of The General Women's Union.

The UAE's strategy for the empowerment of women provides a framework and guidelines for all government and private entities, and civil society organizations, to enable a dignified living for women making them empowered, pioneers, motivated, and active participants in the country's sustainable development process, eventually giving them a better quality of life.

## Gender Balance Council

It is a government council, formed in 2015, that seeks to reduce the gender gap in all sectors in the UAE, to achieve a balance of numbers between men and women in leadership and decision making positions, and to strengthen the presence of women in all domains of life as a principal partner in creating the future.

Emirati women are present in all domains of life



H.E. Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi is the President of the Federal National Council since 2015. She is the first female president of parliament in the Arab world.



The new cabinet has 32 ministers

Including **9** Women

**5**

Emirati women currently hold the position of: Ambassador of the UAE to a foreign country, Consul General, and Permanent representative to the United Nations.

Women account for



of the workforce in the government sector, %30 of them are in leadership and decision making positions.

**23,000**  
Emirati Businesswomen

In 2018, a unique announcement was made one that demonstrated the extent of support provided by the leadership of the United Arab Emirates to Emirati women; as per the directives of the President of the United Arab Emirates H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may Allah protect him, Emirati women's representation in the Federal National Council will be increased to 50% in the coming parliamentary term in 2019, which will enrich and stimulate the political system in the country.

# 19 Foreign Aid and Development Assistance



## Charitable-Civil Society Organizations

UAE Red Crescent Authority, Dar al Ber Society, Beit Al Khair Society, Dubai Charity Association, Zayed Foundation for Charitable and Humanitarian Works, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, Al Maktoum Foundation, and Sharjah Charity International.

The United Arab Emirates, believing in the principles of human brotherhood and in the need to collaborate in order to develop human societies around the world, and since its formation in 1971, has been eager to provide humanitarian and development aid to various countries around the world. This eagerness was embodied in the decision by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, to establish The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development that became the development arm of the Government of Abu Dhabi, which was formed in the same year 1971.

The United Arab Emirates was the world's biggest donor of foreign aid in 2017, this is according to the data released by The Development Assistance Committee, part of The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The total official development assistance payment made by the United Arab Emirates amounted to AED 19.32 billion, (approximately USD 5.26 billion), which grew by 18.1% from 2016. Equally significant, more than half of the donations, 54%, are provided as non-refundable grants in support of the planned development projects of recipient countries.

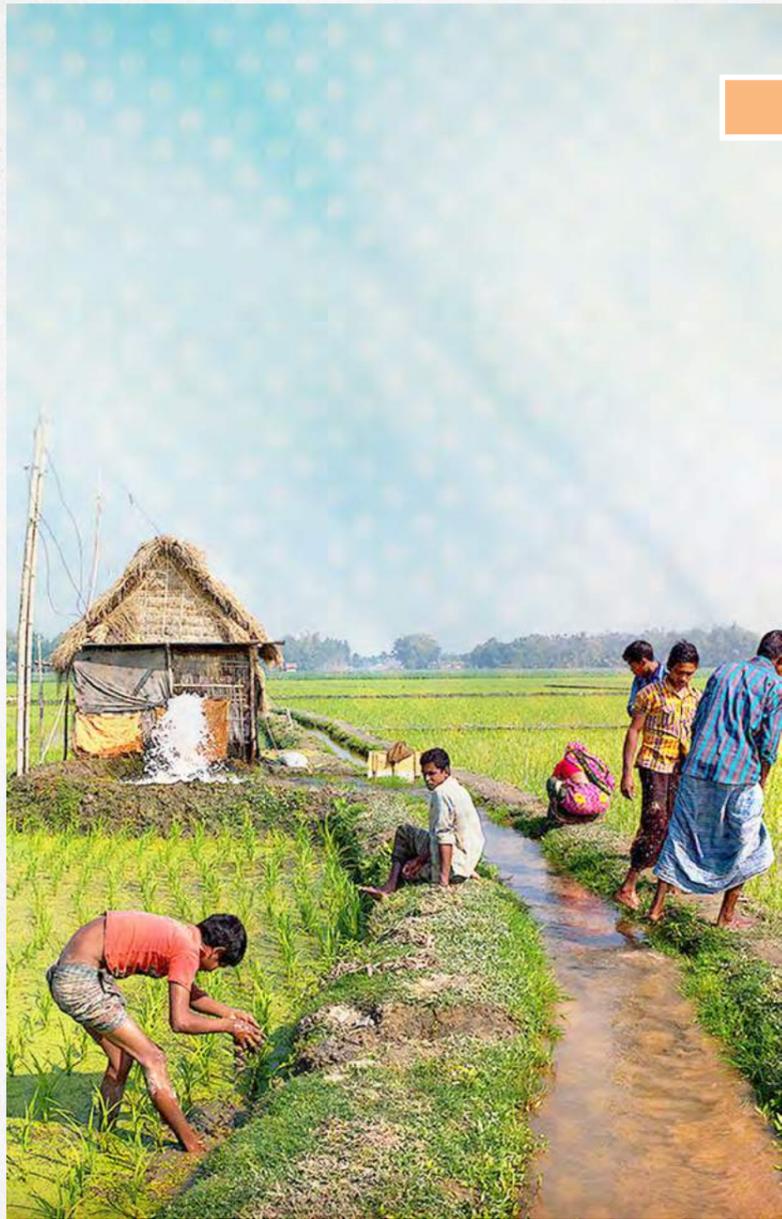
The UAE is a major benefactor

This data demonstrates that the UAE has maintained its position as one of the main providers of official development assistance and for the fifth consecutive year. data shows that the UAE spent 1.31% of its national income on foreign development assistance, which is almost twice the global rate of 0.7% set by the UN. The UAE came ahead of Sweden, which ranked second with 1.01%, followed by Luxemburg, which ranked third with 1%, Norway which ranked fourth with 0.99%, Denmark which ranked fifth with 0.72%, and the UK which ranked sixth with 0.7%.



More than 94% of the funds provided in 2017, AED 18.3 billion, were spent on development projects of which 68%, AED 12.38 billion, was channeled to Public Sector/general programs so that governments would provide for public expenditure, balance their budgets, enhance their monetary and financial stability and investment climate, and allocate surplus funds to other developmental goals specified in their development plans. This was provided to many countries especially Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Serbia, and the Palestinian National Authority.

# 19 Foreign Aid and Development Assistance

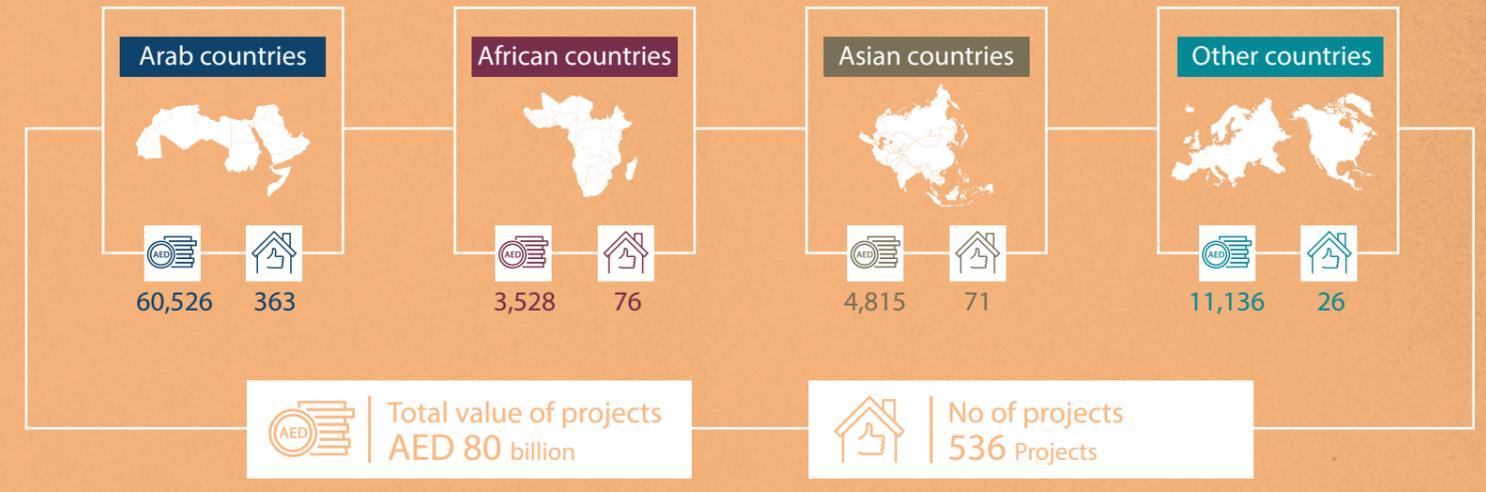


## Abu Dhabi Fund for Development

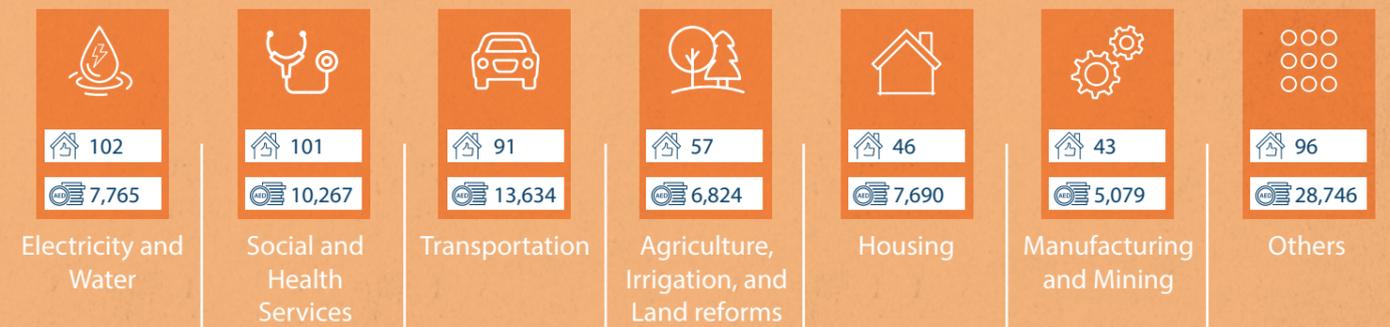
The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development demonstrates the United Arab Emirates' commitment to continue an active role in supporting the development process in developing countries. The contributions made by the Fund, and its participation in the global development process, cross the borders of countries and continents.

The Fund conducts development projects throughout the Middle East, North, East and Central Africa, in addition to North, South, Central Asia and some European countries.

## Projects funded by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development in 2017 (in AED million)



## Distribution of contributions per sector



# 19 Foreign Aid and Development Assistance

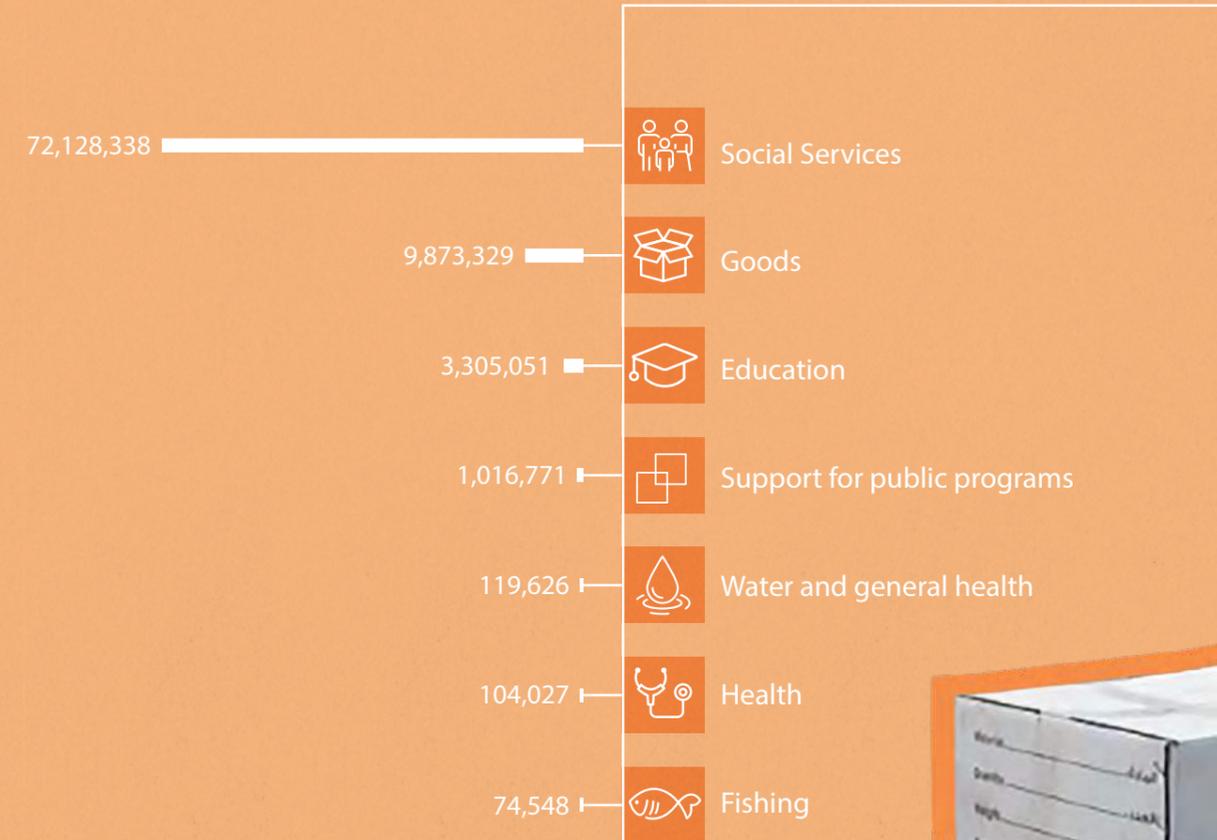


## UAE Red Crescent Authority

UAE Red Crescent Authority since its establishment in 1983, played a leading role in strengthening various aspects of humanitarian work on both the domestic and international levels, in order to assist the weak and the needy, wherever they are and, in spite of ethnic, cultural, geographic or religious considerations.

The UAE Red Crescent Authority focuses, on the domestic level, on providing assistance to people of determination (people with special needs), widows, needy families, families of prisoners, the sick, indigent students, as well as facilitating the sponsoring of orphans. Whereas, its foreign aid efforts focus on supporting and aiding those afflicted by natural disasters, conflicts, and wars by providing urgent relief and then by developing the infrastructure and building developmental projects to enable the affected areas to return to normal life. The UAE Red Crescent Authority is the only humanitarian organization of its kind that has a program for sponsoring orphans which has been running since 1986; the authority today, facilitates the sponsoring of over 104,000 orphans, in 28 countries around the world.

## Assistance provided by the UAE Red Crescent Authority in 2017 (USD)



**Total funds provided  
USD 86,621,689**



## 20 The Emirati passport



The UAE's Vision 2021, which aims to make the United Arab Emirates one of the best countries in the world by the Golden Jubilee of its formation as a federation, has stimulated the federal government to strengthen the country's position in the international arena. Hence, it has adopted a plan to improve the position of its Passport to enable Emirati citizens to travel around the world without the need for an advance visa, this will increase their happiness levels.

On 1 December 2018, the Emirati passport became the world's most powerful passport ranking at number one, this is according to the "Passport Index" which is provided by Arton Capital Financial Consultancy. The Emirati passport, currently allows Emiratis entry to 170 countries without advance visa. The Passport Index Ranking is decided based on the number of travel destinations, countries, that holders of a country's passport can enter without advance visa, or by obtaining it upon arrival.

### UAE Passport Force initiative

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, following the directives of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, launched the UAE Passport Force initiative, with the aim to place the Emirati passport on the list of the five most important passports in the world by 2021, this was achieved in record time and long before the due date.

## The World's No. 1 Passport

The Passport Index, in its' report titled "The UAE's race to the top", in reference to the rapid rise of the Emirati passport to the top of the index in a short period of time, confirmed that this advancement is unprecedented globally. The report indicated that the United Arab Emirates had influenced the world for many reasons, and had become, quickly, one of the most innovative countries in the fields of technology, education, financing, and infrastructure.

In 2015, the UAE passport experienced a rapid rise in ranking after the decision to exempt Emiratis from visas; the Schengen visa which covered 26 European Union member countries and 8 additional nonmember countries.



The benefits of this achievement extend beyond the ease of travel for tourism; they cover economic, developmental, and even humanitarian benefits which are achieved through the facilitation of commercial exchange and economic investment by UAE citizens and organizations.

The Ministry of Interior has recently started issuing machine-readable passports, or ePassports, in accordance with the technical and security requirements issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The ePassport has, on its' first page a watermark of the outline of Sheikh Zayed Mosque, while the last page is adorned with a drawing of the actual mosque with its' domes and columns.

## 21 Food Security



The UAE aims to be among the top 10 countries on The Global Food Security Index by 2021, and to top it by 2051. Hence, the UAE is developing international partnerships to improve agricultural production and to activate partnerships between governments and organizations. This will facilitate and incentivize investments in the agricultural and dietary sectors.

In November 2018, the National Strategy for Food Security was launched. The first of its kind in the world, it aims to develop a comprehensive national framework for sustainable food production and defines the elements of the national food basket. It has 3 criteria: volume of domestic consumption, production and processing capacity, and nutritional needs.

The 2017 ministerial reshuffle included a portfolio for future food security to deliver the National Food Security Strategy 2051. It has 38 short and long-term initiatives and an Agenda for 2021. It aims to facilitate the global food trade, and identify alternative supply schemes to secure 3 to 5 sources for each major food category.

### Agricultural Technology AgTech

Abu Dhabi announced the allocation of AED 1 billion to attract local and international companies specializing in AgTech in order to meet the requirements of the country's Food Security.

## Objectives of the Strategy



- 01 To make the United Arab Emirates the world's best in the Global Food Security Index by 2051, and among the top 10 countries by 2021.
- 02 To develop sustainable food production, enabled by technology throughout the value chain, and to employ smart technology in food production.
- 03 To create initiatives to strengthen research and development capabilities in the food sector.
- 04 To develop a program that focuses on Aquaculture.
- 05 To facilitate business transactions within the agricultural sector, e.g. contractual procedures in the agricultural sector, and to support financing systems for agriculture and food activities.
- 06 To make local agricultural fees compatible with its' international counterparts in order to improve the local produce.
- 07 To encourage consumption of local fresh produce.
- 08 To limit food waste and loss by developing an integrated system that reduces food waste throughout the supply chain.
- 09 To establish food banks across the United Arab Emirates.
- 10 To guarantee food safety and to improve nutrition and diet systems.
- 11 To develop training programs on national food safety and to strengthen prevention and safety procedures in commercial food activities.

The United Arab Emirates believes in developing a common system for food technology, and in applying it on a widescale, in order to secure food sources and combat hunger worldwide. This can be achieved through creating complementary roles, and through international cooperation, that would support innovation based food security through adopting modern agricultural technologies, known as AgTech, as the basis for the production of sustainable and healthy food around the world.

## 22 The UAE and Expo



### Expo 2020 Dubai

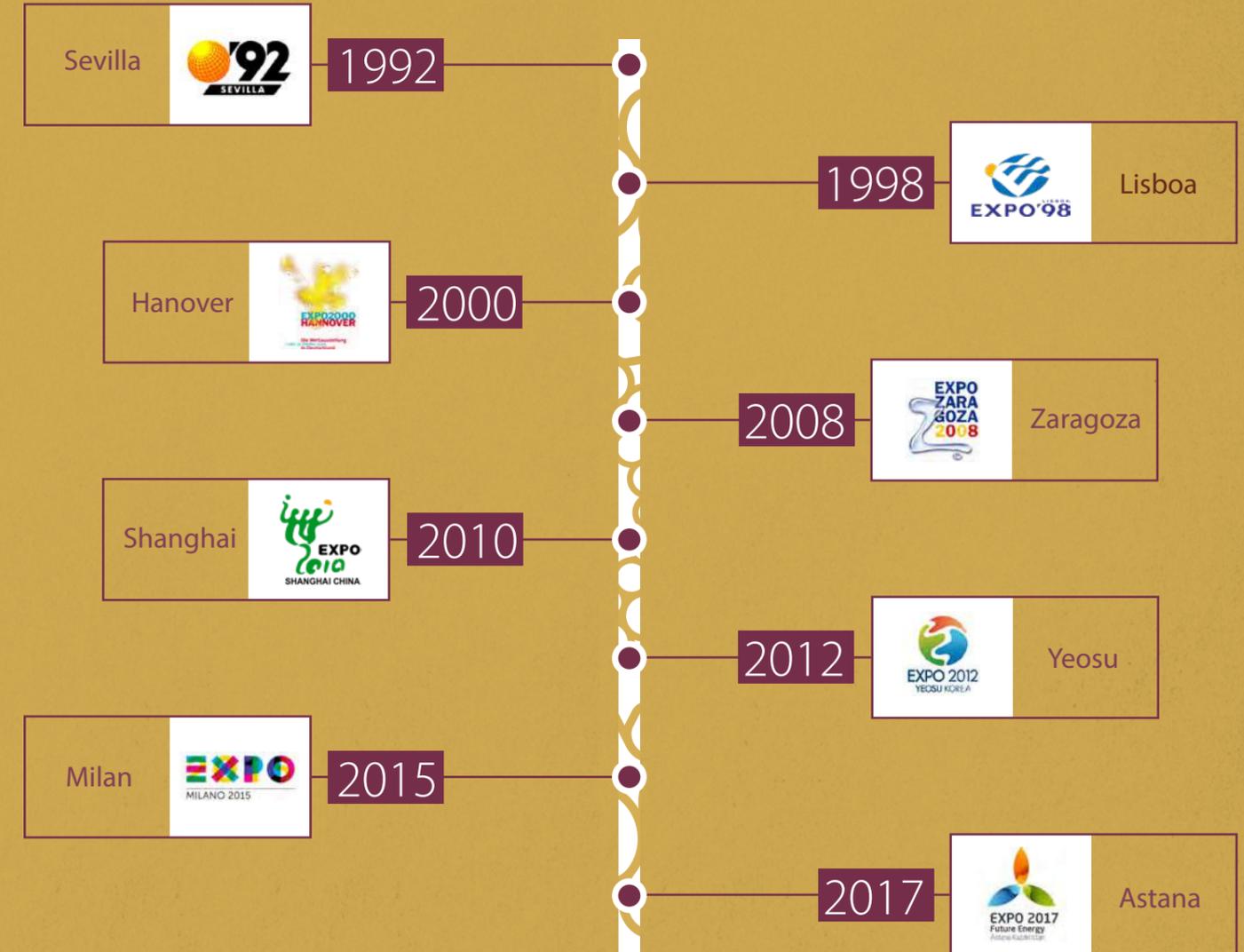
It is expected that Expo 2020 Dubai will receive the largest number of international visitors in the history of the exhibition as 70% of its visitors will come from outside the UAE.

The United Arab Emirates has been participating in Expo since the year 1990, and it had a notable presence in all international Expo exhibitions; the UAE's pavilion was ranked tenth among the best participating pavilions at Expo 2000 Hanover, won a gold medal at Expo 2008 Zaragoza, won the title 'the most popular wing' at Expo 2010 Shanghai based on the visitors' vote, it figured prominently in a study conducted by researchers from the University of California and Los Angeles that examined the standards of public diplomacy, and it received a silver medal at Expo 2012 Yeosu.

In Expo 2015 Milan, themed "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", the design of the UAE pavilion was inspired by the landscape and traditional, sustainable, architecture of the UAE. It attracted approximately 1,200,000 visitors, with an average of 7,000 visitors a day.

In Expo 2017 Astana, the UAE's pavilion, organized by the NMC, attracted a large turnout, including leaders and dignitaries, registering 150,000 visitors from various age groups and nationalities. Its contents reflected the leadership's vision and its high regard for people as the true wealth of a nation and a source of energy, who enable a comprehensive, sustainable, development at all levels.

### History of UAE participation in Expo





### Expo 2019 Beijing

The United Arab Emirates is participating in Horticultural Expo 2019 Beijing, which began on 29 April 2019 and will close on 7 October 2019. It aims to highlight the efforts of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, to develop the agricultural sector, and to demonstrate the vision of the UAE's leadership which sought to develop and strengthen the agricultural sector choosing to transform the desert into green Oases by employing strategies, initiatives, and the latest agricultural technologies. Finally, the pavilion exhibits the UAE's sustainability efforts and projects.

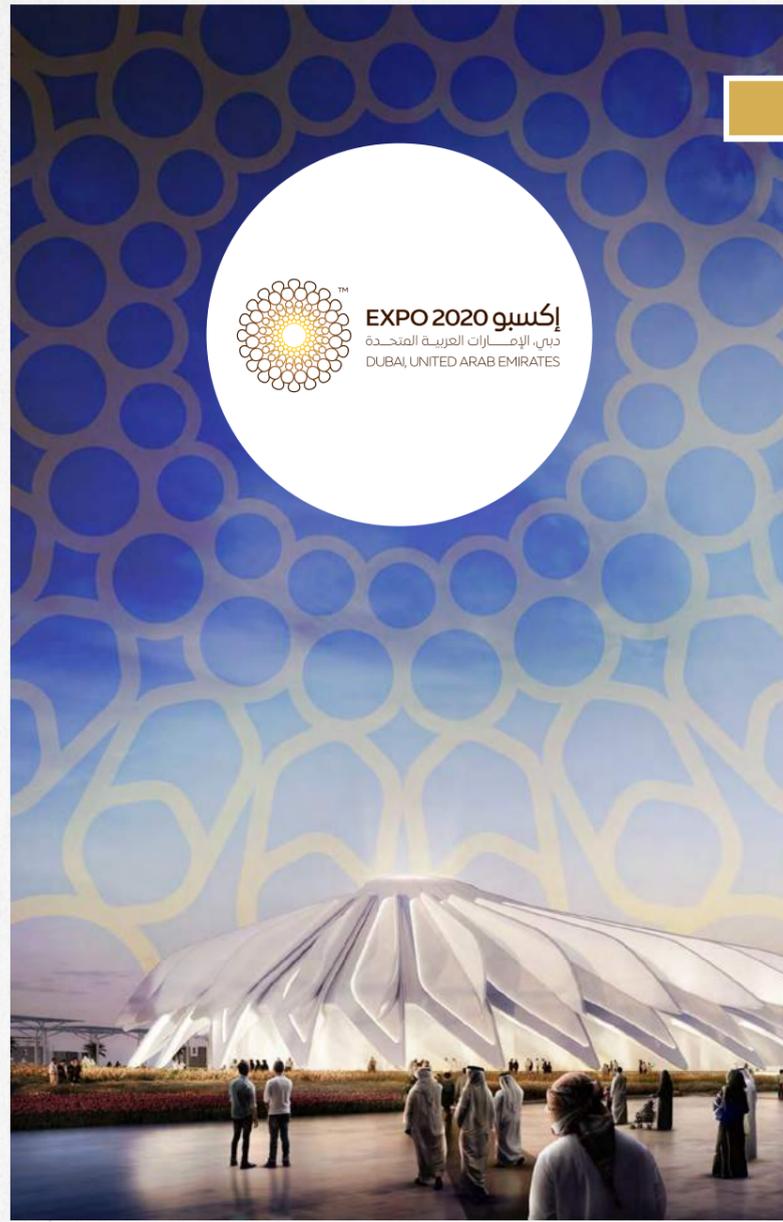
Expo 2019 Beijing is an international Horticulture event that provides a platform for organizations and countries to interact and exchange expertise. The theme of Expo 2019 Beijing is 'Live Green, Live Better', and it has 110 countries and international organizations participating from around the world.

The UAE's pavilion was designed to include a park that imitates the country's landscapes, with valleys and Aflaj which are ancient water channels, in order to highlight the changes that have transformed the desert over the years into a green environment that is home to numerous species of plants. Furthermore, the pavilion also includes a cultural section that hosts cultural performances that reflect the traditions and cultural heritage of the society of the UAE. Finally, one section of the pavilion was designated to exhibit the country's preparations to host Expo 2020 Dubai and the ongoing construction of the site.

In the Reception hall, The UAE Pavilion opens its doors to visitors under a canopy, that lets in light, and a green wall allowing them to read information about Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and his pioneering program "Greening the Desert" and about agricultural innovations in the UAE. The information is written on Billboards. Visitors also see a Floor Plan that illustrates the journey they are about to embark on from the area where they would view the Film to the Oasis Walk. Visitors will be shown an Introductory Film about UAE initiatives, achievements, and innovations in the agricultural sector.

Afterwards, visitors take the Oasis Walk to the garden which gives visitors the feeling that they are in a real, tranquil, desert oasis with a wall designed to imitate the shape of sand dunes in the desert. And while visitors are on the Oasis Walk, under a canopy of palm trees, they see Billboards on the following subjects: Agriculture in Desert Oases, Greening the Desert, and Modern Innovative Agricultural methods in the UAE. At the end of their journey, visitors are presented with interesting information on the upcoming Expo 2020 and are encouraged to visit this exciting international event.

## 22 The UAE and Expo



### Expo 2020 Dubai

Expo, The International Exposition, is one of the largest non-commercial global events, in terms of economic and cultural impact, after the World Cup and the Olympic Games. The International Expo is organized every five years, and for a continuous 6 months. Expo attracts millions of visitors who come to explore the pavilions and cultural events organized by hundreds of participants including governments, international organizations, and companies.

Dubai became the first city selected to host Expo from the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Dubai won the right to host Expo 2020 in the voting rounds held by the representatives of The International Bureau of Expositions, in Paris.

Expo 2020 Dubai will serve a geographical region with a population of approximately 3.2 billion people, and with a collective Gross Domestic Product of more than USD 6.5 trillion. Furthermore, it will be the first Expo organized close to a region whose peoples never attended an Expo before, which will result in a permanent transformation of the whole region. This would become the embodiment of what can be achieved when minds and new ideas connect to actualize human ingenuity.

The organizers of Expo 2020 Dubai, through strategic plans, aim to make it a platform to encourage global creativity, innovation and cooperation, and to launch new ideas that would have a lasting effect in the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia. This will be achieved by depending on three main and interconnected axes: opportunities, mobility, and sustainability.

It is expected that over 200 countries, international organizations, international companies, and educational organizations will participate in Expo 2020 Dubai. So far, 190 countries confirmed that they will be participating in this international event, which will take place in Dubai South city on an area of 438 hectares, which is as large as 613 football fields. The site is close to Al Maktoum International Airport, Dubai International Airport, Abu Dhabi International Airport, the ports of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and it will have a Metro station capable of transporting 44,000 passengers per hour.

## 23 UAE Initiatives

World Government Summit



1 Million Arab Coders Initiative



Madrasa



Literacy Challenge



Arab Reading Challenge



Arab hope Makers



## 23 UAE Initiatives



The World Government Summit is a global platform, dedicated to shaping the future of governments worldwide starting from the United Arab Emirates. The summit, whilst in session, sets an annual agenda for future governments with a focus on how they can harness technology to solve challenges facing humanity, as well as showcase the best practices and smart solutions that stimulate creativity and innovation.

The World Government Summit is a non-profit organization investigating the fields where government work intersect with innovation. It functions as a knowledge exchange platform for thought leaders, and a communication center for policy makers, the business community, and the civil community in order to achieve human development and create a positive impact on the lives of citizens around the world.

The Annual Gathering of the World Government Summit, held in February in Dubai, hosts over 4000 participants including world leaders, policy makers, and experts from over 150 countries.



</10^6>  
مبادرة مليون مبرمج عربي  
1 MILLION ARAB CODERS INITIATIVE

The "One Million Arab Coders" initiative seeks to contribute to the development of Arab societies, and to educate them on programming which is the language of the future. The initiative provides free training for one million young Arabs, on coding and its technologies, and employment opportunities in future business sectors that depend on knowledge, information technology, programming, telecommunication, and an economy that is based on modern technology.

The Prime Minister and Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him, launched the "One Million Arab Coders" initiative, under the umbra of his philanthropic foundation the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives. The training benefits those who wish to be web developers, application developers, front-end web experts, or data analysts. It is provided online and in cooperation with leading educational institutions and international companies.

After registration, students go through three-months of virtual coding programs. The top 1,000 students will receive scholarships and are enrolled in the Coder Challenge. The winner receives USD 1 million, and each of the following nine runners-up receive a prize equal to USD 50,000. Tutors also receive great prizes.

## 23 UAE Initiatives



مدرسة

Madrasa is a pioneering e-learning platform that provides, in Arabic, specialized educational content in all math and science subjects. Madrasa is provided, for free, to over 50 million Arab students wherever they may be.

The Madrasa portal provides 5,000 educational videos that cover physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and general science. Furthermore, it covers various school curriculums; from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Along with educational videos, Madrasa provides exercises and applications for all subjects which creates an integrated framework for the educational process.

The educational videos were prepared and produced based on the latest international education curriculums. This was done as part of a thorough translation and production plan where the educational needs of students, at every grade level, were considered. Furthermore, the best technical standards and regulations were employed, as part of the translation challenge, while selecting the educational content, translating it to Arabic, and ensuring its suitability for curriculums approved in Arab countries.



2030 LITERACY CHALLENGE

التحدي  
الإحصائي

The “Literacy Challenge” initiative, which targets 30 million Arab youth and children until the year 2030, was launched by The Prime Minister and Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, UNESCO, and United Nations Development Programme.

By launching this initiative, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation aims to eradicate illiteracy and to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary for the mounting challenges of new technologies and the information age.

The initiative also seeks to help young people develop their skills, abilities, and knowledge, and to enhance their qualifications, improve their behavior, and contribute to their economic, social, and cultural prosperity. Hence, enabling them to become productive members of society.

## 23 UAE Initiatives



The “Arab Reading Challenge” was launched by The Prime Minister and Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, may Allah protect him. It is considered the biggest project, in the region that encourages students in the Arab world to read; over one million students commit to participate in reading 50 million books every academic year. The Arab Reading Challenge seeks to raise awareness and develop the love of reading among the children and youth of the Arab world until it becomes a core value enhancing their sense of curiosity and thirst for knowledge as well as expand their horizons.

The Arab Reading Challenge takes the form of an Arabic reading competition for students, from grade 1 to grade 12, from participating schools around the Arab world. The challenge begins in September of each year, and ends in March of the following year. Participating students go through five stages; each one includes reading ten books and summarizing them in the reading challenge passport. After reading and summarizing, the qualifying rounds begin in accordance with approved standards, first at the school level, then at the educational district level, then at country level, until the finals which are held in Dubai in October of every year.



The “Arab hope Makers” Initiative, launched by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Foundation, is the biggest Arab initiative of its kind that celebrates those who are generous and giving in the Arab world by awarding their initiatives, projects, programs, and campaigns in various humanitarian, charitable, and community areas. The Initiative recognizes the efforts of those who aim to develop their communities, improve living conditions in their environments, help those in need, provide relief to disaster victims, vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, and make a positive change in the lives of people around them. Furthermore, the initiative recognizes the efforts of those who dedicate their capabilities and resources for the common good or to serve a specific segment of the community.

This initiative targets individuals and organizations equally. The “Hope Maker” must have a project, program, campaign, or an innovative initiative that leaves a clear mark that, in turn, improves the quality of life or alleviates the suffering for a specific segment of the community. Or, strive to make a social, economic, cultural, or educational improvement in a specific place. Or participate in resolving a challenge in the community. The “Hope Maker” must complete the deed by employing personal effort, or by volunteering, and for no return or financial gain.

# 24 Culture and Art

The Founder's Memorial



Louvre Abu Dhabi



Zayed-Gandhi Museum



Etihad Museum



Dubai Opera



Sharjah Publishing City



### The Founder's Memorial

The Founder's Memorial was built to be a permanent national tribute dedicated to commemorating the inspirational legacy and noble values of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, the founding father of the UAE.

A place to learn about Sheikh Zayed through art, nature, words, stories, and multimedia experiences, The Founder's Memorial offers visitors a range of personal encounters with the late Sheikh Zayed as a man and as a leader, enabling people to gain a deeper understanding of his vast influence on the UAE and the wider world.

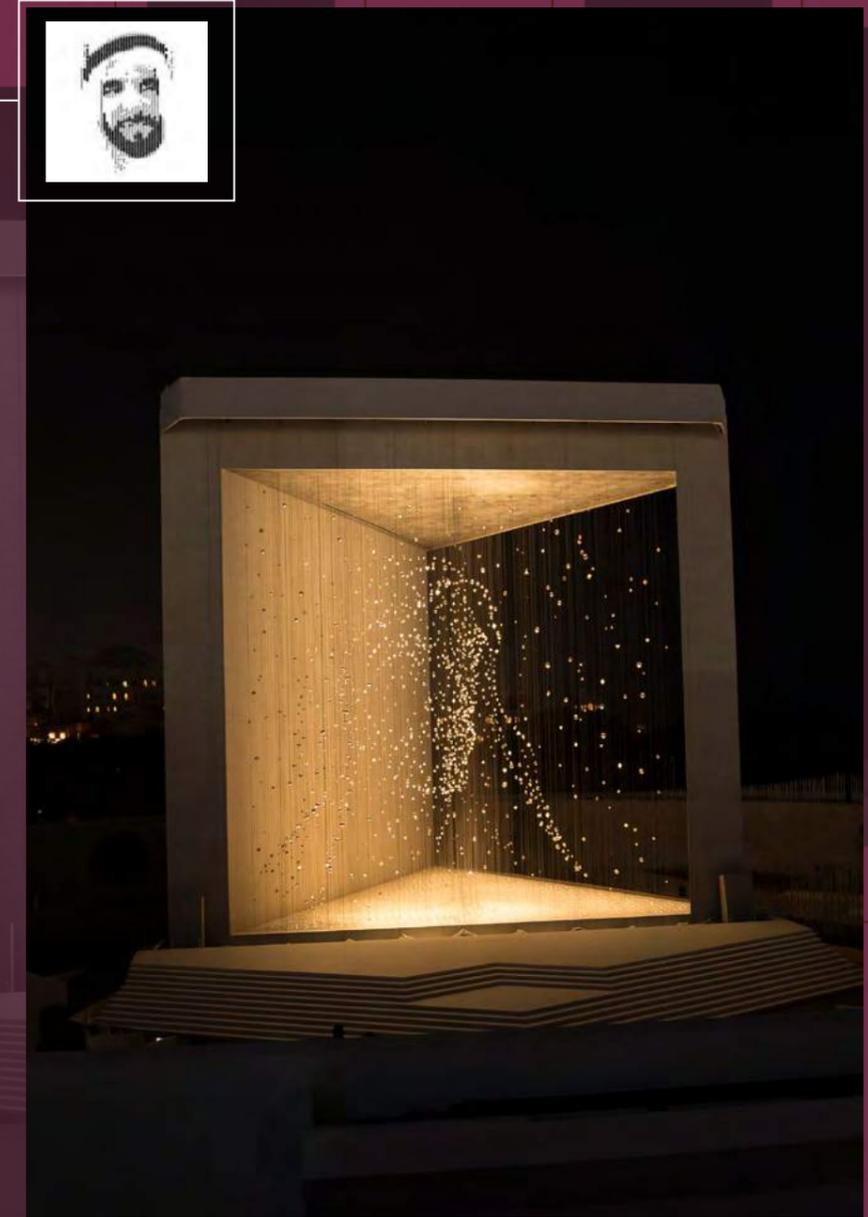
The Founder's Memorial provides an opportunity to know, deeply, the biography of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, through art, green landscapes, multimedia experiences, and through exploring his sayings which illuminated the road for the nation. The Memorial also offers a range of personal, interactive, encounters with the man and the leader he was, which provides a deeper understanding of his benevolent influence on the world.

The centerpiece of The Founder's Memorial is "Al Thuraya" The Constellation, which is an innovative artwork showing a dynamic three-dimensional portrait of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace. The Constellation shows the facial features from various angles around the memorial, and, hence, can be experienced differently from the various viewing points. At night, the shapes of The Constellation shine like stars. This artwork was created by Ralph Helmick who is a renowned public artist.

The Founder's Memorial has a center for visitors that allows for an immersive experience with the personality of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, the man and the leader, through rare photographs, personal belongings, articles, and interviews with those who knew him personally. The center also has voice recordings of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, that are played every quarter of an hour, where he talks about his ideas and the causes he championed and defended.



[www.thefoundersmemorial.ae](http://www.thefoundersmemorial.ae)



## 24 Culture and Art

### Louvre Abu Dhabi

The French architect Jean Nouvel designed the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum in a unique and distinct way. It was officially opened on 8 November 2017. The museum, which was built according to the 30-year agreement signed between Abu Dhabi City and the French government, has been built on an area of approximately 24,000 square meters, in Saadiyat Island, and at an estimated cost between EUR 83 million and EUR 108 million. According to project officials, this museum is an exhibition of artifacts from all over the world. The main objective of the project is to be a link between Eastern art and Western art.

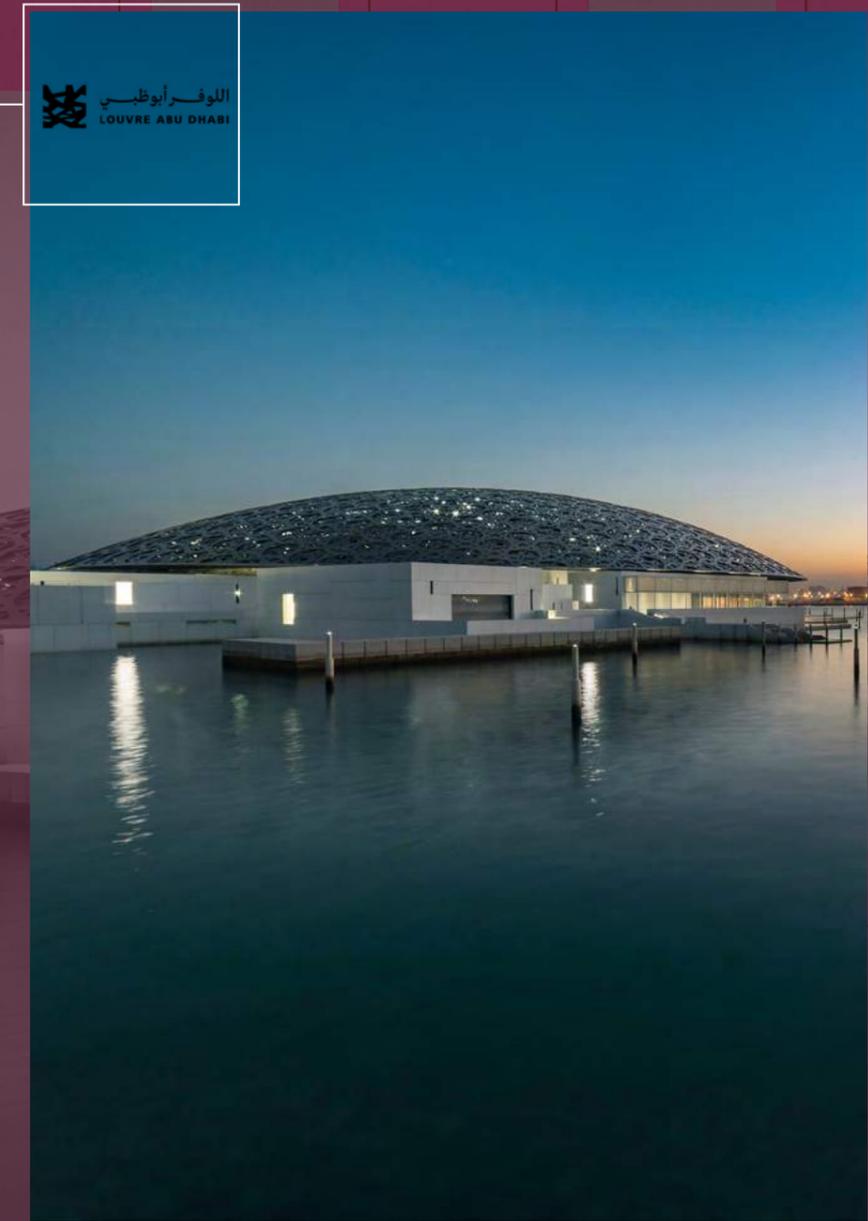
The site covers an area of 97,000 square meters on Saadiyat Island. The museum is designed as a mini-city that resembles an archipelago at sea, and, in total, includes 55 white buildings inspired by low-rise designs in traditional Arab architecture.

The total area of the museum is 8600 square meters, including exhibition halls, exhibitions, and the Children's Museum. The exhibition space is 6400 square meters, and it will contain about 600 masterpieces and 300 works of art loaned by French cultural institutions. The total area allocated for temporary exhibitions is approximately 2000 square meters, while 200 square meters were allocated to the Children's Museum.

The museum has 23 permanent galleries offering artworks, that tell stories from various historical periods to the present day, in 12 different series. 6,000 square meters of the total area of the museum, which is approximately 24,000 square meters, was allocated to the permanent collection, while 2,000 square meters were allocated for the temporary exhibitions.



[www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae)



### Zayed-Gandhi Museum

The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development officially opened the “Zayed-Gandhi” Digital Museum, which is organized at Manarat Saadiyat and in cooperation with the Mahatma Gandhi Digital Museum in New Delhi, in celebration of the humanitarian values of the founder and leader of the UAE Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. The museum celebrates two international leaders who are considered symbols of wisdom, giving, and tolerance.

The “Zayed-Gandhi” Museum is the first of its kind in the UAE and is a cultural forum that celebrates two world leaders renowned for their noble humanitarian values that have helped to spread the spirit of tolerance, cohesion, and harmony among the peoples of the world. The official opening, by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, at Manarat Saadiyat, was completed in cooperation with the Mahatma Gandhi Digital Museum in New Delhi.

The museum is divided into six corners:

1. The “governance and wisdom” corner, which focuses on the country and leadership, and the principles and values associated with these two areas.
2. The “power of giving” corner, which focuses on the importance of people and society in the approaches of the two humanitarian leaders.
3. The “advocates of peace” corner, where peace and tolerance are fundamental to the approaches of both Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and Mahatma Gandhi, as they both focused on achieving good deeds and the common good.
4. The “harvest of change” corner, which means change for the better for the nation and better prospects for the country.
5. The “power of the word” corner, because Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, was in the first place a sensitive person and a poet, and a wise man close to the people, who used his words to create epics and lessons for all generations. While Mahatma Gandhi was renowned for the power of his words; he spoke, wrote, authored, and, hence, left for history an unforgettable collection of inspirational sayings.
6. The “nature conservation” corner, which deals with the values, of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah rest his soul in peace, and Mahatma Gandhi, concerning respecting and protecting the native nature and heritage.



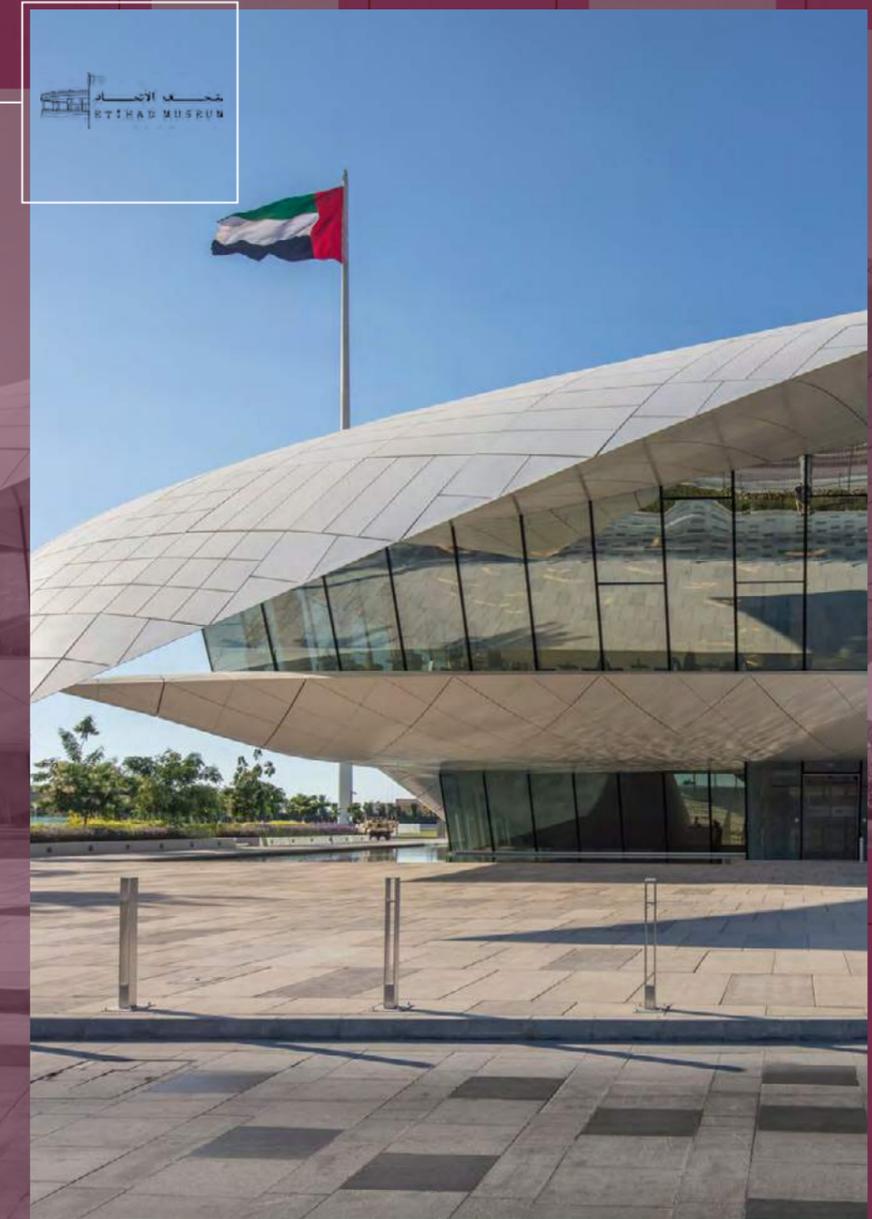
## Etihad Museum

The Etihad Museum has a dynamic twenty first century atmosphere. It aims to inspire Emiratis and visitors with the story of the founding of the UAE. It also celebrates the dedication, commitment, and patriotism demonstrated by the founders of the UAE in order to encourage people from everywhere to follow their example in building the nation.

The museum takes visitors on a unique journey and offers interactive exhibitions and programs, and educational initiatives that explore the chronology of events that culminated in the declaration of the unification of the UAE in 1971, focusing specifically on the period between 1968 and 1974. Using interactive exhibitions and educational programs, the museum tells the story of the unification of the UAE from the different perspectives of the country's leaders. The museum also aims to educate visitors on the UAE's constitution, specially the rights and privileges it bestows on the citizens of the UAE as well as their responsibilities. The museum exhibits host materials and documents associated with the events of the founding of the UAE. The museum will, through an important program for research and publication, document the journey of unification in all seven Emirates.



[www.etihadmuseum.dubaiculture.gov.ae](http://www.etihadmuseum.dubaiculture.gov.ae)



## 24 Culture and Art

### Dubai Opera

Dubai Opera, which was designed by the Danish architect Janus Rostock, is considered the most modern Opera house in the Middle East and North Africa region. It is distinguished by its special design that resembles a sailing ship, and combines traditional and contemporary elements. Dubai Opera hosts various cultural and modern events including opera, ballet, classical arts, musicals, Arab and international concerts, comedy shows, movie shows, family entertainment activities, and rock, jazz, and pop concerts.

Dubai Opera, which is located close to Burj Khalifa, has an indoor and outdoor theater, a reception and arts hall, a hall for ballet and folklore parties, an art museum, and a big hotel to serve visitors from around the world. Dubai Opera hall has a unique design that provides natural amplification of sounds which ensures its arrival to all members of the audience with the same strength and clarity, and without needing amplifiers and speakers.

The hall of Dubai Opera can accommodate up to 2000 people. The most distinctive feature of its design is that it is highly flexible and can be adjusted to host different types of activities; seats can be removed and the hall becomes completely empty, the floor can be raised to the level of the theater, the ceiling can be lowered, and the walls can be completely changed. These adaptations and flexibility enable the hall to host all types of shows and artistic events.



[www.dubaiopera.com](http://www.dubaiopera.com)



### Sharjah Publishing City

It is the first free-zone publishing city in the Arab world. It offers all those in the publishing sector a wide range of tax-free privileges through the full ownership and management of independent companies. Its biggest advantage is its ideal location, situated in the heart of the world, where African and Asian markets can easily be accessed.

The objective of Sharjah City Publishing is in line with the overall mission of the Sharjah Book Authority, which is to promote investment and growth in the publishing sector in the Emirate of Sharjah, in particular, and in the UAE in general.

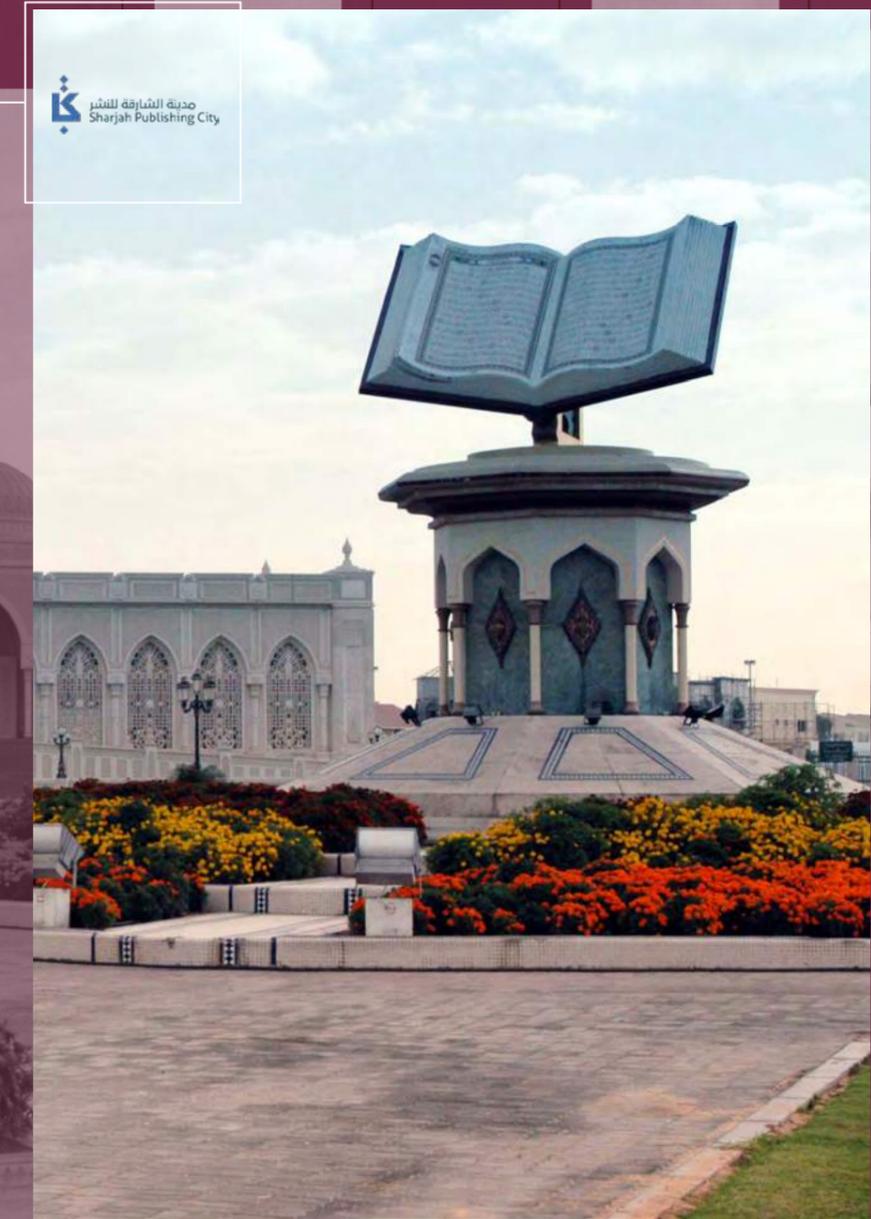
The City is built on an area of approximately 100,000 square meters and will be equipped with the latest technologies needed by business owners to make their projects successful. These include high speed internet, conference rooms and office managements services. Business owners will have the choice of renting furnished or unfurnished offices, and warehouses with different spaces.

The first phase of the City, which is located on the Sharjah-Dubai Road, accommodates 140 to 180 international publishing houses. The number increases to 400 publishers in the second phase. The free zone-city, will have headquarters of publishing houses, distributors, printing houses, translators, and all the activities related to publishing.

Sharjah was always recognized by the International Cultural field; it's been named the capital of Islamic culture for 2014 by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization "ISESCO", and was chosen as the capital of Arab tourism in 2015 after winning the vote of the Arab Tourism Organization Council.



[www.spcfz.com](http://www.spcfz.com)



# 25 Main events of 2019

01



 **Hosting Asia Football Cup**

02



 **Human Fraternity Meeting**

03



 **Qasr Al Watan opening**

04



 **Special Olympics World Games**

05



 **World Ocean Summit**

06



 **Sharjah named World Book Capital for 2019**

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