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A quarterly Magazine issued by the Department of Seaports and Customs-Sharjah

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reaches 9.5 million in 2014







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Aljumruk



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Government Of Sharjah
Department Of Seaports & Customs

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Editorial

There are always alternatives. This is the principal that great people are holding. It is a desperation killer weapon, a promising instrument and hope booster that is well examined and approved for patience and persistence. An alternative requires searching another way if the one you have selected will lead you to a closed door and to try again if the second attempt fails for there is always another door and access.

When a person asks me to acquaint him with certain knowledge, I would, from the very beginning, inspire his soul with this principle. If I ask him a question to which he cannot give an answer, then I will request him not to reply to avoid my having to correct him.

He has to find the way by himself in another place and by other endeavours, thus he will discover the alternatives, one by one, until he gets what he is looking for. Realizing that he had preserved patience, tried hard and considered carefully, he will be certain that in each time he is capable of finding a way by himself.

Editor

Al Jumruki




Ruler of Sharjah opens World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment

In his speech at the opening ceremony of the World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment ٢٠١٥, which is being hosted by the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) at the Jawaher Reception and Convention Centre, His Highness said that while the global economies faced tremendous challenges including the global financial crisis, the emirate of Sharjah was isolated from the impact of these crises, as the Emirate is building its economy with the vision of building its human capital physically, intellectually, and economically. He emphasised that at a time when the pace of recovery from regional unrest and financial crisis may be slow in other parts of the world, the pace of development and building in Sharjah is accelerated, allowing it to serve as the safe haven for investors, based

on its already integrated environment, developed over many years of work, and on investor friendly regulations, and investment incentives and privileges, in addition to its well developed industrial cities and free zones.

His Highness said: "In a world full of conflicts and wars, disputes and settling up of accounts among players, and growing poverty and unemployment problems, a lot needs to be achieved in order to

An aerial photograph of Sharjah, showing the city's coastline, the Sharjah Waterfront, and the Sharjah International Airport. The city is built on a narrow strip of land, with the sea to the north and the United Arab Emirates to the south. The image shows a mix of modern buildings, green spaces, and infrastructure.

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, stressed that Sharjah, which had remained removed from the economic conflicts, has been able to establish its status and boost its economic growth alongside its intellectual and cultural growth and has made quality leaps in building integrated state-of-the-art infrastructure. His Highness further emphasised that the Emirate has received excellent credit ratings from international rating agencies and has become a safe investment destination just as it is a cultural and educational destination

An aerial photograph of a large, modern park in Sharjah. The park features a central circular area with a large, white, dome-shaped structure. There are several smaller buildings, a swimming pool, and a large, open area for sports and recreation. The park is surrounded by greenery and palm trees.

leadership, is gathering you today to enhance its vision and development which is based on investing in human resources, the corner stone for the growth of any community. Sharjah is now named the Capital of Arab Tourism and was last year's Islamic Culture Capital and the capital of Arab Culture a few years back. It began its development strategies in culture and science and moved into a knowledge-based economy which caters for the needs of the intellect and sustainable growth while building a stable and secure economic future," His Highness added.

bring global pillars closer and to build an economy that realises people's hopes and focuses on youth, the hope for today, and the future for nations. In today's world, many issues have become entangled. The economy has become influential yet it is affected

by many factors and is now a driver and a policy maker."

"In Sharjah, this small and ambitious corner of the big and vast world, we meet. Sharjah, the regular meeting point for all global pillars in culture, science, media and thought

"Our economic decisions are connected to human values which are based on transparency and justice. We work according to plans and goals for a prosperous growth that will benefit individuals today

and tomorrow. We direct our youth towards creativity, accomplishment, and building a secure and safe future for our children and grandchildren. In Sharjah, we believe in openness and economic partnerships beneficial to all and here we are open to investments while deploying tools that will make partnerships flourish and grow. We hope this forum develops into a good omen for innovation, and strengthening cooperation among us all," His Highness stressed. "Some believe economy and culture do not meet but this is wrong as both complement each other – without culture economy becomes just dry numbers with no creativity or innovation. Without economy, culture also becomes an equation of theories looking for reality. Culture supplements a successful economy." The Ruler of Sharjah also recommended more emphasis to be given to creativity and innovation, stressing that repetition is one of his biggest fears. "Proper ideas lead to proper economy and misconceptions weaken economy. Economy without virtues becomes brutal and the biggest virtue is justice."

His Highness also pointed out that science is the lead to culture and economics and that it is imperative in prosperity and in adversity. "Yet science needs a bit of adventure like fishermen who know that the sea and storms are risky but these dangers are not sufficient reasons for them to stay ashore. Venture and achieve your dreams, do not let repetition gnaw. The best authors excel at standing and with time they learn to craft short sentences."

The opening ceremony of the three-day 12th edition of the forum entitled "Where East Meets West", was attended by HE Eng. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, UAE Minister of Economy, Sheikh Mohammed bin Saoud Al Qasimi,

Member of the Sharjah Executive Council, Sheikha Bodour Bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq), Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of Department of Seaports and Customs, and Sheikh Khaled bin Essam bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of Sharjah Civil Aviation, in addition to top officials representing a range of UAE ministries and departments.

In his speech, HE Eng. Sultan Al Mansouri, UAE Minister of Economy, said: "The forum's slogan, 'Where East meets West', is a reflection of the UAE which gathers cultures and civilisations on its land. There are

more than 200 nationalities here, thousands of companies as well as multinationals."

Sharjah, he added, is one of the pillars of economic diversity in the UAE and thanks to the guidance and wise leadership of His Highness Ruler of Sharjah, has become a major component of the UAE's comprehensive development. "His vision led to the establishment of a government body that has driven Sharjah to become an investment, tourism, and commercial destination in the UAE," he stressed.

In a short span of time, said the minister, Shurooq, has driven Sharjah to the top regional investment destinations and has pushed forward





the Emirate's economic development. Investment is one of the major pillars of economic growth in countries and governments work on attracting FDIs through the introduction of special tools that encourage companies and investors to pump capital in various destinations.

"We set infrastructure in place that attract FDIs and developed a number of tools that make the UAE one of the top attractors of foreign capital. We consider investments a major component in the long-term development of a national sustainable economy, as well as in knowledge transfer and the growth of the UAE National workforce," said Al Mansouri.

The UAE Minister of Economy also stressed that the ministry is committed to establishing the proper environment for attracting FDIs and that the UAE has become a preferred destination in the Middle East and North Africa for international companies due to its strategic location, massive economic capabilities, open economic policies, flexibility, and diversity.

Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi remarked that FDIs face many challenges globally but offer massive opportunities in economy and cultural exchange. "We in Sharjah and the UAE believe in the importance of investment, economic

collaboration and building bridges. The forum comes at the right moment where we need more collaboration between the region and the world." Sheikha Bodour also stressed that Sharjah understands that FDIs are influenced by legislation, quality of education, barriers, commercial incentives, security, stability, infrastructure, workforce, available talent and skills, as well negative and positive impressions of destinations. "We believe all those factors are important in making investment decisions. Historically, we have been a destination on the commercial routes in the Gulf region, attracting merchants for centuries past. Our experience in facilitating trade and

economy as well as our geographic location enhance investors' confidence in our economy and GDP." Sheikha Bodour said that the strategic destination has not been the only factor in establishing the foreign investor's confidence in Sharjah economy, but also the government's serious policy of diversifying its economy, which has made the emirate of Sharjah's economy the most differentiated in the region, with no single sector contributing to more than %20 of the GDP. This diversification creates many opportunities to investors in various sectors such as environment, transport and logistics, travel and leisure and healthcare.

Speaking during the conference, Sheikha Bodour stated, "His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi has recently approved the annual budget of Sharjah, allocating %34 of the budget to improving the existing infrastructure and %45 to general economic development projects. These proportions reflect the government's commitment to facilitate and encourage domestic and foreign investment in Sharjah. We are also striving to invest in education, research, development, and innovation. Therefore, Sharjah graduates have an excellent reputation in the local and regional markets in terms of talent and experience, which ensures that investors can find a highly qualified skilled workforce with superior knowledge in engineering, sciences, technologies, and other important skills."

She added: "We advocate and encourage an entrepreneurial and innovation culture, with more than 45000 small and medium enterprises in Sharjah today, primarily in the manufacturing, real estate, and business services sectors. We are aware that challenges are opportunities for development. Therefore, we would like to hear from



you about the direct challenges that foreign investment may face, be it in Sharjah or anywhere in the world. We would like, also, to hear about the solutions, previous experiences, and opportunities from which we may benefit to develop the general investment climate."

In conclusion, Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi said: "We are determined to facilitate and encourage the inflow of foreign direct investment to our Emirate and country, and to work together with you to achieve this goal."

Catherine Dawson, Chief Executive of Red Hot Locations, organiser of the World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment, delivered a speech in

which she paid tribute to the support of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah. She thanked Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi for her outstanding efforts in hosting the forum. Catherine stressed that Sharjah has become a platform for investment that is bridging the East with the West, thanks to the privileges and facilities the Emirate offers.

The forum's sessions were opened with keynote address 'Leapfrogging Competition: Tech Strategy for Business', delivered by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and one of the greatest



innovators of our time, who was introduced by Frank Gardner, the BBC's award-winning Security Correspondent. After the opening addresses, the sponsors and partners of the forum were honoured. A sister city agreement between Sharjah and Tangier was signed between HE Rashid Sultan bin Tali'a, Chairman of the Sharjah Municipal Council and HE Fouad Al Amari, Mayor of the City of Tangier. According to the agreement, both sides will cooperate in the areas of common interest, including international initiatives, programmes, and economic development projects and will encourage cultural, sporting, and youth exchange between the

public and private organisations in Sharjah and Tangier. His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah honoured the sponsors of the forum. The sponsors were the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority (SAIF-Zone), Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA), and the Department of Seaports and Customs - Government of Sharjah (Titanium Sponsors); the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), the Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA), Tilal Properties, and GulfTainer (Gold Sponsors); AIM the Annual Investment Meeting (Supporting

Partner); Emirates Transport (Official Transport Sponsor); CNBC Arabia, (Official Business Broadcaster); Bloomberg Businessweek (Official Business Magazine); Sharjah Media corporation, Emirates Neon Group (Outdoor Media Partner), After the opening ceremony, participants were taken on a tour of the economic and cultural landmarks as well as the tourism and leisure destinations in the emirate of Sharjah, including the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority (SAIF-Zone) and the Heart of Sharjah, the old hub of the Emirate, which is being developed by Shurooq to be transformed into a premier tourist and heritage destination. ●

Chairman Opens SteelFab 2015



Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports and Customs opened the 11th session of SteelFab 2015 at Expo Centre Sharjah. The Fair which was organized by the Expo Centre in collaboration with the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) was inaugurated on January 26th for four days





The opening ceremony was attended by HE Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman, Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry; HE Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO, Expo Centre Sharjah, HE Dusan Horniak, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the UAE, Members of Board of Directors of SCCI and Expo Centre Sharjah, Mohammed Meer Al Sarah, Director of the Department of Seaports and Customs, Heads of Government Departments, businessmen and steel industry specialists.

SteelFab 2015 featured almost 350 direct exhibitors who overall represented nearly 900 brands from across the world at all the six halls of Expo Centre. Several technical seminars held alongside the fair highlighted topics of interest such as blast process optimization and operating cost analysis, Software Applications for steel fabrication and Automation in Structural Steel.

Al Owais said "SteelFab now encompasses a trade fair, a series of special focus areas, special pavilions, new segments, live displays, technical seminars and product presentations. It displays machineries, tools of steel fabrication, material handling, welding and cutting and other related professional engineering systems which cover the needs of a wide range of industries in the region." ●



SFDC Awards Department of Seaports and Customs

His Excellency Sheikh Majed bin Abdullah bin Majed Al Qasimi, Director of Governmental Relations at the Ruler's Office, recently witnessed awarding ceremony for institutions and contributors. The ceremony was organized by Sharjah Family Development Centres (SFDC) and



was held on January 7th 2015 at the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It was attended by Modi bint Mohammed Al Shamsi, Director General of SFDC, Brigadier General Sultan Al Khayal, from Sharjah Police Department, Abdullah bin Khadim, Executive Manager of Sharjah Charity International, chairmen and directors of government departments and private sector organizations, company representatives and contributors.

The event was held to appreciate the active role of partners and contributors in achieving the accomplishments

of the Family Development Centres during 2014.

In her speech, which was delivered by Moza Saif Al Shihi, Director of Management of Branches at the SFDC, Modi bint Mohammed Al Shamsi praised the efforts and contributions that reflected organizational unity between institutions and individuals and which had produced success and enhanced development and recognition in achieving targets that formed the main goals of the centres to boost family related relations.

During the ceremony, the audiences were briefed about achievements of 2014, then Sheikh Al Qasimi

accompanied by Moza Al Shihi, provided certificate of appreciations and plaques to the partners of departments, organizations and helpers.

The Department of Seaports and Customs and Sharjah Islamic Bank were acknowledged as official sponsors of the SFDC activities, and Mrs. Safa Sultan, Director of Governmental Communication Administration at the Department of Seaports and Customs received the award.

More than 122 organization and 100 persons were also awarded certificates of appreciation for their services and cooperation with SFDC. ●



FCA's Delegation Visits Khatm Melaha Customs Centre



A delegation from the Federal Customs Authority (FCA) recently visited Khatm Melaha Customs Centre at the border with Sultanate of Oman.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Majid Al Suwaidi, head of auditing and follow up section-FCA and included several representatives of Customs Departments in the UAE. The visit aimed at acquainting the delegation with the work of the centre which is undergoing continuous process of development and considered as one of the exemplary terminals in the United Arab Emirates and the GCC states. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Raiesi, Director of the Customs Centre



and Jamal Mohammed Fekri, Customs Officer, Head of Inspection Centre at the centre received the delegation and accompanied it to the vehicles checking yard and customs operations buildings where they monitored movement of trucks through scanning machine, high tech implementations in processing customs procedures and usage of green lanes for hazardous cargo and empty trucks. They also were briefed about the training plans of the centre and the adequacy of truck lanes, yards and facilities for the volume of the work.

Al Raiesi emphasized the keenness of the Emirate of Sharjah to develop the terminal in order to render best services and to be taken as a destination for GCC nationals,

residents, tourists and traders. He praised the continuous follow up of Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports and Customs to the developments of terminal and his directives to present best services for its users.

The delegation praised the procedures followed by the centre at the terminal and fulfillment of standards and conditions for developing the performance of terminals at borders within the GCC States. They further praised the achieved development of the Khatm Melaha Customs Centre and the vital role of the centre's national young-men team who are able to deal with the developments of the customs works, with the nationalization of the staff at %100. ●

Chairman Opens a New Plant for Visen in Hamriyah



Visen Industries Ltd, the largest manufacturer of polymer emulsions for paints and coatings, textiles and adhesives in India will commence its commercial production from Hamriyah Free Zone from the first week of April.

Sheikh Khaled Bin Abdullah Bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of Department of Seaports & Customs, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, opened the new plant on March 2015 8.

"Our plant in HFZA is our first one in the Middle East and we seek to meet the increasing demand of this growing market by taking advantage of the facilities provided by HFZA", Vijay S. Nair, managing director of Visen Polymers FZE, told journalists after the opening ceremony.

"Visen Polymers FZE at HFZ has a capacity of 120,000 metric tons per annum and is the single largest polymer emulsion plant in the region," he added.

The US\$ 51 million (AED187 million) plant has a total land area of about 78,000 sq. meters. This state-of-the-art plant has DCS controlled systems with the latest manufacturing techniques to produce world-class quality products consistently. For developing new grades and improving the performance of existing grades the unit is equipped

with an up-to-date R&D center where synthesis, instrument analysis and application parameters are checked.

"The plant also has a well-defined ETP facility to take care of environmental aspects and the effluents generated are treated and used in the process. In addition, it also has direct pipeline connection to the port and adequate storage tanks to store monomer and finished products within the plant," explained Vijay S. Nair.

"Visen's HFZA facility has adequate land available for expanding our capacity to 300,000 metric tons per annum which we plan to accomplish in the next three years," added Vijay S. Nair.

"We are proud to welcome one of the market leaders in India into our family and we wish them all the success in the future", said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, director of HFZA and SAIF Zone.

Visen Polymers FZE is a wholly owned subsidiary of Visen Industries Ltd, (VIL), Mumbai, India and was founded by Mr. Vijay S. Nair, a first generation entrepreneur in 1985. Visen had a modest beginning with

an annual production of 500 MT polymer emulsions and now has four full-fledged manufacturing units with a total production capacity of 120,000 metric tons.

Visen is the market leader in India with regular customers like Asian Paints, Berger Paints, Kansai Nerolac and Jotun Paints.

Whilst asked about future projects, Vijay S. Nair said that Visen is also setting up a plant at Chennai, South India with a capacity of 60,000 tons per annum.

The product range for this plant includes Vinyl acetate homo polymers, copolymers and ter polymers, styrene acrylates and pure acrylates, having application, in exterior and interior paints, waterproofing and coatings in the construction industry, in textiles for finishing, printing, flocking & coatings and in adhesives for BOPP tapes, stickers, wet laminations and other packaging applications.

Visen FZE plant will supply to paint majors in the region like Jotun Paints, Hempel, Berger, Al Gurg, Akzo Nobel and Crown Paints. ●



SAIF Zone Showcases its Role in Boosting UAE-Japan Trade at Tokyo Show



Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone) and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) led a high-level delegation to Tokyo to further explore the Japan market in order to utilize its potential for both sides. The team actively participated in the recently concluded Nepcon Japan, which is Asia's largest exhibition for electronics.

"The trade between the UAE and Japan has been prospering and the value of the two-way trade during the first six months of 2014 was 25.92\$ billion," Al Mazrouei pointed out.

"Sharjah Airport International Free

Zone has a keen interest in many firms in Japan and the show gathered a variety of exhibitors from automotive electronics and renewable energy industry. We met investors from different sectors and visited some well-known companies," he further elaborated.

Nepcon Japan is rated as the best way to attract businesses from Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan. The -43year old event attracted attention as a venue where one can get to see the latest technologies in the world of electronics.

According to statistics, Japan's exports to the UAE surged by nearly

13 per cent to \$ 4.59 billion, and imports by 2.76 per cent to \$ 21.34 billion during the first six months of 2014.

The UAE is Japan's 5th largest export destination of passenger motor cars in the world after the United States of America, China, Russia and Canada.

A notable increase in exports from Japan to the UAE was registered for general machinery, iron and steel products, optical and photographic products.

The SAIF Zone team consisted of Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Raed Bukhatir, Wafa Balaswad and Boutheina Manai. ●

HFZA Explores the Indian Steel Industry Sector

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) participated in the world's biggest integrated stainless steel expo 'INDINOX 2015' that concluded on January 27 at Mahatma Mandir Conference Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

"Steel is an important industrial sector for the UAE and this event was a window to meet industrialists and investors in India, the 2nd largest stainless steel market in the world" said Saud Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone). "HFZA has become the region's market leader in steel and today, the free zone does its marketing internationally in different countries and we are expanding our participation in international exhibitions, conferences and events," he elaborated while talking about the importance of Indinox exhibition.

"The UAE is a sizeable player in the regional steel industry in the Gulf, nearly satisfying its own local demand of over three million tonnes. Moreover, Hamriyah Free Zone has many well-known firms like Eversendai Engineering FZE, Unger Steel, Bhuwarka Steel Industries; Mammut Building Systems FZC, Alam Steel Ltd,

Danem Engineering works FZE, Technomak Energy international FZC, Mulk Holdings FZC and Quality International and many more. So the participation of this event was vital to HFZA to expand its market" he added.

The expo welcomed around 800 exhibitors from all sectors of the industry. "It was a great experience for us to network with over 90 exhibitors from stainless steel manufacturer sector alone during the event" said Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director of HFZA.

The three-day exhibition covered all parts of stainless steel - from steel melting to final products made from stainless steel. It also exhibited raw materials, household steel, hardware, allied products and machinery.

INDINOX is one of the most prestigious events in the region for the stainless steel industry, organized by the Indian Stainless Steel Development Organization, a non-profit organization. ●



SAIF Zone, UAE Exchange tie-up for easy payment system

“W Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone) has introduced a new cash payment option for its investors to settle their invoices through the UAE Exchange branches in the UAE.

We always strive to provide the best services for our investors and now we have collaborated with the UAE Exchange for the same,” Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, director of Sharjah Airport International Free Zone and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA), said after signing the contract with UAE Exchange.

“This initiative is in line with our goals for the year of 2015 to provide better and faster facilities and is one of the many other services that we are developing to achieve total efficiency,” Al Mazrouei added.

“This collaboration will provide an added service to our investors for settlement of their payments on a day-to-day basis with minimum effort and maximum savings in time,” said Muhannad Obaid Rashid Buafra, Finance Director of SAIF Zone.

Varghese Mathew, Country Head of

UAE Exchange, UAE, who signed the contract on behalf of his firm, commented:

“We are glad to join hands with SAIF Zone for corporate bill payments, wherein all the corporate entities belonging to this zone can pay towards their SAIF Zone invoices, conveniently at any of the over 135 branches of UAE Exchange, spread across the UAE.”

“UAE Exchange has always explored opportunities to bring value to its corporate customers in SAIF Zone and we are sure that this partnership will bring more convenience to the doors of the corporate world,” Varghese Mathew concluded.

The payments will be integrated to the investors’ account with SAIF Zone the following day. There will be a service charge for this facility.

To avail the service, the investors will have to carry out a one-time

registration with UAE Exchange with their trade license issued from SAIF Zone along with the owner’s identity proof as per the Central Bank rule, after which the investors can use this service from UAE Exchange branches.

About Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority (SAIFZONE)

Dedicated to quality and excellence, SAIFZONE is the symbol of efficient operations- the better alternative for business ventures in the UAE and beyond. Easily accessible to seaports on the Indian Ocean (Port KhorFakkan) and the Arabian Gulf (Port Khalid), SAIFZONE is built adjacent to the Sharjah International Airport. It offers competitive incentives and unique opportunities to establish a business in a tax- free environment with full company ownership. SAIFZONE has registered phenomenal growth since its inception in 1995 and today has over 6500 companies from 148 countries. Please visit www.saif-zone.com for more details.

About UAE Exchange

UAE Exchange is a leading global money transfer, foreign exchange and payment solutions brand with over 750 branches across 32 countries, making it the largest network in its class. In the UAE, its flagship market, it has over 135 branches, out (of) which 16 are in Dubai Metro. UAE Exchange is the first remittance brand to establish (its) presence in the railway network. The remittance brand serves 7.9 million customers worldwide, handling %6 of the global remittance volume. Its





correspondent relationship with close to 150 banks adds to the (omit the, put its) might. UAE Exchange offers a wide range of services at its counters including bank transfers, instant money transfers, payroll solutions, foreign currency exchange, bill payments and more. Over 9000 multi-cultural professionals representing over 40 nationalities work for one aim of ensuring customer delight.

Caption Photo 1,2,: Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, director of Sharjah Airport

International Free Zone (SAIF ZONE) and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Varghese Mathew, Country Head of UAE Exchange, UAE (fourth and fifth from left) pose for a photo with other officials after the signing ceremony.

Caption: Photo 3: Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, director of Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF ZONE) and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Varghese Mathew, Country Head of UAE Exchange, UAE signing the contract. ●

Hamriyah Free Zone successfully participates in the Partnership Summit in India

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) participated in the Partnership Summit 2015 that concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India on January 17, 2015. The three-day international investors' meeting was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.

"Our participation in this summit was yet another step in the strengthening of our trade relations with investors in India, said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah free zone and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone.

"The event opened a door of opportunities for us and our team worked to establish new investment relationships and shared the HFZA's incentives and benefits with Indian and international investors," Al Mazrouei added.

"Participation in the summit provided a real potential opportunity and our team interacted with trade investors,

industry leaders and entrepreneurs from Australia; Bangladesh; China; Canada; France; Hong Kong; Malaysia; Malta; Morocco; Nepal; Nigeria; Philippines; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sri Lanka and USA," he added.

"HFZA's business-friendly environment and zero-tax regime has already attracted over 6000 companies over past years and the number of enquiries are increasing every coming day," Al Mazrouei further continued. The summit, with a theme - "Partnerships for Shared New Realities" attracted over 1400 delegates from different countries. Leaders from all walks of life discussed global growth and the role of building new bridges to the emerging world by fostering links globally.

Top ministers, diplomats and investors from different countries attended the event including the UAE Economy Minister Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori, Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister, Macedonia; Andrew



Robb AO, MP, Minister for Trade and Investment, Australia; Tofail Ahmed, Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh; Pan Sorasak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia; Gao Yan, Vice-Minister of Ministry of Commerce, China; Christian Cardona, Minister of the Economy, Investment and Small Business, Malta; Jerry Naumoff, FDI Minister Macedonia; Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade & Industry, Malaysia; Mohamed Mamoune Bouhdoud, Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economies in charge of Small Enterprises and Informal Sector Integration, Morocco; Alma Oumarou, Minister of Commerce and Promotion of Private Sector, Niger; Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka; Martin Hamilton-Smith, MP, Minister for Investment & Trade; Government of South Australia and Gregory So, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Hong Kong. ●

Message of the WCO Secretary General on International Customs Day 2015

This year's International Customs Day heralds the launch of the WCO Year of Coordinated Border Management (CBM), a year in which Customs administrations are encouraged to actively promote the partnerships they have built to improve and expedite border processing.

The theme entails the coordination of practices that Customs have implemented within their administrations, with other Customs authorities, and with government agencies also operating at borders, as well as with economic operators involved in cross-border trade.

Under the slogan "Coordinated Border Management - An inclusive approach for connecting stakeholders", we are signaling the international Customs community's aspiration to further enhance its collaboration, cooperation and working relationships with its many partners.

Border agencies should work together for the common good despite varying regulatory

mandates, as CBM results in better service delivery, less duplication, cost-savings through economies of scale, fewer but better targeted interventions, cheaper transport costs, less waiting times, lower infrastructure improvement costs, wider sharing of information and intelligence, and strengthened connectivity between all border stakeholders.

Given the numerous benefits that CBM can bring to all stakeholders at the border, Customs administrations have long supported the notion that applying the principles of CBM will enable the multiple public service functions undertaken at borders to be delivered more successfully, leading in turn to an improved investment climate, an enhanced trading

environment, and increased economic growth.

Under the umbrella of the WCO, Customs administrations have produced numerous instruments and tools to support better CBM: the Revised Kyoto Convention contains several standards that specifically deal with CBM, such as coordinating border opening hours, performing



technology elements of such systems, while Version 3.0 of the WCO Data Model covers the data requirements for a Single Window environment not only for Customs, but also for other government agencies.

Last but not least, 2015 will also be the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, which will include the addition of a third pillar on “Customs to other government agencies”, making the annual theme particularly apt and timely.

Over the course of 2015, I invite all WCO Members to share information on their CBM vision, the CBM model that they have put in place, their efforts to harmonize, streamline and simplify border management systems across all border agencies, and their CBM outreach activities to the business community.

Wishing you all a very successful International Customs Day! ●

Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General

[Reference: World Customs Organization](#)

joint controls, and setting up juxtaposed Customs offices, all of which facilitate trade; and the CBM Compendium offers technical guidance for improvements in this domain.

Integrating stand-alone border agency systems into one unified Single Window system is a core CBM principle: the WCO Single Window Compendium provides guidance to Customs on the policy, legal, and

Passenger traffic at Sharjah International Airport reaches 9.5 million in 2014



Sharjah International Airport reported a significant increase in passenger traffic with close to %12 jump during 2014 in comparison with 2013, having registered 9.5 million passengers as against the 8.5 million passengers it handled

in 2013, an increase of around one million passengers. The freight handled for the same period of 2014 recorded nearly 240 thousand tons and was impacted by global downturn trends. Aircraft movements were



up 6,5 percentage in 2014, to reach 70,559 compared to 66,247 movements in 2013.

This increase comes mainly on the back of new routes and additional frequencies by existing carriers at Sharjah International Airport, especially by Air Arabia, the UAE's national carrier, so popular among travellers, thanks to its excellent packages, attractive prices and distinguished services, and connectivity to 100 destinations in a fleet of modern aircraft.

HE Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Airport Authority said: "As the numbers clearly suggest, robust passenger traffic growth continues at Sharjah International

Airport. This indicates the growing popularity of the Airport and is also a testament to our simple yet efficient procedures, excellent services, and the attractiveness of Sharjah as a business and tourist destination".

He added: " Sharjah International Airport – in co-ordination with the different entities inside the airport, its strategic partners and all stakeholders – are committed to ensure a pleasant travel experience for its passenger while at the same time maintaining the excellent reputation of the airport for its efficiency and hassle-free and speedy procedures".

He highlighted that the Emirate of

Sharjah, which last year celebrated the title of Capital of Islamic Culture 2014 witnessed many activities, events, exhibitions and conferences, which contributed in turn to the increase in the number of visitors to the Emirate. Sharjah became the favorite tourist destination for many tourists.

He concluded: "It is a result of team effort, I must place on record my appreciation of the contribution of the staff at Sharjah Airport Authority, the Department of Civil Aviation, the various Government entities operating here i.e., (Sharjah Police, Immigration and Sharjah Customs..etc)". It is their combined efforts and the efficiency of their systems that ensures services of the highest standards of quality which make our Customers come back for more!". ●