

ISSUE 46 July to September 2018

# BUSINESS ZONE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM HAMRIYAH FREE ZONE AUTHORITY | [WWW.HFZA.AE](http://WWW.HFZA.AE)



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# CONTENTS



**05**  
Gandhar Oil  
Refinery to  
set up Plant  
in HFZ



**07**  
Hamriyah  
Free Zone  
Authority at  
the Canton  
Fair, China



**08**  
HFZA  
Recognizes Top  
Petrochemical,  
Oil & Gas  
Companies



**10 - 11**  
HFZA  
Employees  
Celebrated the  
Annual Iftar  
Gathering



**14**  
Gulfainer  
Achieves Record  
Productivity  
At Sharjah  
Container  
Terminal



**04**  
Director's Message

**06**  
HFZA launches Food Section

**07**  
Hamriyah Free Zone Authority  
joined the 36th ICAI Annual  
Conference in Dubai

**09**  
The World Confederation of  
Businesses Merits HFZA with The  
Bizz Awards 2018

**12**  
Russian Delegation visited  
Hamriyah Free Zone to Further the  
Business Ties

**13**  
HFZA received a Chinese  
Delegation

**13**  
Japan Consulate from Dubai visited  
HFZ

**15**  
New Road Project to Boost  
Connectivity & Logistics in Sharjah

**16**  
Sharjah Chamber Signs MOU with  
the International Association of  
Exhibitions & Events

**17**  
Sharjah Named Child-Friendly City  
by UNICEF

**18**  
HFZ's Food Section Organizes a  
Training Program by Gems Quality  
Consultants

**18**  
Intertek's Environmental  
Management Systems Lead Auditor  
Training at HFZA

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HAMRIYAH FREE ZONE AUTHORITY

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



**SAUD SALIM AL MAZROUEI**  
 Director  
 Hamriyah Free Zone Authority

Hamriyah Free Zone's business model combines the best of efficient operational management and integrated portfolio of economic and investment solutions that attract an increasing number of foreign investors and leading multinational companies from a multitude of sectors and industries. Gandhar Oil Refinery India Ltd with an annual turnover of over US\$ 400 Million – one of the leading Asian manufacturers of specialty oils – establishing its UAE base here is an evidence of this empowering image.

Additionally, with the Ministry of Finance confirming the status of Hamriyah Free Zone as a Designated Zone for VAT purposes, companies here can now also avail certain special treatment. I request all companies in the Free Zone to seek proper guidance on the procedure from the authorities and competent professional bodies to fully understand the benefits accorded to them as an investor in Hamriyah Free Zone.

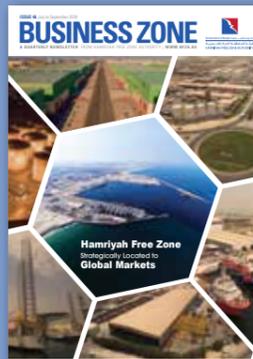
The arrivals of Russian, Chinese, and Japanese delegations recently also prove that we are on the right track when it comes to our unique investment incentives that attract international investors looking to establish a strong presence in the markets of the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asian regions. We also participated in the Canton Fair (China) to boost the UAE's and China's trade relations, which is already a \$35+ billion two-way industry, as well as exhibited in the Liverpool International Business Festival 2018 to tap the European market. These opened doors to many new exciting opportunities that we are looking forward to giving shape to in the near future.

We have also launched our extensive Food Section as an initiative towards making Hamriyah Free Zone a leading hub of Food Industry. The key objectives of this special section will be to offer wide services in Training, Consultancy, Process Certification, Halal Certification, and Food Testing (Lab) Services so as to ensure food safety and hygiene in the free zone at all times.

And as if yet another testimonial to HFZA's continued progress and distinguished achievement, receiving the Bizz Awards 2018 by World Confederation of Businesses (WORLDCOB) and the Superbrand status by Superbrands Council has indeed been an honor and will serve as motivation to maintain our outstanding standards and ethos.

As we gear up for another season, I promise you that we will continue to work on expanding into new markets and develop new strategies that will enable our investors to operate profitably, safely, and in an environmentally and socio-economically responsible manner to create an ideal business environment, unlike anywhere else in the world.

Warm regards  
**SAUD SALIM AL MAZROUEI**  
 Director, HFZA



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A Quarterly Newsletter From Hamriyah Free Zone Authority

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**FEATURE**

# Gandhar Oil Refinery to set up Plant in HFZ



India's Gandhar Oil Refinery India Ltd. has announced that it is setting up a 20,000 sq. m. state-of-the-art integrated plant in Hamriyah Free Zone to manufacture a complete range of white oils, LLP, HLP, transformer oils, rubber processing oils, industrial and automotive lubricants to cater to the ever-increasing demand of automobile, cosmetics, pharma, transformers, rubber, steel, and other varied types of industries.

As part of its marketing strategy, the plant is called Texol Lubritech FZC and its products will be marketed under the brand name called Texol. "Our plants in India are in full capacity and when we thought of an overseas expansion, UAE was our 1st choice due to the logistical and business-friendly environment offered by this country. After extensive research and study, we were convinced that Hamriyah Free Zone was the most suitable location for the Petrochemicals industry, and we obtained all the support and cooperation for our facility, including a plot in Phase 1 with a direct pipeline connection possibility from the jetty," said Samir Parekh, Executive

Director of Gandhar, in the presence of Ramesh Parekh, Chairman, Gandhar Oil Refinery India Ltd, Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, HFZA, Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director, HFZA, TV Ramesh, Chief Financial Officer, HFZA, and Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer, HFZA.

"Hamriyah Free Zone has always been the preferred destination of the petrochemical industry looking out to expand in the UAE and Middle East market due to our strategic location and port access. The decision of Gandhar Oil Refinery India Ltd to establish their UAE base here is a testament to our success in our continuous endeavor to provide the highest standards of service and offer our investors an ideal platform for their growth," stated Saud Salim Al Mazrouei.

"The construction is in its advanced stage and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. At the heart of our plant will be a 4,000 sq. ft. laboratory and R&D center. Texol products will be marketed globally, especially to Africa, GCC, and Asia through an exclusive

agency in each country. We will be launching a campaign for awarding agencies soon," said Simon Philip, Vice Chairman and CEO of Texol.

"The capacity of the plant is 50,000 MT/annum on a single shift basis in stage 1 and has the provision to double the capacity in a stage 2 expansion. The plant is automated by Allen Bradley Rockwell of the USA, Arya Engineers & Consultants of India, and Capital Engineering Consultancy of the UAE," added Rajiv Parekh, the Director of Operations of Texol.

Gandhar Oil Refinery India Ltd is a 25-year old company with an annual turnover of over US\$ 400 Million, making it one of the leading Asian manufacturers of specialty oils. Gandhar has 2 plants located in Silvassa and Taloja in Mumbai and has a production capacity of approx. 200,000 MT/annum. The group exports its products to over 100 countries and has a sizeable share of the domestic Indian market under the brand "DIVYOL".

EVENTS

# HFZA launches Food Section

As an initiative towards making Hamriyah Free Zone a leading hub of Food Industry, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority launched its Food Section on May 14. Thoufeeqe P.V., Senior Manager, Projects & Planning Department gave the welcome address, Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, HFZA delivered the keynote address, while Syed Bari, Food Safety & Quality Compliance Executive gave the presentation in the event attended by many service partners and senior officials from Hamriyah Free Zone Authority and the food industry.

Some of the key objectives of the Food Section discussed in the event were:

**1. To issue Local and Export Exits Permits, NOCs and Approvals to Hamriyah Free Zone's Food Companies**

• HFZA will start issuing Local and Export Exit Permits, NOCs or any other Approvals in coordination with Sharjah Municipality and other authorities to regulate Food Business Operations inside Hamriyah Free Zone.

• Local and Export Exit Permits and other NOC Formats have been developed and the same will be implemented.

**2. To offer wide services in the below areas:**

- Training
- Consultancy
- Process Certification
- Halal Certification
- Food Testing (Lab) Services

**3. To ensure Food Safety and Hygiene of Food Companies and Restaurants operating inside Hamriyah Free Zone**

• HFZA's Food Code has been developed in line with Local, Federal and International Food Safety Standards and Guideline, i.e., based on the requirements of Sharjah Municipality, HACCP, Dubai Municipality & ADFCA.



• The Food Companies operating inside Hamriyah Free Zone will be provided necessary Guidance and Advice to effectively close major & minor non-conformities identified in Sharjah, Hamriyah Municipality, and HFZA Food Section Inspections and Audits.

• HFZA's Food Section will work like an interface between Food Sector Investor and Regulatory Authorities of Food in UAE and will provide the necessary support (Approvals, Testing, Halal Certification, Inspections, etc.) to HFZA's Food Investors.

**4. Coordination with Sharjah Municipality, Hamriyah Municipality Food Section & Other Authorities for Inspection, Lab. Tests, Sample Collection, Certification, etc.**

• To coordinate with Sharjah Municipality, Hamriyah Municipality and other authorities for the services required for the Food Companies of HFZA to comply with the applicable standards and to facilitate easy implementation of the same.

• To coordinate with Sharjah Municipality for Investor Food Handler Certifications and explore the possibilities of having Examination Center of Sharjah Municipality inside HFZA in order to

save time and cost for HFZA's Food Investor.

**5. To run various Training & Certification Programs and organize Events for Food Companies in coordination with Sharjah Municipality and Industry Experts**

• To develop a detailed roadmap for Hamriyah Free Zone's Food Companies for Training and Certification.

• To organize the events, workshops, and seminars for Food Companies in coordination with Sharjah Municipality, Regulatory Authorities, Partner Companies and Industry Experts.

• To run Awareness Campaigns for Food Companies of HFZA



# Hamriyah Free Zone Authority at the Canton Fair, China

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority participated in the Canton Fair, the largest trade fair held in Guangzhou, China on April 12 – May 5 to boost the UAE's and China's trade relations. Ali Al Jarwan (Deputy Commercial Director), Geomon George (Business Development Executive), and Zhen Li (Marketing Executive) represented HFZA at the fair.

The UAE and China is a \$35+ billion two-way industry, thus sharing a distinguished trade relation, the proof of which can be seen at HFZ where the number of Chinese companies has been increasing steadily. The two-way trade between these two giant entities had crossed \$35 billion in the first 9 months of 2017, and the Chinese companies here are now participating in the UAE's development activities in a bigger way as the global powerhouse looks to boost trade links with the country.

The unique position of HFZ makes it an ideal destination for attracting Chinese investment. The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), one of the most important and the largest institutions for the promotion of foreign trade in China, along with the Government of China encourage Chinese investment in HFZ, seeing it as a gateway for their business and expansion plans in the wider Middle Eastern, African and Asian regions. With more than 4,500 Chinese companies operating in the country, China is the top trading partner of the UAE. In the year 2016 alone, the value of Sharjah exports to China exceeded AED 44 million, while Sharjah re-exports to China had reached AED 261 million.



# Hamriyah Free Zone Authority joined the 36th ICAI Annual Conference in Dubai

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority joined the 36th ICAI Annual Conference held at Le Meridien Hotel in Dubai on 3-4 May 2018. TV Ramesh, CFO, Cristina dela Cueva, Marketing Executive, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive attended the event on the behalf of HFZA.

the unique world of opportunities that are presently flourishing at the Hamriyah Free Zone. With only 3 steps and 360-degree connectivity, you can inspire a global business – that is not possible anywhere else in the world."

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority has also sponsored the annual conferences of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (UAE, Dubai Chapter) in the past.

While accepting the token of appreciation from the organizers, TV Ramesh said, "We are here to unveil

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EVENTS

The Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) recognized the authority's top petrochemical, oil & gas companies during the "HFZA – Gulf Energy Information Petrochemical, Oil & Gas Event" held on May 7, 2018.

At the event, the benefits of the strategic partnership between HFZA and Gulf Energy Information, formerly Gulf Publishing Company, were announced. These benefits include enabling participating petrochemical, oil & gas companies and investors to highlight and promote their companies, products, and services globally.

"We are delighted to recognize the 1,500 companies working in the petrochemical, oil & gas sector of Hamriyah Free Zone, and to connect our invest-

# HFZA Recognizes Top Petrochemical, Oil & Gas Companies

tors with Gulf Publications," said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone). Gulf Energy Information will be publishing and distributing a Special Report on the Hamriyah Free Zone, further highlighting the benefits of the partnership and ways for additional investors to become involved. Additional partnership opportunities are being discussed and expected to be implemented later this year and into 2019.

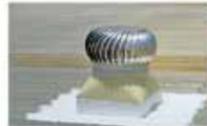
Gulf Energy Information, founded in 1916, is a global publication and a leading provider of media, marketing and market intelligence services that provide in-depth insights, technical content and strategic direction to the international energy industry. Gulf's market-leading brands—World Oil, Hydrocarbon Processing, Petroleum Economist, Pipeline & Gas Journal, Gas Processing & LNG, Pipeline News and Underground Construction, offer



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AWARDS

# The World Confederation of Businesses Merits HFZ with The Bizz Awards 2018

Another testament to its customer centricity and service excellence standards, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) has been awarded 'The Bizz Awards 2018' by the World Confederation of Businesses (WORLDCOB) in a glittering ceremony in Prague on May 3, 2018 for its commitment to Business Excellence, Leadership, Product and Service Quality, Management Systems, Innovation and Creativity. Mr. Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Director of Commercial Affairs, and Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer attended this event.

WORLDCOB also awarded Saud Salim Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, for his Business Leadership and Excellence in Business Management. With great satisfaction, he said, "Receiving the acclaimed BIZZ awards is indeed an honour as it will serve as a motivation for Hamriyah Free Zone to further raise the bar and achieve greater excellence locally, regionally, and globally."

WORLDCOB is a leading business organization headquartered in Houston, USA, dedicated to fostering the business excellence in over 120 countries. It recognizes and boosts the growth of the world's most outstanding companies and business people, as well as promotes Corporate Social Responsibility. The Bizz Awards was covered and broadcasted live in more than 120 countries.



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# HFZA Employees Annual Iftar

The employees of Hamriyah Free Zone celebrated the spirit of Ramadan in their traditional Annual Iftar Gathering on June 6 at Al Zorah Marina. Like every year, this event brought together employees hailing from various parts of the world in the true spirit of brotherhood.

# Celebrated the Gathering 2018

HFZA being one of the largest free zones in the Middle East and having more than 6,500 companies from 163 nationalities operating in various light and heavy industries, hundreds of its employees find Ramadan the greatest platform to share laughter, stories, and a great camaraderie as the hearty Iftar dinner and engaging raffle draws go on.

CELEBRATION



# DELEGATION



## Russian Delegation visited Hamriyah Free Zone to Further the Business Ties

A delegation from Russia organized by the Agency for Strategic Initiatives visited Hamriyah Free Zone on April 16 and met with its Sales Team to discuss the different investment opportunities HFZA can offer. Muhamed Basheer, Head of Overseas Promotion, Omar Rashid Al-leem, Head of Sales Support, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive received the delegation warmly in the presence of various other HFZA personnel.

After touring and visiting selected factories established in the free zone, the delegation was deeply impressed by the growing local and foreign investments in the area because of its services and facilities, strategic location, and free zone advantages. By paving the way for further trade ties between Russia and the UAE in oil and gas, petrochemicals, iron, construction and food industries, the delegation raised many hopes as HFZA raised the bar.



## HFZA received a Chinese Delegation

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority Sales Team received a delegation from China's Zhejiang Province for an extensive investment discussion on May 24. Muhamed Basheer, Head of Overseas Promotion, HFZA, Omar Rashid Al-leem, Head of Sales Support, HFZA, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive received the delegation in the presence of other HFZA employees.

of opening a business and a wide range of license activities, these senior officials from Zhejiang Provincial Development exchanged ideas with Reform Commission HFZA on how both organizations can work together to assist Chinese investors looking at expanding their businesses in the UAE.

Highlighting the strategic location of Hamriyah Free Zone as well as its other advantages, such as easy procedure

A business meeting with a similar delegation from China's Henan Province also went successfully just a month before in April this year.

## Japan Consulate from Dubai visited HFZ

With a future collaboration in mind, a Japan Consulate visited Hamriyah Free Zone on June 28. Dr. Akima Umezawa, Consul General of Japan and Jumpei Yamaguchi, Vice Consul for Economic Section met with Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, HFZA, Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer, HFZA, Omar Rashid Al-leem, Head of Sales Support, HFZA, and various other HFZA personnel.

While touring Hamriyah Free Zone, the group expressed their willingness to expand their business interests, pointing the tremendous advantages of the well-developed infrastructural facilities and investor-friendly environment at HFZA.



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10 Celebrating YEARS

## SHARJAH BEAT

# Gulftainer Achieves Record Productivity At Sharjah Container Terminal



With well-provisioned storage space and advanced racking systems, Shed 3 replaces the existing Shed 2 space, which will be removed to facilitate the SCT capacity expansion through the extension of the rubber-tired gantry (RTG) stacks.

Shed 3 is designed to store less than container load (LCL) shipments and loose-loaded cargo and includes a designated area for the storage of hazardous goods, certified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The new warehouse is also located in proximity to the container terminal yards and berths, offering the convenience of destuffing within the facility, as well as on-site customs clearance. In addition, as an introductory offer, customers are currently being provided discounted storage benefits and attractive payment solutions.

Emerson Buarque, the new Terminal Manager, "Achieving this milestone at SCT demonstrates our commitment to consistently delivering best-in-class performance. It showcases our service reliability, faster vessel turn-around time, and potential to handle higher volumes and more vessel calls. SCT remains a key gateway for incoming and outgoing container traffic within the fast-growing trade sector in the UAE."

He added: "Our employee wellness programmes such as Positive Pulse, which has been recognised by the MEED health and wellness awards, validates that investing in the well-being of employees has significant productivity benefits. The importance of continuous employee training programmes on productivity records such as this one cannot be emphasised enough."

Gulftainer, the UAE-based privately owned, independent port operator, today announced that it had recorded gross crane productivity of 32.2 crane moves per hour at its flagship gateway terminal, Sharjah Container Terminal (SCT), in Port Khalid. The milestone feat achieved in April 2018, compares to the industry average of 25 crane moves per hour, and marks the highest productivity levels at SCT since its inception.

In addition, SCT registered a high volume of demand from customers for its new state-of-the-art warehouse facility in Port Khalid, named Shed 3. Inaugurated on 20th March 2018, the warehouse has already filled up to over one-third of its total capacity, with local businesses choosing it as a cost-effective and efficient alternative to other storage facilities in the area.

# New Road Project to Boost Connectivity & Logistics in Sharjah

Sharjah's largest infrastructure project has taken another step towards completion following the inauguration of the Middle East's longest covered tunnel, part of a highway development expected to boost connectivity, trade and logistics between the east and west coasts of the emirate.

On April 14 Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah and member of the UAE's Supreme Council, set off the final explosive charge to blast rock from the Al Sidra Tunnel which, at 2.7 km long, is the largest of its kind in the region.

The tunnel forms part of a new 89-km road linking Sharjah City with the port city Khorfakkan, located in Sharjah's eastern enclave. Expected to be completed next year, the new road will halve travel time between the two cities to around 45 minutes.

The Dh5.5bn (\$1.5bn) project, first proposed some 14 years ago, has had a lengthy development period, with pre-construction engineering work and surveying taking two years.

Much of the difficulty was due to the rugged terrain through which the planned four-lane highway had to travel, necessitating extensive boring work. Along with the Al Sidra Tunnel, the road has four other tunnels, ranging from 300 metres to 1.4 km in length.

## Road upgrades to support east coast expansion

In addition to improving connectivity, the new road network is expected to support more rapid economic development for communities along the route and on the UAE's east coast.

With Sharjah enjoying economic growth of 5% last year, according to Invest in Sharjah, the investment promotion agency, and a doubling of foreign direct investment to \$1.6bn, officials are confident the upgraded access provided by the highway will see increased economic activity flow into the Gulf of Oman coastal strip.

"Khorfakkan is going to benefit from the new road development, which will improve connections to Sharjah

City and reduce travel time," Abdullah Mohammed Al Naqbi, former chairman of Khorfakkan Municipal Council, told OBG.

## Improved connectivity offers chance for trans-shipment growth

On top of tourism development, the improved connectivity between the UAE's east and west coasts could also help the



Port of Khorfakkan boost its standing as a trans-shipment hub.

With heavy traffic holding the potential to affect the flow of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, identified by the US Energy Information Administration last year as the world's most important chokepoint in terms of the volume of crude oil and petroleum products transported through it, Sharjah and other emirates have long sought alternative ways to transport goods in and out of the region.

As the UAE's only dedicated container terminal outside of the strait, the Port of Khorfakkan benefits from cost and time advantages compared to other maritime freight hubs in the Gulf.

At present, containers unloaded at Khorfakkan generally reach domestic destinations around five days earlier than those trans-shipped through other ports in the UAE, according to Gulftainer, the private port company managing the site. The new road network is set to further improve its attractiveness in this regard, especially for companies shipping perishables or goods with tight delivery deadlines.

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The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate on organizing a number of CEM (Certified in Exhibition Management) Learning Program courses in 2018.

The MOU states that a minimum of 9 IAEE CEM Learning Program courses will be organized, in cooperation with Expo Centre Sharjah. The various locations of the courses will include 7 Arab countries: United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

The MOU was signed in the presence of HE Abdulla Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the SCCI; David DuBois, President and CEO of IAEE; Khalid Bin Butti Al

Hajri, Director-General of the SCCI; Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO of Expo Centre Sharjah and Member of the Board of Directors of the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) for the Middle East and Africa; in addition to a number of other officials from both sides. The signing ceremony coincided with the Global Exhibitions Day which is celebrated around the world on 6th of June, every year.

Abdulla Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the SCCI, stated that signing the MOU with the International Association of Exhibitions and Events comes as part of the chamber's efforts to support the exhibitions and conferences sector at the local and regional level. He stressed that the main goal of signing the Memorandum of Understanding is

## SHARJAH BEAT



# Sharjah Chamber Signs MOU with the International Association of Exhibitions & Events

to develop a highly qualified workforce that possesses the necessary skills to elevate the exhibitions sector, especially in light of the upcoming international exhibitions such as Expo 2020. David DuBois, President and CEO of IAEE, praised both the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Expo Centre Sharjah for their support and cooperation in elevating the exhibitions sector and for developing the workforce that is employed by the sector.

He stated that the signing of the MOU represents a positive step towards elevating the performance and services of the exhibitions sector in a number of targeted Arab countries. He stressed that the association is keen to provide all the necessary knowledge and information to the participants from various Arab countries through the CEM courses, as part of its efforts to develop the exhibitions industry in the Middle East.

Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO of Expo Centre Sharjah, stated that the

organization of the training courses by both the SCCI and IAEE, with support from Expo Centre Sharjah, comes as part of the efforts to develop the best specialized workforce in the exhibitions sector at the regional level, and to raise the level of the exhibitions industry in accordance with the international best practices.

Al Midfa stressed the importance of this initiative that provides students and participants that are hoping to work in the exhibitions sector with the necessary knowledge and expertise. He added that participants who complete the courses will be awarded with accredited certificates from the International Association of Exhibitions and Events.

The two sides have agreed to set the dates for the courses at a later time, and to organize the courses within the guidelines set by the MOU. Students who will register for the courses must pass a test in order to obtain the certificate from the association.

The Sharjah Chamber will provide a single meeting room for each on-location course, in addition to being responsible for all travel and associated expenses for each faculty member for on-location courses. The association will administer the CEM courses in accordance with the CEM Learning Program Manual of Operations and provide CEM Commission-approved faculty to teach the courses, in addition to providing access to all course materials online for students.



SHARJAH IS THE FIRST CITY IN THE WORLD TO RECEIVE THE UN'S PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

# Sharjah Named Child-Friendly City by UNICEF

Sharjah: In a groundbreaking achievement for the UAE, Sharjah has been named a 'Child-Friendly City' (CFC) by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts and accomplishments in the protection and promotion of children's rights.

The announcement was made during a special session for Sharjah's children and youth held at the Consultative Council of Sharjah, in the presence of His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and Sheikha Budoor Bint Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairperson of the Sharjah Baby Friendly Office.

Sharjah has been crowned the first city in the world to receive the UN's prestigious title after successfully meeting the new international requirements and criteria launched by UNICEF's global CFC initiative and its new brand identity last month, to ensure the fulfilment of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The accolade comes just three years after the emirate was named 'Baby-Friendly City' by the UN and World Health Organisation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sheikh Sultan, who received the official accreditation from UNICEF, said: "Our key goal has been, and always will be, to provide the sound foundations for a society where everyone can participate in shaping a future that fits their ambitions and ours. And in spite of the technological evolution and changing tools of labour, it is the human who will determine the direction and progress of societies and civilisations through ideology and determination."

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- Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi

Addressing the children and youth, Dr Sheikh Sultan said: "Today, we are here for you and will always work for you. I want you to know that every effort undertaken by Sharjah is a responsibility for us and a fundamental right for you. Moreover,

we will always strive to achieve more. This is why we established the Sharjah Children's Shura Council and the Youth Shura Council where you can be a major influence on your society and enhance your loyalty to the nation."

The selection of Sharjah was based on a range of specific criteria, which included that every child be treated respectfully and equally by society and all bodies and authorities. Other stipulations stated that children have the right to grow up in a safe and clean environment where they feel safe and secure, have access to basic services, can play, learn and grow and where their voice is heard and matters.

Louise Thivant, policy and advocacy specialist at Unicef, gave an address, praising Sharjah's efforts in its journey to be recognised a Child-Friendly City, and the work and dedication shown by the emirate to provide the best care for children, protect their rights, and prepare them for the future according to the highest international standards. Six youngsters spoke during the session expressing their pride in Sharjah being crowned with such a prestigious title and also gave their suggestions and insights about the emirate's efforts in the welfare and protection of children and young people in the years to come.

Khalid Hafedh, a member of the Sharjah Youth Consultative Council who suffers from hearing and speech impairments, said in sign language: "I am extremely happy because I live in Sharjah — a city where we feel that we are truly loved, respected and appreciated. Sharjah is home to schools and sports and leisure clubs where I can communicate with my peers although I can neither speak nor hear. I hope that Sharjah will continue spreading awareness about our needs and carry on with its efforts to ensure that all buildings and institutions, schools and public places are child-friendly and conducive to children with disabilities."

## TRAINING



The Food Section on April 2 conducted a training program on "Level 3 Award in Food Allergen Management" designed by Gems Quality Consultants. HFZA Food Investors, Food Section Staff, and HFZA Food Section Partners attended this program that aims to impart the knowledge relating to the control of food ingredients, including allergens, at all stages of food purchase and production.

HFZ's Food Section Organizes a

# Training Program by Gems Quality Consultants

### Learning Outcomes

Understand the different roles in ensuring that food ingredients and allergens are effectively managed. Understand the characteristics of food allergies. Understand procedures relating to the accurate communication of ingredient information, from supplier to consumer.

Understand hygiene considerations with regard to allergen and ingredient control. Understand procedures relating to the control of contamination and cross-contamination of allergenic ingredients.

## Intertek's Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor Training at HFZA

HFZA EHS Department organized an Intertek's Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor Training, which was attended by Sharjah Municipality and HFZA staff. Intertek's IRCA Accredited ISO 14001:2015 Lead Auditor Course (IRCA Accreditation Number A18093) provides delegates an in-depth knowledge and skills in auditing in order to carry out environmental management system audits.

### Learning Outcomes

Plan an audit against a set of audit criteria. Successfully execute an environmental management systems audit. Understand the differences between QMS and EMS audits. Create clear, concise, and relevant audit reports. Understand risk and opportunities associated with significant environmental aspects Annex SL framework based on which ISO14001: 2015 is structured.

Auditing ISO 14001:2015 requirements:

- What to look for in "Context of the Organization"
- What to look for in "Leadership"
- What to look for in "Planning"
- What to look for in "support".
- What to look for in "Operation".
- What to look for in "Performance evaluation & Improvement"



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