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BUSINESS ZONE

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هيئة المنطقة الحرة بالحمرية
HAMRIYAH FREE ZONE AUTHORITY



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SAUD SALIM AL MAZROUEI

Director

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority

No one can deny that a conducive business environment is a must for attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) into a country. The UAE's ability to offer stability, security and long-term visibility of potential investments to foreign investors has earned it the first place regionally and 16th globally, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2016.

Sharjah is also attracting increasing FDI thanks to the competitive advantages it offers, the transparency and ease of doing business in the emirate, and the immense government support it receives. The free zones have played an important role in transforming the emirate into one of the world's leading investment destinations. At Hamriyah Free Zone, for instance, an investor can complete registration procedures in less than one hour.

I believe that free zones are a major driver of economic development and inward investment; and Hamriyah Free Zone's growth and expansion plans, the presence of high growth industries, transport services, infrastructure development and economic potential, has served to further strengthen its position as the fastest-growing business hub in the region that delivers excellent value for our investors.

A further testament to our passion for excellence and entrepreneurial spirit, and an endorsement of the quality of services we provide, has been receiving the coveted title of Superbrands - becoming the only free zone in the UAE to win the award this year.

We are delighted to be awarded 'Superbrands' status in the United Arab Emirates as it reaffirms the strength of our brand, supported by our excellence in management, strategy, marketing and customer service. This recognition inspires us to further strengthen our brand position and continue to build on our reputation as an investor-oriented free zone famed for its ease of doing business.

The opportunity to meet and interact with trade delegates from Hong Kong at a business roundtable recently enabled us to showcase Sharjah's increasingly lucrative business environment and the vast opportunities in its most attractive sectors while also focusing on the significant advantages of setting up business in Hamriyah Free Zone which not only includes fast-tracked visas and licensing, but also ongoing business support to facilitate returns on investment.

Sharjah has always had a special relationship with Hong Kong – it is the UAE's 10th largest trading partner. Incidentally, just as the UAE serves as a gateway to the Middle East and North Africa region, Hong Kong is a significant gateway to the Chinese market. Our presence at the China Trade Week also gave us an opportunity to meet new investors and explore new business avenues in various sectors.

Now that we are in the last quarter of the year, we can see how the upgrading of our range of services and facilities has empowered our investors, enabling them to operate profitably. As more companies from across diverse sectors and verticals, and geographical locations, seek to invest in the Free Zone, I look forward to continue to meet existing and emerging market demands to ensure total customer satisfaction.



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Sharjah exhibition celebrates UAE-French partnership

A new exhibition celebrating a historic partnership that has linked the UAE and France for 40 years, opened in October, and will run until January 31, 2018. The exhibition titled '40 Years of Emirati–French Archaeological Cooperation,' was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and Ludovic Pouille, French Ambassador to the UAE at the Sharjah Archaeology Museum.

The exhibition depicts the United Arab Emirates history as a pathway for the first men between Africa and Asia, and as a central land for civilizations and cultures dialogue at the crossroad of important trade routes.

This exhibition which is the result of 40 years of common excavation celebrates the strong relations that bring together the United Arab Emirates and France since 1977 in the field of archaeology.

The exhibition is organised in cooperation with Institut français in the United Arab Emirates - Cultural Section of the French Embassy, with the support of UNESCO.

The exhibition includes more than 100 unique antiques, which the French archaeological mission has discovered since it began excavation works in 1977 in the UAE in cooperation with specialists in the field in the country.

Teams led by French archaeologists began excavations in 1977 at Jebel Hafit, Hili and Rumeilah in the Eastern region of Abu Dhabi emirate where they unearthed the important Bronze Age settlement at Hili. In 1985, the work extended to sites in Sharjah, Umm al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah, and in 1999 to Fujairah.

The exhibition displays a unique selection of objects recovered over this period in the five emirates including the 'Emirates Pearl' – the oldest pearl

found in the world – from the Neolithic period, an etched carnelian bead from the Bronze Age, an incense burner in the shape of a standing man with raised arms from the Iron Age, a silver coin from the late Pre-Islamic Period and a Pilgrim flask from the 15th century.

Guided tours at the event reveal the story behind the objects and their context within five ages of the UAE's ancient history: Neolithic, Iron, Bronze, Pre-Islamic and Islamic.

The exhibits from the Islamic period include a huge collection of pottery and porcelain made locally, or brought to the UAE from Iran, China and Thailand.

The exhibition is guest-curated by Dr. Sophie Méry, the current Director of the French archaeological mission to the UAE.

According to Manal Ataya, Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority, "The excavations have revealed many treasures that provide us with rich knowledge and information of the economic and social conditions of the people of this region in the past, from the Neolithic to the period of Islamic rule. For visitors, these discoveries represent an amazing opportunity to learn about the UAE's history and cultural heritage, as well as the important role of man-made artifacts and historical sites that further enrich the country's identity."





Sharjah FDI Forum 2017 focuses on

Addressing the current dominant economic trends, sustainable economies, the impact of technology on education, small enterprises and the UAE's plans and policies for the future, Sharjah FDI Forum 2017, the annual foreign direct investment (FDI) event held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, was held from 19th to 20th September at the Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Center in Sharjah.

As one of the key organizations enabling the flow of FDI to Sharjah, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) was a key participant in the Forum, and highlighted the benefits derived from such investments, the changes and challenges facing investors and how to deal with them. Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, was a prominent guest speaker at one of the panel discussions. HFZA participated at the event alongside leading global business leaders and major investment institutions.

Themed "The Fourth Industrial Revolution", the third Sharjah FDI Forum included nine panel discussions featuring an elite group of local and international experts who examined the latest advances in technology, robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and discussed how these are impacting on the regional and global investment landscape. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a modern and advanced level of technological development which will have a significant impact on personal and professional life, through the likes of





Al Mazrouei highlights Sharjah's unique investment environment at FDI Forum 2017

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, was a key guest speaker at a panel discussion titled 'Sharjah delves into the Future' at the recently concluded third edition of the Sharjah Foreign Direct Investment Forum 2017. Speaking at the event, Al Mazrouei outlined how the Forum contributes to enhancing the emirate's position in attracting investments.

In his address, he asserted that Sharjah is now one of the world's leading investment destinations thanks to its strategic location linking the East and the West and its facilities in many areas. Its advanced infrastructure, free zones, and extensive land, sea and air links also contribute to enhancing trade and investment activity in the region.

Al Mazrouei added that the free zones in Sharjah were proud of participating alongside the world's leading business leaders and major investment institutions at the FDI Forum. He said that such participation would contribute to highlighting Sharjah's unique investment environment and increasing foreign investments in various economic sectors not only in Sharjah but also in the UAE.

Sharjah's dynamic role as an economic visionary over the past decades has elevated its status to an international investment destination to rival many others across the region, said Saud Al Mazrouei. "The emirate has embraced an integrated diversification strategy, highlighting both its sophistication as an economy and its ambition as a market leader. At HFZ, for instance, an investor can complete registration procedures in less than 60 minutes."

investment opportunities

artificial intelligence, blockchain, the internet of things (IoT), and robotics.

Speakers also discussed the importance of FDI to economies and countries and the priority areas of investment in different sectors. It highlighted incentives presented by governments to attract foreign capital and the benefits derived from such investments, in addition to the challenges related to attracting investors around the world. The future of foreign investment and the UAE's position on the FDI map were

also debated.

Sharjah's resilience, its ability to attract foreign direct investment and the emirate's significant contribution to the UAE's economy also came under the spotlight at the third Sharjah FDI Forum. Sharjah is playing a key role in the sustainable development of the UAE and has attracted major FDI in-flows, with this figure in 2015 standing at 38 per cent of the UAE's total. Despite a small slowdown in 2016, it was still able to attract a total of 1.7 trillion dollars in 2017.

The Sharjah FDI Forum 2017 served as an invaluable opportunity to examine investment prospects in UAE and Sharjah, in particular. It also promoted potential opportunities in Sharjah's key economic sectors in the presence of a host of business leaders, senior government officials and economic experts from around the world.

The Sharjah FDI Forum was organized by Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) and Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) in a strategic media partnership with CNBC Arabia.





HFZA becomes only Free Zone in the Middle East to win 2017 Superbrands Award

Hailed as one of the cornerstones of the UAE's industrial development, Hamriyah Free Zone, the second largest industrial free zone in the UAE, earned the unique distinction of being the only Free Zone to be honored with the Superbrands Award this year.

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) was voted a Superbrand earlier this year by the Superbrands Council after a strict and rigorous selection process and polling of independent and voluntary experts in management and marketing.

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone received the award along with a group of senior HFZA officials at a ceremony held at InterContinental Hotel, Dubai Festival City. In attendance at the event were Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director; Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer; Omar Rashid Al-leem, Head of Sales Support; Ajeeb Moidunni, Head of Business Development Department; Habishmon Khalidkuty, Sales Executive; Cristina dela Cueva, Marketing Executive; and Jocelyn David, Secretary.

Commenting on the achievement, Al Mazrouei, said, "Being recognized as a Superbrand reaffirms the strength of our brand both locally and at the international level. Supported by our excellence in management, strategy, marketing and customer service, winning this award has strengthened our reputation as a safe haven for

investments from around the world."

Hamriyah Free Zone enjoys remarkable growth thanks to its incredible infrastructural facilities and the quality of services it provides, he added. "This is supported by a favorable business environment that contributes directly to the success of each investment project. In addition, the Free Zone benefits from its strategic location as well as the many advantages offered by the region such as excellent logistic network, industrial land and storage facilities."

This award also validates HFZA's successful strategy in attracting global investments, he said. "HFZA is committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality and excellence across all its operations and we will continue to meet existing and emerging market demands to ensure total customer satisfaction. The Free Zone is currently experiencing

significant growth rate as investors pour in from all across the world."

"Earning the Superbrands Award is a well-deserved endorsement of the quality of services we provide, and the strength of the relationship we have built with our customers, clients and our own employees over the past 21 years," he added.

Currently housing over 6,500 business enterprises from 157 nations in key sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, maritime, steel, construction and food, global investors choose HFZ for their regional base owing to its strategic location that serves as a vital link to the major trade routes intersecting Asia, Europe and Africa with direct access to a growing market of more than two billion people. The Free Zone also has well-developed infrastructural facilities and boasts an investor-friendly environment suited for growth.





Industry experts at Hamriyah Symposium 2017, an international conference on maritime, offshore and oil & gas

Hamriyah Symposium addresses challenges, critical developments and key drivers in the maritime industry

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, recently inaugurated the Hamriyah Symposium 2017, an international conference on maritime, offshore and oil & gas, held at Albwardy Damen located at the Free Zone.

The inauguration was held in the presence of global industry experts who are specialized in classification, offshore, and ship building and ship management fields. Hamriyah Symposium 2017 discussed the opportunities ahead to develop the maritime sector despite the current

downturn in the market and with the full support of the government entities in the region.

Delivering his opening speech at the event, Saud Al Mazrouei emphasized the importance of finding new opportunities to improve the industry. He said, "We always extend our full support to all the emerging companies who want to start their business in Hamriyah Free Zone. Being the biggest oil and gas free zone with over 166 fabricators serving over 60 countries around the world, our goal is to adhere to the best practices and deliver the best opportunities to achieve the growth

rates we are aiming for. The Hamriyah Free Zone door is always open to all the businesses that are looking for great opportunities."

Hamriyah Symposium provided a platform for unparalleled knowledge sharing, business development and networking opportunities. Participants had the opportunity to listen to leaders, key decision makers and marine experts who shared their thoughts about major challenges, critical developments and key drivers of the industry in addition to the opportunities in the industry.

Eduardo Fonseca Ward, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama in the UAE, served as the moderator of the event which also saw a special presentation by Lars Seistrup, Managing Director, Albwardy Damen.



HFZA highlights opportunities for SMEs at China Trade Week

With its support for the vital business sector of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) was a key participant at the fifth annual China Trade Week held in the UAE capital in September. More than 300

companies exhibited their products at the event, aiming to ink deals with local distributors or find partners to open offices in the UAE.

Representing HFZA at the event was Zhen Li, Marketing Executive,

who impressed upon the Chinese exhibitors the advantages of operating out of the Free Zone, especially with fast track incentives for SME investors. Chinese SMEs in the electronics sector are eyeing the UAE to expand their presence internationally and have a footing in the Middle East.

China is the second-largest trading partner of the UAE since 2011 and bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$45 billion in 2016. Currently, about 60 percent of China's total trade passes through the UAE, from where it is re-exported to Africa and Europe.

At the event, Zhen Li met with exhibitors dealing in industries as varied as construction, interior design, home appliances, fashion, gifts & toys, hardware & tools, food & beverage and auto parts & accessories.



HFZA Director Saud Al Mazrouei handed certificates of appreciation to guest speakers at the Global Indian Realty Summit in Dubai

Al Mazrouei highlights business-friendly policies of HFZA at Global Indian Realty Summit

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) joined more than 250 businessmen and professionals from the UAE and a host of noted real estate players and industry experts from India as it participated in News18.com's Global Indian Realty Summit (GIRS) held in September in Dubai.

Led by Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director, the HFZA delegation comprised of Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Development Officer, Ashik KP, Senior Sales Executive, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive. In his address at the Summit, Saud Al Mazrouei highlighted the potential of

Sharjah as an attractive investment destination, stating that it was ranked as one of the top 10 global cities of the future, and contributed 48 per cent to UAE's industrial output. He also emphasized on the secure and business-friendly policies of HFZ and the facilities and amenities available

here that simplify and cater to investors' demands. More than 6500 companies from across 157 countries are currently operating in the Free Zone, he pointed out, adding that 40 per cent of these entrepreneurs were from India.

"The vast investment options available at HFZ in various domains, including industrial, commercial and services, today serve as a growth catalyst for SMEs and multinational firms looking to expand operations and emerging entrepreneurs with big dreams," said Al Mazrouei.

He also laid emphasis on HFZA's Food Park, the region's first city dedicated to food and commercial industries. HFZA offers world-class infrastructure, innovative services and facilities such as total ownership of businesses, repatriation of capital and profits, quick issuance of licenses, and a viable visa solution for business owners and their employees, he added.



Food Park facilities showcased at India Foodex 2017



Ajeeb Moidunni, Head of Business Development Department, with representatives of Federation of Karnataka CCI

Ajeeb Moidunni, Head of Business Development Department, and Habishmon Khalidkutty, Sales Executive, represented Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) at the ninth edition of India Foodex 2017 that was held in August at Bengaluru, India, where exhibitors from almost 30 countries showcased their latest technologies and developments for

food professionals. The event served as a perfect platform for the HFZA delegates to highlight the advantages of the Free Zone's Food Park that is the region's first city dedicated to food and commercial industries. Comprising of warehouses, offices and labor accommodations on a total area of over 11 million square feet, the mega project was part of the Free

Zone's endeavor and commitment to develop innovative services and cater to the growing demand of food products in local and regional markets, they pointed out.

The delegates informed visitors that its new world class facility is dedicated to importing, exporting, holding and re-packaging foodstuff destined for not only the GCC region but all over the world.

They also highlighted the distinctive advantages of doing business in the Food Park, including the easy and business-friendly procedures and regulations. The period of time that separates the investor from setting up his "dream company" is less than one hour, they said.

The HFZA delegates encouraged visitors and the business community at India Foodex to expand their existing projects with operations in HFZA's Food Park to enjoy more rewarding returns.



High level Sharjah government delegation concludes successful visit to Finland

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) was part of a high level Sharjah government delegation led by Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Executive Chairman of the Department of Government Relations, which concluded a successful visit to the Republic of Finland in September this year.

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, and Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director, were among the members of the high-profile delegation comprising of 11 governmental institutions and organizations from across the emirate of Sharjah. They discussed with the officials of Finland areas of cooperation with institutions and companies specialized in the fields of innovation and technology and a number of sectors of common interest such as health care and education, clean energy and bio-economy, digital solutions and culture.

The two-day visit was hosted by the Council of Oulu Region, a joint municipal authority in Finland.

"The visit was an opportunity to exchange experiences and learn about the modern methodologies and mechanisms adopted by the Republic of Finland that could contribute to

the development of mechanisms for Hamriyah Free Zone," said Saud Al Mazrouei.

The visit also enabled the Free Zone to exhibit its competence to key players in the business sector in Oulu, create new contacts and strengthen existing relationships, he added. "Finnish companies have a great deal of competence to offer to the UAE and its ambitious growth and development plans mirrors that of our nation," he said.

During their visit, the delegation promoted awareness of Sharjah as a modern and highly developed emirate that enjoys a stable economy, and its status as the heart of the

UAE's manufacturing sector with several core strength areas including industrial, small and medium businesses, steel industry and food processing, amongst others. They also highlighted Sharjah's strengths as an ideal place for investment highlighting its great business potential as a gateway to not only the Gulf markets but also to the continents of Asia and Africa.

Other delegation members included officials from the Sharjah Heritage Institute, American University of Sharjah, Bee'ah, Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, University of Sharjah; and Sharjah Water and Electricity Authority.





HFZA employees undergo HACCP training

Several employees of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) recently underwent a short training course designed to help them understand how to implement HACCP (Hazard analysis and critical control points) food safety management system in an organization, with a special focus on manufacturing industries.

Titled 'Level 3 Award in HACCP', this HABC-accredited course is aimed at those responsible for assisting in the development and maintenance of the HACCP systems.

Shatha Al Shamsi, Environmental Protection Officer; Shafiq Sha, Environmental Executive; Syed Bari, Food Safety & Quality Compliance Executive; Sivaraman Kathiravan, Health & Safety Executive; and Xavier Pinkey, Environment Monitoring Field Chemist, were among those who participated in the training from 6th to 8th August, 2017.

The 20-hour course is intended predominantly for learners already working in manufacturing, with a sound knowledge of food safety

hazards and controls. HFZA employees learnt the importance of HACCP-based food safety management procedures, the preliminary processes for HACCP-based procedures, how to develop and implement HACCP-based food safety management procedures, and how to evaluate HACCP based procedures.

The HFZA team who underwent the training now have the knowledge necessary to be an integral part of a HACCP team in the manufacturing and other related industries, for example those involved with the distribution and storage. The qualification is also suitable for those owning/managing smaller food businesses to give them the underpinning knowledge to develop a HACCP study.

For the HFZA employees who received the training, the course will help them to ensure that the food manufacturing and storage businesses operating at the Free Zone complies with the HACCP regulations to ensure that production is carried out in a safe manner.

AWARD

HFZA emerge runners up in Everest Sports Friday League

At the finals of the Everest Sports Friday League 2017, organized by GM Cricket Academy in Sharjah, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) Cricket Team put up a valiant effort as it faced local powerhouse, Al Nabooda Insurance Brokers (ANIB). Despite a masterful display of aggressive batting, the HFZA team came up just short and was placed second in an exciting high-scoring match held on 22nd September.

While there were some impressive individual performances, the HFZA team failed to pull together as a unit in the final round of the tournament and was eventually humbled, falling behind by 47 runs. The Hamriyah Free Zone team secured second position in the tournament, and won silver as runners-up of the Everest Sports



Friday League 2017.

The Everest Cricket League tournament was held at the Skyline College Cricket Grounds, University City, Sharjah. The tournament matches commenced in July and saw the participation of 10 local teams. All the matches were played on Fridays, morning 7am, at Skyline College Cricket Grounds.

Earlier in the semifinal, Hamriyah Free

Zone Cricket Team had won 3 out of 4 pool matches to qualify against Master Blaster Cricket Club. HFZA won the semifinal with 5 wickets in hand and entered the finals against ANIB.

HFZA's Noushad Zainuddin (Visa department) and Sudheesh Ramanan (Maintenance department) won the coveted Man of the Match titles in the pool matches.



HFZA, Italian Saipem sign investment partnership

Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) has entered into an investment partnership with Italy-headquartered oil and gas services company, Saipem. An agreement to this effect was signed between Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, and Andrea Marco Palmieri, branch manager of Saipem.

Under the terms of the agreement, Saipem will invest in 59,338 m² of land in the emirate. The Italian company, which employs more than 40,000 people worldwide, will use the land for furthering its operations in the Middle East and North Africa.

Saipem is currently one of the global leaders in drilling services, as well as in the engineering, procurement, construction and installation of

pipelines and complex projects, onshore and offshore, in the oil & gas market.

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei described the newly formed partnership with Saipem as a testament to HFZA's efforts in attracting foreign investments to the emirate and highlighting it as an important economic center.

"Having a globally renowned company like Saipem is a culmination of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority's efforts in attracting foreign investments and highlighting the Free Zone's advantages such as the 14-meter deep port and 7-meter deep harbor, making it an ideal hub for the manufacture and maintenance of vessels, and trade of oil, gas, iron and steel."

"We will continue to offer world-class facilities and services to our investors

to ensure that they can expand their businesses with us," he added.

Saipem's officials, present at the event, also reciprocated their confidence in the Authority and expressed their thanks and appreciation for the Free Zone's support and facilities which will aid in the success of the new investment project.

Saipem began its operations in the 1950s for onshore pipe laying, plant construction and drilling. It gradually expanded its operations to include the development of oil and gas fields, land and sea drilling and laying deep water pipes.

Saipem's other partnerships in the region include engineering and construction (E&C) deals with Saudi Aramco, worth \$1bn, which were awarded in November 2016.

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Eversendai expands its activities in Hamriyah Free Zone

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone has signed an investment agreement with Eversendai Engineering Group as part of its expansion plan.

Under the terms of the deal, Eversendai will expand its leased space in the Free Zone by 12ha (1,301,572 square feet). The company currently leases 21ha (2,272,993 square feet) in the area.

The new expansion project is part of the Group's strategy to increase the production capacity currently estimated at 150,000 tons of steel annually to develop its services to

the oil and gas sector.

Pointing out that Eversendai Engineering Group is one of the biggest manufacturer of iron as well as builders of complex projects such as construction of towers, power stations, airports and shopping centers, etc., Al Mazrouei commented that "HFZA is keen to diversify investments in the Free Zone to promote economic exchange amongst investors which will contribute to the revitalization of all industries in the long run."

HFZA aims to balance attracting new investors and the expansion of existing investors by providing a favorable business environment that

contributes directly to the success of each investment projects, he added.

A number of new investment agreements are expected to be signed in the coming months which will confirm Sharjah's status as a distinct economic center in the Middle East and the world, he further added.

Eversendai has fabricating facilities in Sharjah, Dubai, Malaysia and India. Since its establishment in 1984, the company has completed more than 300 projects in over 14 countries which include some of the world's most iconic landmark structures such as Burj Khalifa in UAE, Kingdom Center in Saudi Arabia and Petronas Towers in Malaysia.





UAE-based ATS commences operations for its new storage tank terminal in India

ATS, UAE's leading multi-award winning integrated logistics company that specializes in state-of-the-art integrated logistics and liquid storage terminal in Hamriyah Free Zone, has begun operations in October 2017 for the new storage tank terminal which is strategically situated in the emerging oil storage and trading location of New Mangalore Port, India.

Mangalore Port, an ISO 9001:2008 and 14001:2004-certified port, is a modern all-weather port situated at Panambur, Mangalore, in the south Indian state of Karnataka. The new storage tank terminal will be under the name of Raftaar Terminals and will have a capacity of 33,000 KL in phase I and 16,500 KL in Phase II.

Complying with all international safety and standards, this will be the first tank terminal to be constructed in stainless steel with a capacity of

316L storage tank and jetty pipeline in Mangalore suitable for all acids. The new storage tank terminal will also be able to handle a wide range of petroleum products of Class A, B & C like naphtha, gas oil, motor spirit, para-Xylene, methanol and petrochemicals products.

Founded in 1991 and headquartered in Dubai, the company has continuously expanded its range of services over the years.

Today, ATS is a multi-modal organization that has established itself as a leading NVOCC (Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier) in the region. Logistics remains its core strength. Complementing that nucleus, ATS range of services has expanded to include storage, distribution, and terminal services.

The Hamriyah terminal has an existing capacity of 41,000 cubic meters (with further expansion of

another 60,000 cubic meter in Phase 3 planned in 2018) for storing all class of petroleum and petrochemicals products such as base oil, gas oil, fuel oil, Xylene, toluene, naphtha etc.

Two dedicated deep-water berths (main & inner harbor) make it an ideal hub for transshipment and redistribution to the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and East Africa region.

The liquid tank terminals, which are automated and PLC-based, also have dedicated truck loading bays for each tank, inter tank transfer facility, water draining facility, around the clock power back up with generators and UPS. The facility is enabled with automated firefighting system with sprinklers and 24-hour security with CCTV coverage.

ATS's state-of-the-art warehousing and distribution facility caters to general and special cargo across the region. ATS offers packing, labeling and assembly services, catering to global shipping, logistics and marine industries.

The new warehouse in Jebel Ali South Zone can accommodate 10,000 pallet positions for general and temperature controlled cargo. It takes pride in owning their own dedicated fleets and have an international network of services across the globe.

Having an in-house land transport division ensures prompt service to clients by understanding their precise requirements and delivering to them through superior quality of service and timely deliveries.

ATS Logistics has handled 105,000 Full truck loads (FTL); and operates its own fleet of trucks, trailers, tankers and specialized equipment. Land transport services are offered to clients not only within the UAE, but also to other destinations across the Middle East.



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HFZA-based Mulk Holdings invests Rs 100 crores in Mirage Ceramics

UAE-based diversified conglomerate Mulk Holdings has invested Rs 100 crores to pick 50% stake in Mumbai-based tiles manufacturer Mirage Ceramics in its first investment in India, and has outlined plans to pump in about Rs 1,000 crores in the country.

"India is a very lucrative market for us," said Shaji Ul Mulk, chairman at Mulk Holdings. "The economy is booming and we look forward to an ongoing investment here over the next five years, during which we will be investing more than Rs 1,000 crores."

The \$2.2-billion Sharjah based group, which has business interests ranging across real estate, manufacturing, renewable energy and healthcare sectors, is primarily targeting building materials, artificial marble and quartz industries in India, Ul Mulk said.

Shrikant Khadilkar, chairman at Mirage Ceramics, said that Mulk Holdings'

global presence and expertise will help the company expand globally. The company plans to use the proceeds from the stake sale to upgrade its manufacturing facilities and ramp up production. It plans to draw down about Rs 50 crores, with the rest expected to be utilized over the following six months.

Founded in 2005, Mirage Ceramics was originally a partnership between Malwa Ceramics and Mirage Group. The partnership was dissolved in 2012, with the latter buying out Malwa Ceramics. The company earned revenues of Rs 72 crores for the last fiscal year. "We are projecting a top line of Rs 120 crores for the current financial year," revealed Khadilkar. The company is also contemplating an IPO over the next two years, he said.

Hamriyah Free Zone-based Mulk Holdings is a multinational group of 20 companies with diversified business

interests in manufacturing of Alubond U.S.A. brand of metal composites, interior and exterior design & fit outs, plastic industries, power generation, aluminum coil coatings, healthcare, real estate, commodities and solar energy. The company with its headquarters based in HFZA, Sharjah, is spread across Europe, U.S.A., Africa, Turkey, India and the Middle East. Mulk Holdings' flagship brand Alubond U.S.A. metal composites has grown into the world's largest metal composite brand with operations in 11 countries and market reach of 90 countries.

Mulk Holdings owns and manages a group of 14 companies under the leadership of Chairman Nawab Shaji Ul Mulk who has been residing in the Middle East for more than two decades. The company follows a philosophy of strategic partnerships and has successfully entered into joint ventures with powerful partners around the globe.

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Unique Group enters into commercial agreements with INNOVO and Kongsberg Maritime

Unique Group, one of the world's most prominent integrated subsea and offshore solution providers, has entered into a cooperation agreement with UK-based INNOVO. As part of the agreement, the two world-leading engineering and manufacturing companies will collaborate to provide sales and rental equipment and engineering solutions for the marine and oil & gas market sectors in the Middle East and South-East Asia region.

Headquartered in Aberdeen, INNOVO provides high value professional services and high technology equipment for renewables, oil & gas and marine business sectors. "We are always looking for opportunities to upgrade our inventory with the addition of world-class products by establishing new partnerships," said Sahil Gandhi, Chief Operating Officer at Unique Group. "Through this partnership, we look forward to an enhanced offering for our customers in Middle East and Asia."

Unique Group has also executed a key dealership agreement with Norwegian-based Kongsberg Maritime (KM) AS. As part of the agreement, Unique Group's Cape Town office will offer KM's underwater mapping and navigation solutions to customers in Nigeria and Kenya.

The Kongsberg range of underwater mapping products includes the EM 712RD®, EM 2040C® and 2040P®, EA440/EA640, the Geoacoustics range, among others.

"The new partnership will allow Unique Group's Survey Equipment division to add a wide range of underwater mapping and navigation products to its extensive line of superior quality equipment," said Sharad Kumar, Director of Business Development at Unique Group.



DELEGATION

Hamriyah Free Zone woos Hong Kong investors



Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) joined the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the helm of Sharjah's FDI office 'Invest in Sharjah' and in association with Hong Kong Trade Development Council, to organize the Sharjah Hong Kong Business Roundtable where more than 100 Hong Kong and UAE business and company representatives came together to discuss trade and investment.

Aiming to explore new ways to

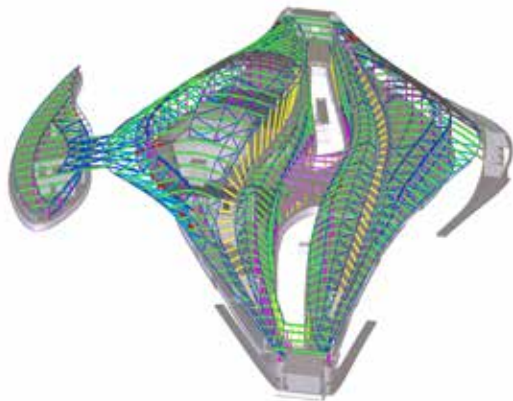
strengthen economic cooperation and take bilateral partnerships to greater heights, the B2B meeting was attended by high level leaders from the public and private sectors.

Hamad Al Shamsi, Head of Sales, and Ruchi Singh, Marketing Executive, represented HFZA at the roundtable which focused on introducing potential investors to Sharjah's increasingly lucrative business environment and the vast opportunities in its most attractive

sectors, particularly tourism and leisure, healthcare, environment & renewable energy and transport and logistics. In a presentation by Hamad Al Shamsi, the Hong Kong entrepreneurs heard that HFZA's one-stop-shop process meant that for a business to be set up in the Free Zone, all it takes is less than an hour from registering the application to receiving the trading license.

The presentation allowed guests to receive comprehensive information on the types of sectors, businesses and amenities that entrepreneurs and SMEs can receive through their business relations with Hamriyah Free Zone.

The UAE and Hong Kong have a four-decade long history of trade and Hong Kong is the UAE's 10th largest trading partner. Last year's bilateral trade figures stood at USD 10.5 billion, indicating a growth rate of 5 percent.



Unger Steel completes structural work for iconic Bee'ah Headquarters

Hamriyah Free Zone-based Unger Steel Middle East has announced the completion of the connection design, fabrication and erection of the primary structural steel elements for the new landmark Bee'ah Headquarters building currently under construction in Sharjah.

The design, by Zaha Hadid, has been based on the concept of architectural sand dunes in order to reflect the natural beauty of the desert

surroundings. Integral to the design was the importance of incorporating as many ecologically efficient and sustainable solutions as feasibly possible into the materials, building process and long-term maintenance of the property.

BuroHappold Engineering was appointed to execute this task which called for an extraordinary level of engineering expertise and experience. The best solution they found to rationalize the design was to use rows

of steel frames of standard section size and a GRC roof, instead of freeform concrete. The switch from concrete to steel for the majority of the building meant the integrity of the design could be maintained.

Unger Steel Middle East was chosen to carry out the complicated connection design, fabrication and steel erection. Unger dedicated an enormous amount of engineering effort to resolve potential clashes with other elements of the structure using BIM and TEKLA modeling tools. Once the fully connected TELKA model was completed, the next challenge was given to the highly skilled machine operators, fitters, welders and painters working at Unger's state-of-the-art fabrication facility in Hamriyah Free Zone, Sharjah.

Over 2,000 assemblies were fabricated to within the highest degrees of accuracy, using specially designed jigs and other manufacturing techniques. Zero errors in fabrication while working to precise tolerances meant the Unger erection teams at site could fit each element in place speedily and ahead of schedule, achieving maximum customer satisfaction.



Lijan Group offers integrated industrial solutions in a sustainable manner

The Lijan Group of companies, headquartered in Dubai, is a fast growing thermal insulation and climatization expert that delivers professional integrated services for industrial, marine & offshore, and construction businesses.

Lijan Insulation Contracting LLC, the flagship company of Lijan Group established in 2004, is a reputed

contracting and trading company that provides turnkey solutions in all types of hot/cold/acoustic/cryogenic and refractory insulation and cladding and also provides renewable energy services for the marine and industrial sectors.

Over the past 12 years, the Lijan Group has been associating with most of the leading industrial and oil

& gas companies in the UAE as well as Hamriyah Free zone for thermal insulation needs. These services are provided with utmost quality and in the safest manner.

Other extended verticals the Lijan Group supports are stainless steel chimney exhaust system, design/supply and installation of wind driven turbo ventilators and solar sky tubes/lights.

Over the years, the Group has diversified into the green energy sector and has introduced climatization solutions in the MENA region. The scope and scale of its capabilities include design, fabrication and installation of wind-driven turbo ventilators. Lijan is driven by a focus to eliminate energy waste by using renewable resources and adopting sustainable practices in all areas of operation. In one of its projects at Dubai Textile City, Lijan recently completed installation of 1500 ventilators which has led to a savings of approximately 3 million units (kWh) of electricity and has consequently reduced 2000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year.



HFZA delegation tours Al Islami Foods factory

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, led a delegation of HFZA officials on a visit to the premises of Al Islami Foods factory at the Free Zone's Food Park.

Accompanying the HFZA Director were Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director and Muhamed Basheer, Head of Overseas Promotion. The HFZA officials were received by Khaled Elzoghby, Technical & Manufacturing Director at Al Islami Foods.

A provider of quality halal products with a rich heritage dating back to 1981, Al Islami Foods supplies over 100 frozen food items under three brands to cater to various market segments. The company's manufacturing facility at Hamriyah Free Zone uses the most advanced technology to produce foods that are healthy and nutritious.

This visit comes as part of Hamriyah Free Zone's strategy to visit factories and companies to be familiar with the requirements of investors and understand their needs in order to respond to them according to a cooperation mechanism that attains

support and growth for investments.

Commenting on the visit, Al Mazrouei said, "Our fundamental principles at HFZA are based on transparency and direct communication with our clients. That is why we hold regular visits to exchange opinions and experiences and discuss new avenues of development, and explore areas of investment."

He pointed out that Al Islami Foods factory is one of the leading companies in the field of Halal beef production and distribution. It is considered the largest Halal beef production and distribution company in the UAE and the second largest producer and supplier of poultry products. Al Islami is a trademark that

has a strong presence in the local and international markets. The opening of Al Islami Foods at Hamriyah Free Zone in 2014 has seen an added value to the company as the production capacity increased to 600 tons per month which is likely to increase further in the successive stages of the factory's expansion plan.

"We are committed to providing an ideal investment environment and essential support to ensure achieving continuous growth for all investors," Al Mazrouei added.

Hamriyah Free Zone focuses on the food sector through its newly launched Food Park, a regional hub for the Middle East and North Africa's multi-billion-dollar food industry, dedicated to food import, export, storage, manufacture and packaging. The new world class zone will be the region's largest dedicated facility for food industries, covering a total area of 11 million square meters and offering warehousing, office space and labor accommodation.

Established in 1970, Al Islami Foods was known as the first 100% Halal beef importer in the UAE. Since then, its successes increased thanks to tireless efforts and its commitment to the highest standards of quality and food safety as it supplies more than 100 food products through its branches in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, India and Brazil.



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Invest in Sharjah film wins prize at Cannes Corporate Media and TV Awards

A promotional film commissioned by Invest in Sharjah as part of its marketing collateral has won the Dolphin Trophy in the category 'Marketing Communication – B2B' at the 8th edition of Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards. The Invest in Sharjah film won out of nearly 1,000 entries at the international festival dedicated to corporate films, online media and TV productions which takes place annually in Cannes, France.

"Invest in Sharjah", the investment promotion arm of the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq), has a modern vision to promote the emirate to the wider business world and communicate

Sharjah's unique attributes, successes and location.

The film was first presented at the Sharjah FDI Forum 2016; one of the region's leading annual economic and financial forums held in Sharjah. Through its diverse components to showcase Sharjah's various sectors; the video emphasizes the emirate's advantages of being just a four-hour flight from a third of the world's population and an eight-hour flight from two thirds. It also highlights Sharjah as a business hub, while forging a new future through its industrial zones and an economic growth that has now achieved a gross domestic product of USD 25 billion.

Mohammed Juma Al Musharrakh, Director of Invest in Sharjah said: "This award is a testament to how Sharjah has a unified approach and a common goal of attracting investors through its modern infrastructure, strategic location and stable environment to start and expand their businesses and enter into the Middle East market and beyond."

He added: "Invest in Sharjah has a primary role of showcasing the very best qualities and opportunities the emirate has to offer and through this production we have made tremendous inroads to a global audience. We have not only conveyed the message that Sharjah is an investment haven, we have also successfully portrayed its potential as an even greater destination in the future. Sharjah is a hugely attractive proposition for companies all over the world and through initiatives such as these, more businesses will see more reasons to invest more resources."

The film is produced in both Arabic and English languages, runs for 3 minutes and 40 seconds, and is set against a backdrop of stunning cinematography, drone technology and elegant infographics. It is produced by Dubai's Double Exposure Productions and directed by Ahmed Al Mutawa.

Sharjah Charity International spends AED22 million in overseas projects

Sharjah Charity International, SCI, has announced that it spent AED22 million on charitable projects abroad in the third quarter of 2017. Abdullah Mubarak Al Dukhan, Secretary-General of SCI, said the third quarter of the year saw the construction of 232 mosques at the value of AED13.1 million and drilling of 1,215 wells for drinking water



in drought-hit countries in Africa at a total cost of AED6 million.

These mosques, he added, were built in Burkina Faso, Senegal, India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Indonesia, Niger, Togo, Thailand, Bosnia, Ghana,

Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Sudan. "Burkina Faso has the lion's share in these projects with 65 places of worship," he added. "Most of the SCI's foreign humanitarian and development projects targeted the underprivileged and under-developed regions."



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The Flag Island hosts artists network evening

A huge turnout of people witnessed the inaugural function of The Flag Island's (TFI) six-month community development program that aims to strengthen community ties and encourage creative arts.

Sharjah's premier open-air leisure and tourist destination and one of the UAE's most iconic national landmarks, hosted the launch event of 'Fualat Al Asr' at the expansive TFI amphitheatre in October, featuring a packed itinerary

of cultural programs and interactive activities. From ice-breaking games and performances to a Q&A session and open mic opportunity with live jam shows, the event was a true treat for the culturally inclined. Alongside introducing Sharjah's local communities to the host of activities that will be part of this program, the opening provided a great networking platform to artists, writers, poets, singers and dancers.

The Flag Island Performing Arts Program is a community initiative to introduce performing arts to the community in Sharjah. Organizations and individuals involved in theater will collaborate to roll out the various elements of the program. Intended to encourage community participation in live performances, the program will constitute various workshops and activities that will cover five themes – Comedy, Acting, Music, Poetry and Dance – where participants will learn how to construct poetry, learn basic music and swing dance.

"There truly is something for everyone at this innovative six-month program. The venue is ideal with open spaces and manicured lawns where people of all ages and all levels of abilities can take part and enjoy everything on offer," said Khuloud Al Junaibi, Manager of The Flag Island.

The main focus of the program is activating the amphitheater space through an approach that connects the community of Sharjah via art, history, and culture mainly through performing arts.



Sharjah Ruler aims to turn 15% of emirate's land into nature reserves

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, has said that the emirate of Sharjah aims to make 15% of its area into nature reserves. This came during an intervention His Highness made via the Direct Line Programme broadcast live on Sharjah Radio and TV in October.

"On my last visit to Khorfakkan, I inspected the areas that will be

planted, and the mountains that will be turned into green areas on the new road," His Highness said.

His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah pointed out: "At the entrance of Al Hisn Popular area, you will find that the plants were planted by nature without our interference, and the purpose of agriculture is to preserve wild animals and birds." His Highness added that the Breeding Center for Endangered

Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW) has been established to protect these animals. "Among our new projects is Al Qarm Nature Reserve which will include four various environments," he added.

Protected areas in Sharjah represent different ecosystems and currently form 4.6% of its area, which are: coasts and marine environment, sand dunes, mountainous areas, valleys, gravel plains, and the ecosystem of the sabkhas (marshes) as well as of geological structures. Protected areas in Sharjah is divided into nine protected areas. Each has a defined diverse ecosystem, including its rich biodiversity, which states that Sharjah has a variety in the ecological, biological and geological systems.



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Sharjah forms steering committee for 'Child Friendly City' project

Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, Chairperson of Sharjah Baby Friendly Office (SBFO), has issued an administrative order to form a steering committee to oversee the implementation of the emirate's strategy to join the global 'Child Friendly Cities' initiative, launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

SBFO's new steering committee comprises Sheikha Jamila bint Mohammad Al Qasimi, Director General of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services; Sheikh Mohammed bin Humaid Al Qasimi, Director of Sharjah Department of Statistics and Community Development; Mohammad Hassan Khalaf, Director General of Sharjah

Media Corporation; Tariq Saeed Allay, Director of Sharjah Government Media Bureau, Engineer Khalid Al Ali, Secretary-General of Sharjah Urban Planning Council, and Dr. Hessa Khalfan Al Ghazal, Executive Director of the Sharjah Baby Friendly Office.

SBFO's steering committee will be tasked with ensuring cooperation and coordination between all directorates, departments and entities pertinent to children and young adults, as well as following up on the implementation of Sharjah's strategic plan, which forms part of its project to join the Child Friendly Cities initiative. The committee's purview is also to ensure that all guidelines and procedures relevant to the project are carried out in the optimum way, with the committee entitled to appoint representatives of other entities temporarily or permanently as needed.

To achieve its objectives, the committee will meet regularly once a month until the emirate's successful accreditation by the UNICEF Gulf Area Office as a child-friendly city. After that, the committee will meet quarterly once every three months. It will also prepare a yearly report to outline the project's progress with recommendations on how to improve the performance and the results to SBFO.

Sharjah Public Works implements projects worth AED 120 million

As a culmination of its vision of sustainable urbanisation, Sharjah Public Works Department (SPWD), has implemented 32 projects in the central region at a cost of AED 120 million, aiming to ensure its vision to enhance the sustainable development in the emirate of Sharjah.

Ali bin Shaheen Al Suwaidi, member of

the Sharjah Executive Council (SEC) and Chairman of SPWD, said that the Department has accomplished a number of developmental urban projects in the emirate to achieve the ambitious objectives of its new strategic plan.

Al Suwaidi further added that the Department has completed

the accomplishment of a number of nurseries, in line with the direction of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, to build 66 nurseries throughout the Emirate.

The SPWD's new achievements also included the accomplishment of several projects, including gravel roads, construction work on different parks, the seed bank in Al Dhaid, building football stadium bleachers in Al Bataeh Cultural & Sports Club, as well as a number of several other projects.



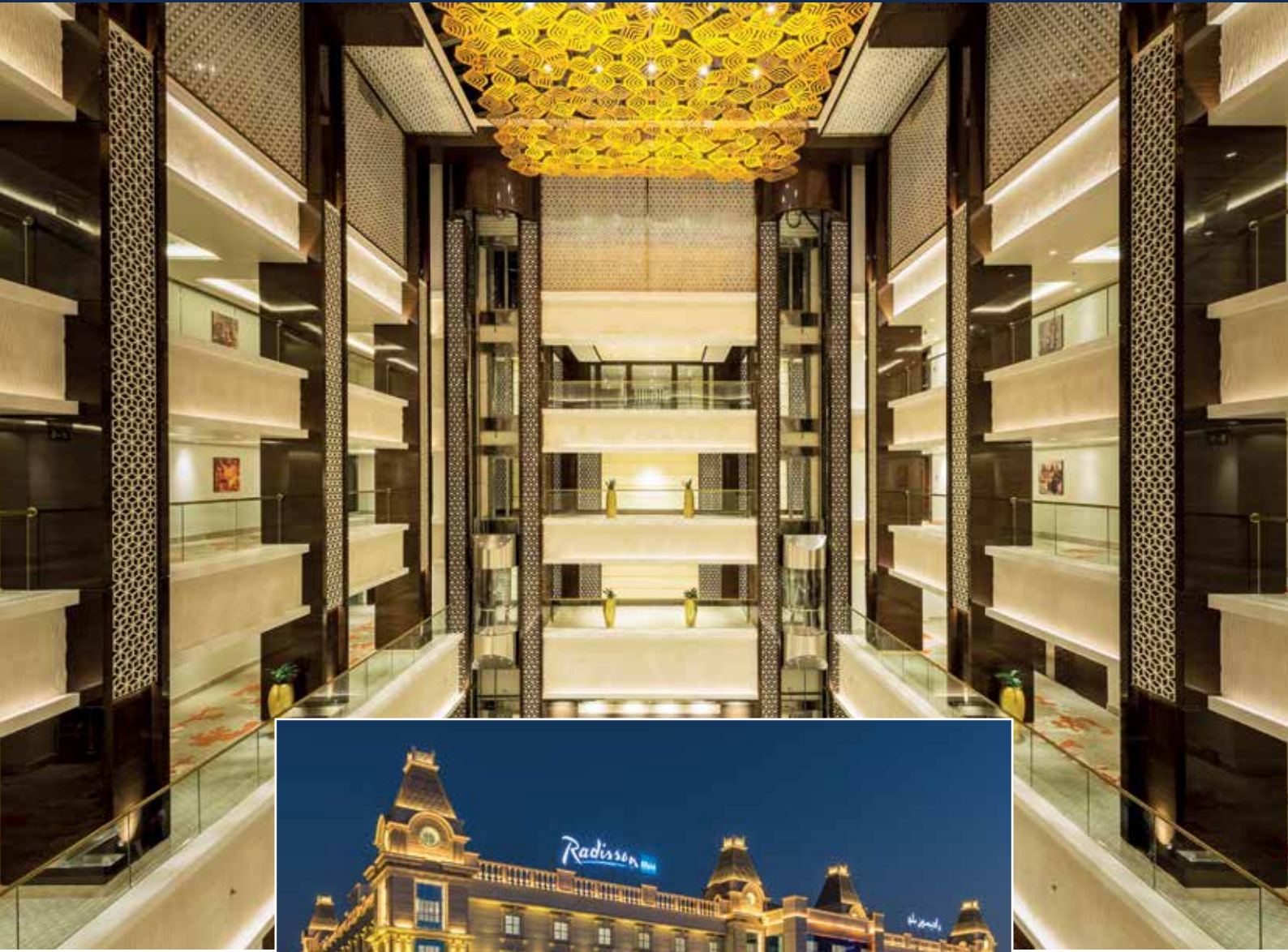


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