

Taware'e

wa Azamat

Together .. we preserve the country's achievements

Quarterly Magazine Published by NCEMA - 7th Issue - January 2014

**Khalifa at the "Leaders Forum":
Wisdom is our Way to Prosperity and
Promote Peace, Justice and Tolerance
in the World**



**"GCC" Summit :
Unified Gulf Military Command and
Academy for Strategic Studies**



EXPO 2020
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**Chief Executive Officer «Emirates
Nuclear power»:
We follow a program for the peaceful
production takes into account the highest
standards of safety and security**



CEMC
مؤتمر إدارة الطوارئ والأزمات
2014
Crisis & Emergency Management Conference

**CEMC 2014:
«Preparedness and
Response ...
Responsibility of All»**



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority

(Together..we preserve the country's achievements)

VISION

Distinction in managing crisis and emergencies.

MISSION

**To enhance the UAE's capabilities in managing crisis and emergencies by:
setting the requirements of business continuity, enabling quick recovery
through joint planning, and coordinating communication
both at the national and local level.**

GOAL

**Achievement of State policy with regard to procedures for managing
emergencies, crises and disasters.**

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Leadership, Excellence and a Happy People

Continuous confident strides down the road to leadership and excellence, long chapters written one after the other with every dawning day on accomplishments here and there amid a silence that shrouds stories on plans of masterminds, achievements of brave people and the fruit of hard work and untiring efforts. Such is the path trod by the United Arab Emirates.

We have become accustomed to surprises galore, each of which makes us forget what came before it. So we took to looking forward to the near future, waiting for new achievements that would outshine all previous experiences.

In the midst of the preparations for the 42nd National Day of the UAE, the attention was divided between the local scene which was literally in the eye of the storm, on high alert for heavy rains and torrents, and on the French capital where voting was underway for a huge international event. Then, time stopped for a moment, and words of praise to God were heard loud and clear in an atmosphere of joy and pride throughout the UAE and the Arab world, as Dubai was proclaimed winner of the competition to host the Expo 2020, having surpassed by far three much larger, much older and much more populated rivals.

Such distinction and success were only possible thanks to the brilliant vision, strong will and great determination towards leadership and excellence of a country which, ever since its inception, has astounded the world by the path it has trodden. The UAE is led by a sagacious leadership which places its people at the centre of its strategy, making their happiness its goal, accompanying them step by step down the road to progress and development, laying solid foundations for the country and empowering it beyond limits.

One way to the top and no time to waste, our ambition knows no limit. Our desert with its vast expanse of sands and unbearable temperatures has morphed into an oasis of safety and security, a Mecca for people and organisations alike, a real haven for industry, trade, investment, culture as well as entertainment and a synonym for stability.

The UAE has established itself on the world map as the “country of the happy people”, occupying top positions worldwide and unanimously dubbed a “responsible charitable country” by the other nations. Today, it is exporting its ultramodern techniques and heavy industries to some of the greatest countries while addressing environmental challenges in an effort to produce a clean energy that will spare both man and the environment millions of tonnes of toxic gases (approximately 12 million tonnes of harmful carbon emissions per annum).

Calculated multidirectional steps, clear far-sighted strategies based on in-depth research that takes into account the slightest detail, perseverance that translates ideas and plans into actions for serving man and his future and a path that mobilizes available resources, potentials and energies to the greatest extent in the right direction.

Such are our Emirates today, with one eye on our historical heritage and authenticity, source of our pride, and the other on how to keep abreast of progress and strive for distinction and excellence, in a world that has no place for the weak or for those who twiddle their thumbs and wait for good things to happen.

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Aims to qualify and develop cadres in safety, security, defence, emergency preparedness and crisis management

Sheikh Khalifa issues law pertaining to the establishment of «Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi»

HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, issued a law pertaining to the establishment of an academy to train and educate national staff in fields of safety, security, defence, emergency preparedness and crisis management based on scientific approaches. It aims to achieve a standardised, integrated and efficient response to anticipated threats, risks, accidents and crises.

Law No. 7 of 2013, which was published in the last issue of the General Secretariat of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi's Official Gazette, stipulates the establishment of an academy with an independent legal personality called the Rabdan Academy. The Academy will enjoy financial and administrative independence and will be vested with full legal capacity to exercise its business and achieve its goals. The Academy, an affiliate of the Executive Council, is based in Abu Dhabi and may, upon a decision of its Board of Trustees, establish branches or offices within or outside Abu Dhabi Emirate.

The Academy aims to forge future leaderships and become a distinguished national centre for qualifying and developing cadres in the fields of safety, security, defence, emergency preparedness and crisis management with a view to achieve a standardised, integrated and efficient response to all types of threats, risks, incidents and crises. The Academy promotes principles of sustained education and continued capacity building.

Rabdan Academy aims to establish an outstanding education and training system structured according to the best global methods and curricula in such disciplines as safety, security, defence, emergency

preparedness and crisis management. It has among its objectives to develop and implement specialised scientific and training programmes and activities to fulfil the requirements of beneficiaries, to organise specialised conferences, forums and workshops

in the offered fields of study, to offer advisory and technical services to stakeholders and beneficiaries, to foster academic, scientific and practical partnerships in cooperation with relevant local and foreign authorities and agencies to exchange expertise, and to establish and develop a modern database that would serve as reference to professionals and specialists. The law stipulates that the Academy will have a board of trustees vested with legal powers to administer the academy's operations, affairs and objectives and to develop and implement its strategic plans and general policies. The

Academy's chairman and a vice chairman will be appointed by a decision of the Chairman of the Executive Council. Its educational board will be exercise all powers and duties pertaining to the regulation and implementation of academic programmes, academic reattach and cultural programmes.

The Academy aims to achieve a standardised, integrated and efficient response to anticipated threats, risks, accidents and crises

In a speech given on His Highness's behalf by HE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak

Sheikh Khalifa at the «Leaders Forum» at UNESCO:

“Wisdom is our way to achieve prosperity, spread peace, justice and tolerance throughout the world”

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE confirmed the UAE's adherence to its role as a champion of culture, education and development in order to achieve positive interaction between civilisations, curb conflicts and consolidate peace and global harmony. His Highness said “Wisdom is our way to achieve prosperity, spread peace, justice and tolerance throughout the world.”

In a speech on his behalf delivered by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development at the last «Leaders Forum», which was held in the framework of the 37th General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).



His Highness said the “Leaders Forum” evokes major challenges facing the world in the areas of economy, environment, water, food, energy, extremism, terrorism, conflicts and demographic changes. All these challenges require us to specify the role of culture in tackling these issues by identifying the responsibility of UNESCO, which will help to fill gaps in education, health, modern technologies, women's rights, access to information and the economic progress in general.”

He expressed pride... In the United Arab Emirates and added «our civilisation has provided an integral system of authentic heritage values that constitute the framework of our life and encourage understanding between us and the peoples of the world. Our culture in the UAE is universal, it enhances our sense of belonging to humanity and reinforces our advanced position among all the countries worldwide”.

He said: «As we look forward to working with

UNESCO, we would like to focus on the role of culture derived from the UAE's experience. Firstly, we have a strong conviction about the role of culture regarding the encouragement of interaction among cultures, as well as establishing international relations based on cooperation, and getting rid of stereotypes about other peoples. Secondly, UNESCO should regulate the use of modern technology in the area of culture. It is our duty to encourage communication among the world's peoples through modern technology. Thirdly, we are well aware about strong relations between education and culture at time that requires continuous education out of traditional institutions. It requires continuous learning, which for the most part is accomplished now irregularly, outside schools and colleges, and in the context of community expectations and potential closely linked to the levels of cultural development in the community. And fourthly, I call upon UNESCO to provide leadership so as to address the world challenges in the 21st century." His Highness the President called on the UNESCO to «be the conscience of the world, to take up the cultural tool to encourage peaceful applications and development for all sciences and technologies... and «to help various countries in preserving their heritage and displaying their culture before the world. Culture and heritage represent, without doubt, the domain of what we now call «public diplomacy», which aims to build confidence, optimism and cooperation among all the countries of the world.»

He said: «UNESCO has an important role to play in placing culture at the heart of human life, and protecting cultural work from the pressures that often lead to its marginalisation. UNESCO has a good opportunity to help different countries to preserve their heritage, while encouraging cultural exchange and supporting innovation and creativity worldwide.»

His highness pointed out that the founding father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, known as “the Wiseman of the Arabs”, was far-sighted and had a clear vision for the future of his country and its standing among the world's countries stemming from his national culture and his practical experience in affairs of the world... He stressed that «the world today desperately needs wisdom, among the leaders and citizens alike; because wisdom is our way to achieve economic prosperity and spread peace, justice and tolerance in all parts of the world.»

He concluded by saying: «I call upon you in this forum to be wise in the confirmation of our support of UNESCO and its prestigious role in bolstering the principles of hope, cooperation, stability and prosperity across the world.»

The «Leaders Forum» in its last sessions brought together over one thousand participants from 195 countries including heads of state, ministers and representatives. In addition to drawing global attention, because of the quality of its participants, especially since the addresses of leaders serve as a «road map» to help UNESCO planners to formulate initiatives and programmes within the purview of the organisation, it constitutes a great pillar of the attention of its administration and follow-up... The organisers chose this time to focus on discussing «the mobilisation of UNESCO and its contribution to the post- 2015 notebook

through education, science, culture, communication and information.” This axis responds to the debate launched by the United Nations to determine the mechanisms and dynamics of development after the year 2015, and is based on experience accumulated through the «Millennium Development Goals» plan adopted in 2000.

**“Leaders Forum”
evokes major
challenges facing
the world in the
areas of economy
environment,
water food
energy extremism
terrorism conflicts
and demographic
changes**

NCEMA marks the 42nd national Day with a varied ceremony

Al Rumaithi: Our duty is to preserve the trust and continue to give for the country and maintain the march of its progress and pride

The National Emergency, Crises and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) marked the 42nd National Day with a varied ceremony. Led by His Excellency Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director General of NCEMA and the department directors, the authority's staff drew the Union panel and recited the pledge of allegiance to the nation and to the president.



The ceremony, which was held at NCEMA's headquarters in Abu Dhabi, amidst national flags and pictures of their Highnesses the President and his fellow members of the Supreme Federal Council, Rulers of the Emirates, included several events. It began with the national anthem performed by Abu Dhabi Police band along with a variety of musical pieces. The ceremony's programme reflected aspects of the national customs and traditions and included a

number of folk dances. Traditional Emirati food was served. During the celebration, prizes for a special National Day competition were announced.

HE Al Rumaithi gave a speech for the occasion. He said: The second of December is an immortal day in which we evoke with much loyalty and gratitude the journey of the founder of the state the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, God rests his soul, and remember his valued brothers

the rulers of the emirates that laid the foundations of a state we are proud of belonging to and started this pure national project and this national experience whose essence is a national identity, values, customs and authentic traditions.

He added: "We are gathered today to celebrate an occasion dear to our hearts, valued in our souls, sublime in our aspirations and a symbol of our pride.... this anniversary unites us every year, and reminds us of the early founders of our union, that we are enjoying today, and the strenuous efforts they made for the country and its sons, and their achievements for our people, in a modern state, whose leadership has put human beings at the top of their priorities and provided them with the attention and care that they deserve in order to live comfortably and to ensure growth and welfare."

HE Al Rumaithi went on conveying his sincere congratulations and blessings to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State and to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and Their Highnesses members of the Supreme Council of Rulers of the Emirates, and HH Gen. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, for that Federal national occasion so dear to all.

He also congratulated the UAE government and its people, and specifically Dubai, for winning the bid to host the "Expo 2020" event. He said: "This is a victory for all Emiratis that consecrates the accomplishments of our country and the brilliant reputation it has achieved at both regional and global levels, and the respect it has earned by its policies, which are characterised by an excellent relationship with various countries around the world." He added: "Our joy is double by this win, given that it coincided with the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the founding of our Union."

HE Al Rumaithi went on to say: "Today we celebrate and we renew our vows of loyalty, fidelity and obedience and we promise God - the Almighty - and the leaders of our journey - may God protect them - to do all that is needed to safeguard the trust they put in us and protect the achievements and the gains of our nation."

He said: "One occasion after the other, one celebration after the other, we witness with our own eyes the succession of achievements at various levels, led by a wise leadership, whose foresight, modern vision, sound insight and strong will have captured the world's attention and interest, making the United Arab Emirates a destination of choice for centres and platforms that overlook the entire world."

He pointed out that "this is the standing that our country has taken on the world map and this trust granted to it by the international community came only as the fruit of our wise leadership's aspirations." He added that the UAE has given an example to the world achieving glory and leadership in all areas, and yesterday our country made a global scoop when it earned the chance to host "Expo 2020" which would add a great deal to the state and the region.

HE Al Rumaithi stressed that "our celebration today, does not only aim to raise the national flag and pledge our loyalty to our country and to our leadership - God protect them - but also, to renew our covenant and oath to continue to work responsibly, loyally and conscientiously, providing our outmost efforts to defend our union and to preserve our country and its achievements. He asked NCEMA to... "be loyal to its objectives and continue to make efforts in order to safeguard the homeland, its journey of progress and its pride... this is what the compass of our steps must always settle on."

HE Al Rumaithi concluded: "Let this anniversary be a renewed occasion for all of us, and everyone of us in the scope of our career and responsibilities, to hone self-determination towards more dedication, commitment and distinction."

To be held in Abu Dhabi on February 25 and 26

Emergency and Crisis Management Conference argues “Preparedness and Response... Responsibility of All”

CEMC
مؤتمر إدارة الطوارئ والأزمات
Crisis & Emergency Management Conference **2014**

Under the slogan “Preparedness and Response... Responsibility of All”, Abu Dhabi will host the Emergency and Crisis Management Conference 2014” on February 25 and 26.

The conference, organised by the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), will discuss issues such as prevention, the role of the media in raising awareness about emergencies, the role of the community as the first responder, climatic phenomena and natural disasters and management of industrial hazards.



The conference will be held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hazaa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi. It will bring together a number of senior officials and civilians and military figures as well as a group of academics and experts from several Arab and friendly countries that have signed agreements and memoranda of understanding with NCEMA. They include Australia, the UK, Italy, the US in addition to local, regional and international organisations and institutions. The conference in its fourth edition begins with an inaugural session that features addresses by Mr Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United, Dr. Nabil Al Arabi, the Secretary General of the Arab, HE Suhail Faraj Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Mr Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The conference will comprise of five sessions in two days. The first session entitled “Prevention vs. Improved Solutions” will be chaired by retired Major General Dr Ridha Al Battoush, deputy chairman of the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management in Jordan. The session will also include an address by General Michael Charlton Woody from the UK Cabinet about developing national capabilities to confront emergencies and an address by Mr Mark Croweller the director general of Emergency Management Australia about “Early warning in preparing for emergencies and crises”. Mr Alan Berman, President of the Recovery Institute in the US will give a speech on the role of business continuity management in confronting emergencies and crises. The second session entitled “The Media and Management of Crises and Disasters” will be chaired by HE Ibrahim Al Abed, Director General of the National Media Council of the UAE. The session will include presentations by Mrs Barbara Ryan from Southern Queensland University in Australia about the role of the media in raising community awareness about confronting emergencies, crises and disasters. Dr Campbell McFerty Director of the Secretariat of Civil Contingencies at the UK Cabinet Office will discuss planning the media strategy for emergency management and finally, international expert Nigel Kay will discuss dealing with the media during

emergencies.

The third session entitled “The Community... the First Responder” will feature speeches by Major General Rashed Al Matroushi, Director General of Civil Defence at the UAE Ministry of Interior about the role of Civil Defence in confronting emergencies and crises and HE Dr Mohammed Atiq Al Falahi, Secretary General of the UAE Red Crescent about the role of the Red Crescent in preparedness and response. Finally, the session will feature a speech by Mr Andrew Kojlan from the Emergency Services Agency at the Australian Red Cross about volunteers and responding to emergencies.

The fourth session will be entitled “Climatic Phenomena and Natural Disasters”. Speakers will include Mr Itsunori Onodera, Minister of Natural Disasters at the Japanese Defence Ministry who will present a speech on ways to confront and mitigate the effect of earthquakes and floods. Mr Chris Felton, head of the High Impact Hazards Team in the UK who will talk about climatic phenomena and their role in disasters.

The fifth and final session will be entitled “Risk Management”. It will be chaired by Saif Al Dhaheri, Director of Safety and Prevention Department. The session will include speeches by William Travers, Director General of the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation as well as Dr Jassem Al Zaabi, Director General of the National Cyber Security Authority about the strategies to address cyber security risks.

NCEMA is keen on holding specialised international conferences in the UAE to benefit from global experiences and technologies in the domain of emergency management.

Conferences of this type seek to develop emergency and crisis management in the UAE and in the region. Their main objective is to familiarise participants to global expertise in areas of coordinating actions in the management of emergencies and to raise awareness in the UAE and the region about the need for coordinated efforts.

Such conferences aim to create knowledge, awareness and preparedness to the management of emergencies and disasters, to encourage joint cooperation between neighbouring countries in the

region and to spread awareness about all matters related to the management of emergencies and crisis as well as to exchange expertise at a global level and highlight the best practices in emergency management.

They offer participants from the UAE and other countries an opportunity to familiarise themselves with innovative and practical concepts related to coordinating efforts at every level in order to address emergencies and crises.

NCEMA's conferences attract experts and strategists from all over the world. They are unprecedented in the Gulf area and in the Middle East as they are forums for exchange of visions between global experts that share their knowledges through a series of lectures and workshops in order to reach the best solutions for addressing emergencies, preventing them and mitigating their negative effects.

Issues such as preparedness, command and control during emergencies, environmental and industrial security, countering terrorism, cyber and technological security and the role of communications and the media in the management of emergencies are all issues of interest for NCEMA's conferences.

The bi-annual conference was held in three previous editions in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

The first conference, which was held on March 3 and 4, 2008 was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Leader of the Armed Forces. The conference was a first of its kind in the Middle East. It discussed the best methods to deal with emergencies. It joined 370 participants from 15 countries that were introduced to experiences presented by 17 global experts.

Participants discussed preparedness to crises, environmental and industrial security, the role of communications and the media in emergency management. The conference gathered international experts and representatives from the sector of emergency management in areas of environment, health, natural disasters and terrorism. It aimed to allow the Gulf region and the Middle East the opportunity to benefit from worldwide expertise in the domain. The second edition of the conference was held on January 11, 12

and 13 in 2010. It focused on activating the role of the state in countering political and security crises and on the methods to avoid international risks. The conference featured nearly 40 speakers who presented lectures and speeches and participated in workshops. It discussed a number of topics including preparedness, environmental and natural disasters, cyber security and countering terrorism, creating knowledge and preparedness and it emphasised the need to encourage joint cooperation between neighbouring countries at a regional level and to exchange expertise in the areas of emergency and crisis management.

The conference issued recommendations regarding the need to be prepared for emergencies and crises in order to limit risks and mitigate their effects. It also recommended the need to establish a website to facilitate communication and exchange of ideas and experiences in the areas of emergency management.

The third conference, which was held in January 16 and 17, 2012 under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hazaa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the National Security Advisor and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi and former chairman of NCEMA, was entitled "Preparing to Face Future Challenges... Improvised Solutions in Emergency Management". It recommended the establishment of a unified Gulf system to manage emergencies and crises and to develop unified emergency strategies and plans.

The conference highlighted the need to develop ongoing emergency management educational and training programmes for leaders that bolster their abilities and enable them to form a clear vision in the domain. It stressed also the need to participate with the civil society institutions and associations as well as with educational institutions in the development of strategies and plans relevant to emergency management. The conference confirmed the need to promote the role of the community and volunteer work in addressing emergencies and crises. The conference called for the need of transparency with the community in order to reduce the negative effects of any crisis or disaster. It stressed the need to create special plans for special needs people in the framework of emergency management.

Thirty-fourth Summit concluded with the «Kuwait Declaration»

The GCC agrees on the establishment of a unified military command and an Academy for Strategic Studies based in the UAE

The Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf States(GCC) agreed to establish a unified military command, to complement the steps and efforts aiming to enhance the security and stability of the GCC countries and to build a common defensive system to achieve collective security, and the creation of a Gulf Academy for Strategic and security Studies, and welcomed and expressed its gratitude to the United Arab Emirate for hosting this Academy. It also agreed to start implementing the supplementing path of the secure communications project, and ratified the decision to establish a Gulf police body, stressing that the establishment of this device will enhance the security actions and expand the areas of cooperation and coordination between the security agencies in the GCC countries, and counter-terrorism.

It approved the decisions of the Joint Defence Council, expressing appreciation for the implemental steps that have been taken in the joint military action field, the latest of which was the defence ministers' foundation stone-laying for "the Coordination Office for Maritime Security" in Bahrain marking the beginning of its implementation



Rejection of the continued Iranian occupation of the three islands

The Council renewed its emphasis on its rejection of the continued occupation of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three islands, Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa, that are part of the United Arab Emirates, stressing on supporting the right of sovereignty of the UAE over the three islands, the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the islands, as an integral part of the United Arab Emirates, and considering that any decisions or practices or acts carried out by Iran on the three islands are null and void, and do not change anything of the historical and legal facts about the sovereign right of the UAE over them. The summit invited Tehran to respond to the efforts made in order to resolve the issue through direct negotiations or recourse to the international Court of Justice.

The Council stressed the importance of closer cooperation between its states and Iran, on the basis of the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs, and respect for the sovereignty of the countries in the region, and refrain from the use of force, or threatening of using it. It welcomed the new trends of the Iranian leadership towards the GCC countries, hoping these trends will be followed by concrete steps that will be positively reflected on the peace, security and stability in the region. It also welcomed the agreement primer signed by the " P5 +1 " and Iran on the 24th of November last year in Geneva, as a preliminary step toward a comprehensive and lasting peace on the Iranian nuclear program, ending the international and regional concern about this programme, and enhancing the region's security and stability, and contributing to the evacuation of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear ones.

Mobilisation in the face of security challenges

Their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries concluded the work of their

34th summit, which was hosted by Kuwait last December, and lasted two days, by issuing the "Kuwait Declaration" which called for strengthening the collective actions of the GCC countries, and the mobilisation of common energies to face the dangers and challenges that threaten its security and stability, and strengthen them towards their consequences, and pointed out the need to work in order to achieve more development, to meet the hopes of the people of the GCC countries and their aspirations.

The leaders emphasised the need to implement all the decisions taken by the Cooperation Council in all fields, and conduct a comprehensive review of the resolutions have not been implemented, and to find the appropriate mechanisms to speed up their implementation. They asked the General Secretariat to work on the delivery of those decisions to the citizens of the Gulf in an appropriate manner, to view their contents and act on them, in order to achieve the benefit for which they were issued.

Gulf economic integration

The leaders of the "Cooperation Council" also emphasised the importance of continuing to work to achieve economic integration among the GCC countries, and overcome the obstacles in the way of the Gulf common market, and complete the requirements of the Customs Union, in an effort to increase trade between the states, and complete the steps of the monetary union, all the way to the Gulf currency, in order to achieve the global application of the terms of the economic agreement and in accordance with specific timing programmes.

And to confirm the success that has been accomplished in the completion of the electrical connection, which saw its inception in the Kuwait summit in 2009, the leaders encouraged the acceleration of the infrastructure integration projects in the GCC countries, including the railway network, which related studies were completed, and the completion of the studies for the linking water network, and to deepen the GCC countries efforts in maintaining the environment.



The Supreme Council reviewed the vision of the advisory body on the establishment of a Food and Drug administration of its States, and a joined Gulf center specialised in public preventive health care.

The leaders praised the efforts aimed at the investment of the youth potential in supporting the efforts of the GCC, to get more achievements done at all levels, and emphasised the importance of developing programmes that serve the youth sector, in order to refine their abilities and take advantage of their bids, so as to enhance bonding between the GCC youth.

Communication with the public

The leaders assigned to the Secretariat the task of communicating with the public opinion of the Gulf and GCC nationals, writers and thinkers, to get to know their opinions and suggestions, regarding ways to strengthen the GCC efforts, in order to achieve the common interests of countries and peoples, and inform them of the steps that are performed in the plans and projects that have been adopted during the GCC joint action.

Their Majesties and Highnesses expressed their

satisfaction about the remarkable development role of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the support of a number of Arab countries that still suffer from economic problems that have affected their political and social situation.

The Supreme Council reviewed the recommendations and follow-up reports submitted by the Ministerial Council, and achievements of the joint action since the last session in all fields, and expressed its appreciation for the efforts made to promote joint cooperation, and push them towards new and wider horizons. It also discussed the developments of the regional and International political issues, in the light of the events and rapid developments witnessed by the region and adopted a number of unified rules concerning the integration of financial markets of the Member States.

The Council expressed, in the final statement of the conference, which was read by Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary General of the Council, its concern over the reports regarding plans to build more nuclear reactors on the Gulf shores, and the threat this might represent to the fragile ecosystem, and water security in the Gulf region.

2nd edition of the “Gulf Naval Commanders Conference” draws an attendance of 300 Participants discuss skill and capacity building to address challenges

Participants in the 2nd edition of the Gulf Naval Commanders Conference saw that they are all faced by regional and international security challenges which they are bound to address. They highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships and of skill and capacity building towards addressing maritime threats and challenges in addition to building multinational integrated capacities for anti-submarine missile operations. The attendance demanded further joint manoeuvres and operations with Gulf countries for countering piracy and crimes.



The conference was recently hosted by Abu Dhabi under the high patronage of the UAE Naval Forces. It brought together a group of regional and international navy commanders in addition to 300 participants, among whom several high-ranking official delegations, UAE Armed Forces officers and UAE Navy senior officers and students as well

as a number of experts, specialists, private sector representatives and media people.

The opening session was moderated by Major General Rashid Al Saadi, Commander, National Defence College, UAE, who insisted on the importance of this 2nd edition of the conference to naval forces of the UAE, the region and allies alike, stating that «we

are all faced with security challenges, at the regional and the international levels, and it is incumbent upon us to address these challenges”.

He added, “In this domain, we come together to discuss issues of interest to all of us that will improve our defence capacities. It is crucial to have advanced security forces. Without strong naval forces, there is no such thing as a developed country, and this is what the Emirati leadership is seeking to achieve.” Al Saadi mentioned submarine mines in the Gulf waters, which are characterized by their shallowness, as constituting a challenge to marine security, in addition to small submarines and other threats. He stressed the need for building the capacity to address maritime threats and urged “joint work among different air, maritime and land defence forces.”

Rear Admiral Ibrahim Al Musharrakh, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, highlighted the challenges that face mission planning, in the light of the threats in no-access areas, and prohibited areas in narrow maritime surfaces. He argued that 20 per cent of the world’s oil exports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, and that any hindrances to these exports would directly affect the economy of Gulf countries in terms of achieving peace and stability in the region. “The UAE military forces which continuously take part in peacekeeping and rescue operations worldwide remain robust and ready to address any threats facing their country and the region as a whole”, he added.

The conference featured three sessions, the first of which discussed capacity building and was moderated by Anthony Winns, President, Lockheed Martin, MENA, while the second was moderated by Riad Kahwaji, CEO, INEGMA, organiser of the conference, and tackled the readiness of military forces to address any asymmetric threats. The third of the sessions covered military capacity development and integration and was moderated by Dr. Theodore Karasik, Director of Research and Consultancy, INEGMA.

In the first session, Winns insisted on maritime capacity building, especially in this region that faces piracy and terrorism threats, which would entail acquiring special skills and capacities for addressing

these threats.

Colonel Yousef Al Mannai, Deputy Commander of the Bahrain Naval Operation Centre, noted the improved anti-submarine mine operations, thanks to the advanced technological solutions provided by defence companies.

Rear Admiral James T. Loeblein, Deputy Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, concluded the first session by tackling the strategic requirements for building military response capacities to face asymmetric maritime threats. He insisted on the key role played by strategic partnerships in facing maritime challenges, citing as an example the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain that works in collaboration with GCC naval forces to address maritime threats. Loeblein clarified that naval forces remain in a state of readiness through planning, intensive training and improved equipment.

The second session was launched by Vice Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis HN, Chief of the Hellenic Navy, who discussed the role of naval forces in the new security maritime environments as well as the capacities required of them. He stated that naval operations have become more effective and have acquired greater importance, particularly in countering piracy, noting the improved collaborative relation among naval, law enforcement and civil forces in addressing security challenges.

Rear Admiral Syed Arifullah Hussaini, Commander of Coastal Areas, Pakistan Navy, tackled security concerns and naval challenges in the Gulf region. He highlighted the international interest that this region arouses given that it is a source of the world’s energy. “The past few years have witnessed three wars, none of which jeopardised the oil”, he argued. “It is crucial to strengthen both regional and international cooperation towards protecting maritime security in the Gulf region”.

Admiral Antoine Busan, Commander of the French Naval Forces Stationed in the Indian Ocean, discussed the changing interests and their repercussions on the Gulf and the maritime world alike. He highlighted the strategic position of the Gulf as a “link” between



Europe, Asia and other regions, mentioning by way of example the presence of the world’s second largest airport in the UAE. “I am not undermining the threat posed to the region by Iran, in addition to piracy and terrorism, all of which constitute unconventional threats which we have to address in the coming years.”

The second session was concluded by Commodore Keith Blount, UK Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Commander Combined Maritime Forces, who discussed the challenges faced by the major merging of military equipment and the interoperability throughout the different naval forces. He stated that most equipment of the Gulf naval forces are modern, operated by experts, and noted the developed performance of the coalition forces, in terms of information, intelligence and exchange thereof, the available ready-to-use units as well as the sufficient and well-trained human forces, demanding more joint maneuvers and operations with Gulf countries for countering piracy and crimes.

In the third and last session, Vice Admiral Andreas Krause, Deputy Commander of the German Naval Forces, tackled the subject of maritime domain monitoring, and stressed the need for integrated operations that include garnering and analyzing information, setting objectives and assessing risks, in order to have ample time for a successful and effective response without limiting the operation to mere monitoring. He asserted that cooperating with naval forces is much easier than with law enforcement forces, which have a different vision towards upholding security, saying that “one of the most difficult factors we face in our work is information confidentiality, whereas we should identify the kind of information that can be shared, with respect to the parties requesting same, and the

information that cannot be exchanged with others.”

Dr. Khaled Al Mazrouei, CEO, Abu Dhabi Ship Building, commended the UAE’s maritime industry as well as its present and future capacities and highlighted its vital role in the Gulf region, most of whose exports reach the world by sea. He highlighted the need for navy readiness, whereas economic growth entails further dependence on the sea, adding “we should be prepared in our capacity as service providers to resident and visiting forces alike, and should become indispensable to them, whenever, wherever.” Al Mazrouei asserted

that “our first and foremost goal is to supply our naval forces with the ships they need. We have come a long way and the company has grown in terms of ship building. Consequently, we are now able to provide other maritime services.”

Rear Admiral Livio Ceccobelli, Chief of the Department of Engineering and Logistics Command, Italian Navy, underlined the importance of carrying out streamlined maintenance, repair and restoration operations and of providing support services towards ensuring readiness and flexibility of military forces. He talked about the strategic logistics changes witnessed by

the Italian Navy, in terms of its vision, action plan and objectives, and remarked that the navy needs to acquire more ships for special missions.

The session was concluded by Major Evo Janinin, Navy Commander of Belgian Armed Forces, who highlighted the importance of building multinational integrated capacities for anti-submarine missile operations. He shared lessons he has learned from the most recent missions and manoeuvres accomplished by the Arabian Gulf fleet, insisting on the need to exchange and share databases and to improve communication towards the success of the work in an extremely complex operational environment.

Must do more exercises and joint operations between the multinational forces and Gulf countries against piracy and criminality

6th edition of Dubai International Air Chiefs Conference attended by over 36 official delegations

Participants Stress the Importance of an Integrated Regional Air & Missile Defence

Ahmed bin Saeed: UAE effectively contributing to world peacekeeping operations

During the 6th edition of the Dubai International Air Chiefs Conference, participants stressed the importance of addressing regional challenges and establishing joint military collaboration to uphold the safety and security in this crucial region as well as building a robust integrated regional air and missile defence and paving the way for a coordinated and integrated regional force.

Attendees at the official conference of the Dubai Air Show 2013 underlined the need for intelligence exchange, cooperation between naval and air forces and allies in addition to the analysis of data incoming from different sources in order to accomplish their missions. The need for sharing the burden of the coalition and for examining the NATO's smart defence strategy was also highlighted, along with the importance of creating an international cooperation environment that would help to reduce costs and create synergies, which in turn would enhance both the competence and quality of the training.



The single-day conference was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai and was attended by more than 36 official delegations from all over the world, in addition to senior UAE officers, senior-level delegations and representatives of the private sector. Throughout three sessions, participants discussed the importance of addressing regional challenges, connecting the future battle-space, preparing future airmen for joint coalition operations in addition to training and equipping the forces.

Among the attendees were air force commanders and senior officials from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Pakistan, Russia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and others. The opening session began with a welcoming speech by HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation, Chairman of Dubai Airports, CEO and Chairman of The Emirates Group, who stressed that diplomacy and peaceful political solutions have always been the UAE's preferred way of resolving any disputes that might arise with neighbouring countries as well as the formula that urges other countries to seek settlement of disputes in the same manner. He considered "the creation of partnerships that favour stability, progress and prosperity and the establishment of a strong deterrent, represented by a modern and robust military force, as the best approach towards peacekeeping and stability in the region."

His Highness mentioned the key role played by the UAE on the international scene, through contribution to the UN peacekeeping operations and dispatch of rescue teams to regions affected by natural disasters. He noted that several UAE airmen flew tonnes of aid and supplies to disaster-stricken regions worldwide and that the country also took part in the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya, all of which have helped the UAE to acquire extensive experience in air warfare and support operations. He added that the UAE seeks to become a major regional hub for aviation technology and other defence industries.

"Today, the UAE has companies capable of

manufacturing unmanned aircrafts and unmanned reconnaissance aircrafts as well as spare parts for vehicles and aircrafts. These companies can also provide complete Maintenance, Repair and Operation (MRO) services for their air equipment," he confirmed. His Highness ended his speech saying, "we have come a very long way in a very short time, and yet our ambitions know no limit."

Major General Staff Pilot Mohammed Bin Suwaidan Saeed Al Qamzi, Commander of the UAE Air Force and Air Defence, insisted on the need to bolster the UAE Air Force and Air Defence so that they continue to protect national and regional interests alike, arguing that while the UAE does not face any armed conflicts, civil wars or internal instability, it should remain alert to deter regional conflicts. "We at the UAE Air Force and Air Defence are committed to excellence, and hence will make sure to maintain and improve our defensive capacities and to streamline the current training process with the view of speeding it up and rendering it more agile and compatible, in order to maintain interoperability with our regional partners and the other coalition forces. We are also committed to delivering trainings that focus on command and control integration (C2), integrated air defence, early warning (EW) operations and special operations forces (SOF), and to creating an excellence training centre in the Gulf region, which would provide the opportunity to focus on integration and interoperability of regional capacities, and to establishing the necessary coalitions for upholding safety and security in the region", said Al Qamzi. "We are currently working on transforming our forces to enable them to make use of a complete range of capacities suitable for a broad spectrum of warfare, whether strategic or tactical".

The first session was moderated by Major General (Ret.) Khaled Abdullah Al Bu Ainnain, President of INEGMA and Former Commander of the UAE Air Force and Air Defence. It discussed the need to face regional challenges and to match end results with the ways and means that lead to them. The session featured Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, Chief of the Air Staff, UK Royal Air Force, who discussed global partnerships and the operational benefits of integration and cooperation and stressed the importance of joint military collaboration between the UK and GCC countries to uphold the safety and security in this crucial

region, noting the great contribution of the latter in this field.

The session was concluded by Brigadier General Staff Mohammed Murad Hassan Al Baloushi, Air Support Commander at the UAE Air Force and Air Defence, who highlighted the importance of building a robust regional integrated air and missile defence and of paving the way for a coordinated and integrated regional force. Al Baloushi discussed the “National Shield” force in addressing security challenges and threats, and stressed the need to link the missile defence system to air and space forces for warning and intelligence exchange.

The second session was moderated by Jeffrey B. Kohler, Vice-President, International Business Development at Boeing Defence, Space and Security. It discussed the importance of connecting the future battle-space to achieve cross-domain synergy. Lieutenant General John W. Hesterman, Commander of the US Air Forces Central Command, Southwest Asia, and Vice Admiral John W. Miller, Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and US Fifth Fleet, held a dual discussion on joint air and naval operations. The former argued that the concepts of offence and defence have changed with the replacement of individual work by the notion of joint leadership and insisted on the need for collaborating on intelligence exchange, while the latter stressed the need for establishing cooperation between naval and air forces and allies in addition to analysing the information coming in from the different sources towards accomplishing the missions as was the case in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Within this context, General Denis Mercier, Chief of Staff of the French Air Force, talked about air power in recent operations which constitutes the strategic power, hence its great importance in the eyes of political leaders... He reviewed French air operations in Mali, arguing that fast response, which is at the heart of air power, is crucial to the success of operations.

Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Pakistani Air Staff, highlighted the necessity of integrating sensor networks into sustained counter-insurgency operations, clarifying that counter-terrorism operations are relatively recent. The speaker noted the success of Pakistani air force operations in countering terrorism

without suffering any loss, and stressed the need for orchestrating air operations with land forces and fighting the targets set by both parties.

The third and last session was moderated by Steve Goldfein, Sector Vice President, Business Development, Electronic Systems Sector at Northrop Grumman Corporation, and discussed the importance of preparing future airmen for joint coalition operations as well as training and equipping the forces. Lieutenant General Pasquale Preziosa, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, talked about sharing the burden of the coalition and examining the NATO’s Smart Defence Strategy. He highlighted the importance of the smart defence project adopted by the NATO in Europe to increase its defence capacities, adding that the project will prove to be more useful in the event of its political endorsement at the NATO summit the coming year, which shall serve as a clear gauge of its success, knowing that the project is crucial to the NATO and the GCC alike.

General Akin Ozturk, Commander of the Turkish Air Force discussed multinational training and raising the level of airmen to meet future air force requirements for collective response. He argued that, in the future, air and space forces will be the most challenging aspect of military air missions within future security environments, hence the need for an environment of international collaboration that favours cost reduction and synergy creation, which in turn would improve the competence and quality of training. For this purpose, Turkey is prepared to enter into an international cooperation with allies and partner countries, and to teach and learn from other countries, through its participation in different manoeuvres including Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training as well as other multinational manoeuvres.

Major General Henrik Dam, Chief of Tactical Air Command at the Royal Danish Air Force, tackled response force readiness in preparing airmen for joint future and coalition operations. He argued the impossibility of predicting future conflicts and recommended that air forces should always be in a state of readiness and enjoy a flexible and expeditionary mindset, affirming that the best way to test such mindset is through periodical multinational manoeuvres.

Nutrition and consumers' health... in the balance

Dubai International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition, discusses food security and safety issues

Saif Mohammed Al Sharaa, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Agricultural and Animal Sector at the UAE Ministry of Environment

and Water, to “^{wa Azamat}Tawaree” :

%80 of food in the UAE is imported

Food safety is closely linked to the scientific regulation process, which describe the appropriate methods of production and storage of food in ways that protect against food-borne diseases.



Food as a disease carrier

In addition to transmitting contamination-causing bacteria, food can transfer many diseases between people.

The World Health Organisation has developed five basic keys for food safety as follows:

- 1- Keep clean to prevent food contamination and the spread of pathogens.
- 2- Separate raw and cooked foods to prevent contamination.
- 3- Cook thoroughly at appropriate temperatures to kill bacteria and pathogens.
- 4- Store food at safe temperature.
- 5- Use safe water and raw materials.

Food-borne diseases account for a large proportion of general illnesses especially in hot weather. Medical experts persistently warn that foods that look good aren't always necessarily safe. Underlying disease-causing factors in foods such as germs, viruses, parasites and chemical pollutants can't be seen with the naked eye, but they can cause life-threatening and even fatal illnesses mainly among people with weaker immune systems.

International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition, Dubai

The Dubai International Conference on Food Security and Nutrition was held to review some of the main issues related to food security and safety as international interest in this issue is ever increasing.

The conference's 8th edition was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Chairman of Dubai Municipality, with the participation of the International Association for Food Protection IAFP and the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Food (ICMSF).

Other local and international food safety-related institutions also took part in the conference, namely the Ministry of Environment and Water, Health Authority-Dubai, UAE University, Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and others.

The director general of Dubai Municipality Hussein Nasser Lootah, who inaugurated the conference, said: "This edition its exceptional by all measures" because it is held in full coordination with IAFP and ICMSF.

And he added that since its inception, the conference has been raising issues of concern for food control authorities in order to find appropriate solutions for them, internationally and regionally. He affirmed the significance of this international event which has attracted more than 7,300 delegates from all over the world as well as more than 500 scientific reports and researches from food safety experts.

We are applying state-of-the-art control procedures to efficiently monitor locally produced and imported food products

Role of the Ministry of Environment and Water

The Ministry of Environment and Water gives special attention to food safety. For this reason, "Taware'e wa Azamat" had an interview with HE Saif Mohammed Al Sharaa, the Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Agricultural and Animal Sector at the ministry on the topic.

Al Sharaa said that 80 per cent of all food products in the UAE is imported. Accordingly, the Ministry issues food safety-regulation legislations and decisions including decisions to hike control over agricultural and veterinary quarantine ports, placing or lifting bans on certain imports, laws regulating animal product farms and standardisation guidelines. A federal law on food safety is currently under process to assist the ministry in guaranteeing the circulation of safe food products in the UAE markets.

He went on to say that the ministry keeps abreast of any developments regarding agricultural and veterinary health and food safety all over the

world. It is a member in relevant regional and international organisations and bodies namely the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) and the Gulf Rapid Alert System for Food.

The National Food Safety Committee was also formed to enhance the efficiency of cooperation mechanisms with local food control agencies. It includes among its member representatives from the MoEW, local food control agencies, ministries of Economy and Health, the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA), the Federal Customs Authority and UAE University.

The committee will develop regulations and standardized action mechanisms related to food safety measures and procedures. It is tasked with proposing policies, strategies, legislations, technical regulations and standard specifications to ensure the safety of food products. It also develops relevant studies, research, systems and practice guidebooks.

Project to enhance food safety

Regarding the project to enhance food safety which the Ministry of Environment and Water launched last May in cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Al Sharaa explained that the project is made up of three phases: comprehensive survey and analysis of gaps, recommendations and training and developing the food safety index and the final report.

The first phase, the comprehensive survey is complete and relevant reports have been issued. The Ministry held two workshops in June and August to work on the second phase and the final report was filed in November.

During the first phase, experts and specialists conducted the surveys that included federal and local legislations and their implementation mechanisms. All



aspects related to food safety were reviewed and local legislations and inspection and control procedures evaluated. The ministry organized field visits to a number of border ports, food laboratories and slaughterhouses to ensure the safety of food products and the rights and health of consumers.

Food Safety and Consumer Care... Does it emanate from legislation or implementation?

HE Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Agricultural and Animal Sector in the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water said: at the legislative level, several legislations were passed that aimed to achieve food safety and enhance food security including: Federal Law No. (5) of 1979 regarding the agricultural quarantine, and Federal Law No. (6) of 1979, regarding the veterinary quarantine, regulating the establishment of nurseries and the production of seedlings, their import and circulation, the production of fertilizers and agricultural conditioners, their import and circulation, pesticides, seed production, their import and circulation, environmental protection and development, practicing the profession of veterinary medicine, the regulation and control of the international trade of endangered animals and plants, animal welfare, the protection of new plant varieties, a Law on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, that aims to safeguard plant resources. As well as following up the spreading of agricultural

pests and diseases in the exporting countries to the state, and taking the necessary measures about the risk of import from countries where these plant pests and animal diseases are spreading.

The ministry is member in several organisations and institutions related to diseased plants, including: FAO, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the Convention on the application of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Consequently, ministerial decisions relating to technical conditions and health of livestock farms (camels, cows and goats) have been issued, the bio-security requirements in animal production farms, the quality and safety of animal production farms, the technical and health conditions of sheep farms, technical and health conditions of cattle farms, the regulation executive list of the Federal Law No. 16 of 2007 pertaining to animal welfare, and the ban and the lifting of the ban on the import of live animals and poultry and poultry products from countries where some diseases emerged such as mad cow and avian flu. This, in addition to the promotion of agricultural and veterinary quarries, as the ministry operates 29 agriculture and veterinary quarries in the various ports of entry into the country; manned by a technically qualified staff and developed veterinary laboratories. As the country imports a large part of its food from abroad, it was necessary to ensure the availability of healthy agricultural and food products in the state markets at all times. In order to achieve this, the Ministry established an operational plan for the rehabilitation of agricultural and veterinary quarries, and raised their capacities, to ensure the availability of safe and proper food for the state's residents in the operational plans for the years 2012-2014.

The Ministry also seeks to qualify labs and get certificates of worldwide recognition, whereas laboratories of the ministry examine fruits and



vegetables shipments and about 220 pesticides for each sample of vegetables and fruits are analysed so as to ensure the safety of these products from pesticide residues. In this context, the health plant lab has been chosen by the British Body to adopt the "UKAS" laboratory services, according to the ISO specifications related to the general requirements for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories. The lab works on the detection of fungal and nematode diseases contained in consignments to the state. A ministerial decree bearing the number 539 for the year 2012 has been issued about the unified guide for ban measures on food handling and lifting of the ban, in order to safeguard the food health and safety for the consumers. The decision includes all local and imported food, and food-related materials that may be harmful to health, fraudulent, misleading to the consumer or contrary to the provisions of the Islamic Sharia. Ministerial Resolution No. (163) of 2012 has also been issued, and tackles the problem of tracking and retrieving food and feed, which allows the Ministry and the competent authorities to trace and recover and pull the food, feed, food producing animals and any material used to the production of food and feed, at all stages of the food chain, including production manufacturing, processing, trading and distribution, import and export, by requiring from the food producing establishment and the responsible of the feed facility feed, to keep the records and documents necessary to determine who is providing their products and that supplies food and feed, so that this information is provided upon request by the ministry or the competent authority .

• What are the major risks that threaten the food safety in the United Arab Emirates?

These risks lie in trading food or its components, or the materials or production supplies or the packaging or transport and cleaning related to food, or food contact materials, whether locally produced or imported, and that may be: harmful to health, fraudulent, misleading to the consumers or in violation of the technical regulations and approved specification standards. The ministry and authorities concerned with food safety, each according to its competence, plays an active role to protect consumers from food that is harmful or contaminated or adulterated or non-conforming to the regulations and technical specifications, by examining imported foods when they arrive at the ports of entry, and sampling to conduct laboratory tests to ensure the circulation of safe and secure food, according to the procedures for rapid reporting on foods, to prevent their entry or trade. Following up the notifications and communications related to food safety, issued by local authorities, bodies and international organisations, is an important way to recover or retrieve materials and banned foods, or food dangerous to the consumer's health; The ministry is linked to the network of international bodies involved in food safety and the rapid alert system of the European Food and feed, where the notifications received from these parties are made known to all relevant food control authorities, so they can take action and follow up on their implementation.

The early warning system, which will be implemented in the next two years, is a developmental plan of the current system, which makes preventing the entry of contaminated food by the state more efficient, as ports and product details coming to the state are specified, which is reflected on the process of withdrawing products from the state's market, in the event of violation of technical regulations, or a threat to food safety.

• Where does the Ministry of Environment and Water, and therefore the United Arab Emirates, stand on the "Codex Alimentarius", developed by the World Health Organization WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO?

The UAE is one of the Codex Alimentarius Commission members, where it is involved through its representatives in their important committees, such as: the Commission on food hygiene, and the Committee on the inspection regime on food imports and exports and the adoption of their certificates, and the Committee of pesticide residues, and others. The Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology prepares specifications regarding food safety, based on what the National Food Safety Committee specifies as the needs of the state, so that these specifications might be applied in the state. The Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology issued 1050 technical regulations and standards, these are mandatory technical regulations that apply the best control methods of modern supervision of locally produced and imported food to ensure the circulation of safe and high quality products in the state, thus preventing the entry of food products that are in violation of these regulations in order to preserve public health and the health of consumers. As part of the promotion of national cadres in the field of food safety, the ministry holds training courses and workshops and participates in meetings organised by international authorities and organisations, and works to develop veterinary quarantines to ensure the entry of disease free live animals and animal products fit for consumption, by taking the initiative to increase the number of citizen cadres in the veterinary profession, by providing financial incentives for the study of "Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine" at the UAE University and a diploma programme in veterinary medicine at the Higher Colleges of Technology.

**Food Control Authority:
Baby milk products safe**

The worst rainfall and storms in the Gulf in 30 years

UAE activated a high-level emergency plan that prevented disaster

“NCEMA” has moved equipment and machinery

“M O I” raised the general level of preparedness

and the “NCMS” warned about weather alterations



The Gulf region witnessed late last November the worst wave of rain and precipitation in 30 years, which resulted in the death of a number of people, and material damage in some cities, especially in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. These heavy showers first appeared in large areas in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Oman, as a result of low pressure coming from Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea. Cold waves from the west met with warm air and humidity from the Arabian Sea and put the entire region under the lash of thunderstorms.

Torrential rains accompanied by winds of varying speed fell on every part of the United Arab Emirates, and clouds continued to build up for three days, during which some cumulus and thunderstorm clouds were formed between the valleys and mountain areas. The wind, which ranged from mild to strong to very active sometimes, kicked up dust in open areas, resulting in low visibility, while the temperature dropped and the sea conditions were rough to severely agitated.

A similar case of low pressure had occurred on November 20, 2006, and was handled with efficiency, while the recent low-pressure front caused light to heavy showers, and the rainfall reached 190 millimetres in some areas, especially in Delma Island.

The National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology

The UAE’s National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology played an important role in warning citizens about rain and storms headed toward the country

through accurate and clear meteorology reports. Two days prior to the arrival of the low air pressure front, the Centre announced that weather instability will be witnessed throughout the country over a four-day period, accompanied by rainfall of varying intensity and moderate to brisk to strong winds, at times whipping up dust and dirt, leading to low visibility and sea turbulence.

The Centre also warned citizens of low visibility due to heavy fog in the inland and western regions, warning against sea outings during this period, and urging the population to take caution on the roads during the rain to avoid slips and skids. The public was also advised against going to valleys, especially in areas close to the highlands, and to avoid direct exposure to clouds during lightning. The Centre also called on parents to prevent their children from playing in open spaces.

It is worthy of note that the Centre had announced, two days before the onset of the rainstorm, that what has been circulated by some people on social networks, like warnings attributed to the US Navy about the occurrence of hurricanes, was not valid. The Centre explained that this low air pressure front will start in Sila, Guweifat and the western islands, progressing slowly and gradually towards the city of Abu Dhabi, and then on to the southern and inland western regions, before progressing to Al Ain and the Northern Emirates, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.

Crisis management

The National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority played an active role in the management and coordination of the concerted efforts meant to deal with storms and floods and their aftermath, and set out, before, during and after the storm, to implement several steps based on the guidance and follow-up of HH Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Adviser, and HH Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy National Security Advisor. The national strategic guidance report was issued to the competent authorities to raise the level of preparedness and activate emergency plans to cope with the event.

The Authority held a press conference, in coordination with the Civil Defence and the National

Centre of Meteorology and Seismology regarding weather conditions in the country. Speakers confirmed the strategic measures that have been taken to deal with the repercussions of the situation, while the Ministry of Interior raised the level of preparedness to counter the effects of the low-pressure front and urged the population to stay away from dangerous locations and to exercise caution.

The conference, which was held in cooperation with the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, began with a speech by NCEMA spokesman Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani who explained that the UAE is exposed to a bout of climate instability as a result of a low-pressure front coming from the west, which results in rainfalls ranging between heavy and medium strength, accompanied with strong winds with speeds of over 100 kilometres per hour in some areas of the country. He said, thankfully, all this did not result in any loss of lives until now. He explained that small material damage was caused by the strong winds associated with the low-pressure front in various parts of the state. He pointed out that all the national capacities have been harnessed to face any repercussions resulting from the unusual weather conditions... And that all those involved in the response to this event and their support agencies were on standby, with their efficient human and material resources. He added that emergency and local crisis teams in each emirate have held several meetings and sustained coordination and communication between them in order to define roles and responsibilities, verify the readiness level and activate the necessary plans and procedures to deal with emergencies.

Al Hosani confirmed that NCEMA is communicating in an ongoing basis, through the National Operations Centre, with all stakeholders at the local and federal levels, to coordinate the efforts and provide the local emergency teams with the necessary means to deal with emergencies. He said NCEMA sent 64 pieces of heavy equipment and machinery to the various emirates that need support and assistance to cope with situations that require intervention and removal of rubble and debris. He called on the public to cooperate with the competent authorities in the state, and to follow their directives and



guidance through the available means of communication in order to ensure the safety of everyone... At the end of his speech, he prayed that God preserve the UAE from dangers and disasters.

For his part, Colonel Jomaa Salem Al Dahmani, acting Director General of Civil Defence in Abu Dhabi observed that the different bodies of the Ministry of Interior are ready and prepared with all of the ministry's police departments at the national level to respond to the various incidents that take place as a result of poor weather conditions experienced in the country nowadays. He said HH Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior follows up rigorously on weather conditions in country. He added that the operations centres throughout the country were on high alert in order to provide assistance and first aid and rescue services to people affected by storms. He added that the Ministry of Interior and all the police departments in the country possess the means and equipments that allow them to arrive quickly to the sites of incidents and handle them with great efficiency, to reduce the rate of loss of life and property.

Colonel Al Dahmani confirmed that the operation centres in the country received a number of reports about minor incidents in the areas of Guweifat, Sila and Delma Island, as a result of heavy rainfall accompanied by hail and strong winds, which resulted in minor damages to two patrol cars. Some houses on the Delma Island suffered minor damages while some trees fell in public streets and a number of street signs and parking awnings

were destroyed.

Immediately, security forces in coordination with the relevant government agencies cleared the rubble from streets. No injuries were reported during incidents in those areas. In Al Ruwais, two Asian nationals were seriously injured; the police ambulance transported them to a hospital in the area to receive treatment. In Ras Al Khaimah, a valley flow led to the detention of three people due to the floods. They were rescued by the police helicopters.

Al Dahmani urged all citizens and residents to avoid dangerous locations, flood streams, valleys and low-lying areas, as well as avoid beaches and the sea because of the instability of the weather conditions. He called upon them not to stand in open spaces in order to avoid exposure to lightning, and urged them not to use mobile phones especially for taking pictures. He also called on motorists to exercise caution, avoid excessive speed and adhere to traffic laws to avoid accidents. He stressed the need to be cautious in times of rains and floods, and not to risk entering low-lying areas or valleys during floods, and warned from driving cars into valleys and other locations where rainwater accumulates.

The representative of the National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology Mohammed Abdullah Al Ibri warned from unstable weather conditions that hit the country accompanied with rainfall of varying intensity, with moderate to brisk to sometimes strong winds that bring dust and dirt to some areas and lead to low visibility as well as unsettled seas.

He also warned against sea faring in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and reiterated the call for caution on roads during rainfall. He called on people to avoid valley flows, especially in areas close to the highlands, as well as to avoid direct exposure to clouds during lightning. He urged citizens and residents, especially those living in areas that are exposed to heavy rains and strong winds, to exercise caution.

In the meantime, all national resources and capabilities to deal with the repercussions of unusual weather conditions have been harnessed, and all the entities

involved in the response effort were prepared.

The most important steps taken by NCEMA were the following:

- Announcing its readiness to deal with any effects that may result from the weather instability in the country.
- Holding meetings of the local emergency teams in each emirate regarding this matter, with continued coordination and communication between them and the entities in each emirate.
- Communicating on an ongoing basis, through the National Operations Centre, with all parties at the federal and local levels to coordinate efforts and support local emergency teams with the necessary means to deal with these climatic developments.
- Providing 64 heavy equipment vehicles to the various emirates in the UAE to cope with situations that require intervention and removal of the debris arising from storms.

At the local level in each emirate, practical steps were taken by all competent agencies, mainly the following steps:

- Municipalities raised their preparedness level to face maximum situations sending emergency teams to the streets in the early hours of morning to draw excess water with special equipment and remove fallen trees from roads which helps in minimising the response time in emergency situations. Municipalities equipped operation centres working around the clock to receive complaints from citizens. Maintenance programmes were reviewed and the effectiveness of water drainage networks was checked. In Abu Dhabi alone, network lines stretch up to 7 thousand kilometres, and approximately 70 sea outlets equipped with pumping stations increase the capacity of the network in cases of emergency and heavy precipitation.

- The general police departments in various emirates across the UAE were keen to allocate patrols in areas that may constitute a danger to motorists, especially roundabouts and streets where large pools of water accumulate, in order to warn motorists and pedestrians. Traffic policemen

doubled their efforts and did their best to conduct traffic and ease traffic jams in the streets, especially at intersections that witnessed a high concentration of vehicles, in addition to rapid intervention in cases of emergency. In line with the Ministry of Interior's initiative to promote preventive measures and necessary safety requirements, Civil Defence departments in the various emirates urged people to take precautions and not risk entering low-lying areas or crossing valleys during the floods. They warned the population from getting into places where the water rain has formed ponds, marshes, or valleys and other places, either on foot, by car or by swimming, since these floods may be followed by drifts or fallouts that might ensnare them or put them in danger of drowning. Motorists were also warned to avoid excessive speed and to observe traffic laws. Parents were called upon to keep an eye on their children when venturing into parks or the wilderness for fear of falling in ponds, swamps, dams and valley streams. People were alerted to keep a safe room ready in their homes that they could resort to in cases of flooding and keep first aid kits at hand. People were urged to listen to radio stations for instructions, warnings and guidance required and necessary to protect them. Full cooperation and coordination between Civil Defence departments in each emirate and the competent authorities to deal with the rain and floods and prepare for emergencies was recorded.



- Relief organisations developed integrated plans to cope with any climatic fluctuations or changes in weather conditions, especially in relation to storms and strong winds accompanied by rain and thunderstorms laden with hail, sand and dust. Paramedics and medical emergency technicians in each of the emirates were put on high and permanent alert to face any possibilities, and to meet the calls they may receive by phone or via the medical communications or distress calls through police channels or otherwise. SUVs, effectors and disaster unit cars and technical support units were equipped and ready to respond and stationed in locations as agreed with the department of emergency operations and crisis teams, to facilitate quick access to the injured.

Suspension of classes

On November 21st, as the storm intensified, the Ministry of Education ordered public and private schools to send students home at 10:00 am for their own safety, in response to the National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology's report.

HE Ali Al Suwaidi, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary, asserted that the students' interest and safety are paramount for the ministry. The Ministry of Education had received indications from the National Centre of Meteorology about the climate instability, which led the ministry to the respond immediately.

School boards were asked to ensure the presence of the nursing staff during the rains and the availability of all first aid equipment. They were asked to contact parents and inform them of developments and to register volunteers among teachers and school personnel to assist vehicles that may get stuck. Instructions were also given to schools in order to provide a safe gathering location for students and staff during heavy rains, and to turn off all non-essential electrical appliances and contact the relevant bodies in the event of an emergency.

The circulars sent out to schools stressed the need for students to wear appropriate clothes for this period and to prevent them from play during rain, or crossing pools of water, in addition to organising guidance lectures for students on how to deal with cases of

rainfall and severe storms, as well as alert bus drivers and supervisors to take all measures to ensure the safety of the students.

The Abu Dhabi Education Council has prepared a comprehensive plan to prepare for the rainy season by providing all necessary precautions to avoid the risks caused by rainfall and strong winds and the risks its poses to the safety of students and school staff during this season. The Board sent direct circulars to all schools about the procedures that must be followed in the event of rain and wind in order to ensure the security and safety of students and staff in all UAE schools.

Effects of the storm in the Gulf

The storm and floods caused damages in a number of Gulf states, notably in Saudi Arabia, where the level of rainfall reached an unprecedented record, which led to floods and forced civil defence teams to intervene and rescue hundreds of people trapped by water and floods. Rescue teams have recovered about 400 flooded cars and a bus. The heavy rainfall also resulted in disabling studies in some regions of the Kingdom, causing schools and universities to close their doors in Riyadh and its neighbouring regions. The death toll due to accidents caused by rain and floods was thirteen people, including nine in the Riyadh region, while the Saudi civil defence teams were able to rescue fifty-five people besieged by rainwater and floods in a number of locations.

The rain flooded city streets in the Sultanate of Oman, but no casualties were reported.

In Kuwait, two people were killed as a result of heavy rainfall and about 110 people that were trapped in floods in various areas were rescued.

In Qatar, the heavy rains led to the accumulation of large amounts of water in the north of the country, and a press release of the Ministry of Municipalities and Urban Planning, said that the municipality of the north received many phone calls from citizens and residents requesting them to drain the rainwater that leaked into their homes and into their cars.

In Bahrain rainfall was lighter than in other countries, with no reports of damage.

Under the slogan «Raise it High and Proud»

NCEMA holds event to celebrate «Flag Day» Al Rumaithi: a symbol of our pride in what our nation represents as a unique model of civilised coexistence, tolerance, development and construction

Under the slogan «Raise it High and Proud», the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) held in its headquarters in Abu Dhabi an event to mark the UAE «Flag Day», as part of the national campaign launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

During the celebration, the national flag was hoisted on the NCEMA HQ building in the capital, in the presence of HE Mohamed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director General of NCEMA, and department managers and employees.

The celebration, which coincides with the anniversary of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan's accession as President, may God protect him, comes in response to the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to mark Flag Day on the sixth day of November of each year. On the day, the national flag is raised over all UAE institutions, ministries and homes, in a constant remembrance of the great day when the late great founder of the state Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan raised the state flag for the first time with his fellow state founders, signalling the start of one of the greatest and most unique experiences in state-building, development and prosperity.

HE Al Rumaithi said during the celebration... «This day, which coincides with the anniversary of the accession of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed



Al Nahyan - may God protect him – as president, represents a great national event and embodies the value of national unity, represented by the flag that reflects our union and our unity under the umbrella of one state and one leadership, which would strengthen the bonds of loyalty among members of the community.»

He added: «This flag, which was raised by the founding fathers, led by late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, on the second day of December 1971, and became the symbol of the State's Union, expresses the honourable deeds of the founding leaders and contributes to the support of national identity of all citizens, and confirms a strong sense of

hope and optimism for the future of this great state.»

Al Rumaithi pointed out that the flag stands as a symbol for the unity of the nation's citizens, their love for their country, their devotion and affiliation, and it also became a symbol of our pride of what the UAE represents as a unique model of civilisation, coexistence, tolerance, development and construction.

He stressed that this event embodies patriotism

and national pride. All activities related to «Flag Day» were consecrated as an annual national occasion during which the people celebrate the flag of the country, and the citizens express their pride in this great state, built upon wise leadership, powerful and honest determination, as well as citizens that are keen to keep their country ahead among the countries of the world.

In accordance with its social engagement

NCEMA organises a blood donation drive for its employees

Implementing its annual initiative NCEMA organised in its Abu Dhabi headquarters in cooperation with the mobile blood bank affiliated to the Khalifa hospital a one-day blood donation campaign for its employees.

NCEMA's participation in the blood donation drive comes in line with its social responsibility and aims to strengthen the volunteering spirit among members of the society and therefore, bolster social engagement, solidarity and unity among citizens.

The campaign registered a substantial turnout from NCEMA employees especially that blood donation, in addition to being one of the noblest forms of donation, has two major benefits: to donors themselves and to recipients. The process of drawing blood in itself, contributes to the revitalisation of the donor's bone marrow, as it forces it to produce new blood cells (red cells, leukocytes, and platelets) and helps stimulate blood circulation as well as alleviate certain pathological conditions such as the increase of abnormal red cell count and iron levels in the blood, and

prevent complications of these diseases.

Blood donation may also save the lives of people who are in dire need of blood transfusions especially in the cases of sudden accidents or injury or in the aftermath of surgical procedures.



Getting familiar with the list of risks, preparedness and response efforts

National Defence Academy delegation briefed on NCEMA strategies

In view of strengthening communication between all stakeholders to deal with risks and crises, a delegation from the National Defence Academy in Abu Dhabi, headed by Major General Staff Pilot Rashad Mohamed Salem Al Saadi, Commander of the academy visited the NCEMA headquarters in the capital. The delegation was briefed about the role and jurisdictions of NCEMA, its strategies and preparations to manage and respond to crises and emergencies as well as the capabilities at its disposal to respond to different types of emergencies and crises.

The visiting delegation was greeted by HE Mohamed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director General of NCEMA who stressed the importance of the visit, especially in looking into areas and ways of cooperation and exchange of expertise. He pointed out that one of the Authority's goals is to work closely with the organisations and entities which are NCEMA's strategic partners in order to strengthen and support the preservation of the UAE's assets."

HE Al Rumaithi noted that the establishment of NCEMA reflects "The Leadership's attention to the UAE population, citizens and residents alike, and aims to reinforce the capabilities of the UAE for managing and dealing with emergencies, crises and disasters, as well as setting the requirements to ensure business continuity during the same, and quick recovery through joint preparedness and planning using all means of coordination and communication at federal, local and private levels."

NCEMA's Director General added that the Authority strives to provide effective management and coordination to consolidate the efforts deployed during emergency situations in line with the objective sought from



establishing the emergency and crisis management system, and also to pave the way for further cooperation and exchange of expertise among the entities involved in the management of emergency situations.

The delegation was briefed about the risk register set by NCEMA, and attended a presentation about the most prominent readiness, preparedness and recovery plans. The delegation then visited the National Operation Centre, (NOC) in NCEMA and they were given a detailed explanation about the role of the NOC and its importance in coordinating all the efforts involved in the management of crises and emergencies. The delegation was also introduced to the NOC's competence and role, the responsibilities of the liaison officers and the mechanism of establishing a joint unified system between the entities involved in managing any incident

Organised by NCEMA

In conjunction with the National Media Council and the British Emergency Planning College A Course in «media management in emergencies and crises»

The National Emergency, Crisis and disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), in cooperation and coordination with the National Media Council and the UK Cabinet’s Emergency Planning College, held a course in Media Management in Emergencies and Crises”.



A total of 28 employees from a number of ministries and institutions involved in the media management of emergencies attended the course.

The participants were briefed during the four-day session about NCEMA’s Media and Mass Communication Plan to support emergency management through the four emergency levels that require special media action appropriate for each level, and a media mechanism to deal with crises and emergency situations through various means of communication.

The lecturer, Nigel Kay, from the UK Emergency Planning College, focused on the importance of dealing successfully with social media in following up on the different stages of crises, disasters and emergencies,

drafting informative press releases and the role of liaison officers in supporting the strategic leadership in the management of the event. The course also touched on the structure and strategy of leadership and communication as well as the effective plan for communication during the emergencies. Participants carried out a number of exercises where they had to describe solutions for media management in cases of emergency, the sequence of the crisis in terms of command and control and effective mechanisms to deal with a number of scenarios of emergency cases. They also drafted a practical statement about press conferences in terms of their preparation by a team of specialised media officers, or in simulating the role of the spokesman for an event.



Pointing out that all efforts are currently focussed on the construction of four peaceful reactors

**Eng. Mohammed Ibrahim
Al Hammadi,
Emirates Nuclear Energy
Corporation, CEO
Speaks to: “Tawaree” :**

**Nuclear power is one of
the key options available
and is the appropriate
solution to meet the
country’s electricity needs**

**We are pursuing a programme for
peaceful production that takes into
account the higher standards of
safety, security, non-proliferation and
operational transparency**

Nuclear power is an appropriate and applicable solution to meet the UAE's electricity needs, and is one of the key options available for the country, according to HE Mohammed Ibrahim Al Hammadi, CEO of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (Enec). He said Enec is committed to providing a peaceful nuclear energy programme, based on the best international practices in safety, security and operation. Energy experts around the world, he noted, have described the UAE's nuclear programme as «the gold standard for all countries wishing to implement a nuclear programme for the first time».

In an exclusive interview with Emergencies and Crises, Mr Al Hammadi said that the corporation would start supplying the country's network with electricity in 2017, adding that all efforts are currently concentrated on the construction of four peaceful nuclear reactors in the country. By 2020, when all four reactors will become fully operational, nuclear energy will provide up to a quarter of the UAE's needs in electricity.





Interview

Mr Al Hammadi reiterated that the UAE pursues a peaceful programme to produce nuclear energy, taking into account the highest standards of safety, security, non-proliferation and operational transparency. Nuclear energy will provide up to a quarter of the country's needs for a safe, effective, reliable and environmentally friendly energy by 2020, and will cut the country's yearly production of carbon emissions by up to 12 million tonnes.

«We believe that there are valuable lessons that can be learned from the events that took place in Japan; it is very important to conduct a thorough review of these events,» he said, noting that «we have a special team in charge of developing a plan to deal with emergencies».

Mr Al Hammadi said that Barakah was the chosen site for the plant after studying the history of seismic activity, safety, and distance from populated areas, and proximity to water resources. As to KEPCO, the South Korean Electric Power Company, it was selected on the basis of its market leadership in safety and efficiency and its track record in building effective nuclear plants and delivering them on time.

The Enec chief also said that the scholarship programme, which has been implemented by the organisation since its launch in 2009, aims to attract the most talented national staff and outstanding students. He added that the organisation has worked since its inception to raise awareness about the UAE's peaceful nuclear programme, and correct common misconceptions about nuclear energy, and build the confidence of the community and stakeholders.

Enec has cultivated partnerships with local and international academic institutions to develop the human capital needed for the nuclear power industry in the UAE in the future.

The following is the transcript of the interview:

• The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation has been created by presidential decree in December 2009. What are the terms of reference of this institution, and what are the tasks assigned to it?

•• The mission of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation, which is owned by the Government of

the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, is to implement a peaceful nuclear energy programme in the United Arab Emirates, and to ensure the provision of safe, efficient, reliable and environmentally friendly energy, to meet the country's growing need in electricity, and thus support the social and economic development of the country.

Studies have shown that energy demand in the country will rise to more than 40,000 megawatts by 2020, marking a nine per cent annual rise – that is three times the global average. Since the current sources for power are not enough to meet half of this projected demand, the country has to search for more sources of power generation to be ready for the future. We are scheduled to begin supplying the UAE network with electricity in 2017.

• Why was Barakah in the Western Region of Abu Dhabi chosen as the location for the establishment of the peaceful nuclear power plants?

•• Barakah was chosen to be the construction site for the nuclear reactors after extensive study and comprehensive analysis of many locations around the country for a period of 12 months. The analysis included the study of the history of seismic activity, safety, distance from populated areas, proximity to water resources and other environmental considerations.

One of the most important elements that led to the selection of this site was the reduced likelihood of earthquakes, i.e. «low seismic activity». Studies have shown that it is an inactive area for nearly 100 million years. Moreover, the Gulf region has not experienced tsunamis before.

• In July 2012, groundwork to build the first station for a peaceful nuclear reactor in the UAE was started and, in late May 2013, the process of creating the second plant was kicked off. Where are we in the development of these two projects?

•• Work is well underway in the implementation of the peaceful nuclear energy programme in the United Arab Emirates. We must underline here Enec's commitment to supporting economic growth and promoting and

developing the local industry. In collaboration with the Korean Electric Power Company (KEPCO), Enec has signed contracts worth more than a billion US dollars with local UAE companies for products and services such as the extraction of sand and the provision of iron, steel, wire, housing projects and other site building activities.

• **Enec applied last March for a license to build two more plants – the third and fourth. Will we see additional stations later, and how many more can there be eventually?**

•• All efforts are currently focused on the construction of four peaceful nuclear reactors in the country, and there are no expansion plans for the programme at the moment.

• **It is expected to start the first plant in 2017, and the second one in 2018. What is the productive capacity of these stations, and what are the areas that they will cover?**

•• Each reactor will generate 1,400 megawatts of electricity. By 2020, as the four reactors become operational, nuclear energy will provide up to a quarter of the UAE's electricity needs.

• **Why was KEPCO exclusively selected to contribute to building these peaceful nuclear energy projects in the UAE?**

•• The process designed to evaluate and select the main contractor was elaborated to determine the optimal long-term partner for the UAE. A team of more than 75 experts evaluated the proposals of contractors to build the first nuclear power plants in the country. KEPCO was chosen because it is a market leader in terms of the levels of safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the nuclear plants it builds, and it does so on time and on budget. The company has more than 30 years of experience in nuclear

power technology and plants operation and demonstrated its commitment to the highest international safety standards, which is one of the most important factors in the UAE's peaceful nuclear programme.

•• It should be noted that KEPCO currently owns the first two advanced power reactors of the (APR1400) model in the world; they are under construction and they will serve as reference models for the four stations to be built in the UAE.

• **Do you have partnerships and cooperation agreements with professional and academic institutions on the regional and international levels, with the aim of exchanging expertise and organising training courses?**

•• The UAE government worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the governments of the countries concerned with nuclear energy, in order to adopt the best practices and implement them in the development of the UAE's peaceful nuclear programme. The UAE nuclear programme benefits from the full support of the international community, as well as governments and organisations calling for the prohibition of nuclear proliferation.

Energy experts around the world refer to the UAE's nuclear programme as the golden standard for all countries wishing to implement a nuclear programme for the first time.

Enec seeks advice from a wide network of organisations whose members are leading experts in the nuclear energy sector. Enec also has strategic partnerships with local and international companies, and took advantage of investment opportunities to support the growth of the nuclear energy sector in the country, in addition to having held partnerships with local and international academic institutions to develop the human capital needed for the

**By 2020,
when all four
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in electricity**



nuclear power industry in the UAE in the future.

• Enec seeks to provide the UAE with safe, clean and reliable energy. Why did the government choose the nuclear option for power generation, while the use of solar energy is considered safer, greener, and cheaper?

•• Our government studied the economic and environmental merits of all energy source options, keeping in mind the importance of the security of the supply and links to economic development. It emerged from these studies that, by 2020, nuclear energy will be able to provide safe and environmentally friendly power, with the ability to provide base-load electricity, and meet up to 25 per cent of the country’s needs in electricity, while renewable energy sources will cover six to seven per cent of those needs.

Therefore, the UAE government decided that nuclear power is an appropriate and practical solution to meet the country’s needs in electrical power. It is one of the important, reliable and environmentally friendly options, according to global studies. Investment in nuclear power will also accompany the growth of technology industries in the country, and will provide job opportunities for several decades to come.

• Given the amount of concerns that have risen in the aftermath of nuclear disasters in various parts of the world. To what extent can the UAE’s peaceful nuclear project be regarded as safe?

•• Enec is committed to implementing a peaceful nuclear energy programme, based on the best international practices in safety, security and operations; this is why energy experts around the world have referred to the

UAE’s nuclear programme as the gold standard.

We are committed, at Enec, to the culture of continuous development so as to ensure that we maintain the highest standards in safety and operations. We are confident that there are valuable lessons to be learned from the events that took place in Japan, and it is very important to conduct a thorough review of these events.

Therefore, Enec took steps to activate this process, and presented to the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation a detailed report of about 9,000 pages, in which Enec suggested a number of changes to the original designs in order to further improve the safety of the reactors. In addition, an Enec delegation, along with a group of nuclear engineers and officials from the departments of construction and licencing, travelled to Japan to visit the Fukushima Dayina and Fukushima Daiichi stations, to take stock of what happened and learn the lessons from that March 2011 incident.

• Again, on this issue of safety and concerns over potential environmental impacts on land and natural resources: How will Enec handle the nuclear waste from these plants in the UAE, at a time when major nuclear countries struggle to dispose of these wastes?

•• The UAE is pursuing a peaceful nuclear energy programme that complies with the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation and operational transparency. Indeed, as per the UAE’s nuclear energy policy, Enec is striving to achieve the highest standards of safety and security, and that includes the safety of the community, the country and the staff. This is a high priority, and these elements are determined by the company’s values and culture.

As such, Enec is reviewing its current storage options for the long run, and will carry out operations to ensure the safe disposal of solid waste, in line with the strict guidelines

The Barakah site was chosen after a thorough study of the history of seismic activity, safety, distance from populated areas and proximity to water resources

set by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

• What are the procedures set out by Enec in case of an emergency?

•• We have a special team responsible for developing a plan to deal with emergencies, and the team will review and test this plan on a regular basis. In addition to that, the population living within a 50km radius of the site will receive a special training on how to act in emergency situations. We have worked with the board of protection of vital installations and facilities, and the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a team of international nuclear experts, to develop a plan for preparedness and emergency response.

Enec will make every effort to educate the community about the details of the plan, before the start of operations in 2017.

• Enec organises periodical forums at the country level. What is the purpose of these forums?

•• Since its inception, Enec has endeavoured to raise awareness about the UAE's peaceful nuclear programme, correct common misconceptions about nuclear energy, and build the confidence of the community and stakeholders. A series of community forums has been at the heart of these outreach efforts, which aim to benefit all members of the public by enriching their knowledge about how nuclear energy works, and updating them on the latest developments in the programme.

These forums provide an opportunity for all to address their questions directly to the Emirati experts and get immediate replies in Arabic, with simultaneous translation into English being provided in major forums.

• Enec launched this year the «programme of the energy pioneers» campaign. What is the message behind this programme, and what are its objectives?

•• The development of the next generation of nuclear energy pioneers is one of the key priorities for Enec. The scholarship programme was initiated at the launch of Enec in 2009 and aims to attract the best Emirati talents and outstanding students, providing them with scholarships and career opportunities in the country's emerging nuclear energy sector – a sector that cares about the continued development of its workforce and provides distinguished career paths. Besides, those who join us will have a remarkable role to play in the development of our beloved country.

• Could you draw a general picture of the energy situation in the UAE when the four energy plants become operational in 2020?

•• Nuclear power will cover up to a quarter of the UAE's needs in safe, effective, reliable and environmentally friendly energy by 2020, and will help the country reduce its carbon emissions by up to 12 million tonnes per year. The UAE's peaceful nuclear programme is an important sector that supports the economic development of the country by providing the energy needed to drive industrial and professional growth. The programme will also support the development of human capital in the UAE by providing numerous job opportunities for decades to come. Our studies have shown that the UAE community understands the strategic role of the nuclear energy sector, and supports its mission to secure the country's future energy needs.

KEPCO was selected on the basis of its market leadership in safety and efficiency and its track record in building effective nuclear plants and delivering them on time

In cooperation with the General Department of Civil Defence

NCEMA «performs an evacuation drill»

The National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, in cooperation with the General Department of Civil Defence, held an evacuation drill of the Authority's premises at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi.



According to the drill scenario, the joint control room at Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters received a call at 9:00am reporting a fire in one of the Authority's premises. The Civil Defence crew and vehicles immediately rushed the location led by Lt. Colonel Hamad Saeed Al Riyami, Director of Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Centres Department.

NCEMA's safety and prevention team evacuated the premises from all employees and workers according to the evacuation plan and led them to the safe assembly points, whereas Civil Defence crews rescued people trapped inside the building and contained the presumed fire.

Lt. Col. Al Reyami stated that this drill was carried out to assess Civil Defence crews' readiness, and identify ways to deal with various incidents in all circumstances, as well as to get acquainted with

the methods of evacuation adopted by NCEMA. He further praised the role and the performance level of the Evacuation Team at the National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority.

NCEMA General Director HE. Mohamad Khalfan Al Rumaithi praised Abu Dhabi Civil Defence's efforts to implement the practical scenarios. He noted that similar exercises would be carried out in the future to evaluate readiness to carry out the evacuation plan at NCEMA premises.

The Director General also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Safety and Prevention Team for their response and cooperation with the Civil Defence Department in organising the staff exit and implementing the security and safety criteria during this evacuation drill.

Kuwait donates a Headquarter to the “GCC Emergency Management Center”

Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayani, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), announced that HH Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, has donated premises to the Secretariat General for establishing the GCC Emergency Management Centre whose aim is to address risks and threats faced by the region.

In his statement following the 10th session of the ministerial committee following up the enforcement of decisions on the joint work of GCC countries, the Secretary General said that cases of emergency are incorporated into the strategic objectives of the GCC countries for dealing with any natural or man-made threat or hazard that faces the region.

Dr. Al Zayani stated that the center is part of the GCC Secretariat General, and will be setting up a risk register for the region wherein risk probability, impact and prioritisation as well as relevant management and recovery plans shall be entered.

“The 10th session is one of the periodic meetings held by the ministerial committee following up on the enforcement of the decisions issued by the GCC Supreme Council,” said Dr. Al Zayani, clarifying that the committee usually convenes prior to the summit in order to review all the decisions that have been enforced and to verify their proper implementation by member States.

The GCC countries had already agreed on establishing the Kuwait-based GCC Emergency Management Centre whose aim is to develop their capacities as well as step up their efforts and orchestrate them in areas of emergency management. Among the centre’s top priorities, contributing to the identification and assessment of natural and man-made hazards in the GCC countries and beyond, whose effects and repercussions might

be felt by any GCC country, and bringing forward scientific and non-scientific solutions for curbing these hazards and their effects.

The centre’s priorities also include receiving urgent reports on cases of emergency and warning of their occurrence in accordance with the data and information available at the centre, circulating same among member States, setting policies and procedures for steering rescue works among member States in a clear and coordinated manner, preparing guides on how to develop emergency management plans at national level throughout GCC countries and how to address cases of emergency, and orchestrating both human and automated efforts in GCC countries to address cases of emergency.

The GCC Emergency Management Centre will create databases of local and international emergency management experts and develop their access mechanisms in addition to integrating and coordinating the different national centres for emergency prediction and early warning in member States. It will also suggest rehabilitation and training programs, coordinate with regional and international organizations and entities to deliver emergency management training programmes to specialised GCC authorities and work on raising citizens’ awareness.

The centre is managed by a Board of Directors, where each of the members represents the national committee of a GCC country, and an executive body. Its chairman is appointed by ministerial decision for a renewable three-year term, pursuant to the regulations of the Secretariat General. Under GCC Law, each GCC country should set a national point of contact for liaising with the centre, which shall intervene in cases of emergency in member States, at the request of the victim countries.

“Be Ready” initiative in cooperation with

NCEMA and General Women’s Union In Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah

In line with the directives of HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women’s Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and in line with the “Be ready initiative” the Women Support Office, a subsidiary of the General Women’s Union, launched in cooperation with the National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA) two training courses in Crisis and emergency management in Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah, presented by Dr. Abdullah Al Shiba, Head of Specialised Training at NCEMA



Dr Al Shiba highlighted the programme’s role in raising awareness about the principles of emergency management and empowering women in all fields in order to develop their skills in the area of emergency and crisis management.

He noted that the programme seeks to develop the participants’ skills in risk assessment, introduce them

to the risk register and to planning and preparedness requirements by focusing on practice and by engaging the participants in exercises to consolidate the provided information and enable them to acquire a standard and clear concept on how to manage crises and be prepared to deal with them, and to help them be aware of the resources required to manage

emergencies and crises. He further asserted that each trainee, upon successfully completing this initiative, would be able to identify the different types of emergencies, crisis and disasters.

The initiative, which started in Abu Dhabi, aims to develop the skills of Emirati female staff in the state's administration in emergency, crises and disasters management, in all women's associations in the country by raising awareness and providing knowledge to the female community to enable them to act appropriately in emergency situations.

The initiative entitled "Be Ready" includes five training packages in the field of emergencies, crises and disasters management, including the management of emergencies, crises and disasters, risk management during emergencies and crises, fire fighting, evacuation and health and safety in the workplace.

The purpose of these packages is to enable women trainees to acquire the basic skills in risk assessment, in addition to providing them with theoretical and practical information on how to deal with fires, fire-fighting equipment. They also promote women's capacities to enforce the laws and regulations in accordance with the general principles of health and safety.

In Sharjah...

... The Women's Union Association organised a training course on crisis and disaster management in the presence of Sheikha Ayesha bint Khaled Al Qasimi, Chairwoman of Sharjah Women's Union Association with the participation of more than 25 women.

Dr Al Shiba stated: "We have launched the second stage of this initiative in Sharjah Women's Union Association to enhance national women's

capabilities to become prepared to face and manage emergencies, crises and disasters, as women are the main pillars of society and play an essential role in spreading awareness in the community." He added: "We have focused in this training course on explaining the role of NCEMA working jointly with the competent authorities in the UAE."

Sheikha Majd bint Saoud Al Qasimi, Deputy Chairwoman of Sharjah Women's Union Association, pointed out that the UAE has given women the chance to develop their skills in all fields and to be at the forefront of all events,

and that is evident in the fact that women are participating in disaster management following technical training and qualification in order to be alongside men in dealing with any emergencies.

Mrs. Sara bint Karam, Director of Sharjah Women's Union Association underlined the importance of women being informed of the best way to deal with different kinds of emergencies, crises and disasters. She stated: "The training course aims to raise the level of awareness among Emirati woman in terms of dealing with emergencies, crises and disasters.

This initiative shall enable women to develop their skills and expertise to deal properly with disasters and emergencies."

Courses designed to develop the skills of Emirati women cadres, in the field of emergency management, crises and disasters

In Ras Al Khaimah

... At the Women Development Society, 31 women from different federal and local entities participated in a training programme under the "Be Ready" initiative. The attendees hailed the efforts of HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak and her role in the service and education of women in all fields... they also praised the efforts of the General Women's Union and NCEMA.

Hedayah seeks to establish a common platform for dialogue and counterterrorism

Sheikh Khalifa Promulgates Law on Establishment of the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism

UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has promulgated a federal law on the establishment of the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism. Known as Hedayah, the centre enjoys its own legal personality, which enables it to exercise its activities towards achieving its objectives.

Concept of Violent Extremism

Law No. 7 of 2013, which was published in the Official Gazette, defined violent extremism as “any action carried out by one or more persons or by a group, driven by ideas, ideologies, values or principles that violate public order, jeopardise safety and security of the community, are detrimental to the environment, communication, transportation or public or private funds, prevent or hinder public authorities, places of worship or educational institutions from exercising their work, or suspend the constitution, laws and regulations...”

Objectives of Hedayah

Hedayah seeks to build a common platform for dialogue, exchange of views and orchestration of efforts with the founding countries of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), whose aim is to counter violent extremism within a framework of cooperation and coordination with local institutions and regional and international organisations of similar jurisdiction, and to provide constructive scientific and objective visions in addition to collaborating with the forum’s working groups.

For this purpose, the centre exercises a number of powers, such as creating a database



for exchanging information with the GCTF members, building capacities, delivering CVE programmes, assessing relevant research and studies as well as organising relevant courses, workshops, lectures and seminars. Other powers granted to the centre include conducting CVE studies and research, collaborating and coordinating with the media, creating partnerships and collaborations with both public and private sectors and orchestrating with concerned national, regional and international organizations, through joint work plans and programmes and various other events.

Running of Hedayah

As prescribed by the law, Hedayah is run by a Steering Board that consists of not less than 10 public figures with extensive international

experience, of whom two are from among the country's senior officials nominated by the GCTF members that have ratified the country's initiative to establish the centre. The chairmanship of the centre goes to the host country of its headquarters where all the meetings are convened.

The board sets the centre's strategies, plans and programmes and follows up on their implementation towards achieving its objectives. It issues the laws, regulations and decisions pertaining to the administration of the centre and enhances its financial, administrative and human resources activities and affairs in line with its objectives and in compliance with the provisions of this law, in addition to ratifying the centre's annual balance sheet and final account.

The law also outlines the mandate of the centre's CEO who should be a national, appointed by decision of the board for a renewable three-year term. Candidates for this position should be engaged in the centre's areas of activity and should enjoy administrative competence and technical expertise as well.

Abu Dhabi-Based

Inaugurated on December 15, 2012 and headquartered in Abu Dhabi, Hedayah is the first international centre of its kind. The idea behind the centre was born in September 2011 at the ministerial meeting that launched the Global Counterterrorism Forum in New York. The UAE offered to host Hedayah and supported the centre's start-up phase with substantial funding.

The centre was formed in response to

the growing desire from the international community and the GCTF members alike to create an independent institution bringing together worldwide experts, expertise and experiences dedicated to dialogue, training, collaboration and research towards countering different forms and manifestations of violent extremism.

Hedayah believes in the prevention of individuals from descending into radicalism, embracing violence and supporting terrorism. For this purpose, its aim is to become the first international institution for training, dialogue, collaboration and research towards countering violent extremism, bolstering international counterterrorism efforts and diverting those who have already taken this path before they become totally involved, and to address such long-term strategic challenges.

The centre was established to act as the premier global institution bringing together all kinds of expertise and experience in countering violent extremism and reducing the number of terrorist group supporters through non-coercive means. It also serves as a resource for governments and civil society organisations and seeks to create a global network of CVE experts and practitioners.

Activities of Hedayah

The centre's activities revolve around three main areas:

- Dialogue: Building an international platform for serious dialogue and coordination among different national and local actors, civil society organisations, researchers and leaders of

The Center aims to build efficiencies, provide programs, establishment of courses and workshops, lectures and seminars related to the field against violent extremism

communities concerned with countering violent extremism.

- **Training:** Offering training and other practical tools for building the capacities of government and non-government stakeholders to develop and implement effective CVE programmes and policies.
- **Research:** Cataloguing existing CVE research and conducting new research towards understanding the drivers of violent extremism as well as the effective methods of countering it.

Global Counterterrorism Forum

The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) was officially launched in New York, at the meeting held by the foreign ministers on September 22, 2011. It is an informal multilateral platform for countering terrorism with a focus on identifying civil needs in this area and deploying the necessary resources and expertise to satisfy these needs and strengthen global cooperation.

The forum encompasses 30 founding members and five working groups, including the CVE working group, which is co-chaired by the UAE and the UK. The forum's Steering Board includes the ten chairmen of the five working groups.

Hedayah operates independently of the forum, but maintains nonetheless close mutual relations with its members and working groups. The GCTF members have taken part in the establishment and development of Hedayah and continue to support the centre in more than one way, through

voluntary financial contributions, training courses and secondment.

With the support of the GCTF members and other countries, the centre will respond to and strengthen the efforts of the forum's CVE teams. For instance, it expects to develop a robust independent capacity to assess CVE initiatives sponsored by the GCTF members and other Hedayah partners. On

the other hand, it expects to enhance collaboration in areas of CVE communication and text messaging service through the initiatives it sponsors and the support it offers to others' initiatives, in addition to its key role in furthering understanding of how institutions, ranging from education to health and social services, law enforcement and prisons, can develop CVE activities. It also seeks to offer a reference point and training to officials on how to develop policies, programmes and activities that curb the risk of extremists going down the path of violent extremism.

In all aspects of its work, Hedayah will focus on cooperation and dialogue, taking practical steps towards developing, expanding and strengthening emerging international CVE practices at the level of the international community.

Among the centre's priorities, building and strengthening partnerships with international and regional training centres, academic and research institutions, UN counterterrorism programmes, including the recently established UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, in addition to NGOs worldwide.

**«Hedayah»
believes
preventive
solution, by
preventing
individuals from
the regression
in the way of
radical and
embrace the
doctrine of
violence and
support for
terrorism**

Between the “NCEMA” and the “FEWA”

MoU on Cooperation in Areas of Training, Rehabilitation, Consultation and Capacity Development

The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) and the Federal Electricity & Water Authority (FEWA) signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in areas of training, rehabilitation, consultation and capacity development, with the view of stepping up and orchestrating efforts between both parties.



Through the MoU, the parties intend to rehabilitate FEWA staff in areas of national security and safety and to address and manage cases of emergency, crises and disasters in addition to strengthening and developing the existing cooperation, particularly in relation to the exchange of expertise, between both authorities.

The MoU falls within the framework of

achieving the joint objectives of both parties, which in turn would enable FEWA to achieve its vision and ensure the success of its strategic plans and objectives.

The roles and responsibilities of both parties are outlined in the memorandum of understanding, namely facilitating the exchange of information, strategies and objectives, work

plans and initiatives, preparing, organising and implementing training activities on emergencies, crises and disasters, conducting studies and consultations requested by FEWA as well as developing staff capacities and skills in crisis, emergency and disaster management.

The MoU was signed by HE Mohammed Khalfan Matar Al Romaihi, Director General of NCEMA, and HE Mohammed Saleh, Director General of FEWA. It stipulates provision of the below services by the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority to the Federal Electricity & Water Authority:

- Preparing and implementing a joint work plan to rehabilitate and train FEWA staff.
- Contributing to the identification and analysis of the training needs of FEWA staff in the area of emergency, crisis and disaster management.
- Designing the necessary specialisation training courses on integrated emergency, crisis and disaster management; training and rehabilitating trainers; preparing and implementing drill scenarios; assessing and analysing special risks; managing emergency, crisis and disaster operation centres; dealing with the media; strategic planning; preparing emergency management plans as well as management plans for the electricity and water sector; managing business continuity in cases of emergency, crisis and disaster...
- Delivering specialised training courses on crisis and emergency management that are adopted locally, regionally or internationally if possible.
- Cooperating in raising awareness among FEWA departments and entities on crisis and disaster management, through the joint

organisation of seminars, conferences, programmes, media activities, publications, lectures and brainstorming sessions.

- Organising and delivering joint specialised drills.
- Providing studies, references, consultations and recommendations on emergency, crisis and disaster management, among others.

Moreover, the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority undertook to carry out the below tasks outlined in the memorandum of understanding:

- Analyse training needs of FEWA staff.
- Orchestrate the preparation and presentation of a professional development plan targeting all FEWA employees.
- Prepare and deliver educational and training programmes in accordance with the agreed development plan.
- Develop a work plan and a training programme in the professional fields covered by the MoU.
- Offer the necessary assistance, facilities, support and collaboration towards the success of the training programme.

• Deliver the training plan by a select group of top-notch experts and specialists.

- Prepare, implement and assess a joint drill plan for emergency, crisis and disaster management aimed at testing the efficiency and success of the training courses and garnering the necessary information on any gaps to be bridged in subsequent training programmes.
- Provide FEWA with all the information needed by its employees wishing to pursue a higher education, abroad or locally, at higher education institutions offering specialised training programmes implemented by NCEMA.

The MoU aims to promote and coordinate efforts between the national stakeholders, and to ensure that the conditions for effective response in crisis and emergency situations