

# Taware'e

wa Azamat

Together .. we preserve the country's achievements

Quarterly Magazine Published by NCEMA - 6<sup>th</sup> Issue - October 2013

## Abdullah bin Zayed:

Success in countering maritime piracy requires joint efforts to build capabilities in the region



## Undersecretary of MoFA:

We tried to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied islands but Iran didn't respond



“Coronavirus”  
knocks at  
the GCC doors

Electronic  
tracking system in  
School buses



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# Maritime piracy...

## Effective treatment at the roots

The issue of maritime piracy against merchant ships, in what has become known as “dangerous waters” from the Strait of Malacca near Indonesia, and the Gulf of Guinea, leading to off the coasts of Kenya and Somalia, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea, where most of the international trade flows, all the way to the Indian Ocean, has captured the attention of states all over the world. Maritime piracy has become a preoccupation for many of these countries that held a series of conferences and developed a set of plans and programmes and allotted a significant amount of money in order to eliminate this phenomenon, which has increased in frequency and scope in the last part of the last century, and has become a serious threat to peace and international security and stability.

The United Arab Emirates took upon itself the responsibility of hosting the “International Conference to Combat Maritime Piracy”. The third counter piracy conference was held in Dubai on the 11th and 12th of September, in coordination and with the cooperation of the United Nations and all countries concerned with this issue...

The UAE is aware of the need to unite all international efforts towards eradicating this phenomenon from the roots, through the cessation of armed robbery at sea, with military force, and an in-depth research into the causes and factors that led to the emergence and the spread of this dangerous phenomenon, as a prelude to the normalisation of the situation, especially in the states that host the groups that are behind these acts, namely Somalia. Maritime piracy causes annual losses estimated, according to the Bureau of the International Maritime Organisation, at about 12 billion US Dollars. It is worth noting that the piracy off the Horn of Africa and in the Gulf of Aden represents one-third of piracy operations that occur all around the world.

Several actions were taken in the past at the global level to counter piracy such as the formation of the International Contact Group on fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia, the establishment

of the United Nations Fund to combat piracy, the formation of the African force to tackle piracy, taking measures to provide security armed guards on board commercial vessels in transit, as well as forming an international fleet (China, Russia, the European Union, NATO, South Korea, Japan, India and Malaysia) to patrol and guard civilian ships crossing the dangerous sea lanes, and execute military interventions where needed. Those actions have significantly reduced piracy operations to a large extent, and contributed to foiling many of them, especially during the past year.

Work on establishing security and securing political stability in some countries in the Horn of Africa, notably in Somalia, and laying the foundations of the state there, is the first step towards salvation from this dangerous scourge, especially since everyone knows that the root of piracy lies on land and not at sea. This requires work to end the civil and tribal wars that have been ongoing for nearly twenty years, and preparing the grounds for the formation of a government that will be able, through international support, to take initiatives to solve economic and social problems afflicting the Somali people.

Despite this significant progress, the issue of piracy, especially in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean, is still a source of grave concern at the global level. But there is great confidence in the success of measures to address this scourge, provided the international community strengthens its efforts in capacity building in the region in two inseparable directions: through initiatives in the short term, by local effective security solutions, designed to prevent any new operations and deliberate military strikes on pirate sites... And others, on the long term, aimed at supporting the development of local economies in the region, with the contribution of both public and private sectors, in a way that ensures a sustainable solution to combat piracy.

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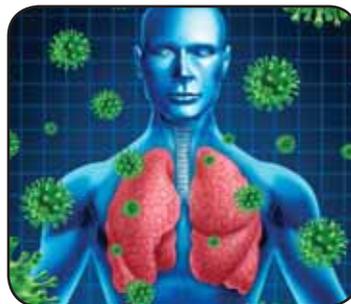
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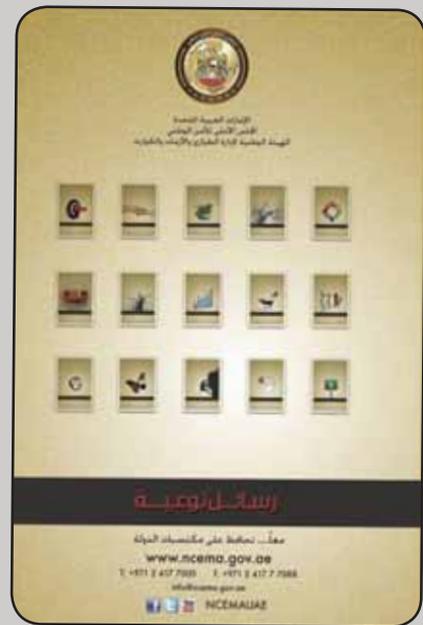


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Organized by the UAE's MoFA in collaboration with the «DP World» and «ADPC»

# Third International Counter-Piracy Conference calls for the prosecution of participating in global networks and those responsible for funding and to intensify efforts to liberate sailors who are still in custody

**Abdullah bin Zayed: Success requires the combined efforts of the international community to build capabilities in the region and to get to the root of the problem in Somalia and elsewhere**

The international Counter-Maritime Piracy Conference confirmed its support for building sustainable capabilities in order to reach long term solutions and eradicate maritime piracy. It called for greater partnership between the private and the public sectors, on shore and at sea, as it is the only sustainable way of ensuring a multi-faceted approach that takes into account the political and socio-economic circumstances that encourage piracy.



### **Stepping up efforts to counter maritime piracy**

In the conference's closing statement, all participants called for intensified international efforts to counter maritime piracy and pursue operators and financiers. They agreed that piracy activities in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Pacific continue to threaten commerce, peace and security. They warned that easing of security efforts and complacency in building capacities at sea and on shore will likely lead to a resurgence of attacks. They all stressed the need for the international community to cooperate on law enforcement, especially with the INTERPOL to investigate and prosecute international criminal networks involved in piracy and, in particular, those responsible for financing and facilitating piracy activities, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Participants in the conference, which was held in a partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, global marine terminal operator DP World and Abu Dhabi Ports Company in Dubai on 11 and 12 September, confirmed that the release of seamen that continue to be held hostage must remain a top priority for participating countries. They urged the international community to make every possible effort to ensure their safe return to their families, with the help of the Federal Government of Somalia and regional authorities. They deemed that the initiative to establish the Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecutions Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC) is a significant building



block for establishing a regional framework for criminal justice that would ensure stability and prosperity in Somalia.

#### **Pursuit of Organisers and Financiers**

Participants emphasised the importance of law enforcement and the prosecution of organisers and financiers of piracy attacks. They stressed the power of information sharing and transnational cooperation on the criminal investigation of piracy, especially through regional centres such as the Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecutions Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPICC) in the Seychelles, and the Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Sana'a, Yemen, which is critical to deterring, disrupting and prosecuting those responsible for and profiting from piracy.

While the efforts of the international community and the shipping industry have led to a significant drop in pirate attacks, which have cost global economy losses estimated at around USD 6 billion in 2012 alone, participants confirmed that the drop in



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attacks is fragile and reversible.

Conference attendees praised the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia and regional and local bodies, to impede piracy activities and prosecute pirates. They deemed that reaching a sustainable and long term solution for maritime piracy requires strengthening regional capabilities. This could be realised by allowing states in the region to control their own shores and patrol their own waters. They emphasised the need for strategic, focused and multi-disciplinary approaches that include security operations, investments in economic and social development, humanitarian assistance, and capacity building for local security forces and legal systems. Improving the maritime security capacity of Somalia and its neighbours will not only contribute to further deterring and preventing pirate attacks, it will also help the region in facing other challenges, such as illegal fishing and human trafficking.

In this respect, the conference noted the outcomes of the Capacity Building Coordination Group meeting that was held on 10 September 2013 in Dubai. It also welcomed the IMO's initiative to expand the Djibouti Code of Conduct to address wider regional maritime security and safety issues in the future.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Speech

The conference, which was attended by the President of Somalia, HE Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and the Secretary General of the

GCC Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayyani in addition to over 20 ministers, was inaugurated by HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

In his welcome speech, the UAE foreign minister reaffirmed the UAE's support for the Somali people's quest for peace and prosperity and for the Somali Federal Government's efforts and objectives.

HH added that during May this year, the UAE pledged USD 50 million for developmental projects in Somalia "with our confidence that this will contribute to providing a decent livelihood for our Somali brothers."

And he added: "Despite the efforts being exerted by the international community to combat piracy on the Somali coast, the UAE still believes that maritime piracy, especially in the Gulf of Aden and the Western Indian Ocean, needs more serious global interest. We are convinced that success in

the fight against maritime piracy will be the result of the combined efforts of the international community for capacity building in the region, addressing its roots in Somalia and other similar environments."

HH Sheikh Abdullah observed that the third counter-piracy conference comes at a crucial time for Somalia. He noted that the UAE shares the vision of the Somali government to restore security in the country which translate into better standards of

**The efforts of the international community and the shipping industry, led to a significant reduction in pirate attacks**

living for all its citizens and good governance in the management of territorial waters, as well as ensuring the safety and security of navigational movements to contribute to law enforcement on shore and at sea.

He reiterated the UAE's commitment to provide continued support to the Somali government and to help it to achieve its vision through three main areas of interest: enhancing security capabilities, strengthening political cooperation and humanitarian and development assistance.

Sheikh Abdullah took the opportunity to announce the UAE Government's intention to open an embassy in the Somali capital, Mogadishu "in order to implement and activate this assistance."

He said that the UAE is prepared to provide support to Somalia in order to contribute to its socio-economic development. And he added: "We are keen to explore opportunities for mutual cooperation between our two countries in economic projects, which include the areas of renewable energy, as a means to stimulate and develop sustainable energy in Somalia."

The Foreign Minister said that the effort to entrench stability and prosperity in Somalia is an urgent need in the battle against piracy. He expressed his belief that Somalia's progress towards stability is one of the essential means to ensure the elimination

of piracy in the region.

Sheikh Abdullah observed that developing Somalia's ability to combat maritime piracy in its territorial waters would strengthen its regional control and would also contribute to enabling Somalia to face other challenges, such as poaching, human trafficking, drug smuggling and other difficulties that weaken the Somali economy and disrupt social development.

HH hoped that the conference would help to intensify international efforts to build regional capabilities in order to eliminate piracy. He urged attendees to send a clear message to the leaders of pirate groups and their supporters that "We will not tolerate maritime piracy and we shall continue to provide adequate support for our partners to build their capabilities, control their coasts and monitor their waters."

**Urgent need for continued cooperation of the international community in order to apply the law, particularly the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)**

### **Main Axes of the Third Conference**

The UAE hosted the International Counter-Piracy Conference for the third consecutive year. In its last edition, the conference focused on three main topics: Continuing to promote awareness about the humanitarian and economic costs of piracy, continuing to look for and effective and permanent solution to piracy through cooperation among political, military,



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financial and legal sectors to combat piracy, and reaffirming the cooperation between the maritime sector and government sectors through joint strategies that focus on long-term sustainable solutions.

Maritime piracy is one of the biggest challenges on the international community's agenda during this period. It requires a comprehensive and integrated response led by all stakeholders and relevant bodies in this sector.

### Past two Conferences

The first edition of the Counter-Piracy Conference was held on 18 and 19 April, 2011 in the aim of putting together a strategy to promote cooperation among regional and international organisations to combat the maritime piracy phenomenon through joint initiatives between the public and the private sectors.

The conference ended with a number of public and private entities from around the world pledging to take decisive steps towards long-term and short-term measures to combat maritime piracy on shore and at sea.

The second conference was hosted in Dubai on 27 and 28 June 2012. Its aim was to ensure a global response to maritime piracy, promote partnerships between the private and the government sectors and to activate global participation. The conference also touched on the economic and human costs of maritime piracy and looked into ways to enhance regional efforts to confront pirate attacks.

The conference aimed to raise the level of awareness about the threats of maritime piracy and improve the level of cooperation between private sector organisations and

government bodies in order to support seafarers and to increase development projects in regional countries, mainly in Somalia, which would enhance their ability to confront maritime piracy.

### Continued Efforts

Recent effective efforts to stop Somali pirate attacks off the coasts of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden led to tangible results. Pirates were incapable of making any successful attacks for an entire year.

Donna Hopkins, US State Department Coordinator on Counter Piracy and Maritime Security noted that the joint efforts of international naval forces, the enhancement of security measures on board ships and the deployment of armed guards on board ships all contributed to the decline in the frequency of pirate attacks by at least 75 per cent. She was quoted in the Associated Press as saying last May that there are other factors that contributed to contain the phenomenon. A total of 1140 Somali pirates have been imprisoned in 21 countries, which weakened piracy activities in general.

The International Maritime Navigation Office reported that Somali pirates took over 46 vessels in 2009 and 47 vessels in 2010. The number decreased to 25 in 2011 following the adoption of new defence mechanisms on board ships.

In 2012, only 75 attacks and 14 hijacks took place off the Somali shore and the Gulf of Aden compared to 237 attacks in the previous year.

The office added that during the first quarter of 2012, pirates in Somalia carried out 43 attacks and took 140 sailors hostage.

The office estimates the annual financial losses to maritime navigation due to acts of

piracy at about USD 12 billion. Experts in maritime piracy say that international trade has been losing over USD 16 billion per year. In 2009 alone, pirates were able to make USD 100 billion in ransoms from passing ships in the Gulf of Aden. The amount rose to over USD 120 billion by the end of 2011 as the ransom amounts were increased. The Gulf of Guinea comes in second place after the Somali waters in frequency of piracy attacks.

The International Maritime Navigation Office reported that last February, Nigerian pirates hijacked a French carrier ship that hoists the Luxembourg flag with its 17 member staff. The ship had disappeared off the coast of Ivory Coast.

The office of the International Chamber of Commerce issued a security warning for the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa following a series of violent attacks on ships in the region.

The International Contact Group in charge of combating maritime piracy off the Somali coasts, which includes 85 member states, in addition to international organisers and representatives from the private sector, discussed the matter during its meeting at the UN headquarters in New York last May. The meeting joined member states, representatives of international and regional organisations as well as delegates from the Ship Owners Association and civil society organisations.

The attendees reviewed the advancements that have been achieved in terms of coordination

among the five specialised groups that are in charge of cooperation in navigational, legal, military, media and financial matters.

In their closing statement, member states expressed their content for the decline of piracy actions off the coast of Somalia since their 13th meeting in December last year. However, they agreed over the need for continued cooperation and coordination amongst themselves. They also warned from a likely resurgence of the phenomenon and called for more vigilance.

For his part, Peter Pham, professor of political science and expert in Somali piracy financing affairs at James Madison University in the US noted that financing piracy actions in Somalia is done by way of initial public offering.

It is noteworthy that China, Russia, the European Union, Nato, South Korea, Japan, India and Malaysia have sent maritime fleets to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea to patrol the waters and protect passing civil ships.

Over 80 per cent of the global oil trade that is shipped by sea pass through the straits of Hormuz and Malacca in the Indian Ocean. And the areas that are deemed sources of concern in the Ocean are: Hormuz, Malacca, Lombok and Sunda.

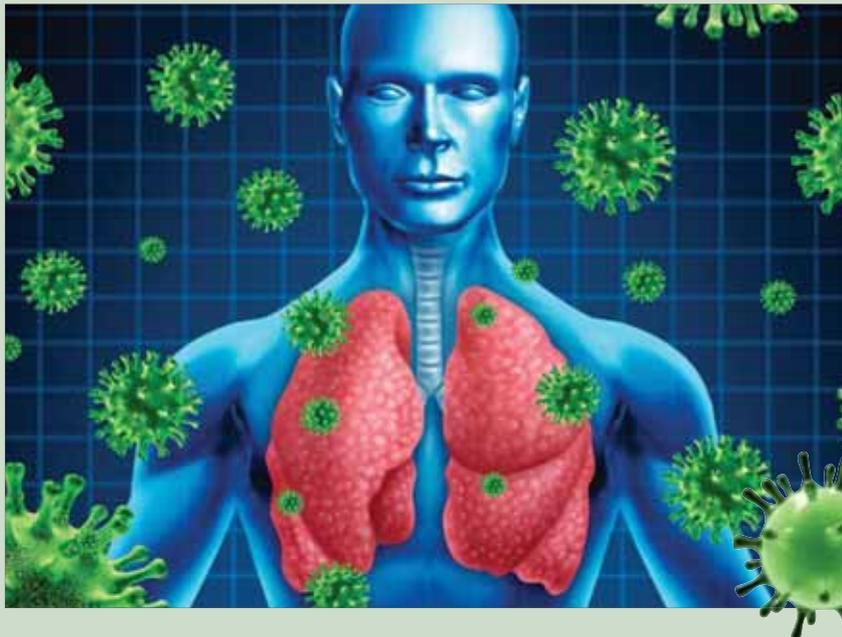
The Strait of Malacca, between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, is the link between the Pacific and the Indian oceans. It receives over 50 thousand tankers on an annual basis, that is 137 tankers per day.

**Piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean region, continues to constitute a threat to international trade and peace and security**

The “Middle East Coronavirus” knocks at the GCC doors

## “WHO” confirms it has not reached the Epidemic stage

The camel is innocent of the Dutch charge



Finally, the hype that surrounded the “Corona Middle East Virus” subsided following intensive media coverage as news outlets in the region picked up sporadic news reports, issued by local medical entities in the Gulf as well as the World Health Organisation, indicating the presence of tens of infected cases, especially in a number of GCC countries, and that some of these cases were fatal.

The World Health Organisation declared that it has received reports starting September 2012 of 108 lab certified cases of Coronavirus causing the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome including 50 deaths. But the origin of the new virus and its source remained unspecified and uncertain.

The International Health Emergencies Committee concerned with the virus unanimously decided at its second meeting, held on July 17 (The countries that participated in the meeting which

was held remotely were France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Tunisia and the United Kingdom) that... "In light of the information now available, and the approach to risk assessment, the necessary conditions to determine that the event constitutes a public health emergency of international concern are not yet available."

World Health Organisation: the situation is serious but it does not constitute an emergency

In its assessment of the current situation regarding the virus the World

Health Organisation deemed that the situation was serious and alarming, but, at the moment, it does not constitute an internationally alarming public health emergency. It called on all Member States to assess any new cases of infection with the virus and to report them to the organisation immediately, along with providing information on potential exposures, which may have resulted from the infection and a statement of clinical course.

The organisation did not issue any instructions about the need to conduct special examinations at entry points, in relation to this event, as it did not recommend, so far, to impose any restrictions on travel or trade activities. But at the same time, it encouraged all Member States to continue to monitor cases of infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome, and to scrutinise any unusual patterns.

### Early Cases

In June 2012, the first death from infection with the "Corona" virus that was different from any previously known species was announced in Saudi Arabia. In September 2012, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a global warning about the emergence of a new type of "Coronavirus" in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, where two people were infected. On September 24th, 2012, the first cases of infection with this new Crown virus were discovered by Egyptian doctor, Dr. Mohammed

Ali Zakaria, a virology specialist in the city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. And then the media picked up the news about the spread of the virus in each of France, Britain and Germany, coming from the Gulf region.

### Infection reaches Europe

In May last year, France announced that a man aged 65 was hospitalised and diagnosed with coronary virus infection. On the first of last June, the Italian Ministry of Health announced the emergence of the first viral infection. The ministry declared in a statement - then - that the patient, 45, is in good condition and is subject to monitoring in an isolated room. It said he was hospitalised in Tuscany after suffering from high fever, cough and breathing



difficulties. They noted that the foreigner, who lives in Italy, had previously spent 40 days in Jordan.

The Tunisian Ministry of Health had reported on May 21 last year that a man aged 66 died as a result of the new coronary virus, and that this was the first death by this virus to be announced in Tunisia. The ministry spokesman said the man who died in a hospital in the city of Monastir, had visited Saudi Arabia, and was diabetic.

#### 94 confirmed cases and 46 deaths

At the beginning of the second half of last July, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the discovery of six new cases of the virus infections in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, mostly among people working in the health sector. According to the WHO's latest statistics

in late August 2013, a total of 108 confirmed cases had been diagnosed in the world and they led to 50 deaths. Saudi Arabia is the most affected by the infection with 84 cases and 42 deaths, while 28 people recovered. The other countries in which the existence of the cases was proved are Great Britain, Qatar, Jordan, France and the United Arab Emirates. It is noted that all cases of disease that occurred in Europe and Tunisia have some connection with the Middle East (directly or indirectly).

#### In the UAE: two dead and four recovering

According to the WHO and the Health Authority - Abu Dhabi, and medical sources, the number of coronavirus cases in the UAE has reached six cases, and two of the infected patients have died, while the remaining four recovered and left the hospital.

Sources said four people working in two hospitals in the capital of the UAE were infected by the virus after treating a patient who was suffering from it. The disease has appeared in two women, the other two people infected, namely a man at the age of 28 and a 30 year-old woman, did not show any symptoms of the disease.

NCEMA explained that it has, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, started epidemiological investigation procedures immediately, as it is the case in such situations as soon as the discovery of the first case occurs, where a total



of 136 members representing the medical staff supervising the patient case were examined as well as the patient's family members. The results of the investigation confirmed the existence of four new infections, in addition to the previous one, all in a stable condition. They have been isolated, as a precaution, to prevent transmission to others.

The UAE Ministry of Health declared that it is in constant contact with the World Health Organisation, to keep abreast of the latest global developments about this virus, stressing that it does not constitute a public health concern. The Ministry noted that the proliferation of the cases detected around the world is still limited, and that the current health situation does not require any action to ban travel to any country in the world, neither does it require early tests to be made in the countries ports, and does not require any restrictions to be imposed on trade.

The UAE health authorities had previously announced that one "Coronavirus" case was diagnosed in Abu Dhabi. The local health authority declared that the case was the first to be recorded in the UAE, noting that the patient infected is an 82-year-old cancer patient Emirati citizen who is receiving treatment in the intensive care unit at a hospital in the city.

An official source at the Health Authority in Abu Dhabi, has denied the reports that have been passed down through the social networking sites, about the emergence of "Coronavirus" infections in the country that claimed the lives of three people. The source urged citizens and residents to assume their responsibilities towards the community and refrain from promoting unsettling rumours, stressing out that NCEMA

is in constant and direct contact with all the health centres for Disease Control and is closely following up on any developments.

The source explained that the virus requires more caution from everyone, and that it may cause the death of infected patients that do not get swift and adequate treatment services. The source highlighted the fact that the treatment focuses on the symptoms, that can be prevented, as is the case in influenza, via personal hygiene, hand washing and

avoiding shaking the hands of or mingling with infected people.

He stressed that NCEMA's approach to the local and international system of cyber epidemiological investigation is a distinctive programme that helps health authorities to reduce the spread of some infectious diseases, and swiftly control them, referring to the constant communication with the Ministry of Health and the Centre for Disease Control in the USA

**Initiative qualifies trained to be able to know the different types of emergencies, crises and disasters, and are familiar with the levels of management, and dealing with its various types**



and the World Health Organisation (WHO), in order to follow the global developments of the disease.

### A virus that hasn't reached the level of epidemic

Professor Tawfiq bin Ahmed Khoja, Director General of the Executive Office of the Council of GCC Health Ministers stressed that the development of Coronavirus in the Gulf states isn't alarming did not reach the level of "epidemic". He noted that the Ministries of Health apply all international measures recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Khoja attributed the Gulf states efforts to the supervisory and preventive measures taken by the health authorities under the direct supervision of Their Excellencies, Ministers of Health in the GCC, by attracting world renowned scientists in the fight against infectious diseases, in order to exchange experiences, especially that the "Coronavirus" is severe in its characteristics and epidemiology. He pointed out that the pattern of the new "Coronavirus" is very rare and

very swift to mutate. It is fiercer, and affects people who suffer from chronic heart and respiratory diseases as well as HIV patients or elderly people.

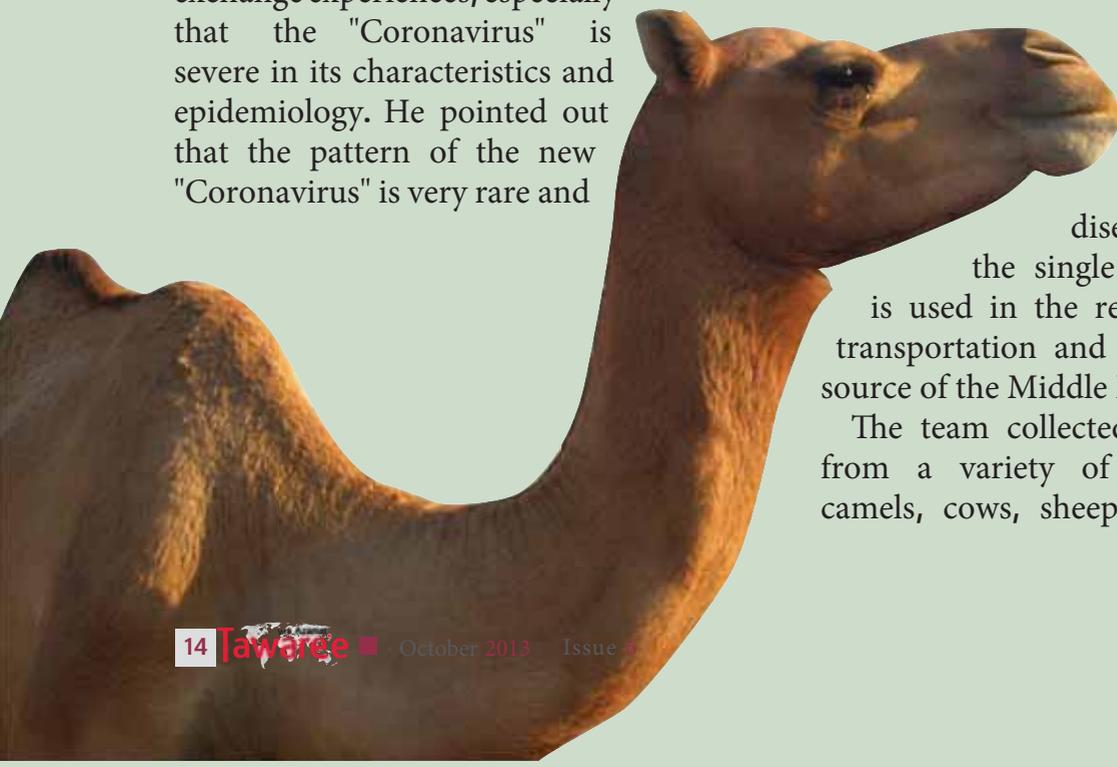
He revealed that there is continual coordination and follow-up, through the National Scientific Committee for Infectious Diseases at Gulf ministries of health and the international bodies that dealt with SARS in the past, as well as Toronto, Singapore, Hong Kong and the US. This is in addition to continued coordination with the World Health Organisation's international committees at the regional level in Cairo and at the international level in Geneva.

Because this is a new type of virus, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is dedicated to work with countries and partners, in order to gather more information about it, and determine its effects on public health.

### Source of the virus: camels from "charged" to "innocent"

A recent study by the Dutch scientific team published in the journal "The Lancet" for infectious diseases concluded that the single hump camel which is used in the region for meat, milk, transportation and racing, could be the source of the Middle East Coronavirus.

The team collected 349 blood samples from a variety of livestock, including camels, cows, sheep and goats in the



Sultanate of Oman, the Netherlands, Spain and Chile. The tests showed the presence of antibodies to the Middle East Coronavirus in all samples taken from fifty camels in Amman, while antibodies were not found in the rest of the animals.

However, the World Health Organisation, and the United Nations Organisation for Food and Agriculture (FAO) questioned the results of the Dutch study, noting that the evidence currently available is insufficient to determine the exact source, and whether it was an animal source or not.

The WHO drew attention to the fact that most of the cases of MERS virus that formerly hit human beings were not related or linked to camels. It considered premature to pass a definitive judgment on the fact that camels may be the source or the only mediator animal in the transmission of the infection by this virus. The organisation, which is the steering authority in this area, believed that the only way to ascertain that the virus detected in camels is the same as the one detected in humans, is to confirm the presence of the virus itself in infected camels or their products, using scientific methods known in the laboratory analysis field PCR.

For its part, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) declared in a statement that the evidence currently available on the Coronavirus infecting human beings are not sufficient to determine accurately whether its source is animal or not.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) concluded its view by urgently calling for carrying out a planned and organised study about the human exposure to infection. The

organisation did not issue any instructions or warnings on how to deal with camels. The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources in Kuwait also confirmed the safety of the camels and their “innocence” of any charges in this regard.

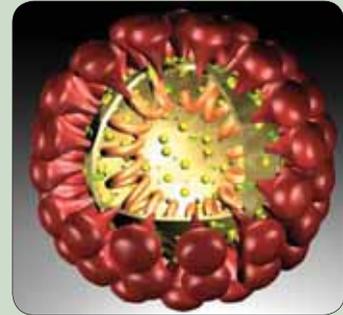
Mr. Paul Kellam, a professor at the Institute and the Wellcome Trust Sanger in Cambridge University College in London, commented on the Dutch study and said that the research helps narrow the search for the source of the virus. However, he said in a radio interview, conclusive evidence to identify the source of the virus would be to find an infected animal or to track the genome in an animal infected with the virus, and then research its characteristics.

The doctors indicate that the identification of the virus source is important, but determining how the virus is transmitted to humans, is a priority. Gregory Hartl, from the WHO says... "Only if we succeed in identifying behaviours and interactions that lead to the transmission of the virus to humans, can we succeed in preventing the spread of the infection."

The data shows that the level of infection for the virus so far, does not make it a global threat, as the spread has not yet reached the stage that requires it to be stopped.

## Virus definition card

▪ *The Middle East Coronavirus, also known as "the new Corona" or "Novel Corona", is a Crown virus considered the sixth in number in this species. It was discovered in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on September 24, 2012 by virologist Dr. Mohammed Ali Zakaria. It was given in the beginning, in some foreign newspapers, a number of different names, such as: "SARS" or "SARS Saudi Arabia" and it was recently agreed to call it the Middle East Coronavirus that causes a respiratory syndrome and was symbolised by the acronym (MERS - CoV). The Middle East Coronavirus is one of the large viral families known to affect humans and animals, and called Coronaviridae. The first virus of this family was discovered in 1960. The advantage of the virus genetic material is that it is a single thread positive polarity (RNA). Corona is the Latin word of Crown because the virus takes the form of a crown under the electronic microscope. The virus diameter ranges from 120 to 160 nanometre, and the volume of the genetic material ranges between 27 and 32 thousand nitrogenous base.*



In spite of the similarity between the symptoms of the Coronavirus and the influenza virus, the first one cannot be considered the result of the second, because the influenza virus, according to the scientific concept, belongs to a different viral family. Preliminary results have shown, in several world laboratories that the new Coronavirus is somewhat similar to the SARS virus, but differs in terms of its propagation among people and its high mortality rate, which amounts to about 50 percent, especially in elderly and chronically ill patients. According to the latest statistics published by the World Health Organisation (WHO), on the fourth of August, 94 confirmed cases were diagnosed in the world, 46 of them were fatal. Saudi Arabia is considered the country most touch by the infection with 74 cases and 39 fatalities. The other countries that showed confirmed cases of infection are: Britain, Qatar, Jordan, France and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia has been monitoring the disease in a number of different cities and regions, but most injuries were concentrated in the area of Al Ahsa, it was also noted that 80 per cent of infected patients in Saudi Arabia were male. The infection by the Middle East Coronavirus - usually - leads to the inflammation of the upper trachea and to symptoms similar to those of the flu, such as sneezing, coughing, stuffy sinuses and mucosa secretions of the nose accompanied with fever. It may also result in the sharp injury of the lower respiratory tract and pneumonia. The virus infection can lead to renal failure, with a high

probability of death, especially among the elderly, the chronically ill or immunologically deficient patients. The viral infection is caused by inhalation of respiratory droplets from the patient, or through contaminated surfaces, such as pillows, blankets and others. The ability of the virus to spread among the people has been proven as well as that a number of health care providers have been infected by it from patients. The World Health Organisation recommends to those health care providers to use preventive measures of respiratory diseases, when examining patients infected by the virus.

### Prevention from the virus infection is possible through the following:

-  Avoid the spray the patient spreads when sneezing
-  Do not touch contaminated surfaces
-  Do not use the patient's personal items, such as pillows, blankets, etc.
-  Wash your hands thoroughly with soap
-  Wear masks in crowded places

Prevention ...  
Is worth a pound  
of cure





## Al Rumaithi and Jeremy discuss ways to strengthen Emirati-British cooperation in emergency management

During a visit by a United Kingdom delegation headed by the UK Ambassador to the UAE Dominic Jeremy, HE Mohammed Khalfan Matar Al Rumaithi, Director General of the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, NCEMA met with the ambassador and the two men discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the UAE and the UK and to learn from the experiences of the two sides in the areas of emergency management.



HE Al Rumaithi emphasised during the meeting that was held at his office and attended by a number of department directors and members of the visiting delegation, that the UAE wise leadership supports the bilateral relations between the two countries that serve common interests. He confirmed the keenness of the UAE to demonstrate openness to the world to achieve mutual cooperation in various fields.

For his part, the British Ambassador praised the efforts of the UAE at all levels, especially the provision of all elements of a modern state to achieve prosperity and progress for its people. He stressed the depth of relations between the two countries and declared that the United Kingdom looked forward to strengthening its strategic partnership with the United Arab Emirates.

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Award bestowed by Tatweej Academy for best website and pioneering administrative services

## NCEMA wins the Gold Excellence Award for the Arab E-Government Shield Competition as well as the “Strategic Award” for 2013

The National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) won the Gold Excellence Award, as part of the 2013 annual Arab e-government shield award competition after joining the competition along with more than 25 ministries, organisations and entities from different Arab countries. This award is held and bestowed by “Tatweej” Academy and is awarded for the best website developed by official organisations and government entities. NCEMA also won the Gold Award in the category of “Strategic Award” in this same competition.

The award was received by Mr. Nasser Mohamed Al Yammahi, Director of Information and Public Communication Department at NCEMA during the fourth annual ceremony which was held recently in Dubai by "Academy Competition Shield of e-government" and "Tatweej" Awards for excellence in the Arab world, to celebrate the leaders of Arab e-governments and honour the winners. The ceremony was held in the presence of a group of government officials and diplomatic representatives, along with a number of specialists, Arab leaders and representatives of the competing candidates.

Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani, NCEMA's spokesperson and director of Technology and Communications Department expressed his pride that the "Authority" has obtained such awards... "that motivate us to demonstrate more development and excellence, especially in the technology sector and the electronic domain, and develop a mechanism and community service programmes in the field of education and awareness, in line with the latest software technology that deliver information to the reader." He added that this reward... "Comes after extensive efforts to develop the site in order to cope with the requirements and the vision of e-government, according to a strategy that meets the society's needs, and contributes to providing the best services to users. Our site allows for access to information and the development of communication channels with all the members of society, and raise public awareness about the roles and responsibilities that must be observed during emergencies and disasters, because society is a key partner in emergency situations."

The Internet Award Academy in the Arab world, organisers of the contest Shield of e-government Arab, aims to encourage the



innovation spirit among websites designers, in order to meet global and professional standards, and to promote productivity and intellectual opportunities, and to develop an interactive and practical community aiming to rehabilitate the e-commerce sector in the best way possible. In this context, the Academy created the "Best State Website Competition Award" and the "Internet contest award in the Arab world", from which the National Award for the best website emerged in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Yemen. The Web Awards competition in the Arab world is considered the starting point for innovators to showcase their work in the market and achieve success. The Academy, and its affiliate bodies have hosted many events to honour and reward the most active and effective sectors in the Arab world, and included leading and administrative figures, and governmental, banking and educational institutions.

The Academy relies on relevant international standards, especially in terms of forming voluntary committees, and the work of arbitration committees that approve the reports filed by expert committees, and adopting transparent evaluation methods in arbitration.

During an Iftar ceremony organised by NCEMA to its employees during the holy month of Ramadan

## Al Rumaithi: an opportunity for more communication and for creating a friendly environment that contributes to strengthening roles and responsibilities



In order to promote social and human communication between elements of the same work environment, and to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, the "National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority" organised an iftar for its employees, attended by His Excellency Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director General, H.E. Shehwan Srour Al Dhahiri, Deputy Director General, and the NCEMA department directors.

Al Rumaithi gave a speech on the occasion,

in which he stressed the morals of the holy month and called upon all to take the opportunity to create more communication between senior management and staff and their colleagues at work. He encouraged them to build relationships based on mutual dialogue and create a positive friendly work environment, which would contribute to strengthening the roles and responsibilities carried out by NCEMA.

H.E. Al Rumaithi expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for everyone's constructive cooperation in order to enable

NCEMA to perform its mission and duties in a distinctive and effective way. He stressed on the keenness of NCEMA to provide and strengthen social relations between staff members through meetings and events that are held outside the context of the daily work, to provide internal communication climates, and to get a closer look at staff ideas, initiatives and propositions.

The Director general of NCEMA praised the efforts made since the establishment of the authority by the management and staff, in order to find a suitable working environment that contributed to the achievement of excellence and successful communication with our partners, through a range of initiatives, programmes and joint plans that were approved by the authorities partners.

He emphasized that NCEMA is seeking to

develop the competencies of its employees to encourage them to work together as one team and contribute to construction and development, based on the vision of the country's wise leadership, to protect the achievements of the state, to raise the levels of preparedness and full readiness, and to contribute to the consolidation of the homeland and to maintain its achievements, and build the teams of second generation employees to take on the leadership in the coming years; this requires ongoing work from everyone to promote the Union's journey and its achievements, to keep the progress and permanence of stability, and raise the readiness and preparedness according to one goal, which is to maintain the security of the homeland and its safety, and those residing on its territory, and the protection of his achievements.

## First of its in the Arab world



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“Tawajudi” is an optional service that aims to assist citizens abroad in cases of emergency.

**HE Abdullah bin Mohammed  
bin Butti Al Hamed  
Undersecretary of the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
in an exclusive interview  
for: “Tawaree” :**

**The continued occupation  
of the three islands has no  
bearing on UAE’s legal rights  
and sovereignty over them**

**We tried to reach a peaceful solution to  
end the Iranian occupation  
of the three islands, but unfortunately,  
Iran didn’t respond favourably**

**His Excellency Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that the continued occupation by Iran of the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa has no bearing on the UAE's legal rights and legitimate sovereignty over them. He noted that the UAE has always sought to reach a peaceful solution to end Iran's occupation of the three islands, through bilateral negotiations or through the International Justice Court, but, unfortunately, Iran didn't respond favourably.**





## Interview

In an exclusive interview for “Tawareè wa Azamat” he said that the UAE’s foreign policy is wise and moderate. It is based on commitment to the United Nations Charter and the respect of international conventions and laws. The UAE has sought to maintain good relations with all nations on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in other countries’ internal affairs. The country favours dialogue and peaceful means as a solution for international conflicts and champions just and fair causes while it contributes effectively in supporting international stability and peace.

He mentioned that the UAE has succeeded in achieving a series of development objectives that were set by the UN regarding the empowerment of women, exploitation of resources, enhancing environmental social circumstances, combating illiteracy and activating the international partnership for development.

He added that the UAE’s humanitarian role earned it the trust and appreciation of the UN and it has garnered international respect for the country, which puts it on the map of humanitarian powers around the world. He explained that over 34 governmental and non-governmental

**I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all those responsible for the birth of this new unique specialised magazine. I wish this new publication success and excellence especially that it focuses on novelties in the world of emergencies, crises and disasters management**

establishments in the UAE provide aids, loans and grants to recipients the world over.

HE observed that the humanitarian direction that the UAE has taken has been entrenched in its foreign policy since the time of HH late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Today it continues to be implemented through the vision of HH president Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It is a direction based on purely humanitarian considerations, he said, “for the ultimate

objective and the main driver for all these initiatives is the service of people wherever they may be regardless of their religious, racial or cultural backgrounds.”

Speaking of “Tawajudi” service, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it is an optional service that aims to assist Emirati citizens abroad in cases of emergency.

Regarding the UAE’s efforts to produce clean energy, HE announced that the foreign ministry has established a special department for energy and climate change and. The department manages a set of important issues. In conclusion,

he expressed thanks and gratitude to this “unique publication’s” board and wished it success in the media arena, especially that it focuses on novelties in the world of emergencies, crises and disasters management.

### **The dialogue:**

• **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategy adopts a foreign policy that promotes security, stability and development. What are the bases and the main elements in its policy?**

•• The UAE’s foreign policy is wise and moderate. It is based on commitment to the United Nations Charter and the respect of international conventions and laws. The UAE has sought to maintain good relations with all nations on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. The country favours dialogue and peaceful means as a solution for international conflicts and champions just and fair causes while it contributes effectively in supporting international stability and peace.

The UAE has forged strategic relations and partnerships, political and economical, with the majority of countries around the world. This has boosted the country’s prestigious position within the international community. We hold diplomatic relations with 182 countries and we have established over 70 embassies, 11 consulates and three permanent missions. And the UAE hosts 94 embassies, 75 general consulates as well as 11 offices representing regional and international organisations.

The country also maintains strategic partnerships with a significant number of

advanced countries and it plays an important role in many countries, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and others. The UAE has extensive contributions to contain numerous crises and tensions around the world and it has offered a wide array of humanitarian aid, relief efforts and development and economic projects, directly and indirectly, to many developing countries, which made the UAE a pioneering humanitarian force.

• **The UAE seeks to strengthen its position as a regional leader in the domain of human rights... how did the country manage to reach such an important status?**

•• Since its founding in 1971, the UAE has included the principles of human rights in its national constitution. Respect of human rights and basic freedoms is a strategic choice for us as it keeps us within the heart of global issues.

The UAE’s Constitution and legislations include principles of human rights and basic needs, which are stated in the United Nations Charter and the International Human Rights Charter. The country insists on persevering in the application and the protection of its achievements in the area of human rights. It is committed to the respect of human rights and it has adhered to and ratified a number of international conventions and agreements in this regard, namely:

- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- The Convention on Children’s Rights.
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with



## Interview

Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

- The UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- The Convention to Combat Corruption.
- The Arab Charter of Human Rights.
- The Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law.

This is in addition to the conventions of the International Labour Organisation related to basic human rights. These are some of the main and essential steps that the country has made in its effort to secure its regional leading position in the area of human rights.

The United Arab Emirates is fully aware of the importance of transparency, the exchange of expertise and dialogue regarding issues of human rights in supporting its human rights portfolio. The country has proved its commitment to these principles and ideals through cooperation and regular comprehensive disclosure in terms of the UAE's human rights report. The disclosure of the report in 2008 earned strong international praise from members of the relevant team within the Human Rights Council. The UAE's report was approved in 2009.

The UAE has succeeded in achieving a

**It is a humanitarian direction based on purely humanitarian considerations. The ultimate objective and the main driver behind all of these initiatives is the service of people wherever they may be regardless of their religious, racial or cultural backgrounds**

series of development objectives that were set by the UN regarding the empowerment of women, exploitation of resources, enhancing environmental social circumstances, combating illiteracy and activating the international partnership for development. Just recently, the country was voted as a member in the Council for Human Rights during the council's elections on November 12, 2012. The UAE's three-year membership term ends in 2015.

**• How does the foreign ministry deal with certain Human Rights**

**Watch reports and other defamatory reports that target the country every now and then?**

The United Arab Emirates sees non-governmental organisations as real partners in the field of human rights around the world. Dealing with these organisations is a must as long as they prove their credibility and objectivity in broaching matters of human rights within specific countries.

The UAE, like every other country in the world, is firm in dealing with any organisations that attempt to sabotage its security, distort its image or undermine its efforts in the field of promoting and protecting human rights, or that

seeks to interfere in its internal affairs. It is important to mention here that the UAE makes every effort to provide any information that may contribute to showcasing the real human rights situation within it, via its official channels and sources, and that includes government and non-government establishments.

• How do you counter such defamatory reports? Through diplomacy, the media or through procedural means?

•• The UAE adheres to the principle of transparency. It reserves the right to select the moderate and credible reports that expose human rights conditions in its territories. It opts to hold direct communication with official government authorities regarding these reports. And regardless of the means of communication, whether they be diplomatic or procedural or media-based, the objectives are the same: to emphasise the actual and credible profile of human rights in the UAE.

Determining the means of communication is left to the discretion and the assessment of the higher command. On the other hand, the UAE's response to non-moderate reports that lack objectivity and neutrality is to completely ignore them.

The UAE has succeeded in achieving a series of development objectives that were set by the UN regarding the empowerment of women, exploitation of resources, enhancing environmental social circumstances, combating illiteracy and activating the international partnership for development

• The UAE tops the list of countries active in providing external humanitarian assistance which earned it the attribute of “benevolent nation”... What are the criteria that the country observes when committing to providing aid beyond its borders?

•• The UAE plays a notable role in the fields of humanitarian work and developmental aid both regionally and internationally, regardless of considerations of geography, religion, race or culture.

It is a role that has earned the country the confidence and the appreciation of the United Nations and UN humanitarian organisations, which regard the UAE as a hub for the garnering of support and assistance for humanitarian issues. The country has become a platform for relief operations around the world in cases of disasters, calamities, conflicts and wars. Its aim is to reduce human suffering as well as preserve human dignity.

The UAE's humanitarian direction has been entrenched in its foreign policy since the time of HH late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Today it continues to be implemented through the vision of HH president Sheikh Khalifa bin



## Interview

Zayed Al Nahyan who said: “Humanitarian diplomacy is one of the main pillars of our foreign policy. Our nation shall continue to play a crucial role in supporting international efforts to face crises and disasters and to respond to calls for help.”

HH emphasised the UAE’s partnership with countries of the world in the areas of humanitarian work. He said: “The UAE, in the context of its international responsibilities, diligently seeks to promote and coordinate programmes for relief as well as humanitarian and developmental assistance in developing countries. This is in addition to its contributions in peacekeeping and rebuilding efforts and in confronting crises and disasters. All this asserts its exceptional partnership and role in preserving international peace and security and its active contributions in the various activities of the UN and its specialised agencies, as the UAE has made contributions valued at billions of dollars.”

It is a humanitarian direction based on purely humanitarian considerations. The ultimate objective and the main driver behind all of these initiatives is the service of people wherever they may be regardless of their religious, racial or cultural backgrounds.

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was clear and direct in this regard when he stated before the National Federal Council that : “linking humanitarian aid to political positions goes against the humanitarian aspect of such aid.”

It is this developmental philosophy that governs the UAE’s foreign aid policy which enables the country to make a real difference in the areas it extends aid to.

The dispensation of aid, loans and grants is managed through over 24 government and non-government establishments that include the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charitable Foundation, the Al Maktoum Charitable Institution, the Ahmed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, the Sultan bin Khalifa Global Humanitarian Foundation, the Red Crescent Authority as well as generous initiatives by HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, the president and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, in various fields of foreign assistance.

The United Arab Emirates also contributes to regional and international organisations, foundations and funds that provide aid and assistance to developing countries. It also contributes regularly and annually through donations to the UN developmental activities and its various development programmes and missions around the world.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a pioneering role in providing humanitarian and development aid and assistance through its following functions and role:

- It is a link between national non-government organisations and our embassies abroad. These national NGOs coordinate with the country’s embassies the procedures of distributing and overseeing the distribution of aid.
- The ministry coordinates between donor entities and the country’s embassies abroad to

provide assistance in times of disasters, crises or emergencies, such as the crisis of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

- The ministry coordinates with its embassies abroad to support basic services projects such as building hospitals, schools, vocational education centres, universities, power and water utilities as well as to support scientific and medical research projects and motherhood and childhood

care centres. It also supports disability centres and infrastructure projects in addition to relief operations in disaster stricken regions. The ministry holds iftar projects and distributes dates and Ramadan foods, etc. in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Yemen to name a few.

- The ministry implements the country's policy in the areas of aid and humanitarian assistance in coordination with the relevant authorities.

- The ministry monitors and analyses international reports pertaining to the country's development and humanitarian assistance in coordination with the relevant authorities.

- The ministry forges partnerships with regional and international countries and organisations that are active in the field of humanitarian aid. These partnerships include exchange of expertise, exploring areas of cooperation through joint projects, learning lessons from precedent experiences, promoting

**The UAE adheres to the principle of transparency. It reserves the right to select the moderate and credible reports that expose human rights conditions in its territories**

cooperation mechanisms, building partnerships and coordinating between organisations and humanitarian aid agencies, especially in terms of early preparedness for disasters and facing logistical challenges that may hinder relief operations around the world. The ministry is also responsible for implementing world best practices in countering any challenges to humanitarian aid.

- The ministry produces annual reports on the aid it has extended and the humanitarian operations in which UAE delegations have participated in support of the country's international humanitarian role and the UAE Vision 2021.

The UAE's humanitarian contributions around the world have earned it international respect and praise:

- 1- During a meeting with the minister of foreign affairs HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New York on September 28, 2012, the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon expressed the UN's appreciation of the significant efforts of the UAE in supporting the activities and the role of the UN, mainly in the humanitarian field. He hoped that the UAE will continue to play this role especially in supporting the UN's programmes and plans of humanitarian aid in disaster-stricken regions.

- 2- John Holmes, the UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs observed that



## Interview

the role of the UAE goes beyond extending aid to “putting the foundation and the basics of the humanitarian organisation for the future.”

3- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees praised the UAE’s exemplary humanitarian role in improving life and preserving human dignity around the world. A senior official at the HCR expressed appreciation for the country’s initiatives and its major contributions in the field of humanitarian aid which she qualified as daring and noble. The International Organisation for Immigration also praised the support the UAE offers to refugees, especially Syrian refugees in Jordan.

4- The UN confirmed that the UAE under HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan strongly contributes to achieving the humanitarian objectives for the new millennium thanks to its development projects around the world. The UN expressed appreciation for the UAE’s humanitarian role currently in Pakistan to ward off the risks of floods and to protect victims against their tragic repercussions.

• It is clear that the UAE gives special attention to the issue of climate change and is actively seeking to produce clean energy and to ensure environmental protection. What is the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard?

•• Energy is one of the main sectors that support the UAE’s interests and economy since we are one of the largest oil and gas producing countries. Hence, the UAE seeks to maintain its global role as a pioneer of clean energy which it deems as a strategic step towards diversifying its economy, ensuring its

**Abdullah bin Zayed: linking humanitarian assistance to political positions goes against the humanitarian aspect of assistance**

prosperity and attracting investment.

In terms of the climate change issue, which has significant effects on our country, the region and our partners around the world, in 2010, and upon the directives of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a special department for energy and climate change following the country’s success in hosting the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi. The department manages a number of important files through the following steps:

- Supporting IRENA through active participation in renewable energy activities and projects.
- Showcasing the UAE’s pioneering role in the fields of energy, clean energy and climate change and emphasising the UAE’s initiatives and achievements.
- Active participation in international negotiations pertaining to issues of climate change.
- Active participation in international conferences on sustainable development. The department led the UAE delegation at the Earth Summit in Rio in 2012 and it has contributed strongly through a number of

sustained development initiatives including the initiative of the secretary general of the UN “Sustainable Energy for All”.

- It is a founding member of the Global Green Growth Institute. The GGGI’s regional bureau is based in Abu Dhabi.
- Participation in international and media conferences as well as bilateral agreements aimed to raise international awareness about the UAE’s leading role and its achievements in the areas of energy and sustainability.
- Creating investment opportunities and projects in the fields of energy and clean energy in the UAE and abroad.
- Developing the Global Atlas for Renewable Energy project, locally and internationally, which promotes the uses of renewable energy around the world and helps in building local capabilities specialised in renewable energy and climate change.
- Designating diplomats that are specialised in the fields of energy and climate change at the country’s embassies in order to strengthen the country’s standing and to promote communication with other countries in these areas.

Statistics regarding the “Tawajudi” (My Location) service, which is addressed to Emirati citizens abroad, reveal that over 71 per cent of people surveyed either didn’t register in the service or didn’t have any information about it. What do you have to say about this?

“Tawajudi” is an optional service at the disposal of UAE citizens. No procedures are taken against those who don’t register for it.

The Ministry has organised a media campaign to raise awareness among citizens about the benefits of registering for

**The UN: The UAE under Sheikh Khalifa contributes strongly to achieve the humanitarian objectives of the new millennium through its development projects around the world**

the service ahead of travelling abroad even to the safest destinations. The service was established to assist them in cases of risks or emergencies. It is noteworthy, however, that when a crisis occurs in countries where UAE citizens are present, the UAE embassy and the operations centre at the ministry communicate with any citizens that are registered in the service to provide them with the necessary assistance and to facilitate their evacuation if need be.

We encourage citizens who travel to register in “Tawajudi” before or during their travels through the ministry’s website or through its app UAE MOFA available in the Apple Store for iPhone and iPad. The app offers information and services for travellers including: Tawajudi (my location), visas, travel warnings, calls for assistance, ratifications, travel instructions, UAE embassies, Embassies operating in the UAE, etc.

We advise citizens to review travel instructions and official statements regarding



## Interview

travel warnings which are posted on the ministry's website and in its smartphone app.

• Can you explain what is Tawajudi and what is its objective? What are Emirati citizens responsibilities when they travel abroad?

•• The service aims to respond to citizens needs when they are involved in emergencies. The service facilitates communication between the UAE missions abroad and the citizens that are registered in the service mainly in cases of crises or emergencies in order to facilitate their evacuation and coordinate their safe return home.

We coordinate with the relevant authorities to communicate with UAE citizens that aren't registered with the service in order to make sure they are safe and to provide the necessary means for their evacuation.

All of the citizens data are confidential and coded. They are only viewed by relevant people and only in cases of emergency.

Each and every UAE citizen must be aware of the benefits of registering for this service. They are required to update their data in case of any change or to indicate new phone numbers that shall be used abroad. This facilitates communication with them in cases of emergency.

• UAE citizens such as diplomats, businessmen, students and tourists are present everywhere in the world. Does the ministry have plans for their evacuation in cases of natural disasters or security threats around the world?

•• Yes, there is a standardised plan for the evacuation of UAE citizens from inflicted regions and countries in cases of emergencies or disasters. The plan was developed in coordination with the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, NCEMA, and was communicated to our diplomatic missions abroad.

• The Ministry of Foreign Affairs doesn't have an emergency management department within its structure. Did MoFa outsource emergency management to other ministries or bodies? What forms of coordination and cooperation exist between MoFA and NCEMA, especially in cases of emergency?

•• MoFA does have an operation centre which follows up and coordinates with the country's missions abroad during emergencies and crises and through the department of emergencies and crises.

When an emergency occurs, the National Operations Centre, NOC, at NCEMA is activated and the operations centre at MoFA delegates a member of its crises team to participate at the NOC as a liaison officer.

The department assigns one of its liaison officers to attend the weekly meetings at the NOC to discuss the emergency-related issues that the ministry deals with.

• The continued occupation by Iran of the Emirati islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of good neighbourliness and international

laws. Despite the UAE's efforts to reach a peaceful and final solution to the conflict, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains uncooperative. What are your projections regarding this issue?

•• The UAE has repeatedly urged Iran, through peaceful channels of communication, to cease its occupation of the three islands which began on November 30, 1971.

The UAE has also asserted its right and legitimacy over the islands at international organisations and at the UN Security Council. The islands are a permanent article on the agendas of the UN General Assembly, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Our country has sought to reach a peaceful solution to end the occupation by way of bilateral negotiations or by resorting to the International Justice Court. These efforts included either direct communication with Iran or mediation, but, unfortunately Iran didn't respond favourably to the UAE's honest efforts.

In 2011, the UAE's efforts reached an agreement with Iran, which called for appeasement and for refraining from issuing media statements. Each of the countries designated a senior official to discuss the issue and to find an equitable solution that guarantees the return of these lands to their legitimate owners. However, unfortunately, the former president of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad provoked the UAE by visiting Abu Musa Island in

April 2012, which led to the collapse of all of our diplomatic efforts. Nonetheless, the UAE continues to implement its strategy of emphasising the case at international conferences and during bilateral meetings with other countries.

This strategy ensured that the islands case is present at all important meetings at Arab summits, within the GCC and during international summits and conferences.

The case is a permanent article on the agenda of the UN General Assembly, which aims at garnering support for the UAE's just position and its claim over the islands.

At no time did the Iranian side respond to the UAE's efforts and goodwill regarding the need to reach a peaceful solution for the Islands issue. However, the continued occupation of the islands has no bearing on the UAE's legal rights and legitimate sovereignty over them.

• Nearly a year after the birth of "Tawaree wa Azamat", how do you see this new publication especially that you are a member of NCEMA's board?

•• I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all those responsible for the birth of this new unique specialised magazine. Thanks extend to the magazine's team for their vital role in overseeing the production. I wish this new publication success and excellence especially that it focuses on novelties in the world of emergencies, crises and disasters management.

In the framework of its initiative to raise awareness among the citizens about the confrontation of disasters and crises, the National Emergency

## **NCEMA has produced a series of awareness and educational footages**

In line with its aim to raise the citizens' awareness and to help them to confront diverse cases of emergencies and disaster situations, NCEMA has produced a series of 15 educational footages (slogans) in the form of short movies. The educational videos are addressed to the public as part of the awareness and educational programme that the Authority has adopted to highlight the procedures to be performed in case the community and individuals had to confront disasters and emergencies. The videos also introduce the public to the role and the responsibilities of the Authority and instructions on how to avoid the threats of disasters.



The production of these messages is part of NCEMA's efforts to consolidate its interaction with the public and raise its awareness. The main aim behind them is to establish a partnership with all UAE residents by giving them a better understanding of the Authority's responsibilities, cautioning them and showing them the appropriate behaviours to adopt in case they were exposed to danger during emergencies, crises or disasters.

In a statement for the occasion, the Director of Media and Communication Department at NCEMA Mr. Nasser Mohammed Al Yammahi observed that the videos were produced according to modern communication and technological development criteria, allowing for their download on smartphones and social media platforms to ensure their outreach to a wider range of the public. He explained that these messages are available in both Arabic and English as well as in sign language. He added that the videos, which vary in length between 20 and 35 seconds, will be distributed to government authorities and organisations and to students via the Ministry of

Education and education councils across the UAE.

Mr. Yammahi added that the Authority, in the context of its strategic goals, strives to promote the state policies and potential in the management of emergencies, crises and disasters and the development of all requirements and capabilities to ensure business continuity and quick recovery during and after emergencies through adequate preparedness, joint planning and the use of all means of coordination and communication at federal and local levels, as well as to preserve lives and property, as part of a vision based on excellence in emergency, crisis and disaster management. It is worth noting that NCEMA works under the control and supervision of the Supreme Council for National Security which is considered the lead national entity responsible for developing standards and regulating and coordinating all the efforts related to the management of emergencies, crises and disasters as well as developing national policies in response to emergencies.

In compliance with the directives of H.H Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak

## **“NCEMA” and the “G W U” launch the initiative “Be Prepared”... The objective: Develop women’s skills in the country and their expertise in the management of emergencies, crises and disasters**

The National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), in cooperation with the General Women’s Union launched the “Be Prepared” initiative. The initiative addressed 25 trainees in each training programme.

The initiative that was launched from the General Women’s Union headquarters in compliance under the directives of Her Highness the Sheikha Fatima bint Moubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women’s Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, aims to develop the female element in the country and enhance their skills in the management of emergencies, crises and disasters at all women associations in the country in order to spread awareness and knowledge amongst women about the adequate course of action to take in emergencies and crises.



Noura Khalifa Al Souwaidi, Director of the General Women's Union, confirmed H.H. Fatima Bint Mubarak's interest and keenness to achieve the improvement and the empowerment of UAE women in all areas to allow them to become an effective element in the sustainable development of the country.

"H.H, she added, deems necessary that all women be aware of the basic steps that deal with different types of emergencies, crises and disasters, because a woman is the pillar of a household and has the great responsibility to manage the affairs of the family, which in turn, is the pillar of society. Women also play an important role in promoting awareness, security, safety and psychological stability among all family members and society."

For his part, Dr. Abdullah Mouhammed El Shaybi, head of the Specialized Training Unit at NCEMA explained that the general objective of the initiative programme, which is expected to be rolled out throughout the country, is to train all cadres and provide them with the required knowledge and skills required for performing risk assessments in cases of emergencies, crises and disasters in the UAE.

He stressed that the prediction of crises is one of the most important aspects of successful crisis management. It allows for minimising their negative effects to the maximum by taking preemptive measures to prevent them or effectively dealing with them when they occur. He added that preparedness contributes to avoiding disasters and are called preventive prediction.

He added that once accomplished, the initiative would qualify trainee women to

identify different types of emergencies, crises and disasters and be familiar with ways to manage them. The programme introduces trainees to the various types of emergencies that include for example earthquakes, fires and building collapse. It enables them to perform various types of first aid procedures and familiarise themselves with the basics of risk and threats assessment during emergencies, crises and disasters. Participants are trained in collective action measures emergency circumstances as well in the basics of occupational health and safety measures in the workplace and at home. Khaled Al Nuaimi from NCEMA presented the first session of the initiative's training programme entitled "Risk management in times of emergency, crises and disasters".

The trainees received detailed explanations about the process of assessing risks and threats, by describing the various risks and their effects followed by steps to analyse risks and threats. They were introduced to the concept of the "National Risks and Threats Register" which is based on the assessment of risks and threats, then the evaluation of capabilities, which is the basis of the development programme.

The trainees then received training in calculating the matrix for the assessment of risks by being aware of their impact on health, society, the economy and the environment, as well as to calculate the degree of effect on each of those sectors and assess the likelihood of their occurrence.

The trainees also evaluated the priority of some emergency cases and suggested some means that must be provided in addition to the already existing means that need to be further developed, within a specific time

frame, in a national response plan.

### **Five Training Units**

The training programme of the initiative included five training modules described as follows:

- The integrated emergency, crises and disasters management course, which aims at raising awareness and improving knowledge about the management principles and the stages of the crisis.
- A course in risk management during emergencies, crises and disasters aimed at providing the trainees with the basic skills in risk and threat assessment in cases of emergency that may occur in the country.
- A first aids course targeted at raising the female cadres' efficiency in first aid and emergency care and prepare them to deal with emergency situations.
- A course in fire fighting and evacuation operations aiming to provide information theory and practical skills in dealing with fires and using fire extinguishing equipment.
- A course in occupational health and safety measures which aims to strengthen the ability of female cadres in implementing the laws and regulations in accordance with health and safety principles.

Khaled Al Nuaimi, from NCEMA presented the first session of the initiative first session

**Initiative qualifies trained to be able to know the different types of emergencies, crises and disasters, and are familiar with the levels of management, and dealing with its various types**

training programme that included lectures, teamwork and practical exercises dealing with risk management.

He explained that the purpose of the programme was prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Prevention is the series of measures taken to reduce or eliminate the effects of an emergency or a disaster. Preparedness is the series of measures taken before the occurrence of an emergency or a disaster to ensure an effective response. Response is the group of actions or measures taken in response to an emergency or a disaster and finally recovery is the group of measures taken to recover from an emergency.

Al Nuaimi talked about the types of emergencies or disasters both natural and manmade namely earthquakes, wildfires, water shortages, oil refinery incidents, big traffic accidents, infrastructure crashes, and chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents. He also explained the roles and responsibilities in emergency management that involve a number of agencies and various services at the local, national and international levels as well as the organisational level.

He explained the role and responsibilities of the public in maintaining order and helping the emergency services and the response and recovery teams. The public also have the possibility of engaging in volunteer work through several programmes including the "Sanid Programme".

In the framework of cooperation and exchange of expertise and the effort to develop national capabilities and skills

## An Australian delegation presents in Abu Dhabi Australia's model for dealing with emergencies



At the invitation of NCEMA and in the context of the cooperation and information exchange strategy, and the effort to develop national capabilities and enhance national capabilities in managing and dealing with emergency and crisis cases, in compliance with the latest world practices, NCEMA received at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi an Australian governmental delegation representing the Australian General Attorney's Department, in a two days visit. Both sides sat together for seven sessions with the aim of exchanging lessons, experiences, skills and information about the role of government entities and organisations in managing crisis.

The Australian experience represents a good model for dealing with emergencies. Australia is one of the leading countries in this field. It has a wealth of experiences, programmes, plans and strategies and has an extensive knowhow in building of capabilities and infrastructure and strengthening cyber security which ultimately contribute to decreasing the impact of crises and their

effects on society... NCEMA strived to take advantage of this extensive experience and convey it to those responsible for managing emergencies according to the highest standards in dealing with crises and disasters.

The visit included six working sessions in two days. They began with an inauguration session where His Excellency Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director

General of NCEMA welcomed the visiting delegation and presented an overview of the “Authority” and the challenges it is dealing with as well as a review of the emergency system in the UAE.

Dr. Jamal Al Hosani, director of Technology and Communication Department presented an overview of NCEMA establishment stages, role and functions, existing departments, crisis management system and the coordination mechanism with the entities involved in response for crises. The first session was entitled “Crisis Management and Strategic Initiatives in Australia” where His Excellency Roger Wilkins, head of the Australian delegation, spoke of his country’s experience in managing crises and the role of the federal, national and regional governments, highlighting the most prominent challenges and lessons learned, as well as the most important changes and developments, the alert system for specific areas, the assessment of national risks in Australia, the development of Australia’s alert system at federal, local and regional levels, the national planning for crisis management and the security and resilience of critical infrastructure, as well as a plan to enhance cyber security, the future developments and strategic priorities.

The second session’s subject was the “national emergency alert system for designated areas”. Mr. Chris Collet, from the Emergency Department, presented an overview of the history of using the alert and public warning system in Australia, its benefits and the importance of its implementation, why it was established and the role of the federal, local and regional governments within it. Then Ms Rylene Thompson, from the Australian national security capabilities development sector presented an overview of the implementation of the emergency warning system and the relevant Australian standards, the public awareness raising strategies supporting this system, the best national practices and the importance of analysing public response, as well as the agreements between various government agencies.

The third session focused on two themes: “Planning crisis management in Australia” and the “Media policy in crisis management”. Chris Collet spoke on the first subject about some planning skills and the importance of support teams during emergencies as well as the media

policy regarding crisis management.

On the second topic, Collet spoke about national agreements and protocols between the federal government and the local and regional governments. He provided relevant examples and described the best practices and recent experiences learnt as well as future developments.

On the second day of the visit, three work sessions were held. The first subject discussed was the “National Strategy for emergency resilience” in which Ms. Thompson spoke about the Australian government’s efforts to strengthen community resilience and the challenges and achievements. She addressed the assessments of national risks at all levels, capacity building, the education and training programme strategies, as well as school education programmes about communal safety and knowledge management.

In this same session, Mr. Collet spoke about “recovery from disasters ” identifying what challenges should be addressed, the trends, the latest developments, and future changes. The second session focused on two themes: “Security and resilience of critical infrastructure” and “Levels of national threats in the Australian Government and the public warning national system for terrorism”.

On the first topic, Mr. Collet provided an overview of the Australian government orientation in dealing with the security and flexibility of the infrastructure in the last decade, the accomplishments and challenges faced as well as the lessons that have been learned. He also addressed the various levels of government and the Australian government’s efforts to understand risks and vulnerabilities, to evaluate them and to promote flexibility in the regulation of the institutions. He highlighted the initiative of the critical infrastructure programme for analysis and simulation.

In the second topic, Ms. Thompson addressed the implementation of the two systems at the critical infrastructural level.

The final session was dedicated to bilateral talks between the Australian and UAE parties, presided by Mr. Al Rumaithi and Mr. Wilkins and discussed the opportunities for cooperation in the field of emergency, crisis and disaster management and areas of common interest.

## **Australia-UAE Memorandum of Understanding to reinforce the management of national emergencies, crises and disasters and avoid their dangers**

**In the line of activating joint international cooperation and strengthening the existing partnership between the United Arab Emirates and the Australian Government, NCEMA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Ministry of Justice in Abu Dhabi.**

The aim of the memorandum, signed by HE Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Director General of NCEMA, and Roger Wilkins, Secretary of the Australian Government Attorney General's Department, is the exchange of knowledge between the two sides, and the enhancement of capabilities for the management of crises and disasters, in accordance with the legislation of each country.

The meeting was attended by Australian Ambassador to the UAE H.E. Pablo Kang and Shahwan Suroor Al Dhaheri, NCEMA's Deputy Director General as well as other directors from NCEMA and members of the Australian delegation.

The memorandum is based on the exchange of information and transfer of knowledge between the two parties in the areas of emergency, crisis and disaster management, national risks assessments, the best strategies to reduce risks and disasters, and emergency planning, as well as communication and reporting the risks related to the strength of vital national infrastructure facilities, their flexibility, and the security of large gathering places, and their safety, and research and studies related to risks and disasters.

The memorandum also included the exchange of information on the management of capabilities and potentials, and planning to avoid risks at the national level, in addition to the management of



development and capacity development and training programmes, including strategies for development and education, and the exchange of information about the community strength and flexibility, including community and schools preparedness strategies to deal with incidents and disasters, and the planning and management of evacuation and sheltering operations, including recovery centres, and leadership crises, and the control of communication processes and the organisation and management of geographic information.

The memorandum covered the role of mass media and warning systems, ways for dealing with the media, and the policies for disaster recovery, the legislations and the technical standards adopted in cases of disaster, and the exchange of scientific information and experiences. The parties also planned to hold a joint forum every two years to discuss issues of common interest and follow up on the implementation of the agreed provisions of the MoU.

## GPS tracking system for school buses

# Provides live information about technical situation and driving patterns and enables communication with bus drivers in various cases

With the start of a new school year, focus is once again on school bus accidents and victims, who are mostly innocent children that end up paying the price of other people's neglect.

Ministry of Interior statistics show that 21 students between the ages of 8 and 17 died in traffic accidents last year compared to 26 in 2011, 29 in 2010 and 22 in 2009. the highest rate of fatal accidents among school children was recorded in 2008 with 30 deaths. Relevant authorities had to put an end to such tragic incidents, mainly that their causes are primarily human and due to negligence, disregard for regulations, recklessness, irresponsibility and incompetent driving. But most importantly, accidents were due to the lack of adequate control over school buses.



### Electronic tracking system for buses

Last April, HE Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of Emirates Transport launched the electronic tracking system for ET school buses. He announced at the time that these buses would be tracked and monitored via satellite during bus rounds for all government schools across the UAE.

The tracking system is part of the electronic initiatives package to enhance the school transport service and to monitor

school buses navigation patterns closely and regularly. This aims to improve the buses' competence and effectiveness and to provide an ideal means of communication between buses and school administrations.

HE Al Qutami noted that the initiative is in line with the requirements of Emirates Vision 2021 which lists the provision of a premium education system as one of its strategic objectives. The initiative also serves the implementation of UAE government's strategic plan 2011-2013- which focused on the education system.



He said: “This is the first phase of a series of quality initiatives that are expected to enhance the company’s services in terms of school transportation. It sets in place an effective monitoring system to track school buses movement and competence.”

HE Al Qutami observed that all Emirates Transport branches and stations have been fitted with the necessary desktops, laptops, pads and monitors. Each station would be in charge of monitoring the buses in their fleet and their routes. Each branch would be in charge of monitoring the station under its jurisdiction. This allows for the regular updating of data and information streaming from school buses via satellites every five minutes. The monitoring of performance and

quality in all branches would be done at the school transportation centre at ET headquarters.

### 25,600 CCTV cameras

Emirates Transport confirmed that it has fitted over 3,300 buses out of its school buses fleet of 3,700 in all the emirates with tracking devices. It added that by the end of 2015, it would have installed 25,600 CCTV cameras in all of its school buses which transport 200,000 students annually in 695 government schools in the UAE.

ET sources noted that it has successfully completed the pilot scheme to test the system, which was done on 10 buses, before its introduction to all schools. In the second phase of the project, 900 Abu Dhabi school buses were equipped with

the new system ahead of the new school year 2013/2014-. The project would be completely implemented during 2015.

The same sources explained that large buses would be fitted with 8 cameras, 4 external at the front, the back and the sides of the bus, and 4 internal that give a clear view of the driver and the students. Smaller medium size buses would be fitted with 7 cameras, 4 external and 3 internal.

#### [Aim of the initiative](#)

According to Emirates Transport officials, the initiative allows school administrations and parents access to the tracking system to monitor the bus operation. It provides greater capabilities for the school transportation operations department and for police department as well as other relevant authorities as it facilitates determining and monitoring bus routes according to the geographical distribution of residential areas and schools. The new system alerts ET school transportation operations room if a bus breaks down, allowing the control room to send mechanics and replacement buses quickly and efficiently.

The satellite navigation technology will monitor the speed, direction, route and fuel consumption of buses. The ID tags will allow drivers and staff on buses to keep track of children. The GPS tracking system allows for live monitoring of the school buses along their routes. The system monitors

drivers performance and checks for speed, which was set at 80 km/hour for school buses. The system issues reports on the route, speeding violations, brakes and safe driving patterns. It alerts operation rooms if a bus deviates from its determined route or parks in an undetermined location.

#### [Technical specifications for tracking devices](#)

GPS devices which are operated via satellite and the internet use safe and protected lines. They have been already installed in 3,200 school buses that transport students from nearly 95,000 assembly points through 4,800 routes that are all tracked on monitors.

Each CCTV camera operating system has a capacity for one full month. During this time, Emirates Transport collects and analyses data which is subsequently used for training drivers and raising awareness among students about proper conduct on the bus.

The system is highly confidential and uses a special code to access its stored data.

The cameras are manufactured to adapt with the UAE weather conditions. They are resistant to elevated temperatures, rain and humidity. Tracking is done directly on a map that shows the determined routes for each bus. It shows arrival time to each student assembly point and it covers complaints from parents and any other related details.

Parents and school administrations can follow up on each school bus via a password that allows them access to the system.



## Copyright Policy Research and Studies

Management of the magazine "Taware'e wa Azamat", welcomes all serious research and scientific studies, relating to the affairs of emergencies, crises and disasters, both natural and those caused by human, and how to remedy the occurrence and management of the process of dealing with them if they occur and ways to recover from the damages different, or issues related to these topics, for the purpose of publication to serve the decision-makers, and thus contributes to the development of preventive and awareness in charge, at the level of all segments of society, both in the scope of his role and the possibilities available.

Priority will be given in the publication of studies and research of a strategic nature or forward-looking. NCEMA has the right to apologize for the lack of published studies and research that do not meet the requirements of scientific research.

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All research or studies should:

- 1 - adhere to scientific method applied in form and substance.
- 2 - characterized by originality, innovation and scientific added, should not have been published previously.
- 3 - based on scientific documentation of sources and references.
- 4 - be printed in duplicate paper and electronic (using Word), and free of linguistic and grammatical errors.
- 5 - that range in size from research or study between five thousand and six thousand words, in addition to the index and appendices and a list of sources and references.
- 6 - the original text of research or study must be added to the summary is in the range between 1600 and 2000 words.

### Required documents:

- A - Biography of the researcher.
- B - The text of research or study in hard copy, and electronic

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C - A written pledge not to publish research or study previously by any means, and not to be sent for publication later to any other party.

### Method of transmission:

- 1 - Via e-mail, at the address: info@ncama.gov.ae
- 2 - To PO Box: 113 811 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

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