

Taware'e

wa Azamat

Together .. we preserve the country's achievements

Quarterly Magazine Published by NCEMA - 11th Issue - January 2015



43rd National Day
Khalifa: Development and terrorism,
two parallel lines that can never meet

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Anniversary and Meanings

It was an anniversary that evoked a stretch of time between two distinct dates: the day our beloved United Arab Emirates was born on December 2nd, 1971, and 43 years later, to the glorious day. Celebrations this year were special; they were fragrant, shrouded in the aroma of success and achievements that speak for themselves. In the span of a little more than four decades, this budding state was able to grow into a significant player on the international scene, a player to reckon with that has, in its short years, already become a beacon for the world in its relentless efforts for justice, security, peace, human rights, tolerance and generosity throughout the globe.

All of this couldn't have been if it weren't for the wise leadership this dear country is blessed with. A broad-minded and creative leadership that prioritises its people and toils to provide them with care, education, knowledge, stability and happiness, earning itself well-deserved allegiance and loyalty coupled with incomparable national affiliation. And hence, the UAE became the "Country of the Happy People".

The forty-third National Day, which marks the birth of the Union, came less than a month after nationwide celebrations to mark Flag Day, which coincided with the tenth anniversary of the auspicious accession of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Presidency... Both occasions turned into a month of nationwide official and popular ceremonies where the Emirates citizens and residents, together, demonstrated their cohesion, their allegiance to the homeland, to its flag and to its wise leadership. They expressed their devotion to the safeguard of the UAE as a rich oasis of benevolence, safety and prosperity.

The dual celebration has passed, but not the feeling, for the national commitment to the values it represents continue and progress to no end, gaining in depth and in lustre, day after day, year after year. Loyalty for the homeland grows ever bigger, allegiance to the flag grows ever stronger as it symbolises the unity of the people of this Union, from East to West, from North to South.

The state of the United Arab Emirates was built at the

hands of unequalled leaders that forged the country's future with a mix of openness, generosity and tolerance. They had their eyes set on the higher interests of the people and raised the flag of a united state saluted and honoured by citizens in all seven emirates, who have come together, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, to build a better future armed with faith and the teachings and values of our religion and with tolerance.

From father to son the torch was passed and the march towards the future continues. Whereas in the past it was the time for laying of foundations, today it is the time for empowerment, in every way. It is the time for cementing the country's internal structure and cohesion. In parallel, the state bolstered its active role abroad as a champion of righteousness and justice, ever present to lend a helping hand and to extend humanitarian aid. The UAE has come to excel in its role as supporter of international security and peace, and as a valiant element in the fight against all forms of terrorism, earning itself the appreciation of the international community and the respect of the world's peoples.

A Union such as this one is immune to any attempts of distortion... A society equipped with awareness, armed with tolerance and the respect of others, imbued with the teaching of the Holy Quran, and proud of its traditions, culture and moderation, is impregnable to medieval, obscurantist ideas and to rogue imported beliefs that find no fertile ground among our social values and that can't begin to compare to the purity and virtue of our true religion.

As we light the forty-third candle of our National Day, we are reminded of the need for even more cohesion and solidarity amongst ourselves, and for unrelenting efforts to further entrench sound social awareness. We need to adhere to our genuine values and to our prestigious Arab history to reject extremist and terrorist ideologies and to entrench our belonging to the homeland and bolster our allegiance to our wise leadership. We must safeguard our unity and our society. Then, only then, can we foil any attempts against our present and our future, and press ahead with the glorious journey towards more prosperity.

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**Mohammed bin Rashid
approves proposal to set
up pan-UAE air quality
network.**

38



**Mansour bin Zayed:
We operate under a
strategy to maximise local
agriculture production**

21



**UAE calls for international legislation
to criminalise cyber terrorism**

41



**Mohammed bin Zayed:
Addressing challenges calls for solidarity
coupled with awareness, preparedness
and readiness**

34



**Abdullah bin Zayed:
Combating marine
piracy, a priority for the
UAE**

17



**Upon directives from
President Khalifa:
Mohammed bin Zayed
orders the allocation of
Dh18.3 billion to fight
Ebola**

24

**In the UAE:
30 pharmaceutical plants by 2020
Cancer treatment production to
begin in 2016**

39



**First Business
Sustainability Forum
discusses future
government steps and
plans**

19

**The UAE celebrates its 43rd National Day,
underlining the values of loyalty and belonging**

December 2nd changed the future of the Country and positioned it on the path to success and progress

**Khalifa: Safeguarding the Union is a sustained national goal that requires
from all of us consciousness, unity and solidarity**

**Mohammed bin Rashid: We have moved from the margins to the centre of
action, we are no longer bystanders, we are proactive and initiative-takers**



The 2nd of December wasn't just the anniversary of a country and a people; it was the anniversary of an entire nation, from the ocean to the Gulf. The whole world celebrated the UAE 43rd National Day, along with the nationals of dozens of sisterly and friendly countries residing on this beloved land. This auspicious and great occasion offered them the opportunity to ask God Almighty to bestow upon the UAE further security and prosperity, and grant its leadership, people and residents stability, prosperity and continuous progress.

Khalifa: A day for strengthening our love for the nation

On this enduring anniversary, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE prayed Allah to revisit this glorious occasion as the

UAE enjoys continuous security, stability, progress and achievements. Addressing the Emirati people he said: "You are contributing to the effort of ensuring the development and prosperity of the nation with committed dedication and generosity."

Addressing the UAE loyal citizens, His Highness stressed that “the 2nd of December will always remain deeply embedded in our minds as a day for deepening our love for the nation, enhancing the values of allegiance and loyalty, a day on which we recall - with pride – our commendable and honourable history and the lives of our founding fathers, who shaped the aspirations of the nation and its citizens when they united the different emirates into a unified, single political entity, the United Arab Emirates.”

Sheikh Khalifa underscored that “Safeguarding the Union is a sustained national goal. This compels all of us to maintain our consciousness, unity and solidarity, in order to elevate the values of the Union; to reinforce its foundations and principles; to empower its citizens and to leverage the existing interactions and integration between the Federal State and local governments in a manner that enables their institutions to shoulder their national responsibilities with full integrity and transparency, in pursuit of building a strong, well-established and entrenched country whose people feel proud to defend it and to preserve its achievements and gains”.

“As we celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of our Country, we sense the tremendous national work that has been accomplished over the past ten years since we took the solemn oath to carry the banner, to bear the responsibility and to discharge the duty as President of the United Arab Emirates, as carried before by my father, the late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his brethren late founding fathers, who brought about stability, security and prosperity, thus setting a role model for their nation in instilling the values of dignity and glory”, he added.

To follow in the footsteps of the founding fathers

His Highness the President emphasised: “... to that allegiance, we stay loyal and move forward, taking



the legacy of our forefathers as a beacon from which we inspire and derive glory and persistence. We are proud of the loyal support we have received from the people and the strong assistance from the government, which have transformed visions and initiatives into strategies, policies and activities whose prime objectives are to secure a decent life for citizens and to elevate the State to the ranks of the world’s most advanced nations”.

His Highness carried on saying: “We are delighted with the giant, staggering leap in terms of development that our nation has made. Thanks to your perseverance and the dedication of the national leadership, our State today is ranked in the “high human development” category in the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Index (HDI) and leads the Arab Region in many international prominent indices including Innovation, Happiness, Quality of Life, and the Ease of Doing Business. Globally, the UAE occupies the first place in the indices of Social Cohesion, Efficiency in Government, Efficiency of Governmental Fiscal Policy, and Government and Economic Confidence. These breakthroughs have established the UAE as a key regional hub for international trade, a regional beacon in the empowerment of women. The UAE also ranked among the world’s best countries in indices for security and stability. Our youth, who are deeply committed to religious and ethical values and are well-

armed with knowledge and science, ranked highest for having a sense of optimism about the future of their country. These achievements, my dear brothers, are a testimony to what our country enjoys. This includes political stability, economic growth, integrated modern infrastructure, and thriving business sectors as well as world-class quality healthcare, educational, housing and environmental services”.

Empowering Distinguished Competencies

In order to sustain and preserve these achievements, His Highness called “for more efforts for caring for the children of the nation – the men of the future – by building national specialised capabilities, empowering outstanding competencies, and opening up more channels of communication with young generations, so as to understand their aspirations, engage them in the policy-making process and its implementation, and to mobilise their energies towards effective participation in the continuing process of national development”.

The President expressed his satisfaction with the level of implementation of government projects embodied in “The President’s Initiatives”, “UAE Vision 2021” and” The UAE National Agenda

2014”. He said: “We are also proud of launching the “National Innovation Strategy” which envisages plans for reshaping the mechanism of government action and stimulating innovative practices in seven governmental sectors, including renewable energy, transportation, health, education, technology, water and space. He added: “We have issued the Federal National Service and Reserve Law with the aim of instilling the values of loyalty, belonging and sacrifice, and fostering the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of citizens so that they may shoulder their national responsibility and heighten their preparedness to defend the country and to protect its independence, sovereignty and achievements. We are also proud of the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the youth towards enrolment in the national military service. Apart from its social, cultural, educational, health and physical benefits, national service is a national duty, honour and responsibility as well as a supporting hand for our valiant Armed Forces”.

Progress and terrorism don’t meet

His Highness the President also tackled the constants of the Emirati foreign policy, pointing out to the participation of the UAE in the international coalition to fight terrorism. Sheikh Khalifa said: “We have willingly made this move as part of our



commitment to collective responsibility in supporting security and stability of the region and the world at large. It reasserts our firm rejection of terrorism, extremism and violence, and our support for our choices and the fundamental elements of our well-established experiment, based on the values of openness, tolerance and moderation. Building on this, we have issued a full-fledged federal law on combating terrorist crimes. We have also emphasised that development and terrorism are parallel lines that will never meet. While development means security, tranquility and welfare, terrorism is a shortcut to producing a failed state in the political and economic sense, a state that has disintegrated socially and morally and that is fragmented both geographically and in terms of sectarianism.”

Concerted Solutions

His Highness added: “In this context, we are deeply concerned and saddened about what some countries in our Arab region have suffered in terms of violence and insecurity and in terms of the failure of their institutions. The only way out of this, in our view, is to mobilise concerted official and popular efforts within states to achieve reconciliation, rally resources and efforts against terrorism to drain its funding. sources at the same time, implementing development projects that enhance people’s dignity within their countries, respect their choices, provide them with basic living needs through a sustainable development, stable economy and good governance. Development is the essence of security”.

After tackling the prevailing conditions in Egypt, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, His Highness highlighted the efforts exerted in terms of security and stability in the region. He also noted that the UAE “looks forward for building better relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a hope that is only hampered by Iran’s continued occupation of our three islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Iran’s reluctance to reach any understanding or peaceful solutions - either through direct negotiations

or international arbitration and its unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Arab and Gulf states is a stumbling block in the way of achieving the much-needed regional security and harmony in the region”.

Concluding, His Highness reiterated that “We shall, God willing, move ahead vehemently and confidently on our march, armed with pride in our nation, to protect its interests and the welfare of its citizens, setting our eyes directly on the present and future of the State. Aided with relentless perseverance, we will build the promising future to which we all aspire”.

Strengthening loyalty and the sense of belonging

For his part, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai said: “On the 2nd of December every year, we celebrate the establishment of our Federation and our Country. Year after year, we become more inspired by this occasion which becomes ever more cherished in our hearts and strengthens our allegiance to our country and leaders, our respect for the founding fathers and to the icon of our Federation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan”.

In a statement to “Dira’a Al Watan” magazine published by the Armed Forces General Headquarters on the occasion of the 43rd National Day, His Highness added: “Today, we remember Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid and their brethren the other rulers and founders and we say to them: We did as you wish. The dreams you had for this country have come true. They are a visible and tangible reality. Had it not been for your good plants, we would not have been able to reap the fruits and renew what you already had started in order to achieve glory. This country is cherished in our hearts and minds, and we work around the clock to achieve development and protect its security and stability to keep it ever glorious.

His Highness addressed His Highness the President of the UAE saying: “I say to my brother and friend Sheikh Khalifa: We dedicate this National Day to you. You have indeed achieved glory. You are one of the

makers of 2nd December as you worked alongside the late Sheikh Zayed, and were his right-hand man when the building of our country started. When you became President ten years ago, you were faithful to Sheikh Zayed's legacy as you preserved and developed it and even added to it. You made the accumulation of achievements meaningful, enabled fruitful continuity and presented an exemplary model for the connection between generations. During your current reign, the UAE is making leaps and bounds in civilisational development. Your national action programme is achieving the empowerment of people in all spheres”.

Years of achievements

His Highness stressed that “43 years are no more than a fleeting moment in the history of peoples and nations, but for they form it is a vast sea and a long eventful epoch. For we measure years, not by days, weeks and months, but by the achievements that speak for themselves. Suffice it to say that these achievements can best be reflected by the stature our State has achieved, and the role it is playing in the Gulf region, the Arab region and the whole world.

Where were we? Where are we now? We have moved from the margins to the centre of action. Whereas once we were bystanders waiting and watching, we are now proactive initiative-takers. Our political, economic and cultural presence has imposed itself and is now sought-after and welcomed around the world.

His Highness shed light on various turning points in the journey of the UAE. “The goal in the first decade of our Federation was to promote education, and reduce illiteracy. In the fourth decade, we did not only reduce illiteracy to the minimum, but we are also preparing specialised human resources in the most modern and complex disciplines of science. Our sons and daughters have become qualified in nuclear science, smart technology and ultra-advanced technologies. In education, we moved from embracing quantity to embracing quality, our Emiratisation plans are going as scheduled, and we proactively interact with the digital world and its practical manifestations.

During the first decade of our Federation, we were dreaming of making up for what we missed out on and catching up with sisterly nations that were ahead of us in terms of progress and civilisation. Now in the fourth decade of the Federation, the sky is the limit for our achievements. We not only embraced the best international practices, but we are also emiratising them, adding to them and achieving excellence in them”.

Competing against ourselves

His Highness concluded: “We seek top ranks but in this quest we never sought fame or record numbers or to just outrun others. We were racing against ourselves, and we engage in a race in order to achieve the best international practices, to achieve excellence in order to serve our people and to improve the quality of life in our country. We engage in races in order to ensure the sustainability of overall development in our country and to rise to the responsibilities towards our sons and daughters, grandchildren and the coming generations and to enable them to live in dignity and prosperity in our beloved country in which citizens enjoy security, stability and contentment. The valuable lesson that we have learnt from the debate on the progress and backwardness of nations is that a country that does not seek to attain top ranks will not be able to retain any ranking that it achieves. It regresses and then becomes too fatigued to continue its journey and eventually stops in the middle of the race.

Therefore, we have no choice but to seek to be first and work at double speed if we are to retain our advanced rankings on the international competitiveness indices. What will we do as we look forward to attaining the first place by 2021 when we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our country?

A Date that changed the Future of the Country

The exhilarating and joyful celebrations of the UAE 43rd National Day filled the country from end to end, to include the seven Emirates, which adorned the UAE flag and pictures of His Highness the President,

and their Highnesses Supreme Council members and rulers of the Emirates. Festivities extended to air, sea and land, as well as the public squares streets and heritage attractions, in the presence of mass crowds of citizens and residents.

The celebrations reflected the joy of the people of UAE and of the residents on its territory on this glorious occasion and its national cultural and developmental achievements over more than four decades ago, under a wise leadership that led the Union towards pride, progress and prosperity.

Under the patronage of President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a grand celebration was organised at the grandstand of Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) on the occasion of the UAE's 43rd National Day, which marks the establishment of the UAE Federation 43 years ago. The celebration was attended by King Mohammed VI of Morocco; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and their Highnesses Supreme Council members and rulers of Emirates; General H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of Dubai Sports Council. Other sheikhs, senior civilian and military officials, diplomats, and a large number of Emiratis also attended the event.

For its part, The National Emergency, Crisis, and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) marked the 43rd National Day with a number of events, programmes and activities that saw the participation of a large number of directors, heads of departments, staff members and workers.

The UAE flag adorned all the buildings of the headquarters of NCEMA in Abu Dhabi, and staff

members formed a human flag.

In a speech delivered during the ceremony, H.E. Saif Mohammed Arhamah Al Shamsi, Acting Director of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) asked Allah Almighty to always bestow peace, safety and security upon this beloved country and protect its wise leadership that is leading it step by step down the road to glory, progress and prosperity.

He stressed: "Our leadership has devoted itself to ensuring the happiness of this nation and its people. It is leading this nation towards progress competently and efficiently, and supporting it to reach elevated ranks and prominent stature amongst the most developed countries and the happiest and most civilized people of the earth".

Adding further, he stressed that these successes and achievements did not come by chance, they are the fruit of the insightful vision of our wise leadership and planned, organised, sincere and diligent action, aimed at elevating the homeland and its citizens. They are the result of continuity and communication between generations, and the product of the unique relationship thriving with love, trust and honour among the people and their leadership. They are the product of self-improvement, thought and knowledge, keeping pace with the times and its variables, and openness to all new useful and successful ideas."

Al Shamsi underlined that "getting to the top is not difficult as long as there is determination and perseverance, but the most difficult task is to stay at the top, this is the challenge that faces us now. We look to the future with confidence in the solid ground we stand on, and in the wise leadership that motivates us for creativity and innovation that inspires our children to exert further efforts in order to contribute to the future of our country".

Al Shamsi: More difficult than reaching the top, is remaining at the top... This is the true challenge

Under the Slogan “Raise It Up High...To Keep It High”

The “NCEMA” Celebrates “Flag Day”

Mohammed bin Rashid:

It represents the unity of our determination, will and potentials. It also represents the unity of our homeland and our shared vision and future

Under the slogan “Raise It Up High...To Keep It High”, the UAE Government and people observed the Flag Day on the 3rd of November, which coincides with the anniversary of the accession of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the presidency. On this auspicious occasion, the Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, called for the flag of this dear country to be hoisted at all government buildings, departments, schools, ministries, houses and streets. Private and public administrations and institutions celebrated Flag Day to bolster a sense of belonging and love for the country and its wise leadership.

Mohammed bin Rashid: It unifies our hearts to adore our homeland

In a statement to Emirati citizens, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum called for launching a national, popular, comprehensive and continuous campaign to mark «Flag Day», which coincides with the accession of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the presidency. H.H. appealed to all Emiratis to hoist the flag and participate in the national event. And he directed all federal departments and ministries to hoist the flag simultaneously on Wednesday, November 6, at 12pm, as a symbol of unification of the UAE’s flag across the land.

For the occasion, the Cabinet issued an integrated guide on uses of the UAE flag, containing a detailed protocol on how to deal with the flag in all circumstances so as to preserve its sovereign status



and maintain it as a symbol of the UAE and its people. In his speech, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid also stressed: “the UAE flag represents the unity of our determination, will and potentials. It represents the unity of our homeland and our shared vision and future, it unifies our hearts to adore our homeland, and mobilises our energy and resources to build the future of our nation. “On this day we remember the blessed hands of the founding fathers that hoisted

the flag for the first time 42 years ago and we also recall all the sacrifices that kept it raised high for four decades,” he added. “We remember the achievements and gains, which established the advanced stature of the country among other nations and peoples,” he said.

Khalifa’s rule and wisdom...

Sheikh Mohammed delivered a speech on the occasion of UAE Flag Day, and the 10th anniversary of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan’s accession, in which he stressed that the impact of Sheikh Khalifa’s decade cannot be measured by statistics or numbers. “We have lived through ten years of deep wisdom, ten years of clear vision, fast development and great achievement”, His Highness said. And he pointed out: “It would be unfair to judge those ten years only by counting the Emiratis whose houses he built, or whose medical treatment he personally funded. We will not evaluate this decade by the number of Emiratis in financial trouble whose debts he repaid, or by the expanse of land he developed, or by the scale of his investments in infrastructure, or by the number of dams and bridges constructed during his presidency. It would be unfair to measure those ten years only by the aid he extended to other nations, or by the crises he mitigated in other countries, or by the numbers of refugees he sheltered, or by any other measure we might imagine, because ten years of Khalifa Bin Zayed’s rule and wisdom surpass figures and statistics”.

Adding further, he emphasised: “I personally believe that the impact of Khalifa’s decade should be counted in the number of hearts he has won over, by the number of prayers made to Allah to guard and protect him, and by the love that has naturally grown for him, without ever being sought. I prefer to measure Khalifa’s ten years by the amount of happiness that he has infused in people’s hearts, at home and abroad. I measure it by the laughter of the orphaned children whom he has sponsored. I measure it by the prayers of widowed mothers in families who have lost their provider, but found a livelihood through

Khalifa’s generosity. I measure Khalifa’s years by the magnitude of change that he has brought to millions of lives around the globe. I measure Khalifa’s years by the gleams of joy that I see in the eyes of our young graduates. I measure them by the intensity of pride that I sense in young Emirati women. I measure them by the confidence exuded by our engineers and doctors who have graduated from the best universities. I measure them by the feelings of loyalty that fill the air everywhere in our country. I measure them by the daily expressions of gratitude from Emiratis for their leader, who has always worked relentlessly to make his people the happiest in the world”.

“This is the true legacy of Sheikh Khalifa. These are the main lessons that other leaders may draw from ten years of his presidency. It is easy to rule with fear, but it takes a rare kind leader to rule with love”, he concluded.

NCEMA celebrates Flag Day

To mark the Flag Day, the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) held a celebration at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, with the participation of a number of senior officials, directors of departments, heads of sections, staff members and employees. H.E. Saif Mohammed Arhameh Al Shamsi, Acting Director General of NCEMA hoisted the UAE Flag over the entrance of the headquarters building.

Al Shamsi: A great occasion that embodies the value of national unity

In his speech, Al Shamsi stressed that it is a great national occasion that embodies the value of national unity, which in itself is represented in the flag. This flag is the symbol of our union and unity under a single umbrella and leadership, whereby the ties of loyalty and belonging are consolidated among the members of the community.

Adding further, he noted that the flag, which the founding fathers were first to hoist, led by late Sheikh

Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan on that second day of December 1971, in order to become ever since a symbol of the creation of the Union, represents the honourable record of those leaders. “It also contributes to support the national identity of all community members. It confirms the strong feeling of hope and optimism in the future of this great country”, said Al Shamsi. He also pointed out that the flag represents a symbol of the unity of UAE citizens and their love to their homeland as well as their feelings of loyalty and belonging. It has become a symbol of our pride with the unique cultural model of coexistence, tolerance, development and building in the UAE, a model that enriches the sense of belonging and loyalty.

On the same note, Al Shamsi underscored that this national event embodies all definitions of pride with the homeland incarnated in the Flag in various fields and arenas.

On conclusion, Al Shamsi urged the Emiratis to remain united with the leaders to bring more success to our beloved country under the banner “that has unified us to achieve such accomplishments in service of the people”.

Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed: Khalifa guardian of the Emirati people’s hopes and protector of their interests and aspirations

H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor and Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council said that the strong bonds of fraternity and love between all Emiratis, their continuous support to their homeland and leaders, and their pride in this auspicious occasion translate the depth of their faith in what this flag represents. It embodies the convergence of their collective will to love the country that united their voices and paved the way for a bright present and future.

In his remarks on the day, he indicated that this glorious occasion coincides with the accession of the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the presidency and rule, following in the footsteps of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan

Al Nahyan, father of the nation. His extraordinary legacy continues to inspire Emirati generations towards greater synergy, interdependence and unity, guaranteeing the continuation of the process of development and prosperity.

He went on to say: “Hence the vision of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai of making the anniversary of the ascension of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the presidency of the UAE, a day on which we hoist the flag of our country aloft, as an expression of its unity and in celebration of its accomplishments and bright future. It is an occasion that reflects the firm conviction among Emiratis, that they are all equal in rights and duties, under the flag of one country, a country of education and work, the country of justice, law and institutions, the country of security and safety, achievements and opportunities. All these factors give this day a special and different significance. On this day, all Emiratis convey a unified message to the whole world: “The success and prosperity of a nation can only be achieved by the meeting of its people under one banner”.

Hamdan bin Zayed: giant achievements under the leadership of Khalifa

For his part, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler’s Representative in the Western Region, said the 3rd of November is a symbol of the unity and harmony of the UAE as it was marked by the smooth transition of power and the solidarity of all Emiratis with their leaders.

He described the Flag Day initiative as a reminder of the sacrifices of the founding fathers of the nation and as a sincere expression of the sincere love the people of the UAE have for their leaders. Flag Day is the day of cohesion between the people and the leadership, he said. His Highness went on to hail the giant and enormous achievements made during the reign of His Highness the President of the UAE, in various economic, social and cultural fields.

Saif bin Zayed: Pour his heart out for his country and countrymen

H.H Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior said: “Ensuing the rise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to become President of the UAE, merely a decade of time has passed, yet it has been one worth centuries’ weight in achievements. It has been a noble era for the country founded by virtuous forefathers, and succeeded by the most honourable of descendants. Words can’t express the greatness of achievements that may overwhelm mountains but will never be capable of overcoming the humbled hearts of great men – men who are never lacking in eminence, and ones who near perfection in morality, honesty, mercy, and compassion”.

This is an honourable occasion to renew our vows of loyalty to the leader of our march, may Allah keep him a guiding light to the country, and an example of wisdom to all peoples and countries,” Sheikh Saif bin Zayed concluded.

Abu Dhabi’s tallest tower named after Mohammad Bin Rashid

Acting on directives from the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan gave orders to name the tallest building in Abu Dhabi City after His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, made the announcement as he inaugurated the Mohammed bin Rashid Tower, in a ceremony to mark the UAE Flag Day. He said that this gesture «reflects the strong bonds of unity, brotherhood, love and pride among all Emiratis. It also reflects the elevated status of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in the UAE and internationally, with a remarkable record of achievements and foresight that had a substantial impact on development and prosperity in the UAE. Naming the tallest

building in the capital after His Highness is an expression of pride, determination and superiority that this name holds.

And he underlined: “This historical moment signifies the successful march undertaken by Emiratis in building their country and raising its flag high since the country was founded by the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates. It is also the moment for Emiratis to express their great pride in their leader Sheikh Khalifa, who continued the march of development and achievements alongside His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and with the support of his brethren their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates”.

Nahyan bin Mubarak launches first postage stamp to mark Flag Day

Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, launched 25,000 Emirates Post stamps with a value of Dh3 each in coordination with the ministry to mark Flag Day.



Stressed the need to put aside differences between members and to bolster joint action in all fields all the way through the union phase

GCC 35th Summit approves the project to establish unified marine force (81) and unified police system Agreement to accelerate efforts to establish GCC unified military leadership

Mohammed bin Rashid: Strong economy and solid stability to bolster unity



The 35th GCC Supreme Council Summit was held in Doha in December. It concluded with leaders approving a project to establish a unified marine force (81). They also ratified the resolutions and recommendations of interior ministers related to the establishment of a unified police force, which would serve as a Gulf-based INTERPOL, with its headquarters in Abu Dhabi. They agreed on the need to accelerate the formation of the GCC unified military command, and they adopted the “Declaration on the human rights of the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf, calling for further cooperation and integration efforts among member states, especially in relation to

economic integration.

In a tweet on his personal twitter account, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai said it was “a summit of goodness, brotherhood and love.” His Highness went on to say: “We share the same history and we share the same gulf, those who believe otherwise are contradicting historical facts, ignoring our united identity and undermining the bonds of kinship that bring us together.” And he added: “The key to consolidating the unity of GCC states lies in common interests, stronger stability in each of our states, and building strong economic ties.”

In the final communiqué, delivered by HE the Secretary-General of the GCC Dr Abdullatif Al Zayani, GCC leaders stressed the need for all Gulf states to transcend differences and promote joint action in all fields all the way until the union stage. They emphasised Gulf security and reiterated their position against the continued occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the three Emirati islands: the Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa. The Supreme Council stressed the following in this regard:

- To support the UAE sovereignty rights over its three islands, Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa, and over its regional waters, airspace, territory, continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the three islands as an integral part of the United Arab Emirates.
- To consider any decisions or practices or actions by Iran over the three islands to be void and posing no change to the historical and legal facts that unanimously give UAE the sovereignty right over its three islands.
- To call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to UAE's efforts to resolve the situation through direct negotiations or resorting to the International Court of Justice.

On relations with Iran, the Council stressed the importance of the cooperation relations between the GCC States and Iran on the basis of good neighbourliness, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for the sovereignty of countries in the region, and refrain from the use of force, or threatening with it.

The Council hailed the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to facilitate an agreement between the P 5 +1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran on its nuclear programme, hoping that the extension of negotiations would lead to a solution that ensures the peaceful nature Iran's nuclear program, taking into account the environmental concerns of the GCC States.

The leaders of the GCC stressed the importance of making the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons, stressing the right of all states to peaceful

uses of nuclear energy.

On Egypt, the Supreme Council reiterated its firm position in support of the Republic of Egypt and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's roadmap, stressing the Council's full support and stand with the people and Government of Egypt in achieving stability and prosperity.

The Supreme Council expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in strengthening the strategic partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Kingdom of Morocco. It reiterated its firm position against all forms of extremism and terrorism and reaffirmed its commitment to rejecting extremist ideologies.

The final communiqué of the summit asserted that the GCC states are united against terrorism and are seeking to dry out its funding sources. At the same time, the Supreme Council praised the UN Security Council's resolution that condemns violations to human rights in Iraq and Syria.

The Supreme Council affirmed its support for the efforts of Yemen in achieving security and stability.

On Libya, the Supreme Council called for the immediate ceasing of all violence in the country and stressed the need for all parties to acknowledge the legitimacy of the elected parliament.

The communiqué found that the deteriorating situation in Syria doesn't serve the security and the stability of the region. It hailed the decision of the Security Council meeting to impose sanctions on terrorist groups.

The council reiterated its support for the right of the Palestinian people to have an independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Meanwhile, it condemned the brutal Israeli assaults against unarmed civilians.

The 35th GCC Supreme Council Summit was held on December 9 and 10. It was chaired by HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar and attended by Their Majesties and Highnesses: Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, King Hamad bin Essa Al Khalifa, Monarch of the Kingdom of

Bahrain, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Fahed bin Mahmoud Al Saeed, Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, and HE Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai headed the UAE delegation to the summit. The accompanying delegation included HH. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister, HE Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, Minister of International Cooperation and Development, HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Economy, HE Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj Faris Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy, HE Lt. General Misbah bin Rashid Al Fattan, Director of the Office of the Vice President, Khalifa Saeed Suleiman, Director General of the Department of Protocol and Hospitality in Dubai, and Saleh Mohammed bin Nasra Al Ameri, UAE Ambassador to Qatar.

Speaking at the inauguration of the summit, HH the Emir of Qatar underscored the need to address terrorism and extremism. He said the phenomenon of terrorism the world, and our Arab region are witnessing today require all measures necessary to eradicate it and to address their root causes at the political, social and economic levels.

Referring to GCC differences before the summit as “side differences”, the Emir of Qatar stressed that the “regional and international circumstances are highly complex... which places us before immense responsibilities.” He urged that political differences not be turned into “conflicts affecting social, economic and media sectors.”

In November, GCC states reached a reconciliation agreement, which saw the return of the ambassadors of Saudi, UAE and Bahrain to Doha following eight

months of tensions, the worst in the GCC’s history since its establishment in 1981.

For his part, the Emir of Kuwait called for economic cooperation to address the implications of falling oil prices. He said: “The 40 per cent fall in oil prices since last June is affecting the incomes and development programmes in our respective states.”

The Supreme Council reviewed the recommendations and follow-up reports submitted by the Ministerial Council and achievements made in the process of joint action since the previous session in all fields, and expressed appreciation for the efforts made to promote the process of joint cooperation, particularly with regard to the promotion of Gulf citizenship which enables GCC citizens to achieve stronger integration.

It also considered the report on the functioning of the GCC railway project as the project of great importance in facilitating trade and movement of people between member states, and stressed the importance of completing this vital project by 2018 with best specifications available globally.

The Supreme Council reviewed the report on water linkage and water security in the GCC States and quickly completed a long-term comprehensive strategy for GCC.

The Council commended efforts undertaken by the GCC Secretariat General to follow up the implementation of its resolutions in the interest and aspirations of youth, the Council stressed the importance of continuing the Secretariat efforts in organising youth activities through workshops, programmes, meetings and training courses, contact the international youth programmes, and pilot initiatives in the area of entrepreneurship, innovation, employment, skills building and work programmes.

The Council reviewed the report of the Secretariat General on following-up to the implementation of the resolution at its session (32) (Riyadh December 2011) on the adoption of the GCC plan to combat non-communicable diseases (2011-2020), and adopted the updated GCC plan of prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (2014 - 2025).

«UAE Counter-Piracy Conference» Holds its Fourth Session in Dubai

**Abdullah bin Zayed:
fighting the phenomenon is an Emirati
priority... and we will pursue our procedures
in agreement with partners to prevent its
impacts onshore and offshore**

The United Arab Emirates stressed that it will pursue its procedures, in agreement with concerned governments and companies; in order to fight the effects of maritime piracy, onshore and offshore, and that it will remain committed to its obligations to ensure the safety of the world's oceans and the well-being of the population and sailors alike

Participants in the «Counter-Piracy Conference», which held its fourth edition in Dubai, emphasised that finding remedial solutions on land and bringing about stability in this region is a prerequisite to ensure the continuity of safety and security for the users of global maritime trade routes

Participants pointed out, in the final statement of the conference, that they were able to develop a framework at the national, regional and international levels to promote the coordination of efforts; in order to ensure the effectiveness of anti-piracy efforts at sea, as well as regional threats on land.

Outstanding results were achieved under these difficult circumstances, thanks to all the discussions that sought to reach constructive solutions, which will have a profound and long-lasting impact on the future of Africa and the world

Call for continued efforts to counter the threat of piracy

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, called on the international community to be mindful of the new threats coming from terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and other organisations that were able to strengthen their relations with crime networks and arms trafficking bodies, in addition to the need to stop the activities of terrorist groups before they reach the sea and their impact on transport channels in the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eden. His Highness explained



that the joint international efforts yielded tangible progress in the fight against maritime piracy, as pirate attacks decreased during the past two years,

until they entirely ceased”.

Sheikh Abdullah believed that «the road ahead is still long for us, especially as pirates would be able to resume their attacks should efforts abate».

The Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted the need to «take steps to address the underlying causes of piracy. That means going beyond the development of governance to dismantle piracy networks in illegal areas, to enhance economic opportunities and provide alternative livelihoods for those who are lured into the piracy economy.

His Highness explained that «the efforts exerted verily contributed to the development of the response to confront and contain piracy in the areas of local capacity building and development of initiatives». Within the same context, he pointed out to the «importance of working with Somalia in order to build its capacity to withstand the major challenges it faces». He said the UAE has been leading the anti-piracy efforts in this area, and there is a need to focus on the humanitarian needs of those who are enduring the plight of piracy and provide them and their families with care, and care for released prisoners who suffer from the consequences of captivity. We must not also forget that there are 37 sailors who remain prisoners of pirates, and for those sailors and their families, we will continue our efforts to combat piracy».

And in an article he wrote, published in conjunction with the conference, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed stressed that «the fight against piracy is a top priority for United Arab Emirates, which has a strong interest in the security and smooth flow of international sea passages”.

His Highness said «the international community needs to do two things to be able to find a sustainable solution for the plight of piracy. The first is to maintain the momentum of recent successes offshore, and this requires extending the mission of international operations in the African Horn, in spite of the decline of attacks. And without these operations, piracy will soon pounce again on the maritime traffic in our vital sea passages. The

second is to address the root causes of piracy and other maritime crimes, which requires confronting the unstable situations on land, which in turn needs continuous international efforts to build the local capacities to maintain security and order and provide governance and economic opportunities. It also requires facing radical and criminal organisations, which run onshore, such as «Boko Haram» and «Al Shabab» of Somalia. These are key stimulators of unrest and insecurity. Some acts of piracy rise to the ranks of terrorist acts».

The Conference: axes, decisions and positions

The «UAE Counter-Piracy Conference» is a large senior-level international meeting that addresses the plight of maritime piracy and looks for durable solutions. This meeting, held in Dubai, brought together more than two hundred participants from 45 countries and organisations, including high level government ministers and officials, managers of institutions, international experts and representatives of maritime companies. During the conference, the best solutions were discussed to combat maritime piracy. The meeting also sought to invest the positive results of a series of previous conference sessions, the first of which was held in 2011, contributing to piracy incidents decline by 40 per cent.

The conference programme included several topics, namely: «lessons learned from maritime piracy in the African Horn and the framework for future cooperation», «strengthening coordination between government agencies and organisations against transnational organised crime: the path towards finding long term solutions in Africa», «overview of initiatives and contributions of the maritime industry sector towards Somalia: impact, sustainability and evaluation», and «identifying the map of regional threats and their impact on human security», in addition to organising a special session on «future leaders in Africa: youth and women empowerment».

Held by the General Secretariat of Abu Dhabi Executive Council with participation from 81 local government bodies

First Business Continuity Forum presents practical plans and developments and discusses future steps for implementation with government entities



Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, the First Business Continuity Forum was held in the emirate.

Organised by the General Secretariat of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, the forum aims to promote integration between government entities by presenting practical plans and programmes for business continuity, to achieve strategic objectives, namely, preserving the accomplishments of sustainable comprehensive development in the emirate.

The forum came to bolster continuous and diligent efforts to promote business continuity as an organisational culture, making it an essential component in various business environments within Abu Dhabi government.

The forum brought together senior officials from 81 Abu Dhabi government entities including HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Department of Transport and member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, HE Dr Ahmed Mubarak Al Mazrouei, Secretary General of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Executive Committee, HE Hamad Al Hurr Al Suwaidi, Chairman of the Department of Finance and member of the Executive Council, HE Saeed Eid Al Ghaffi, Chairman of the Department of Municipal Affairs and member of the Executive Council, HE Dr Amal Abdullah Al Qubaissi, Director General of Abu Dhabi Education Council and member of the Executive Council, HE Abdullah Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, HE Riad Abdulrahman Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Accountability Authority, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Khaled bin Sheiban Al Muheri, Director General of the General Secretariat of the Executive Council.

The forum opened with a video that showed the different aspects of development and the major projects that are underway in Abu Dhabi Emirate. A number of government entities presented their business continuity plans, including their respective sets of objectives to address foreseeable risks during emergencies and their business continuity measures.

Representatives from Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, Emirates Nuclear Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi Health Services Company, Abu Dhabi Airports Company and Etihad Airways presented their programmes and the mechanisms they put in place to implement the business continuity programme. They presented their action plans, timelines, and their policies to coordinate with partners and discussed the tasks and missions of their respective business continuity teams as well as the challenges they have to deal with.

In his keynote speech, HE Major General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi stressed the need to promote awareness within government entities about the business continuity programme to encourage them to implement its set of outcomes using the agreed mechanisms and plans. He urged government bodies to benefit from all the available support tools to achieve the best results. And he said: “Events and changes in the world compel us to enhance our

institutional preparedness for any eventualities or scenarios that may arise. We must be fully prepared in order to preserve the development achievements that began with His Highness Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and continued with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan the President.”

“Hence the need to establish programmes that support and promote development plans and coordinate roles and responsibilities among the various departments, enabling them to build capabilities and competences to meet their commitments and provide their vital services to society during emergencies,” he added.

His Excellency Al Rumaithi praised the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, to engage in any programmes and actions that support and enhance business efficiency within Abu Dhabi Government. He went on to observe that the patronage and presence of HH Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, which reflect the leadership’s keenness to ensure the success of the business continuity programme.

He then announced the creation of a new award for “Risk Management and Business Continuity”, to be added to the other categories of the Abu Dhabi Government Awards.

Mr Majed Abdullah Al Muheri, Director of the Business Continuity Department at the General Secretariat of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, made the closing speech at the forum and said the determination demonstrated by the various government entities in Abu Dhabi to implement the Business Continuity Programme allowed them to overcome many challenges along the way. Concerted efforts and integrated performance combined open new and vast horizons for the implementation of the programme.

Participating government entities announced their commitment to the timeline set for the implementation of the business Continuity Programme, guaranteeing adherence to best practices in this regard. They confirmed that their national staff is receiving the adequate training and support needed to play a role in pushing forward the multi-layered development efforts in Abu Dhabi.

**The GLOBALGAP Summit on Food Safety and Sustainability
Initiates the “Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through
Good Agricultural Practices”**

**H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed:
Our strategy is based on maximising local
agricultural production**



H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority (ADFCA), underlined that the UAE operates according to a strategy to maximise local agricultural production and promote foreign investment in the agriculture sector, reflecting its keenness to strengthen the food security umbrella, and secure food supplies for the future.

In his opening address to the GLOBALGAP Summit 2014 on Food Safety and Sustainability, His Highness praised the cooperation demonstrated by

emirati farm owners and their understanding of the significance of restructuring the agriculture sector in Abu Dhabi, and supporting the government’s sustainable agriculture plans. His Highness emphasised that the government’s objective is to maximise citizens’ income while preserving the natural resources of soil and water for the benefit of future generations.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by His Excellency Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, the Minister of Environment and Water (MoEW), His Highness pointed out that UAE has become “the most dynamic and vibrant country in the area”, making it a popular destination for various international events targeting the region. “Organising The GLOBALGAP Summit in Abu Dhabi represents a strong and firm recognition of the achievement accomplished by the UAE in terms of policies and legislation linking agriculture and food security to the safety and well-being of citizens and residents alike. It also reinforces its role on the regional and international arenas, and represents the culmination of its cultural achievement in the field of human welfare and quality of life, thanks to the astute vision of the UAE’s wise leadership”, he concluded.

Public-private Partnership

Sheikh Mansour went on to commend the joint initiative launched by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform, the International Trade

Centre (ITC), and GLOBALGAP to introduce the Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through Good Agricultural Practices. “This Declaration is a call to key stakeholders in the global food system to join the new partnership between the public and private sectors, in a bid to develop practical solutions to the challenges of food security and food safety”, he said.

On the same note, His Highness praised Abu Dhabi’s experience in qualifying 100 farms that implement agriculture standards in accordance with globally recognised practices, applicable by GLOBALGAP.

Concluding, he expressed confidence that the meeting will achieve its objectives, and will succeed in developing a set of ideas, procedures and systems to ensure food safety, control quality, and identify means to exchange information on sustainable agriculture and good agricultural practices. In conclusion, he reiterated the UAE’s support to all international efforts to improve food safety and food security for future generations.

The 12th edition of GLOBALGAP was held in Abu Dhabi last October, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority ADFCA. It aims to shape the future of good agricultural practices, whether public or private, domestic or international, large or small, and promote good aquaculture, including the practices related to food safety, food security, sustainability, the possibility of monitoring and follow-up, social responsibilities, and those associated with the animals and the environment.

The three-day Summit brought together experts from more than 50 countries. A private ceremony took place on the sidelines of the summit to honor 100 farmers from Abu Dhabi, who qualified for the GLOBALGAP certificate, thanks to the support and training from the Farmers Services Center in Abu Dhabi.

The Abu Dhabi Declaration

The summit served as a launching pad for the Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through Good Agricultural Practices, which focused on three core issues, namely linking good agricultural practices to achieving global food security, accepting a common set of good agricultural practices’ standards as an open source, and commitments to the public, including accepting a binding incentives mechanism. The organisation will launch the unified norms and obligations for good practices under the name “the Abu Dhabi System”.

The “Abu Dhabi System” will play a key role in efforts to increase the production of safe food and provide food for the growing world population. It will also help companies in developing countries to become more competitive in world markets, speed up economic development, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium development goals.

For his part, Mohammed Jalal Al Raisi, Director of the Communication and Community Service Department at (ADFCA) emphasised that the Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through Good Agricultural Practices is a global recognition for the efforts exerted by the UAE to achieve food security and its commitment to adopt modern agricultural practices.

“This declaration focuses on core issues, including linking good agricultural practices with achieving global food security and identifying a common set of good agricultural practices’ standards”, he explained.

On the same note, and in remarks made on the sidelines of the Summit, H.E. Rashid Bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water underline that the UAE wise leadership attaches great importance to agriculture and encourage farmers to adopt the finest modern agricultural practices in their work, thus contributing to the sustainability of this vital sector and strengthening the food security system for future generations.

He added: “By hosting this global event, Abu

Dhabi underscores the recognition of the whole world for the efforts it made and still making to promote agriculture and food security, and link them to human well-being and quality of life”.

The Abu Dhabi Meeting: Special Importance

The GLOBALGAP Summit 2014 - organised by this global organisation for the first time in the Middle East, with the support of the ADFCA and the Farmers Services Center- is of particular significance. It has tackled a number of issues in the area of food safety, sustainability, social responsibility and the harmonisation of standards, as well as the challenges facing the food products industry, and the future of the supply and service industries.

The Conference: Overview

The conference, held every two years in a different country, brings together world leading experts and specialists, to work together to shape the future of good agricultural practices, and cover all aspects of these practices. It aims to study the major issues associated with food, including strengthening the areas of food safety. It intends to achieve the highest standards of sustainability, reinforce the responsibility initiatives and the challenges facing the food industry, in addition to discussing the future of food-related supply, services and industries.

Specializations and Objectives of GLOBALGAP

GLOBALGAP is an organisation dedicated to developing voluntary standards, which qualify to obtain good agricultural practices certificates. Over the past decade, the organisation has turned from a single system for setting standards, to providing specialized, customized solutions. It aims to expand agriculture, in a bid to supply food, in addition to its role in building a strong partnership with farmers and buyers, today and in the future, and strengthening the initiatives of safe and sustained agricultural production throughout the world. The GLOBALGAP certificate is the yield of a transparent and independent system for setting standards. This

system is based on extensive consultation with the contribution and cooperation of the organisation’s technical committees, committees of stakeholders, members of the national technical working groups, accreditation entities and the industry.

The organisation has a very important goal: safe and sustainable agriculture around the world. It develops voluntary standards for agricultural products around the world. It is worth mentioning that an increasing numbers of producers, suppliers and buyers are now adopting its accreditation standards to comply with its standards. The members of the organisation provide incentives offered by the private sector to the agricultural producers from around the world, in a bid to encourage them to adopt safe and sustainable practices, with a view to making the world a better place for future generations.

The organisation is interested in providing a global network linking farmers and owners of trademarks, in the field of production and distribution of safe food, to gain consumers’ confidence, and to lay the foundations for the protection of scarce resources, through the application of good agricultural practices for a sustainable future.

Abu Dhabi... Investments and Incentives

The Government of Abu Dhabi is investing heavily in the agricultural sector, through providing many incentives to small farmers and supporting innovation in agriculture. This is in line with the Abu Dhabi government’s policy, especially its 2030 agenda, which aims to achieve sustainable environmental development in the agricultural sector, in order to ensure food safety and food supply in the UAE. Furthermore, the UAE endeavors to adopt sustainable agricultural practices in all agricultural sectors in the Country, and therefore is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards of food safety in agricultural products, aquaculture and animal by-products.

**UAE at the Forefront of the Fight against the Deadly Virus...
Internationally acclaimed efforts...**

Under the Directives of Sheikh Khalifa Mohammed bin Zayed Directs to Donate Dh18.3m to Fight Ebola



At the borders of a rainforest in Zaire called Kikwit, on January 6th, 1995, a charcoal seller was packing his goods to return home. On his way, he fell to the ground twice before reaching his destination, suffering from headache and fever. During the next few days, his condition deteriorated and he was transferred to the hospital, where he suffered from severe vomiting followed by unstoppable bleeding from his nose and ears. He died on the 15th of the same month.

About two months later, 12 members of his family, who had come in contact with his body died. By mid-April of the same year, the same symptoms began to appear on a number of staff members of the hospital where the coal merchant was receiving treatment, and then spread into two other towns in the region. This prompted a scientist to collect blood samples from the patients, and send them to the disease control center in Atlanta, Georgia in the US. Tests revealed that it was a case of the Ebola. This disease had first emerged in 1976. The international community was quick to begin donating money and equipment, and teams of researchers from Europe, South Africa and the United States headed to the contaminated regions with two goals in mind: to help contain the spread of the disease, and discovering the area of concentration of the virus.

No one could foresee that the disease would continue to be rampant in 2014, and kill thousands, and that it would strike people in the United States that originally discovered the disease. No one expected that the countries of the world would join hands, allocate funds, and take various measures in a bid to limit its spread and eliminate it. Now on the eve of 2015, the global struggle to stave off the dangers of this health disaster and reduce its impact continues.

What new developments have occurred that led to a renewed propagation of the Ebola disease? What is the world doing to overcome it? What is the role of the UAE in this regard?

Statistics of the Disaster

The World Health Organisation (WHO) took notice of the epidemic for the first time, on March 23rd, 2014, however information indicated that the disease first broke out in December 2013. In the period between June 30, 2013 and September 14, the Organisation has been informed of a total of 4,507 deaths from the Ebola virus infection. Six weeks later, this number rose to 4,818 deaths and 13,000 cases, according to a report published by the World Health Organisation. In a report published mid-November, a total of 14,413 confirmed cases, including 5,177 deaths had been reported from eight different countries. The highest mortality rates were recorded in Guinea where the disease broke out for the first time, and in other African countries, such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali and Nigeria. Additionally, four cases were recorded

in the United States, where a Liberian visitor succumbed to his symptoms.

Sounding the Alarm

The aforementioned statistics and studies, strongly suggest the magnitude of the challenges the world must face to contain the virus quickly, on one hand and leverage the means of encountering this kind of disaster, through proactive and elaborate plans and steps, on the other hand. The three countries, namely Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, were suffering from weak health systems after years of conflict, not to mention the substantial shortfall in the number of health workers, making these systems weaker than those in other countries that also suffered from Ebola outbreaks, such as Nigeria and Senegal. The World Health Organization announced last September that these two countries have succeeded in halting the spread of the Ebola virus, despite the increase in the total number of deaths to 2,793, out of 5,762 cases globally. It has to be noted that the speedy implementation of strict control measures is a critical factor in determining the size

UAE Forerunner in the Fight against Ebola

Early last October, Under the directives of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President; General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces ordered a grant of AED18.3 million (USD 5 Million) to combat Ebola virus in the affected States, which includes Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa. This gesture embodies the commitment of the country's leadership to fight infectious diseases and to join international efforts to stop their spread.

The grant comes in response to the UN appeal to combat the Ebola virus and will be managed through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The UAE's response to the call of the United Nations aims to achieve five main goals, namely stopping the spread of the disease, treating patients, providing basic services, maintaining stability and

prevention in countries that were not affected by the infection so far.

Within this framework, The UAE Ministry of International Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are partnering to implement a USD 5 million project to fight Ebola in the three West African nations of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leon. H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Chairwoman of the Women and Health Alliance International, (WAHA) called on intensifying international aid in Africa to address the epidemic. She said: "The organisation responded as early as January 2014 to international pleas for assistance for the fight against Ebola disease in western Africa in cooperation with the French Red Cross in Guinea."

"In Guinea, WAHA provided trained health workers, conducted training sessions, supported the local community through spreading awareness about

of the outbreak.

This leads us to sound the alarm worldwide about the need to eradicate this epidemic, and prevent it from extending to other countries. In addition to the measures taken by countries in this regard and the multilateral preventive measures, and despite the emergence of some cases in the United States and Spain, among others, several steps have been taken to contain the epidemic, namely helping the afflicted countries and adopting scientific steps that help ending the problem.

Financial Support

Last September, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, urged the international community to contribute

to the WHO Roadmap and to provide the \$600 million needed for supplies in West Africa in order to stop Ebola transmission in affected countries within six to nine months, and to prevent the international spread of the virus. “This is impossible unless the affected countries and the international community carry out an urgent mobilisation campaign”, he said. And he added: “We are together today to send out an international rescue call. We need contributions in terms of individuals, equipment, and funding from governments, the private sector, financial institutions and non-governmental organisations”.

The G20 leaders during the Summit held in Australia mid-July last year, pledged to do their utmost to eradicate Ebola. In a statement published at the end of the first day

the disease, organised transportation arrangements for the patients, and set up centres for reporting cases and referring them to health centres in addition to putting in place a monitor-and-control system to track reported cases”, explained Sheikha Shamsa.

Furthermore, she added that this is the worst and most destructive outbreak of the disease in western Africa to date. The local health systems are struggling to tackle the disease. There is an urgent need for international assistance to help these communities in their battle against the deadly disease.

On the same note, UNICEF Gulf Area Office (GAO) noted that the UAE’s contribution comes at a crucial moment, as the number of infected people is expected to rise. The contribution will allow UNICEF to continue to implement programmes that focus strongly on educating communities about how to understand, treat and stop the spread of the disease as well as procuring key supplies for use in Ebola Treatment Units and community care centres.

Most importantly, UNICEF is focusing on restoring and protecting the delivery of basic social services such as maternal and child healthcare, water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, education and protecting children who have lost their parents and face the fear and terror of death and disease.

Commenting on the UAE’s contribution, Ibrahim

El Ziq, UNICEF Gulf Area Representative indicated: “This valuable contribution from the UAE is not surprising; the country has been championing the cause of health and emergency response for many years and have been able to achieve remarkable results in several causes such as polio eradication”.

“The UNICEF and the UAE Government have been close partners in a number of emergencies such as the Syria response, Gaza and now the fight against Ebola. It is heartening to see this strong understanding for the needs of children and this unwavering commitment to urgently provide the needed support from the UAE Government”, he concluded.

For his part, Dr. Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, pointed out that the UAE is always at the forefront of the countries of the region and the world to provide support and assistance. “This of course includes its large and known contributions in supporting health issues in the Arab region and around the world, as well as its valuable donations to assist the victims of emergencies, disasters and conflicts, reduce the burden on governments and international organisations as a result of these cases, and support development projects and relief operations, as well as the reconstruction of the areas affected by disasters and conflicts.

of the Summit, the leaders of the world's twenty richest countries stated: "G20 members are committed to do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs. We will work through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, and in partnership with non-governmental stakeholders".

The World Bank seized the opportunity of the G20 Summit to defend its project regarding "establishing an emergency fund to curb future epidemics and avoid recurrence of the slow delayed and fragmented reaction on Ebola".

During the summit, Ban Ki-Moon urged the leaders of the world's richest countries to bolster their efforts to

address the Ebola epidemic in order to avoid massive food crises. At a press conference, he said: "I would like to stress the need to intensify the international response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The number of outbreaks is declining in the area but is increasing in other areas, because the transmission of the virus is faster than the response of the international community. And he called on the G20 leaders to intensify their efforts.

In a joint petition, a number of non-governmental aid organisations including Oxfam and Save the Children urged the G20, which represents 85% of global wealth, to band together to ensure the right resources are made available in terms of personnel, equipment and funding to meet the challenges of Ebola.

Among the UAE contributions, the Sharjah Charity Association offered Dh350,000 of assistance to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Niger.

A Tribute to the UAE Measures

The role of UAE in the fight against the widespread of the Ebola virus was not limited to providing financial and logistical support to the countries most affected by the virus, but also included steps taken within the country, particularly since the UAE extensively receives visitors from around the world. This earned it an international acclaim regarding its vigilance and preparedness to face a humanitarian disaster of this type.

The Health Ministry confirmed that the various organs and bodies in the country, as well as the air and land ports have taken all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the residents of the UAE since the beginning of the epidemic.

The measures adopted by the UAE have prompted a senior official at the World Health Organization, to pay tribute to the Emirati health authorities that strengthened its willingness to confront the Ebola disease. He also lauded its role in intensifying the basic health measures for the early detection of any suspected case of the disease.

Dr. Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, stressed that health authorities in the UAE have responded swiftly, after the emergence of the corona virus cases in the Middle East in May and June. He said that a technical delegation from the World Health Organization visited the UAE in June. He went on to commend the openness and transparency shown by those involved in the health sector in the UAE, where information is shared with the public and the media, as well as with the World Health Organization. He noted that the UAE is one of the pivotal countries regarding the work at the regional and international levels, and in strengthening the cooperation between the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean region and its member states. The Regional Office enjoys substantial collaboration with national health authorities in the UAE in terms of enhancing the capacity of the public health entities to be able to manage, respond to and contain any epidemics. As member of the Eastern Mediterranean region, the UAE Ministry of Health is working closely with the regional office, in order to improve its capacities in terms of infection surveillance and infection, reporting risks, awareness and diagnostic laboratory of infectious diseases, especially pandemics.

Crises are increasingly proliferating
around the world

**HE Antonio Guterres
High Commissioner for
the United Nations for
Refugees To “Tawaree”**

**Distinguished
relationship with the
UAE**

**Sheikh Zayed’s
humanitarian legacy
continues to be a
model**

**The Syrian humanitarian crisis
is the biggest of its kind in the
21st century**

HE Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for the United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR), described the relationship between the Commission and the United Arab Emirates as one of «great and outstanding importance». He stressed that the humanitarian legacy of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan «is still considered a role model for all it has given to refugees and displaced people around the world. It is a legacy that has been entrenched in the core of the state's policy, making it one of the world's most generous countries in terms of humanitarian and charitable work.»

In an exclusive interview for «طوارق» he said the UAE is an essential player on the international humanitarian and development aid scene... and he pointed out that the UNHCR's largest emergency stores in the world are in the Global Humanitarian City in Dubai. He added: «We are very grateful for the generous support we receive from the governments of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.»

Guterres observed that the number of crises in the world is steadily increasing. The Syrian humanitarian crisis is the biggest crisis in the twenty-first century, he said, as the war has resulted in «the largest refugee exodus since World War II, where children make up half the number of refugees who are living in difficult circumstances.» He went on to say that “the Syrian crisis has put all of our emergency management mechanisms to the test. Nearly 3.2 million Syrian refugees are currently registered in the region, in addition to more than 7.5 million displaced people inside Syria, and all of them in need of assistance.

He believed that the «Crisis and Emergency Management Conference», held by the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) in Abu Dhabi, is highly significant, as it is the first and only event of its kind in the Gulf region and the Middle East. It is timely, he said, especially in light of crises throughout the Arab World. It also reflects the keenness of the UAE's leadership to persevere, along with the international community in addressing and mitigating the effects and consequences of humanitarian crises. He noted that the UNHCR is preparing to hold a first training course in emergency management in the UAE, in coordination with the International Humanitarian City.



Mr. Guterres said needs and requirements are increasing at an exponential rate and the UNHCR alone can't meet all of them. Hence, he reiterated the call to donor countries and to the international community «to demonstrate their solidarity with refugees and communities at a time when funds available for humanitarian work are insufficient.»

He stressed that strengthening the emergency response has become a priority for the UNHCR... He explained that the UNHCR established warehouses for emergencies to store basic aid materials, which can be delivered to those in need within 72 hours. He explained that the UNHCR isn't mandated to respond to natural disasters, but it is requested to do so, in some cases, by virtue of its expertise in the field of emergency response. He added that the Commission formed an emergency team that includes a number of employees, officials and managers with experience and competence in all humanitarian fields. The team is on

constant alert to respond to any emergency, as it can be deployed within 72 hours.

HE Antonio Guterres opined that the media has an important role to play and it can be a valuable partner in the efforts to address emergencies and crises by providing instructions to the public on how to deal with these cases. The media can also shed light on important humanitarian issues and the needs of victims of crises and emergencies.

He said early prediction of crises reflects the most important aspect of successful management, as it helps minimizing their effects by way of preventive measures and efficient response plans.

Below is the text of the interview in its entirety:

- **How do you handle the developments and crises in various countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Palestine, and their tragic consequences, especially the displacement of millions of people? Which of these crises is the most severe in your opinion?**

As you know, crises are steadily proliferating around the world. There are currently crises in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Central Africa. There are old crises that continue to fester until this day such as the ones in Afghanistan, Somalia and Congo. The situation in Nigeria is quite difficult, too.

However, the Syrian humanitarian crisis is the biggest crisis in the twenty-first century. We are talking about the largest number of refugees in the world, second only to Palestinian refugees. It is the largest refugee exodus since World War II, where children make up half the number of refugees and live in difficult circumstances. More than half of these children are school students that have no access to education. Many of them are obligated to work for low wages to provide for their families. They were made to mature too early as their childhood was hijacked. We are looking at a whole generation at risk of loss and deprivation.

The needs and requirements are increasing at an exponential rate and the UNHCR alone can't meet all of them. Hence, we reiterate the call to donor countries and the international community to demonstrate their

solidarity with refugees and communities at a time when the funds available for humanitarian work are not sufficient at all.

- **The UNHCR was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize at two different occasions. What criteria were used for these awards?**

Yes, the UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 for its pioneering efforts to provide aid and assistance to refugees in Europe. Its mandate was extended until the end of the decade back then. More than 25 years later, in 1981, the UNHCR was awarded a second peace prize for its efforts in assisting refugees throughout the world despite political hurdles that often impede its efforts.

- **The UNHCR began years ago to strengthen its emergency response capabilities... What has been achieved so far in this regard?**

The UNHCR often needs to address sudden emergencies that require immediate response in cases of fighting that drives thousands of people away from their hometowns for instance, or destructive earthquakes that lead to large-scale immigration. Although the UNHCR isn't mandated to respond to natural disasters, but it is requested to do so, in some cases, by virtue of its expertise in the field of emergency response. This means the organisation needs to be able to provide urgent aid and expertise in affected areas. We often provide emergency assistance to civilians fleeing their homes, as this is the first step towards protection and long-time rehabilitation and recovery.

Enhancing emergency response capabilities is a priority for UNHCR. We have conducted comprehensive internal reviews to identify the best methods to ensure timely and flexible emergency response. In 2011, we developed an organisational approach that allows access to a wealth of expertise, human resources and other forms of support during emergencies. The commission identified and gathered groups of people with a variety of fundamental skills that are ready to be deployed anywhere in the world at any given moment. We established emergency warehouses where basic humanitarian aid materials are stored and can be delivered within 72 hours. We

have long-term agreements with shipping agents and logistics companies and we developed a global network of suppliers, specialised agencies and partners.

- **UNHCR formed a specialised emergency response team that can be deployed in 72 hours... Who are the members of the team and how does it operate?**

The team includes a number of expert and competent staff members from various humanitarian disciplines. The team is on permanent alert and is called on and deployed, within 72 hours, in emergency cases. We also have contingency collaboration agreements with 17 international companies to provide us with technical experts in sheltering, logistical services, information management and coordination. The UNHCR put in place mechanisms for immediate mobilisation of financial resources to facilitate response to emergencies without delay.

In order to maintain this level of capabilities and readiness, the UNHCR developed training programmes that are rolled out on a regular basis. They include workshops on emergency management to continuously enhance the skills of registered members. The main training topics are: building teams, planning operations, financial and administrative systems, operational partnerships, communication skills, negotiation, security, coordination and exchange of information, communications and protection of life.

- **Emergency relief missions require tremendous relief capabilities. How do you supply them?**

The UNHCR maintains the ability to provide the necessary materials, such as tents, blankets, kitchen sets, water containers and solar lamps, etc., to nearly 600 thousand people within 72 hours. We have organised our global inventory management, and we established regional hubs in different parts of Africa, Europe and the Middle East, which increased our

flexibility and reduced transport cost and time. Our emergency warehouse located in the International City for Humanitarian Services in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates is the largest we have in the world and we are very grateful for the generous support we receive from the Governments of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

- **What was the UNHCR's most difficult test to date?**

The Syrian crisis has put all of our emergency management mechanisms to the test. Since the summer of 2012, the flow of refugees has increased dramatically, at a scope we haven't seen in a long time. In 2013 alone, more than 4000 refugees crossed from Syria to neighbouring countries on a daily basis. Today, there are nearly 3.2 million Syrian refugees registered in the region, in addition to more than 7.5 million displaced within Syria and they all need assistance.

- **How do you describe your emergency management mechanisms?**

We begin by securing the deployment of emergency teams within 72 hours, and then, we begin coordination in order to ensure the needs of displaced persons and refugees. The UNHCR works in coordination with other partners, to provide emergency life-saving assistance by providing shelter materials and other relief items, such as blankets, mattresses, water containers, household items, clean water, drinking water, health care, and sometimes food.

- **How do you establish partnerships with the countries that receive refugees?**

Governments often rely on the international community to share the burden with them. UNHCR provides assistance to refugees at the request of governments. UNHCR maintains the highest levels of coordination with host countries, in all issues relating to refugees, and coordinates with governments

UNHCR's largest emergency store is in the International City for Humanitarian Services in Dubai.

on special response plan programmes to ensure the protection of refugees in host countries, taking into account the need for refugees to respect and observe the laws of host countries.

- **What do you think of the UAE's efforts to assist victims of crises and disasters across the world?**

The UNHCR's relationship with the United Arab Emirates is distinguished. The humanitarian legacy of HH Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan continues to be an example in view of the assistance and aid he extended to refugees and displaced persons across the globe. It is a legacy that was built into the foundation of the state's policy, and this is what makes the UAE one of the world's most generous countries in terms of humanitarian and charitable efforts.

The United Arab Emirates has supported the Commission's efforts and its operations in different places around the world. It is an essential supporter of international humanitarian and development aid. In recent years, the UAE has been increasingly keen to direct and dispense aid through a multilateral system. It actively entered into partnerships with the main UN agencies, including the UNHCR, in response to the humanitarian efforts in Jordan, Tunisia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries.

Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, President of the General Women's Union, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, also contributed generous support to Syrian refugees. Her Highness established the Sheikha Fatima Fund to support refugees. Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, an eminent advocate for UNHCR has also made extraordinary efforts through her Big Heart campaign for Syrian refugee children.

We have established a significant partnership with

the International City for Humanitarian Services in Dubai, which hosts the largest UNHCR store in the world.

- **Following your participation in the fourth edition of the Crisis and Emergency Management Conference in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, how do you rate this Emirati initiative?**

Let me begin by saying I was honoured to receive an invitation to be a guest speaker at the conference. The CEMC is a highly important event. It is the first and only event of its kind in the Gulf and the Middle East. It came at an opportune time in light of the events and circumstances in the Arab region. It reflects the UAE leadership's keenness to pursue diligent efforts, with the international community, to address humanitarian crises and mitigate their effects.

The conference aimed at formulating and coordinating strategic emergency management plans, including response plans, and coordinating the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies during emergencies. In addition to all that, it aimed at encouraging and regulating joint collaboration between

neighbouring countries in the region.

- **How do you evaluate the role of international and regional conferences? How can these conferences achieve their objectives?**

International and regional emergency management conferences raise awareness and enhance the performance and the efficiency of response efforts. These events offer an important platform for the exchange of expertise, experiences technologies. They help coordinating the efforts to improve crisis management capabilities. We are about to hold our first emergency management drill in the UAE in coordination with the UNHCR and the International

The Syrian crisis has put us to a difficult test. Nearly 3.2 million Syrian refugees are registered in the region in addition to more than 7.5 million displaced persons inside Syria, and they all need assistance.

City for Humanitarian Services in Dubai.

- **What are the main principles of successful emergency and crisis management?**

Prediction of crises is one of the most essential aspects of successful crises management. It helps in reducing the negative effects of crisis to a minimum using preemptive measures to either prevent the crisis from occurring or to address efficiently in case it wasn't prevented. Staff readiness and the availability of capabilities during crises, in addition to adequate planning and coordination, contribute to effective response.

- **Emergency response efforts will not be effective without adequate collaboration among the agencies involved. What kind of relationship does the UNHCR have with these organisations and agencies?**

The UNHCR is a humanitarian organisation that leads and coordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve their problems all over the world. UNHCR has enjoyed close relations of cooperation with partners, service providers in various humanitarian fields, to ensure that humanitarian needs everywhere are being met.

- **Why are partnerships with other organisations and civil society organisations important for the success of the role of UNHCR and its functions?**

In times of emergency, a crisis is so big that it exceeds the capacity of a single organisation. Therefore, UNHCR works with all the partners, in order to meet the needs of refugees and displaced people around the world.

- **What is preventive prediction and how does it influence emergency management?**

Early prediction of crises before they occur is an important aspect of successful emergency management. It reduces negative effects to a minimum, through preemptive measures and effective pre-planned response action.

- **How can the media be an effective partner in emergencies and crises?**

The media has an important role to play. It can be an essential partner in emergencies and crises as it can help offer guidance information to the public on how to deal with emergencies, crises and disasters. The media can also shed light on humanitarian situations and the needs of victims and affected populations to encourage support and assistance.

The CEMC in Abu Dhabi is highly important. It is the first and only event of its kind in the Gulf and the Middle East. It came at an opportune time in light of the events and crises in the Arab region.

- **The international community is incapable of avoiding and resolving conflicts and struggles, meanwhile the need for strong emergency response capabilities is ever-growing. How can it be achieved?**

The humanitarian aid provided by UNHCR and its partners is life-saving, not political. At the end of the day, political solutions will put an end to crises.

- **Risks are growing in intensity around the world. Deadly conflicts are proliferating and forced displacement remains a significant issue... what do you have to say about this?**

We are always calling on the international community to share the burden with host countries and provide for basic the needs of refugees until the crisis is over.

**Crown Princes of Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain Towards
National Service**

**Muhammad bin Zayed to Recruits:
We remain devoted to our forefathers and to
our homeland in preserving our developmental
achievements**

A country whose leadership and citizens are dedicated to serve and protect has nothing to fear ... Young men and women of the homeland, who master their craft and are keen on achieving goals give no reason for concern... Those who shoulder their responsibilities to the fullest, with courage and high national spirit give no reason for concern.

The young men and women of UAE steadily showed these qualities, with each national call for duty. They manifested more steadfastness and

eagerness as they responded to the call to join the National and Reserve Service, in its first batch. Recruits went ahead with determination, with eyes set on the interest of their country, a country marked with a promising future, through their sense of national duty, in order to prove their devotion to their homeland, to themselves, and to their children and the community, and to confirm that the UAE is a State worthy of life, civilization and development.



Mohammed bin Zayed with Recruits

His Highness General Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces paid a visit to "Manama Training Center", the oldest in Ajman, which was established in

1957. He was interested in meeting recruits and conveying the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and his pride in their positive response to the call of duty. His Highness said: "the youth of the nation presented the finest examples

of dedication and devotion to serve, enhance and promote their country, under the wise leadership of a government that believes in the centrality of its human resources within the overall sustainable development process".

He also asserted in the same occasion that "the UAE is resolutely moving towards more achievements and building a promising and bright future, with the help of Allah the Almighty and thanks to the efforts of its citizens, their willingness and unlimited ambition, to attain advanced and high statures for our dear country in the various fields."

Addressing recruits, Sheikh Mohammed said: "today, we take the opportunity to pay tribute to your honourable stance and express pride for your high national spirit and effective response, which were a national and popular cause for pride, reflecting good resonance and great comfort for the country's leadership."

UAE citizens are aware of their responsibilities

His Highness expressed delight about the visit and said: "I am very happy to be today with the sons of my country, the sons of Zayed, the sons of Khalifa, may Allah preserve them... We are glad to see their level of discipline, high spirits and courage, may Allah preserve them for the country and for their families." And he added: "the people of our country are fully aware of the responsibility entrusted to them. They are the new generation that serves the security and stability of UAE." Sheikh Mohammad also expressed satisfaction about "the keenness and seriousness he sensed among recruits in mastering all the skills given to them during their national service training". He considered that "in spite of the brief period in the fields of training, we saw in their eyes what we were wagering on, and our wager was right. They proved that they can demonstrate a measure of responsibility and trust".

Speaking about the eagerness of recruits, he said: "the striking enthusiasm our sons and daughters have shown in the fields of honour is a powerful

expression of their great love and loyalty to the country, which embodies the values of honour, loyalty and dedication to serve the nation. This positive response to the call of duty is the fruit of the seeds our late father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan - may Allah rest his soul in peace, had planted. Seeds of sublime values, love, dedication, loyalty and sacrifice for the homeland. And the same values are promoted and entrenched by our wise leadership today, under the rule of His Highness the President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE vice President, the Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and his brothers, members of the Supreme Council and rulers of the Emirates".

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi went on to say: "The high spirit I saw in of our young sons and daughters as they perform their national and reserve service was expected. We are accustomed to see them showing responsibility. They are aware of the imperatives of these responsibilities and national duties that should be borne and carried out. They realise that the job of protecting and defending the homeland is an honour for loyal citizens who love their country and a trust all people seek to acquire. National service is a positive and constructive step for Emirati youth and a vast domain for them to enhance their capabilities and potentials in the nation's service. Today, we are required, more than ever, to strengthen our developmental and strategic policies with a vision, based on the historical heritage of UAE, which interacts with the variables, keeps pace with new developments, and looks at the future ambitiously and attentively, as Emirati young people are at the very heart of this strategy".

We want for our country to always be in the lead

His Highness stressed that "we all belong to one nation, and we remain faithful to our forefathers and homeland by preserving our achievements. We will continuously be proactive in seeking every method in science, knowledge and power to protect our country and promote its national gains. All of

us want our country to always be in the lead, and to compete with advanced nations. This will be achieved - with Allah's help – by you, according to an ambitious action strategy that allows us to reach our high national goals".

HH the Crown Prince explained that "meeting challenges and hardships requires collaboration and cohesion, coupled with awareness, readiness and continuous preparation. Mitigating risks and threats calls for teamwork, but that does not mean waiting for others to cooperate, we have to be cautious and prepared for any circumstance". He pointed out that "The next phase the UAE is looking at in terms of growth and progress, urges us all to pursue collective action and integrated coordination to achieve our national goals and vision. In today's world, population density is a good factor, but quality is the essence of capabilities. And in spite of the technical development of equipment and devices, qualified national manpower remains the most effective element of national action".

HH Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan was accompanied in his visit to Manama Center by HH Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of "Zayed Foundation", HE Mohammed Ahmad Al Bawardi Al Falasi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence, and a number of officials. His Highness was received by Lt. General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, and Major General Eissa Saif bin Ablan Al Mazrouei, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, a number of senior military leaders, and Maj. Gen. Pilot Sheikh Ahmed bin Tahnoon bin Muhammad Al Nahyan, Chairman of the "National Service and Reserve Authority".

Crown Princes of Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah and Umm Al Quwain Towards National Service

In a scene that distinguishes the UAE from other nations and reflects integration between its wise leadership and people, and demonstrates

enthusiasm for service and duty, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Muhammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, and HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Quwain, completed the registration procedures to enroll in the national and reserve service in Rahmaniya Camp at Sharjah Recruitment Centre.

His Highness the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah stressed that "performing national service is a badge of honour for Emiratis, in addition to being a sacred national duty towards the homeland that has given the people pride and stability, under the wise leadership of His Highness the President of UAE, which made the UAE a beacon of development, and placed at the head of world countries in terms of human and cultural development." He added that "the enthusiasm shown by the nation's citizens to enroll in the national service demonstrates the high national spirit and the sense of national responsibility, the deep-rooted values of loyalty and belonging to UAE and its wise leadership, and performing the national duty of protecting the soil of the homeland and preserving its achievements and gains". He pointed out that "the sons of the nation are the solid fortification of the State. The people of UAE present an example in sacrifice and dedication for the homeland and their people". His Highness pointed out that "the national service law applies to everyone." He said he is included in the age group that was required by the National Service and Reserve Authority and hence he reported to the registration centre to complete his registration procedures. "I believe Emirati youth are fortunate to live in this phase of national cohesion," he noted.

The Crown Prince of Fujairah considered that "joining the national service is a sacred duty and a great honour for every citizen that loves this nation that has been a source of pride for us all among other nations of the world, and we are working hard to preserve the gains achieved so far". He added:

"Observing the eagerness of UAE youth to join national service, one can sense their sincere love, their high national spirit and their sense of national responsibility; a heartwarming image that shows how loyalty and belonging to UAE and its wise leadership should be. Those who answered the nation's call are models of sacrifice and devotion. We came here to answer this call, which adds to our honour and pride. We shall spare no effort to preserve the achievements of UAE". He stressed that "the national service law applies to everyone, so we came to be with the recruits, standing together to serve our beloved country".

For his part, the Crown Prince of Umm Al Quwain said: "it is a great honour to join my brothers and sisters, people of UAE today to respond to the call of duty and join national service, as an embodiment of the spirit of loyalty and pride in our country and its wise leadership, and as an expression of solidarity among our people in the defence of our homeland. Our wise leadership, since the foundation of the Union, under the rule of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his fellow founder fathers, has supported our national responsibilities of nation building, promotion of its unity and protection of its gains". He emphasised that "the national service and reserve law strengthened national cohesion between the people of UAE and the wise leadership and embodied the fusion between people and the government to achieve the leadership's vision in exploring the prospects of the future. This national experience has revealed the authenticity of national belonging and readiness of citizens to perform and improve, as well as the depth of citizens' loyalty to the leadership."

Ahmad bin Tahnoon: "No Special Exceptions in National Service"

Maj. Gen. Pilot Sheikh Ahmad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, the President of the "National Service and Reserve Authority" noted that "the Federal Law no. 6 of 2014, includes every Emirati, who is subject

to the conditions of joining the service". He also stressed the necessity to respond to the messages of the "National Service and Reserve Authority", which called on them to end the service registration processes in a timely manner, in order to avoid their exposure to legal accountability, in coordination with concerned authorities in the State. Sheikh Tahnoon stressed that no exceptions will be granted to any of the UAE society categories".

The President of the National Service and Reserve Authority explained that "the registration process includes all groups and persons, listed under the declared age groups, without regard to their educational or vocational status or special circumstances that may exempt them from service".

Maj. Gen. Pilot Sheikh Ahmad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan said: "the demands to postpone or deport the service to a later time falls under the jurisdiction of employers. Yet, the process of postponing enrollment of an employee to a subsequent session falls under the powers of his/ her employer, given the nature of the employee's duties, the interest of the employer and consideration of the personal circumstances of staff. Tahnoon revealed that "the National Service and Reserve Authority initiated the study of adopting flexible mechanisms to deal with the staff of a number of specific professional specialties. It holds coordination meetings with many government and private sector agencies, which are connected by qualified technical and professional competencies, in an effort to secure the mechanisms that guarantee not to prejudice the interests of these parties".

On the other hand, Sheikh Ahmad bin Tahnoon confirmed «the increasing interest of women to be enrolled in the second batch of the national service», He pointed out that this is linked to "the positive impressions that resulted of the first female batch and the positive impressions that were reflected by the female members for the period which was spent in service camps".



“We must race against time to come up with more sustainable solutions”

Mohammed bin Rashid approves project to set up nationwide air quality network

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai asserted that the protection of a clean local environment is a top concern for him “because it affects the health and safety of the entire community, which is a top priority for us.”

He added: “The UAE and its people deserve from us that we provide them with a healthy environment and clean air.” And he went on to say: “We must race against time to come up with more sustainable solutions.”

Sheikh Mohammed addressed participants in a government brainstorming session organised by the Ministry of Environment and Water recently. He said: “My brother, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is walking in the steps of the founding father of the nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in the field of environmental preservation, and contributes to international efforts to execute a strategy for green economy and a national strategy for green development, as well as launching giant projects that serve our people and all humanity and conserve natural resources.”

He called on government entities and experts to come up with applicable ideas and added: “This requires you to go to the field, interact with people and get a firsthand experience of the environmental challenges in order to find suitable solutions to them. We look forward to seeing an expansion of dialogue and your coming up with unprecedented ideas that encompass all environmental issues, the most important of which are UAE citizens and our natural resources.”



HH Sheikh Mohammed also noted the importance of the role of the private sector as an essential partner, in sharing this responsibility and supporting these environmental initiatives and projects aimed at achieving a pollution-free environment that preserves the health and safety of society.

During the session, Sheikh Mohammed approved a proposal to set up a nationwide air quality-monitoring network to provide accurate environmental data on the quality of air.

Attending part of the session, with HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, he stressed the importance of innovation in the field of environmental action. He urged participants to finalise studies related to the project to allow for its implementation in the near future.

More than 100 representatives from federal and local government entities, took part in the brainstorming session, in addition to representatives from the private sector and environmental experts.

This brainstorming session organised by the Ministry of Environment and Water is the first of its kind to be hosted by the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation. It aimed to develop innovative initiatives and a joint strategy addressing environmental issues in order to meet the related national agenda goals and contribute to the Emirates 2020 vision.

HH Sheikh Mohammed gave directives to all federal government departments to embrace the experience of the “Government Innovation Lab” as a standard practice in order to develop government services.



Diligent and Confident Steps towards Pharmaceutical Self-Sufficiency and Engagement in World Markets

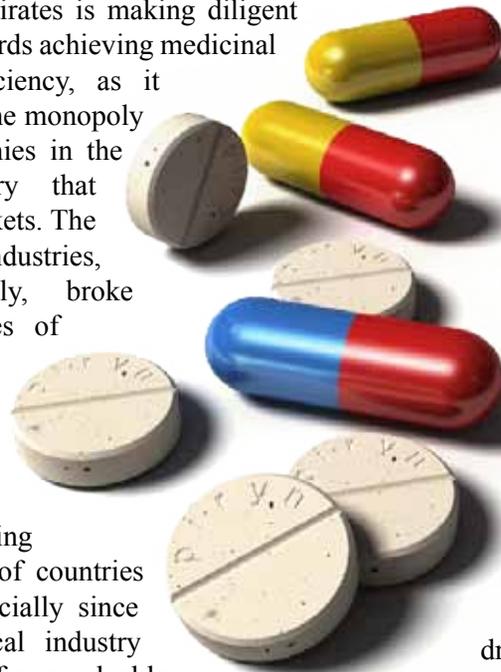
In UAE: 30 Plants by 2020

Production of Cancer Medication by 2016

The United Arab Emirates is making diligent and confident steps towards achieving medicinal security and self-sufficiency, as it succeeded in breaking the monopoly of international companies in the pharmaceutical industry that export drugs to our markets. The UAE pharmaceutical industries, boldly and efficiently, broke into important «spheres of influence», through self-sufficiency at the level of the internal market need for hundreds of pharmaceutical items, and hence, it is exporting its products to dozens of countries around the world, especially since the UAE pharmaceutical industry was able to impose itself as a valuable player in the competitive global markets, after acquiring certificates from the most prestigious pharmaceutical bodies in the world.

Following the inauguration of the plant to produce raw insulin for the treatment of diabetes in 2012, which can produce the drug in export quantities, it is expected that the production of cancer medications and drugs will begin in Abu Dhabi by 2016. Meanwhile, the UAE Ministry of Health announced that there would be 30 pharmaceutical plants operating in the country by 2020.

Dr. Amin Hussein Al Amiri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Public Health Policy



and Licenses and Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Licensing Committee, said that there are 15 drug plants licensed in the United Arab Emirates, 8 of which produce 990 medication varieties in different doses. The remaining seven plants produce medical equipment and supplies.

He pointed out that the ministry received applications to establish 15 additional plants. These plants are expected to be operational and in full production swing by 2020, bringing the number of medicine plants in the State to 30. This is a strong indicator for drug production in UAE and for the country's engagement in the system of pharmaceutical innovation, which enhances its competitiveness in the global health sector.

For this end, Abu Dhabi recently launched the construction works on the first center for medicinal research and manufacturing for the treatment of cancer in United Arab Emirates, in Khalifa Industrial Zone. The plant is expected to begin production of cancer treatment drugs in 2016.

A statement by «Life Pharma» Company, cooperating in this project with the UAE Ministry of Health, said that both sides seek to place Abu Dhabi and UAE on the map of drug producing countries in the world, by carrying out advanced research on cancer and many other diseases, so as



to find a cure.

The statement pointed out that the new plant will adhere to international standards and rules approved by international health organisations, such as the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in Britain and the US Food and Drug Administration.

It is noteworthy in this regard that the UAE has become the hub for international companies, concerned with medicine and medical equipment, due to producing medicines in the country, with the constant and continuous support from the Ministry of Health, as a legislative entity, which is concerned with regulating the pharmaceutical sector, as well as the modern infrastructure and systems, which encourage investments in the pharmaceutical sector and encourage international companies to have a presence in the region. And above all, we must not forget the support of the UAE wise leadership for innovation and creativity and encouragement of investment in the health sector, in general, and in the pharmaceutical sector, in particular.

In fact, the first insulin manufacturing plant in the Middle East region was launched by Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries «JULPHAR» in September 2012. It specialises in the production of insulin raw, marking the beginning of the stage of commercial production of raw insulin, with an annual capacity of 1,500 kilograms, enough to provide 45 million injections for the use of diabetes patients, in addition to meeting the needs of Gulf and Arab market.

The CEO of «JULPHAR», Dr. Ayman Sahli, considered that the project represents an unprecedented pharmaceutical breakthrough in the Middle East, as it establishes the scientific and manufacturing position of UAE, which reached its peak by accessing the technique of producing raw insulin. This opens the doors wide for prosperity in the strategic insulin production industry, making it readily and permanently available at competitive prices.

He added that the company's entry into the biotechnology field necessitated hard scientific and physical efforts, spreading over eight continuous years, until the production of raw insulin was achieved, as per international quality specifications and in quantities that cover the consumer needs in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Sahli also said that the production process necessitated that the company obtain approvals from prestigious international bodies, such as the European Commission for Drug Registration and the British Drug Administration. These efforts culminated with the agreement that was concluded with Parexel Global, which enabled the development of the pharmaceutical production paving the way to the stage of commercial production.

It is worthy to mention that the four companies that are the most productive and influential in the UAE pharmaceutical market are: Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries «JULPHAR», the largest and oldest of these companies with ten plants located in the Ras Al Khaimah Emirate; «Global Pharma», the first company in Dubai, and the subsidiary of Dubai Investments Industries; New Pharma, which is based in Mussafah Industrial Zone in Abu Dhabi, the third largest pharmaceutical plant in the Country; and Med Pharma, which ranks fourth. There are other small plants, such as «Pharma Care» and «Gulf Inject», which produce pharmaceuticals and medical solutions.

These companies produce a variety of drugs, including antibiotics, gastrointestinal drugs and treatments for diabetes, heart, blood vessels, rheumatism and painkillers, for both adults and children. Drugs produced by these companies can be found in all UAE pharmacies.

UAE pharmaceutical products received certificates of good manufacturing from the UAE Ministry of Health and from many health ministries all over the world.



Constitute a violation of the sovereignty of nations and threaten its national security

UAE calls for international law to criminalise cyber terrorism

The United Arab Emirates called for an international legal framework, or an international legislation, criminalising cyber terrorism, which constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of states. The UAE stressed the importance of building links, relations and close partnership between governments and private sector institutions, and companies working in the field of cyberspace to prevent cyber terrorism. The UAE pointed to the importance of reaching an international agreement, or understanding, on common concepts regarding the balance between freedom of expression and the media and the protection of security, as the damage caused by cyber warfare, and its repercussions on international peace and security, can be carried out under the umbrella of freedom of access to information and human rights, but at the detriment of the right of states to protect their sovereignty and security. It is important for parliaments to have a role to play in providing a secure environment for the peaceful use of cyberspace.

These comments were included in a speech made by Sultan Saif Al Samahi, Federal National Council member and member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) group during the first permanent committee meeting "International Security and Peace Committee" of the IPU, which was held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva.

Al Samahi pointed out that cyber terrorism has increased with the development of technology in the world today. It is closely linked to international peace and security, as it breaks through state networks, with the aim of causing serious damage or disabling electronic systems related to infrastructure, water and power stations, or military installations. Cyber terrorists can access military information, which may adversely affect international peace and security.

He said that cyber warfare seriously impacts

international relations, as it includes violations of national sovereignty concepts. This underlines the importance of developing a legal framework to combat cyber terrorism. At present, there are no international agreements or specific international commitments to criminalise this type of cyber attacks. Countries simply rely on Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, pertaining to the right of states to defend themselves in the event of an armed attack.

Many challenges face the fight against cyber terrorism, he added, such as the absence of international legislation in this regard. More than 80 per cent of cyberspace is owned by private companies and enterprises, and that hinders governments' efforts to regulate international cyber activities.

He observed that, unlike conventional military attacks, it is difficult to respond to cyber terrorist attacks since it is difficult to determine their sources, unless attackers were to come forwards and claim responsibility for their attacks, which does not happen normally. Hence it is necessary to work to strengthen cooperation between countries to curb attacks from within their territories, through security institutions such as Interpol.

Al Samahi noted that despite the lack of a specific and clear concept of cyber terrorism, some experts unanimously agreed to define it as actions by a state to attempt to break through computer networks of state agencies in another state in the aim of inflicting severe or disabling damage.

Cyber terrorism methods vary and include secret cyber warfare, which is carried out using coded espionage software planted in the target party's systems. Another type of cyber terrorism includes attacks on economic targets associated with finance and business, and attacks on power grids as well as attacks on civilian targets, such as medical information networks, leading to losses in the lives of civilian patients.

Concluding his speech, Al Samahi made a number of



How to avoid the risks of thunder and thunderbolts?

Lightning is a dazzling light that suddenly appears in the sky in turbulent weather. It is a massive natural electrical discharge resulting from the collision between two clouds, one with negative electric charge and the other with positive electric charge. The light is followed by a booming sound known as “thunder”. Together, lightning and thunder form a “thunderbolt”.

Thunder storms usually hit the surface of the earth, especially land and coastal areas, although thunder activity is at its highest in tropical areas. A high incidence of thunderstorms occurs on mountaintops, too. Areas that don't witness any thunderstorms are the North and South Poles.

Scientists say that the rise in the Earth's temperature may lead to a significant increase in the number of lightning bolts and thunderstorms, which could lead to fires.

Lightning bolts aren't the most deadly secondary effect of thunderstorms. Floods due to heavy rainfall that normally occur after these storms could claim the lives of more people. However, lightning bolts that come from the clouds and hit the ground could ignite forest fires. In fact, a single thunderstorm generates hundreds, and even thousands of lightning bolts that carry a tremendous amount of thermal and



electromagnetic energy, which could cause widespread fires.

Meteorologists classify the different types of lightning according to their course. The most dangerous is the lightning coming from the clouds to the ground, which could strike things or living creatures. Indeed, indirect lightning strikes may also be harmful or fatal, because the power charge may be transmitted through the ground. If a tree is struck by lightning, the current spreading from it into the ground could kill cattle grazing a few meters away. The two other types of lightning

are the intercloud lightning, which travels from cloud to cloud, and this is the most common type. It dissipates in the air and does not have a specific goal. The second, is silent lightning, which may be silent to a remote viewer, but this means that the sound waves of thunder have already dissipated.

Lightning is usually harmless because most of its charges do not reach the Earth. But in some cases, if it is strong enough, it can uproot a tree, destroy a chimney or even kill a person or an animal.

However, it has been shown that most of those who were struck by lightning were usually taking

shelter under a tree, and this is the most dangerous thing to do when a thunderstorm breaks out because trees and high-rise buildings actually conduct thunderbolts. Consequently, the roofs of buildings should be equipped with lightning rods; metal chains that absorb electricity and divert their fatal charges to the centre of the Earth.

Lightning rods absorb the charges and scatter them peacefully into the ground, away from the building. The massive energy of a thunderbolt is capable of destroying anything that stands in its way.

How to avoid the risks of lightning

When a thunderstorm is brewing in the area you are in, proceed with caution. Find a safe shelter and avoid any contact with metallic objects or hiding under trees.

In case you are at home

- Avoid taking a shower, because the pipelines and bathroom installations may conduct electricity from lightning.
- Avoid using telephones with cords, except in case of emergency. Cordless and cellular phones are safer to use in such conditions.
- Unplug electric devices and equipment (such as computers) from power sources and turn off your air conditioners because the energy resulting from lightning can cause serious damage.

In case you are outside your home, search for a safe shelter

- Head inside a building or a vehicle.
- In open spaces or forests, hide in lower grounds, for example in a place where shrubs grow densely.
- In open spaces, curl up by crawling on the floor.
- If you happen to be out at sea, head to the

shore.

- If you are driving a bicycle, motorbike or a golf cart, step away from it.
- If you are in gathering with other people, go your separate ways.

When thunder roars do not...

- Use the phone and electric devices and equipment.
- Stand under high trees.
- Stay outside or in elevated places.
- Touch metallic objects.
- Get close to metal fences, pipes and railways.

How to deal with victims of lightning bolts?

You must immediately call the relevant authorities or rescue and ambulance services if anyone around you is struck by lightning. You must move carefully to try to assist the victim while waiting for rescue crews to arrive on scene, and make sure not to commit any mistake that could harm you.

People struck by lightning sustain a powerful electric charge that could burn them. But the charge doesn't remain in their bodies; you could touch them and treat them without harm. It may seem that the victim was instantly killed, but immediate first aid could help save them.

In case the victim isn't breathing, he/she must be resuscitated immediately by administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation at an interval of 5 seconds for adults and 3 seconds for children.

Victims that don't sustain bodily injuries may be left stunned. They, too, require care and attention. They must be examined for burns on the hands, feet, knuckles and throat. In any of these cases, victims shouldn't be allowed to move. They must remain in place while rescue crews arrive on the scene.