

# Taware'e

wa Azamat

Together .. we preserve the country's achievements

Quarterly Magazine Published by NCEMA - 20th Issue - March 2017

## **Khalifa Bin Zayed: Giving to become a social trend involving everybody**



**Arab Volunteer Work  
Union Secretary General:  
The UAE is N1 in foreign  
assistance and field medical work**

**Major-General Fahad  
bin Ahmed Al-Shaalan:  
Both soft and hard powers  
are needed to face crises**

**Goodness From The UAE to All The World**  
**1406 Initiatives, events and programs to be launched  
by the local governments for year of giving**

# ترقبوا مسابقات جاهز

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ثقافة الطوارئ والأزمات والكوارث  
في المؤسسات التعليمية والمجتمعية  
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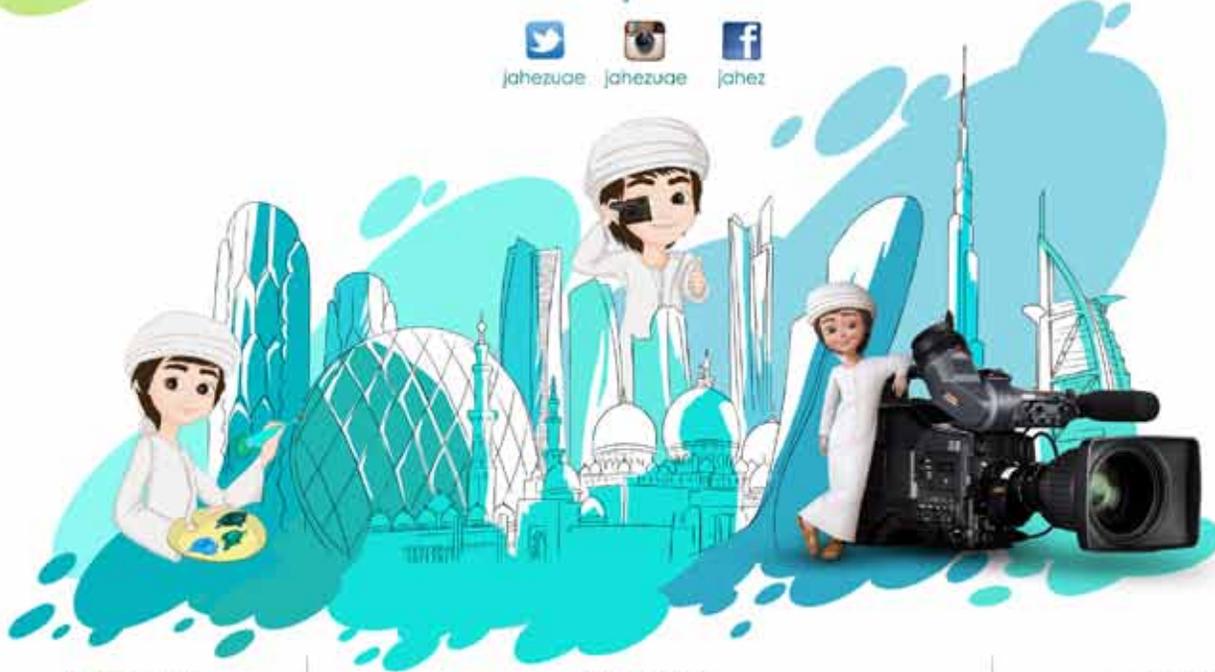
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## Good shall conquer dark forces

While the UAE leadership and people were mobilising to activate the initiative of UAE president HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, who declared 2017 the year of giving, and while our organisations were still sowing seeds of good and hope where needed, dark forces were planning to sow evil, shed blood and spread death. How could they do otherwise, they are the forces that have adopted terrorism and killing as a means to impair development and construction, so that every corner of the world is transformed into a fertile ground for backwardness.

Few countries, the UAE included, have contrasted the surrounding fires and destruction with a different landscape, that of civilisation, the epitome of humanity and positivity. The UAE called for good deeds to face evil, and launched enthusiastically in a race the region hasn't witnessed in a long time, a race of giving, happiness and the good of society.

Since its inception, the UAE steadily advanced towards development, growth, construction and prosperity. The year of giving with its thousands of initiatives only came to reinforce this policy that the UAE adopted since its creation. Despite the many storms, the various defeats and wars, the UAE stood firm among other countries treading along with greater perseverance and determination.

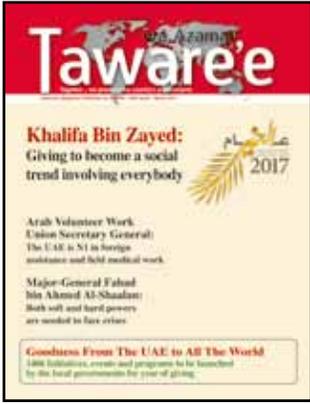
Indeed 2017 was declared the year of giving, but the approach prevailed since the creation of the Union. In line with its plans and policies to harness

sustainability, the UAE shall sow the seeds of good this year and the years to come, for a brighter future.

Good quickly spilled over to all government entities and segments for society. Local governments launched 1400 initiative. National media joined in an unprecedented coverage of the journey of giving, as well as events organised by the private sector and individuals. The aim is for everyone to work for the good of everyone else, so that giving can become a way of life. Initiatives covered healthcare, education, culture, arts, manufacturing, and trade. Government entities and companies daily launched new initiatives, big or small. Everyone is working hand in hand, as if the country was transformed into a bee hive, filled with coordinated activities and commendable results.

The UAE sows seeds of good that boom and germinate into the surroundings. The UAE red crescent volunteers increased to tens of thousands to contribute to the giving strategy, becoming a beacon of good in the region and the world. The year of giving was inaugurated with the distribution of 50 thousand meals, treated 1500 injured in Yemen, sponsored 7692 orphans in Sudan against 33.850 million dirhams.

Today the UAE stands tall, proud of its humanity that shines around the earth, and has become a role model for all civilisations, from east to west. The UAE will advance on its journey to lead the caravan of civilisation to a brighter more beautiful future.



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" هدفنا غرس حب الخير والتطوع وخدمة  
المجتمع كقيمة عليا في مؤسستنا ومبدأ  
أساسي في حياة أبنائنا "  
خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان

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## To become a culture for all segments of society

### UAE president names 2017 the year of giving

Giving must be a societal direction for all, accordingly HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, UAE president, announced 2017 the year of giving. HH asserted that this initiative reflected the UAE's approach, since its inception, in humanitarian work and giving to all without any return...His Highness recalled the legacy of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, who harnessed values of giving and charity as a basis for the UAE mission, spreading its helping hands everywhere.



This year the focus will be on three main themes: 1/ promote the social responsibility of the private sector companies to assume their role in serving the nation and contribute to its development, 2/ harness the culture of volunteering, and specialised programs among all segments of society, 3/anchor the culture of serving the nation among the younger generation, as a characteristic of the UAE persona, so that service to the nation can always be synonymous of the love to the nation.

The UAE president said, "The UAE has global accomplishments in the field of humanitarian aid and we seek to boost this culture as it represents one of the most important merits of the UAE's personality and its institutions. As far as we provide assistance, Allah the Almighty will increase blessings, stability, security, safety, peace of mind, and a dignified life for us".

His Highness pointed out that "True citizenship does not mean to take always but also means sacrificing precious things for the sake of the homeland." He explained, adding, "Serving the homeland and the society is a joint responsibility between the government, individuals and private sector, and the UAE will always be one team

The president also pointed out the importance of voluntary culture as an indicator of the development of the society, saying, "Our goal is to instil the culture of voluntary service and serving the society as a higher value in our institutions and in our citizens."

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has directed immediate implementation of the directives of the president. This is to be accomplished through the setting up of



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE armed forces hoped the Year of Giving will ‘jump

an overall framework to activate the "Year of Giving" by identifying the objectives, drafting the federal and local initiatives, unification of volunteer work in all its forms, and efforts to strengthen the culture of social responsibility in order to involve individuals and institutions from the public and private sectors in the development of the UAE.

Sheikh Mohammed confirmed that designating a year to celebrate and spread humanitarian work enhances the prestige of the country globally as one of the biggest donors. "The President, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, have positioned the UAE to be number one globally on humanitarian indicators as they are the role models of the Emirati generations."

start collective efforts to offer the best, each in their own field and specialisation, for a brighter future". His Highness added, "each individual and each institution is called upon to contribute an idea, initiative or activity towards good, to enhance social cohesion." HH insisted that "strong societies that are well positioned globally, are those that adopt humanitarian approaches and work for the good of humanity as a whole".

The Year of Giving reflects the civilised face of the UAE, harnesses the values of social responsibility, the culture of humanitarian work, strengthens competitiveness in humanitarian and volunteer work, and fosters a long journey of giving... this comes as a continuation of a series of initiatives in the UAE, following the 2016 year of reading to raise awareness about the importance of reading in shaping characters ■

## Khalifa orders three-day mourning

**The UAE bids farewell to its martyrs who fell in the Kandahar blast**



The UAE bid farewell on January 10th to its righteous sons who were martyred on the aisle of philanthropy and humanitarian work following the cowardly attack against a meeting with Afghan officials at the headquarters of the Governor of Kandahar, as part of the joint UAE development, humanitarian and education work in Afghanistan.

The UAE Ambassador to Afghanistan, Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi succumbed to his injuries. The blast also injured the Governor of Kandahar and a number of UAE diplomats who were on that visit as part of the UAE program to support the Afghan people. The visit included placing the foundation stone of the Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan House in the Governorate, signing an MoU with the Kardan University to award grants from the UAE, in presence with the Kandahar. The foundation stone of the Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan institute was also place in the capital Kabul, funded by the Khalifa Foundation.

The Kandahar chief of police, General Abdul Razak announced 11 were killed, and 12 injured in the blast.

HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, UAE president, paid tribute to the martyrs of the nation Mohammed Ali Zainal Al Bastaki, Abdullah Mohammed Essa Obaid Al Kaabi, Ahmed Rashid Salim Ali Al Mazroui, Ahmed Abdul Rahman

Ahmad Al Tunajji, and Abdul Hamid Sultan Abdullah Ibrahim Al Hammadi. The president ordered the flags to fly at half-mast in all ministries, departments and government agencies for three days, in memory of those who fell while performing their national and humanitarian duty.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, UAE Vice-president, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai, for his part paid tribute to the righteous martyrs of the nation...HH expressed the pride of the UAE leadership and people in the humanitarian role that their sons perform around the world. HH emphasized that terrorism does not know the meaning of humanity and its noble value. He added that the martyrs sacrificed their lives serving the weak, children and the underprivileged. His Highness asserted that the UAE will remain true to its commitment, and will remain on its path to stand by all the needy.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown



Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, asserted that terrorist attacks cannot undermine the determination of the UAE to pursue its humanitarian work, to sow the seeds of hope, lend a caring hand to help countries and people in need. HH said: the forces of evil behind this cowardly attack want to prevent construction, development and care from reaching Afghanistan. They are never happy to see joy, smiles and hope shine on the faces of the Afghan people. However, we shall pursue our philanthropist, humanitarian and development work. We are determined to spread hope, optimism, and good wherever we are. This is our constant approach and our belief that we will never side from.

The UAE buried its five martyrs after large crowds from Abu Dhabi, al Ain, Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah prayed for their souls. Four bodies had reached Al Buteen airport on board a UAE military plane, where they were received in an official ceremony, in presence of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, Deputy prime minister, minister of presidential affairs, and HH Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed al Nahyan, Minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, as well as a number of high officials and officers from the armed forces.

The terrorist attack warranted widespread condemnation on the regional and international levels. Dr. Abdul Latif al

Zayani, SG of the GCC described the attack as “a cowardly act of terror that negates all moral and humanitarian principles”. The KSA cabinet, in a meeting in Riyadh with the Custodian of the two Holy sites, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, declared “these horrible acts of terror contradict all Muslim values”. Kuwait asserted it shall stand by the UAE and Afghanistan, and support them in their efforts to counter terrorism and extremism.

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabbah al Ahmad, explained the position of his country that rejects all forms of terrorism, and stands beside the international community to counter terrorism and uproot it at the source. Bahrain and Qatar condemned the attack, assured the UAE of their support in the its efforts to keep peace and security both regionally and internationally.

Egypt condemned the terrorist bombing and extended its condolences to the UAE. The Mufti in Egypt, Shawki Alam condemned the terrorist attack, asserting that targeting civilians and diplomats, traumatizing the innocent is unacceptable in Islam, customs and peacefulness even during times of war. Jordan expressed its support to the UAE and Afghanistan in their attempt to fight terrorism and extremism. The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, condemned the terrorist attack and asserted that the Palestinian people stand beside and support the UAE.

The Russian Business Council in the UAE for its part denounced the terrorist attack in Kandahar and assured in a statement that ‘the UAE, built on principles of peace, defending the oppressed, supporting civilians in places of armed conflicts shall always be the epitome of philanthropy and humanity... consequently, terrorism will undoubtedly be defeated’ ■

## NASA: Asteroid advancing towards the Earth, humanity stands helpless



NASA warned that Earth is expected to collide with a huge asteroid, similar to the one that caused the extinction of dinosaurs, and brought the cretaceous period to an end (around 65 million years ago). Earth stands helpless in the face of an asteroid of this size, according to NASA.

The TX68 asteroid, discovered in 2013, is 100 feet wide and floats in space, heading towards Earth. NASA estimates possible impact on September 28, 2017, during the next passage of the asteroid on its orbit.

British newspaper The Mirror reported that the probability of a collision does not exceed 'one in 250 million... but it's still a possibility'.

The hypothesis of a collision says that the asteroid will explode in the atmosphere which will produce energy equivalent to that of a nuclear bomb, thus annihilating anything that comes in its way.

Dr. Joseph Nuth from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre said "It's a real danger". Dr. Paul Chodas, from the Near-Earth Object studies centre said 'the probability of the asteroid collision with earth during its next three passages near earth are minimal and do not pose a real threat'. He expects that 'future monitoring will reduce this probability further'. Despite that, he said that 'the asteroid orbit is unclear, which makes it difficult to determine its place'.

Los Alamos National Labs researcher Dr. Cathy Plesko said 'there were two ways humans might



deflect an asteroid: a nuclear warhead or a “kinetic impactor”.

David Mead, author of “Planet X: the 2017 arrival” said that an unknown planet was headed for earth and will definitely smash into it next October. He added that this menace was well known to the elite but was hidden from the people, to avoid panic. Mead said a dark body smaller than the sun with seven stars revolving around it including mystery planet Nibiru is heading towards the south pole.

According to British newspaper the Daily Mail, researchers obsessed with the conspiracy theory believe that the gravity of Nibiru affected the orbits of several planets 200 years ago.

The author’s predictions warranted many criticisms. A book critic said the author starts with

purely scientific facts, and quickly deviates into religious matters, to prove the veracity of his expectations about the earth’s destruction, at the end of the year. Critics perceived these warnings as unfounded, with no scientific evidence, aiming solely at creating a buzz.

Astronomers are incapable of accurately predicting the movement of asteroids, they rely on probabilities. They calculated 8 out of 10 possible scenarios, and were incapable of asserting if the asteroid will come at a 11-thousand-mile distance from the earth, which is a scary possibility; or whether it will be 1.3 million miles away. Astronomers had predicted the end of the world in 2012, which was largely publicised, and proved to be untrue ■

## UAE Volunteering bank set up To attract cadre from all fields



The Zayed Giving Initiative, UAE Societal Voluntary Program and Tadreeb signed an agreement to establish and manage the first specialized volunteering bank, with an initial investment of one million dirhams. The bank aims to attract cadres from different fields. It also will compile electronic records with the details of volunteers and available opportunities both locally and internationally.

The UAE Volunteering bank completes the Zayed Giving initiatives to disseminate a culture of volunteering and philanthropist work, mainly the launch of the UAE Societal Voluntary Program, the adoption of the UAE Voluntary Academy, and the UAE Volunteering prize.

The agreement seeks to harness a culture of volunteering and to empower youth in community service. This comes in response to the call of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, UAE president, to make 2017 the year of giving.

Dr. Adel Al Shameri, CEO of ZGI said, during the inauguration of the UAE Volunteering bank, three innovative services in volunteer work will be announced, namely the Volunteers electronic record, the investment

in social entrepreneurship service, and the volunteering certificate.

Moza Al Atbi, member of the ZGI board of trustees, for her part, said that volunteering is a main pillar of social cohesion and unity. Philanthropy has always been synonymous of charity work, and a sign of civility in any society. It indicates care, a desire to help others in their hardships, and stems from the principles of mutual support within a society.

The bank will compile the details of volunteers, to be made available upon the launch of any volunteering project or both public and private organizations will be asked to document volunteering from both the organization and the volunteer ■

## The UAE creates its first centre for happiness research



The UAE university, in collaboration with the National Happiness and Positivity Programme, announced the creation of the UAE centre for happiness research, the first of its kind in the UAE. The Centre aims to support the UAE efforts to harness happiness and positive values in the community, contribute to realizing the National programme goals, through specialised studies related to the science of happiness, measurements and indicators. It also attempts to identify trends and visions of the various social segments, to increase the UAE contribution in enriching global happiness content.

HE Ohood bin Khalfan al-Roomi, Ministry of State for Happiness, during a meeting held with HE Dr. Ali Rashid al-Nuami, Vice-Chancellor of the UAE university, underlined that the launch of the centre is an important step towards defining a

framework for happiness and positivity, through developing tools for measuring happiness, providing vital data and information about happiness signs in society, its sources and drivers, as well as a means to promote and disseminate positivity. HE commended the UAEU community initiatives and the role of the university in realizing the objectives of the National Happiness and Positivity agenda, through making it a way of life in the community and workplace.

Dr. al Nuami for his part asserted that the university shall strive, via the UAE centre for happiness research, to examine the trends and visions, and their implementation on the ground, through research, thus providing all information, research and outputs in line with the highest global standards ■

**The first of its kind in the world**  
**Tourism Court is founded in UAE**



In an attempt to enhance the competitiveness of the emirate of Abu Dhabi as a global destination for sustainable tourism, HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy prime minister, issued a decision to create the tourism prosecution and court, a first of its kind in the world.

HE Youssef Said al Ibri, Undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, indicated the need to provide high quality services to tourism, as one of the most promising investment sectors in the UAE.

The tourism court and prosecution will cooperate with relevant authorities to provide high quality services in line with best international practices, while ensuring the rule of law is maintained, justice is achieved and rights are upheld.

The AD General Attorney, HE Ali Mohammed al Bloushi, said that this measure will contribute in providing a clear database to offer legal solutions for any issues tourists might face when in the country, especially if these issues are due to cultural and legal differences ■

## A common problem that requires joint efforts among Sates Bill Gates warns the world against bioterrorism



Bill Gates, president of Microsoft, warned humanity against a new form of terrorism on the rise that the world at large needs to brace itself for. During the World Economic Forum Davos meeting last January, Gates said that bioterrorism that leads to a wide spread of epidemics can develop into a dangerous problem. As of now, we need to be prepared to face it. He also indicated that “it’s very difficult to determine the probability of bioterrorism acts, but the potential damage is huge”.

Gates touched on the danger of man-made and natural epidemics. He believes that these can cause the death of tens of thousands.

He expressed his concerns about “terrorist groups possibly resorting to nuclear or biological acts that could kill millions”. He emphasised the importance of collaboration

between governments to prevent bioterrorism. “It’s a global problem... therefore the countries of the world should work together to overcome it”, he added.

Gates warnings are being taken seriously, at least by his fellow technology experts. The New Yorkers Tad Friend quoted Sam Altman, the Y Combinator president in Silicon Valley, saying that biotechnology might mean the end of the world. He indicated that technology might manipulate a virus like H5N1 to make it deadlier in the next twenty years.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is part of an alliance to face epidemics. It focuses on innovating vaccines to contain the spread of diseases in the future, and has a 700-million-dollar capital. Gates however is concerned this might not be sufficient to counter this imminent threat against humanity ■

## Sports Conference calls for enactment of laws in the fight against crime



The 6th Sports vs. Crime Conference held in Dubai, titled Sports in making society happy, aims to raise awareness about the importance of physical activity as a prevention from contemporary society problems. The conference recommended to build on the results of studies in social psychology to address criminal behaviour, enact sports law and regulations, and contribute to crime prevention.

The conference, held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai, president of the Dubai Sports Council, was organised by the Dubai Police GHQ. The conference encouraged organisations to adopt a training program on how to fight sexual harassment in sports, put in place the needed controls, and impose sanctions on molesters. The conference also called onto media to raise awareness and mentor, to emphasize human values in sports. It was also recommended to create programmes to fight the most common negative phenomena in the community, to reject

violence, fanaticism, criminal behaviour, riots in stadiums, steroids and drug abuse... the sports associations were called upon to devise a common strategy to enhance positive outcomes of sports to contain crime.

The conference featured papers and participants from the UAE, KSA, Kuwait, Bahrain, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, USA, South Korea, Poland, India, Portugal, France, UK.

Over three days, and seven panels, the conference covered eight themes including best practices in sports vs. crime, social psychology in addressing misdemeanour and crime among youth, misdemeanour and crime due to fanaticism in sports, sexual harassment in sports, digital steroids, the role of media in countering trends in the community, study of sports programmes and their impact in prevention from different forms of misdemeanour and intellectual fanaticism, and finally mental sports and their role in fighting crime ■

## Concerns over the possible collapse of the longest dam in California



Amidst rising fear of the imminent collapse of the biggest dam in the USA, authorities ordered the relocation of around 200 thousand residents of Oroville and the surrounding areas, in North California. Houses were evacuated on February 13, after heavy rainfall caused damages to the spillways, putting the dam a risk.

Officials announced that parts of the dam protecting the region from floods and sea waves are at risk of collapsing any time. Residents of the areas threatened by potential floods were asked to evacuate their homes. This is the first time the dam is at risk in 50 years.

The Department of Water Resources said, due to floods, water speed in the dam to increase from 55,000 to 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

Russian Novosti agency said the main spillways had collapsed while emergency spillways were

heavily damaged. Reuters reported that all rural areas on the banks, downstream of Feather river were at risk of being flooded.

Authorities responded immediately in an attempt to prevent the tragedy. Choppers dropped bags of boulders on the spillways. While special teams worked on reducing water levels in the lake by half. They succeeded in stopping the water flow. Following the achievement, state authorities expressed 'cautious optimism'. Local authorities nevertheless warned it was difficult to predict how things might unfold. Bill Croyle, acting director of the Department of Water resources said, "when such a structure is damaged, it's a catastrophe".

Later authorities allowed residents to return to their homes, but Butte County sheriff, Kory Honea, said "residents should be prepared to flee again if needed" ■

## Dubai Health Forum calls for the creation of a platform to address challenges faced by the industry



Dubai Health Forum called to support the Dubai Health Authority efforts to establish a 'local global' platform gathering ministers, leaders, decision makers and physicians, to develop future visions and needed solutions, in order to address challenges in the health sector, and to showcase global successful models and experiences.

The forum was held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, UAE vice-president, prime minister, ruler of Dubai. Proceedings lasted for two days, attended by 2000 participants, and included many sessions and panel discussions, featuring more than

40 speakers. Sessions covered seven important topics: technology in healthcare, sustainable health systems, governance legislation and medical ethics, healthcare leadership, investment for a healthier and happier community, and health workforce, family health and wellbeing.

The Forum, organised by DHA, aimed to first exchange experiences and innovative ideas, and ensure optimal communication with all healthcare stakeholders. Second, foster reflection on future trends. Third, develop and implement Dubai's vision in healthcare. Four, promote and support healthy lifestyles for individuals and communities.



to achieve breakthroughs in medicine and healthcare, prevention and treatment. Thus, the sector will accompany the latest international medical developments, inventions, modern technologies, which have become the basis of healthcare progress in our country and worldwide”.

His Highness called on competent authorities in the UAE to “intensify efforts, exploit the myriad of great minds and human capacities to focus on scientific research and studies in healthcare, continue investigating in all that is new in the world of medicine, state of the art equipment in surgeries and rare procedures, which will ensure a secure healthy life to all individuals”.



Participants in the forum included ministers, experts, and physicians from the UAE and abroad. They issued a final communique in which they considered HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum’s presence in the ministerial sessions that discussion local, GCC and global health issues as a clear indication of His Highness’s support to healthcare and its development. This also motivated officials and practitioners in this vital sector to innovate, present new ideas that serve healthcare and help in addressing issues and challenges.

Five, strengthen Dubai’s position and competitiveness on the international map.

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, welcomed the forum, and underlined that healthcare in the UAE in general and Dubai in particular warrant great attention, as it is the most important sector that touches the lives and happiness of people, the future of generations. HH said “investment in this sector, and namely in human resources, is a priority and will prove to be the most successful in the short and long term. This will ensure the needed cadres are qualified to manage the sector that requires professionalism, a clear vision, and scientific research

practitioners in this vital sector to innovate, present new ideas that serve healthcare and help in addressing issues and challenges.

HE Humaid Al Qatami Chairman of the Board and Director-General of the Dubai Health Authority said “DHA builds on Dubai’s international positioning and successive achievements in the UAE at large to organise specialised international events”. He added that the Dubai forum will be focal in developing healthcare, medicine, studies and research particularly after its success in adding international names to the list of participants and attendees ■

## NCEMA delegation visits the Oasis of Dignity



Dr. Jamal al Hosani, Director General of NCEMA, at the head of a NCEMA delegation visiting the Oasis of dignity in Abu Dhabi, asserted that the UAE leadership and people shall never forget their sons who have sacrificed their lives to hold high the nation's values and principles. He added that the UAE with its record of heroism and sacrifices has positioned itself as a unique model of giving, sacrifice and an oasis of security and stability.

The delegation, comprising of NCEMA heads of departments and employees, visited the Oasis, dressed in commemoration of the UAE martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation. They visited the martyr memorial made of 31 huge

aluminium plates, supporting each other. A symbol of unity, mutual support, harmony and strength... the delegation also visited the Pride Square, the Honour Pavillion... they prayed Allah almighty that he might receive the souls of the martyrs in heaven.

Dr. Al Hosani added that the Oasis of Dignity is a national monument, an epitome of devotion to the sacrifices of our sons the martyrs, a symbol of heroism, pride, courage and unity. The people of the UAE visit this shrine to express their pride in their country, leadership and brave soldiers and martyrs. The sacrifices of the righteous martyrs inspire a sense of honour of belonging and defending the nation among all its sons ■



## NCEMA discusses cooperation with Nawah Energy Company



NCEMA hosted in its Abu Dhabi headquarters a meeting with the Nawah Energy Company delegation, to discuss possible cooperation and exchange of experiences in tackling emergencies and disasters.

HE Dr. Jamal Mohammed al Hosani, NCEMA Director General and HE Mohammed Sahoo Al Suwaidi CEO of Nawah discussed the NCEMA strategy and vision to enhance the system to address emergencies, crisis, and disasters in general, the readiness of competent authorities and adequate plans to operate the Barakah nuclear power plant.

Both sides discussed the NCEMA training exercises in cooperation with the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation ENEC and Nawah to enhance readiness in preparation for the start of operations at the Barakah power plant. Thus, the plant will be ready on time to supply the UAE with world-class sustainable energy. To that effect, it was imperative to underline the importance of raising awareness and educating the community about the UAE peaceful

nuclear program and its benefits.

The visiting delegation took a tour of the National Operations Centre to get introduced to its 24-hour operating procedures, to follow up and coordinate with partners ensuring complete readiness to intervene when needed.

Al Suwaidi commended the joint efforts with NCEMA in matters of security and safety, to reach the ultimate level of preparedness facing any type of threat. He saluted NCEMA for its readiness, capacities, plans and qualified human resources in managing emergencies, crises and disasters at the national level.

Al Suwaidi gave an overview about Nawah, a leading operator in nuclear energy, that will ensure the safe generation of power in the UAE through securing operations in the Barakah nuclear power plant. The company boasts a number of managerial and specialised technical capabilities that are essential to operate and manage the plant as per international standards ■

**In a lecture hosted by Al Bateen Council**  
**NCEMA reviews the UAE emergencies**  
**and crises system**



Dr. Jamal al As part of its goal to raise awareness about crises and disasters management to engage individuals in the community in tackling potential emergencies and crises, NCEMA organised a lecture at the Al Bateen Council titled 'National Emergency and Crisis System in the UAE' attended by HE Jaber Mohammed Ghanem Al Suwaidi, General Director of the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi and HE Saif Mohammed Arhama Al Shamsi, Deputy Director General of the NCEMA.

Al Suwaidi explained that the Authority aims to improve the level of awareness, inculcate a culture of emergency, crisis and disaster confrontation and engage society members in addressing crises and emergencies that may face society. He commended NCEMA for its contribution in achieving the UAE objectives for a greater protection from threats and crises.

Saif al Shamsi for his part said that NCEMA is keen to take part in this awareness programme building on the directions of the leadership to

engage the community in confronting crises and disasters. The community is indeed the first to react and can reach a large base through neighbourhood councils. NCEMA is keen on maintaining channels of communication among residents in different regions.

Al Shamsi indicated that NCEMA aims to raise awareness among all segments of society, disseminate information on how to address crises and threats, to preserve both lives and property in the beloved nation...He emphasised that crises and disasters have no time or place, and one must always be on high alert.

The lecture was delivered by Khalifa al Kaabi, chairman of the National Operations Centre and Mohammed Hamad al Neyadi, director of planning. They presented the role of NCEMA, its establishment and mandate, and strategic goals. They also showcased the training programmes that have training 6180 people since 2009.

Mohammed al Neyadi indicated that NCEMA coordinates with government authorities to enhance the UAE capabilities to face emergencies, crises and disasters by benefitting from the experiences of developed countries, and through setting the needed standards to assess government entities procedures. He underlined the role of media in awareness and early warning.

Al Neyadi defined the concepts of emergencies, crises and disasters. He presented current capabilities in measuring the preparedness of national, local and private organisations in confronting emergencies, crises and disasters through multiple mechanisms including the assessment of risks and national threats, the capabilities of competent authorities, the analysis of the levels to be reached, the elaboration of support plans, specialised sessions, local and national training to measure the readiness of the concerned departments in managing emergencies and crises, and follow up on improvement

opportunities identified from training outputs.

Al Neyadi also touched on the goals of the National Volunteering Programme, mainly to attract potential volunteers, encourage them to offer effective social development support, establish, habilitate and train a team of volunteers to lend a helping hand during emergencies, crises and disasters, elaborate a volunteers database to coordinate their efforts when a national response is required, and support specialised programmes to manage the level of professionalism in order to ensure the continuity of work during emergencies, crises, and disasters. The goals also seek to instil a culture of volunteering in society, enhance a feeling of nationalism, social cohesion among the community and authorities, and cooperation in cases of emergencies, crises and disasters.

He presented the NCEMA organisational structure and goals for the next five years to contribution to the government vision towards excellence.

Khalifa al Kaabi for his part said that the National Operations Centre works towards centralised decision making, in order to channel efforts in managing crises and emergencies in all stages and forms, both at the local and national levels, and activate crisis management cells.

He further indicated that NCEMA has elaborated a general framework for the national strategy, and developed strategic goals to enhance the UAE capabilities in confronting emergencies, crises and disasters, mitigate any negative environmental, economic, social and psychological impact. The aim is also to protect lives and property, preserve the UAE reputation, enhance the community confidence in terms of the government's readiness to face any possible crisis or disaster, provide support to local governments as needed, ensure continuity of work, and repair any damaged utilities to return them to their previous state ■

NCEMA a leading endeavour  
to be replicated in all countries

**Major-General Fahad bin  
Ahmed Al-Shaalan  
Dean of Crisis Management  
and Senior Leadership  
Development Centre  
at Naif Arab University for  
Security Sciences**

to: www.tawaree.com Taware'e

- The GCC is one block, any threat against any of its members is a threat to all
- Both soft and hard powers are needed to face crises
- Crisis media plans are critical and must cover all stages



Major-General Dr. Fahad bin Ahmed al-Shaalan, Dean of the Crisis Management and Senior Leadership Development Centre at the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, commended the UAE for the establishment of the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority NCEMA, mandated to devise strategies, and elaborate means to address crises and disasters locally...” He added, “this is a leading endeavour to be replicated in all countries”.

Major-General al-Shaalan said in an interview with Taware’e wa Azamat, “the Crisis Management and Senior Leadership Development Centre is KSA is the fruit of accumulated efforts deployed by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences since its inception 40 years ago...” He explained “the centre conducts research, documentation,

outlook and training, in an attempt to develop studies in crises and disasters, to fulfil the needs of Arab Countries. The Centre also aims to document regional and international crises and disasters, to draw lessons from the way they were handled and the causes leading to it... the studies are to be made available to the Arab security forces, to benefit from in to handling, preventing or containing any potential crises and disasters”.

The Major-General commended the 2016 Forum for risks and threats, organised by NCEMA. He said the Forum, in which he took part, covered risk media material in its panels, hosting known experts. He emphasised “the importance of organising similar events, to discuss crises and disasters, to share experiences and expertise, brainstorm, and find common ground to

expose visions and innovative ideas to handle crises, in all their stages”.

Major-General al-Shaalan said that GCC countries are a block, with common goals and visions...any threat against a member is an imminent threat for the rest of the GCC.

He added that addressing crisis required either soft or hard power, or both. For instance countering terrorism requires a security solution, hard force, to contain and arrest terrorists... on the other hand, it also requires soft power, in terms of raising awareness and correcting any misconceptions in the minds of terrorists, through systematic lessons, offered in a practical manner, building on Sharia and psychological bases.

Al-Shaalan pointed that media plans in times of crises are critical and must cover all stages of a crisis, both during and after the crisis. These plans vary in their content and program, depending on the phase the crisis has reached. Crisis media plans must go hand in hand with crisis plans.

Commenting on the rumours that are on the rise during crises, Dr. Al-Shaalan said that management crisis required some secrecy as the crisis unfolds. It's imperative to release the adequate information to the public about the crisis at regular intervals, to avoid any fertile ground for increased rumours, and therefore uproot any potential rumours before they arise.

Below is the full interview:

**You recently took part in the 2016 Media Forum for Risks and Threats organised by NCEMA in Abu Dhabi... how do you evaluate the first edition of this forum?**

Actually, my participation in the 2016 Media Forum for Risks and Threats came from my firm belief in shedding light on the important role of media in times of crises and disasters, which was the theme of the Forum. In all honesty, I can say that the forum was well organised, with rich panel discussions on media, hosting elite experts.

In general, how do you perceiving similar forums? To what extent are they important to hold, both at the level of government and the community?

I firmly believe in the importance of holding such forums to discuss threats, crises and disasters... to share experiences and expertise, brainstorm, and find common ground to propose visions and innovative ideas in dealing with crises, at all stages. Such forums take on increased importance, if they are prepared

objectively and professionally. The panel themes need to be defined accurately, and singlehandedly pick the experts who will take part in them. The Centre focuses on developing senior leadership mandated with facing and handling prevent, and addressing crises... this can be achieved through similar conferences, forums, panel discussions and workshops for leaders in the Arab world.

**The Crisis Management and Senior Leadership Development Centre seeks to develop studies and research in disaster and crises, to respond to the needs of Arab countries, document regional and global crises and disasters, in an attempt to draw lessons from the crisis and identify the causes leading to them.**

**You spearhead the Crisis Management and Senior Leadership Development Centre, at the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences... what is the mandate of the Centre?**

The Crisis Management and Senior Leadership Development Centre was recently established by decision of HE Dr. Jumaan bin Raqoush, president of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences. It resulted from cumulative efforts by the University, since its inception 40 years ago. The centre is a research documentation, forecast and training facility. It mainly aims to prepare studies and research on crises and disasters, to respond to the research and advisory needs of Arab countries. The centre also documents regional and international crises and disasters, supported by photos and other visual illustrations. It seeks to draw lessons from events that have happened, to understand how they came about... all this information to be made available to Arab security forces, to benefit from them in dealing with, preventing or containing potential crisis and disasters.

The Centre also attempts to forecast expected crises, building on scientific signs from accurate statistics, to be made available to Arab countries to prevent crises and thwart disasters. The other and most important aspect of the Centre's work is the development of senior leadership in

charge of facing and handling crises. Thus, the Centre organises conferences, panel discussions, and workshops for leaders in the Arab world to develop their skills in handling and managing crises in all stages, building on the recommendations of studies and research in the field. The department mandated with that also designs and implements scientific programs for senior leadership in the Arab world, in all fields relevant to security in its wider sense.

The Centre is an Arab think-tank that aims to enhance knowledge and experience of all Arab forces, to deal with crises. It benefits from the support and attention of HRH Prince Mohamed bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, minister of interior and chairman of the University Supreme council, stemming from HRH belief in the contribution of the Centre in dealing with crises and disasters.

**Rumours spread during crises because people are eager to know what happened, and sometimes there's a lot of ambiguity around the developments. Importance and ambiguity are the two reasons for rumours.**

**What do you think are the most imminent threats against the GCC? Can we say there's one risks registry in the**

**region?**

The GCC countries are one block with common goals and visions. Any threat against one of them is an imminent threat to all the GCC. Therefore, addressing threats against the region as a whole is subject to a high level of coordination and understanding between GCC political, military, security and diplomatic bodies. The GCC countries



have reached the highest level of mutual understanding and harmony.

**In your book, Crisis management, you talk about ‘the soft power in crisis management’... what do you mean by that concept that is mainly relevant to diplomacy, especially that most crises in this case might be natural and not man-made?**

Crisis and disasters can either be natural or man-made, due to negligence or premeditated. The concept of ‘soft power’ is applicable to crisis management. It entails mobilising the country’s powers and capabilities to manage the crisis, simultaneously with hard power that is sometimes required.

Facing a terrorist crisis for instance requires a security solution that falls under hard power to contain and arrest terrorists... on the other hand, it also requires awareness, soft power, to correct misconceptions in the minds of terrorists, that have led them to deviate. This can be done through systematic lessons delivered, on Sharia and psychological basis. The Mohammed bin Naif Counselling and Care centre in Saudi Arabia is a model for correcting erroneous ideas, of those who have strayed away to put them back on track.

**Crisis also have a psychological and social aspect... how do you see the role of media during various types of events?**

Media plays a pivotal role in positive and negative reactions to crises... it’s inconceivable for a crisis or disaster to strike without media coverage and analysis. They are can contribute to raising awareness.

Media in general can be categorized as ‘friendly’, ‘aggressive’ or ‘unbiased’. Crisis management largely contributes in winning over the unbiased media, through transparency and releasing accurate information that do not impact actions taken.

**Conventional disasters include both natural and man-made... what do you means by ‘unconventional disasters’?**

**And do they require different preparations and measures?**

Conventional disasters are the common ones such as earthquakes, volcanoes, cyclones, fires... unconventional disasters are the new forms of disasters such as pandemics, radio-active or biological contaminations...this type of disasters requires sophisticated technical preparedness, and the acquisition of sufficient capabilities to respond

immediately.

**To what extent it’s important to develop media plans for times of crises, and what are the basics that need to be included in such plans?**

Media plans during times of crises are extremely important. They are supposed to cover the pre, during and post-crisis.

**The spread of the idea of an official spokesperson in all crises and disasters... a new measure to organise statements, and have one source of information. This will guarantee that information is released to serve the purpose of crisis management.**

These plans vary in content and programs depending on the crisis stage. Pre-crisis, plans must focus on raising awareness on the way to deal with potential crisis. Media plans during a crisis focus on relating and commenting events objectively to comfort people and answer their inquiries on the crisis. In post-crisis plans, the focus is mainly on recovery and treating victims. It also includes shedding light on the successes in managing crises, and discussing any shortcomings to avoid them in the future. Crisis media plans must go hand in hand with crisis plans, in all its stages.

**What is the importance of the Crisis Media Centre and to what extent is it necessary to have an official spokesperson?**

Actually, in the 1st edition of my book Crisis Management, published in 1999, I called for the appointment of an official spokesperson, to be the media contact person to release information about the crisis and its developments. Thankfully, we see now this idea widespread in all ministries and departments... it is indeed a good step to organise statements, and have one source of information. This will guarantee that information is released to serve the purpose of crisis management. Media centres are vital as they facilitate the job of reporters from various media, provide them with communication channels, keep them

informed particularly when a specific crisis strikes that might curb circulation and entail long inspection measures.

**Spreading rumours are among the most negative aspects of crises. Often, they make the crisis worse and hinder actions taken... how can we deal and possibly counter rumours?**

Rumours spread during crises because people are eager to know what happened, and sometimes there's a lot of ambiguity around the developments. These are the reasons for rumours. Therefore, crisis management needs to explicit some of the ambiguity and publicise information about what's going on. It should release adequate information regularly to the public to avoid any fertile ground for rumours, and therefore uproot them from the source.

**How do you perceive NCEMA's role locally and regionally?**

Honestly, I commend the UAE endeavour to establish the

National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, mandated to devise strategies, and develop means to handle crises and disasters locally... it's a leading step that I hope to see replicated in all countries, to handle crises and disasters in line with clear strategies, to steer away from sporadic reactions and improvisation when a crisis or disaster strikes ■

**Media plays a pivotal role in positive and negative reactions to crises... it's inconceivable for a crisis or disaster to strike without media coverage and analysis. They can also contribute to raising awareness.**



## The UAE and UK conclude the Sea Khanjar 17 exercises



As part of cooperation, coordination and the exchange of experiences and information, the UAE hosted a joint military exercise between the UAE and UK armed forces dubbed Sea Khanjar 17. The exercise included a series of training in line with a common strategy to plan, execute and manage operations, find common military work, and provide optimal training, thus upgrading the combat efficiency of these armed forces in response to the requirements of our times.

The training exercises were completed with great precision, highlighting the cooperation and integration of all armed forces personnel taking part in them. Hence, they achieved the highest level of coordination in joint operations, reflecting the advanced readiness of both sides, and their sophisticated military capabilities.

The training which extended over several days is part of a series of joint exercises and military cooperation between the armed forces of both countries.

It is to be noted that the UAE armed forces started similar joint exercises to mould the combat capabilities of its troops. This stems from the keenness of the General Command of the Armed Forces to continuously work on raising efficiency, effectiveness, and teamwork as part of a clear strategy to raise the general combat readiness of the armed forces, to handle modern arms and equipment in any operation.

The UAE armed forces conduct regular joint exercises with other countries. Last December, they had completed a joint exercise in the UAE with their American counterparts ■

## Dubai ambulance organises a risk management workshop



Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services organised a workshop on “multi-faceted planning for risk management and the implementation of the ISO31000 standards” attended by 40 organisational leaders.

The workshop passed into review the risk guidelines, and the 8 phases of the ISO 31000 guide. Participants learned theoretically the requirements of the phases, to facilitate the implementation on the ground, as needed or in cases of emergencies.

Khalifa bin Dari, the executive director, commended the efforts of the trainers in the workshop, their capacities, their role



workshop content to develop advanced specialised ambulance services, to become leaders in the GCC and globally ■



## To propose public policies and devise plans UAE forms Climate Change and Environment Council

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed al Zayoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment issued a decision to establish the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment to propose public policies on climate change, the environment, and green development. The council will also devise general and sectorial plans and projects to limit the impact of climate change, promote joint work in environment, and relative municipal services.

The decision mandated the council to oversee the implementation of the UAE green strategy, represent the UAE international and regional relevant negotiations, matching federal and local strategies, encourage PPPs, develop global studies and research in relevant areas.

Minister Zayoudi said the Council creation aims to 'promote the UAE efforts aiming at developing solutions to local environment challenges we face, to maintain our economic development on the one hand, and protect the cultural and civil legacy on the other. The Council will devise and implement a comprehensive and ambitious plan that would be a model of dealing with climate change and environmental issues in the region' ■



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## Fujairah Civil Defence completes a highly professional firefighting drill

As part of the Ministry of Interior strategy to enhance the readiness of personnel to face catastrophes and crises, the Fujairah civil defence completed a firefighting drill in the City Centre Mall.

The drill included a large fire in the mentioned mall leading to the activation of the approved local emergency plan, where civil defence firefighters contained and put off the fire in a highly professional manner, using state of the art techniques.

Such drills simulate real life incidents, to train firefighters on facing threats and incidents to contain fires using the best techniques available ■



## Zayani: GCC counter terrorism efforts exerted on all levels

Dr. Abdulatif al Zayani, GCC Secretary General, asserted that Gulf Cooperation in countering terrorism on all local, regional and international levels, continued to build on GCC active cooperation and coordination in line with joint strategies and continuous collaboration with countries and organisations specialised in fighting terrorism regionally and internationally... He added that the GCC membership in the International Alliance against Daesh in Syria and Iraq is a clear evidence of the level of efforts in the matter.



Al Zayani delivering a lecture at the Oman national defence college underlined the importance of the Sakhir summit decisions, convened in Bahrain in December, in pushing GCC joint work forward. He indicated that the meeting of the GCC leaders with the UK prime minister Theresa May “was an important milestone in efforts to secure the region, guarantee its stability, development and prosperity”. He described the decisions reached as a constructive step in the strategic partnership between the two sides.

The GCC secretary general demonstrated the major local challenges facing GCC countries. He emphasised that maintain security and stability, and social peace, is a top priority. He added that the GCC cooperation and integration in the matter has become quite advanced thank to agreements, security strategies, joint committees, and active Gulf security institutions.

Al Zayani further indicated that terrorism poses a huge challenge that the GCC countries aim to address, eradicating extremist groups and cutting off financing sources. Indeed, terrorism is a menace to the GCC security, stability and peace... Bahrain, Kuwait, and

KSA suffered the loss of innocent lives among civilians and security forces. Even Holy Sites were not immune to the vile terrorist attacks of criminals.

Al Zayani presented many of the development strategies adopted in the GCC to pre-empt the adverse effect of plummeting oil prices, the greatest economic challenge it has faced thus far. He expressed his pride in the GCC states achievements in development on all levels. Thanks to their ambitious plans, they were able to achieve their MDGs prior to 2015, and ranked high in the UN and international report in areas of human development and competitiveness among others.

The GCC Secretary General tackled regional challenges in the GCC including relations with Iran, the Yemen crisis, the Palestinian cause, and passed in review the efforts exerted to face political and security threats. He pondered the political situation in the region, in light of the tight links between the security of Arab countries and the security and stability of GCC states. The latter, according to al Zayani, seek to provide political, financial and humanitarian support to Arab brother to overcome their hurdles ■

## **To support partners in providing rescue supplies more effectively** **Mohammed bin Rashid orders the expansion of IHC to triple its current size**



Emphasising the vital role the UAE plays in supporting humanitarian work, both regionally and internationally, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai, ordered the expansion of the International Humanitarian City capacity to triple its current size. As such, IHC will offer greater logistical support to international organisations providing aid and rescue assistance to victims of armed conflicts or natural disasters in various regions on the world.

His Highness added 300,000 sq. ft. to the existing IHC quartered in Dubai. This will enable partner international organisations conducting rescue missions to fully assume their humanitarian responsibility, store foods and supplies, and





### Largest aids support centre in the world

The International Humanitarian City, established in 2003, by order of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, is considered the largest logistical centre in the world to support humanitarian aid and provide supplies in emergencies. IHC plays a pivotal role in partnership with 9 UN agencies and 50 other NGOs and civil society organisations, and suppliers.

IHC has undertaken a pivotal role in support international aid efforts estimated at millions of USD annually. IHC provided support to communities miles away from the UAE, like Haiti in the Caribbean, Vanuatu island in the Pacific... It has also contributed to expediting the delivery of aids to various sites in the MENA region. At the same time, it contributes to the local economy. The UNHCR purchases of aids, last year, amounted to around 337 million dirhams (around 92 million USD).

other basic requirements provided to individuals and families struck by disaster and finding themselves in exceptional circumstances, in order to alleviate their suffering, and grant them renewed hope in life.

This kind gesture from HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid comes as circumstances in various regions of the world worsen, whether in the region such as Syria and Yemen or even in more remote areas like Afghanistan in Asia, Nigeria in Africa, and other hotspots worldwide. As a result, over 65 million people have been displaced, which in turn multiplied, in recent years, demand on supplies including basics such as tents, food and medical supplies, and other necessities to help the displaced

face extremely harsh conditions. The demand on humanitarian services has reached their highest levels since WWII. Hence, the increased need for warehouses and logistics to fulfil the increasing demand.

The new expansion will enable IHC partners to better organise their operations, and will allow them to quickly and efficiently send aids and supplies to regions that have been hit by epidemics, or other natural disasters, ravaged by war or armed conflicts. The expansion will also allow IHC partners to enhance their teams aid capacities, through continuous training, ensuring they can respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies ■

## **UAE youth initiative well received by the UN**

### **Arab Volunteer Work Union Secretary General: the UAE a pioneer in foreign assistance and field medical work**



The Arab Volunteer Work Union Secretary General Youssef Khazem commended the UAE youth initiative in humanitarian work in various countries. They have volunteered over 5 million hours of work to alleviate the sufferings of deprived children and senior citizens.

Khazem said the UAE is an excellent model of humanitarian care, through the Zayed giving volunteers, medical team, mobile clinics and field hospitals thus contributing to alleviate the suffering of more than 5 million deprived children and senior citizens around the world.

During his visit of the Zayed caravan for good Qafelah, on the margin of the youth volunteer conference in Khartoum, alongside heads of volunteer work from Kuwait, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Sudan, the SG saluted the high professionalism of medical teams and the sophisticated equipment of mobile clinics and field hospitals in the Zayed giving initiative. He said, the UAE is

an excellent example of volunteer work, not only because it personifies our values of giving, cohesion and unity but also because volunteering is an active aspect of charity and humanitarian work abroad. The UAE has become a leader in foreign assistance, and leading in medical work on the ground.

Dr. Soumaya Idris, Sudan Minister of Health, for her part valued the humanitarian role of the Zayed giving initiative in healthcare, thus providing a unique innovative model, to offer concrete solutions on the ground to contain the spread of heart disease, help heart patients through state of the art portable equipment for diagnosis, treatment and surgery. Healthcare is therefore made accessible around



the world. She further indicated that the UAE is a pioneer worldwide in helping the needy. This is indeed the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan”.

She indicated that “the sophisticated equipment and highly qualified medical team in the volunteer’s mobile clinics reflect the keenness of the UAE to alleviate the sufferings of the deprived heart patients...” She underlined the important role the specialized mobile clinics play in treating diseases in the African Continent, starting from Sudan.

UAE cardiologist Dr. Adel Al Shamri, executive president of the Zayed Giving initiative, indicated that the UAE is taking part in the Youth Volunteer Work Conference to showcase its experiences in youth volunteering over the past 16 years, that has harnessed a culture of volunteering and humanitarian work. Over this

time, youth were attracted and habilitated in humanitarian and social services, that have warranted recognition from many Arab and international heads of volunteering and humanitarian work. Dr. Al Shamri reiterated the UAE’s interest and infinite support to volunteer work, and the efforts of individuals and associations, reflected in HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan, UAE president, declaring 2017 the year of giving.

He added, “the UAE volunteering work is growing continuously. It expands to encompass several development and social roles. This would not have been possible had it not been for the visionary leaders’ support to various forms of volunteer work, translated into many programs, to foster a culture of volunteering and the use of available resources, and provide innovative solutions to respond to the needs of society.” ■



**Be  
Ready**

## The individual can play a key role in controlling it strong wind can inflict untold damage



“Extreme weather fluctuations” is a term used to indicate weather instability in one or more region, with dark clouds spreading, thick fog, winds and thunderstorms, heavy rain, and potentially hail and snow fall, due to an atmospheric depression.

An atmospheric depression is a natural phenomenon caused when the pressure in a large part of the atmosphere falls under the pressure in the surrounding area. It cannot be seen but its various effects can be felt through the weather, and extreme fluctuations.

When security forces perceive imminent extreme weather, they adopt the adequate preventive steps, call on to the public to be cautious and follow safety instructions to stay away from danger resulting from these fluctuations and are fully prepared to intervene as needed.

### *Wind formation:*

Winds occur when air masses advance horizontally because of differences in air pressure. These masses take

on increasing speed in the high-pressure areas compared to the lower pressure ones.

Winds impact the weather. A hot and humid day can quickly turn when cold wind rises. Clouds carrying with them rain and thunder are formed where cold air comes in contact with hot humid air. Other winds might push the clouds far, allowing the sun to warm the earth. Winds can also push the storm away to other areas.

Sun rays are also a cause in changing weather conditions.



They warm the air and cause its expansion, thus reducing its pressure. Winds occur due to the unequal warming of the atmosphere because of the energy from sun rays which makes air expand and elevate to be replaced by air from cold areas.

Winds are defined by their speed (measured by metres/second) strength and direction. Strength of the wind means its capacity to move objects by a certain distance, measured by kg per cubic meter. The following factors determine the speed and strength of winds:

- 1- Difference in pressure, the greater the difference, the faster the winds.
- 2- The impact of the air density. The lesser the density the greater the air speed. Cold air is denser than hot air. Air with more water vapour is denser than dry wind.

3- The friction of the air with the surface of the earth. The greater the friction, the greater the speed.

In general, winds acquire speed when they continue to move higher. Sometimes this rule is reversed, particularly in mountain corridors. Air closer to the surface moves at a lesser speed due to the friction with the earth.

Winds start in the northern hemisphere, move clockwise around the high-pressure areas while in the southern hemisphere, winds move in the opposite direction, around low pressure areas.

Winds are categorised by their speed and in some areas winds are regular, permanent or seasonal... Winds at high speed transform into a storm.

Winds can be divided into four types: permanent, seasonal (summer or winter), local and daily (breeze from land, sea, mountain or valley).



### *Impact*

Winds move depending on their speed and direction, impacting on their way, in various degrees, anything on the surface. They impact man, property and vegetation alike. They push the clouds sometimes causing rain and snow fall.

Winds play a role in the formation of clouds. They carry water vapour from the surface of seas and oceans to the upper atmosphere. Water drops need to condense to form clouds. Here winds contribute in cloud pollination. They carry with them dust and salt particles. When these particles are transported several kilometres into the atmosphere, where temperatures are very low, water particles surround them, to form drops. Consequently, heavy clouds are formed that can weigh thousands of tons!

In addition to causing low temperatures, winds can also create high waves, and could damage crops.

### *Threats*

Strong winds could cause damages to residences and public facilities. They might detach windows, doors, and any other elements that are not fixed on the roofs of building and their surroundings (satellite dishes, home appliances and waste, etc.). Winds can also break branches

of trees in streets and parks, uproot signs, traffic lights and parking covers, damage lighting poles ...winds may also cut electricity cables and telephone lines, turn vehicles over, and in general will hinder circulation in land, air and sea.

### *Dealing with the effects of high winds*

Strong winds and storms might pose several risks on properties. It's imperative to be ready through regular preventive steps to control possible damages or mitigate risks. Regular checks on windows and doors, exteriors of homes, facilities in the vicinity of residences are required to make the needed repairs, as the best way to avoid surprises due to weather fluctuations.

When strong winds are expected, people are advised to remain home or inside buildings, and refrain from leaving unless it's necessary. They must take all precautions, and follow instruction from and cooperate with competent authorities.

### *The role of competent authorities*

Operations around the country are on high alert and continuously coordinate efforts to support local emergency teams. Through the NCEMA operations



### Tips to face strong winds

- Take precautions to face any potential effect caused by the winds
- Regularly follow weather forecasts, when the weather is shifting
- Fully abide by the instructions from competent authorities announced in various media and social media channels
- Ensure any material or equipment around homes are firmly kept in place
- Remain at home and refrain from leaving unless it's absolutely necessary
- While driving, especially on highways, be careful, reduce speed, and remain at a safe distance from other cars. Strong winds increase dust and sand which will reduce horizontal visibility
- Stay away from the beach and sea
- Avoid valleys and other high flood risk areas

centre and authorities in every emirate, roles and responsibilities are defined, a readiness assessment is performed, adequate plans and measures are activated to provide help, ambulance and rescue services to victims, and to organise evacuations as needed.

Simultaneously, competent authorities communicate with the public about procedures and instructions to follow, directly or through media and social media. They also cooperate among themselves to ensure the safety of individuals and groups.

After the winds calm, competent authorities through their defined roles work on removing traces of the

storm in streets (trees, signs, ads, damaged lighting poles, etc.), opening roads, assisting people in repairing damages caused by the winds... until full recovery is made.

### *The role of individuals*

Facing the threats of winds and storms is not the sole responsibility of authorities. Individuals have a major role to play in the prevention from risks. Official procedures might not achieve their goals of guaranteeing the safety of the community and both public and private property if individuals do not act responsibly ■