

Taware'e

wa Azamat

Together .. we preserve the country's achievements



**Tahnoun
Bin Zayed:
Strenuous
crises are
multi-layered
and must be
addressed
with scientific
methods**

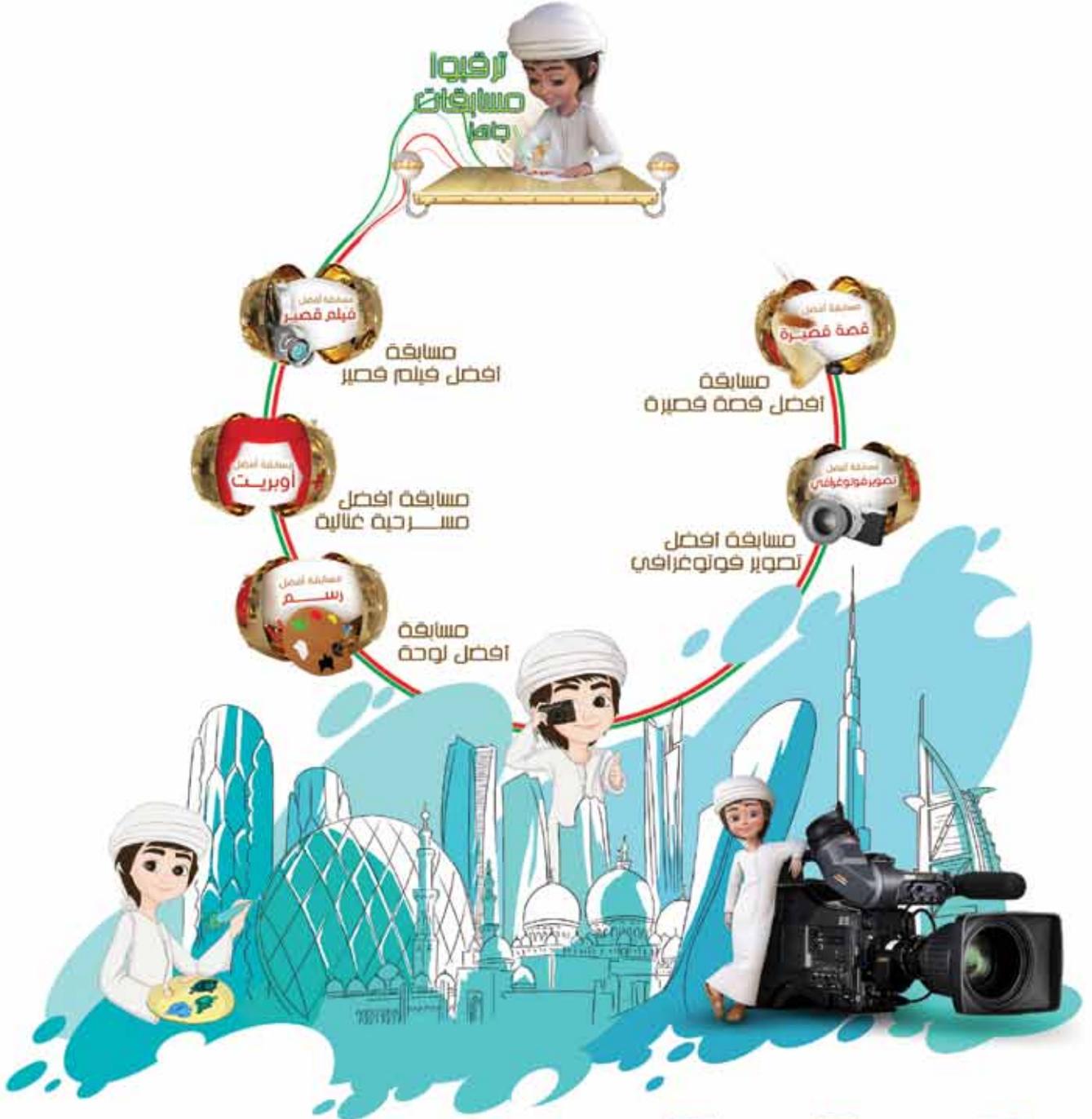
**Abu Dhabi facing
a rain storm and
related successfully**

**North Thunder
A strong message
against malicious
intentions towards
the region**





مبادرة نشر ثقافة الطوارئ والازمات والكوارث في المؤسسات التعليمية



Because we, in the UAE, live the future ... We ought to be proud

It is amid palpable fascination that people, near and far, received the initiative of the leadership of the United Arab Emirates to create ministries of state for happiness, tolerance and the future.

The new government reshuffle, which was announced on the 10th of February, set a new precedent worldwide. The new 29-member Cabinet includes eight women, among them the 22-year-old Minister of Youth.

This cabinet reshuffle – the largest of its kind in the history of the UAE – marks the government’s new outlook, which focuses primarily on the future. Ministerial portfolios were assigned based on skill and competencies alone and ministers were handpicked amongst the brightest of their generations and empowered to carry on the march of development towards a better and brighter future.

Some might say that plans for happiness in a time dominated by tragedies, schemes to promote tolerance amid fanaticism, and talk about the future in the midst of crises and wars are mere fantasies. But this is the UAE, where the Government and the people have decided to forge their own reality.

Here, rules of the common are broken, thanks to the innovative and visionary minds that lead this state with their eyes ever-fixed on the future. Here, people build the future with the confidence of leaders who do not wait for the future to happen; they forge it as they see fit. They initiate change with wisdom and foresight. Modern leaders are at the helm of this nation as it moves forward towards a prosperous, secure and peaceful tomorrow.

We have grown accustomed to such inspirational initiatives from our wise leadership as it continues to race against time and exert relentless efforts to seize every opportunity to reinforce the progress of the UAE.

We have every reason to be proud to belong to the UAE and to be loyal to its leadership, for it has become a role model for countries around the world that aspire to follow in its footsteps. We ought to take pride in the monumental achievements we have realized in line with the directives of our leadership that encourages us to unleash our capabilities, equips us with the necessary knowledge, and motivates our creativity in various fields.

Our leadership focuses on fostering the potential of the young generation, on developing education and on protecting the environment, which further highlights the strategic vision that tackles major issues with great insight, with a view of reaching the best solutions to ensure the best results.

The difficult conditions prevailing in the region didn’t diminish the desire of our leadership, government and people to press ahead at all levels. Here is our nation

racing towards the future and carrying on its outstanding programs that mesmerize the entire world, while enhancing its stature and role and gaining more respect on the regional and international levels.

There is no fear for a country that draws new lessons from every experience, as His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai confirmed: “With every lesson we learn comes a decision that will shape our future”.

Here in the UAE, time does not wait... We are continuously looking ahead, availing of the available human and material capabilities, and we invest in them consciously and with foresight, to avoid any surprises, thus safeguarding our nation and our achievements.

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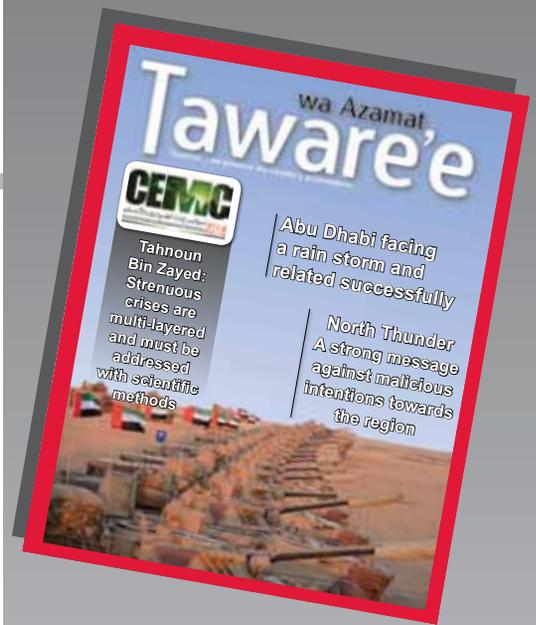
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Involving 20 Arab and Muslim countries, including UAE

"North Thunder" sends a clear message to those threatening the stability of the region



The largest military exercise in the world bringing together troops from 20 countries and qualitative military equipment of diverse sophisticated weapons was held in February 2016 at the King Khaled Military City in North-East Saudi Arabia.

Dubbed “Thunder of the North”, the exercise involved Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, Bahrain, Senegal, Sudan, Kuwait, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Chad, Tunisia, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, Egypt, Mauritania, Turkey and the Peninsula Shield forces.

The exercise stretched over 18 days, and saw the participation of a wide range of artillery, tanks, infantry, air defense systems, and naval forces in a simulation to reflect the highest level of preparedness of the 20 participating countries.

350,000 soldiers, 20,000 tanks and 2540 warplanes participated in the largest military



maneuver ever staged in the region. This drill, which is important due to its timing and political and security significance, witnessed the use of the latest war tactics and expertise.

Thunder of the North focused on training troops in different scenarios, in dealing with militias and terrorist groups, in addition to upgrading the traditional operational mode into the so-called “low intensity conflicts”.

This operation reflects the desire of the participating countries to maintain the security and stability of the region especially in light of

the growing terrorist threats, it is a clear military message to those endangering the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its allies and it confirms that the participating countries are ready and united to confront all challenges.



Threatens more than two million Iraqis and might flood the country

Will the 40 largest dam in the Middle East fail? Mosul Dam... the looming catastrophe

Will the northern Iraqi dam fail?

When and what can be done to prevent the severe loss of life, the mass population displacement and destruction of half of Iraq?

The future of the fourth largest dam in the Middle East puzzles public opinion.

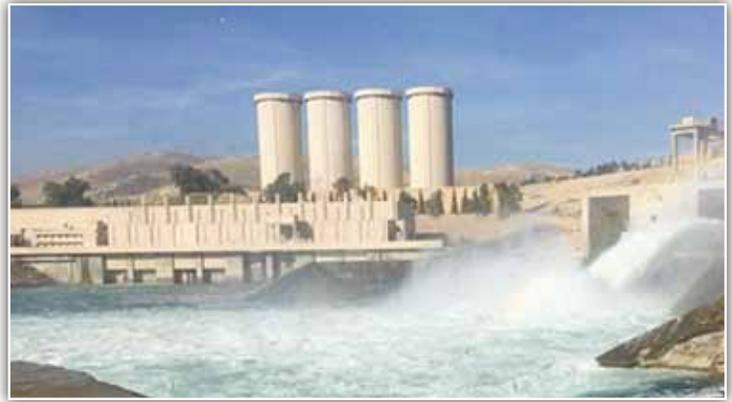
According to news, analysis and reports from national and international experts, the disaster is near unless the cracks are patched and the erosion is stopped, but in absence of maintenance and high tech tools the task won't be an easy one.

An old problem

There have been problems with the largest dam in Iraq since its construction back in the 1980s. According to Nadhir Al-Ansari, a civil engineering professor at the Lulea University in Sweden, constructive flaws emerged once it filled up with water in 1986. In a study conducted by Al-Ansari and Iraqi experts, sinkholes were discovered at 15 meters deep and water in the lake reservoir is putting pressure on the cracks and accelerating the erosion of limestone.

According to Al-Ansari, the dam has been propped up with constant patching between 1987 and 2014 and more than 75,000 tons of concrete grout were used. "It's a temporary solution due to evidence of high levels of sulfate, which could jeopardize the resistance of the dam," clarified Al-Ansari.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the dam's deputy director, Mohsen Yaqoub said that samples of the soil confirmed the existence of erosion.



During his field trip in the dam's tunnels, the deputy director pointed to the black parts that were the treated cement injected into the holes and fractures created by the water that constantly eats away the unstable foundation of the dam.

The government's emergency plan

Adnan Al Sarraj, Head of the Iraqi Center for Media Development, acknowledged the existence of the problem and announced that the Iraqi government has set an emergency plan in case the dam collapsed, but he also warned about the catastrophe that will take place and "might even change the face of Iraq," as the Iraqi prime minister put it.

Al Sarraj added that the government had led the repairs till August 2014 when ISIS took over the dam and brought everything to a halt and when the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters forced them to retreat after two months, they took all the machinery of the dam with them.

According to Al Sarraj, the Iraqi government received a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and will sign deals with Italian, German

and French firms to run the repairs, and in case the dam fails, Iraq has a \$50 million emergency plan that includes evacuations to higher grounds. In addition to that, the Iraqi government has been struggling for more than two years to sign a deal with a foreign company to undertake the much-needed repair works, but the turbulent situation in Iraq doesn't encourage them to agree to the deal.

Budget shortfalls due to the slump in oil prices and political rivalry between the central government in Baghdad and the regional government of the semi-autonomous Iraq Kurdistan, have hampered urgently needed repairs. There is also a desperate shortage of workers. Half of the workforce has left the dam for other jobs on account of not being paid for up to five months.

US warnings

Warnings of the dam's collapse increased due to the persistence of the deterioration problem. For this reason, the US has set sensors on the dam to monitor any signs of distress and potential failure.

In a call to Iraq's Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, US president Barack Obama highlighted the urgent need to lower the level of water gradually to avoid the tragedy that could devastate big cities in Iraq such as Mosul and Salaheddine.

"It seems that the periodic cement grout patching of the eroded dam's base has become useless, threatening Mosul and its surroundings with an inland tidal wave." He added. According to sources from within the American Embassy in Baghdad, 3 contingency plans were set to evacuate the embassy and all US citizens in addition to those of other foreign embassies.

It seems that the risk of collapse of Mosul Dam has reached its peak, reports indicate that cracks within the walls of the dam have widened up due to the underground sinkholes.

According to the same sources, the US embassy formed a crisis cell of specialists who meet up every week to inspect and assess the latest developments, and one of their recommendations was to send a specialized diving team from the US Navy to the bottom of the dam to look into the sinkholes and cracks.

The crisis cell concluded in its final recommendations the need to prepare for the worst and develop contingency plans to evacuate the US embassy and nationals from Iraq.

The worst humanitarian disaster

Specialists confirm that the dam's failure will be the worst humanitarian disaster to ever occur in Iraq. According to a study conducted by Dams and Water Resources Research Center at the University of Mosul and presented at the 13th World Congress for water technologies held in Egypt in 2009, if the collapse were to happen, 207632 cubic meters of water will flow at 3.5 kilometers per second and reach up to 25.3 meters in the first 9 hours of the disaster, drowning therefore half of the city of Mosul under 20 meters of water.

"The human and economic disaster caused by the failure won't be limited to Mosul, it could kill and render homeless more than 2 million Iraqis, plunge Baghdad under a 4 meter wall of water and wipe out 500 km of lands along the Tigris River." Added the study.

The Mosul Dam

The Mosul Dam is located on the Tigris River in Northern Iraq, and a German-Italian consortium built it in 1981 in the western part of Mosul. It is 113 meters tall and the company estimated its lifespan at about 80 years.

The dam withholds the water reserves of Iraq, orchestrates the irrigation systems and prevents the flooding of the Tigris River, the life source of the cities located along its course.

The breach of the dam would result in severe loss of the mass population living along the river, from Mosul to Tikrit, Samarra, and even Baghdad. There are no contingency plans or warning systems available for those living along the river, thus, "the collapse of the dam could displace thousands of them." Stated the US State Department.

"WHO": More than 4 million people subjected to the virus in the Americas

UAE "Zika"-free

The UAE Ministry of Health has declared that the United Arab Emirates remains free of the Zika virus, which has spread in the Americas, and there are no detectable risks for local transmission, it confirmed. The UAE Technical Committee for Pandemics, chaired by the Ministry of Health, held a meeting at the Ministry's headquarters to discuss the developments of the disease, which affects pregnant women and causes abnormalities of the fetus.

Dr. Hussein Abdel Rahman, Head of the Committee, which comprises representatives from the Health Authority in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and from the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA), noted that the UAE implements an effective system for monitoring epidemics and viruses at air and ground ports. "The UAE is continuously communicating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to keep abreast with the latest global health developments," he said.

Additionally, Dr. Abdul Rahman pointed out that the mosquito, which transmits the disease to humans, is not known to the UAE and cannot thrive in its environment. He went on to reassure citizens and residents that "it is unlikely that the disease would reach the UAE, especially in light of the effective monitoring system that records communications reporting any suspected cases, and monitors the ports in order to prevent the infiltration of any disease".

The world joins forces to fight the virus

The world braced itself earlier this year to address the spread of the Zika virus, which reached



its largest scope of spread in the history of the Americas (North and South and Central America and the Caribbean), following a rapid outbreak leaving more than a million casualties so far. The World Health Organization warned that the virus may be transmitted to some Arab countries, unless necessary

preventive measures are taken to address it. WHO also noted that as many as 3 to 4 million people in the Americas may become infected by Zika virus this year.

The organization stressed that Zika virus requires an urgent and coordinated response from the entire world. For her part, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO described the virus as being an "extraordinary event" that requires a coordinated response. She stressed that the priority now is to protect pregnant women and their babes from harm, and to control the mosquitoes that spread the virus.

On the same note, the organization warned that the virus is likely to spread exponentially across

nearly all of the Americas. Chan said that it was time to take action and advised pregnant to take the following measures:

- * Consider delaying travel to areas affected by Zika,
- * Seek advice from their physician if they are living in areas affected by Zika, as well as protect themselves against mosquito bites by using mosquito repellent products.

WHO Declares State of Emergency

WHO declared a state of global health of emergency, following the Zika outbreak in 24 countries. There are strong suspicions that the virus caused a significant rise in birth defects in newborns, especially in Latin America.

Rana Sidani, WHO Middle East spokesperson, told The Voice of Germany radio that the decision to declare a state of emergency means that there is a serious risk that the disease might spread to other areas. She noted that the Arab region was facing a serious threat from the virus though no cases have yet been recorded. “The Alzaj mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*), the virus carrier, which is causing its emergence, is found in several countries in the Middle East,” stressed Sidani.

Will Zika virus reach the Emirates?

For her part, Dr Farida Al Hosani, Head of the Communicable Diseases Department at Health Authority-Abu Dhabi (HAAD) noted that the risk for Zika virus spreading to the UAE was assessed as low. Nonetheless, she warned pregnant women against traveling to affected countries, and advised other travelers to use special products to avoid mosquito bites. “We are keeping a close eye on Zika virus because we know that the world is a small village. We have to be cautious about what is happening in other countries,” Dr. Farida said.

Speaking at the Arab Health Congress in Dubai, Dr. Al Hosani said it was reassuring to learn that the mosquito that transmits the virus can’t be found in the UAE.

“The disease can’t be transmitted from one human to another. Therefore, even if we were to

get a case here, it cannot be transmitted to other people,” Dr. Al Hosani reiterated.

“Our monitoring system is highly effective, and we would be immediately alerted of any cases admitted into hospital,” she added. “Symptoms of Zika virus, which include mild fever, skin rash and conjunctivitis, can be identified by specialist doctors,” she noted.

Precautionary Measures at UAE Airports

UAE airports implemented a set of precautionary measures to prevent the transfer of mosquitoes on board of flights coming from affected regions into the United Arab Emirates. Preventive operations were intensified to prevent virus transmission, and the Ministry of Health shared WHO’s recommendations for dealing with the virus with stakeholders and relevant authorities.

Security procedures covered several aspects, including spraying insecticide. In the same vein, an official at the UAE Ministry of Health indicated that WHO does not recommend any travel or trade restrictions in relation to Zika virus, but it did stress the need to provide accurate information to travelers. “These precautionary measures were in place and implemented by aircraft, but it was required to intensify prevention procedures and operations on board aircraft,” he said.

The same official revealed that health care practitioners nationwide were required to report any cases of newborn deformities to the relevant bodies. “They must consider the medical history of the mother, and make sure whether she has traveled to any of the places affected by Zika virus and check for symptoms of this virus,” he emphasized.

“Lab tests are done on blood samples taken from the mother and the baby by the relevant government agency, specifically through the Zabeel Central Laboratory, which is currently the reference laboratory to conduct the necessary tests in case of any suspicion, and results are issued within 24 hours,” he confirmed.

Abu Dhabi Succeeds in Dealing with the Rainstorm

Major General Al Rumaithi: The Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Team Weathered the Storm professionally at International Standards

HE Major General Mohammed Khalfan Al Rumaithi, Commanding General of Abu Dhabi Police, Chairman of the Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi said that government and private institutions have proven their ability to deal successfully with the difficult weather conditions and rainstorm that hit Abu Dhabi and other parts of the country at the beginning of March. He commended the team spirit that was demonstrated during response, and said this is the reason why NCEMA was created in the first place... and he noted that plans are underway to establish a joint operations center in the near future.

Speaking at a press conference for the Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Team in Abu Dhabi to shed light on the measures that were taken to address the repercussions of the storm, Major General Al Rumaithi praised the role of officials and staff at the Department of Municipal Affairs and Transportation, as well as all public and private institutions for their rapid response and adequate management under exceptional weather conditions, which contributed to a quick return to normality in almost every part of the emirate.

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going,” said Al Rumaithi, commending the grit and valor of Emirati youth as well as residents who assisted the police and security bodies in regulating traffic flow in some areas, and removing debris from main streets, despite the difficult weather conditions... He went on to thank media institutions for their responsiveness and cooperation with the emergency, crisis and disaster management team



during their professional and transparent coverage of the events as they unfolded.

For his part, Eng. Owaida Murshid Al Marar, Chairman of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Transportation, in his capacity as event commander, noted that all government and private agencies came together as one under the leadership of Abu Dhabi’s emergency, crisis and disaster management team. He added that clear strategies and flexible mechanisms were implemented, making it easier for everyone to perform their duties in such harsh conditions, which contributed to speedy response and recovery in a large number of sectors. He also alluded to the noticeable cohesion and team spirit among all actors, UAE nationals and expatriates.

Al Marar emphasized that the emergency, crisis and disaster management team succeeded in reducing the risks at the spherical structure on top of the Etisalat building in Abu Dhabi which required specific technical and engineering measures to address.

Mohammed bin Zayed: The UAE Presses Ahead with Civilizational Achievements

Last year witnessed the United Arab Emirates making several astonishing achievements thanks to the will of its citizens, and it will keep on pressing ahead under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.



“We witnessed in 2015 tremendous changes, challenges and developments which have had direct and indirect effects on the region and on the UAE,” Sheikh Mohammed said addressing an audience at Qasr Al Bahr.

“However, the UAE was able to make great achievements on political, economic and social fronts and scored, on several levels, excellent results in global competitiveness indices. Armed with determination and dedication, we will continue to strive for even greater achievements, inspired by our founding fathers who granted us this beloved homeland,” His highness went on to say.

Sheikh Mohammed added the UAE saw in 2015 the sacrifices of its hero martyrs who will forever be etched in the nation's memory- may Allah have mercy on them and accept them in His Paradise.

“To every mother, father, wife, son and brother of a martyr we lost, I say, we are all your brothers and we will always be by your side. Thanks to your fortitude, we came out stronger, more determined to continue our march and we are today more united than ever.” H.H continued.

“This challenge revealed the true nature of Emiratis and revealed their true love for their country. The martyrs' relatives presented a shining example of patience, sacrifice and loyalty, we are proud of their sons and their sacrifice,” His Highness concluded.

8th Conference of Anti-ISIS Coalition Chiefs of Staff: To Develop Appropriate Programs and Mechanisms



Lt. General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the UAE, led the UAE delegation at the 8th conference of the Chiefs of Staff of members of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL in Kuwait.

Participants from 29 countries discussed developing programs and mechanisms to enhance coordination between the coalition members in light of the developments in the region, to come up with measures to maintain regional and international security.

This conference is a platform to exchange and unify the participants' perspectives and to press ahead to combat all forms of terrorism.

His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, commended the efforts of the Global Coalition to fight terrorism and preserve international peace and security.

US Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, who attended the conference, emphasized the fact that it isn't an easy problem to solve solely therefore, all participants should join forces to address it.

For his part, the Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff, Lt. General Mohammad Al-Khuder stressed the

need to increase efforts and seek immediate plans to eliminate terrorist organizations. "We have to intensify efforts with other countries to combat terrorism practiced by these organizations that threaten the security and stability of all nations", said Al-Khuder. He also emphasized the importance of this conference in the light of the security challenges the world and the region particularly are facing. "We should come together and work hand in hand to face these challenges", he added.

Lt. General Mohammad Al-Khuder condemned the efforts of some terrorist organizations, including ISIS, which convey a misleading image of Islam based on killing, destruction and terrorism.

It is worth noting that the coalition has launched more than 10,000 air strikes against ISIS, forcing it to draw back from most of the territories it held in Iraq particularly, where it is said that the Iraqi and Kurdish forces retrieved 40% of territories dominated by ISIS.

15th Family Forum: Call to Strengthen Capabilities to Limit Risks to Families

The need to reinforce the potentials of organizations responsible for maintaining the security of our nation and families was underscored at the 15th edition of the annual Family Forum organized by the Family Development Centers (FDC) in Sharjah, dubbed “My Nation’s Security is My Family’s Security.”

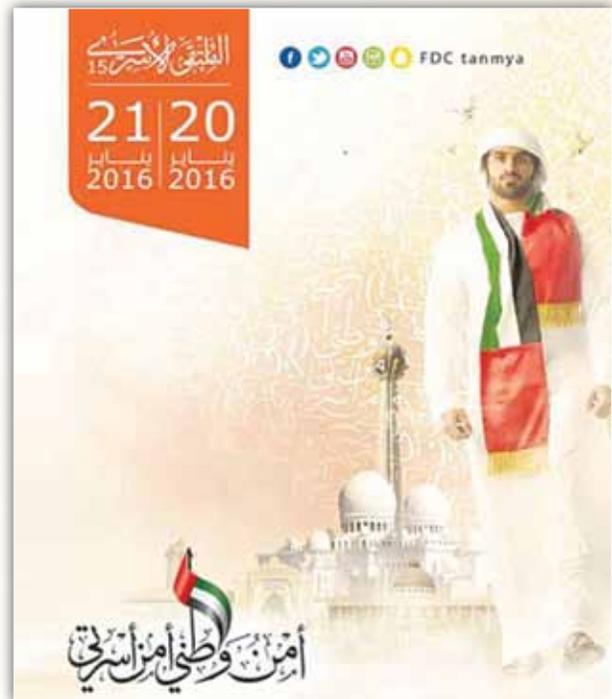
The Forum urged different social organizations to collaborate among themselves to promote the respect of our national leaders and to raise wise generations capable of standing up to negative external influences.

Held under the patronage of the Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife of Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, the forum strived to shed light on the need to protect intellectual, domestic and national security, and to promote patriotism within families, for these concepts form the cornerstone for a strong, resilient community.

The Forum addresses public and private institutions, as well as representatives of executive and legislative authorities.

“Family security is closely connected with national security; families find it difficult to survive in a country facing violent challenges,” said Her Highness.

In her inaugural speech, Sheikha Jawaher said: “Security is a life goal and it covers all aspects. Security is classified depending on people’s needs. There is food security, health security, social security, cultural security, as well as family security. None of these can be realized without a secure home that empowers members of society to fulfill their missions and duties.”



“Security covers all the essential aspects of society represented mainly by the family, man’s first home,” H.H added.

The Forum recommended a nationwide movement to entrench the concept of family security and stressed that social and psychological advisors must be appreciated and given a bigger role to play in educational institutions.

Parents play an essential role, too. They must be aware of environmental and external factors that may affect their family.

The forum went on to call for new media programs to promote the notions of family and home security, and to entrench the government’s principles in educational curriculae.

A constructive and effective role in setting up international policies

UAE joins Group on Earth Observations

The United Arab Emirates, represented by the UAE Space Agency, has become the latest member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), a voluntary partnership of governments and organizations that was established in 2005 to promote the open access to Earth Observations data for the benefit of all mankind.

GEO includes over 100 governments with nearly as many participating organizations and international bodies, all collaborating voluntarily within the Group on Earth Observations. This is in line with our efforts to support the space sector in the UAE, strengthening the UAE's global presence, establishing international relations according to the country's strategic goals, and contributing to the overall development of the Group.

"Joining the Group in the sector in all areas," said Dr. Khalifa Mohammed Al Rumaithi, Chairman of the UAE Space Agency.

The GEO community is working to develop a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that will link EO resources around the world. These include areas such as biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability, disaster resilience, energy and mineral resources management, food security, sustainable agriculture, and transportation management and many others.

"The GEO is aware that full and open access to Earth Observation data, information and knowledge is critical for humanity as it tackles social, economic and environmental challenges at global, regional, national and local levels," noted UAE Space Agency Director General, Dr. Mohammed Al Ahbabi.

The UAE Space Agency draws the national policy and regulations for the space sector in UAE which would promote the peaceful usage of Space for the monitoring and protection of the environment and for disaster management, and includes information on how Data generated from Space assets can be distributed and shared.



Through its membership in the GEO, the UAE hopes to play a constructive and effective role in shaping international policies related to the open access of EO data, which maximizes the benefits to those who are most in need of such data but are in no position to afford it, such as disaster-stricken regions.

Space assets, such as Remote Sensing satellites, capable of performing EO, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Satellite communications are essential to monitor and manage the environment, paving the way for a sustainable, safe and ecologically balanced environment. The UAE Space Agency strongly believes in the value of a sustainable healthy environment, and will endeavor, as part of its mandate, to promote all the above-mentioned Space activities not only for the benefit of the UAE as a nation but for the benefit of all mankind and for all future generations by safeguarding the health of our Earth.

The UAE's inclusion in the GEO comes at a significant time, as 2016 marks the beginning of the GEO's second decade in operation and the start of a new era for world nations that are attempting to work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, most importantly.

Under the Theme “Innovative Approaches Towards a Safe Nation”

CEMC 2016 issues recommendations to support states efforts to spread tolerance and peaceful coexistence and to channel the potential of youth towards creativity and innovation



The Crisis and Emergency Management Conference 2016, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor, and hosted by Abu Dhabi on March 13 and 14th, recommended that governments support state efforts to disseminate the principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, in a bid to limit the spread of terrorism and extremism, and channel the energies and capabilities of youth into innovation and creativity, thereby reinforcing the role of the private sector.

The fifth edition of the conference, organized by the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA), was entitled “Innovative Approaches towards a Safe Nation”. It underscored the importance of leveraging communication technology and social media to provide early warning and manage crises and emergencies. Participants emphasized the need to formulate unified policies in the Gulf region to deal with risks and threats, especially at the geopolitical level.

The Conference saw the participation of a large number of local, regional and international specialists and experts in the field of emergency, disaster and crisis management. Attendees stressed

the need to encourage regional states to adopt the Sendai Framework, create a national disaster losses database and to utilize the experiences of the UNISDR, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Conference also recommended the adoption of a unified media strategy for the GCC that serves as a general framework for all media channels, both official or private.

The conference also called for establishing a global platform that brings together decision makers to discuss emerging global variables, threats and dangers, to develop and adopt national solution methodologies specifically for the recovery phase and reinforce the role of governments and international organizations.

Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani: issues addressed in this conference are critical and of high relevance in these sensitive times.

Dr. Jamal M. Al Hosani, Director-General of NCEMA said in his opening speech: “We inaugurate the Crisis and Emergency Management Conference 2016, which forms an important platform to discuss an array of critical issues and topics that are of high



Tahnoun bin Zayed: Difficult Crises should be encountered with systematic, sound and scientific methods

H.H. Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor, stressed that difficult, multi-layered and complex crises, such as wars, turmoil, terrorist attacks or devastating natural disasters require us to hold discussion panels, seminars and brainstorming sessions to find ways to address them using scientific methods based on scientific and systematic research.

“It is not a coincidence nor it is surprising that the theme of this conference is 'Innovative Approaches towards a Safe Nation', which embodies a significant strategy with a number of connotations to ensure security and power. Innovative approaches are essential tools for dealing with crises and disasters of all kinds. We are all compelled to unite our efforts; governments, societies, organizations, institutions and individuals in order to address crises using science, innovation, knowledge and power,” His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun said.

The National Security Advisor underlined that “these days, the Arab world is facing serious challenges, risks and rapid developments



targeting national security, not least of which is an extremist, terrorist ideology that targets relations between countries and people, ripping through social fabric and separating citizens of one country. We deal with aggressiv attacks on people, the environment, history and humanity, and this requires sound strategic planning on our part, along with a strong and influential media rhetoric, and mass awareness and participation to allow us to confront, address, reduce and eliminate these threats.”

relevance in these sensitive times. The seriousness of the current situation and its impact on the global political situation have necessitated the inclusion of these issues in our agenda, which allows us to identify and analyze their causes, implications and solutions.”

And he added, "the journey of the Crisis and Emergency Conference started in 2008 with confident and well-thought steps. The launch of the conference at that time was considered a first in the region and in the Middle East, and served as a beacon illuminating the way ahead in our quest to realize the desired goals set by the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA). This was locally manifested by the increased pace of planning, preparedness, readiness, and awareness, and by the improvement of performance and effectiveness of the efforts and capabilities of emergency response in the UAE and the region. It was also manifested, globally, by the exchange of experiences related to emergencies and crises”.

H.E. Al Hosani went on to note that NCEMA hopes that the Crisis and Emergency Management Conference would contribute to building bridges to facilitate the transfer and exchange of experiences, knowledge and ideas between decision-making institutions, especially those entrusted with the management of crises at the local, regional and global levels, as well as activating cooperation between all organizations and institutions to contribute to the mitigation of the impact of disasters and crises. The challenges are great, and for this reason, strengthening the infrastructure of crisis management has become an urgent necessity.

Dr. Owais: Health is a fundamental human right... We must establish international health standards and systems to protect this right

His Excellency Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Minister of Health said in his keynote address: "Health security is an integral part of the overall security system. Our wise leadership gives great importance to the health sector, and has established national health strategies capable of



evaluating different health challenges accurately and scientifically, to accommodate new technologies and knowledge. Among these strategies is the development of comprehensive national programs to combat infectious diseases, and eliminate them according to the World Health Organization (WHO) directives. Our wise leadership has also planned to integrate the health sector within the national key sectors, included in the national strategy for innovation, which is based on encouraging innovation in the areas of health and therapeutic services through advanced technologies and to encourage the development of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Additionally, it fosters the work with strategic partners of the development of medical research sector for the treatment of prevalent diseases”.

Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi: To create opportunities for active community participation in facing crisis and disasters

For her part, Her Excellency Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, Chairman of the Federal National Council noted that organizing this conference in these times has a particular importance. It constitutes a constructive step in the right direction to discuss very important topics. She pointed out that "in order to face a crisis effectively, we must create opportunities for



community participation, engaging all segments of society, like organizations, groups and individuals. Active participation of all members and entities of a community in the face of a crisis is an essential pillar of planned response, and is now being pursued by states and stakeholders facing such emergencies”.

His Excellency Salem Obaid Al Shamsi, a member of the Federal National Council, addressed the audience on behalf of Her Excellency Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, Chairman of the Federal National Council, at the official opening, he indicated that this Conference with its specialized topics, represents a golden opportunity to review the experiences of different countries and to exchange visions that will enable us to find ways to promote areas of coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders at the local, regional and international levels. It also aims to exchange experiences to explore new methodologies, insights and ideas, to find the best possible solutions and actions to face emergencies, crises and disasters, and to deal with them efficiently and effectively in order to avoid them, mitigate their effects and recover from their impact at all levels.

Dr. Campbell McCafferty: Security is Key to Prosperity

For his part, Dr. Campbell McCafferty, Director of Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the United



Kingdom, said in his keynote speech that security is the key to prosperity. He also called for establishing an independent entity and a national security council for every country. “This entity should be provided with all relevant information needed to face challenges threatening national security”, he noted.

Furthermore, McCafferty tackled the importance of risk assessment at the national level, as well as the dangers of the Internet and its role in influencing the public opinion.

“Roles and responsibilities should be defined, and we should focus on complete preparedness to face crises and emergencies. In order to achieve that, constant monitoring and allocation of necessary financial resources are essential”, he underlined.

First Day Activities

First Session

The first session of the first day's conference included an overview of security. The session was chaired by Dr. Sultan Al Nuaimi, a researcher and an academic specialist, with the participation of Préfet Henri MASSE, Director of Studies at the National Administration Academy and a Former General Commander of the French Civil Defense; Dr. Maksoud Kruse, CEO of Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism; and Dr. Abdulaziz O. Sager - Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Saudi Arabia.

- Pr efet Henri Masse, Director of Studies at the National Administration Academy and a Former General Commander of the French Civil Defense spoke on the topic “Crisis from a Security Perspective”. He addressed the means of managing crisis at the local and national levels, the need to implement the developed plans, and realize the ultimate goal of security. He highlighted that France

has implemented a strategy allowing it to detect any crises the country may be facing in addition to suitable response plans. Furthermore, he noted that when the Civil Security Act was passed in 2004, the government had developed broad plans and allocated responsibilities at various levels, when faced with the risks. These plans include empowering governors of small towns to act in a crisis. He also underlined the importance of communication between the President and the Ministry of Interior in order to ensure the right response methods are implemented in times of crises and emergencies.

- Dr. Maksoud Kruse, CEO of Hedayah, The International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, talked about protecting communities from terrorist ideologies. He gave a summary about the Hedayah Center, which came with the idea of establishing the first independent international organization that works in conjunction with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, as well as with other partners at the international level to combat violent extremism. Then, he demonstrated the mechanism of understanding violent extremism, different types of ideologies- including religious ones- and individual and political problems. He also explained in detail the multiple dimensions of violent extremism phenomenon, which includes the



ideological, political, communicative, economic, social, historical, ethnic, and psychological factors. In order to counter violent extremism, Dr. Kruse pointed out the importance of education, rejection of radicalism, involvement of local communities, and the development of national strategies. He also emphasized the role of communications and counter-speech, and the challenges of encountering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

Dr. Kruze also pointed out that military and security actions against extremists and terrorists are not enough alone, but we must look at the different aspects surrounding the phenomena of extremism and terrorism.

- Dr. Abdulaziz O. Sager - Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, Saudi Arabia- spoke about Gulf integrated security. He said that the Arabian peninsula, including the south of Iraq and south of Yemen form a unified geopolitical mass, and this geographical area is witnessing several external threats to its security caused by the current situations in the neighboring area. Gulf Cooperation Council was founded in 1981 to respond to the security needs. Member countries of this council were able to overcome the various pressures and threats, besides surviving four wars that took place in the area with minimal impact. This was primarily due to the belief in the

principles of security integration and mutual

cooperation. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of participating in the coalition to restore legitimacy to Yemen.

Second Session

The second session, which discussed the modern methods of disaster and crisis management, was moderated by Dr. Saif Juma Al Dhaheri, Director of Safety & Prevention, NCEMA.

It also saw the participation of Dr. Robert MacFarlane, Assistant Director (UK Resilience Doctrine and Training) in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office-UK; Mr. Alex Stephen - General Manager for Government and Public Safety & Security in Telstra – Australia; and Mrs Luna Abu-Swaireh, Head of the Regional Office for Arab States of the United Nations Office for UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in Cairo.

- Dr. Robert MacFarlane explained the innovative techniques in responding to disasters. He noted that the convergence of new technologies with the efficiency of people, lead to good results. He tackled the challenges, difficulties and obstacles that hamper the required emergency response. He also focused on the importance of developing research, doing experiments and conducting exercises, as well as the importance of collecting, exchanging, analyzing and understanding information.

- Alex Stephen presented the Australian experience in the creation of a national system to inform and alert the public. He talked about “Lines” program, as well as the public safety and the role of the means of communication in achieving it.

He pointed out that Australia's approach in carrying out a national system to inform and alert the public, is based on leveraging of mobile



broadband communications technologies, to link the entire community, and conduct a joint and collective action in time of crisis and disasters in different parts of Australia, so as to enable individuals to automatically connect with each other in the coverage areas, and ensure and improve joint response without the need to invest in infrastructure.

- For her part, Mrs. Luna Abu-Swaireh, outlined the priorities of the Sendai Framework and the disaster mitigation plan 2015 - 2030. She emphasized that the risk is greater than one country can confront alone. Additionally, she focused on the importance of having plans and strategies, stressing the role of the government leadership in addressing disasters and crisis and working on preventing them, with efforts exerted by each and every individual.

On the same note, she underscored the safety of individuals, as the goal of any strategies. She also underlined that emergency management is not only a government responsibility, it should involve all stakeholders and the community alike.

Second Day Activities

The second and final day of the conference featured a speech delivered by His Highness the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, as well as three sessions and two workshops.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan: We are not immune from harm and its aftermath, which requires us to speed up our response and professionalism in dealing with it.

During the second day of the Conference, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister delivered a speech noting that “crises and disasters may occur at any time, and we are not immune from harm and its aftermath, which requires us to speed up our response and professionalism in dealing with them. This is what we see today in the Arab world and the challenges and the risks that may stem from serious and rapid developments touching on national security, whether from terrorist acts or from the ideology of extremist terrorist groups. This requires effective and strategic planning, awareness and broad participation to confront, address and eliminate terrorism, in order to achieve security and stability”.

In his address that was delivered on his behalf by His Excellency Mohammed Faris Al Mazrouei, Assistant Minister for Security and Military Affairs, His Highness stressed that the “UAE’s efforts in this area can be seen through its participation in the international coalition to combat terrorism and in strategy of the United Nations to combat terrorism. In addition, the UAE has hosted the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, Hedayah, which devotes its efforts for dialogue, training and research to combat violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations. This is in addition to the establishment of the Sawab Centre, which provides support for the international coalition against ISIS and cooperates with relevant members, individuals and institutions in the UAE concerned with combating false rumors, messages



and misinformation promoted by this extremist group”.

In conclusion, His Highness stressed the importance of international cooperation, which requires concerted efforts at the regional and international levels. He said: “The reality of the situation proved that the efforts of individuals in the UAE cannot confront crisis alone whatever their potentials were, and here we hope to live up to the required levels of international cooperation to prevent the risk of crisis and disasters, and to reduce their impact as much as possible”.

Third Session

The third session of the conference, moderated by Ahmed Al Yamahi, a presenter in Abu Dhabi TV, covered global changes, causes, consequences and solutions. It featured Brigadier Dr. Talal Bani Melhem, President of the Crisis and Emergency Management Centre in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Sir Alan Massey, Chief Executive of the Maritime Coastal Agency, the UK Coastguard; and Abdullah Al Jaziri, Executive Director of Corporate Governance at Etisalat, UAE.

- Brigadier Dr. Talal Bani Melhem discussed the Jordanian experience in dealing with the refugee crisis, and Jordan's experience in dealing with refugees starting with the Palestinian refugees,

to Iraqi and Syrian refugees. In this regard, he indicated that Jordan received so far about one million and 400 thousand Syrian refugees, representing 20 percent of the total population of the country.

Bani Melhem noted that refugees make up an international responsibility, however Jordan, thanks to its plans for immediate response, was able - despite its limited potentials, to overcome difficulties through international cooperation. He highlighted several attractive factors, such as the diplomacy of neighboring countries, sense of humanity, and religious, moral and national responsibility.

- Sir Alan Massey talked about the structural changes made to the British Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and how these changes have resulted in a more efficient and effective system. He discussed the geographical location of his country, as an island with open borders on the sea border. He said: “Our country is an island that has huge maritime boundaries”. Moreover, he explained how the British Coast Guard managed to become a flexible service in managing the crisis in the country, after the government divided the regions according to the magnitude of the problems. “The search and rescue operations took and are still taking a great deal of attention, and required a allocating burdens and conducting a comprehensive process of transformation, in addition to the ongoing renovation of the Coast Guard and its techniques”, he added.

Adding further, he tackled the London bombings in July 2005, and concluded by saying that his



country learned lessons from these events, that crisis prediction can lead to avoiding the crisis before it occur. “Even more important in delicate security screening and intelligence gathering”, he noted.

- Meanwhile, Abdullah Al Jaziri, discussed the importance of cyber-security and preparedness for the impacts of newer technologies. He made a presentation on modern technologies with global renowned specifications owned by Etisalat company. Moreover, he explained how the company deals with emergencies, first and foremost cyber threats, in order to ensure effective response to any emergency, and ensure business and services continuity to the public.

Fourth Session

The fourth session which looked at the pivotal role of the media in crisis and disaster management, was moderated by Mrs. Fathima Bu Hindi, from Abu Dhabi Media. This session featured Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Head of Media and Communication Sector; Retired Staff Colonel Dr. Fahed Al Shelaimi, Security and Strategy Expert, Kuwait, and Greg Webb, Advisor, Media Communications at the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

- Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, talked about the role of media in managing emergencies and crises. She commended the efforts exerted by relevant authorities in dealing with the Address hotel fire in Dubai which broke out on New Year's eve this year. She also praised the professionalism of the Emirati media in covering the event, transparently and effectively.

She went on to tackle the role of the media prior, during and after the crisis. Abu Ghazaleh stressed the need for pre-crisis media planning, and the importance of the distribution of roles and ongoing training, as well as establishing a media observatory during the crisis, to make sure that the media message has reached the recipient public.

Additionally, she focused on the importance of transparency, disseminating correct information about the event, identifying the target audience of the media message, in addition to determining the media to convey this message in the required format and content.

- Retired Staff Colonel Dr. Fahed Al Shelaimi, highlighted the potential for crisis escalation due to negative media, and the possibilities of media-manufactured crises. He focused on the necessity and importance of the availability of a range of components and elements, mainly the presence of an official spokesman, transparency and honesty with the public during the crisis. He also urged to continuously inform the public on exercises and drills carried out by the concerned authorities, involve the media and provide them with the necessary information, and deal in a flexible and conscious way with social media.

- Greg Webb provided insights into the handling of the Fukushima disaster from the communications perspective, highlighting the circumstances surrounding the occurrence of the disaster. He said: “Although Japan possesses a national plan for emergencies, the scale of the disaster and its overlapping elements, made the relevant authorities

stand helpless, unable to stop what was happening.

Webb stressed the need to communicate with the public during the crisis to explain developments, and he underscored the importance of having prior plans, specialized teams, and ensuring immediate response. In his lecture, he focused on the importance of coordination among all stakeholders, and the standardization of the media message, which must be delivered to the public in several languages.

Fifth Session

The fifth and final session, moderated by Salem Salmen Al Nuaimi, discussed challenges and solutions in the recovery phase. It featured Frode Mauring, UN Resident Coordinator in the UAE; Trevor Murphy, Head of Operational Resilience for Etihad Airways; and Julio Sergei, an expert from Risk Reduction Organization.

- Frode Mauring discussed the role of governments and international organizations during the recovery phase. He addressed the issue of disaster, response, and post-disaster challenges. Mauring explained that the goal is to deliver various relief materials, according to effective methods, stressing the importance of sustainable service delivery for the targeted audience that needs help. He pointed out that the average United Nations work in the region has doubled in recent months.

Mauring went on to stress that it would be best to invest in prevention measures, i.e, readiness and preparedness. He referred to the formula that every dollar spent on preparing and processing saves \$7 in the event of a crisis without this preparedness. “Recovery phase is associated with the extent of pre-disaster readiness”, he pointed out.

- Trevor Murphy discussed emergency response from an aviation sector perspective. He noted that Etihad Airways currently applies the criterion of business continuity management, developed and adopted by the National National Emergency, Crises and Disasters Management Authority. He confirmed that the company has the ability to successfully deal with the increase in emergency cases.



presented the relevance of strategic planning in emergency and crisis management. The second workshop, led by Zuhair Kamel Mohammad Manasir, Retired Staff Brigadier of the National Defense College in Jordan, focused on the mechanisms to build readiness.

Adding further, Murphy pointed out that Etihad Airways carried out the necessary and the usual tests, periodically, in coordination with various stakeholders. “We equip the response team, and update it constantly, with the aim of raising the level of security,” he noted.

- Julio Sergei highlighted the importance of accounting and assessing losses in crisis situations. He tackled the importance of having a database at the national level, focusing on the best scientific way to collect this data.

Sergei reviewed Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction 2015 – 2030. He underlined the importance of understanding disaster risks, and enhancing disaster risk management, in order to improve response. He encouraged investing in the field of risk reduction in order to increase the ability to address them, promoting disaster preparedness, effective response, and better reconstruction in the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

Workshops

Two separate workshops were held on the sidelines of the conference. In the first, Hameed Khalifa Al-Hajri, Head of Training in Tawazun Safety, Security and Disaster Management City,

Conference Conclusion... Recommendations

The Crisis and Emergency Management Conference 2016 concluded with a speech delivered by Nasser Mohammad Humaid Al Yammahi, Director of Media and Public Information at the National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority. Al Yammahi addressed his heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai; and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, for their ongoing support. He also expressed his gratitude to the organizers of the event, who had a profound impact on its success and in coming out with the desired positive results. Furthermore, he expressed his thanks to His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor for sponsoring and following up the Conference’s activities and events. Al Yammahi concluded his speech by reciting the recommendations issued by the participants in the Conference.

**Crime isn't common in Dubai ...
Security services are able to detect
crimes in record time**

Major General

Khamis Matar Al Mazeina

**Commander General of Dubai Police
and Chairman of the Crises and
Disasters Committee**

To “**Taware'e**”:

- There is no organized crime in the UAE
- Dubai is a multicultural city with more than 200 nationalities, living in peace and harmony... It is our responsibility to maintain things this way

Major General Khamis Matar Al Mazeina, Commander General of Dubai Police and Chairman of the Crises and Disasters Committee, stressed that organized crime is almost non-existent in the United Arab Emirates.

In an exclusive interview for “Taware’e wa Azamat” he said “crime is not common in Dubai, and security services are able to detect crimes in record time, contributing to a low rate of disturbing crimes”.

Dubai is a multicultural city, he noted, with more than 200 nationalities living in peace and harmony, thanks to the firm security system and to a fair and equitable justice system. “Our responsibility in Dubai police is to maintain this harmony”, he said.

Commenting on the fire that broke out at the Address Hotel in Dubai on New Year's Eve, Major General Al Mazeina explained that “there is no suspicion of foul play, and no one was arrested.”



He went on to note that Dubai Police General Headquarters (GHQ) has won 54 Excellence awards in 2015. “These are indeed good results and they motivate us to be even more ambitious,” he said.



The interview:

The Address Hotel Fire

- I would like to start our interview by asking you about the Address Hotel fire. How do you assess the results of the incident, and what are the lessons learned? According to you, who is to blame for the fire?

The Address Hotel fire that broke out during the New Year Eve celebrations at Burj Khalifa was a non-malicious incident. We have already revealed the details of the incident in full, according to the findings of the Directorate General of Forensic Evidence and Criminology. The report confirmed that the fire broke out due to a short circuit in a headlamp lighting located between the fourteenth and fifteenth floors of the hotel, specifically between apartments 1401 and 1504.

The report was developed by a team of 12 experts, including four fire experts, four assistant fire experts and four forensic photographers. They all concluded that there is no criminal suspicion in the fire, and for this reason no one was arrested.

I seize this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Directorate General of Forensic Evidence and Criminology for their diligence and efforts to reveal the cause of the fire. Officers meticulously examined the fire site, listened to witness testimony, had access to all necessary data, and took samples from the scene for lab analysis. No accelerated flammable materials were detected on the scene.

- How do you assess the performance of the relevant authorities, and the level of response? In your opinion, what makes for the success of firefighting and evacuation operations?

All the teams dispatched to the fire scene, police, civil defense and rescue officers, were able to evacuate more than 3,000 people, from

hotel guests to restaurants guests, and no casualties were recorded. There were minor injuries, which were due to inhaled fumes and were treated immediately. The biggest challenge was to protect lives and control the fire in a short period of time, and allow for celebrations to go on as scheduled.

Those teams deserve praise and appreciation for their unique efforts and their significant achievement, which didn't come as a surprise to us. All major events in Dubai involve working with the events security committee, which consists of representatives from all relevant government bodies in Dubai, including as the Police, Civil Defense, Ambulance, RTA, Homeland Security and entities involved with the event, such as Emaar company.

New Year's Eve celebrations are the biggest event the committee deals with every year. Preparations start in February. An evaluation is conducted to assess the performance of teams and entities that took

part in the previous celebrations, and notes are addressed to each entity highlighting shortfalls to ensure they can be avoided in the future.

In March, the committee begins implementation of its nine-month plan to secure the New Year celebrations. Procedures that were carried out during the current year's plan were instrumental to the success of the fire management efforts and the outstanding results in terms of evacuation and rescue operations.

It should also be noted that the Government of Dubai, the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing and all stakeholders assumed their roles to the fullest of their ability. They ensured that the needs of hotel guest were met, provided them with alternative hotel rooms and booked airplane tickets for those who had to travel.

The Address Hotel fire was a non-malicious incident. There is no criminal suspicion in the fire, and no one was arrested.

- What were the difficulties encountered during event management, particularly during and after the fire, and how do you assess the role of the public?

We can't talk about difficulties, given the proper planning and methodology used to deal with crises and emergencies. Evidently, in similar incidents, the difficult challenge lies in securing the arrival of Civil Defense vehicles and ambulances. We implemented the plan and got a good outcome. The events committee was able to secure open access for response teams amid 1.6 million people that were gathered around Burj Khalifa to take part in the celebrations. Civil defense and ambulance vehicles arrived easily to the fire scene, 2,800 hotel guests were evacuated in less than 15 minutes, which earned the admiration of the world. There was one firefighting vehicle in the vicinity of the hotel, and in less than three minutes, the firefighting teams, dispatched from four regions, were working hard to evacuate and rescue people and put the fire out.

Members of the public responded well to the teams, especially in terms of evacuation operations. There were no violations obstructing the work of response teams, despite the large number of people attending the celebrations.

Crime Fighting

- Crime knows no boundaries. How do you deal with the rapid development in criminal methods, and the growing threat from criminal organizations? To what extent has crime fighting has become regional or international?

Crime prevention is one of the main components for building national security and safety strategies, and is one the most important

pillars of stability and prosperity in any community. Scientific studies have shown that the crime fighting responsibility does not rest with national security agencies alone; it is a shared responsibility between all countries, especially in terms of the fight against organized crime, human trafficking and terrorist organizations.

From this standpoint, Dubai Police is keen to establish these bases with precision and professionalism, through the implementation of development plans in order to achieve the goals set by the leadership to curb crime rates, and reduce and prevent crimes.

We can't ignore organized crime and transnational crimes, but we emphasize that the UAE has achieved advanced international stature in the fight against organized crime, which is almost non-existent in the UAE, due to the significant achievements made by police and security officers, as well as by citizens and residents locally, regionally

or internationally.

The tremendous efforts undertaken by the UAE police, led by the Ministry of Interior, with the support of the wise leadership, and the efforts of H.H. Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, have made the UAE an oasis of safety, security and stability for all its inhabitants and for the world. We take pride in the attention and support accorded by the wise leadership to the security work system in the country.

The UAE has managed, thanks to the support of its wise leadership, and its eagerness to rank first globally, to establish a renowned police and security institution, given its practical and scientific expertise that allowed it to compete with its counterparts in the developed world. The

Crime fighting responsibilities don't rest with national security agencies alone; they are shared between all countries.

Emirati security bodies enjoy strong potentials and competencies to fight organized and cross-border crime, in addition to national staff working in the security and judicial bodies that exhibit a high level of efficiency, and the fairness and independence of the judiciary system.

The UAE police achievements would not have been possible without the significant outstanding successes achieved by the Ministry of Interior in fighting and curbing crime. The security institutions didn't stand helpless in front of the most mysterious crimes, which occurred on the territory of the UAE. Police officers managed, thanks to their expertise and skills, to discover these crimes and arrest the perpetrators, in unprecedented record time.

Laws and Regulations

- Do you think that the current criminal and procedural legislation are sufficient to counter the crime?

Of course, there is a great level of transparency and harmony between the judicial and executive branches. The justice of UAE's judiciary system, its independence, development and adaptation to the reality of crime, have made our country proactive in promulgating special laws and regulations that keep pace with the fight against all types of criminal actions, namely human trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, financing of criminal activities, and cyber crime.

The Multiplicity of Nationalities

- No country or city is safe from crime, what are the most common crimes in Dubai, especially since its residents come from all parts of the world

thanks to the openness and facilities offered to visitors and investors?

Dubai is a multicultural and multinational city, where everyone enjoys peace and security thanks to the strong security system in place, and thanks to the equal treatment they are all afforded under a fair and equitable judicial system. Dubai has people from more than 200 nationalities living in it. They come from different cultures and backgrounds, and they all live in harmony and peace. This isn't mere luck; it is the result of years of hard work and dedication. Our responsibility Dubai Police is to maintain this harmony.

We are fully aware that it would be difficult to live in a crime-free utopia, but, in terms of security, the whole world has witnessed the UAE achievements, achievements that we take pride in. Dubai is a smart city that welcomes people from the world over thanks to its culture, security and economy. All these factors encourage investors and investment. Crime is not common in Dubai, and security

services are able to detect crimes in record time.

Disturbing Crimes

- Can you tell us about crime statistics for the year 2015?

Statistics show a decrease in the rate of disturbing crime; this is what concerns us as a security entity, that data and information bases are its strongest tools, according to sophisticated and systematic action mechanisms. Our security apparatus has managed to unveil crimes that have not been reported, and achieved strategic goals, according to performance indicators for every 100

Crime prevention represents one of the main components of building national security and safety strategies, and is one of the most important pillars of stability and prosperity in communities worldwide.

thousand inhabitants. The General Department of Criminal Investigation successfully handled several international cases over the past year, in terms of new methods used by criminals on one hand, and the level of professionalism demonstrated on the other hand.

The department achieved the goal of limiting the number of disturbing crimes to about 62.8 crimes per 100 thousand inhabitants. Its efforts resulted in decreasing the number of such crimes in the past year to 49.8 crimes, compared to 51.2 in 2014 per 100 thousand inhabitants. The crime reduction program helped to reduce the rate of disturbing crimes in Dubai last year by 1.2% compared to the 2014.

The department strives to achieve its strategic objectives in the fight against crime, and operates according to a well-crafted approach for combating crimes professionally, in order to curb and reduce disturbing crimes. The efforts exerted by the competent teams have significantly contributed to the reduction of disturbing crimes at the emirate level, and were able to implement the plans and processes to the fullest.

● To what extent can the security solution alone eradicate or curb crimes? What are the supplements or alternatives?

As I said, it would be difficult and unrealistic to hope to live in a crime-free utopia. What we can do is establish security and justice, and reduce crimes that disturb and jeopardize the security and safety of people. We are proud of our achievement in reducing the rate of disturbing crimes through the implementation of security and societal programs. The biggest responsibility

lies on the shoulders of the security apparatus. Security services cooperation is instrumental as is the role of our partners in the community.

Achieving Excellence

● What are the factors that contribute to achieving excellence in security performance, and to what extent are you satisfied with Dubai Police's role in maintaining security and ensuring peace of mind to the community?

The important question that should be asked here is: how does Dubai police achieve its goals with such distinction? Dubai Police GHQ has won 54 awards for excellence during 2015. These are indeed good results and they motivate us to be even more ambitious.

We talk about new ideas and innovation in all areas and in all fields that help Dubai Police to move forward and maintain its international standing. We have the foundation elements that drive us to have full confidence in the future, and in

the successes of Dubai Police, by determining the targets and indicators, relying on results, surveys, and media messages addressed to our audience through local media.

Dubai Police is one of the first entities to offer electronic services to its customers and staff members (221 electronic services, including 140 information services, and 81 procedural services). This department always wins smart government prizes for its important technical services that aim to streamline service delivery to customers.

Success is linked to a noble goal, and that is a goal that His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President,

The justice of UAE's judiciary system, its independence, development and adaptation to the reality of crime, have made our country proactive in promulgating special laws and regulations that keep pace with the fight against all types of criminal actions.

Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai has set when he launched the Dubai Smart City strategy last March. "Our ambition is that this project touches the life of everyone in our country, or every mother in her house, or every employee at his place of work, or every investor in his project, or every child at school, and doctor in his clinic. Our goal is to ensure happiness to all. May Allah help us in achieving this end," H.H. said.

Smart city, smart government, excellence programs, and great incentives for creativity, all of these are growth phases that bode for the future, as long as they are founded on sound bases, firm steps and an ambition that knows no bounds.

The Role of the Media

● How do you assess the role of the media in dealing with crises and emergencies before, during and after an event? Are there frameworks or channels that control coordination between the two sides?

We have achieved a high level of cooperation and partnership with various communication channels, audio-visual and print media. Dubai Police, since early on, has realized the importance of security media, as one of the specialized types of media to publish and broadcast data and information that reflect the security aspect. Dubai Police Security Media assumes several roles, through cooperation with various media, in order to spread awareness, support positive behaviors, warning against criminal and deviant behavior, and endeavoring to invest all this in the prevention of crime. Thus the importance of cooperation and availing of various media in terms of awareness, and working to achieve the preventive security between the various segments of society.

We, at Dubai Police, base our actions on facts and we don't leave anything to chance. The crisis and disasters committee's plans include measures to deal with any event from the media perspective. This is why we didn't witness any confusion or inconsistency when the Address hotel fire occurred.

There is no doubt that the local media plays a leading and significant role in serving the security goal. Dubai Police has established communication channels with the media for many years, within a framework of mutual trust and transparency. In this context, the role of the media was clear and constructive in dealing with the Address Hotel fire.

Dubai Police, and through the Security Media Department at the General Department of Community Service, deals with all media outlets nationwide, as well as with many Arab and international media organizations, based on clear foundations that rely on ethics, ease of communication

with officials at Dubai Police GHQ, and the ease of access to information from the official source. As an example, there is daily communication between Dubai Police, represented by the Security Media Department and the following media outlets:

- 15 daily and weekly newspapers, published in Arabic and English.
- 28 local radio stations, in addition to the Emirates News Agency.
- 8 Arab and international news agencies, including the Emirates News Agency.
- 9 local, Arab and foreign satellite channels.

Dubai Police's initiatives are not limited to the security aspect but there are also important initiatives at the humanitarian, health and environmental levels.

Community Police

● To what degree has Dubai police been able to successfully be a community police in a way that contributes to achieving its strategic goals?

Police in general is part of the society and has community partnerships with various sectors. Dubai Police has launched many initiatives that aim to serve the community, ensure its welfare, and raise awareness about negative phenomena that may affect the lives of the people. It has contributed through its awareness-raising campaigns to promote security and reduce and prevent crimes. It is noteworthy that Dubai Police's initiatives are not limited to the security aspect but has also important initiatives at the humanitarian, health and environmental levels.

The Security Awareness Department is affiliated with the General Department of Community Service at Dubai Police. This Department launches each year a range of initiatives and campaigns aimed at spreading awareness among members of society, and is working to immunize its members against various risks. This year's awareness campaigns, organized in coordination and cooperation with the Juveniles Awareness and Care Association, the General Department of Traffic, the General Department of Human Resources, the General Department of Anti-narcotics, and the General Department of Criminal Investigations, targeted different segments of society and included social, criminal and traffic awareness-raising campaigns.

Early this year, the department launched a campaign to warn against the use of mobile phones behind the wheel, in addition to another campaign about the pros and cons of social networking sites, a campaign addressed to parents about parenting, a campaign on the fight against drugs targeting members of the public and students, a campaign about cyber crimes,

a campaign about "good citizenship", and an awareness-raising campaign targeting Dubai's tourists and visitors.

On the humanitarian side, the department launched several initiatives, including the SOS initiative, associated with the Command and Control center. It allows Dubai Police to locate the whereabouts of a person calling for help, especially heart patients and the elderly. This service is available on smart phones and Apple watch, and helps to provide assistance to those in need, wherever they are. A service was developed and dedicated to people with special needs, which enables the police to provide them with assistance as soon as they send notification to the Command and Control Center.

There are environmental initiatives that aim to keep up with the cultural and aesthetic development of the Emirate of Dubai. For example, there

was an initiative to plant mangroves in the Ras Al Khor area, which later became a globally recognized nature reserve. The Department also launched various initiatives to combat air pollution, by easing traffic congestion, and adjusting the specifications of vehicles to reduce exhaust fumes. It also tried to reduce marine pollution. Additionally, Dubai police has a myriad of initiatives in the religious, cultural and sports field, and most of these initiatives have won multiple awards. Dubai Police doesn't hesitate to participate or contribute in any humanitarian or environmental initiative and strives to keep pace with the aspirations of the wise leadership in order to achieve happiness for all.

Local media plays a leading and significant role in serving the security goal.



To Address Radioactive and Nuclear Threats...

Abu Dhabi Hosts inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise "Falcon Eye"



Abu Dhabi recently hosted the Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise entitled The Falcon Exercise. The Exercise, held for the first time in the UAE, was organized by the Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centers of Excellence (CoE) Risk Mitigation and Abu Dhabi Police, in cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

The three-day exercise featured a series of workshops and aimed at promoting international approaches in terms of detection and response to nuclear and other radiological threats; to enhance local, regional and international

cooperation and coordination between relevant agencies; and to encourage the exchange of information between the different international organizations and partners.



In his address on the occasion, Lt. General Saif Abdullah Al Sha'far, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, underlined that the exercise is an opportunity to share best practices in order to reinforce individual and collective capabilities in the effort to combat radiological and nuclear terrorism threats. "This important event clearly reflects the United Arab Emirates' commitment and its unrelenting efforts, in cooperation with the international community, to counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, and enhance security and stability in the region", he noted.

In his address to attendees, Lt. General Al Sha'far said that the UAE has adopted since its establishment, under the leadership of the founding father, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan an open, peaceful and humanitarian approach, in dealing with the various issues that pose a threat to global security and peace. "Sheikh Saif has proven to be a worthy successor, following in the path of the founding father in providing care and assistance for people, and supporting the efforts to counter all sorts of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks," he said.

Lt. General Al Sha'far pointed out that the UAE has endeavored to issue the Federal Law No. (6) of 2009 on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy i.e the Nuclear Law, which reflects the UAE's policy and its commitment to the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. He also highlighted the unwavering and relentless efforts exerted by the UAE leadership to maintain security and stability, and provide security and peace of mind to both citizens and residents. "This approach is based on the directives of the higher leadership and falls in line with its vision and mission to serve security and world peace, not only in the UAE and the region but in the whole world," noted Lt. General Al Sha'far.

Lt. General Al Sha'far emphasized that

nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious threats to global security. "The fight against nuclear threat requires decisive action at the international level, and cooperation amongst world countries, due to its global political, economic, social and psychological consequences," he said. Furthermore, he highlighted the considerable attention dedicated by the UAE to provide protection from the devastating biological, nuclear, chemical, and radiological impact of weapons of mass destruction. Adding further, he said: "It is not a secret that terrorist organizations seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, which requires concerted efforts between world countries to prevent them from achieving their goals, and to establish effective cooperation with the relevant international bodies".

For his part, Brigadier Eng. Hussein Ahmed Al Harithi, Director General of Central Operations at Abu Dhabi Police and acting Director of the Secretariat in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, addressing the attendees at the conclusion of the exercise, stressed the keenness of the United Arab Emirates' higher leadership to strengthen cooperation, coordination and exchange of experiences in the field of countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards.

Additionally, Brigadier Eng. Al Harithi hoped that the exercise has achieved the desired goals, contributed to an increased awareness of the regional risks and threats, and identified the best global practices for the initial response to nuclear accidents. "The exercise also aimed to enhance cooperation and coordination between the national teams of Arab countries, and encourage the exchange of experiences and knowledge in the field of radiological and nuclear incidents," he added.



In an important step towards operational readiness

Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) Announced successful completion of Cold Hydrostatic Testing At Unit 1 in "Barakah" Nuclear Power Plant

In an important step towards operational readiness, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) announce the successful completion of Cold Hydrostatic Testing at Unit 1 in Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, in the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The announcement was made during a ceremony at the site, attended by HE Dr. Matar Hamed Al Neyadi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy, and Mohammed Ibrahim Al Hammadi, CEO of ENEC, as well as a number of officials and representatives of the Korea Electric Power Corporation, "KEPCO", the main contractor of ENEC.

The test was conducted in order to verify that the components of the cooling system and the high-pressure systems in the reactor meet the safety and quality standards as determined by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

For the test, treated water was used to fill the main circuit. Water was then pumped to maintain a safe and suitable temperature during



processes inside the reactor.

ENEC stressed that this milestone falls within the framework of the successes achieved during its journey in developing peaceful nuclear energy plants in the UAE, safely and in accordance with the highest standards of quality. Such successes include running the power



transfer plant from the first station to the second station and connecting it to the electricity grid in the UAE. It was this achievement that led to the success of the Cold Hydrostatic Testing.

HE Mattar Al Neyadi congratulated the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation for a milestone achievement in developing the UAE peaceful nuclear energy program, and valued its contributions to the Western Region.

He said: “ENEC’s efforts falls within the UAE strategy aimed at diversifying energy sources in view of achieving sustainable energy and supporting economic and social growth in the country”.

For his part, Eng. Al Hammadi pointed out that with the completion of the Cold Hydrostatic Testing at the first station, and the operating

power transmission station, we are closer to achieving our objective

to provide a quarter of the power requirements for the UAE using sustainable nuclear energy with almost inexistent carbon emissions.

The main mission of the energy transmission station is to transfer electricity generated in Barakah to the distribution lines of the Abu Dhabi Transmission and Dispatch Company (TRANSCO), which in turn are connected to GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) lines. This would allow future energy transfer to GCC States. At the local level, the station will transfer electric power generated at Barakah to power homes and institutions throughout the UAE.



Abu Dhabi Municipality Inaugurates Emergency and Crisis Center



In implementation of the directives of the leadership stressing the importance of revamping the handling of disasters, emergencies and crises, Abu Dhabi City Municipality has recently opened the Emergency, Crises and Disasters Control Center in the municipality's head office in the capital.

The Emergency Center was established to carry out specific strategic and effective tasks in a bid to achieve the UAE's integrated vision with regards to its readiness and response to emergencies, crises and disasters by routing all incoming calls and reported cases to the emergency center, using a common emergency number (993). This would enable the municipality to handle all communications and reported cases using a sophisticated electronic system.

Musabbah Mubarak Al Marar, Acting General Manager of Abu Dhabi Municipality, pointed out during the inauguration that this project reflects the municipal system's commitment to adopting the latest applicable methods in handling disasters and crises, in order to ensure a safe, secure and healthy environment for

everyone. The project would also leverage the municipality's efficiency in facing the challenges ahead and enhance the capabilities of emergency prediction and response teams.

In the same context, the Environment, Health and Safety Office at Abu Dhabi City Municipality, which is responsible for overseeing the project said: "This project is intended to complete the migration from improvised disasters control methods to the integrated, systematic, and planned phase. The municipality also intends to adopt the "preventive prediction policy" as a prerequisite in the crisis control process to avoid emergencies, crises or disasters, in addition to evaluating the current situation related to readiness and response to emergencies, crises and disasters at Abu Dhabi City Municipality.



To raise awareness of safe and responsible use of the internet

UAE launches the Emirates Safer Internet Society (E-SAFE)



Emirates Safer Internet Society “E-SAFE” was officially launched to work as a non-profit organization, under the ministerial decree No. 915 of 2015.

E-SAFE strives to excel in empowering the community to use internet responsibly and to protect children from online abuse by educating and raising awareness, building capabilities, assuming an observatory and advisory role and collaborating with multiple stakeholders to contribute to the nation’s prosperity.

E-SAFE Society’s key focus is to safeguard the right of each child to positive, age-appropriate online content and to ensure they can benefit from the latest ICT technologies while remaining protected from exploitation.

During a press conference held in Abu Dhabi in the presence of board members and entities interested in information technology issues, Dr. Eng. Abdullah Al Mehyas, Chairman of the Society, stressed that E-SAFE would contribute to the future by turning into reality the wise leadership’s vision of making UAE a

role model to the world in child protection.

For his part, Eng. Adel Salem Al Kaf Al Hashmi, Treasurer of E-SAFE, praised the UAE government’s sustained commitment to join international efforts to fight child abuse through the means of communication and digital media.

“UAE’s leadership of the Virtual Global Taskforce and the Ministry of Interior’s membership in the international law enforcement coalition, reflect UAE’s commitment to protect children against risks, threats and exploitation through the means of technology and communication”, he noted. Furthermore, he pointed out

that UAE’s policies and regulations in the field of Information Security cover cybercrimes, the breach of national security, religious/social intolerance, breaking the law, invasion of privacy, harassment, defamation, blackmailing, threatening, publishing inappropriate content, impersonation, identity theft, hacking and credit card and financial fraud.



Reducing Carbon emissions

50% of Dubai Taxi Fleet to be Hybrid by 2021

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has unveiled a plan to convert 50 per cent of Dubai taxicabs to hybrid vehicles by 2021. This move is part of a master plan to reduce carbon emissions of the taxi sector to fulfill the requirements of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and the Green Economy drive.

Adding further, Al Tayer pointed out that the plan encompasses enlarging the fleet of hybrid taxicabs in Dubai from 147 in 2015 to 791 taxicabs by 2016, and increasing the number to 4750 hybrid taxicabs by 2021.

“RTA is exerting strenuous efforts to bring about a quantum shift in the infrastructure of

mass transit systems in an effort to make them environment-friendly, and accommodate the rising demand for transit means in the Emirate,” said Al Tayer. On the same note, the Director-General of Roads and Transport Authority emphasized that RTA was the first entity in the region to pilot hybrid vehicles as part of the taxi fleet in 2008.

“Results of the pilot operation of hybrid taxis conducted by DTC since 2008 indicated that they help reduce carbon emissions by 34 per cent, slashing fuel consumption by 33 per cent, besides cutting maintenance costs due to the low mechanical faults, and curbing noise levels,” he added.



On the 25th Anniversary of the Battle

Mohammed Al Bowardi attends UAE Land Forces celebration to honor UAE veterans from the Kuwait liberation war



The Land Forces of the UAE Armed Forces honored the 3rd Infantry Brigade which participated in the liberation of Kuwait in 1991 in a ceremony, entitled “Battlefield Honor”, held at Seih Military Camp in Ras Al Khaimah.

Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, Minister of State for Defense Affairs and H.E. Lieutenant General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al Rumaithi attended the ceremony.

The event, dubbed “Battlefield Honor” aims to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the liberation of Kuwait in the leadership’s appreciation of the history and sacrifices of Emirati troops who fought courageously out of their belief in defending their country and their brethren.

Major General Saleh Mohammed Saleh Al Amri, Commander of the Land Forces assured

in a speech that the UAE Armed Forces will continue to assume their national duties, effectively and efficiently, thanks to the wise leadership of UAE which provided the Armed Forces with all the necessary potential and equipment to be able to fulfill their duties based on their commitments towards sisterly and friendly states.

“On this occasion and more than 25 years after the operation, we celebrate handing over the flag of the former 3rd Infantry Brigade to the actual 13th Combat Force to keep it fluttering high and proud for as long as we live,” Major General said.

“We are celebrating the heroes of this battle who are still among us to tell the stories of bravery and sacrifice. We also remember with pride and honor eight martyrs who laid their lives in this battle on February 25, 1991”, he concluded.

Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Joins National Service

Fifth Batch of Recruits Reports for National and Reserve



The National and Reserve Service Authority continued to receive the Emirati male and female citizens who have enrolled in national service. With enthusiasm, high morale, a sense of pride and loyalty to the homeland, the fifth batch of recruits reported to duty at the Armed Forces' training centers in mid-January, where they were greeted by a number of senior officers and non-commissioned officers.

The 5th batch of recruits included in its ranks H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation. On this occasion, His Highness stressed that national service is one of the noblest duties that any citizen can do for his country and people. "It is an opportunity for Emirati citizens to demonstrate their loyalty towards their country, people and leadership. It also contributes to instilling a

sense of unity and solidarity amongst UAE citizens", he said.

Additionally, Sheikh Ahmed pointed out that national service is an opportunity to give back to the country. "It gives me great honor to stand with my fellow countrymen who have joined the national military service today," he added.

His Highness went on to say that enrolling in the ranks of the armed forces to perform national service is an unparalleled honor and a great privilege. "The brave men of the UAE

armed forces are a source of dignity, pride and strength for us all. They protect our achievements and ensure that we can maintain the UAE's position at the forefront of developed countries", he concluded.

In his address on this occasion, Major-General Pilot Sheikh Ahmed bin Tahnoun bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the National and Reserve Service expressed his pride in this cohort of citizens who have enrolled to serve their country. "This is an important stage in their lives. It plays an important and vital role in inculcating and consolidating the values of loyalty, discipline, commitment and seriousness in them", he noted.

Sheikh Tahnoun emphasized that national service contributes to enhancing military capabilities, raising future generations on sound national foundations, while helping them to understand the challenges that they may encounter and the means to address them with utmost responsibility, caution and diligence.

Adding further, he underlined that the young recruits who preceded them were worthy of the precious trust granted to them by the wise leadership. "They assume their responsibilities and met the call of duty", he added.

The Authority, after identifying the needs and requirements of the vital sectors in the country, has announced the start of a new session of alternative service, devoted to those who ranked fifth in the medical examination



results. The duration of the alternative service is equal to the national service, according to academic qualifications.

Alternative service recruits will carry out administrative, technical or civil work commensurately with their potentials in the various units of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Interior or the state's security apparatus, or in any other entities as determined by the National and Reserve Service Committee. This would provide all citizens that were found medically unfit with the opportunity to join the field and training classes for national service with ease, thus serving the country as civilians.

In HCC's inaugural meeting to face challenges

Mohammed bin Rashid launches ‘Dubai Humanitarian Statement’



Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum presided over the inaugural meeting of the Humanitarian Consultative Council (HCC) in which H.H. launched Dubai humanitarian Statement.

The statement confirmed the efforts to establish sustainable humanitarian aids by adopting a risk management approach that offers

an effective response to crises, promoting social and private cooperation, establishing strategic companies for sustainable humanitarian work and supporting unconventional mechanisms and solutions to promote humanitarian work and abilities.

Sheikh Mohammed assured that UAE is always ready to face all regional and global challenges on social, humanitarian, economic and developmental fronts.

“This statement is consistent with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and with priorities given to certain humanitarian initiatives caused by the ever-

changing circumstances, which allows us to overcome the global challenges,” H.H explained.

Sheikh Mohammed underlined the increasingly growing global crises, with 21 disasters taking place last year, including 18 due to conflicts and three due to natural catastrophes. He added that international funds covered only 35 percent of emergency needs for over 20 million people who became refugees, while 60 million people were displaced around the world.

The meeting covered several humanitarian issues related to reinforcing the constructive dialogue and finding exceptional standard-setting processes for humanitarian actions.

The International Humanitarian Consultative Council adopted the constitutional document of the meeting and it was agreed to hold the second session of the Council next December in conjunction with the International Humanitarian Conference which will be held in Dubai.

It’s to be noted that the International Humanitarian Consultative Council was initiated by the International Humanitarian City in 2015 and is based in Dubai

Heading UAE’s delegation at the first conference of the “Arab Anti-corruption Agreement”

Counselor Al Awadhi Corruption is a serious crime that endangers societies

Abdul Rahim Yousuf Al Awadhi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs, headed the UAE delegation at the first conference of the member states of the Arab anti-corruption agreement, which opened today at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

Al Awadhi said corruption had become one of the most serious crimes and one of the diseases that destroys nations' institutions and economies and threatens their ethical values.

Al Awadhi noted that Arab states acknowledged the threat of corruption, and therefore, many states, including the UAE, ratified the anti-corruption agreement of the United Nations and significant efforts were made to combat corruption it regionally and internationally.



UAE welcomes Ban Ki-moon's plan of action to prevent violent extremism

The UAE has welcomed the “UN Secretary-General's plan of action to prevent violent extremism, and stressed that the plan needs to address factors that propel extremism, most notably foreign occupation and "State terrorism," and address the issue of accountability for states that compromise the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

Speaking during the debate of the General Assembly on the issue, Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the United Nations said that the Secretary-General's initiative should be a blueprint for coordinating all efforts to combat extremism, and should support existing mechanisms, including the important work of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Nusseibeh also praised the plan's recommendation to create regional plans of action to prevent extremism, as the phenomenon is a trans-border threat. That is why the UAE has joined 33 other Islamic countries in the first Islamic Coalition against Terrorism, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the aim of eliminating extremism and preserving Islam.

In this context, she stressed on the need for concerted international efforts to assist states in ending conflicts, which, along with civil wars and human right abuses, can be drivers of extremism.

The Permanent Representative also noted the damaging impact of the proxy wars waged by some states, which exacerbate the problem. She added that conquering extremists requires long-term strategies in order to win the war



of ideas, therefore, the UAE has developed a national plan to prevent extremism from transforming into violent extremism, which includes promoting good governance and the rule of law, including local communities in meeting the challenge and efforts to counter hate narratives.

Nussaibeh concluded by saying that the UAE believes that achieving prosperity and lasting peace depends on the promotion of tolerance and pluralism, and confirmed UAE's commitment to supporting its partners in their fight against extremist groups wherever they maybe.