

## At “Al Azm Retreat” and “Riyadh Summit” The UAE is making along with its allies a better future free from terrorism

The second Retreat, hosted by Riyadh last April, marks a historic turning point in achieving greater and deeper understanding between the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The two brotherly countries emerged more determined and able to work together towards realizing common goals.

These results were hardly surprising to anyone who closely monitors the reality of cooperation between the two countries. The starting points for this success have been evident for a long time. A careful and impartial examination of the UAE-Saudi relations following the first retreat held in Abu Dhabi in February this year shows the confident start of the application of the policies and plans that the two brotherly countries have embarked upon, with the aim of moving toward greater harmonization at economic, political, military and security levels.

It is widely known that the UAE and Saudi Arabia have always wanted to strengthen their fraternal alliance at all levels, in line with the directives of His Highness Shiekh Khalifa Ben Zayed Al Nahyan the UAE president, God protect Him, and his brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. At the same time, the coming together of both countries is designed to meet both peoples ‘wishes to achieve prosperity and stability, and to respond firmly and effectively to the challenges facing both countries and the region.

It is no exaggeration to say that the second Retreat, attended by about 200 officials from the two countries, including Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani, Director General of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, did not just find mechanisms to strengthen joint action between the two countries. 2nd Khalwa also paved the way for the success of the first Arab-Islamic summit, which was attended by presidents and representatives of 55

countries and was chaired by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and US President Donald Trump in Riyadh on May 22. Importantly, the summit resulted in setting up stronger alliances with the United States with a view to achieving stability, security and peace in the region and beyond.

The shared visions and interests, as well as mutual respect between the UAE and the United States, have undoubtedly contributed significantly to the strengthening of the two countries’ historic partnership, the consolidation of the UAE’s political leadership and its ability to shape important initiatives in and around the Summit. It also helped launch the “Moderation” project to fight terrorism and extremism, an initiative that enjoys the full support of the UAE, not least because it has always been a pioneer in sacrificing and mobilizing others to stand up to terrorism and extremism in defense of human moderation and brotherhood.

This is how the UAE-US alliance goes forward from a concrete reality and in the light of a clear vision of the near-term goals and strategic objectives. This confirms that it will succeed in establishing new beginnings that will outline a different future, not only in terms of cooperation between the two countries but also in terms of their ability to bring about change. It will also lead to real, boldly and effectively addressing the challenges ahead, particularly religious extremism and violence as well as interventions that fuel conflict in the region and ignite strife.

While the fires are still raging in the region, and the innocent are still losing the battle to survive terrorism and violence, it is very much hoped that the future, which the UAE is diligently making, by virtues of its inventiveness and noble alliances, will be safer and more equitable for all.



# Taware'e wa Azamat

## Together... we preserve the country's achievements

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Al Kaabi, Chairman of the General  
Authority for Islamic Affairs and  
Endowments**

The Initiative (the Goodness Year) planted in  
us (..), the love of giving and the impetus to  
provide to the needy



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Trump says his meeting is “a great honor”  
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**We have strategic alliances and  
 partnership with the United States**



**The historic visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on 16 May, attracted wide media attention at the local, regional and international levels. It included a number of talks, the most important of which with Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, in which they discussed means of enhancing strategic relations between the two countries and a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.**

«It is a great honor to be with us today, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a distinguished person, I respect him, I have known him as a lover of his country and I think he loves the United States,» he said.

#### **Greetings and wishes**

During the meeting, HH conveyed the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God protect him, and his wishes to the President and the American people for their progress, stability and prosperity. President Trump also asked Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to give his greetings to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and wished the UAE greater prosperity and progress.

The meeting was attended by HH Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Advisor and HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The talks focused on political, economic and military cooperation between both countries their friendship ties that have been established for decades and aimed at strengthening relations with the intention to upgrade them to new levels of coordination and partnership, in order to achieve mutual interests.



#### **Strategic issues**

The two sides also discussed the international efforts to combat terrorism, extremism, violence and other strategic issues which concern both countries, including the regional interventions that threaten the security of the Middle East, the Syrian crisis and the Libyan issue. HH briefed President Trump on the results of the Abu Dhabi meetings where discussions of the Libyan crisis were conducted.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed that relations between the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America



are a strategic partnership with a long history of mutual respect and close cooperation in all fields.

«The UAE is always keen to develop, strengthen and advance its strategic relations with the United States, especially in light of the consensus between the two friendly countries on regional and international issues, particularly the security of the Arab Gulf, the Middle East crises, terrorism, and the threats of security and stability on the international scene ».

#### Humanitarian aid

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan pointed to the need to provide and expand aid, and coordination between all parties to meet the growing humanitarian challenges resulting from conflicts and lack of food supplies.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan highly praised President Trump's initiative to strengthen US relations with its key partners in the region and to adopt stricter policies to counter extremism and terrorism. HH also pointed out the UAE's efforts to counter extremist ideology,

religious, ethnic and human coexistence.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, wrote the following statement in the honorary record at the White House: "At the outset, I would like to express my happiness at meeting with President Donald Trump at the beginning of my visit to the United States of America, with which we have historic friendship and cooperation. We look forward to working together with our friends in the White House to strengthen our strategic relations, and take it forward for the benefit of our two countries and our two friendly peoples, and we hope our visit will intensify our joint efforts for peace and stability in the Middle East and the world ... We sincerely wish His Excellency President Donald Trump every success in leading the United States in this new and delicate stage, and the friendly American people further development and prosperity"

#### Meeting Matisse

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme

Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met later on with James Matisse, US Secretary of Defense, in the second major leg of his visit. The two sides discussed the friendly relations between both countries and means of enhancing them, especially in the military and defense fields. They exchanged views on key issues, some of which focus on coordination of joint military operations to combat terrorist organizations in the Middle East, regional interventions in the region, and attempts to undermine security and stability and threaten international shipping corridors.

#### UAE-US relations in 46 years

The relationship between the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America is unique in terms of durability and harmony. It is more than 46 years old and is based on a solid foundation of shared interests, values and mutual respect. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in March 1972, the two countries have endeavored to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation in all fields, especially political,

military, economic and scientific, including health and space sciences. The two countries have also joined forces to promote regional security, economic prosperity and face urgent challenges around the world.

The United States was the third country to establish formal diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates after it had been founded, and has set up an embassy in the capital Abu Dhabi since 1974.

#### Military cooperation

The two countries have collaborated in joint military efforts on six key occasions, from the first Gulf War of 1991 to Kosovo in the late 1990s and Afghanistan in 2003, in addition to their joint effort to combat the terrorist organization ISIS.

In the economic field, the two countries' relations have been greatly enhanced. Trade between them has increased to about \$ 20 billion in 2016, according to the US Census Bureau and UAE investments in the United States of \$ 21 billion.

## Iran's interference has been criticized Mohammed bin Zayed highly values UAE partnership with America



It is no exaggeration to say that the Arab-Islamic Summit hosted by Riyadh on 22 May, and the UAE delegation to it was led by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has opened a new chapter in relations with the United States and laid the foundations for more effective cooperation with the White House under President Donald Trump, broader convergence of common positions, hopes and objectives, deeper and more solid partnership in the face of threats to the region and the world, and integrated efforts to counter terrorism and extremism in all their forms.

The summit, which was held under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and US President Donald Trump, and attended by a number of monarchs, Excellencies and Highnesses, was an important opportunity to exchange views and advice at a delicate stage in the history of the region and the world.

### America under Trump

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that the United States under President Donald Trump has made great strides in building an effective strategic partnership with the Arab and

Islamic worlds. HH said: "This historic summit is a clear Arab, American and Islamic message to all those who are trying to use religion to play United States off against Islam or to sow the seeds of conflict and confrontation between religions, cultures and civilizations in order to serve special purposes and malicious projects at the expense of coexistence among peoples and global security and stability".

HH pointed out that the American president's meeting with Arab and Muslim leaders on his first foreign visit since he took office is a confirmation of the common will to move against the dangers and threats facing the region and the world, on the one hand, and the great position given by the Trump administration to the Arab and Islamic worlds, on the other. He added that the UAE has always been keen to activate the frameworks of cooperation and constructive dialogue with its partners and friends in the world, especially the United States of America, with the aim of establishing peace and stability.

### Partnership in the face of terrorism

His Highness praised the wisdom of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and his insightful vision that gave the Arab-Islamic Summit special significance. He stressed that the hosting of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this summit clearly confirms the distinguished position of the Kingdom in the international arena as the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds. He stressed the role of King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz in strengthening the joint GCC work system. He also affirmed the UAE's pride in its brotherly relations with the Kingdom and their common stand in defending vital Arab interests

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques welcomed the American President and the participating leaders, and thanked Trump for his choice of Saudi Arabia as the first station of his



### Mohammed bin Zayed: Gulf-US relations are solid and based on shared visions and interests

foreign activities as president of the United States, stressing the desire of all parties to strengthen the real partnership against extremism and terrorism.

The Saudi king stressed that the Iranian regime is a spearhead of global terrorism from Khomeini's revolution and to this day. His majesty said we have never seen terrorism or extremism in 300 years in this country until the Khomeini's revolution put up its head in 1979. The King added that Iran has rejected the well-intentioned neighborly initiatives, and pursued expansionist policies and criminal interference in the internal affairs of other states.

### New chapter

In his address to the summit, the US President Donald Trump emphasized the need to unite in order to achieve the common goal of defeating of terrorism and extremism; because most of the countries of the world suffered in one way or another of horrific terrorist attacks. Having said that most of the victims of terrorist attacks are Muslims, the President announced the beginning of a new chapter in the partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia. “Today we are starting a new chapter in partnership with Saudi Arabia,” he said pointing out military cooperation agreements between the two sides.

He also spoke highly of the good spirit and cooperation that prevailed in the meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Crown Prince and Deputy Crown Prince, and the signing of historic agreements with the Kingdom to invest about 400 billion dollars in America and thus create hundreds of jobs in America and Saudi Arabia. He said the agreement with Saudi Arabia on military purchases worth \$ 110 billion would help Saudi military forces play a bigger role in security and related operations. Discussions with many of the countries participating in the summit have also begun to strengthen partnerships and form new partnerships to promote peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond.

“The war against them is not against religions or civilizations, but against savage criminals who seek to destroy human life, this is a battle between good and evil,” he said, stressing the need for solidarity among nations to eliminate terrorism.

### A tribute to the role of the UAE

President Trump appreciated the launch of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, describing it as the vision of courage and ambition to promote economy and development. He praised the UAE’s efforts to win hearts and minds by launching a center to combat the spread of hatred on the Internet, as well as

Bahrain, which worked to prevent radicalism. He also saluted Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon for their work to host refugees.

He held Iran responsible for most of the destabilization of the region, “international terrorism” and fueling sectarian conflicts. He called on Iran to stop the funding channels of extremist groups, especially ISIS and the Lebanese Hizballah. He called on all countries to work together to isolate Iran so that the Iranian regime would be ready for a partnership for peace.

“From Lebanon to Syria, Iraq and Yemen, Iran funds arming and training of terrorists, militias and other extremist groups that spread destruction and chaos throughout the region. For decades, sectarian strife, terrorism and all countries with conscience have worked together to isolate Iran, “We have to pray for the day when the Iranian people will get the fair government they deserve.”

### The role of Saudi Arabia and its King

Having led his country delegation to the summit, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, affirmed that the strategic relations between the GCC and the United States of America have in them all necessary ingredients to continue and develop, and this movement forward will not be hindered by major changes locally, globally or even in America itself, for that matter.

HH stressed that the UAE is one of the pillars of the Gulf-American dialogue because of its strong relations with the United States, the great respect and appreciation it enjoys in the world, and the fact that it is a key element of stability in the Middle East.

HH expressed his great appreciation to the US President for his initiative to visit Saudi Arabia and meet with GCC leaders at the beginning of his foreign activities as President of the United States.

He said that events in Yemen represented a threat

to security and stability in the region, especially Saudi Arabia, because of its long borders between both countries and the ongoing Huthi aggressions against the Kingdom, which requires us to preserve the sanctity of the Kingdom’s borders with all our capabilities. HH added we never deny the need for help from our allies, especially the United States, particularly because the conflict is not only with Yemen, but there are an external parties providing them with weapons and money to kill the people of Yemen and neighboring countries. HH continued to stress that there will be no solution except politically, by bringing pressure to bear on the parties to the conflict to return to the negotiating table, pointing out that Kuwait hosted Yemeni peace talks for more than three months, but unfortunately that did not result in any positive outcome, but things may become more complicated as a result of external interventions.

### The new Iranian presidency

HH continued to argue “We believe that the relations between the countries of the region must be conducted on the basis of the fundamental rules of international law, first and foremost, respect for the sovereignty and governments of states, non-interference in their internal affairs under any pretext and the deepening of good neighborly relations with them. On the basis of such understanding, we seek to ensure full commitment to those fundamentals in Gulf-Iranian relations, and look forward to seeing the new Iranian presidency uphold them so that security and stability can become reality in the region ».

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan added “while we appreciate the efforts of our coalition in the face of terrorism, we continue to call for more work and cooperation to eliminate ISIS, which is a priority to ensure peace and security of the world. This cooperation is embodied in what the coalition and the Iraqi forces are doing under the leadership of the US, in order to liberate the cities

of Mosul and Raqqa. In this context, we stress that the elimination of ISIS, its ideas and policies from the region, require the international joint action against this terrorist organization to go on, and also to make sure that the economic and social environment, off which they feed, is destroyed as well. However, this will not be brought about by anything other than sustainable development and providing better social justice conditions. At the start of this new era, we look forward to work together to strengthen our strategic partnership at all levels, so that together we can face the challenges that threaten our region and our world. Thank you again and wish our Summit success and success.

### Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Center to Combat the Financing of Terrorism

In the presence of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, heads of state and leaders of delegations of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and US President Donald Trump, a memorandum of understanding between the GCC countries and the United States to establish a center to target financing of terrorists, was signed at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center in Riyadh.

The agreement on common steps to drain the sources of terrorism was one of the building blocks of the US-GCC summit. The memorandum of understanding showed the two sides’ keenness to address the threats they face. “We hope the agreement will be the strongest commitment not to fund terrorist organizations, monitored by the US Treasury Department with each of its peers,” said Dina Powell, deputy US national security adviser for strategic affairs. “What distinguishes it is that both of them will sign in a way that they will take responsibility and actually those responsible for financing terrorism will be prosecuted, including individuals

Headed by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prince Mohammed bin Salman  
**«Khalwat Al Azm» UAE - Saudi Arabia is held with the participation of 200 personalities**



The second group meeting of Khalwat Al Azm (Determination Retreat) was held in Riyadh in mid-April, in which the UAE delegation was headed by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, who co-chaired the joint meeting of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Chairman of the Council for Economic Affairs and Development led the Saudi side, and participated in the work of the Retreat, in the presence of a number of ministers and senior officials. high ranking officials and general managers of the two countries, including Dr. Jamal Mohammed Hosani Director General of the National Emergency, Crises and Disasters Management Authority.

**Strengthening ties between both countries**

The Retreat comes under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and his brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, in order to enhance the ties between the UAE and Saudi Arabia and develop plans to strengthen them more and more in the long term.

The Retreat stressed the keenness of the two countries to solidify their brotherly relations and intensify bilateral cooperation through continuous consultation and coordination in various fields and consolidating the role of the GCC joint working system. The Retreat is one of a series of meetings between the two countries within the framework of the Saudi-Saudi Coordination Council, chaired - from the UAE side - by His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and from the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Council of Economic Affairs and Development, in

HE Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi : “the UAE and Saudi Arabia have remarkable positions in the area of regional cooperation, which resulted in setting up the Saudi-UAE Coordination Council and consequently led to the creation of Khalwat Al Azm “

order to discuss and exchange views in areas of common interest and to develop plans for the work of the Saudi-Saudi Coordination Council.

**Two welcome words**

The first item on the meeting’s agenda were two welcoming speeches by HE Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi UAE minister of Cabinet affairs and the Future, and by Eng. Adel Fakih, the Saudi Minister of Economy and Planning, in which they stressed the significance of the “Retreat”, its recommendations and its outputs in supporting the cooperation between both countries and the objectives of the Saudi-Saudi Coordination Council. It was also and at the same time complementing their efforts in strengthening the GCC system and paving the way for a new stage of fruitful work and construction between the two parties.

HE Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi said in his speech that “the UAE and Saudi Arabia have remarkable positions in the area of regional cooperation, which resulted in setting up the Saudi-UAE Coordination Council and consequently led to the creation of Khalwat Al Azm.”

For his part, Eng. Adel Fakih emphasized in his speech that “Khalwat Al Azm represents a transition from the development process and cooperation between the two



countries to a new stage of growth and development as a qualitative model in their bilateral relations “

**Three strategic axes**

It is worth noting that the Retreat discussed three strategic themes focused on the economy, knowledge and human aspects as well as political, military and security issues. More than 200 officials from the governments of the two countries and experts from various sectors, as well as representatives of the private sector, participated in the second group’s work, which was divided into 11 working groups, in order to complete the work of 9 teams that was started during the Retreat in Abu Dhabi in February.

Each of the three axes was explored in several meetings jointly chaired by senior officials of both countries, in the presence of government officials and experts from various sectors, to discuss the current situation and potential challenges and develop specific visions and initiatives. Discussions will continue during the coming period among the working groups to

**Dr Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani :” Saudi-UAE Khalwat Al Azm paves the way for an appropriate working environment that contributes to building partnership with all sectors and vital state institutions in both countries to deal effectively with crises, manage them and thus mitigate their risks, consequences and achieve recovery ».**

finalize initiatives and projects before submitting them to the Saudi-UAE Coordination Council.

The discussions of the economic axis focused on the mechanisms of strengthening the integrated economic system of the two countries and finding innovative

solutions for optimal utilization of existing resources. The discussions were conducted under a number of topics, namely infrastructure and housing, external partnerships, production and industry, agriculture and water, services, financial markets, the logistics sector, oil and gas and petrochemicals. As for the deliberations of the knowledge and human axis, they dealt with the subject of technical education, while the discussions of the political and military axis focused on aspects of coordination and cooperation and political and military integration.

Dr Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani, Director General of the National Emergency, Crises and Disasters Management Authority, who presided over the supply security session on the UAE side, said “ Saudi-UAE Khalwat Al Azm paves the way for an appropriate working environment that contributes to building partnership with all sectors and vital state institutions in both countries t o deal effectively with crises and manage them and thus mitigate their risks and consequences and achieve recovery ».

HE Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of

**Eng. Adel Fakih : “ Khalwat Al Azm represents a transition from the development process and cooperation between the two countries to a new stage of growth and development as a qualitative model in their bilateral relations”**

Education and Chairman of the UAE Technical Education Council, said: “We are working with our Saudi brothers to strengthen the vocational education system to meet the needs of the labor market and we discussed ways of enhancing participation and cooperation in technical skills competitions ».

Held at NCEMA headquarters  
**Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed chairs a meeting of emergency teams**



**HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, today chaired the co-ordination meeting of a team from the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), to manage second-level national emergencies to evacuate the country's citizens and nationals from countries affected by cases of emergencies, crises, and disasters.**

The meeting, which was attended by team members from relevant ministries and authorities at the headquarters of NCEMA in Abu Dhabi, discussed stages and mechanism of work, levels of leadership and control when managing national emergencies, as well as the national response system, the mechanism for activating national plans, roles and responsibilities of relevant authorities in providing support during the evacuation of the country's nationals from abroad.

**First and second levels**

It should be pointed out that the UAE Emergency and Crisis System includes second-level emergency teams, formed by HH Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, National Security Adviser, will work to manage emergencies, crises and disasters both in and out of the country according to the expected risk. HH Sheikh Tahnoun will also head the first-level National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster team.

NCEMA comes under the umbrella of the Supreme Council for National Security and aims to achieve the country's policy on the necessary procedures for managing emergencies, crises and disasters. The Authority is considered as the main national body responsible for coordinating and setting standards, systems and regulations that relate to managing emergencies, crises and disasters, and for placing a unified national plan to respond to any emergency.

At a meeting with its Deputy Defense Minister  
**Dr Al Hosani discusses cooperation between NCEMA and Turkmenistan**



**HE Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani, Director-General of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), recieved in his office at the headquarters of the Authority in Abu Dhabi, Colonel Yusup Mohtamgoliev, Deputy Minister of Defense, Head of the Civil Defense Department and Turkmenistan Rescue Operations, during his visit to the UAE in April. HE discussed with the visiting Deputy Minister and the delegation accompanying him, ways of boosting cooperation and coordination in the areas of emergencies and crises.**

The meeting addressed ways to strengthen relations between both sides and to exchange experiences and knowledge in the areas of crisis and disaster management, in order to enhance

capabilities to respond to emergencies and manage them in a fashion that helps to mitigate risks and preserve lives, property and assets.

The delegation was briefed on the role of the NCEMA, its strategies and its readiness to deal with crises and emergencies, and the relevant roles, projects, programs and initiatives.

During its visit, the delegation also learned about NCEMA's National Operations Center , the role of the Center, the functions of the liaison elements and the mechanism for activating the emergency, crisis and disaster system at the national level.

At the end of the meeting, which was attended by a number of officials from both sides, gifts and memorial shields were exchanged.

## Awarded by independent arbitrators NCEMA hands over the 2016 Excellence Awards



HE Saif Sultan Al-Ariani, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for National Security, Chairman of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), emphasized the importance of the “Corporate Excellence Award” as an effective tool of developing staff efficiency. He pointed out that the UAE wise leadership is keen to encourage the pursuit of excellence, creativity and prosperity.

### Qualification of cadres

He also spoke highly of the NCEMA’s role, its programs and projects that serve the country’ integrated national emergency and crisis system, and contribute to raising readiness and preparedness by getting staff members fully qualified in such a manner that meets the highest international standards.

HE said those words during the ceremony of the “Corporate Excellence Award” that was organized by NCEMA at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi to announce the winners of the fourth round of 2016,.

**Dr. Al-Housani: We are determined to realize the vision of our wise leadership**

At the beginning of the ceremony, His Excellency Dr Jamal Al Hosani, Director General of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority, said: “NCEMA is determined to continue to move forward on the path of progress as a unified team . It will keep advancing in the march that embodies the vision of the UAE wise leadership, in motivating every Emirati to realize their potentials and partake with their people, in the writing the success story that paves the way to the vision of the UAE 2021.

He added: “Our celebration this year is characterized by a unique feature, which is the overwhelming pride that we feel for being part of this noble country of ours, in which our wise leadership inspires us to work hard and lead us to be more productive. It trusts us and remains keen to ensure that we make the best our skills and innovation in promoting national and community development”.

The Director General called on the NCEMA’s members of staff to do their very best and offer, as much as they can, of hard work and creativity in order to excel in what they do and how they do it, so that they can be worthy of the responsibility entrusted to them by the wise leadership.

He stressed that “to honor the trust which we proudly bear, we need to do our utmost in order to firstly, save the sacrifices of our predecessors and also to build upon their achievements; secondly, to fulfill the covenant of loyalty to our wise leadership, so that our country keeps rising in status and remains distinguished among nations”.

### Excellence to become a well-established culture

Having shown that he holds the wise leadership in great esteem, Dr. Al-Hosani said it “regards each and every one of its people as the ultimate beneficiary of its projects, and harnesses the most sophisticated knowledge of the time, in order to enable him or her to do better .” He pledged to the wise leadership to work to transform “Excellence into a culture, that the NCEMA will adhere to and translate into reality, so that it qualifies to have the great honor of belonging to this country of ours, and worthy of the trust of our wise leadership. «

In the course of the celebration, the audience was introduced to the award through an overview that highlighted its background and foundations, as well as the objectives it seeks to fulfill, first and foremost the dedicated and hard work to strengthen the federal government’s orientation towards excellence and create a productive work environment conducive of creativity and innovation. The introductory outline also drew attention to the stature of the award, which deploys the best international standards especially those adopted in the European model of distinction, in the assessment of its different categories.

### Award categories

The three major categories of the award are: Outstanding Department, Outstanding Project and Outstanding Staff Member. The assessment of candidates were conducted by an accredited team from outside NCEMA in the course of field visits they made; while the grades were awarded to the participants, and the final results approved, by an arbitration committee, whose members also did not belong to NCEMA.

At the end of the ceremony, HE Saif Sultan Al-

Aryani and Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al-Hosani, handed the awards to the winners. The Department of Planning and Preparedness received the Outstanding Department award, while the Outstanding Project award went to the “Emergency Guide” project by the Department of Media and Mass Communication. Mr. Ali Mohammed Al Dhaheri, head of Assessment and Hazards Unit in the Planning and Preparedness Department, was given the Outstanding Staff Member award . The Executive Staff Member award went to Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Marzouqi, from the Office of the Director General and the “Selfless Employee with Outstanding Long Service “ award was withheld for lack of qualified candidates .

After the awards had been handed over, Al Dhahiri expressed his deep gratitude for this recognition. He said:”the award is not for me alone, but for the whole team, because success is not a single person’s making, and we would not have achieved any good results without the unlimited support of our wise leadership and of NCEMA’s management”.

In his turn, Al-Marzouqi said that the award was “a great honor and I would like to re-iterate my commitment to our wise leadership. I would also like to emphasize that this award will motivate me to do my utmost to implement NCEMA’s programs and achieve the objectives”.

Finally, Dr Jamal Mohammed Al-Hosani congratulated all the winners, for their outstanding performance, expressing the hope that the awards will contribute to motivate everyone to make more efforts in order to support NCEMA’s programs, objectives and activities.

He also thanked the chairman and members of the evaluation team, the arbitration committee and all those who participated in the success of the fourth round of the Corporate Excellence Award. He asked the Almighty to help everyone achieve NCEMA’s vision of outstanding management of emergencies, crises and disasters.

The ceremony was attended by the NCEMA’s Deputy General Director Saif Mohammed Arhama Al Shamsi, HE Obaid Al Zahmi, Deputy Director General of the National Center for Search and Rescue, and a number of department directors and staff.

## Dr Al Hosani answers members' questions FNC discusses NCEMA policies and plans



**HE Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Hosani, Director General of the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), stressed that raising society's awareness about risks is a top priority for NCEMA. However, integrated efforts from various sectors of society and its institutions are needed to achieve that goal. Emphasizing NCEMA's interest in safe transport operations during emergencies and crises, he explained that the NCEMA's role is legislative and regulatory rather than carrying out field work.**

Dr Al Hosani said that in the course of answering questions put to him by members of The Federal National Council (FNC), which

discussed NCEMA policies during its 12th meeting of the 2nd ordinary session for the 16th legislative chapter, held at FNC's Headquarters in Abu Dhabi and chaired by HE Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi.

FNC emphasized during that discussion the need to conclude memoranda of understanding and develop joint plans and programs between NCEMA on the one hand, and government as well as local authorities, on the other, in order to implement the overall strategy. It called for improving the national response efficiency in cases of emergency and crisis, in line with the best international experiences and practices.

### Academic Programs

FNC stressed within its recommendations adopted during the discussion of NCEMA policy, the importance of increasing the number of drills held by NCEMA and expanding its presence abroad. It also pointed out the need to launch engineer academic educational programs in the field, in coordination with higher education institutions. FNC requested provision of the necessary budgets to conduct specialized scientific researches and studies, and to review the advanced international practices in dealing with emergencies, crisis and disasters; and to create a national database of trainees and trainers. On the FNC list of recommendation was also the adoption of initiatives and programs to further Emiratize specialized positions within NCEMA.

### Dr Al Hosani answers..

FNCM Mohammed Bin Kardous Al Ameri, the Committee Chairman, asked about NCEMA's plan to construct sheltering centers and safe houses for use in cases of emergency, and wondered which authority was responsible for evacuation, sheltering and management. Dr. Jamal Al Hosani, the Director General of NCEMA responded by saying: "NCEMA is a legislative, regulatory and coordinating authority. We do not do field work, nor do we seek to acquire field work capabilities. However we operate with our partner government organizations to regulate the use of national resources and make sure of their proper use during crisis and emergencies. It was agreed that sheltering centers shall be the mission of the Ministry of Interior which is the relevant leading authority". He stressed that there is an evacuation and sheltering plan with

centers identified across the UAE Emirates and the necessary training was conducted through a major drill. Centers were prepared by the Ministry's partners: the Armed Forces and the Red Crescent, he added.

FNCM Ahmed Al Jarwan raised the issue of lacking a legislation regulating the group transportation in the event of emergencies and crisis. In response, NCEMA Director General said: "It is important for us how transportation is done during events of emergency and crisis. There is a memorandum of understanding concluded with the Emirates Transport, and it was agreed to make the full capabilities of this organization available to NCEMA and to assist leading and supporting organizations and partners if large numbers of vehicles are needed.

FNCM Khalifa Suhail Al Mazrouie raised the issue of NCEMA's role in promoting awareness among individuals and organizations on handling emergencies, crisis and disasters. Dr Al Hosani said "Community awareness is one of NCEMA's top priorities. However, boosting the level of awareness is the joint responsibility of the community and various organizations. Communications are being made and we are working on boosting the level of awareness". FNCM Matar Al Shamsi asked about the strategic inventory of food stuff and the stores and warehouses provided for this purpose. Dr. Al Hosani said "This is a concern for everyone. We are cooperating with our partners. Efforts started in 2009 to build strategic stores of water, food, petrol and health stock. Certain legislations were proposed and resolutions were passed by the Ministerial Committee on Development".



**The work of NCEMA is the essence of the five necessities on which Islam is predicated**

**HE Dr. Mohammad Matar Salim Al Kaabi, Chairman of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments**

**To Tawaree**

**The Initiative (the Goodness Year) planted in us (..), the love of giving and the impetus to provide to the needy**

**Danger stems from the open and exposed cyber space, where terrorism is recruiting young people through this space**

**The environment in religious discourse is a priority in the hierarchy of priorities of life**



**HE Dr. Mohammad Matar Salim Al Kaabi, Chairman of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments, praised the important role played by the National Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) “to protect people and assets from dangers is the very essence of the five necessities on which Islam is predicated, namely the preservation of religion, the preservation**

**of the mind, the preservation of the soul, the preservation of honor and the preservation of money”. He pointed out that” the country’s mosques - where the spectrum of society is intertwined - are at the heart of the NCEMA’s concern”.**

In a special interview with “Emergency and Crises Magazine” he said that “the concept of goodness carries deep and



comprehensive implications, the lowest of which is to remove harm from people’s path and to uphold the word of truth,” There is no god but God”, because the responsible word is good, positive thinking is good and every work that brings happiness to society is good”. He explained that the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments responded “immediately and comprehensively to the initiative of His Highness the President of the State - may God protect him - to name this year the Year of Goodness.»

Dr. Mohammed Matar Salim Al Kaabi stressed the authenticity of the UAE people whose generosity and love of giving was instilled in them by “the founding leader Sheikh Zayed, may God bless his soul, who used the UAE wealth and that of its people, to benefit all those in need in all parts of the earth.»

And talk about giving has a clear connection with rampant consumption in this day and age in many Arab and Islamic societies leading to the waste of many of the potentials and fundamentals that would have helped the needy. It is on the basis of deep understanding of the ills of consumption that the Chairman of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and

Endowments commended the initiative of the Food Bank that was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

On the position of religion on the march of sustainable development, and the effective role it can play in promoting environmental culture and establishing it in order to safeguard human being’s present and future, HE said”the environment in religious discourse is a priority in the hierarchy of priorities of life, and the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments has enriched the debate on issue.”

Here is the full interview:  
**Would you tell us about the most important projects that you have launched in response to the call of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God protect Him, to instill the love of good and to help the needy, wherever and**

**wherever they are, this year?**  
The concept of goodness carries deep and comprehensive implications, the lowest of which is to remove harm from people’s path and to uphold the word of truth,” There is no god but God”, because the responsible word is good, positive thinking is good and every

**the response of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments to the initiative of His Highness the President of the State that this year is the Year of the Goodness, was immediate and comprehensive as all the Authority’s departments (...) got down to work and each has come up with valuable initiatives that are consistent with the Year of the Good.**

**The “Food Bank” initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai is an initiative to preserve and honor the grace and thank its Creator . It protects people from wastefulness, extravagance and squandering.**

work that brings happiness to society is good. Hence, the response of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments to the initiative of His Highness the President of the State that this year is the Year of the Goodness, was immediate and comprehensive as all the Authority’s departments - The Department of Preaching, Management of Research, Administration of the Official Center for Issuing Fatwas, Managing Mosques, Holy Quran Memorization Centers and Endowments Department, and the Department of Support Services- got down to work and each has come up with valuable initiatives that are consistent with the Year of the Good.

**How would you describe the impact of “The Goodness Year” initiative on the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments?**

The Initiative (the Goodness Year) planted in the conscience of each employee, he or her, Imam ,preacher and Mufti in the Authority, the love of giving and the impetus to provide the best and the most useful for the country, its wise leadership and the community. The philosophy of giving is a prominent axis of the principles of the Sharia, and it summarizes faithfully dozens of Koranic texts and Hadiths.

**How extensive is the interaction of organizations and individuals, in the UAE and beyond, with the “Goodness Year” initiative?**

The people of the UAE are an authentic Muslim Arab people, and its leader in giving, the founding leader Sheikh Zayed, may God bless him , who used the UAE wealth and that of its people, to benefit all those in need in all parts of the earth, thus helping the needy, providing assistance to the oppressed and helping the poor irrespective of whether they are Muslims or non-Muslim, and of their sex and color.

**In this context, how do you rate the generous food bank initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai?**

The “Food Bank” initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai is an initiative to preserve and honor the grace and thank its Creator . It protects people from wastefulness, extravagance and squandering. It saves food then uses it ethically and charitably in unprecedented manner to thank the Almighty. The food





generously offered at weddings, national and social events, has become a common good, and the mechanism of preserving, storing and then distributing it, representing a pioneering health and cultural mechanism that expresses religion, originality and love for charity in every field.

**Have the pursuit of religious awareness and the consolidation of moderation become more difficult with the spread of terrorism, armed conflicts and the rise of extremism that exploits our true religion to achieve its political goals?**

No. On the contrary, whenever the young man is moderate and non-biased, he is immune to these dark extremists. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, recently said openly in Riyadh that: "The terrorists are those who convert to Islam in Europe and have not fully understood, or appreciated, the faith to reflect the doctrine in their ways of doing things. The current Arab and international scene, that is laden with grave events, is the catalyst for international cooperation in order to avoid the repercussions of these tremors, and encircle the sources of intellectual terrorism, be it transformational and interpretive

the confrontation must be global, with concerted efforts and open initiatives, as do the official institutions and intellectual forums between the UAE on the one hand, and the regional and global environment relevant bodies on the other.

terrorism, and prevent the spread of fire. In fact danger stems from the open and exposed cyber space, where terrorism is recruiting young people through this space and spreads like wildfires.

I addressed the 5/6/2017 tenth of Ramadan scholars participating in the symposium "Emirates in the Face of Terrorism" saying everyone today pays the price of modern technology, every scientific progress has many advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, the confrontation must be global, with concerted efforts and open initiatives, as do the official institutions and intellectual forums between the UAE on the one hand, and the regional and global environment relevant bodies on the other. And this good work is done on the basis of moderation and tolerance; to dry out the roots of extremism and confrontation. Al-Azhar and the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments are on the top of the list of the institutions that got involved in such work, and did not forgo

their responsibly to address these terrorist threats.

**Boosting the capacity of the society to meet current challenges requires enhancing the process of sustainable development and the establishment of an informed environmental culture. How**

**does religious awareness contribute to protecting the environment, because it protects the human being and his future?**

The environment in religious discourse is a priority in the hierarchy of priorities of life, and the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments has enriched the debate on issue." The General Authority for Islamic Affairs, in accordance with the strategy of building mosques, has made the smart mosques initiative one of the unprecedented international initiatives, as HH Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, declared at the recent World Government Summit held in Dubai. The architectural models selected for the construction of mosques reflect the local environment with all its beauty, serenity and sustainability, taking into account the provision of consumption of energy and water. The Authority was also awarded the top prize in the architecture of mosques in the GCC when the Sheikha Salama Bint Butti mosque in the city of Al Ain came first in the competition hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al Faisal, Governor of Mecca honored the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments in the UAE. This win is yet another evidence highlighting the development of the wonderful architecture of UAE mosques that is reflected in the beauty of the mosques interior and surroundings.

The founding leader Sheikh Zayed, may God bless him, who used the UAE wealth and that of its people, to benefit all those in need in all parts of the earth, thus helping the ill, providing assistance to the oppressed and helping the poor

**The protection and preservation of property and property is safe from any risks whatsoever is a religious imposition derived from the core of our true religion, before it becomes a social and life necessity. In this sense, how does the work of the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments intersect with the work of the National for Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Management Authority?**

The work of NCEMA in order to protect people and assets from dangers is the essence of the five necessities on which Islam is predicated, namely the preservation of religion, the preservation of the mind, the preservation of the soul, the preservation of honor and the preservation of money. The General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments, shares with NCEMA interest as well as work, in all or most of these five necessities.

The country's mosques - where all sections of society interact with one another - are at the heart of the NCEMA's concern to ensure the safety of worshipers and places of worship, and we fully appreciate the dedication and hard work of NCEMA. And thus all institutions of this great country of ours cooperate and integrate to protect us all. God save our nation, our leadership, our government and our people from all evil.



Adopting the Center's strategy as  
the largest plan of its kind in the region

## Mohammed bin Rashid and Mohammed bin Zayed launch the National Emirates Space Program



**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, launched the National Space Program.**

They adopted the strategy of the National Space Program, the unprecedented plan that includes the establishment of the first scientific city to simulate life on Mars, a Mars museum, specialized laboratories, the Zero

Gravity Experiment Laboratory, the Arab Space Exploration Program and the launch of the world's largest forum for Mars scientists.

In the presence of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, both leaders inaugurated the satellite manufacturing complex at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center.

The National Space Program also includes a new program for the preparation of UAE

astronauts, as well as a long-term plan until 2117 for the establishment of the first human settlement on the Red Planet, which will land the Probe of Hope over the next four years.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, announced the Mars 2117 project during the fifth World Summit of Governments hosted by Dubai last February.

### The first Emirati astronaut

“Our National Space Program is a solid platform for the construction of specialized Emirati cadres in space science and aims at qualifying generations capable of making qualitative additions to human knowledge,” said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

“We aim to send the first UAE astronaut to space in the coming years because the UAE is the fastest and most capable to meet this challenge. We will train today and prepare the first UAE and Arab astronaut to join the team of scientists at the International Space Station,” he added.

“Our aim is to tell the world that we are able to contribute to the race of civilizations and to make new scientific and knowledge contributions to humanity,” he said.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said: “Investing in space is an investment in the minds of UAE and Arab cadres and specialized sciences that reach the UAE for new successes.” The UAE is on the verge of a new phase of scientific achievements, and we will support our children to reach universality.

### Mars Scientific City

Project Mars 2117 includes the creation of Mars Scientific City to simulate and test life on



Mars, the Mars Museum and Space Science, as well as a number of specialized scientific laboratories. The Zero Gravity Laboratory, a competition to select the best tests to be conducted in a zero-gravity environment on the Zero G aircraft, and the Mars Living Architecture project, is an initiative to design and print the best buildings on the planet using 3D printing technology.

### Khalifa Sat

They toured the various facilities of the center and listened to an explanation about the different projects. They visited the satellite laboratories and inspected the final stages of work on the Khalifa Sat satellite. It is the first 100% UAE satellite to be fully developed by UAE engineers and scientists.

They also inspected the work in progress on the Hope Probe project, which is the first Arab project of its kind, includes the launch



of a space probe to explore Mars and establish the UAE's leadership in the space sector. The Emirates Space Agency supervises the project and finances it, while the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center is engaged in developing the program in cooperation with international partners.

The UAE will be one of only nine countries in the world to aspire to explore Mars. It has started with practical steps. The unmanned Hope Probe will travel more than 60 million kilometers in space within nine months of its launch, in conjunction with its 50th National Day in 2021.

The choice of Mars is a goal to be reached because of the nature of the challenges humans face to live on the Red Planet, notably water security, food security and energy security, the same fundamental challenges facing the UAE and the world in the future. Mars should open the way for scientists and researchers to find innovative solutions to many of the problems humanity faces on earth.

The volume of UAE investments in the field of space science and its industries is about 20 billion Dirhams with an annual growth rate of 8%, which puts the UAE in the list of the top ten investors in this sector, internationally. It should be pointed out that the world's space investment is about 300 billion dollars.

### Strategic objectives

The program aims to achieve a number of major strategic objectives, the most important of which is to create a pioneering role for the UAE in the development of living systems on other planets; the rehabilitation of generations to explore and settle in space ; to enable the UAE and Arab cadres to contribute to the growing efforts worldwide to reach Mars and space; building partnerships and exchanging knowledge with the best institutions and individuals.



### Martyrs of the Emirates .. in space

The Emirates Space Agency has unveiled the "our martyrs are shining stars in our skies" initiative. It will send medals bearing the names of the great martyrs of the nation to the International Space Station before being returned to earth and distributed to the families of the martyrs in the course of the initiatives and events carried out by the Agency, in response to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God preserve him, naming of 2017 as the "Goodness Year".

Among the other initiatives that the Agency participates in the year of good, one called "Words for the Mothers of the Martyrs", which involves presenting the martyrs' mothers with messages expressing pride in the greatness of their children, and one of Emirates Space Agency will be named "Martyrs Hall"

### Mohammed Bin Zayed: The move is a successful investment

## Mohammed bin Rashid sets up the UAE Soft Power Board



**The UAE Soft Power Council, which was established by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, in late April to promote the country's reputation worldwide, is a clever move to tell the peoples of the world with the country's fragrant story, and it is yet another highly original project that takes its place in**

**the UAE's record along with many successes in the fields of public diplomacy.**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, praised the formation of the Council, stressing that it is a successful investment in the UAE's ability to show its clear image of the world and win the respect of its people.



### Coordination of efforts

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said that the UAE has a strong military and economic strength and today we are preparing to establish a system of soft power in order to establish a global reputation that serves the interests of our people in the long term. He pointed out that investing in promoting the respect and love of other peoples of the UAE will pave the way for lasting and solid relations with these peoples at the economic, tourism and investment levels.

### Mohammed bin Zayed's success

HH said "His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, has established a strong and unprecedented position for the UAE regionally and internationally in recent years.

It is necessary to build a popular diplomatic system to consolidate his vision of the UAE as the best model for countries in terms of prestige and reputation worldwide. "

"The UAE has a great place in the hearts of millions of people around the world and we want to enhance this position and reach new heights. The UAE has all the economic, cultural and civilizational components to build its soft power much faster than others.", HH added.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said "We have had a successful experience, in the past, in participating with the people of the Gulf in their national celebrations and we want a different strategy to connect with all the peoples of the world. We want to use new tools to boost and spread awareness of the UAE, its culture, identity, uniqueness and wonderful story".

### The Soft Power Council.. Members and mandate

The Soft Power Council is directly affiliated to the Cabinet. It comprises His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, as Chairman of the Council; HE Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; HE Reem Bint Ibrahim Al Hashemi, Minister of State for International Cooperation Minister of State; HE Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State; HE Noura Bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs; Mohammed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority; Khalifa bin Salim Al Mansouri, Acting Undersecretary of the Department of Economic Development in the Eimrate of Abu Dhabi; Sami Ahmad Al Qamzi, Director General of Department of Economic Development in the Emirate of Dubai; Hilal Said Al Muri, Director General of the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing of the Emirate of Dubai and Saeed Mohammed Al-Attar, Director-General of the Office of Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, in his capacity as a member and rapporteur of the Council

. The mandate of the Soft Power Council is to formulate the general policy and develop the soft power strategy of the UAE in order to enhance the reputation of the state, consolidate its regional and global position, to formulate an integrated national system to introduce the world to the emirate's new innovative ways and activate cooperation and coordination between government and private sectors in the country. In order to strengthen its soft power regionally and internationally, it will review all legislation and policies related to the reputation of the United Arab Emirates, discuss projects and initiatives aimed at refining soft power and the development of tools effectiveness, follow-up implementation of its strategy and initiatives as well as directives and present periodic progress reports to the Council of Ministers.



**Mohammed bin Zayed: "Soft power" is a remarkable investment in the achievements of the state**

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said that the UAE has followed its founders' wisdom, and made great strides on the path of leadership, strides under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President and His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

His Highness stressed that the formation of the Council of Soft Power, a deep vision to invest the balance of our achievements in strengthening the frameworks of communication with the peoples of the world, and the dedication of paths of human rapprochement.

HH added "We are all ambassadors of the UAE. We have the duty to uphold the UAE values and promote it , and we must redouble our efforts to remain at the heart of the world scene with UAE unique approach, values and aspirations."

A clear evidence of the Emirates' love for the human being

## Red Crescent launches campaign "For you Somalia"



The "La Jlak Ya Somal" (For You Somalia) campaign, launched by the UAE Red Crescent, continues to raise funds nationwide, in line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and with the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in the Dhafra Region, President of the Red Crescent.

Organizations and individuals in the UAE are eager to participate in the campaign launched by the Red Crescent Authority (RCA) in cooperation with its strategic partners, having developed the necessary plans for its success in achieving its objectives, in order to provide aid to those affected by the famine in Somalia.

### AED 100 million ..

Dr. Mohammed Ateeq Al-Falahi, Secretary-General

of RCA, said in a press statement that the Authority had urgently allocated 100 million dirhams initially to support its relief operations and development projects in Somalia. A plan was also drawn up to reduce the negative consequences of famine. He added that RCA has made the necessary preparations for the implementation of emergency relief programs, including in its first phase the provision of 50 thousand food parcels, in addition to medicine, medical supplies and vaccines for the prevention of some epidemics and clothing, as well as development projects in areas such as health, education, housing and water resources for regions in need.

### Stages of the campaign

Al - Falahi added "with the generous guidance of its wise leadership and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, our national body is moving towards the Somali arena, enhancing its response to support the humanitarian situation and contributing to the provision of the necessary humanitarian needs to our brothers in Somalia,".

## Under the guidance of Khalifa .. UAE launches the largest concrete dam in Somalia

Following the directives of The President, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and following up directly from His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation (KHCF), launched, in parallel with the "For You Somalia" campaign, the largest concrete dam in Somalia, will help provide water to the city and surrounding areas.

### Mohammed bin Zayed: UAE will continue to support Somalia to achieve security and stability

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said that the UAE, led by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, will continue to support brothers in Somalia and help them build their institutions in order to enhance security, stability and development. His Highness wished the people of Somalia prosperity and progress hoping they will achieve their aspirations in closing ranks, solidarity and giving full priority to national interest over all else.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was speaking at a reception he held at the Sea Palace, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo of the Federal Republic of Somalia during his recent visit to the country.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said that the UAE's commitment to the historic relationship with the Somali people continues and that the UAE will support and aid President Farmajo's efforts to achieve security and development.

Taking note of the Somali government efforts to combat terrorism in order to maintain security and stability in the Somali territories, His Highness reviewed the cooperation between the two countries and the development projects carried out by the United Arab Emirates for the benefit of the Somali people.

For his part, the Somali president expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the UAE and its continuous support to the Somali people even in the darkest circumstances. He highly valued the speech of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan about Somalia and its people. He stressed his country's deep thanks to the UAE for its positive attitude, which the Somali people deeply respect.

### "Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity" rushed to help Somalia

In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation has allocated 5 million dirhams initially to carry out relief projects in Somalia, help millions of people affected by the famine and set up an urgent operations room to study the appropriate mechanism to deliver this humanitarian aid as soon as possible to those in need, in coordination with the UAE Embassy in the Somali capital Mogadishu.

## Robots to help save lives and assets Local inventions to boost response and rescue efforts



**UAE university students have recently introduced new innovations to support crisis and disaster management efforts and to boost ability to respond and provide victims with necessary assistance.**

### Detection of toxic gases

A group of women students, at University of the United Arab Emirates (UAEU), managed to invent a sophisticated mechanism for monitoring toxic and flammable gases through an unmanned aerial vehicle equipped with sensors designed specifically to measure deadly gases levels and density, before sending warning

messages to civil defense and rescue teams to deal with.

Mariam al-Qaidi, Arwa Faraj, Amna al-Naqbi, Mira al-Tamimi, Shamsa al-Hassani and Marwa al-Zahmi reported that they installed high-resolution thermal imaging equipment on the aircraft to scan the target location, identify potential hazards that may threaten rescue teams. The equipment also makes it possible to deliver medical assistance and breathing masks to those who are injured and trapped in the affected area.

The students said “The innovation is based on the design of sensors to measure the concentration of carbon monoxide, especially because it represents the



greatest risk to firefighters and rescue, whose lives are threatened by the increase of emissions of this gas during the fire, which is called the “silent gas” because it goes unnoticed”.

Miriam said “the sensors are installed in an unmanned aircraft or in firefighters’ jackets. The sensor is flexible and can be reconfigured to fit more than one place. It can also be supplied to homes to detect any gas leaks, because sensors send out telephone messages (SMSs) to alert and describe the level of the gas.”

She added “We put the sensor on a plane and provide it with a thermal camera, infrared, to photograph the people, items and all that is present at the scene and pass that on to rescuers so they have a full picture of the site and can plan to control it accordingly.” She went on to explain “the camera starts working as soon as it detects smoke or gas, and the aircraft is equipped with a heat-insulating cover to ensure that it works efficiently without being affected by the high temperatures caused by the fire,”.



### New robot for dangerous places

In the same vein, Abu Dhabi organized a competition for innovations and research completed by university students, who have developed striking designs, some of which help to ensure people’s safety .

Dr. Mohammed Yousuf Bani Yas, Executive Director of the Higher Education Sector at the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), stressed that the Council provides all possible support to university students in their scientific research and projects. He pointed out that scientific research plays an important role in providing many of the state and Abu Dhabi educational, health and vital services that include water and electricity.

He was speaking on the occasion of the “University Students Research Competition in the United Arab Emirates” at its fifth session, organized by Abu Dhabi University with its strategic partner the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

A number of students participated in the competition, including Asma al-Akbari, who managed, along with her colleague Fatima Khan, to design a self-propelled robot to carry heavy construction materials at homes and buildings. The self-guided robot can reach its target without the need of a Gps system, and is capable of working in hazardous areas, transporting heavy loads safely and easily, and working routinely in an efficient and economical manner.

It is possible for a trained expert or professional to control several robots at the same time, so that they could manage a full logistics operation with a smaller

workforce. With rising labor costs, the reduction of dependence on foreign labor, and concerns about human safety, the robot appears to be a good option in all respects.

In a related context, two students by the names of Ahmed Hassou and Abdullah Waleed, invented a scheme to collect water droplets caused by moisture and fog, providing another source of water in Abu Dhabi, as Hassou commented. Needless to say, this is highly important in especially as demand in 2012 amounted to 70.7% in the agriculture sector. The hologram is made of bamboo, hemp and natural ropes. It is 9.5 meters high and 30 square meters in size, and it costs only about 4,500 dirhams.



### UAE University students design a water-resistant drone

From Abu Dhabi to Dubai, where five students from the Aviation Engineering Department at Emirates University have devised a drone, a water-resistant Hekasakopter, whose takeoff, flight and landing can be independently controlled by computers on board, or by remote control from the ground through another mechanism.

The inventors, Mohammed al-Amiri, Mahmoud Atta Abu Sharif, Akram Amir, Sadaf Qarkhana and Chelaka Malwar, explained that the use of the drones began in military and private operations, as well as in aerial reconnaissance operations, but it is no longer limited to those areas. They continued by saying that drones are

currently used to perform multiple and many tasks of civilian nature, such as , firefighting, non-military security work like inspections and pipeline control. The students added that those unmanned flying machines can also be entrusted with different tasks in difficult places accessible to people or passenger aircrafts.

### Search and rescue in water

Student Mohammed Al Ameri said that this drone is designed to carry on search and rescue functions in the water, delivery of aid to people at risk of drowning, emergency rescue, air control. It can also be charged with performing first aid tasks at the scene where human injuries have occurred, or people with health emergency cases are based.

He added that one of the most distinctive features of this aircraft is that it is equipped with Wi-Fi and water-resistant, enabling it to work under the rain and extreme weather conditions.

Ameri explained that the students used the carbon fiber material to build the aircraft, while they used aluminum sheets to make some parts like the engine and fan with a diameter of 15 inches. The drone is equipped with three engines and GPS system to locate the targets.

## Designed by an inventor from Um al Quwain Unmanned aircraft for fire fighting



**Apart from the scientific, academic institutions and industrial corporations , innovation finds fertile ground among hard working people, where talent is coupled with knowledge and ambition to provide optimal and new services. The drones represent once more the centerpiece of another invention aimed at saving people from perilous dangers.**

### For high buildings

Sergeant Saif Ghanim Ali Al-Jarad, who works for the Civil Defense Department of Umm Al Quwain, has invented an unmanned drones that can help fight fires in high buildings by providing real-time audio

and visual information for incidents and deliver information to the operating room in to contribute to support the rescue teams in various emergency situations. It is worth noting also that the aircraft is equipped with night light and a camera, smart screens and 6 fans.

### Operates remotely

Saif Ghanem said that the aircraft depends on the GPS system. It is easy to take off and land automatically, and is directed by remote control, which enables the control center to send it to different sites to provide live visual and sound data about the event with extreme precision.