

Abu Dhabi Economic Forum

Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi
2-3 March 2009

SUNDAY: March 1, 2009

17:00-20:00 Registration at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi

Day One: MONDAY March 2, 2009

08:00-08:45 Registration at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi

09:00-09:45 Inaugural Session:

- H.E. Nasser Ahmed Alsowaidi, Chairman, Department of Planning & Economy-Abu Dhabi
- H.E. Eng. Salah Al Shamsi, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Mr. Raouf Abou Zaki, CEO, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

09:45-10:00 Awards Ceremony to Honor:

H.E. Abdulla M. Al Masaood, Chairman, Al Masaood Group
H.E. Saeed Bin Jabr Al Suwaidi, President, Bin Jabr Group Ltd
H.E. Saeed Bin Ahmed Al Otaybah, President, Al Otaybah Group

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-11:55 Session I: Abu Dhabi Economic Strategy

Abu Dhabi has recently unveiled its new economic strategy which includes a fully-fledged plan to develop Abu Dhabi into a major economic hub that builds on the Emirate fundamental strengths and its vast resources. This panel will focus its discussion on the following issues:

- Key elements of the strategy.
- Initiatives to harness Abu Dhabi vision.
- Interplay between the strategy's initiatives to position Abu Dhabi as a regional and global hub.
- How does Abu Dhabi see the global economic crisis?

Moderator: Mr. Faysal Abou Zaki, Deputy General Manager, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Panelists:

- H.E. Abdulla Alahbabi, Director of Policy Development, Strategic Planning and Government Performance Management, Abu Dhabi Executive Council - General Secretariat
- H.E. Mohammed Omar Abdullah, Undersecretary, Department of Planning & Economy
- H.E. Mubarak Hamad Al Muhairi, Director General, Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority
- Mr. Abdullah Nasser Bin Huwaileel Al Mansouri, Chairman, Nasser Group

11:55-13:10 Session II: Abu Dhabi's Opportunities and Partnership

Abu Dhabi economic strategy will generate a plethora of opportunities particularly in industries such as energy, petrochemicals and services. Many of these opportunities are being realized through partnerships with global players with view of boosting its competitiveness and knowledge

economy. As a result, a series of partnerships has been established in key sectors. This session will focus on the following:

- How is this strategy helping Abu Dhabi to build its niche in the global economy?
- Cases of Abu Dhabi's partnerships with leading global companies and brands
- The industry dimension

Moderator: Mr. Rachid Hassan, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Speakers:

- **Miss Maqita Al Ahabbi**, Senior Coordinator, Project Development Strategy & Development, Abu Dhabi Ports Company
- **Mr. Mohamed Al Qamzi**, Senior Vice President, Abu Dhabi Polymers Park, Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation (ADBIC)
- **Dr. Yousif Asfour**, Director, The Injazat Institute
- **Mr. Mubarak Al Khafrah**, Chairman, National Industrialization Company, KSA
- **Mr. Constantin Salameh**, Chief Operating Officer, Emirates International Investment Company (EIIC)
- **Dr. Faysal Alaquil**, Director, Business Development, Construction Products Holding Company CPC, KSA
- **Mr. Charbel Fakhoury**, General Manager, Gulf Region ,Microsoft Corporation

13:10-14:45 Lunch

15:00-16:30 Session III: Reshaping the World Financial Order

More lessons are being learned every day from the global crisis as efforts are being focused on fighting the potential of a prolonged recession and rebuilding the global financial system. This session will focus its discussion on the following:

- Lesson learnt.
- How the global financial system is being reshaped?
- Will the crisis accelerate the shift in global economic balance?
- How can developing nations move forward after the crisis?

Moderator: Dr. Tarik Yousef, Dean, Dubai School of Government

Panelists:

- **Prof. Dr. Hellmut Schutte**, Senior Affiliate Professor of Int'l Management, INSEAD
- **Dr. Abdullah El-Kuwaiz**, Former Assistant Secretary General-Economic Affairs, The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- **Mr. Brad Borland**, Chief Economist, Jadwa Investment, KSA
- **Mr. Khalfan Al Kaabi**, Chairman, AscCorp Holdings

Day Two: TUESDAY March 3, 2009

09:30-10:45 Session IV: Drivers for a New Real Estate Cycle

The global crisis has made severe impact on real estate in Abu Dhabi and Gulf as demand significantly slowed down. This panel will focus its discussion on the following issues:

- How is real estate being impacted by the crisis?
- How will the sector emerge from the crisis?
- What are the new drivers of real estate development in Abu Dhabi and Gulf?

Moderator: Mr. Rachid Hassan, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Panelists:

- **Mr. Gurjit Singh**, Chief Property Development Officer, Sorouh
- **Dr. Hani Shamma**, CEO, Bloom
- **Mr. Abdulla Al Shakra**, Chairman, Al Hanoo Group, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr. Blair Hagkull**, Managing Director, Middle East & North Africa, Jones Lang Lassalle
- **Mr. Salah Al Mayyal**, Managing Director, Levant Holding, Kuwait
- **Mr. Riad Kiwan**, CEO, Construction Products Holding Company (CPC), Emirates

10:45-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:15 **Session V: Banking and Financial Markets in the Post-Crisis Era**

Banks and financial markets will continue to be challenged in 2009 and beyond by tight liquidity, lower profitability, sagging confidence and recession. This panel will focus its discussion on the following topics:

- Outlook for UAE and gulf banks in 2009.
- What can government do to ease the liquidity squeeze and boost bank lending?
- What can be done to plug in the funding gap brought about by the crisis?
- Will the crisis force consolidation in the banking sector?
- How UAE financial markets are likely to fare in 2009?

Moderator: Mr. Faysal Abou Zaki, Deputy General Manager, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal Group

Panelists:

- **Mr. Tom Healy**, CEO, ADX
- **Dr. Giyas Gokkent**, Chief Economist & Co-Head of Asset Management Group, National Bank of Abu Dhabi
- **Mr. Simon Williams**, Chief Economist, Gulf Markets, HSBC Bank Middle East
- **Mr. Mohammed Ali Yasin**, CEO, Shuaa Securities
- **Mr. Hani Baothman**, Managing Director, Aayan Capital, Saudi Arabia

12:15-13:30 **Session VI: Investing in a Time of Crisis**

Investors are still stunned by losses from unstable markets and the continuing bout of bad economic news. The state of the markets in 2009 will largely depend on the hope of avoiding a steep slide into a depression and the potential of an early recovery.

This panel will focus its discussion on the following issues:

- Outlook for the world markets in 2009.
- Investment strategies in a time uncertainties.

Moderator: Ms. Mahira Abdel Aziz. Presenter Business News, Al Arabiya News Channel, Dubai

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mohamed Jaber**, Vice President, Morgan Stanley
- **Mr. Magellan Makhoulf**, Managing Director, Private Equity and Post Acquisition, Gulf Capital
- **Mr. Fahd Iqbal**, Gulf Strategist, EFG-Hermes

13:30

Lunch