

WINGS CHAMBER

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World Travel Awards to be held in Dubai Gala Ceremony to be held on May 5th 2009 at the Monarch Hotel.

The tourism industry's highest accolade, The World Travel Awards, will be held in Dubai this year on the 5th of May, 2009. The event which has been hailed as the "Oscars of the Travel Industry" by the Wall Street Journal will celebrate the travel and tourism industry's best practices by recognizing achievements from over 100 travel and tourism brands from across the Middle East.

This year's event promises to be the most hotly contested ever as leading players address the global downturn by raising their standards even higher. The World Travel Award recognizes leading airlines, hotel operators, hotel developers, tourism boards, travel media, destination marketing campaigns, MICE businesses and several other companies that make a difference in the quality of travel and tourism.

The World Travel Awards, established 16 years ago, encourages travel and tourism organisations to set new boundaries for customer service, value and innovation in their quest to create the ultimate travel and tourism experience. Winners are decided by votes received from agents and travel professionals from around the world.

Commenting on the choice of Dubai for the Middle East ceremony, the President of the World Travel Awards, Graham Cooke commented, "By hosting the event here, we are clearly making a statement – that the travel and tourism industry believes in Dubai and we stand firmly behind it, even in these difficult times. In less than a decade, Dubai has created a world class destination. This city is known over the world for its innovative tourism offerings and world-class service that have set the

benchmark for the industry worldwide. Therefore, it is fitting that we will host our Middle Eastern regional ceremony here again."

Speaking on behalf of the host city, Mr. Eyad Ali Abdul Rahman, Executive Director Media Relations and Acting Director Business Development at Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM), said, "It is an honour to have such a prestigious ceremony hosted in Dubai, which remained a destination of choice for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. The World Travel Awards are an icon of the travel and tourism industry and we are proud that the best of the industry will be in Dubai to receive their awards. The hosting of this award clearly reflects the continued world confidence in Dubai and its vibrant tourism industry, especially in these economically-challenging times."

Last year's World Travel Award winners included Etihad, Dubai, Jumeirah, Royal Jet, Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, Rotana, Orient Tours Sharjah and Regency Travel & Tours Qatar and was attended by over 800 senior travel and tourism executives.

The Middle East Ceremony, hosted at the Monarch Dubai, kicks off the World Travel Awards Grand Tour 2009, with seven events across seven continents including Durban, South Africa (Africa Ceremony); Singapore (Asia, Australasia & Indian Ocean Ceremony); Riviera Maya, Mexico (North & Central America Ceremony); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (South America Ceremony); Óbidos, Portugal (Europe Ceremony); culminating with the Grand Final in Jamaica.

Map Middle East 2009 moves to Abu Dhabi to broaden regional awareness on geospatial information

Specialist geospatial event set for ADNEC debut, to align with Abu Dhabi Plan 2030

The 5th edition of Map Middle East (MME), the annual Middle East Conference and Exhibition on geospatial information, technology and applications, will be held for the first time in Abu Dhabi. The shift of the event to the capital is timely, as the emirate looks to realise its sustainable urban planning strategy for Abu Dhabi Plan 2030.

The specialist event which runs from 26-28 April at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), brings greater knowledge of the role and use of geospatial information for economic growth and regional development.

As the UAE's capital considers its urban infrastructure for the next 20 years, Abu Dhabi will heavily rely on accurate geospatial data and innovative technologies. MME 2009 will thus provide insight into this field to drive forward visionary industry and government developments within Abu Dhabi and across the region.

Sue Howarth, Client Liaison Director who heads up the division for attracting new events and organisers to the venue, remarked "ADNEC has become famous for huge events such as IDEX, ADIPEC, Cityscape and WFES, but we are also the region's premier venue for smaller specialist exhibitions and conferences and provide organisers with the space and service for events to grow and develop. I am delighted that the organisers of this important event have chosen ADNEC and Abu Dhabi to help develop the show in the future."

Oman's carpets & floor coverings industry benefitting from Ministry of Tourism's 12 million visitor target by 2020



DOMOTEX Middle East 2009 to showcase various options for Omani real estate owners & developers

CARLSON HOTELS WORDWIDE STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH AIR CHINA

'Phoenix Miles' Card Members Enjoy Club Floor Room Upgrade



Finjan Discovers a Network of 1.9 Million Malware-Infected Computers Controlled by Cyber criminals - Corporate and Government Computers Are Included

IT Security Gets a Boost as Survey Shows Spending Up

The Majority of Organisations expect to increase spending on Information Security



Rakeen signs mortgage financing agreement with Bank of Baroda for Bab Al Bahr project

Financing facility targets investors and end-users of the groundbreaking mixed-use project on Ras Al Khaimah's Al Marjan Island development

The Specialists to capitalise on competitive real estate prices to create niche market for Dunes Village development

Real estate solutions provider appointed by Alserkal to provide sales, leasing and property management services for AED 400 million residential project in Dubai Investments Park



SCCI to study Sharjah's competitiveness following the results of the "Business Activities Report"

Report ranks UAE among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of property registration

The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) recently launched a competitive study within the emirate following the release of the results of the 'Business Activities Report' conducted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The report ranked the UAE 8th in the world in terms of property registration and 4th in terms of ease of tax and electronic payments.

The Business Activities Report outlined the results of a study on the regulatory environment governing business activities, intended to help countries develop their business potential and thus increase their investment opportunities. It explored the ease of work within private businesses, the regulatory standards followed by government procedures, reforms, and best international practices that met the highest standards of quality and excellence.

Hussein Al Mahmoudi, Director General, SCCI, said, "This study reflects our commitment to enhancing our competitiveness and achieving excellence in various business sectors. The Chamber plans to further develop the business community by re-evaluating its strategies and methodologies in the management of business and industrial activities within the emirate. We will base this on the results of global studies and research on the integration of sustainable development within the regulatory environment of the business community."

SCCI has been adopting several strategies to increase competitiveness throughout Sharjah and enhance the emirate's image as a vital economic hub. These include the establishment of the Business Council for Sustainable Development UAE (BCSD-UAE); the promotion of partnerships between the private and public sectors; improved business support in terms of operation, innovation and growth; and the adoption of the best economic, environmental and social practices.

SCCI also recently launched a Development Strategy for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Sharjah to provide a platform for these organizations to actively participate in national investment and development objectives

In addition, the Chamber is pushing for the development of an excellent administrative and legal environment and strengthening partnerships and communications between establishments.

Other goals include upgrades to collective and individual marketing mechanisms; unemployment reduction; the adoption of more advanced technology; the optimal use of skills and capabilities; and the promotion of excellence and creativity.

As part of its strategy to promote investment and to compete with the international markets, the Chamber has been focusing its efforts on the implementation of a 'General Work Methods' initiative. This program involves the adoption of sustainable development to ensure compatibility between short-term and long-term interests; the identification of responsibilities and priorities to increase the competitive attitude of staff, particularly by adopting best practices used by leading international companies; and the development of the necessary frameworks for meeting Sharjah's evolving needs.

In addition to these, SCCI also plans to organise seminars, workshops, and conferences on work methods and responsibilities within companies and among their members. The Chamber's initiatives are not limited to the local level, but extend across the Arab World as well. It recently organised the 1st Arab Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for businesses, which focused on the social, national and humanitarian aspects of economic development and involvement in public works.

The Chamber aims to implement various other initiatives, such as the establishment of the Sharjah Centre for International Commercial Arbitration which will support dispute resolution among SCCI members, individuals, and commercial organisations. It also plans to establish work groups under its umbrella representing a number of the key local economic sectors, with the aim of enhancing relations with Chamber members. These groups will study proposals on the development of industries and forward these to the concerned government agencies.

"We aim to create a robust business platform based

on competitiveness and principles of transparency in order to facilitate investments and promote the competitive features of companies amidst a rapidly changing world. We are especially concerned about Small and Medium Enterprises, which normally face financial constraints and low productivity. The UAE was ranked 3rd globally and first in the MENA region in the US East West Nation Brand Perception Report released in the first quarter of this year; this underlines the success of national strategies that promote the creation of more investment opportunities and the development of a competitive environment capable of enhancing productivity, increasing growth rates, and supporting local economic diversity," added Al Mahmoudi.

The competitiveness of the business sector is assessed based on key elements such as infrastructure, the macro economy and human development. It also includes health, basic and higher education, efficiency of labour markets, technical capability, market size, creativity, and innovation. In line with this, the Chamber will conduct its competitiveness study according to standards which require the adoption of effective policies and measures on the micro-economic level.

The countries included in the Business Activities Report are classified according to 10 key indicators related to the business system. One of these is Business Activities Initiation, which refers to the streamlining of procedures to establish companies and the reduction of costs to limited liability companies to comply with legal and administrative requirements when starting projects. Another indicator, Protecting Investors, involves three aspects related to the transparency of transactions, responsibility for self-dealing, and the ability of shareholders to discipline employees and the managers for poor performance.

SCCI will continue to focus on launching leading initiatives to develop the emirate's business community. It particularly aims to support Small and Medium Enterprises and economic projects of high potential through the implementation of best practices and innovative concepts that foster a more competitive environment, support the national economy, and advance sustainable development in Sharjah.

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ADNEC's 'Capital Gate' wins Cityscape Middle East Future Commercial & Retail Development Award 2009

Abu Dhabi's new signature tower believed to be 'World's Most Inclined' is recognised as top MENA project

Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company's (ADNEC) Capital Gate tower project has won the prestigious 2009 Cityscape Middle East Commercial and Retail Development 'Future' of the Year Award, beating other key projects in the MENA region

ADNEC representatives accepted the award during a special Awards Gala Dinner hosted by Cityscape Abu Dhabi (Sunday, April 19, 2009) at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Capital Gate received exceptionally high marks for criteria which included contribution to world architecture, culture, invention and imagination, respect for people, the planet, environmental awareness, and appropriateness in the MENA region.

Commenting on the award, Simon Horgan, ADNEC CEO said, "The Middle East real estate industry has recognised Capital Gate as a modern day icon for the region. This award is a tribute to the government's support throughout the design and development of Capital Gate. It also acknowledges the dedication of the development team and partners. Capital Gate will honour the past and celebrate the future, providing Abu Dhabi

with one of the world's greatest commercial mega structures."

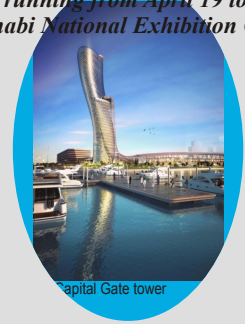


From left to right: Mr. Sanjay Tanna, Dr. Ridha Saihi and Louise Osborne.

Upon completion, the 160-metre, 35-storey tall Capital Gate will be an iconic 'gateway' into Abu Dhabi, reflecting the national identity and values of the country through its unique past and futuristic design. The tower will be connected to the historic Grandstand of the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre and form a vital part of the AED 8 billion Capital Centre development, the world's first exhibition lifestyle destination. The structure will offer 20,000 sqm of exclusive office space and be home to the 5-star "Hyatt at Capital Centre" - Hyatt Hotels and Resorts' first hotel in Abu Dhabi.

Capital Gate's distinctive 18-degree westward incline, was made possible through the use of an innovative "slanting core" concept never before used in other developments. As construction continues, ADNEC and RMJM architects have jointly submitted an application to the Guinness Book of World Records to be recognised as the 'World's Most Inclined Tower.'

The 2009 Cityscape Middle East Real Estate Awards is part of the 3rd Cityscape Abu Dhabi international real estate investment and development event running from April 19 to 22, 2009 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.



Swine flu: a serious concern, but no cause for panic



KICK-STARTING THE RECOVERY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Industry leaders and governments to meet in Florianópolis at the 9th Global Travel & Tourism Summit to debate new forms of partnership to help stimulate the global economic recovery

FIEO Delegation to visit China

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) is participating the 105th Session of the Canton Fair to be held from April 15 to 19th, 2009 at Guangzhou, China. CANTON fair is the world's second largest fair and FIEO has been appointed the India agent for the International Pavilion.

The 95 member FIEO delegation of Indian businessmen would be showcasing India's strength in wide range of products like machinery & equipment, vehicle & spare parts electronic, I T products & household electrical appliances, lamps & light fixtures, hardware & tools, building materials, raw materials, textile materials, consumer goods, decorations items, jewellery items, furniture, toys, clocks, watches, sports goods, office supplies, horticulture products, household items, cases & bags, crafts items, festival & party decorations, foods and agriculture products, etc.

China and India today are the two rising economic giants in the world. The India China trade is crossing newer heights with each passing year. The bilateral trade during 2007-08 was to the tune of US \$ 37.9 billion and target of USD 60 billion has been set for the 2010. The Indian side needs to diversify its export basket and add value added products to bridge the trade deficit gap which is to the tune of USD 1628 1.56 million. Participation in CANTON fair would give Indian businessmen an opportunity to establish business linkages with their counterparts in various sectors.

During the visit of the Indian delegation, a Seminar is being organized by FIEO in association with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and India Consulate General for export promotion from India and also inviting investment into India where Mr Ajay Sahai, Director General, FIEO shall brief the participants.



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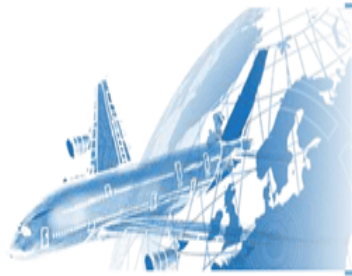
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Federation of Indian Export Organizations

FOCUS OF EXPORT CREDIT SHOULD BE ON SMEs: A. SAKTHIVEL, PRESIDENT, FIEO

For focusing on SMEs exporters, RBI should list down all the banking facilities for this segment in one chapter so as to make them aware of the benefits as lack of knowledge is a bane for small and medium enterprises.

Reduction in repo rate and reverse repo rate has not resulted in reduction in the PLR of most of the banks, said Shri A. SAKTHIVEL, President FIEO. Exporters have not been able to get exports credit at the reduced rate of interest and there is an urgent need to provide export credit at 7% with out linking it with the PLR as our competitors are providing exports credit at less than 5% and Indian exporters are required to provide a near level playing field.

Banks also need to be advised to restructure the term loan given to exporters in the wake of present financial crisis, added FIEO Chief. The issue of derivative losses remain unattended for long time and we request RBI to intervene to help the exporters to settle the matter amicably on 50:50 basis so that exporters do not suffer irrecoverable losses, observed Shri Sakthivel.

Federation of Indian Export Organizations represents the Indian entrepreneurs' spirit of enterprise in the global market. FIEO is serving as a platform of interaction between exporters and policy makers, and has been instrumental in promoting the efforts of Indian exporting community in the global market.

FIEO has been constantly striving hard to assist the member exporters. In order to serve the member exporters better, FIEO is shifting its office to a new location w.e.f. 1st May, 2009

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