

تحت رعاية سمو الشيخ خالد بن محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، ولي عهد أبوظبي رئيس المجلس التنفيذي لإمارة أبوظبي

Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi  
and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING

## AIM Global 2023 Post Show Report

8 - 10 May 2023 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[www.aimcongress.com](http://www.aimcongress.com)



**His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of the United Arab Emirates  
Ruler of Abu Dhabi



**His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi  
Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council

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# 12<sup>th</sup> Edition

## AIM Global 2023 @ A Glance

**“The Investment Paradigm Shift: Future Investment Opportunities To Foster Sustainable Economic Growth, Diversity and Prosperity”**

This year’s Annual Investment Meeting – which was completely diverse compared to its previous editions – was held for the first time in the country’s dynamic capital, Abu Dhabi. Its aim has remained the same: to encourage foreign investment and foster dialogue and agreements between governments, business leaders, and investors by facilitating discussions and exploring current and future investment opportunities, all with the ultimate goal of promoting sustainable global economic growth.

With focus on innovation and technology, the three-day event hosted a range of activities and features that were in line with its commitment to further strengthen the five key pillars, which included Foreign Direct Investment, Small and Medium Enterprises, Future Cities, Startups, and Foreign Portfolio Investment.

In general, this year’s congregation of some of the world’s leading innovators and visionaries in the government, business, and society highlighted the much-needed paradigm shift in investment opportunities that not just focus on short-term gains, but on long-term sustainable growth, which benefits everyone involved. AIM 2023 brought to the fore the importance of prioritizing shared prosperity, in which investors can help to create a better future for all, while still achieving their investment goals.

**10,313**  
Participants

**175**  
Countries

**281**  
Sessions

**693**  
Speakers

**120**  
Startups

**32**  
Unicorns

**270**  
Exhibitors

**33**  
SMEs

**144**  
Media

**131**  
High-Level Dignitaries

**6,839**  
Business Meetings





## GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the Annual Investment Meeting 2023 was a highly anticipated event that marked the start of three days of engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and valuable networking opportunities. But more than that, it was a moment of immense pride and resounding praise for the UAE's impressive economic standing, being the first in the Arab world and 19th globally in terms of FDI attractiveness in 2022. It was likewise filled with overwhelming acclaim for Abu Dhabi, the perfect host of this year's edition, as its recent innumerable economic achievements further prove its reputation as the ideal destination of choice, being it a city that is not just a great place to live but a great enabler of business as well.

With the gracious patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, the Annual Investment Meeting once again validated itself as one of the world's largest gatherings of investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from around the world. Its Grand Opening Ceremony, which saw the esteemed presence of His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and His Excellency Ahmed Jassim Al Zaabi, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, was indeed a rewarding experience for all the attendees – high-level international government figures and heads of delegations from 175 nations as well as a huge number of top officials of international organizations and senior corporate executives.



## Opening Speech

### *In the Name of Allah the Merciful.*

Your excellencies, distinguished guests,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the opening ceremony of the 12th edition of the Annual Investment Meeting here in Abu Dhabi.

This esteemed gathering, organized under the generous patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, is central to our efforts to shape the priorities of the global investment community.

The theme of this year's event is "The Investment Paradigm Shift: Future Investment Opportunities to Foster Sustainable Economic Growth, Diversity and Prosperity". And it's one that very much aligns with the growth ambitions of the UAE.

Our economy continues to expand, and our innovation-based economy continues to thrive – but it is only because our diversification is built on sustainable foundations.

We believe strongly that trade and investment are the antidotes to slow growth, and this conference is perfectly timed to foster dialogue between governments, business leaders, and investors in order to catalyze both.

### *Ladies and gentlemen,*

Now that the global economy has finally emerged from the impact of COVID-19, the priorities of governments and leaders have moved from protecting lives to improving and enriching them. The question in front of us now is "how?" – how do we achieve sustainable, diversified, and prosperous economies that benefit everyone? The answer lies in the realization that these elements all go hand in hand.

*In prosperity*, for instance, we may consider GDP growth for countries, profit for companies, and life satisfaction for people.

*In diversity*, we may encourage investments in different economic sectors and ensure equal

opportunities for everyone, regardless of gender, race or national origin.

*In sustainability*, we can direct investment towards advanced technologies that reduce carbon emissions and conserve vital resources.

The UAE is well down the path towards attaining this balance and strategic investment remains key. While the world talks about deglobalization, our focus is on economic expansion.

We continue to attract international investors thanks to our business-friendly policies, our strategic location, and our world-class infrastructure. But more than that, we believe they are attracted by our ambition.

Today, we are one of the largest recipients of FDI in the MENA region.

In the UN's "World Investment Report 2023", the UAE was ranked number one in the Arab world and 16<sup>th</sup> globally in terms of FDI attractiveness. In total, we attracted 20.7 billion dollars-worth of FDI in 2021, up 4 percent from 2020.

The same report revealed that our FDI outflows totalled 22.5 billion dollars, representing a 19 percent increase from the previous year and placing the UAE 17<sup>th</sup> globally in terms of FDI outflows. This doesn't just mean economic growth – it means economic development.

It means we are harnessing new ideas, new processes and new capabilities and establishing new industries and new clusters of excellence. We are now both a global gateway and a global market.

Forward-looking policies, such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement program, continue to support the country's international position.

Our bilateral deal with India – the anniversary of which we celebrate this week – was the first of a major program of economic alliances that is securing our status on the global trade and investment map.



*As we move forward, we must work together to ensure investment is not just a tool for turning profit, but for making a positive impact on our economies, our communities, and our environment.*

**H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**

Minister of State for Foreign Trade  
Vice Chairman of Industry Development Council

Subsequent deals with Israel, Indonesia and Turkiye are opening new markets for our industrialists and investors.

In all, we are building the foundations of the UAE's new economic model based on knowledge and innovation, while developing our long-term competitiveness.

### *Distinguished participants,*

The Annual Investment Meeting is one of the world's largest gatherings of changemakers in business, government, and society. We all share one goal – to expand opportunities for people. But this year's conference highlights the need for a new approach to investment.

A "paradigm shift" that focuses on investment opportunities that foster sustainable economic growth, promote diversity, and ensure prosperity for all.

*Thank you for participating in this year's Annual Investment Meeting. I look forward to the progress we will make towards this important goal.*





## Keynote Speech

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 12th edition of the Annual Investment Meeting. Welcome to the vibrant city of Abu Dhabi, the Capital of Capital.

As Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, I am happy to see you today at this prestigious event, bringing together the world's leading investors, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders to discuss and explore the latest trends and opportunities in the global investment landscape.

Abu Dhabi is witnessing the rise of the Falcon Economy which continues to go from strength-to-strength, driven by agile policies and robust regulatory and legal frameworks, making us an anchor for companies looking to expand their operations in the region.

Our rapid economic growth, along with the growing confidence of the international community to live, invest and thrive in Abu Dhabi, make us an ideal destination of choice. While such claims are easily made, I believe in letting the numbers speak for themselves.

Today, I am thrilled to share with you that as of the end of 2022, the Abu Dhabi's real GDP exceeded 1 trillion Dirhams, with non-oil sectors contributing by 50% of this figure. Our aim is to increase Abu Dhabi's non-oil exports by 140%, to almost 179 billion Dirhams, by 2031.

In 2022, the UAE banking sector grew 12-fold to 900 billion dollars, a jump from 70% of nominal GDP in 2000 to over 250% in 2022, a result of several factors, including

- Abu Dhabi is already home to three of the world's leading Sovereign Wealth Funds, with combined assets of more than \$1 trillion.
- Abu Dhabi's continuous effort to strengthen its financial ecosystem has attracted anchor asset managers, like Brevan Howard, Winton Capital, Sequoia and Ardian. Joining other key players in the financial sector, including banking, insurance, and family offices, Abu

Dhabi is home to two of the largest banks in the region, as well as several international banks which further strengthen Abu Dhabi's position as a leading financial centre.

- In recent years, the stock market capitalisation has almost quintupled to more than 650 billion dollars, driven by the State-Owned Enterprises and private companies.
- To name a few, ADGM-registered companies Borouge, Burjeel Holdings, Bayanat AI, and Americana Restaurants secured listings last year on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. Anghami, which has its global headquarters and R&D center in ADGM, completed its listing on the New York NASDAQ. Those efforts are complemented by the launch of a series of bold initiatives, including the Abu Dhabi IPO Fund, a 5 billion Dirham fund with a mandate to act as a catalyst for the economy growth.

Abu Dhabi has retained its title as the smartest city in the Middle East and North Africa for the third year in a row, thanks to its digital-first initiatives.

- Abu Dhabi's G42, launched a 10 billion Dollars Expansion Fund focused on accelerating the pace of global innovation by investing in late-stage growth companies.
- Hub71, Abu Dhabi's global tech ecosystem increased its community by 102% to more than 200 startups and raised over 4 billion Dirhams in venture capital in 2022. Its diverse entrepreneurial community has 42 nationalities represented in more than 20 sectors.
- Abu Dhabi Ports expanded Khalifa Port from 2.5 square km to 8.5 square km, while its quay wall has been significantly extended from 2.3 km to 12.5 km. This step will contribute towards increasing the handling capacity to 15 million TEU's by 2030, and general cargo handling capacity to 25 million tonnes.
- The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) have reinforced the UAE's status as a global trade hub. The UAE's non-oil foreign trade continues to set unprecedented



*As the lead partner to AIM 2023, the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development aspires to advance Abu Dhabi's rapidly evolving economic landscape.*

**H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi**

Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development

records as it crossed the AED 2 trillion mark for the first time in history and totalled 2.2 trillion Dirhams in 2022, with a 17% growth from that of 2021

- Our near-term aim is to increase Abu Dhabi's non-oil exports by 143% to AED178.8 billion by 2031.

Our robust Abu Dhabi Industrial Strategy cements Abu Dhabi as the region's most competitive industrial hub, investing 10 billion Dirhams in six transformational programs that will double our manufacturing sector to 172 billion Dirhams by 2031, creating more than 13,000 jobs.

Abu Dhabi's Mubadala and G42 launched tech-focused healthcare company M42, which advances medical research and capabilities in the UAE capital and is set to "impactfully disrupt" the global healthcare industry.

Abu Dhabi is developing a clear mandate to lead the way in the Year of Sustainability, on the road to COP28.



• Masdar is driving Abu Dhabi's energy transition. The new structure with Mubadala, ADNOC and TAQA, is propelling Masdar into a clean energy powerhouse with 100GW renewable power capacity.

• ADGM's Sustainable Finance Regulatory Framework supports the allocation of capital into economic activities that will help achieve net zero targets both locally and globally.

• ADNOC is leading the race on our transition to cleaner, low-carbon energy, allocating 15bn Dollars on its path to Net Zero, and completing the listings of ADNOC Drilling, Fertiglobe and ADNOC Gas.

• TA'ZIZ is partnering with Fertiglobe, GS Energy and Mitsui, to develop a 1 million tonnes per annum low-carbon ammonia production facility.

The UAE aims to be among the top 10 hydrogen-producing countries globally and is drawing up a comprehensive roadmap to position the country as an exporter of the clean fuel and tap into its future potential.





*I encourage you to join us in shaping the future of our economy and be part of this exciting journey.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Abu Dhabi's remarkable success story is only in its initial stages and it will continue to thrive as the most competitive destination for industry, trade, and finance in the region.

We continue to offer unparalleled support and incentives to help global businesses succeed here, with business enablers and innovation hubs like ADIO, Hub71 and ADGM, and solid investment entities that provide funding, including ADQ and Mubadala.

We launched a series of bold initiatives to strengthen Abu Dhabi's economy and accelerate economic diversification.

Abu Dhabi IPO Fund - Investor Journey - Flexible Health Insurance Policy - Abu Dhabi Innovates

This is testament to Abu Dhabi's role as a business enabler, and our efforts to provide a solid infrastructure for businesses to thrive.

Abu Dhabi is more than a great place to live. It is a true destination of choice. Abu Dhabi ranks as the safest city in the world, and we are no.1 for 'ease of doing business' in the MENA. We are proud to offer our residents the best schools and hospitals, idyllic locations for families, and our ground-breaking Golden Visa program.

**Thank you.**

*H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi*

Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development



## Keynote Speech

**H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, during the Opening Ceremony**

*Your Highness, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, and Friends, I thank the United Arab Emirates for hosting this very important meeting.*

The UAE's world-class logistics infrastructure plays a critical role in allowing WHO to rapidly respond to global emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for greater solidarity and for investment in national and global health systems.

Profoundly, inequities in access to vaccines and other life-saving health products in low- and middle-income countries prolonged the pandemic and put the whole world at greater risk.

The pandemic exposed vulnerable global supply chains and the fragilities that result when priority health products are produced in only a few countries. Strengthening local production of medicines and other health technologies must be a priority.

That's why, WHO and our partners established the mRNA technology transfer hub in South Africa, which is now transferring mRNA technology to 15 countries around the world, along with a training hub in the Republic of Korea.

My thanks again to Your Highness and the UAE for your support for WHO's work to create a healthier, safer, fairer future for all people.

*Shukran jazeelan. Thank you!*





### Message from the AIM Foundation

Organizing the Annual Investment Meeting for the first time in Abu Dhabi this year, and being able to deliver more than what had been expected of the event, was truly a remarkable feat and honor for us, the organizers of what has been lauded the world's leading investment platform.

Aside from it being hosted by the country's capital that is a preferred business hub, this 12th edition promised to be more diverse and comprehensive compared to the previous ones by focusing on different sectors and featuring significantly more topics. And we were delighted that we were able to go beyond these expectations – attracting from 175 countries an upwards of 10,000 Participants, 693 of whom were high-level speakers who led a total of 281 sessions.

We were able to accomplish these goals due in large part to the patronage we received from His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, and to the strategic support provided by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development.

Of course, it goes without saying that all AIM participants had been instrumental in making this year's Annual Investment Meeting a grand

success – leaders and experts from the business, finance, and government spheres who convened to broaden opportunities for people; sponsors and partners from various industries whose strengths and networks afforded the resources, expertise, and exposure necessary to achieve the event's desired outcomes; and businessmen and investors who established beneficial agreements and partnerships, and introduced new channels of work.

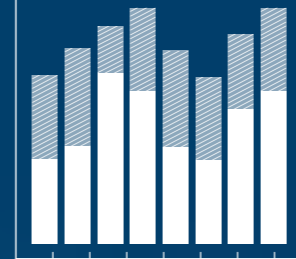
In addition, the many engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and innovative ideas that were shared throughout the whole run of the event were indeed invaluable in shaping the future of investment and economic development, locally, regionally and internationally.

As we look ahead to the coming months and years, I am confident that the relationships and partnerships that have been forged at the Annual Investment Meeting will help in building a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive global economy. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this year's AIM, and I look forward to seeing you all again in our next year's edition.

*Dawood Al Shezawi*  
President of the AIM Foundation

### UAE @ A Glance

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to the United Arab Emirates increased by



10%

to **\$23 billion**



The share of the UAE in FDI flows to GCC countries reached

61%

The number of announced greenfield projects surged by more than

80%

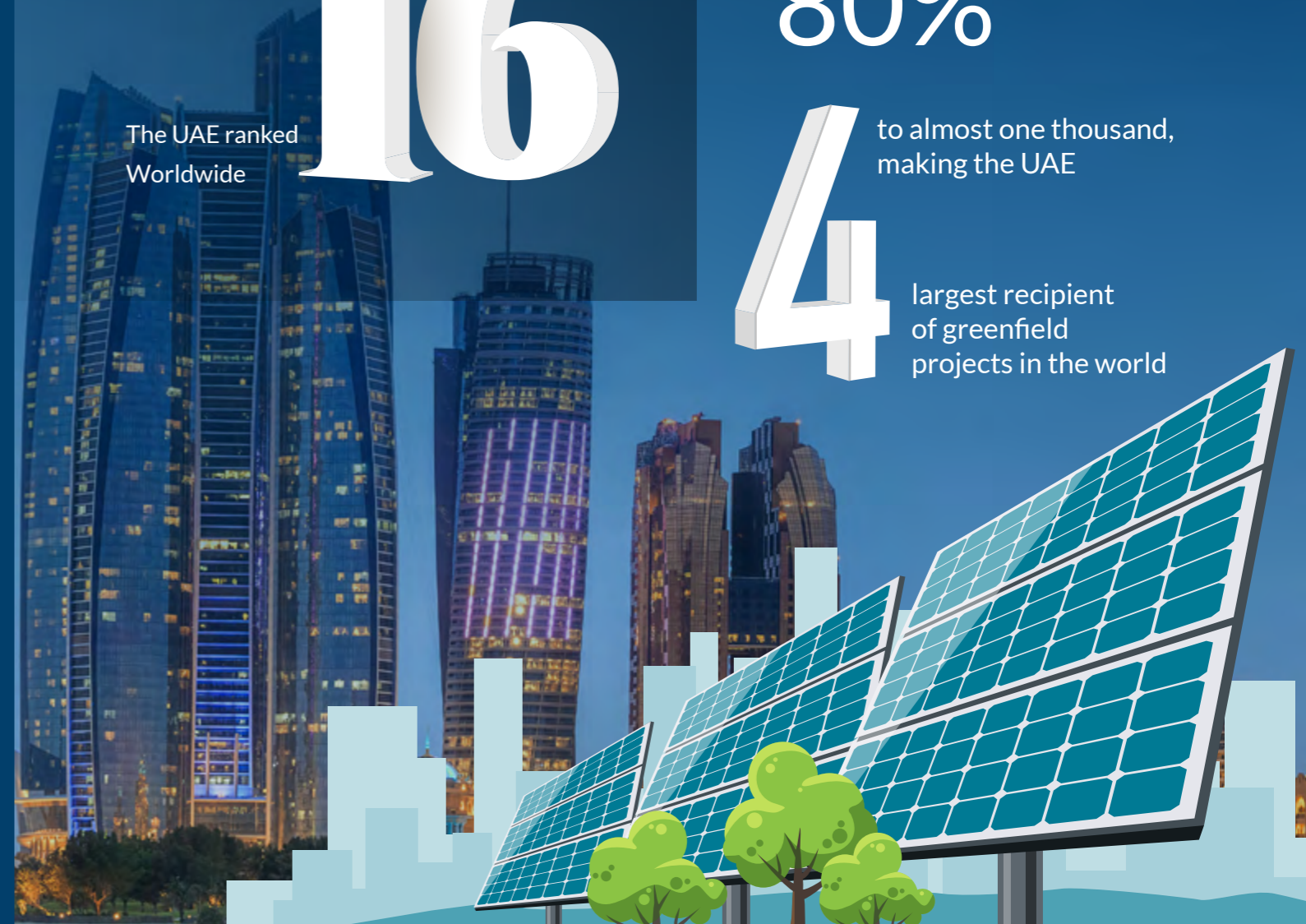
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to almost one thousand, making the UAE

largest recipient of greenfield projects in the world

The UAE ranked Worldwide

16





# AIM CONFERENCE



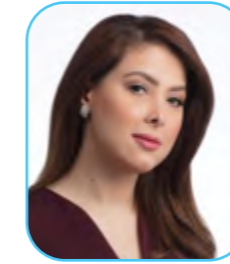
The AIM 2023 Conference convened over 600+ influential FDI thinkers and renowned experts, who imparted the latest investment intelligence, trends, and updates to the participants. The theme of this year's edition, "The Investment Paradigm Shift: Future Investment Opportunities to Foster Sustainable Economic Growth, Diversity, and Prosperity," was comprehensively explored by the conference's esteemed speakers through engaging topics focusing on key sectors such as Tourism & Hospitality, Agriculture, Energy, Technology, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Transportation & Logistics, Finance, Healthcare, and Education.

# GLOBAL LEADERS DEBATE

As the world recovers from the pandemic and geopolitical tensions, the investment world is going through a paradigm shift that will transform the global investment landscape. The global economy is adapting to the 'new normal', and there are many factors that accelerate this new paradigm.

## Part 1

**MODERATOR**



**May Ben Khadra**  
Business Anchor  
CNBC Arabia

**PANELISTS**



**Antonio Pedro**  
Acting Executive Secretary  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



**Rashed Alblooshi**  
Undersecretary  
Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development



**Fatou Haidara**  
Deputy Director General  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization



**Jung Sook Park**  
Secretary General  
WeGO

## Part 2

**MODERATOR**



**Ismail Ersahin**  
CEO & Executive Director  
World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

**PANELISTS**



**Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti**  
Secretary General  
Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States



**Rustam Minnikhanov**  
Head  
Republic of Tatarstan



**Wamkele Keabetswe Mene**  
Secretary General  
African Continental Free Trade Area



**Jun Ge**  
Group CEO  
ToJoy



## INVESTMENT TRACK

### Investing in Space to Attain the UN SDGs and Sustainability



**Candace Johnson**  
 Chair Seraphim Space  
 Advisory Board and Partner, Vice-Chair NorthStar Earth & Space, Founder/Co-founder  
 SES, Loral Teleport Europe, Europe Online, GTWN, OWNSAT, VATM, GBRW

### Global Economic Outlook - Beyond the Paradigm Shift, Where Next for the Investment Market

This session explored the opportunities for FDI and FPI in identifying changes that will transform the global investment landscape, influencing investments with ESG and embracing all stakeholders.

**MODERATOR**



**Douglas van den Bergh**  
 CEO  
 NxtZones

**PANELISTS**



**Jad Ellawn**  
 Managing Partner  
 Regional Head of the  
 Middle East  
 Brookfield



**Dr. Yousuf Hamed Al-Balushi**  
 Founder  
 Oman Investment  
 Gateway



**Dr. Lassaad Lachaal**  
 Senior Advisor to the  
 President-MENA Region  
 African Development  
 Bank Group



**Renee Haugerud**  
 Founder & Chief  
 Investment Officer  
 Galtere



**Krzysztof Drynda**  
 Business Advisor,  
 Consulting  
 Polish Investment and  
 Trade Agency



**Ibraev Danil**  
 President  
 Kyrgyz Union of  
 Industrialists and  
 Entrepreneurs



**Vazil Huda**  
 Chairman  
 AVANEA



**Maria Camilleri Calleja**  
 Ambassador of the  
 Republic of Malta  
 and Permanent  
 Representative of Malta  
 to IRENA Abu Dhabi

### Abu Dhabi Industrial Strategy and Industrial Sector in Abu Dhabi

This shed light on 'The Abu Dhabi Initial Public Offering (IPO) Fund', which is a government-backed initiative designed to support local companies seeking to go public.

**MODERATOR**



**Gareth Presch**  
 Founder & CEO  
 World Health Innovation Summit

**PANELIST**



**Eng. Arafat Saleh Al Yafei**  
 Executive Director of Industry Development Bureau  
 Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development

### Devoting FPIs Towards a Greener World

Foreign Portfolio Investments have been adhering to ESG and climate goals. This session focused on current and future projects and initiatives towards sustainable and diverse FPIs.

**MODERATOR**



**Mohit Bhasin**  
 Partner & Global Co-lead  
 for Economic Growth  
 Practice  
 KPMG

**PANELISTS**



**Bilal Sabouni**  
 Managing Director  
 Guidepoint



**Jessica Cheam**  
 Founder and Managing  
 Director  
 Eco-Business



**Lukasz Holubowski**  
 CEO  
 Rafako



**Marc Israel**  
 Partner  
 White & Case LLP



**Takaaki Nakamura**  
 Business Unit Manager  
 NIFCO Inc

## Creating Resilient Supply Chains to Enhance Growth Opportunities

This session discussed the relevance of creating resilient supply chains and new infrastructure in the 21st century.

**MODERATOR**



**John Hanna**  
Managing Director  
*GDP Global*

**PANELISTS**



**Asmae Ben Bahida**  
CEO  
*Just BiM iT*



**Egon Zorad**  
Director of Foreign Trade Department  
*Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO)*



**Dr. Manuel Francisco Pedro**  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
*The Luanda-Bengo SEZ*



**Andrew Hoad**  
CCO  
*Gulftainer*



**Dr. Afua Asabea Asare**  
CEO  
*Ghana Export Promotion Authority*



**Dr. Assia Ben Saad**  
Director of Cooperation and Partnerships  
*Moroccan Investment and Export Development Agency*



**Mohamed Kassem**  
Chairman  
*Egyptian Exporters Association Expolink*



**Mamdouh Salem**  
Founder & CEO  
*Garrar*

## Investment Monitor's FDI Report 2023: A focus on the Middle East & Africa

AIM, in partnership with GlobalData and Investment Monitor, organized this exclusive breakfast and panel session at AIM prior to the launch of "GlobalData's Middle East & Africa FDI Report 2023: What is the next leap in FDI for the Middle East Africa region?"

**MODERATOR**



**Eleanor Slinger**  
Regional Director  
*Investment Monitor*

**PANELISTS**



**David Parker**  
International Investment Promotion Specialist



**Glenn Barklie**  
Principal Economist, Investment Monitor & Head of FDI Services  
*GlobalData*



**Dr. Martin Kaspar**  
Head of Corporate Development  
*Fränkische Industrial Pipes*

## Bridging the Gap: Establishing Strong International Relationships and Building Trust

Having strong relationships is the backbone to any investment. This session aimed to look at best practices for building long-term relationships and maintaining them.

**MODERATOR**



**Eleanor Slinger**  
Regional Director  
*Investment Monitor*

**PANELISTS**



**R. Yofi Grant**  
CEO  
*Ghana Investment Promotion Centre*



**Roger Latchman**  
Consul-General of Georgia in Johannesburg



**Dr. Mazdak Rafaty**  
Managing Partner  
*Ludwar International Consulting*



**Omar Al Gharabally**  
President and Partner  
*Greenstone Equity Partners*



**Dr. Martin Kaspar**  
Head of Corporate Development  
*Fränkische Industrial Pipes*



**Eng. Ahmed Taha**  
Executive Director  
*Egyptian Exporters Association Expolink*



**Dr. Osama Tomeh**  
Senior Economic Developer  
*Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development*



## Digital Transformation: Integrating Innovative Technologies in FDI to Increase Value

This session delved into how significant attracting FDI is as the world aims to go back to pre-pandemic levels of growth.

### MODERATOR



**Matthew Stephenson**  
Head, Investment Policy and Practice  
*World Economic Forum*

### PANELISTS



**Glenn Barklie**  
Chief Economist, FDI  
*GlobalData*



**Eng. Ali Abdulhaq Al Balooshi**  
CEO  
*EcoX*



**Saif Ismail**  
President  
*Yalla Group*



**Krunoslav Ris**  
CEO  
*Lumen Spei*



**Behnam Gurbanzada**  
CEO & Founder  
*PayZakat*



**Brittany McDonough**  
Section Head Innovation and Ecosystem - AWS  
CIC Lead  
*Abu Dhabi Investment Office*



**Dr. Rathan U. Kelkar IAS**  
Secretary IT  
*GoK*

## Towards Investment Facilitation for Development: How a New Agreement can Help Grow FDI Flows and Prosperity

This session explored how governments and companies can work together with international organizations and investment practitioners to implement the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and realize these benefits.

### MODERATOR



**Matthew Stephenson**  
Head, Investment Policy and Practice  
*World Economic Forum*

### PANELISTS



**Mohit Bhasin**  
Partner and Global Co-Lead, Economic Growth  
*KPMG*



**Ghada Abdelkader**  
Senior Vice-President  
*CE-Invests, Crescent Enterprises*



**Faisal Al Nabhani**  
Director  
*International Relations Department, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion of Oman*

## Quality FDI: Attracting Meaningful Investments for Economic Growth

This talked about how attracting investment boosts the economy by generating jobs and driving innovation.

### MODERATOR



**Andreas Dressler**  
Managing Director  
*FDI Center*

### PANELISTS



**Vahan Kerobyán**  
Minister of Economy  
*Republic of Armenia*



**Mikheil Khidureli**  
CEO  
*Enterprise Georgia*



**Hossam Heiba**  
CEO  
*Gafi*



**Mario Al-Jebouri**  
Head of Dubai Representative Office  
*Banque Cantonale de Genève*



**Nangula Uaandja**  
CEO  
*Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board*



**Karl Tabbakh**  
Board Chair  
*Invest in Canada*

## Boosting Capital Markets to Develop Market Efficiency Through FPI

FPIs help to strengthen and improve domestic capital markets. This session looked at how FPI is used to tackle the world's biggest social and environmental changes.

### MODERATOR



**Martin Kunzmann**  
Director - Production & Content  
*DDC Financial Group*

### PANELISTS



**Jassim Alseddiqi**  
Board Managing Director  
*SHUAA Capital*



**Sean He**  
Founding Partner  
*Silicon Harbor*



**Dr. Daghles Murad**  
Partner, White & Case LLP  
*Ghorfa Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

## Geopolitical Tensions: Mitigating Global Risk in your Portfolio

Geopolitical risks are high on the agenda for any investor. To manage geopolitical risks, businesses need to ensure they are resilient and adaptable to changes. This session shed some light on best practices in recovering from geopolitical tensions.

**MODERATOR**



**Adam Ward**  
Director  
*Geopolitico Insight and Counsel*

**PANELIST**



**Radoslaw Domagalski**  
CEO  
*Rafako*

## Sustainable Investment Opportunities in FDI

This session talked about how to encourage the development of sustainable technologies and how to integrate ESG going forward.

**MODERATOR**



**Gareth Presch**  
Founder & CEO  
*World Health Innovation Summit*

**PANELISTS**



**Karie James**  
Expansion Director  
*Regen Organics*



**Andrew Clutz**  
Head of Economic Development  
*Tractus*



**Isamu Koyama**  
Representative Director  
*Japan Innovation Park General Incorporated Association*



**Marwan Saleh Aicha**  
Director of Investment Promotion and Support  
*Sharjah FDI Office*



**Stephania Bonilla**  
Senior Economic Affairs Officer – Investment Promotion & Facilitation for Sustainable Development  
*UNCTAD*

## Leveraging Super Trends in Investment to Create Resilient Portfolios

In order to stay ahead, investors need to tap into the super trends that will shape the world. Climate change is top of the agenda with political leaders shifting priorities for sustainable investment. This session looked at the current disruptors in the market and focus on where the industry is headed to.

**MODERATOR**



**Bruno Delaye**  
Vice President Senior  
ADIT  
*ESL&Network*

**PANELISTS**



**Fahad Attamimi**  
CEO  
*Four Trade B.V*



**Tafadzwa Chinamo**  
CEO  
*Zimbabwe Investment & Development Agency*



**Dr. Holger Bingmann**  
President  
*National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce*

## Moving to Net Zero and Decarbonizing your Portfolio

This session addressed the global trend of aligning investment portfolios with a net zero economy.

**MODERATOR**



**Eric van Honk**  
Director  
*AMPOWR*

**PANELISTS**



**Hiro Mizuno**  
Founder & CEO  
*Good Steward Partners, LLC*



**Jon Moore**  
CEO  
*BloombergNEF*



**Muhammad Yusrizki**  
Chairman  
*KADIN Net Zero Hub*



**Abhay Bhargava**  
Vice President – Energy & Environment and Sustainability Practice  
*Frost & Sullivan*



**Timucin Engin**  
Senior Director and the Cross-practice Country Coordinator for the GCC region based in Dubai  
*S&P Global*



**Anas BaChar**  
Founder & Managing Director  
*Sprezzatura Advisors*



# INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRACK

## Future Cities: Digital Transformation: Integrating Innovative Technologies

This session shed light on how digital transformation has impacted future cities and the major trends affecting business and investment. The panellists discussed the rise of innovative technologies and the next wave of disruption that could impact the market.

**MODERATOR**



**Valeria Brusnikina**  
Portfolio Manager of IT projects for the IPChain Association, Deputy General Director for n'RIS, General Director for FONMIX, and Director for Development for the Russian Union of Right-holders

**PANELISTS**



**Jawad J. Abbassi**  
Head of MENA  
GSMA



**Steve Severance**  
Director of Growth  
Masdar City



**Alexander Pinskiy**  
Managing Director  
Sitronics Group



**Agung Wicaksono**  
Deputy Chairman for Funding and Investment  
Nusantara National Capital Authority (NNCA)



**Sergey Cheremin**  
Minister of the Moscow City Government and Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow



**Dr. Mengsha Tan**  
Founder & Chairwoman  
Mensa Group

## Startups: Contributing to Economic Growth

Startups are a catalyst for economic growth locally and globally. In this session, participants explored the power of data and innovative technologies to promote startup ecosystems.

**MODERATOR**



**Waheed Qaiser**  
Chairman  
Pairstech Capital Management

**PANELISTS**



**Gilbert Ewehmeh**  
Continental Coordinator  
Accelerate Africa



**Yaser Al Yousuf**  
Director of Participation and Conformity  
Abu Dhabi Residents Office (ADRO)



**Suleiman Amin**  
Acting Managing Director  
Catalyst



**Numan Numan**  
Founder and Managing Director  
212



**Abdul Basit Qayed**  
Principal  
Dubai Future District Fund



**Dr. Kim J. Zietlow**  
Director  
FDI Center



**Baybars Altuntas**  
Executive Chairman  
World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)

## SMEs - Movers & Shapers: Boosting Opportunities for Women in Trade (SheTrades - ITC)

The panel session showcased key industrial insights and best practices to advance women's economic empowerment in various sectors. It also aimed to inspire transformative action from private and public sectors to address the gap in the economic opportunities for women.

### MODERATOR



**Anna Zaleski Mori**  
Programme Officer  
*SheTrades Initiative, International Trade Centre*

### PANELISTS



**Alia Al Mazrouei**  
CEO  
*Khalifa Fund*



**Christina Struller de Costa**  
Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
*ISMEA, UPS*



**Carl Manlan**  
Vice President, Inclusive Impact & Sustainability  
*Central & Eastern Europe Middle East and Africa, Visa*



**Ingrid Orozco**  
President  
*Organization of Women in International Trade - Mexico Chapter*



**Nivedita Pandit**  
Founder  
*Chilly Dates and Food Innovator, United Arab Emirates*



**Nadine Benchaffai**  
Venture Builder Director  
*Dana Global*



**Aline Pate**  
Senior Manager  
*Land Development and Strategic Investment, Masdar City*

## SMEs: Scaling the Technology Market and Implementing Technological Solutions

This session explored the SMEs technology market, looked at what businesses can achieve through digitalization, how digital transformation affects the expansion of SMEs in international markets and offered insights into building a digital architecture.

### MODERATOR



**Jane Thomson**  
Founder  
*Supernova Data, Interim Chair - World Metaverse Council (Forbes 2018 & Top 20 Global Thought Leaders in Crypto (Thinkers 360))*

### PANELISTS



**Dr. Krunoslav Ris**  
Chief Executive Officer  
*Lumen Spei LTD & Digital Transformation Consultant*



**Sebastiano Toffaletti**  
Secretary General (CEO)  
*European Digital SME Alliance, Chairman - European Cybersecurity Organization, Board Member - European Internet Forum, & Board Member ETSI*



**Mohamed Abounaga Nagaty**  
Executive Chairman  
*Exits MENA, Founder/CEO - Pie, CoFounder of Halan, & Partner/Co-Founder - Cashcows*



**Ricky Kang**  
Head of Business  
*Naver Z (ZEPETO)*



**Jawad J. Abbassi**  
Head of MENA  
*GSMA*



**Daniele Schiliro**  
Associate Professor  
*University of Messina*



**Dr. Antonio Feraco**  
Senior Advisor, Industrial Strategy  
*Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development*



**Shri. Suman Billa**  
IAS Principal Secretary  
*Industries & Norka Kerala State*



## Future Cities: Sustainable Development & Social Value Creation in a City Context (In Partnership with Expo City Dubai)

Twice the size of Monaco, Expo City Dubai is leading the way to becoming a clean, green, innovation-driven city of the future and a blueprint for sustainable urban planning. This panel addressed what it takes to create a purpose-built city and a livable city for its community.

**MODERATOR**



**Rebecca McLaughlin-Eastham**  
MC, Moderator, Media Coach & CEO  
*RME Media & Communications*

**PANELISTS**



**Dina Storey**  
Senior Director  
*UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators*



**Oliver Kraft**  
Executive Vice President Sustainable Communities  
*Siemens*



**Ahmed Al-Khatib**  
Chief Development and Delivery Officer  
*Expo City Dubai*



**Matt Brown**  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
*Expo City Dubai*

## SMEs: Sustainable Climate Finance Initiative: A new approach to finance sustainable infrastructure and agriculture projects in emerging economies (In Partnership with R20, Pegasus & Gold Standard)

The panel session on “SMEs: Sustainable Climate Finance Initiative: A new approach to finance sustainable infrastructure and agriculture projects in emerging economies” featured real-life examples of blended finance vehicles, including the Subnational Climate Fund, which brings together Pegasus Capital Advisors, Gold Standard, R20, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to direct finance where it is most needed, manage unforeseen negative impact in a transparent way, and deliver sustainable impact that is both measured and independently verified.

**INTERVIEWER**



**David Albertani**  
CEO  
*R20*

**INTERVIEWEE**



**David Cogut**  
Partner  
*Pegasus Capital Advisors*

## Unicorns: Urban Connectivity in Turbulent Times

As the world is recovering, one thing for sure is that we are living in increasingly turbulent times. These unprecedented times require us to assess current situations which will define the pathway in the coming years.

**MODERATOR**



**Kim Zietlow**  
Director  
*FDI Center*

**PANELISTS**



**Walid Mansour**  
CEO  
*Middle East Venture Partners (MEVP)*



**Mohamed Salah**  
Oman Programs Manager  
*Brinc*



**Kareem Elsirafy**  
Managing Partner  
*Modus*



**Mansoor Madhavji**  
Partner at Blockchain Founders Fund and LP at Loyal VC & Draper Goren HolmAntek



**Antek Katusza**  
Creative Director  
*Econverse & Vice President of Warsaw Startup Club*



**Walied Albasheer**  
Managing Partner  
*Intutio Ventures LLC*



**Marianna Bulbuc**  
CEO & MP  
*Bizzmosis Group*



**Sean He**  
Founder  
*Silicon Harbour Capital*

## Future Cities: Constructing Visions for the Future of Smart Cities (In partnership with WeGO)

The session provided the timely opportunity for mayors, city and state representatives, international organizations, and business actors to identify the growing trends in digital innovations and smart initiatives for solving urban challenges and for building smart future cities.

### OPENING REMARKS / CONGRATULATORY REMARKS



**Jung Sook Park**  
Secretary-General  
WeGO



**Omar Al Nuaimi**  
Director General  
Corporate Affairs at  
the Department of  
Municipalities and  
Transport, Abu Dhabi,  
UAE



**Shin Hawn Oh**  
Deputy-Mayor  
Seoul South Korea

### MODERATOR



**Eunbyul Cho**  
Head of Program  
Department  
WeGO

### PANELISTS



**Hermenegildo Gualberto**  
Mayor  
San Fernando City, La  
Union, Philippines



**Benjamin Banez Magalong**  
Mayor  
Baguio City, Philippines



**Danúbio Lado**  
Deputy Mayor  
Maputo City,  
Mozambique



**Tigran Avinyan**  
Deputy Mayor  
Yerevan city, Armenia



**H.E. Omar Al Shaiba**  
Executive Director of  
Information Technology  
Affairs Section  
the Department of  
Municipalities and  
Transport, Abu Dhabi,  
UAE



**Ahmed Baghoum**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Masdar City



**Shamyraliev Zhyrgalbek Dzhumadilovich**  
Deputy Mayor  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

## Unicorns: Global Economic Outlook – Forecasting the Investment Market

Recent trends and technologies around the globe have given a boost to enable startups to move forward and contribute to the success of future cities. This session delved into the global investment market and its impact on SMEs and future cities.

### MODERATOR



**Omar Hamada**  
CEO & Founder  
Tick & Talk

### PANELISTS



**Wang Shaojie**  
President  
Zhong Guancun Private  
Equity & Venture Capital  
Association



**Rodrigo Garca De La Cruz**  
Founder & CEO  
Finnovating



**Nitán Pathak**  
Senior Head of Unit,  
Institutional Client  
Relationship  
European Investment  
Fund



**Bruce Armstrong**  
Group CEO  
Aspen Medical



**Amin Salam**  
Minister of Economy &  
Trade  
Lebanon



**Mehdi Fitchali**  
CEO  
Finamaze



## Startups: Trends in the UAE Shaping the Future of Innovation (In Partnership With Hub71)

This panel session addressed the UAE’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, highlighting government support, the diverse sources of capital, in addition to access to market and talent. It also discussed the role of collaboration, mentorship, and education in addition to the challenges facing founders who are looking to raise capital, and opportunities to advance innovation.

**MODERATOR**



**Dr. Tariq Bin Hendi**  
Middle East Chairman  
*Edelman*

**PANELISTS**



**Ahmad Ali Alwan**  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Officer  
*Hub71*



**Nader Al Bastaki**  
Acting Chief of Strategy  
and Director of Strategy  
*Dubai Future Foundation*



**Abdelrazak Al-Sharif**  
Head of Programs  
*Sheraa*

## Startups: Building a Unicorn

Currently there are over 550 Unicorn companies worldwide – which is less than 1% of startups. What do investors look for when investing in startups and how do you ensure success?

**MODERATOR**



**Mohit Bhasin**  
Partner  
*KPMG*

**PANELISTS**



**Chirag Gupta**  
Managing Partner  
*8X Ventures*



**Andrew Urey**  
Executive Director  
*Phoenix AmeriCap  
Investments*



**Harish Consul**  
Founder, President &  
CEO  
*Ocgrow Ventures*



**Asher Hasan**  
Co-Founder & Executive  
Chairman  
*doctHERs*



**Jan Bartkowiak**  
Founder & President  
*Econverse*



**Malachi Halliday**  
CEO & Founder  
*Halliday Growth*



**Vianney Mathonnet**  
Partner  
*Africa Modus Focused Fund*

## Future Cities: Digital Economies: Implementing Industry 4.0 – Developing the Right Tools and Platforms

This session took a deep dive into the best use of new technologies and innovative technologies to look out for.

**MODERATOR**



**Rabih Farhat**  
Founder & Managing  
Partner  
*Related Inc.*

**PANELISTS**



**Mustapha Zaouini**  
CEO  
*Fliptin*



**Dr Giovanni Zazzerini**  
Secretary General  
*International Network for  
SMEs*



**Padmini Gupta**  
CEO & Co-Founder  
*Xare*



**Sherif Elmasry**  
Founder and CEO  
– Maverika & Chief  
Commercial Officer and  
Partner  
*Macher*



**Davide Giribaldi**  
Head of GRC &  
Information Security  
*Swiss Cyber Com*



**Lorenzo Saa**  
Chief Sustainable Officer  
*Clarity AI*



**Ibtisam Al Saadi**  
Director of the  
Industrial Development  
Department, Industrial  
Development Bureau  
*Department of Economic  
Development (ADDED)*



**Dr. Hannadi Al-Mubarak**  
Founder  
*Ecosystem Consultants*

## SMEs: Navigating Investments in the International Landscape, and the Adaptation to Evolving Needs and Expectations: SMEs Investment Challenges and Opportunities

This session discussed the main sectors which attract SMEs investments worldwide, the geographical map of SMEs investments in 2023/2025 – Investments’ destinations, the most challenging/disabling and the most enabling markets for SMEs investments worldwide in 2023/2024.

**MODERATOR**



**Dr. Hanan El Basha**  
Director Qatar & GCC  
– Founder Institute, &  
Founder  
*The Business Doctor |  
Empowering Business  
Strategist*

**PANELISTS**



**Dr. Jyothi Devakumar**  
Group CSO & Partner –  
Longevitytech Fund, &  
Investor  
*Biotechnology Startups*



**Luca Lazzaroli**  
Director General & Head  
of Portfolio Management  
and Monitoring  
*European Investment  
Bank*



**Ayman El Tanbouly**  
Co-founder and Chief  
Investment Officer  
*Exits MENA*



**Jason Channell**  
Managing Director &  
head of Sustainable  
Finance  
*Citi Global Insights*

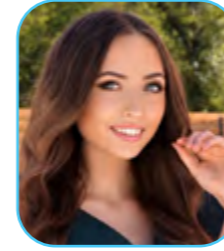


**Amier Alawadhi**  
Acting Director  
*Masdar City Free Zone*

## SMEs: 2023 Trends – Implementing Smart Business, Innovation, Inclusivity and Sustainability through Future Cities

This session discussed the new trends and tracks of investment for SMEs, among which are the Smart Cities track, where a lot of SMEs are directing their investments to what is called smart businesses and digital technologies to serve the development of the smart cities.

**MODERATOR**



**Anna Tutova**  
CEO  
*Coinstelegram*

**SPEAKERS**



**Shadi Atshan**  
General Director  
*Leaders International*



**Rachel Soomee Cho**  
Chief Business Officer  
*Meissa*



**Miguel Eiras Antunes**  
Public Sector,  
Infrastructures,  
Transportation &  
Regional Government,  
Central Europe Leader,  
& Smart Cities & Urban  
Transformation, Global  
Leader  
*Deloitte*



**Ahella ElSabban**  
Co-founder and Chief  
Commercial Officer  
*Exits MENA*



**Karim Gad**  
Country Focal Point –  
Deutsch Investitionen  
für Beschäftigung  
(Investing for  
Employment  
*IFE Germany*



## Future Cities: Tapping into New Technologies and Navigating Transformational Technologies of the Future

Embracing digital transformation not only helps businesses become more innovative, they will lead the way in the success of future cities. We need to harness the potential for innovative technologies to transform cities, and implement them into current projects.

**MODERATOR**



**Carlo Ratti**  
Director of the Senseable City Laboratory at MIT and a leading expert on the intersection *Technology and urban development*

**PANELISTS**



**Saurabh Verma**  
ICT Senior Director  
*Frost & Sullivan*



**Xhoana Merkaj**  
Executive Director  
*Xh&M Group*



**Dan Hu**  
Vice President  
*Tencent Cloud International for MENA Region, Tencent*



**Marcel Sebastian Ionescu**  
Co-founder & CTO  
*TRAC Consulting*



**Steve Severance**  
Director of Growth  
*Masdar City*



**Ali Eslami**  
CEO  
*AXL Electric Vehicles Inc.*



**Shri. Suman Billa IAS**  
Principal Secretary  
*Industries & Norka*

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The 12th Annual Investment Meeting organized a number of pre-event workshops and professional training sessions the day before the conference's start in order to provide its regional and international attendees with additional value and experience regarding investment opportunities.

Categorized into four categories (FDI, Future Cities, SME, and Startup), these workshops all aimed to serve as a platform for governments, startups, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as investors to touch base and achieve economic growth for their respective countries.



### Foreign Direct Investment Workshops

#### Creating Opportunities for FDI Attraction Using Data and Innovative Digital Tools – GlobalData

This workshop's topics covered the FDI strategy post-COVID and building a roadmap; key trends that will drive innovative FDI and IPA strategies; and how to use digital tools to improve reach and engage new markets.



**FACILITATOR**



**Eleanor Slinger**  
Regional Director for Investment Monitor

**LEADER**



**Glenn Barklie**  
Chief Economist, FDI  
*GlobalData*

#### New Age IPAs: Aligning with the Changing World Order – World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

Tackled in its four sessions global FDI trends and outlook, good practices followed by best-in-class IPAs through the investment lifecycle including a sharing of experience from an LDC IPA leader, and the five key strategies essential for New Age IPAs.



**LEADER**



**Courtney Fingar**  
Senior Advisor, Europe, and Communications  
*WAIPA*



## The Future of Investment Promotion – NxtZones

Addressed the way IPAs can change their activities and organizational structure in order to continue to successfully attract and maintain FDI.



LEADERS



**Dr. Douglas van den Berghe**  
CEO  
NxtZones



**Courtney Fingar**  
Founder & Principal  
Fingar Direct Investment

## Attracting High-Quality FDI for Economic Growth – GDP Global

Topics included innovation and best practice in economic and investor research, IP strategy, campaign planning, country and sector targeting, engagement with investors, and key milestones in attracting investment.



LEADER



**John Hanna**  
Managing Director  
GDP Global Development

## How to Provide What Investors Want – FDI Center

A very practical session that offered detailed insight into how corporate investors make international expansion and location decisions.



LEADERS



**Andreas Dressler**  
Managing Director  
FDI Center



**Dr. Kim J. Zietlow**  
Director  
FDI Center

## Attracting Institutional Investment: Why and How to Do It

LEADERS



**Courtney Fingar**  
Senior Advisor, Europe,  
and Communications  
WAIPA



**Gareth Presch**  
Founder & CEO  
World Health Innovation Summit



## Future Cities Workshops

### Value Creation in Cities & Communities – EXPO City Dubai

Provided insights, experiences, and expertise to city and community stakeholders to support them in adopting a values-driven, holistic approach to address the unique challenges that they face.



LEADERS



**Monte Wilson**  
Global Market Director  
and Global Vice  
President for the Built  
Environment  
Jacobs



**Nadia Verjee**  
Executive Director  
Expo Dubai Group



**Daniel Render**  
Senior Advisor  
Sustainable Cities  
Expo Dubai Group



**Lara El Saad**  
Senior Manager City  
Advisory  
Expo Dubai Group



**Misha Mittal**  
Senior Manager City  
Advisory  
Expo Dubai Group

### The Making of Smart and Sustainable City: Implementing smart and sustainable city projects through Private-Public-People Partnership (PPPP) – World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO)

In which policy makers, officials from local and central governments and other interested stakeholders in the smart city field engaged in an interactive and open discussion around the actual challenges faced when developing smart and sustainable cities.



LEADER



**Eunbyul Elena Cho**  
Head of Program Department  
WeGO



 **SME Workshops**

**Power Up Your Business – ITC - SheTrades**



Discussed the key barriers and bottlenecks for women in trade, with a special focus on the UAE, and how to build awareness on trade and gender dynamics through gender-sensitization activities, among other topics.

LEADERS



**Anna Zaleski Mori**  
Partnerships and Programme Manager  
ITC-SheTrades



**Kritee Sharma**  
Associate Programme Officer  
ITC-SheTrades

**Bringing Innovation to the Market – International Network for SMEs (INSME)**



Introduced SMEs to strategies and tools on how to gain customer insights, develop new products that match customers' needs and solutions with solid value propositions, and create a go-to-market strategy.

LEADER



**Dr. Giovanni Zizzerini**  
Secretary General  
INSME

**Enhancing SME Access to Finance: Financial Inclusion Perspective**



Discussed mechanisms and initiatives to improve SME access to financial services and attract new segments of companies to the banking sector.

LEADER



**Dr. Ahmed Khalil**  
Head of SME Business Development  
Banque Misr

 **Startups Workshops**

**Crafting a Winning Investor Pitch: 12 Essential Components to Impress Investor – Tick & Talk**

Covered the 12 essential elements that constitute a successful pitch, including tips for crafting a compelling story, creating a strong value proposition, and showcasing a team's expertise.



LEADER



**Omar Hamada**  
Founder & CEO  
Tick & Talk

**What do angel investors learn before they invest in startups? – World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)**



Discussed the basic principles of investors and the dos and don'ts while raising funds as a qualified entrepreneur and a startup founder.

LEADER



**Baybars Altuntas**  
Executive Chairman  
WBAF



## A Startup's Guide to Corporate Partnerships: Master the art of pitching and discover techniques to create a winning proposition that unlocks growth opportunities - Hub71

Provided startups with a deeper understanding on how to structure their pitches specifically for corporations.

# HUB71

### LEADERS



**Basma Albadi**  
Growth & Strategy  
Hub71



**Jeremy Shorter**  
Assistant Vice President, INNOVATION  
Aldar Corporate

## 7 C's of Startup Strategy - Founder Institute



Guided entrepreneurs to the underlying factors contributing to setting a strategy that is solid, subjective, and versatile.

### LEADER



**Dr. Hanan El Basha**  
Director Qatar & GCC, *Founder Institute*  
Founder, *The Business Doctor* | *Empowering Business Strategist*

## AIM GLOBAL 2023 FORUMS

AIM 2023 brought together investors, entrepreneurs, and government officials from around the world to discuss the latest trends and opportunities in the global investment landscape. In addition to the main conference and exhibition, the event also featured a range of side events that provided attendees with additional opportunities to network, learn, and engage with industry leaders. These side events covered a diverse range of topics and formats, including panel discussions, fireside chats, and talk sessions. Each offered a unique opportunity for attendees to gain in-depth insights into specific areas of interest, such as entrepreneurship, Web3 and virtual assets, and sustainable tourism, among many others.



### World Local Production Forum

In partnership with the World Health Organization, this forum provided a unique opportunity to draw high-level attention to key issues, challenges, and opportunities related to local production.



#### Opening Remarks:

Dr. Asma Ibrahim Al Manna'ei, Executive Director of Research and Innovation Center, Department of Health Abu Dhabi



**Setting the scene: World Local Production Forum: Enhancing access to medicines and other health technologies** – This forum provided a unique opportunity to draw high-level attention to key issues, challenges, and opportunities related to local production.



**Panel discussion: Navigating the path forward in improving access with collective action after the WLPF** - Experts shared insights and strategies for effective collaboration among stakeholders, identifying and addressing gaps in the health system, and promoting local production of essential medicines. The discussion aimed to inspire action and drive progress towards achieving universal access to healthcare.



**Presentation: Driving innovation and Industry 4.0 in local production to improve access** – This presentation discussed the role of Industry 4.0 technologies such as automation, artificial intelligence, and big data in streamlining local production processes and reducing costs. It aimed to inspire local producers to leverage technology to enhance efficiency and quality, ultimately improving access to essential medicines and health technologies.



**Panel discussion: Investing in innovation and technology transfers to improve access and health** – This highlighted how supporting research and development and promoting the transfer of knowledge and technology across borders, can enhance healthcare delivery, increase efficiency, and reduce costs.





## Global Credit Management & NPL Investments Forum

DDC

In partnership with DDC Financial, this forum was an in-depth exploration of the flourishing trend of distressed funds in Europe and where alternative investors are finding new opportunities.

**Panel 1: The Role of Distressed Real Estate in a Diversified Portfolio** – This panel examined the current economic environment and how rising interest rates are creating opportunities for distressed debt investors. The speakers discussed the challenges that could limit the growth of this market, including the absence of covenants in credit documents, the amount of dry powder in the market, and the maturity wall not ramping up until 2025.



**Panel 2: Global NPL Investing: Strategies & Opportunities** – This panel explored the world of global distressed and NPL investing, with insights into the strategies and opportunities available in this space. The speakers discussed the different asset classes in this sector of the market, including real estate, corporate, and consumer debt, the secondary market, and the directions the market is heading in due to macroeconomic forces.



## Entrepreneurs Investment Summit



Organized with Union of Arab Chambers and UNIDO, the Summit aimed to create a dedicated platform for promoting bankable investment opportunities led by small and medium-sized enterprises and macro investments from African and Arab region. It also sought to facilitate the sharing of best practices and experiences from the region on the means of stimulating and unleashing entrepreneurship and joint investments as well as deliberate on the challenges, opportunities, threats, and the road forward towards achieving the Arab-African economic integration.





**Panel 1: Supporting Green Entrepreneurship: Greening SMEs for More Competitiveness and Sustainability - Opportunities for SMEs In a Greener Value Chain** – This session highlighted how we can prepare an enabling ecosystem for Green Business owners, in order to encourage for more sustainable business for SMEs; policy; promoting legal and institutional incentives, providing financial & cultural enabling ecosystem, supporting network, building human capacities, and facilitating access to markets.



**Special Session “Fostering International Partnerships Energy and Environment - Call for High Impact Cleantech” by UNIDO ITPO Italy** – The session aimed to promote international collaboration and partnerships for the development and implementation of clean and smart energy technologies.



**Special Initiative UNIDO Global Call 2023 “Clean and Smart Energy for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”**



**Panel 2: Improving SMEs Access to Sustainable Finance: Finding Innovative Solutions to Unlock Sources of Capital in MENA Region and the African Continent** – This panel discussed the barriers to finance in 2022/2023, and the tools for improving access to finance and unlocking sources of capital for SMEs.





**Special Initiative: Achieving the SDG's through Innovation & Entrepreneurship** – The idea behind the conference being to offer support to SMEs and innovations while exploring the challenges and opportunities among these SMEs.



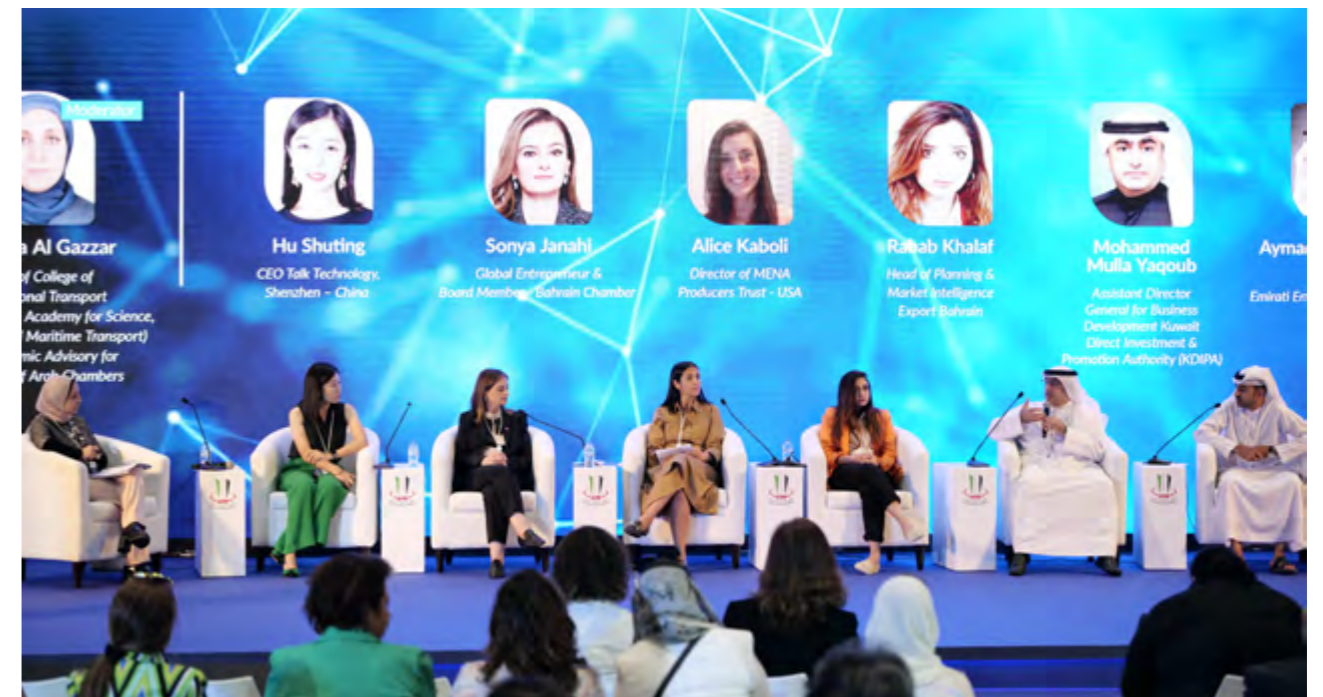
**Panel 1: Developing conducive ecosystems for entrepreneurship and innovation** – This panel tackled the urgent need for governments and the private sector to swiftly adapt to the changing market conditions and take into account the digital transformation.



**Panel 2: Challenges of Women Entrepreneurs: The Financial, Investment and Educational Shortfalls** – This session highlighted the resilience, flexibility and strength women entrepreneurs have shown throughout the last three years in the face of unprecedented adversity, both in the workplace and their communities. In specific, the financial and educational challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in combination with the global challenges.



**Panel 3: Access to Markets - Unlocking Growth in Logistics SMEs & Diversifying Supply Chains** – This panel highlighted the internal and external barriers which hinder SMEs access to markets. Some of the highlighted challenges are high tariffs, costs of products especially in agriculture sector, standards related measures specially for chemicals, cosmetics and machinery, logistics including customs requirements and Harmonized System (HS) Classification, lack of governmental incentives to participate in global value chains, marketing barriers, competitiveness barriers and financial barriers. This panel highlighted the adopted tools and strategies of unlocking the challenges to the road of access to markets.





**Special Session: “Economic Empowerment Activities of the Youth in Organization of Islamic Cooperation”**



**Panel 4: SMEs & Agritech Business: Digital Transformation & IOT's Role in Boosting Investments in Agriculture SMEs** – Agriculture sector is still the least digitized sector. SMEs in the agriculture sector today must cope with a rapidly changing socio-economic environment and tackle a broad variety of external shocks and stresses such as climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This panel highlighted the challenges and opportunities of applying full digitalization to the Agritech business.



**Panel 5: Educational Institutions, Think Tanks & R&D: The Way Forward to Promote Knowledge-Based Economy** – This session highlighted the relation between think tanks (R&D) and boosting innovation and growth in SMEs, the internal and external challenges, the think tanks role, the challenges of protecting and utilizing Intellectual Property Rights.



**Fire Side Chat: Entrepreneurship & Orange Economy: An Opportunity to Modernize & Transform SMEs Sectors in Need of New Production Eco-friendly & Sustainable Models** – Cultural Tourism, Entertainment Economy & other sectors as examples –



**Entrepreneurs Investment Summit: Closing Session**





### Russia - Middle East Forum: Cooperation for Economic Growth and People's Well-Being



This session, which was in collaboration with St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, talked about the countries of the Middle East region interested in specific areas of cooperation and attracting new business partners from Russia. It also discussed the possibility of the new geopolitical challenges in becoming an impetus to the development of relations between Russia and Middle Eastern countries as well as the implementation of successful joint business initiatives and the promotion of promising mutually beneficial projects between the two regions.



### Make it in the Emirates Forum: Emerging Opportunities and Industrial Growth



The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) hosted this panel session to highlight the UAE's value proposition as a solution to global challenges. It brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to discuss how the UAE's strengths address these challenges and position the country as a preferred investment destination.





## BloombergNEF Forum

This side event, hosted by BloombergNEF, provided an opportunity to its participants to generate ideas, gain insights, and make the connections that will help in formulating successful strategies, capitalize on technological change, and shape a cleaner, more competitive future.

### Welcome Remarks:

Jon Moore, Chief Executive Officer, BloombergNEF

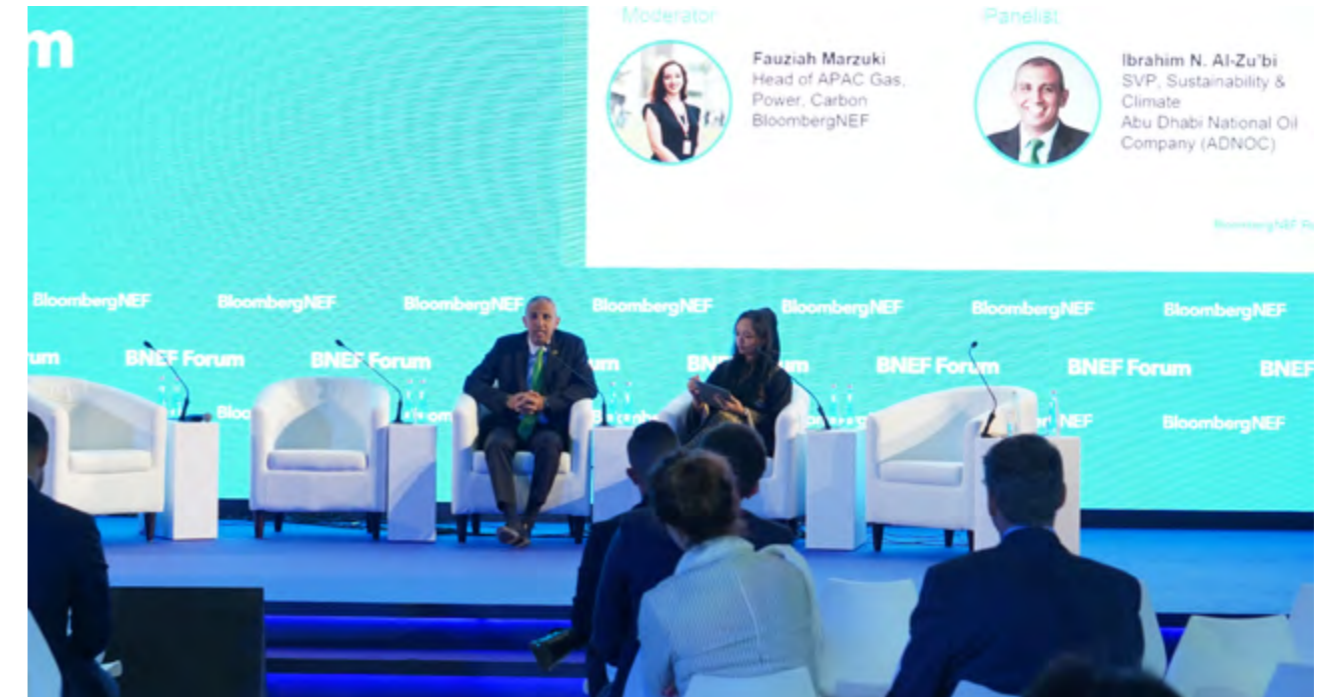


**BNEF Talk: Commodities in a Low Carbon Economy** – The transition to a low carbon economy will see a dynamic shift in demand for traditional commodities such as oil, gas and metals. Through this talk, BNEF presented its view on what to expect from the various commodities and energy markets that can move and accelerate the energy transition.



## BloombergNEF

**Fireside Chat: Clean Electrons vs Clean Molecules** – What's the Next Move? – This discussion dealt with how traditional oil and gas companies dominate the energy markets today and are paving the way for the next generation of "clean energy molecules." In particular, it focused on how energy companies, like ADNOC, chart their next moves.



**BNEF Talk: Transition Pathways and the Way Forward for the Middle East** – BNEF presented the results of its New Energy Outlook report and the various net-zero pathways that can emerge for countries and sectors. It emphasized that the Middle East is uniquely placed to also play a role in supporting the pathways of other nations.





**COP28: Net-Zero Commitments and the Evolving Energy Trade Flows** – This discussed how key stakeholders manage the evolution in trade flows along with meeting their energy transition goals.



**BNEF Talk: Making Hydrogen and CCUS Work for the Transition // Scaling Technologies of the Energy Transition** – BNEF presented on what is “hype” and what is “reality” in terms of the hydrogen outlook. Also laying out which sectors will see the biggest uptake of CCUS and what new, emerging climate technologies the industry should be watching for.



**BNEF Talk: Decarbonization Strategies of the New Age Energy Companies** – BNEF presented on the key trends emerging across both international and national oil companies in terms of decarbonization of operations, clean energy investments and strategic alignment to net-zero trajectories.



**Future of Downstream & Petrochemicals: Maximizing Value from the Barrel of Tomorrow** – Discussed how companies are shifting their business models to be aligned with the energy transition while ensuring the best commercial value for products and existing assets, as well as the biggest hurdles downstream/petrochemical producers are going to face in the next five years and how they will overcome it.





**BNEF Talk: A Renewed Focus on Renewable Fuels** – This BNEF Talk was about what’s driving renewable fuels growth and where they might come from next.



**Financiers Making the Transition Happen** – Talked about how the banking community is poised to capture the growth in low-carbon energy.



**Financing: What’s the Role of the Finance Industry in Accelerating the Energy Transition?** – Ramping up to a minimum 4:1 ratio of low-carbon energy supply to fossil fuels investment requires huge and rapid growth in clean power, grid infrastructure, new clean fuel producing assets, and more. This panel explored the role of different financial institutions in the transition and how they will use and grow financial markets to work towards it.



**BNEF Talk: The Past, Present & Future of Carbon Offsets** – Voluntary carbon offsets are often considered the black sheep of emission reduction strategies, but they are essential for companies to reach their net-zero goals. This BNEF Talk was about what role the MENA region can play in this market.





## Investments Solutions in a Polycrisis Context: The Road to World Investment Forum (WIF) 2023



The Road to World Investment Forum (WIF) session brought together key UAE and regional partners engaged in shaping the debate at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's upcoming WIF – a pre-eminent global platform for debate on investment and development – that will take place from 16 to 20 October 2023.

### Opening remarks (Introduction and Announcement of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2023):

H.E. James Zhan, Executive Director, UNCTAD World Investment Forum



Panel 1: An overview of the major global investment-for-development challenges: the key priority sectors for SDG-relevant investment across the board, including sustainable infrastructure, food security, health, and water and sanitation.



Panel 2: Investment in the energy transition: looking at international investment trends in renewables, energy efficiency, and electrification infrastructure.







## Investing in the Future. Creating Opportunity. Driving Growth.



This session underlined the importance of investing in the future as a crucial step towards driving growth and creating opportunities. The speakers, in particular, talked about the future-focused investments of their respective companies.

Bayanat, a homegrown technology of the UAE, aims to provide game-changing advantages through trusted, high-quality geospatial data, geo-intelligence, and AI-powered data analytics. The company's solutions were actually used by Expo 2020 to welcome 24 million visitors and manage the COVID pandemic.

The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange considers itself the seed of capital formation for emerging businesses, providing opportunities for family businesses, free zone businesses, and smaller startups. The company launched its flagship FADDEX 15 index, which is apt for the creation of index products like derivatives and ETFs. ADX is also looking at emerging technology to introduce new products on platforms.

Presight AI Holding PLC's core areas include public services, financial services to secure financial information, and sports using data analysis to identify strengths and weaknesses of players. The company greatly believes that the amount of structured and unstructured data is enormous, and it is impossible to make sense of it manually, which is where AI comes in. AI will accelerate more in the next five years in all areas, it said, and that Abu Dhabi provides great access to research and talent.



## Invest in Abu Dhabi: Creating a Hub for R&D hubs: Placing innovation at the heart of economic progress

This panel looked at how Abu Dhabi has succeeded in delivering its strategy to stimulate innovation and create a sustainable R&D base and ask what is needed to take the ecosystem to the next level.

The UAE's capital has some prominent intellectuals working on solutions for some of the world's most pressing issues such as climate change, food security, medical advancements, and early childhood development. The expansion of the innovation ecosystem in Abu Dhabi has led to more companies selecting the emirate to establish new R&D centers, creating a positive cycle that supports the growth and development of the wider economy.

Collaboration across the ecosystem, where other organizations act as both collaborators and value generators, has been a significant aspect of Abu Dhabi's success in promoting innovation and creating a sustainable R&D foundation. This discussion assessed how Abu Dhabi has effectively executed its strategy to stimulate innovation and established a sustainable R&D infrastructure and explored what is required to enhance the ecosystem to a higher standard. In particular, participating executives discussed how their respective companies operate within Abu Dhabi's innovation system.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), for one, serves as the initial point of contact for businesses interested in exploring the opportunities available in Abu Dhabi. ADIO offers personalised investor care and structured incentives, including PPPs that encourage long-term private sector involvement in the UAE's major infrastructure projects. KEZAD Group emphasized the importance of research and development, particularly in light of COVID-19, and the company's focus on advanced agricultural techniques, medical R&D labs, and creating a hub for life sciences.

Masdar City Free Zone underscored the need to move from a fossil fuel-based economy to a knowledge-based one and described the platform for innovation that Masdar City has established, promoting R&D and sharing knowledge with partners. Siemens Energy, for its part, noted Abu Dhabi's potential for innovation across various sectors and Siemens' collaboration with universities to build future talent.

Further, Insilico Medicine discussed the benefits of AI in inventing and developing new medicines and highlighted the potential for creating a cure locally with the help of global partners. AeroFarms, meanwhile, underlined Abu Dhabi's advantages in socio-economic infrastructure, government accessibility, and international talent and advocates for investing in R&D to acquire up-to-date knowledge and high levels of self-sufficiency for food security.





## Finoverse Arabia - Virtual Asset & Web3 Forum



This year's Annual Investment Meeting served as one of the stops of the Finoverse Arabia tour.

The "Virtual Asset & Web3 Forum" by Finoverse, one of the world's largest and most active FinTech and Web3 communities, held a panel on "Navigating the Web3 & Virtual Asset Investment Landscape: Opportunities in Asia and the Middle East," which sought to understand the two-way flow of investments across leading Web3 & virtual asset hubs and how to accurately identify, define and "value" Web3 companies.

**Panel: Navigating the Web3 & Virtual Asset Investment Landscape: Opportunities in Asia and the Middle East** – This panel sought to understand the two-way flow of investments across leading Web3 & virtual asset hubs and how to accurately identify, define and "value" web3 companies.



### Fireside Chat with Binance



**Panel: Exploring the Intersection of FinTech, Virtual Assets, & Web3** – Among other issues, this panel dealt with the upcoming challenges and opportunities that the ecosystem will encounter in the next 3-5 years.



**Panel: Powering the Future of Virtual Assets: From Exchanges to Financial Innovation** – This panel sought to discover the answers to questions such as "How can financial institutions and FinTechs utilise tech to maximize their efficiency and profitability?" and "How can the mainstream adoption of virtual assets be accelerated with financial innovation?" along with discussing personal lessons from founding and growing a startup, sharing best practices.





### Tourism Investment Forum



This session, in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), explored how governments, private sector investors, multilateral financial institutions and development banks can enhance their coordination and combine their capacities and resources to deliver upon their promises and turn priorities into investable projects for People, Planet and Prosperity by unlocking the potential of a new and redefined tourism investment approach.

**Opening Remarks by:** James Zhan, Director, Investments & Enterprise Lead, UNCTAD, Basmah Al Mayman, Regional Director for Middle East, UNWTO, Rashid Al Teneiji, Director of Government Communication Department & Dawood Al Shezawi, President, Annual Investment Meeting.



**Keynote speech by:** Natalia Bayona, Director, Innovation, Education and Investments, UNWTO



**Setting the scene: UNWTO’s Tourism Investment Vision and Activities** – Discussed the impact of the pandemic on the tourism industry.



### High-Level Panel Session





### Future Finance Forum



The first edition of the Future Finance Forum, organized in partnership with the Union of Arab Banks, provided a platform for stakeholders from government, industry, civil society, and academia to engage in a comprehensive examination of the trends and challenges shaping the future of finance.



**Panel Discussion: Digital Transformation of Financial Sectors in the Arab World and the Role of Financial Technology in Economic Diversification** – This session highlighted the key opportunities and challenges of digital transformation in the financial sector within the Arab world.



**Panel Discussion: Emerging investment opportunities in light of Arab economic transformations and the policies adopted for economic diversification and the contribution of international financial and banking institutions** – This session discussed the emerging investment opportunities within an economic diversified environment.



**Masterclass: Financial Inclusion and the Role of Emerging Technologies – The Rise of Fintech and its Impact on the Traditional Financial System** – This session highlighted the positive and negative effects of Fintechs on the traditional banking system.





**Panel Discussion: Sustainable financing and development financing in the Arab region and the need for transformation to green economy** – This session focused on the development of comprehensive model for sustainable finance practice in the Arab World.



**Fireside Chat: Web3 and Decentralized Finance (DeFi) in the Arab World** – This session explored the current trends, challenges, and prospects in Web3 technology as it relates to decentralized finance.



**Panel Discussion: The establishment of an Arab rating agency to assess the investment climates in the Arab region, taking into account the specificity of the region** – The session highlighted the absence of a local or regional Arab agency with criteria proportional to the local environment of the Arab States.



**Interview: Security, Privacy and Lack of Infrastructure - The Challenges Facing the Arab Countries to Achieve Full Inclusion** - The experts discussed how ensuring access to financial services is essential to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This session aimed to highlight both the risks and opportunities associated with financial inclusion in the region, emphasizing the need to address the existing risks while leveraging opportunities to advance financial inclusion efforts.





## Least Developed Countries IPAs Conference



**Least Developed Countries IPAs Conference**



This conference, in collaboration with World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, explored the latest opportunities and challenges facing the world's least developed countries. It provided a unique platform for stakeholders to connect, share ideas, and collaborate on innovative projects to support economic development in these countries.

**Session 1: Empowering and transforming the operations of IPAs in LDCs** – Focused on LDC's Investment Promotion Agencies' potential opportunities and existing constraints in engaging with potential investors. The session supported and refined the IPAs' strategy in engaging with the private sector, from the attraction stage to the aftercare of investment.



**Session 2: Attracting and Promoting SDGs-aligned Investments in LDCs through regional cooperation** – This session tackled SDG17 (Partnership for the Goals) and showcased how IPAs can benefit from regional cooperation and relevant investor networks to achieve their goals.



**Session 3: Climate FDI and the Role of IPAs in Partnership with the World Economic Forum** – The World Economic Forum, together with WAVTEQ, is publishing a guidebook to help IPAs. This session previewed the guidebook just before it is officially published, and especially sought to hear from firms, IPAs, and other key actors on the next steps that are needed to create the right enabling environment to unlock, attract, and facilitate climate FDI in LDCs.





**Session 4: Promotion of Tourism Investments in LDCs In collaboration with UNWTO** – The session on “Promotion of Tourism investments in LDCs” focused on frameworks and strategies to enable capacity of IPAs and governments to promote investment diversification and partnerships to attract and promote FDI to increase resilience in the linkages of the tourism value chain post-COVID-19.

**Fireside chat: Tourism Investments and IPAs opportunities in LDCs**



## World Government Incubator for Tolerance



وزارة التسامح والتعايش  
MINISTRY OF TOLERANCE & COEXISTENCE

**Government Open Policies and Social Progress: Creating an Investment-Friendly Environment**



**Fostering a Developed Free Market Economy through Educational Policies Promoting Tolerance and Diversity** – Discussed the role of businesses in promoting tolerance and diversity, and how companies can leverage these values to build a more diverse and inclusive workforce.





**From Local Leadership to Global Competition: The Social Drivers of Innovation & Entrepreneurship**  
 – Focused on the role of social factors such as culture, social networks, diversity and tolerance values in driving innovation and entrepreneurship at the local and global levels



**The Role of Tolerance and Coexistence for Sustainable Economic Growth and Prosperity - Fostering a Developed Free Market Economy through Educational Policies Promoting Tolerance and Diversity**  
 – The session aimed to showcase the UAE model as an example of how tolerance and coexistence can drive sustainable economic growth and prosperity, and how other countries might learn from the UAE’s experience in this regard.



**Diversity and Inclusive Workplace: The Power of Adopting Tolerance Values on Global Economy –**  
 Talked about the advantages of fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace, and how this can lead to increased innovation, productivity, and profitability, and how to create a workplace culture that values diversity and promotes inclusivity.



**Panel Discussion: Global Clubs for Tolerance in Educational Institutions**





### Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) - Beyond Trade



The CEPA, which came into force exactly a year ago, has not only fostered growth for the UAE and India but has also positively impacted the entire region. This was the key topic of discussion at this session.

Welcome address:



H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE



H.E. Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, India

**UAE and India's historic and future trade bond** – Showcased success stories from both India and UAE. Pioneering businessmen shared their tales of successful experiences, followed by a talk from the upcoming generation of business leaders on their future business relations.



**Panel Discussion 2: Fashion Futures** – Highlighted the growth of the fashion industry and the impact of global megatrends in both UAE and India.



**Panel Discussion 3: Creativity and Affinity in Art** – An engaging session on the types of art industries, their current growth and how can cross-country growth of these industries be boosted.



**Panel Discussion 4: Forces of Food** – Industry leaders of the food sector from both UAE and India shared their practical insights on the current and future growth of the food industry.





### Invest in DRC: Unlocking Opportunities in the Provinces



One of Africa’s largest and richest in natural resources, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has significant potential for economic expansion and development. The “Invest in DRC: Unlocking Opportunities in the Provinces” brought together government officials, governors, global investment leaders, policy experts, advisors and regulators, public and private sector organizations, and other institutions to discuss the future aspects of this developing economy.

In particular, the forum aimed to promote the DRC as an attractive investment destination and showcase investment opportunities across various sectors of the economy; engage with potential investors and facilitate business-to-business networking opportunities; identify and address challenges that hinder investment in the DRC, including regulatory issues, infrastructure gaps, and energy deficit; and develop strategies to enhance investment in the DRC and promote sustainable economic growth and development.



### The Race is on for a Net-Zero Economy, Catalysed Through ASEAN-Gulf Corridor Links



The world is moving towards a healthier, more resilient, zero carbon world. Now that 73% of global emissions are covered by a net zero goal, countries must translate national commitments into credible policies, while every sector must undergo an exponential transformation.

Solving the decarbonization challenge will create economic and societal advantages for the countries, businesses, cities, regions, investors, and communities who emerge as leaders. Within this decade, upgrading to a zero-carbon future can create 35 million more jobs and USD\$26 trillion more in economic benefits compared with attempting to resuscitate the high-carbon status quo.

Corporate commitments under the Race to Zero campaign now cover over 15% of the global economy and USD\$ 9.81 trillion in revenue, joined by nearly 800 cities and 31 regions covering 0.62 billion people with credible climate action commitments. While significant change is already underway, it must accelerate in all areas of the economy and society in order to deliver a resilient zero carbon future in time. To win the race to zero emissions by 2050, the world must achieve near term breakthroughs across every sector of the global economy.

The KADIN Indonesia published its ambition during the COP26 in Glasgow to establish Kadin Net Zero Hub which encourages Indonesian private sector to take up the mantle and commit to their net zero pledge: “To Become a Net Zero Company by 2060 at the Latest”. As we are at the midpoint to ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 and looking at how important to race the Net Zero ambition, this session will discuss how we can ensure that the Net-Zero agenda can be the spotlight, can continue the momentum, and can receive the attention it needs.

This session was organised by Equatorise Advisory, in partnership with AIM and KADIN Indonesia.





### Arab China Unicorn Investment Conclave

**Keynote Speech** H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade and Vice Chairman of the Industry Development Council



**Keynote Speech** Dr. Wissam H. Fattouh, Secretary General - Union of Arab Banks



**Keynote Speech** Weixi GONG, Chief, Division of ITPOs and Institutional Partnership, UNIDO



**Keynote Speech** Organizer from GDIS Mariam Gao, General Secretary, Arab China Unicorn Investment Conclave



**Unicorns Pitch Presentation** – Michael Li, Managing Partner – Breton.



**Unicorns Pitch Presentation** – Lawrence Xiong, CEO – Armclouding





Unicorns Pitch Presentation – Jun Ge, Group CEO – Tojoy



Unicorns Pitch Presentation – Martin Qu, Co-Founder – Xiaoyudida



Unicorns Pitch Presentation – Longdong Chen, CEO - Sharplight



Awarding Ceremony for Top China Unicorn “UNICORNS SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS”: Recognizing Partners, Sponsors, and the Top Technology Solution Providers from UAE and China and the Best Investment Opportunities in Technology







## REGIONAL FOCUS FORUMS

The Regional Focus Forums at AIM 2023 provided a platform for in-depth discussions on investment opportunities and challenges in specific regions around the world. With a focus on emerging markets and new investment frontiers, the Regional Focus Forums are an essential component of the Annual Investment Meeting, providing valuable information and opportunities for investors, entrepreneurs, and government officials looking to expand their portfolios and explore new business opportunities.

### ASEAN Regional Focus Forum (“ASEAN Centrality: Innovating Towards Greater Inclusivity”)

This session highlighted how the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), under Indonesia’s Chairmanship of ASEAN, has set its priority, agenda, and legacy for regional policy reforms, focusing on digital transformation, sustainable development, health resilience, trade and investment facilitation, and food security.



### Middle East Regional Focus Forum (“The Flow of Direct Investments to the Arab Countries of the MENA Region: Reality, Opportunities, & Challenges”)



This panel – organized with the Union of Arab Chambers in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bahrain - UNIDO – shed light on the investment opportunities and the ecosystem that the Middle East region enjoys, the challenges that stand in the way of achieving them, and how to overcome these challenges by developing investment policies and carrying out appropriate economic reforms, especially for the countries which have gone through political crises, led to weakening investors’ confidence in their investment ecosystem.





### African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Regional Focus Forum (“Investment Promotion and Facilitation in African-Caribbean and Pacific Countries: State-of-play, Challenges, and Opportunities”)



Organized with ACP, WAIPA, and UNIDO, this session focused on how Foreign Direct Investment is an essential driver of economic growth, but African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries have struggled to attract FDI, with only 5% of total global FDI inflows recorded in ACP countries in 2021. To address this issue, national and sub-national investment promotion agencies (IPAs) spearhead investment facilitation and promotion efforts to accelerate FDI in ACP countries.



### Africa Regional Focus Session (“The AfCFTA Investment Protocol – An Investment Paradigm Shift for Africa”)



This forum, organized in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, showcased the investment opportunities in Africa as a prime investment destination for investments that foster sustainable economic growth, diversity and prosperity, with particular attention to the priority sectors of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), namely agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, transport and logistics and automotives. It also sought to get a better understanding of how the implementation of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol can translate into sustainable economic growth in support of the green transition and what needs to be done to unlock its opportunities and build investment opportunities.



### Latin America Regional Focus Forum (“Latin America and The Caribbean Productive Development in LAC: Future Strategies”)



This session focused on how productive development policies and FDI attraction strategies can be integrated to achieve sustainable economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, what roles private sector companies and development banks play in supporting product development initiatives and contributing to the local communities in which they operate, and what specific measures governments can take to create an attractive investment environment that prioritizes productive development and the social and environmental impact of foreign investment. It was organized in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank and the CAF – Development Bank of Latin America.



### SADC Regional Focus Forum (“Infrastructure Development in Support of Industrialization and Regional Integration”)



This featured information on coordination and investment opportunities for unlocking the development of regional infrastructure projects in SADC. The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2050) and Vision 2050, along with the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015 - 2063), are essential strategies for promoting industrialization through regional integration.







## INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS

The Investment Destination sessions provided a comprehensive overview of the investment opportunities and advantages offered by different participating countries around the world. They were designed to showcase the unique features and benefits of specific investment destinations, and offered an unparalleled opportunity for attendees to network with key stakeholders and industry leaders from around the world, providing them with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed investment decisions and expand their portfolios on a global scale.

### Namibia Investment Destination Forum



This session highlighted the country's potential as an investment hotspot, citing that the country has a GDP of USD 13 Billion in 2022, exports worth USD 3.2 Billion in 2021, and imports worth USD 4.8 Billion in 2020. In addition, the country is rich in oil and gas, as well as large-scale projects in renewable energy, particularly green hydrogen. The country's impressive tourism landscape, emerging MICE sector, and opportunities in agriculture were also highlighted.





### Moscow Investment Destination Forum



Showcased the city’s status as one of the world’s largest urban economies and the largest in Russia, with a comfortable business environment and support for business initiatives. Moscow offers access to high-quality labour resources, scientific and educational potential, and is among the world’s leaders in terms of innovative attractiveness. The forum also highlighted Moscow’s focus on sustainable development and efforts to implement the principles of ESG.



### Republic of Armenia Investment Destination Forum



It emphasized the country’s location as a vital trade route connecting Europe and Asia, offering easy access to different parts of the world. The Armenian government is taking considerable steps to improve the business climate and create favourable conditions for investments in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, technology, agriculture, food processing, tourism, and textiles. The country’s access to large export markets with preferential conditions were also highlighted. It also focused on how compared to period between the years 2021 and 2022, the economic activity growth has increased by 14.2%.





### Lesotho Investment Destination Forum (“Experience Elevation – Lesotho’s Investment Climate and Trade Investment Opportunities”)



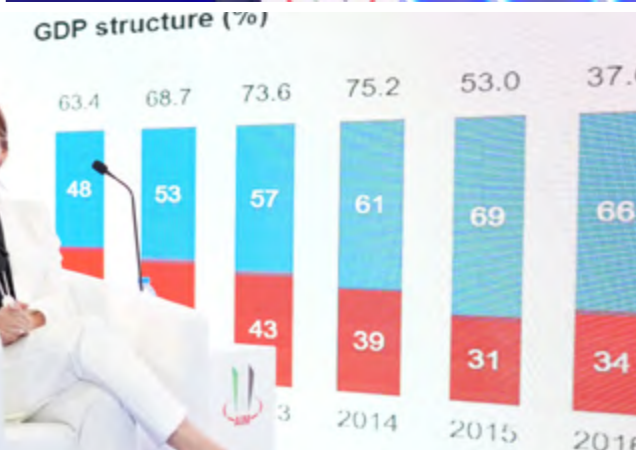
The forum highlighted how Lesotho, a landlocked country completely surrounded by South Africa, is a popular investment destination. The speakers noted the positive growth in Lesotho’s economy, despite the recession in 2016 and the pandemic in 2020, and highlighted how the nation is currently at a high. In addition, Lesotho’s main exports, including water, diamonds, trout, and apparel were in focus, along with the various tax incentives and investment services that the country offers, such as investment and trade promotion, facilitation, relations, aftercare, and serviced industrial and commercial sites at competitive rates.



### Azerbaijan Investment Destination Forum



Focused on how Azerbaijan is on the rise with its agriculture and chemical industry. The country has well-developed infrastructure, with eight new international airports, including those in the liberated areas of Azerbaijan. In addition, the investment climate in the country was discussed, such as having limited price control, no restrictions on repatriation of profits, and no prior authorization required for foreign investment. The various aspects of Azerbaijan as a tourist destination were also highlighted.



EXPORT AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN – AZEPROM



### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Investment Destination Forum



During this forum, experts highlighted that DRC has successfully established itself as one of the go-to investment hubs in Africa. The country benefits from natural mineral resources such as diamonds, gold, copper, cobalt, lithium and uranium, driving a mining sector that has historically attracted the country’s highest levels of FDI. Agriculture, energy, and infrastructure are also important sectors for the country. In addition, it was emphasized that the DRC Government is pushing for digital transformation of the public sector through different initiatives and programs which creates various opportunities for potential investors in the telecommunication sector as well as attracting digital solutions and services businesses to establish in DRC.



### Cambodia Investment Destination Forum



Discussed the potential of Cambodia as an investment destination. Asia has produced the most GDP in the last three years and Cambodia is located in the heart of Southeast Asia, with the country being second-most FDI-driven economy in the region, making it popular with international investors. The political stability of Cambodia and its strong dollarized economy since 2000 were also highlighted. It was pointed out that Cambodia shares borders with Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, and its government is focused on improving roads and upgrading airports, making it easier for tourists to travel the country. As such, Cambodia tourism has grown steadily over the past decade. With unique competitive advantages, experts claimed that Cambodia will potentially catalyse a change that may spread across the entire continent.





### Jordan Investment Destination Forum



Speakers highlighted how Jordan is the optimal regional hub for businesses to grow and expand, with its diverse economy across multiple sectors. Despite being a small country, it accounts for 27% of the top 100 startups in the Arab region. Jordan's aspirations to become a trading hub due to its strategic location and its membership in the World Trade Agreement were also focused on. It further discussed the Jordan government's significant expenditure on education and how the newly established MoIN in 2021 aims to support businesses through their journey.



### State of Kerala Investment Destination Forum



This forum emphasized that Kerala is poised to lead the state towards a prosperous future in the industrial sector. Kerala leads the ranking in various sectors among 28 other states, such as healthcare, school education quality, e-governance service delivery, and sustainable development goals. The State of Kerala is also the ninth-largest economy in India, with robust connectivity and a talented workforce created through education and training.





### China Beijing Daxing International Airport Economic Zone (Langfang) Investment Destination Forum



Situated at the intersection of Beijing Daxing District and Langfang City in Hebei Province, the Beijing Daxing International Airport Economic Zone is the only airport economic zone in China that spans provincial administrative regions and encompasses a pilot free trade zone and a comprehensive bonded zone. During this forum, the limitless opportunities available in Langfang Airport Economic Zone were discussed. The economic zone, for one, will establish an innovative chain of industry integration with innovative subjects, professional institutions for innovation services, and professional platforms, building an innovation ecosystem of the airport economy and serving as a landmark structure of the capital with the goal of being the best choice and the best airport.



### Zimbabwe Investment Destination Forum



This forum discussed how Zimbabwe, a land-locked country located in Southern Africa, is strategically positioned at the center of the North-South Corridor with its well-developed network of railways, roads, power, and telecommunications. The country's drive for beneficiation offers investors opportunities in textile production, ICT, and agro processing. Zimbabwe also provides ample opportunities to invest in generating 2,000 MW of renewable energy through solar and hydro-power generation. Additionally, 30,000 hectares of land across the country have been spatially planned and are ready for infrastructure development in various locations.





### Poland Investment Destination Forum (“Unleash the Hidden Potential of Poland - A Flourishing Business Destination at the Heart of Europe, with a Skilled Workforce, Investor-Friendly Climate, and Prime Location for Global Expansion”)



This forum was divided into three parts – “Poland: Gateway to Growth - Unlocking Opportunities for Investors” hosted by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, “Uncovering the Investment Potential of Silesia: Opportunities and Advantages for Business Growth” by the Marshal’s Office of the Silesian Voivodship, and “Forget Silicon Valley - Poland is Europe’s emerging tech epicenter” by MK Business Link.



### Angola Investment Destination Forum



Angola, a country located in southern Africa, boasts a population of about 33 million and is renowned for its abundant natural resources, including oil, minerals, and diamonds, which contribute significantly to its economy. In recent years, Angola has made significant strides in various areas, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, leading to its classification as a middle-income nation by the World Bank. Consequently, Angola has become an appealing destination for companies seeking investment opportunities in the region.





## GEORGIA INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE

Georgia Investment Roundtable focused on exploring investment opportunities and fostering partnerships in the country's thriving business landscape. The roundtable discussion brought together esteemed industry experts, government officials, and business leaders from various sectors.

The roundtable discussion commenced with an opening address by Mr. Mikheil Khidureli, CEO of Enterprise Georgia, who welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of foreign investments in Georgia's economic growth. Following the opening remarks, the moderator, Andreas Dressler, Managing Director of FDI Center, introduced the distinguished panelists who contributed their valuable insights and perspectives throughout the session.

Its participants included the Embassy of Georgia in the United Arab Emirates, Consulate General of Georgia - Johannesburg, Binbutti Group, Sky Power, Sustainable City, Emirati Entrepreneurs Association, Thabat International Investment LLC, Al Mur Investments LLC, and EcoX, among many others.



## MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

Organized by AIM 2023 in partnership with the Arab League, the Union of Arab Chambers, and the Gulf Cooperation Council was a closed ministerial roundtable discussion entitled "Arab Economic Integration Discussion Amidst Challenges and Opportunities," which was participated in by Arab economic and trade ministers and primarily sought to strengthen cooperation between Arab countries in terms of economic, investment, cultural, social, and health matters. At the helm of the event as chairman was His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League. Joining him as well as His Excellency Dr. Khaled Hanafi, Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Chambers, as the official representative of the Arab private sector.

**Some of the proposed solutions and recommendations made during the Ministerial Roundtable were:**

- An Arab committee should be established, with one representative from each country specializing in relevant topics. The representatives should have sufficient knowledge of the challenges and opportunities in their respective countries, and should work towards integrating opportunities between countries to achieve common goals.
- Enhancing investment links between Arab and African countries as a key pillar for achieving comprehensive and sustainable economic development plans for the Arab and African peoples, and working on opening new markets for the Arab private sector in the African continent.
- Finding new ways and mechanisms to increase intra-regional trade between Arab countries and stimulate trade among Arab countries in fully and semi manufactured products, with the adoption of a mechanism for facilitating fair free trade between Arab countries.





## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The 2023 edition of AIM successfully garnered the participation of 216 main exhibitors and co-exhibitors from 55 different countries. During the three-day event, the Annual Investment Meeting 2023 showcased a diverse range of industry projects and services catering to the investment growth of various participating regions. The event's primary focus was on promoting Foreign Direct Investment and exploring effective ways of attracting investors to various economic sectors, highlighting the importance of international collaboration and investment in driving sustainable economic growth and development, which it has been doing for 12 years now. The AIM International Exhibition gives opportunities for governments and private organizations to launch and promote their projects to a vastly diverse audience.



Indeed, the participation of 175 countries as official delegations, investors, regional and international governments and ministries, visitors, and exhibitors was a major milestone of the 12th Annual Investment Meeting. The event's success was a testament to the significance of promoting robust investment opportunities and trade partnerships, and AIM is proud to have provided a platform for such meaningful discussions and networking opportunities.

## Exhibiting Countries

	Angola		Mauritania
	Armenia		Mongolia
	Austria		Morocco
	Azerbaijan		Namibia
	Bahrain		Nigeria
	Botswana		Norway
	Burkina Faso		Oman
	Cambodia		Peru
	Cameroon		Philippines
	Canada		Poland
	China		Portugal
	DR Congo		Qatar
	Egypt		Russia
	Estonia		Saudi Arabia
	France		Senegal
	Georgia		Serbia
	Germany		Slovakia
	Hong Kong		Slovenia
	India		South Korea
	Indonesia		Spain
	Iraq		Sri Lanka
	Ireland		Switzerland
	Jordan		Tanzania
	Kenya		UAE
	Lesotho		Uganda
	Libya		United Kingdom
	Malaysia		USA
	Mali		Zimbabwe



## GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner was held at the luxurious Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental on the evening of 8th of May. As one of the most anticipated activities at AIM, the Gala Dinner provided its attendees with an opportunity to network and socialize in a festive and celebratory atmosphere. In addition, it also served as a platform to recognize the winners of the **AIM Investment Awards 2023** and to show appreciation to AIM 2023's sponsors, partners, and investors as well as the jury members of the AIM Investment Awards and the Startup Pitch Competition.



## INVESTMENT AWARDS

As with previous editions, this year's AIM Investment Awards recognized the best FDI projects from each region of the world. The recognition of the winning countries and their respective Investment Promotion Agencies for their success in attracting significant and favorable foreign direct investment was a testament that their efforts have greatly contributed to the growth and development of their markets, making a positive impact on their respective economies.

### West and Central Africa Region



### Middle East and North Africa Region





### East Africa Region



### Central, and Eastern Europe & Turkey Region



### Central Asia, Caucasus & Russia Region



### Latin America & The Caribbean Region



### South, East Asia and Oceania Region



### USA and Canada Region



## INVESTOR AWARDS

Saud Bahwan Group, one of Oman's most diversified family-owned businesses, was honored with the prestigious Investors Award at this year's edition of AIM. The Award recognized the Group's steadfast commitment to strategically investing in infrastructure, marketing and customer care in GCC countries for many years. Saud Bahwan Group has also been a Strategic Partner of the Annual Investment Meeting for almost a decade.





# INVESTORS' HUB

The AIM Investors' Hub is an exclusive zone dedicated to selected and reputable investment organizations that represent various countries, regions, industries, and sectors. This unique platform offered a conducive setup for project owners to meet with investors and financiers to discuss investment opportunities and partnerships and to facilitate the closing of investment deals. AIM 2023 saw a total of 1,398 meetings between high-level businessmen and official government representatives who discussed investment opportunities and potential partnerships.





## MOU SIGNINGS

The signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) was a key highlight of the Annual Investment Meeting 2023, as it represented a tangible outcome of the conference's networking and deal-making activities. During AIM 2023, a total of 30 MoUs were signed between investors, governments, and businesses from different parts of the world, with a focus on sectors such as trade, technology and innovation, energy, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and investment promotion and facilitation. These agreements will pave the way for new partnerships, investments, and projects that will drive economic growth and development across the globe.



**MoU signed between**  
Mensha Ventures (UAE) & Asia Development & Investment Bank Holdings LTD (Hongkong) & Hoover Investment Group & Shenzhen Sinomaster Investment Group (China)



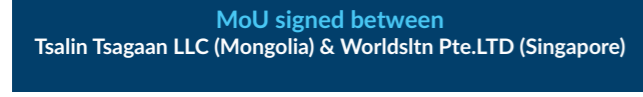
**MoU signed between**  
UAE Ministry of Economy & Presight AI



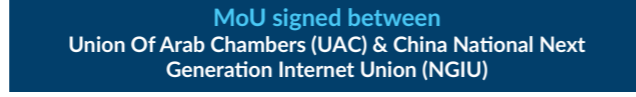
**MoU signed between**  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burkina Faso & Abu Dhabi Chamber



**MoU signed between**  
SEE Holding (UAE) & Hebei Airport Economic Zone Group Co., LTD (China)



**MoU signed between**  
Tsalin Tsagaan LLC (Mongolia) & Worldsltn Pte.LTD (Singapore)



**MoU signed between**  
Union Of Arab Chambers (UAC) & China National Next Generation Internet Union (NGIU)

AIM 2023 organized the World Government Incubator for Tolerance session, which witnessed the signing of distinguished memoranda of understanding between six nations and the United Arab Emirates to promote the values of tolerance and coexistence.



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and the Republic of Guinea



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and Government of Sindh, Pakistan



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and Republic of Armenia



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and Kyrgyz Republic



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and Kingdom of Bahrain



**MoU signed between**  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and Republic of Kazakhstan



## AIM ACADEMIA PROGRAM

Another noteworthy first in this year’s edition of the Annual Investment Meeting was the AIM Academia Program. In line with its purpose to achieve higher-level goals, AIM set the stage for universities to join the event, affording their students educational opportunities for experiential learning by having an all-access pass to AIM’s live sessions and workshops, engaging with industry experts, and understanding the future of work. In particular, select students from the participating universities were given the chance to pitch their original research theses and innovative tech startup projects in front of investors and other student participants.

AIM 2023 Academia Program included Middlesex University Dubai, St. Petersburg State University, Amity University, American University in the Emirates, University of Chittagong, and Britts Imperial University College.



St. Petersburg State University



Amity University



Middlesex University



American University in the Emirates

## SMEs “MADE IN SERIES”

The Annual Investment Meeting 2023 was proud to welcome the participation of 33 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) exhibitors from different countries around the world such as the DR Congo, Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Jordan, and the UAE.

AIM Global 2023 recognized the significant role that these businesses play in driving economic growth, as well as the challenges that they face in accessing investment opportunities. As such, the event featured a range of activities designed to support SMEs, including dedicated sessions and workshops on financing options and on best practices for business growth, and networking opportunities with investors and industry leaders.





# AIM STARTUPS

The AIM Startups remains as one of the vital pillars of the Annual Investment Meeting. Ever since its inception in 2017, the AIM Startups pillar has remained dedicated to its mission of offering an ideal platform for startup companies that aspire to secure funding, venture into new markets, and establish successful business partnerships with notable investors, business executives, representatives of global institutions, and government bodies.

This year, the AIM Startups pillar hosted value-enriching activities for all participants such as Workshops and the Startup Pitch Competition, along with providing networking opportunities through the Investors' Hub.

The 5th edition of the AIM Startup Pitch Competition, organized as a key feature of AIM 2023, witnessed the participation of 120 startups at pre-seed and seed stages.



# AIM STARTUPS PARTNERS





## AIM STARTUPS WINNERS

### Pre-Seed Stage:

#### Zephframe

Korean AI-powered Building Management System plugin makes building heating and cooling systems intelligent and automatically adaptive in real time, greatly reducing emissions and energy use.



#### Zenhire

Transforms hiring from stressful to Zen with our state-of-the-art AI Recruiter that interviews candidates, automates menial HR tasks, and sends personalized candidate feedback.



#### Exafy

UAE voice for business for any Website, Mobile App, Smart Device, VR or XR. Neo AI Assistance is designed to reduce the ever-growing complexity of connections between people, systems and services by process automation and autonomous decision making.



### Seed Stage:

#### Elgameya

An Egyptian FinTech mobile application that is used to organize and manage micro-savings and credit (ROSCA model). It mainly provides microcredit and collaborative lending solutions. ElGameya is based on the concept of sharing economy.



#### WhiteBox HR

Provides predictive insight, bias-free, at every stage of the Talent Lifecycle through Machine Learning, Organization Network Analysis, and People Science from UAE.



#### Neodocs

An Indian company has created a revolutionary approach to help people understand and optimize their health through at-home assessment, personalized actions, and ongoing progress monitoring.



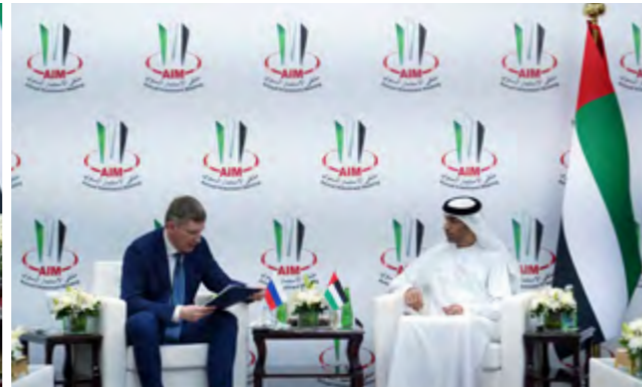


## BILATERAL MEETINGS

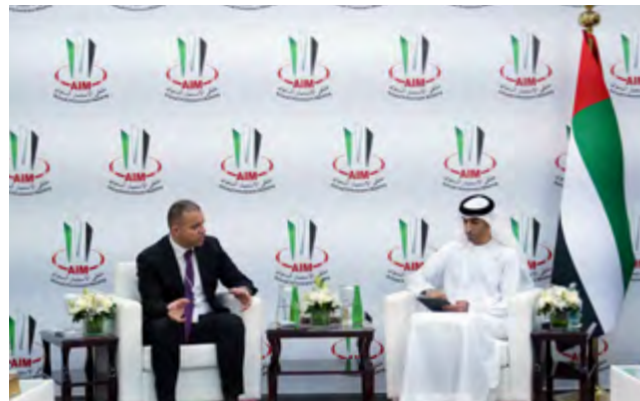
AIM 2023 hosted G2G, G2B and B2B meetings, which served as an essential tool for fostering communication, collaboration, and cooperation between the different entities. By offering a range of meeting options and opportunities to identify further areas of potential cooperation, this feature helped drive innovation and growth across the key sectors of the event.



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Bernardo Ivo Cruz, Secretary of State for Trade and Foreign Investment, Portugal and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic Development, Russian Federation and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
Vahan Kerobyan, Minister of Economy, Republic of Armenia and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Luis Castiglioni, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Paraguay and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**B2G Meeting between**  
Mr. Bian Armstrong, CEO of Coinbase and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Serge Gnaniodem Poda, Ministry of Industrial Development, Commerce, Handicrafts and SME, Burkina Faso and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Omar Said Shaaban, Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, Zanzibar and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Amin Salam, Minister of Economy and Trade for Lebanon and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Simplex Chithyola Banda, Minister of Trade and Industry, Malawi and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Jean Lucien Bussa Tongba, Minister of Commerce, DR Congo and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Nalin Fernando, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security, Sri Lanka and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**B2G Meeting between**  
Mr. Jason Wang, President of China Zhongguancun Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (ZVCA) and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Fabio Righi, Minister of State for Industry, Handicraft and Trade, Technological Research and Regulatory Simplification, San Marino and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



**G2G Meeting between**  
H.E. Angela Paolini Ellard, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO) and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



## AIM NETWORKING BREAKFAST

The Day 2 of the Annual Investment Meeting 2023 was filled with anticipation as industry professionals gathered as well for the AIM Networking Breakfast, a pivotal event that featured the launch of a special report in collaboration with GlobalData and Investment Monitor.

The breakfast session served as a prelude to an engaging panel discussion focusing on FDI in the Middle East and Africa. Esteemed panelists shared their expertise and perspectives on various aspects related to investment in the region. The discussion shed light on the challenges, potential, and prospects for FDI, fostering a deeper understanding among the participants.

The highlight of the AIM Networking Breakfast was the presentation of the “Middle East and Africa FDI Annual Report.” Glenn Barklie, Chief Economist of FDI at GlobalData, took the stage to present the key findings of the report, which was meticulously compiled based on the London-based firm’s 2022 FDI greenfield projects data, macro-economic, industry, and company insights.



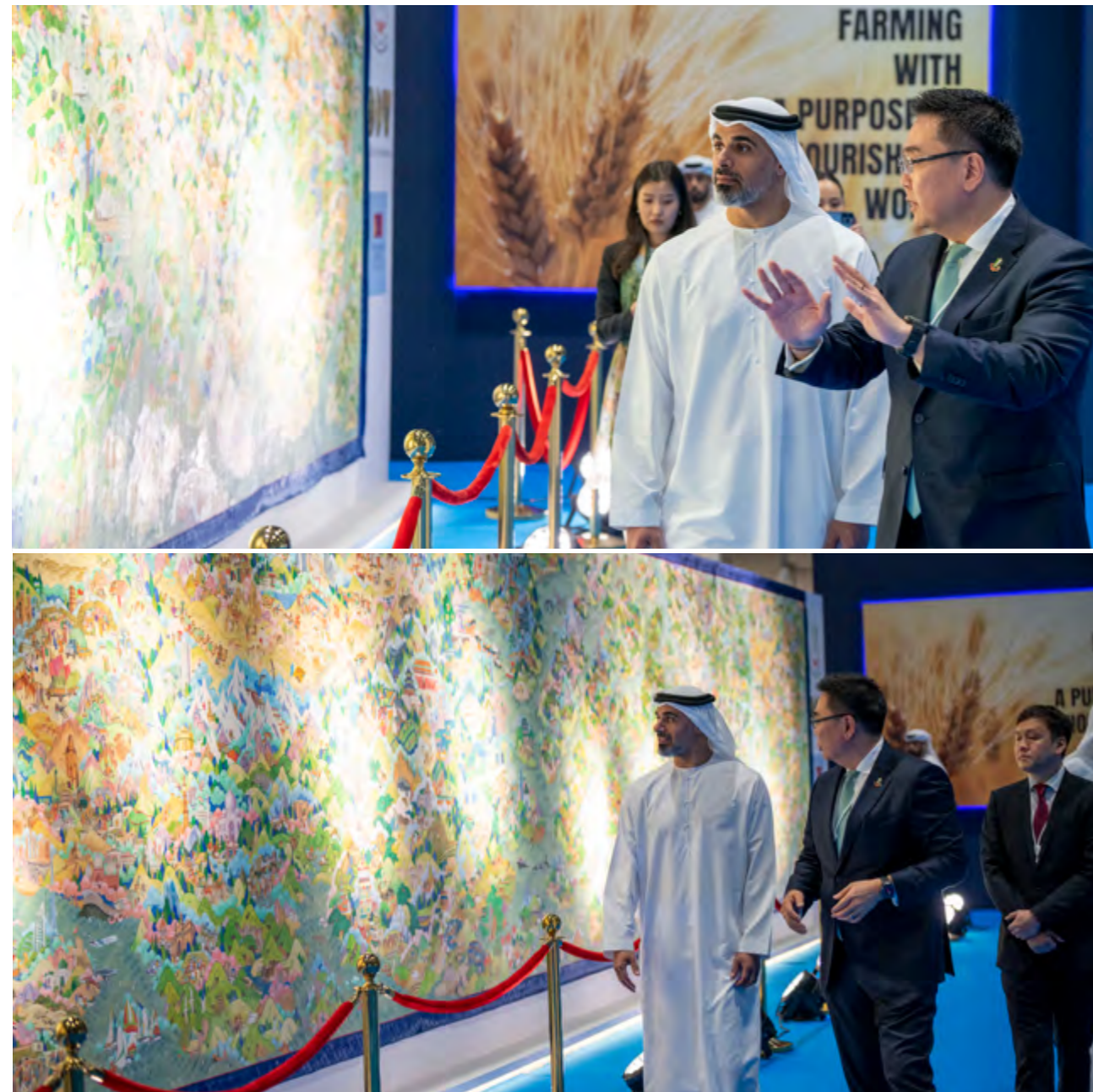
## DESERT SAFARI

Organized for the first time in the history of the Annual Investment Meeting, the Desert Safari experience was a unique opportunity that combined adventure and networking – the attendees were able to explore the natural beauty and cultural richness of Abu Dhabi’s desert landscape and at the same time connect with each other in a relaxed and informal setting, enabling them to forge new business relationships and strengthen existing ones.





# INVEST IN ARTS: 'ONE DAY OF THE WORLD' PAINTING



Touted as the longest Mongolian style painting in the world (measuring 21 meters by 2.5 meters with a total area of 52.5 square meters), the **One Day of the World** masterpiece was exhibited during the AIM 2023 in Abu Dhabi.

The 21-years-in-the-making One Day of the World was created by the renowned artist **Nadmid Sergelen** and features a **world map with 193 countries and 5,000 objects** represented, painted in exquisite watercolor and acrylic on white canvas.

It remarkably captures the cultures and accomplishments of mankind while illustrating the synergy and diversity of life on Earth.

# PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Strategic Partners		Gold Sponsors		
Culture and Destination Partner	Sustainability Partner	Global Securities Exchange Partner	Freezone Partner	
Business Community Partner	Strategic IFC Partner	Startup Ecosystem Lead Partner	Investment Promotion Partner	Official Airport Partner
Silver Sponsors		Main Media Partner	Business Broadcast Partner	Official Airways Partner
Conference Special Session Sponsor	Welcome Bag Sponsor	Official Courier Partner		
Global Credit Management & NPL Investments Forum Sponsors			Future Finance Forum Sponsor	



# AIM IN MEDIA

The media coverage during AIM 2023 played a crucial role in promoting the event's goals and outcomes, attracting more investors and creating opportunities for further growth and development. AIM 2023 had over 30 media partners, with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) as the Main Media Partner and CNBC Arabia as the Business Broadcast Partner.

## رئيس مدينة الشارقة للإعلام: 10% نمو متوقد في تراخيص الشركات الجديدة بنهاية 2023

دكتور خالد عمر المدفع رئيس مدينة الشارقة للإعلام... إن مدينة الشارقة للإعلام نفذت خلال العامين الماضيين خطة استراتيجية تهدف لتنمية قطاع الإعلام والإعلامية والعالية، وبالتالي فهو فرصة شديدة الشارقة لتتاهق بهذا الحشد الضخم وعرض الفرص الاستثمارية من خلال "قطاع الإعلام وتوسيع شبكة أعمالها من خلال دعوات التي تقدمها لرواد الأعمال وحزم التسهيلات التي

## Under the patronage of Sheikh Khaled, 12th AIM to take place in Abu Dhabi

The patronage of His Highness demonstrates the UAE leadership's commitment to moving forward from the consequences of the pandemic: Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince and Chair-Dhabi Executive Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Global Conference on May 8, 2023, in support of strategic Ministry of Industry, Trade and Entrepreneurship, and Dhab National Investment Forum. The event is part of the UAE's efforts to Foster Sustainable Economic Growth, and "Prosperity", AIM will address the latest and opportunities in investment to achieve inclusive and sustainable global economic growth. Added chairman Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi said that the patronage of His Highness demonstrates the leadership's commitment to moving forward from the consequences of the pandemic.

## خالد بن محمد بن زايد يحضر ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي



## ABU DHABI GDP EXCEEDED \$299bn LAST YEAR, SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS

Oil and gas sector accounted for half of the emirate's growth amid push for economic diversification

Abu Dhabi's gross domestic product (GDP) exceeded \$299 billion last year, a senior official said. The emirate's economy grew by 10.3 per cent in 2022, with the oil and gas sector accounting for half of the total growth. The official said that the emirate's economy is diversifying and that the government is focusing on creating new jobs and opportunities for the future.

Abu Dhabi is witnessing the rise of the Falcon economy, which is driven by the growth of the private sector and the emergence of new industries. The government is supporting this growth through various initiatives and policies.

## UAE-India non-oil trade to top \$50bn this year and set to achieve \$100bn by 2030



UAE-India non-oil trade to top \$50bn this year and set to achieve \$100bn by 2030. The UAE and India are strengthening their economic ties through various trade agreements and initiatives.

## AIM 2023 kicks off with focus on future investment opportunities

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## ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي يناقش الفرص المستقبلية وتعزيز النمو المستدام

ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي يناقش الفرص المستقبلية وتعزيز النمو المستدام. The event is a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services and attract investors.

## خبرة في «الشمول السنوي تنطلق في أبوظبي بحضور ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي»



خبرة في «الشمول السنوي تنطلق في أبوظبي بحضور ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي». The event is a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services and attract investors.

## with India following CEPA launch



with India following CEPA launch. The UAE and India are strengthening their economic ties through various trade agreements and initiatives.

## 12th Annual Investment Meeting to kick off today in Abu Dhabi



12th Annual Investment Meeting to kick off today in Abu Dhabi. The event is expected to attract international investors and provide a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services.

## «الإمارات للتنمية» يستعرض حلوله المالية لدعم الشركات

«الإمارات للتنمية» يستعرض حلوله المالية لدعم الشركات. The company is providing financial solutions to support businesses and promote economic growth.

## Sharjah Media City takes part in investment meeting

Sharjah Media City takes part in investment meeting. The city is showcasing its infrastructure and investment opportunities to attract investors.

## «مجلس الأعمال الكويتي» يشارك بملتقى الأعمال السنوي

«مجلس الأعمال الكويتي» يشارك بملتقى الأعمال السنوي. The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce is participating in the annual investment meeting to showcase its members and their products.

## «غرفة الشارقة» تبرز فرص الأعمال في ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي

«غرفة الشارقة» تبرز فرص الأعمال في ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي. The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce is highlighting the investment opportunities in Sharjah.

## افتتح مؤتمر دور التسامح والتعايش في استدامة النمو

افتتح مؤتمر دور التسامح والتعايش في استدامة النمو. The conference is discussing the role of tolerance and coexistence in sustainable growth.

## الإمارات توقع مذكرات تفاهم مع 6 دول لتعزيز التسامح

الإمارات توقع مذكرات تفاهم مع 6 دول لتعزيز التسامح. The UAE has signed MoUs with six countries to promote tolerance and coexistence.

## نهيان بن مبارك: مبادرات محمد بن زايد تجتهد في سوق أبوظبي لتزويد العالم بمنتجات عالية الجودة

نهيان بن مبارك: مبادرات محمد بن زايد تجتهد في سوق أبوظبي لتزويد العالم بمنتجات عالية الجودة. The Minister of Economy is highlighting the efforts of the UAE to provide high-quality products to the world.

## شهد ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي 2023، مراسم التوقيع بين دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وست دول؛ لتعزيز التسامح وتوحيد الجهود لتعزيز قيم التسامح والتعايش.

شهد ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي 2023، مراسم التوقيع بين دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وست دول؛ لتعزيز التسامح وتوحيد الجهود لتعزيز قيم التسامح والتعايش. The annual investment meeting 2023 witnessed the signing ceremony between the UAE and six countries to promote tolerance and coexistence.

## أحمد الزعابي: نهدف لزيادة صادرات أبوظبي غير النفطية إلى 178.8 مليار درهم بحلول 2031

أحمد الزعابي: نهدف لزيادة صادرات أبوظبي غير النفطية إلى 178.8 مليار درهم بحلول 2031. The Minister of Economy is setting a target to increase the UAE's non-oil exports to 178.8 billion dirhams by 2031.

## برعاية خالد بن محمد بن زايد.. الدورة 12 من ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي تنطلق في أبوظبي 8 مايو

برعاية خالد بن محمد بن زايد.. الدورة 12 من ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي تنطلق في أبوظبي 8 مايو. The 12th annual investment meeting is launching in Abu Dhabi on May 8, under the patronage of His Highness Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed.

## دولة الإمارات تجتهد في جذب الاستثمارات الأجنبية

دولة الإمارات تجتهد في جذب الاستثمارات الأجنبية. The UAE is working hard to attract foreign investments and promote economic growth.

## برعاية سمو الشيخ خالد بن محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، ولي عهد أبوظبي، رئيس المجلس التنفيذي لإمارة أبوظبي، تنطلق فعاليات الدورة 12 من ملتقى الاستثمار السنوي.

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Entrepreneurs Investment Summit 2023... During the opening of the Entrepreneurs Investment Summit 2023, the Chairman of the Union of Arab Chambers and Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber, Sameer Nass, emphasized the significance of strengthening economic cooperation and promoting collaboration among entrepreneurs from the Arab and African region. Mr. Nass highlighted the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in fostering sustainable development and economic growth.









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Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**Annual Investment Meeting**

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