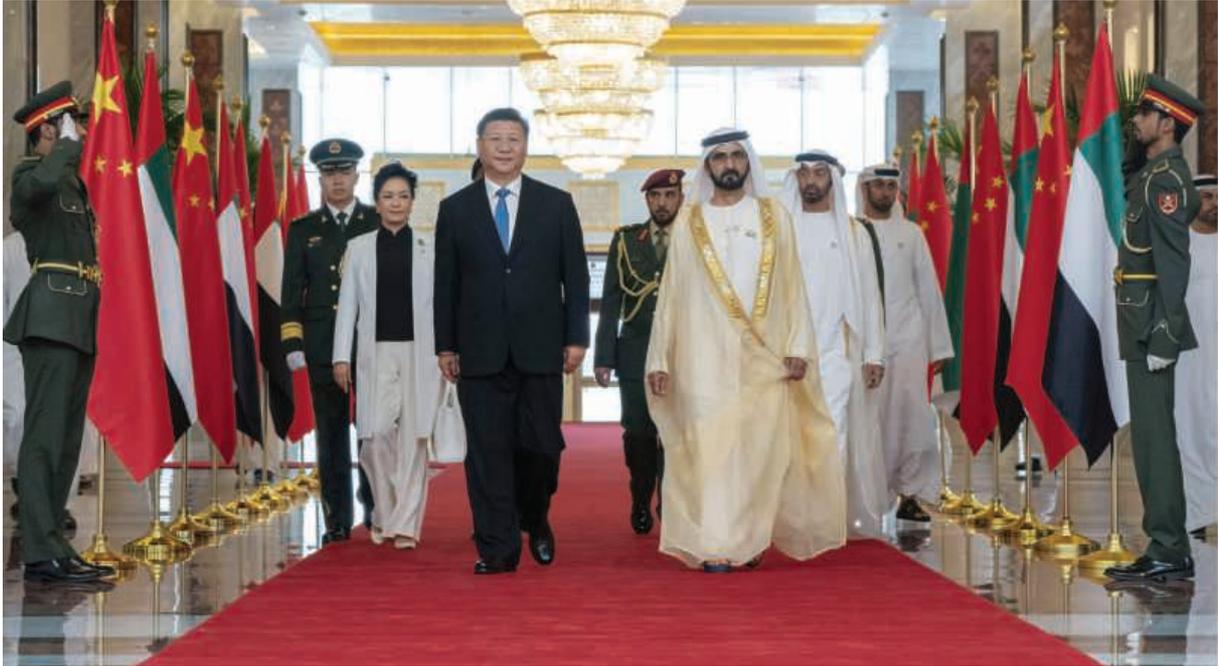


Historic Visit Strengthens UAE Ties with China



Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum described the recent three-day state visit of President Xi Jinping of China to the UAE as “a historic visit that celebrates the strategic partnership between the two countries and establishes a new phase of fruitful cooperation and promising outlooks”.

HH Sheikh Mohammed and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan headed a large delegation that welcomed President Xi Jinping to further advance ties across trade, culture and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The UAE announced the launch of ‘UAE-China Week’ to mark President Xi Jinping’s visit. It will take place annually and coincide with Chinese New Year.

The largest trading partner of China in the region, the UAE currently hosts 200,000 Chinese citizens and 4000 trading companies.

“We seek to build long-term economic, cultural and trade and investment ties



with China,” said HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Highlighting the strong economic and cultural ties with China, he added: “We are happy to celebrate China’s rich and continued historical culture on an annual basis.”

President Xi Jinping’s visit to the UAE included a series of high-level meetings aimed at increasing trade and investment opportunities, and expanding social and

cultural exchange through a series of cultural and political seminars, including a symposium on the prospects of UAE-China relations.

Recent years have witnessed a rapid growth in the UAE-China economic partnership, with the annual trade volume between the two countries exceeding \$50 billion, making the UAE the second largest trading partner of China in the world. The UAE is also China’s largest partner in the Arab region, with 23% of Arab trade with China acquired by the UAE.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed said: “The People’s Republic of China and the United Arab Emirates play a pivotal role in the stability of the region and its economic future.

“Over 28 years ago, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan visited China, founding the strategic relationship between the two countries that has yielded fruitful trade and investment as well as cultural relations for more than three decades.”

Bilateral trade between the two nations is expected to grow to \$80 billion over the next two years, according to the China Foreign Trade Centre. †

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Honoured by Arab League for his Vision



The Arab League has honoured Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum with the 'Arab League Shield for Leadership in Arab Development'. The move is in recognition of his contributions to the development of the Arab world, and his innovative vision for empowering Arab communities, spreading knowledge and creating a stable and brighter future.

The prestigious shield acknowledges HH Sheikh Mohammed's efforts in leading development initiatives not only in the UAE but also the Arab world.

"We see government work as a journey towards making ourselves more competitive. In the UAE, we love to work on enhancing our competitiveness and we believe that the government is a key engine for the development of all sectors," said Sheikh Mohammed. "The Arab world needs to transform its administrative operations and shed conventional ways of thinking. We need a clear vision to enhance the effectiveness of government."

Sheikh Mohammed added: "The best contribution a citizen can make to his country and society is to help enhance government processes because they drive progress in every sphere. The UAE is part of the Arab world, and we are keen

to share our experiences with those who want to learn from them."

Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit described HH Sheikh Mohammed as a symbol of development in the Arab world due to his leading initiatives, creative thinking and vision.

"From an early stage, Sheikh Mohammed knew that meaningful development can be achieved only when all sectors are comprehensively addressed, and that the human being is the cornerstone of any development journey," said Aboul-Gheit. "Enabling Arab people and equipping them with the right tools to be creative and achieve happiness and

prosperity should be top priorities for development projects."

He added: "Sheikh Mohammed was able to deeply instill the values of creativity and innovation in Dubai, which has become a symbol of Arab pride, and an example for the region to follow. When we look at Dubai, we see an innovative government that inspires people to take the initiative, and constantly work towards creating a bright future."

Minister of Cabinet Affairs and The Future, His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi received the award on behalf of HH Sheikh Mohammed at a ceremony held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo, Egypt. †



2018 Global Knowledge Index to be Released During Knowledge Summit



The findings of the Global Knowledge Index for 2018, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), will be revealed during this year's Knowledge Summit.

Through the Global Knowledge Index – part of the Arab Knowledge Project – the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) and UNDP seek to provide an accurate and objective tool that monitors the state of knowledge in the world, as well as opportunities and challenges around knowledge acquisition. It aims to provide a qualitative analysis of global knowledge to support governments and stakeholders, assess performance and create development plans in a variety of fields.

The results of the index will be announced during this year's Knowledge Summit, organised by MBRF and scheduled to take place in Dubai, on December 5 & 6. The summit's theme this year is 'Youth and the Future of the Knowledge

Economy', with the annual event now established as an international platform for global knowledge leaders, experts and decision-makers to discuss and exchange expertise and experiences in the field of knowledge production and dissemination.

"The Global Knowledge Index is a vital tool to support sustainable development plans, regionally and globally," said His Excellency Jamal bin Huwairib, CEO of MBRF (pictured above at last year's summit). "In partnership with UNDP, we have intensified our efforts to introduce the index and publish its findings, which reveal the depth of the relationship between knowledge and development in most regions of the world. The results were presented in a series of specialised events that have generated great interest by governments and knowledge entities in a number of countries," he added.

"We have seen how countries seek to benefit from the outputs of the index and how they use them to adopt the approach of

change and development, which prompted us to expand the circle of beneficiaries to incorporate more countries, including Arab countries. We also commenced communication with institutions and knowledge centres around the world to identify the views and ideas of global communities, so that countries can employ these in their sustainable development plans."

The Global Knowledge Index is composed of six sectoral indicators: pre-university education; technical vocational education and training; higher education; research, development and innovation; information and communication technology; and economics. A seventh supporting index measures general enabling environment.

Last year's Global Knowledge Index was the first of its kind, covering 131 countries selected according to the availability of reliable data at the level of basic variables. The index team are collecting data from 195 countries for the 2018 index. ↑

MBRF Receives ISO Certification for Quality Management Systems



The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) reaches for the highest standards. The Foundation recently received an International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) 9001:2015 Certification for Quality Management Systems, which serves to promote quality standards in services and programmes, establish sustainability, and achieve the Foundation's strategic objectives.

MBRF's CEO His Excellency Jamal bin Huwaireb said: "The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation adds another achievement to its track record with the ISO certification for Quality Management Systems."

Following the directives and support of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of MBRF, the Foundation's team intensified its efforts to implement all standards and requirements for the certification,

beginning with mapping out MBRF's stakeholders and determining their needs and expectations, then setting quality objectives and following up on their implementation. The Foundation also drafted a quality policy, as well as safety and prevention measures, training its employees to abide by them and setting international standards for choosing suppliers.

HE Jamal bin Huwaireb said the certification was "the fruit of the relentless efforts of the Foundation's team to meet the programme's requirements and standards". He added: "This proves the Foundation's ability to rapidly and effectively develop its projects, initiatives and work environment.

"We congratulate our employees on this tremendous achievement, which will undoubtedly upgrade our programmes and projects, place us on par with our international counterparts and ensure the sustainability of our achievements."

Standards for the ISO 9001:2015 are issued by the International Standardisation Organisation, and any institution can implement these standards and conditions, regardless of its size, sector or the products and services it provides.

The certification requirements include: an internal corporate management system to ensure the implementation of these requirements; a well-established model to improve quality in the management of operations, programmes and projects (especially since the certification requires documenting internal systems and procedural steps, and creating an organisational performance management system relying on periodic performance indicators and measures); and finally, the certification requires a clear description of responsibilities and mandates. †