

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA
Issue No. 100 October 2016

Hamdan bin Mohammed Lays the Foundation Stone of «Route 2020»



Vision Mission

Vision

Safe and Smooth Transport for All

Mission

Develop integrated and sustainable transportation systems and provide distinguished services to all stakeholders to support Dubai's comprehensive growth plans through preparing policies and legislations, adapting technologies and innovative approaches, and implementing world-class practices and standards



H.E. Mattar Al Tayer
Director General and Chairman of
the Board of Executive Directors

68 Days

68 days only is the period between the approval of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai of the contract awarding of the 'Route 2020' project of the Dubai Metro Red Line extension to the EXPOLINK Alliance at a cost of AED10.6 billion and the project foundation laid by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council that marked the project groundbreaking.

As usual, RTA is racing against time to achieve the vision of the wise leadership of the Government of Dubai to elevate the Emirate to become a global destination in different areas. In such vital projects, the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum were usually to put the project into immediate effect, and provide all the necessary requirements for its completion according to the highest international standards due to the fact that the project serves Dubai EXPO 2020, which is held for the first time in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

The event is expected to attract about 25 million visitors during its 6-month period.

The project is also a vital artery that will fulfill the needs of the population growth in the districts by which the metro will pass.

The implementation of the 'Route 2020' project is part of Dubai's 2021 plan to ensure the sustainable growth, develop excellent infrastructures and services. It is also part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021 developed by RTA in Dubai to build a sophisticated urban mass transit network that includes lines of metro, tram, busses and marine transport.

The 'Route 2020' starts off at the Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station on the red line, with a length of 15 km, of which 11.8 km are elevated, and 3.2 km are underground.

The project consists of 7 stations, including an alternating station with the red line, a station at the EXPO site, 3 elevated and 2 underground stations. The capacity of the route is approximately 46 thousand passengers per hour in both directions. The number of users of the 'Route 2020' is expected to reach about 125 thousand passengers a day in 2020, rising to nearly 275 thousand passengers a day by 2030.

Once completed, the 'Route 2020' with its seven stations will be an architectural masterpiece, adding to Dubai's aesthetical stamp. The project will contribute to linking the densely populated residential areas, which it passes by, such as the Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates and Dubai Investment Parks, the line will be expanded to Al Maktoum International Airport in the coming years.

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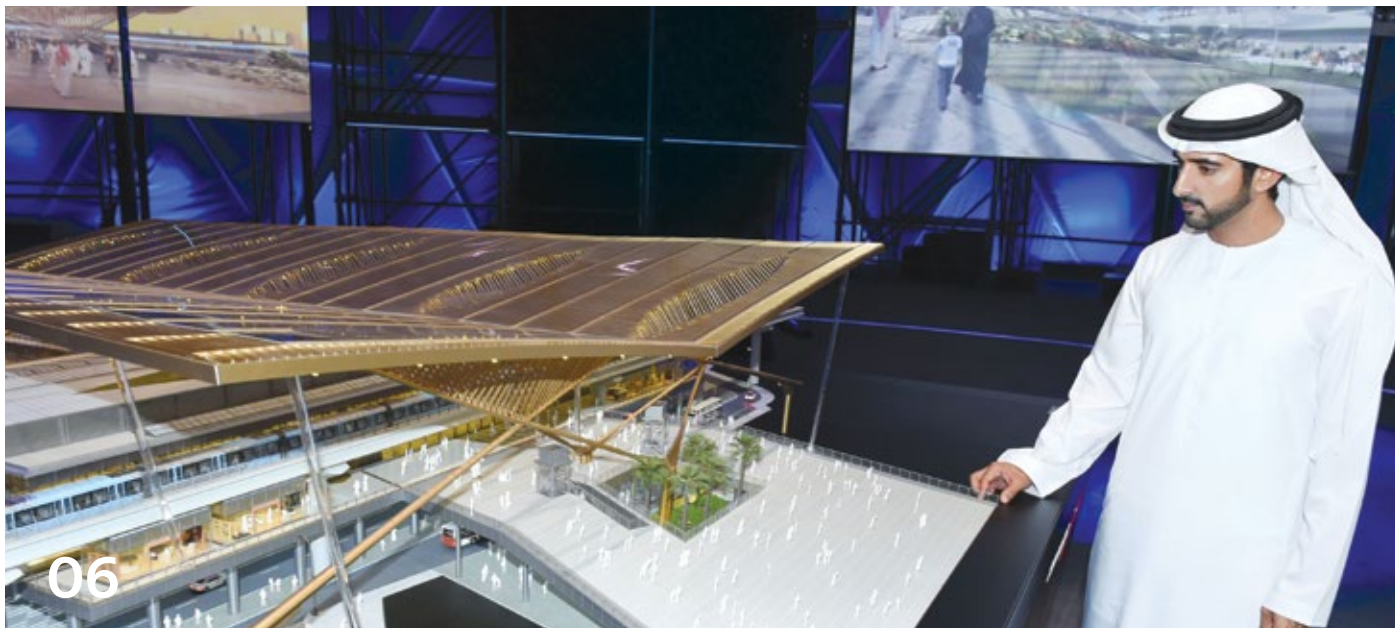
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Al Masar magazine Editorial Board offers the Reciprocal Ads initiative whereby a space for an advert is allocated to strategic partners and other government entities against allocating the same space in the magazine of the beneficial entity during the same month for the benefit of the RTA.



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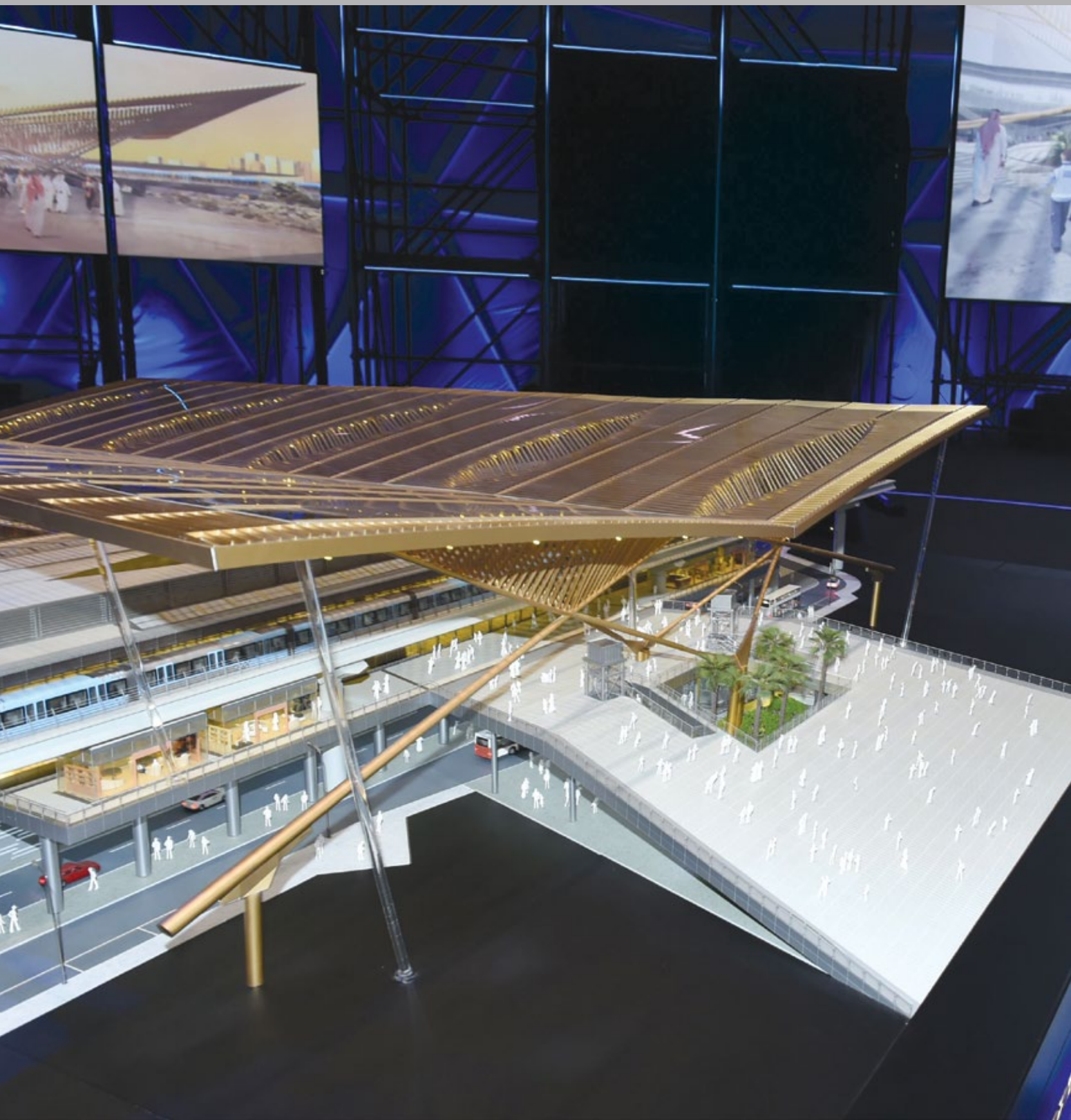
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Hamdan bin Mohammed lays foundation stone of Route 2020 (Dubai Metro Red Line Extension) Project

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, has attended the ground breaking ceremony of Route 2020 involving the extension of the Dubai Metro Red Line 15 km from Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020.



Upon arrival at the ceremony site near Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was received by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), along with members of the Higher National Committee of Expo 2020. HH and attendees then watched a movie entitled a “Journey through Time” in a multi-screen hall using 360-Degree Virtual Reality Technology. The film, which included quotes of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, screened the upswing witnessed by the Emirate and the massive improvements made in roads & transport networks over 80 years.

The film also spotlighted the future projects of the RTA where roads network is expected to rise from 13,338 lane-kilometer in the first quarter of this year to 14,491 lane-kilometer by 2020, and the total length of rail network (metro & tram) is poised to soar from 85 km to 104 km. The number of marine transport stations will rise from 32 to 76 stations, and public buses will increase in number from 1518 to 1852 buses. Equally, journeys made through

public transport means will grow from 15.3% during the first quarter of this year to 20% by 2020.

Attending the ceremony were also Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum bin Jumaa, His Excellency Mohammed Al Gargawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs & Future, Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimi, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau, His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Director-General of His Highness the Ruler's Court in Dubai, Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Expo, and His Excellency General Lt. Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chief of Police and Public Security in Dubai, as well as several heads and directors of agencies & departments of Dubai Government.

RTA awarded
'Route 2020'
project and
purchase of 50
trains last June
to EXPOLINK
of French,
Spanish
and Turkish
companies at
a cost of AED
10.6 billion





The film highlighted Route 2020, which extends 15 km: 11.8 km a viaduct, and 3.2 km underground track. The project encompasses seven stations including a transfer station with the Red Line, Expo Station, three elevated stations, and two underground stations. It serves densely populated areas providing homes to more than 270 thousand peoples such as The Gardens, Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estates and the Dubai Investment Park. The

transit time from Dubai Marina Station to Expo Station is expected to be 16 minutes only.

HH Sheikh Hamdan and attendees then moved on to three video presentations; the first about opportunities provided to youth through Expo 2020 following the allocation of about five billion Dirham to SMEs. The second video highlighted the future of transport, enhanced smart mobility systems and the application of artificial intelligence in serving humans in





various transit means. Route 2020 promises to be a model in applying smart technologies to streamline the mobility of residents, increase the productivity, and conserve natural resources. The third video focused on environmental sustainability; a key driver of transport strategy of Expo 2020. The Master Plan focused on maximizing the benefit from mass transit means towards ensuring the smooth arrival of visitors to the site of Expo.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, unveiled the model of Route 2020 Metro Station, and laid the foundation stone marking the start of construction works in the project. The trial operation of the service is expected to start in the final quarter of 2019 and the official operation is set to start in the second quarter of 2020, namely on 20/05/2020 i.e. five months ahead of the scheduled opening of Expo 2020.

HH Sheikh Hamdan then received from HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, a masterpiece inspired from the logo of Expo 2020 superbly designed by the globally renowned artist Thomas Medicus. When this legacy piece designed for Metro

Route 2020 Ground Breaking Ceremony is rotated, a hidden EXPO 2020 logo appears every 90° angle. For this 1000 hand-painted and hand-cut glass fragments are spread over 100 blank glass strips. The glass fragments were created with the same technique used for traditional stained glass windows.

The capacity of the route is approximately 46 thousand passengers per hour in both directions (23 thousand passengers in one direction an hour). As per RTA's studies, it is expected that the number of users of the 'Route 2020' will reach about 125 thousand passengers a day in 2020, rising to nearly 275 thousand passengers a day by 2030. The studies also showed that around 35 thousand passengers would use EXPO 2020 Station to reach the location during weekdays, rising to approximately 47 thousand during weekends. This number represents around 20% of the total daily number of visitors expected to show up.



Hamdan bin Mohammed launches Urban Mobility Innovation Indicator

The world's first of its kind

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown prince and Chairman of the Executive Council launched the world's first urban mobility innovation indicator. This indicator aims to the participation of the developed countries to learn about the best practices in the transportation area.

"The launch of this indicator goes with the 'Dubai Plan 2021' that translates the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice-president and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai to upgrade the Emirate of Dubai as an international destination on all fronts," confirmed His Highness Sheikh Hamdan.

"It is the new and the first in the world, and keeps pace with the 'Dubai Innovation Strategy' that involves around (20) initiatives being executed in three years' time aiming to make Dubai the world's most innovative cosmopolitan. The 'Dubai Innovation Strategy' aims to make Dubai the most innovative city worldwide from (10) different dimensions

supported by a number of initiatives. These initiatives allow the public and private sectors, and the education sector, international networks as well as the citizens, residents and Dubai's visitors and lovers to contribute to provide an ideas generation supporting environment and suggest innovative solutions to uplift different life perspectives.

RTA's Idea

"The idea of launching this indicator was born in RTA and the indicator was created on two phases. Phase 1 was about the cooperation between RTA and Future Cities Catapult; an international consultancy specialized in transportation and innovation, to establish the three topics and foundations of the indicator, namely (Readiness, Application and Life Quality). The indicator was established through using Key Performance Indicators with other transportation parties all over the world," said H. E Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors. "The innovation areas in transportation sector around the world had been specified, internal workshops had been organized in addition to organizing workshops with specialist in four major cities, namely (London, Helsinki, Singapore and Sao Paolo) as well as the city of Dubai. We had also developed a system to assess the practices of the transport sector-related parties, in the light of the areas and specifications of innovation."

"The phase 2 went on in coordination between RTA and UITP to launch the indicator through releasing the website for the indicator, compiling a manual explaining the methodology and mechanism of indicator and organizing an annual forum for the participating cities to be the first form during the (UAE Innovation Week) activities in November 2016," added Al Tayer.

He pointed out that the indicator scale, collecting data about the selected cities and analyzing them and preparing relevant reports will all be conducted during the coming period. The results of the first sessions will be during the UITP Conference to be held in Montreal of Canada in 2017. The indicator will be periodically applied through the UITP and on (30) cities around the world in phase 1.

Information Network

"The indicator would help you find information network for the advanced cities in the field of innovative mobility to attain a maximum benefit in enhancing the innovation in the sector concerned. The urban transport innovation indicator depends on three main pillars: First: (Readiness) in terms of a vision and innovative strategy for transportation, possessing the capabilities required to disseminate and apply the vision, and the relevant plan, in addition to how to optimize the use of data and feedback for planning and empowerment."

"The second pillar (Application) is concerned with the efficient and effective application of innovation plan in the area of mobility, and the appropriateness of policies and legislations for innovation in this sector. In addition, it addresses the level of integration in the transport systems in a way that enriches the concept of innovation in this field. The third pillar: (Quality of Life) through which we come to know how and to what degree the clients or the targeted respond to innovative mobility solutions, and the appropriateness of these solutions for sustainable health and environmental requirements, and the extent of the effect to be achieved in the quality of life in the Emirate of Dubai.

HE Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors explained that RTA in the last period adopted an innovation strategy. This strategy is based on three main topics: Leadership, Excellence and Influence in order to enable RTA to provide inspirational innovations in present and in future, where the innovation is the extraordinary change that pushes the development of and improvement of products and services, work mechanism in order to achieve sustainable benefit for all segments of society. For his part, Masaki Ogata, President of the UITP said: "it should be a public transport that leads to the achievement of urban innovative and sustainable mobility, referring to the inclusion of innovation in public transport in the list of the UITP priorities.

He expressed his pleasure over RTA's assignment of the UITP and Future Cities Catapult the task of the development of the urban mobility innovation indicator, which will be a guide to cities seeking to promote innovation in its own urban mobility systems.

RTA, Emaar join hands in operating a Smart Vehicle at Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), in collaboration with Emaar Properties, started on 1 September the trial run of the first autonomous 10-seater car shuttling over a 700-meter long track at the Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard.



HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA said, “The trial run of the smart vehicle at the Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard represented the phase one of this technology.

“This experiment is also part of RTA’s plan to test driverless transit technology under the climatic environment of Dubai. Through this trial run of the smart vehicle, RTA intends to educate the public about autonomous cars technology and the trial use of the technology in Dubai’s climatic conditions. The trial also elucidates the smart driverless mobility strategy launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, aimed at switching 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into driverless journeys using various transit means by 2030. It also aims to screen the views & responses of residents & visitors about the driverless mobility experience using a survey measuring satisfaction rating. “The ‘Driverless’ vehicle is produced by Easy Mile/Omnix Company to travel short distances over pre-programmed routes in multi-use environments. The vehicle travels on virtual routes, which can easily be reset to accommodate sudden changes as required. The vehicle is fitted with all safety requisites & controls specifying its planned route. The sensor system as well as the intelligent system of the



vehicle enable coping with any obstacles encountered en route to avoid collision.

HE Mohammed Ali Al Abbar, Chairman of Emaar Properties said, “We thank RTA for supporting our plans aimed at using driverless cars in Dubai downtown. The trial run of the vehicle is a further testament to the firm commitment of the Emirate of Dubai to encouraging sustainable transit means compatible with Dubai Plan 2021 for building a technologically-connected smart city.

“Transport innovation and smart mobility solutions of the city is one of the key drivers of the Smart Dubai vision unveiled by HH Sheikh Mohammed, and constitutes an integral part of the recently launched Dubai Self-driving Transport Strategy. This strategic direction is expected to thrust Dubai to the forefront of cosmopolitan cities adopting clean transport solutions contributing to the sustainable development,” added Al Abbar.

“Emaar seeks to connect various Dubai Downtown landmarks, the most attractive tourist & entertainment destination for visitors worldwide through driverless vehicles as they involve added convenience & luxury to residents & visitors of illustrious tourist attractions such as Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, Dubai Opera and Souk Al Bahar as well as different hotels. We would also endeavour to use this clean and smart initiative in our giant future project Dubai Creek Harbour,” continued the Chairman of Emaar.

It is noteworthy that RTA had launched last April the first trial operation of a ‘Driverless’ vehicle during the opening session of MENA Transport Congress & Exhibition 2016 organized by RTA and UITP under the theme: Urban Mobility: Think Big Act Smart.



Al Tayer meets employees with university scholarships from RTA

H.E Mattar Al Tayer ,Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors met two employees newly joined RTA after they had completed their study through scholarships from RTA.

Al Tayer welcomed them aboard and encouraged them to be perseverant and double the efforts to work with their colleagues in team spirit to carry on the RTA success and excellence drive ,and preserve its position it ensured by putting tireless efforts to service the nation and society.

" RTA has committed to provide an appropriate environment for work and progress .It qualifies its human resources ,develop them and grow their skills scientifically and practical-ly .It also allows the opportunity for national competencies to take on leadership position.

The 5-Year Plan of Dubai Taxi approved Covering projects, investment initiatives

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has approved the 5-Year Plan of the Dubai Taxi Corporation Projects & Investment Initiatives 2016 – 2021. The Plan serves the strategic goals of RTA in providing advanced transit systems capable of brining happiness to users.

"The 5-Year Plan envisages beefing-up the fleet of the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) by more than 40% as the number is set to rise from 5000 cabs in 2015 to 7000 cabs by 2021. The number of limousines is set to leapfrog by as much as 340% from 113 vehicles in 2015 to 500 vehicles by 2021. The increase in the number of taxicabs is required to cater to the growing needs of customers comprising residents & visitors as well as the requirements of hosting the

Expo 2020 in Dubai.

"The plan encompasses converting 50% of taxicabs into hybrid vehicles by 2021 as part of a master plan to curb carbon emission in the taxi sector by 2% as stipulated by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and the Green Economy transition. This step is prompted by the deregulation of fuel prices, and the reduced lifespan of hybrid vehicles compared with conventional vehicles. Thus,





the number of hybrid vehicles at the disposal of the DTC would soar from 145 vehicles in 2015 to 2280 vehicles in 2021,” revealed Al Tayer.

“RTA is determined to overhaul the school transport sector with a view to offering safe & smooth mobility for all students of various ages, and playing a leading role in delivering premium transit services for students in a safe environment. Our intention is also to encourage parents to have their wards transported by school buses rather than private vehicles, support the UAE education strategy 2020, improve the caliber of school transport service in Dubai, and strike a balance between supply & demand in the sector. The DTC 5-Year Plan includes a new bundle of programs & initiatives to improve the school transport services run by the DTC through supplying the fleet with new eco-friendly buses fitted with sophisticated technologies corresponding to the smart government initiative, and cutting-edge safety & security means. Accordingly, the number of school buses in operation would hike from 117 buses in 2015 to more than 650 buses by 2021, recording in the process an increase rate exceeding 450%,” explained Al Tayer.

Reflecting on the technological projects of the DTC Al Tayer said: “the plan covers improving the recently launched Customers Relation Management System, and finalizing the initial phase of upgrading smart apps project by enabling limousine booking service via DTC Limo App, or dialing Customers Care Center number (042080555). Phase II covers developing smart apps for all DTC services in a bid to achieve higher customers’ satisfaction rating, and improve

Dubai Taxi Corporation 5 year plan 2016 - 2021



the corporate standing of the DTC amongst all spectrums of the community.

“The 5-Year Plan 2016–2021 also encompasses developing land plots owned by DTC through constructing commercial outlets to help support future expansion plans. Recently, the DTC released a tender to appoint a consultant to study & respond to the future needs of the DTC, and open new business horizons to diversify the sources of commercial incomes of the DTC. The plan calls for introducing smart systems for towing vehicles in emergency cases to enable responding to reports of vehicle breakdown on the road via such smart systems. The system would streamline the traffic flow, fend off bottlenecks & accidents, and improve the traffic safety level,” added Al Tayer.

Exploring cooperation with UNDP in Green Economy

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has recently received HE Frode Mouring, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNPD), UAE. Attendees included Mohammed Al-Asmawi, Head of Programme UNPD, Nasir Hamad Abu Shehab, CEO of RTA's Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector, and host of RTA officials.

The two parties discussed a number of issues of common interest including strengthening bilateral cooperation, sharing information & knowledge, and benefiting from UNDP in the fields of green economy and public transport consultancies in view of the rich experience of the program worldwide.

Al Tayer stressed RTA's unwavering commitment to the highest standards of green economy as reflected in plans of Dubai and the UAE in this regard. He also pointed out to the importance of consultancies and exchanging information about public transport, project management and other vital fields. "Earlier this year, RTA had charted out a plan for the Preparation & Implementation of the Green Economy Governance

Structure as part of its efforts to leverage RTA's agencies & sectors, as well as partners, to contribute to the improvement of energy & green economy aspects under a concerted & integrated drive. Such endeavors come in implementation of the initiative of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, themed: Green Economy for a Sustainable Development. The plan has six drivers namely: Green Energy, Government Policies, Green City, Coping with the effects of climatic change, Green life, and technology & Green Technology," explained Al Tayer.

HE Frode Mouring, Resident Representative of the UN

Al Tayer stresses RTA's keenness on The safety of bus riders

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) stressed keenness on the safety of public transport riders in Dubai, considering it of paramount importance in RTA's strategic vision "Safe & Smooth Transport for All". "Public buses are highly popular amongst commuters, and are a crucial transit mode in the daily mobility across Dubai.

Al Tayer made this statement during a recent visit to Al Awir Bus Depot during which he reviewed a host of creative initiatives including the mystery instructor aimed at monitoring any violations undermining the safety of riders. Initiatives also included an inspection of the optical scanner fitted to buses to detect any potential or actual faults and pinpoint them without human intervention to maintain the safety & security of bus operations.

During the visit, Al Tayer attended a briefing by the CEO of Public Transport Agency Abdullah Yousef Al Ali and directors at the Agency, about the simulator used for training bus drivers. The device is aimed at curbing accidents and the cost of training drivers on professional driving. He also visited the recycling workshop for reprocessing spare parts of scrapped buses.

He also visited Drivers Affairs Department where he heard

Development Program, expressed his delight with the meeting, sharing information and exchanging viewpoints between the UNDP and RTA in Dubai. Over the past three years, RTA has accomplished 45 projects and initiatives related to energy and green economy. It introduced the highest standards of Green Buildings aligned with the highest global standards.

It also seeks to replace all streetlights with lights using LED technology by 2030, which will reduce the carbon footprint by more than 3000 tons of carbon per annum.

RTA has also piloted the operation of a bus powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), and another project for measuring the carbon footprint of vehicles in Dubai. In 2008, RTA had successfully launched the trial run of environment-friendly hybrid vehicles, and efforts are underway to beef up the hybrid vehicles fleet to as much as 50% by



2021. These vehicles are characterized by carbon emissions as low as 43% compared to other vehicles, according to experiments made by RTA. In keeping with the government drive to bring happiness to people, RTA has launched the Smart Phone Service, which has played a pivotal role in conserving the environment as the customer saves about 28 km per transaction processed through smart apps or online that translates into reducing carbon footprint by 10 KG per transaction.

the results of drivers training and the extent of hitting targets. He also reviewed the accident rates per 100 thousand km in comparative studies compiled from 2012 to 2016. He also reviewed a comparison of electronic & paper transactions where the proportion of paper transactions plummeted from 87% in 2014 to 16% in 2016, i.e. electronic transactions leapfrogged from 13% in 2014 to 84% in 2016.

Al Tayer visited the Operation Room where he attended to a comparative study of ridership between 2015 and the first half of 2016 in terms of targets & achievements. Al Tayer and the team then boarded a CNG-powered bus in a tour



of the external yard of the station. He reviewed the trial operation of the bus, which is one of the Green Economy initiatives and deployed in a route from Deira City Center to Al Nahda 1 for 12 months. The route was selected in view of its proximity to Al Qusais Station in order to enable smooth refueling of the bus when needed.

DIPMF on 22nd of current October

Bill McDermott as keynote speaker

منتدى دبي العالمي
لإدارة المشاريع
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL
PROJECT MANAGEMENT FORUM



The Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) announced that Bill McDermott, CEO of SAP SE, would be the keynote speaker at the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) to take place on 22nd – 25th of current October 2016 under the theme: Shaping the Future.

The Forum is held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, and is organized by RTA in collaboration with DEWA, Emaar Properties, and the PMI.

“The Organizing Committee of DIPMF has selected Bill McDermott, CEO & Board Member of SAP SE, in view of the broad reputation & huge respect accorded to his leadership skills and customers centricity. Mr. McDermott makes continuous endeavours to realize the vision & strategy of SAP towards improving the business nature & quality of life worldwide,” HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA. Based in Walldorf, Germany, SAP is one of the leading

business software firms worldwide and its key product branded Mysap is an enterprise Resource Planning software expanded to incorporate e-commerce, thus enabling linking corporate transactions comprising purchase orders, invoices. The system serves more than 38 businesses in more than 120 countries.

Bill has more than three decades of experience in business technology under his belt. He has steadily risen to his current role as chief executive officer. Before joining SAP, he served in senior executive roles with Siebel Systems and Gartner, Inc. He launched his business career at Xerox Corporation. Bill joined SAP SE in 2002 and currently leads the company, which has more than 87 thousand employees and more than two million clients in a business setup that includes



Opening DIPMF 2015 (archive).



Mattar Al Tayer



Saeed Al Tayer



Mohamed Al Abbar

Attendees include ministers & presidents of businesses, international organizations

strategic partners aimed to realize the vision of SAP towards improving the job nature. A personal champion of customer centricity, Bill is credited with leading the reinvention of SAP in the era of mobility, cloud computing, advanced analytics, next-generation business applications and in-memory technology. This innovation-led strategy has resulted in expansive increases in customers, total revenue. Bill ranked #2 on www.glassdoor.com listing of the world's top 50 CEOs in 2013.

Bill is a regular speaker in topics related to leadership. In 2014, he was the keynote speaker of Leadercast, an organization focused on developing leaders to follow. In addition to SAP, Bill serves on the Boards of Directors of Under Armour and ANSYS, Inc. He regularly contributes original content to major international publications and blogs on topics ranging from innovation to the future of business.

Speakers

The DIPMF hosts a plethora of prominent speakers including ministers, top executives of international businesses & organizations. The lineup of speakers includes H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulaziz Al Nuaimi, Environmental Advisor of Government of Ajman, H.E. Eng. Suhail Al Mazroui, UAE Minister of Energy, H.E. Dr. Thani Al-Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment. In addition to H.E. Mohamed Al Abbar, Chairman of Emaar Properties, H.E. Saeed Al-Tayer, Managing Director & CEO of Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA), and Mark Langley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Project Management Institute

(PMI). The PMI has more than 700 thousand corporate & individual members across the globe. The list of speakers also includes Dr. Harold Kerzner, Sr. Executive Director for Project Management, International Institute for Learning (IIL), James Franz, Vice President - Global Operations, Toyota Way Academy, who is also an expert in Lean Leadership, and an award-winning co-founder of Toyota Way Academy. Additionally, the DIPMF will host Ms. Ilya Espino de Marotta, Executive Vice President for Engineering and Programs Management, Panama Canal Authority, Brad Bigelow, Principal Technical Advisor, NATO, Ms. Theresa Schnider, Program Manager of IBM Project Management Center of Excellence, who is responsible for improving project management potentials for about 17 thousand project managers in one of IBM's business units. Among the speakers there will be Mr. Miguel Santana, City Administrative Officer of City of Los Angeles who directly oversees an \$8.8 billion budget. Mr. Santana boasts of more than 25 years of experience, managing numerous fiscal, legislative, political, and community issues, Trevor Jones, Vice President - Project Delivery, DHL - UK & Ireland. He is an accredited project management expert with vast experience in the entire supply chain & the European Business Unit. The other speaker is Mr. Michael Flynn, Program Director, Transport for London who has 28 years of experience in rail and energy sectors and currently oversees the new London Metro Program costing £16.5 million. Ms. Isabel Aguilera, Expert Consultant in Competitive Leadership. Manuel Gonzalez, Chief Executive Officer of Scrum Alliance.



Thani Al-Zeyoudi



Suhail Al Mazroui



Abdulaziz Al-Nuaimi



Bill McDermott

The DIPMF is set to attract more than 2000 persons and 35 speakers. The event will have four discussion panels, six parallel sessions and five specialized training courses. The DIPMF discusses a host of topics relating to project management and spotlights various types of project management practices & studies. Dubai's experience features high in the Forum as it has the right ingredients of a global success story and an example to follow not only in the region, but also worldwide. The Forum will also discuss an array of important topics highlighted by sustainable project management, academic project management, entrepreneur project management, flexible project management, youth project management, enterprise project management, leadership in multi-culture environment, maximizing project benefits, public-private partnership, talent management and mega project management.

International Forum

Through organizing the DIPMF, RTA intends to shed more light on the Emirate of Dubai as a leading player of the project management industry. Its successes in this field reflect on the adoption of the highest international standards in a series of mega projects that command huge global attention such as Burj Khalifa, Dubai Metro, Dubai Airports projects, giant ports and unique projects with iconic designs, to name a few. The successes of Dubai culminated in winning the hosting of the World Expo 2020, the largest and deeply rooted global showpiece that will have a massive economic impact directly or indirectly. Studies indicate that hosting the Expo will generate more than 277 thousand jobs in the UAE, as well as sustaining 50 thousand jobs in the surrounding region extending from south Asia to Arab countries. During its 6-month duration, the Expo is expected to attract 25 million visitors 70% of them from overseas. The Expo is bound to create additional investment prospects in the region and the world over, especially in the infrastructure needed to accommodate this massive number of visitors.



Mark Langley



Harold Kerzner

DIPMF objectives

RTA through organizing DIPMF aims to spotlight the Emirate of Dubai, as a leading city in project management, because its successes in this area are crystalized in adopting the world's best criteria on implementing a series of mega projects that dragged an enormous international attention such as Burj Khalifa, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Metro, Dubai Tram, Dubai Airports and mega seaports, uniquely designed architectural projects to name few. Dubai crowned all these .successes with its winning of hosting the EXPO 2020

Launching Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management

From the Memory of DIPMF 2015

Hamdan bin Mohammed Award for Innovation in Project Management, which is worth AED2 million (USD\$550,000), targets specialists, experts, individuals, teams and institutions involved in project management, applications, and projects portfolios. The award comprises three categories; the first is Individual Category Award, amounting \$30,000 and divided into two sub-categories: Innovative Project Manager Award and Innovative Project Management Office Manager Award. Winners are selected according to innovation standards: In management: (Methodology and Tools), Innovation in Governance, and the Realization of Objectives: (laws and procedures), and Innovation in Project Team Selection Method. Individuals category along with several other areas: Benefits Realization Management, Cost & Time Management, Scope of Work, Procurement Management, Project Integration Management, Quality Management, Risk and Problems Management, Change, and Culture & Involved Parties Requirements Management.

The second category is the Innovative Team Category

Award amounting \$40,000. The winning team is selected according to knowledge transfer innovation standards: (Method and Tools), and Innovation in Communication Method: (Method and Tools), and Innovation in Using Technology. This category covers four areas, namely, Communication Management, Change, and Culture & Involved Parties Requirements Management, Risk and Problems Management and Human Resources Management.

The third category of the award is allocated the innovative ideas in institutions, with a total value of \$450,000, divided into 3 sub-categories: Innovative Idea in Project Management: (\$100,000), Innovative Idea in Programs Management: (\$150,000), Innovative Idea in Project Portfolio Management: (\$200,000). The winning ideas will be selected based on three standards, namely: innovative ideas in any of project management phases, programs, projects portfolio; innovation in management methodology and practices; and innovation in using technology.



DIPMF 2015 sessions (archive).

Al Houdh Interchange opened

The project on Shk. Mohammed bin Zayed Rd is set for opening this November

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), announced that completion rate had exceeded 85% on the construction of the Al Houdh Interchange at the intersection of Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed and Al Yalaisy Roads, including road works, lighting and utility lines. Al Tayer anticipated the completion of all project works, removal of all temporary traffic diversions at the ex Al Houdh R/A, and the full opening of the project by end of this November.





“The project comprises transforming Al Houdh R/A from a signalized junction to a flyover offering smooth traffic flow in all directions. It covers the construction of four east-west bridges along the stretch of Al Yalays Road, comprising three lanes in each direction with a total length of 600 meters. It also includes modifying the path of impacted roads to ensure integrated traffic movement in the interchange,” explained Al Tayer.

“The project also includes widening the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in a sector extending from Jebel Ali – Lehabab R/A up to the Interchange leading to Al Maktoum International Airport from three to six in each direction over a seven kilometers-long sector. RTA had completed and opened this stage for motorists last February. Work is currently underway in widening a 4 kilometers-long sector extending from Jebel Ali-Lehabab R/A northwards up to Al Houdh R/A, and is set for completion with the opening of the flyover this November.

“The project also includes constructing a service road in both directions of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road in a sector extending north-south of four kilometers in each direction from Al Khail Road interchange to Al Houdh R/A to ease the entry/exit from and to nearby areas. Completion rate on the road works, services and lighting had almost reached 90%, and these parts of the project are set for opening this October,” stated Al Tayer.

“The completion of Al Houdh Interchange Project would eliminate the traffic overlapping in the existing R/A and ensure smooth vehicular flow in all directions. Traffic would flow smoothly from Al Yalays Road to the East in the direction of the Dubai Investment Park, and to the West in the direction of the Sheikh Zayed Road and Jebel Ali Free Zone. It would also ensure smooth north-south traffic flow from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Abu Dhabi and vice versa,” added Al Tayer.

Turns at intersections of King Salman and Al Gharbi Roads re-opened

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) had re-opened the left and U-turns at the intersections of King Salman and Al Gharbi Roads at the Dubai Marina along the track of the Dubai Tram early last September. The step followed the completion of a strategic plan aimed at achieving zero accident in this vital area, and ensuring that road users had been accustomed to the existence & movement of the tram. It also came after the successful reopening of left & U-turns at the intersection of Al Sayora-King Salman Streets at the JBR last March as well as the reopening of turns at the intersections of Al Marsa-Al Sayora Streets, Al Marsa-King Salman Streets, and Al Marsa-Al Sharta Streets last June.

“We had set up a committee of RTA’s specialists where an international consultant had been appointed to draw up a comprehensive plan to realize the Tram/Roads Safety Strategy. The plan encompasses organizational procedures encapsulated in 15 strategic recommendations integrated in a 5-Year Plan covering programs, procedures and initiatives undertaken in collaboration with strategic partners with the aim of achieving zero accidents level in the operation of the Dubai Tram by 2020. Under the plan, several preventive measures have been set to eliminate potential accidents between the Tram and vehicles due to turns at

the intersection of Al Marsa-Al Gharbi Streets,” said Engineer Maitha bin Adai, CEO of RTA’s Traffic & Roads Agency. “The team overseeing the plan has developed the Tram/Roads Strategy comprising numerous Quick Wins including the signing-off of more than 100 issues related to the safety of the tram and traffic movement as part of an Action Plan. Such a plan comprises several aspects relating to engineering matters, traffic movement, operation of light signals, awareness campaigns, training, traffic enforcement measures, and coordination of technical & administrative procedures with strategic partners,” she noted.

DTC welcomes academic year 2017-2016 with smart buses

RTA’s Dubai Taxi Corporation) DTC (is all set for the new school year 2017 - 2016 through deploying a fleet of sophisticated ,smart buses equipped with state-of-the-art technologies. The initiative stems from DTC’s commitment to keep up with the Dubai Government’s drive to provide excellent & safe school transport service .Registration is now open for students to avail this school transport service at the schools under contract ,where nearly 3,000 students from eight schools have participated in this service so far.

Mohammed Al Dhuhori ,Director of DTC’s School Transport said” :DTC considers buying scores of new eco-friendly buses ,fitted with the best safety & security means. The new buses would be deployed at the beginning of the

new academic year to add up to DTC’s existing school bus fleet to meet the growing demands for transport service. The new buses are equipped with surveillance cameras connected to designated monitors at the DTC’s Control

“We have introduced a feature in the traffic light signaling system whereby all light signals will turn red once the tram approaches the junction. We have installed surveillance cameras to monitor vehicles jumping the red signals in coordination with the General Department of Traffic at the Dubai Police. We have also launched awareness campaigns in this regard and a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Dubai Police to ensure the safe use of these turns. The Dubai Tram boasts of sophisticated technologies to alert over-speeding tram drivers, and automatically reduce the speed in case of no response from the driver. There is a code of conduct applicable to tram drivers committing multiple offences posing risks to road users.”

“Among the key factors that prompted the closure of those turns was to offer a chance for motorists to acquaint



themselves with the movement of the tram in this area, and maintain the safety of tram riders as well as all road users. All road users are required to abide by traffic and driving rules, and pay attention to traffic signals to avoid serious accidents. RTA revamps its plans & strategies for roads in the Emirate in keeping with the needs of road users under its vision of providing Safe and Sooth Transport for All,” she said.

Center .These cameras can monitor students ‘movement on board including sitting and alighting from the bus .In addition ,these buses are also fitted with a GPS satellite tracking system ,which sends text messages to inform parents of bus times from and to schools or homes“.

To ensure no students remain in the bus ,DTC’s new school bus fleet is also fitted with a switch located at the rear of the bus that requires the driver to walk there to disable it ,and in turn ,observe whether students have exited the school bus.

”The online contract registration is open for new schools to avail this service using the smart app) dtc school bus ,(dialing DTC’s Customer Service Center042080555 or visiting the customer service staff at schools .These buses had been selected to conform with the world’s highest school transport service and

in implementation of the standards ,conditions & guidelines issued by the Public Transport Agency ,governing school transport service providers “,added Al Dhuhori.



Abra route expands alongside Dubai Fountain



A schematic map for public transport network

RTA's Public Transport Agency has released a newly designed map for public transport network in Dubai using the Spider Diagram technology, rendering it easy for commuters to read & track bus routes. The new map first has gone out through RTA's portals such as www.rta.ae and <http://dubai-buses.com/>

“The newly designed map was conceived in response to the needs of commuters and to make them happier through availing smooth mobility,” said Mohammed Al Ali, Director of Planning & Business Development, RTA's Public Transport Agency. “The new map is characterized by 3D diagrams of key geographical & tourist destinations in Dubai. It contains an optical feature visualizing public bus routes where each route has a distinct colour. The map makes it easy to position locations of main bus stations,

metro stations (on both the red & green lines) and feeder bus service. It also contains a dedicated list of the names of key districts in Dubai written in Arabic & English as well. “Recently, the newly designed map had been posted in all air-conditioned shelters across Dubai as well as main bus stations. 100 thousand maps had been provided in Dubai International Airport to ease the mobility of visitors, and in numerous hotels, malls and tourist hotspots,” added Al Ali.

The Roads and Transport Authority) RTA (announced the expansion of the Abra service on Dubai Fountain Lake by launching the Burj Plaza Station ,which will enable more visitors to view the Dubai Fountain shows .Work is in progress to launch a new station for residents of The Palace Hotel.

”Launching Burj Plaza Station for electric abra aims to attract more riders to the abra by providing a superb platform offering them a panoramic view of the fascinating shows of the Dubai Fountain Lake at Burj Khalifa .About 478 journeys have been made from the Burj Plaza Station since launched, serving around 1,565 riders .Work is nearing completion on a new marine station to serve guests of The Palace Hotel, offering them access to a hassle-free viewing experience of the Fountain shows “,said Mansour Al Falasi ,Director of Marine Transport ,RTA’s Public Transport Agency.

”RTA’s Marine Transport Department always seeks to run initiatives aimed at impacting & orienting the culture of all community members towards using marine transit

modes .Considering the rising number of viewers of the Dubai Fountain at Burj Khalifa ,we opted to launch the Burj Plaza Station ,and at the same time mull the opening of more stations to broaden the abra service on this line “,he said.

”Abra operate from 6 pm to 11 pm during weekdays. Each abra has a capacity to accommodate 7 to 9 riders. Tickets ,which cost AED 65 per person ,are obtainable from the self-service kiosk besides each station .The Dubai Fountain Lake shows are hugely popular ,thanks to the fantastic shows and the associated optical enjoyment ;which prompts us to further expand the abra network “,reported Al Falasi.



Diverse events in celebration of Emirati Women Day

Events held under the theme: Women & Innovation

RTA Women's Committee has recently held various events in celebration of the Emirati Women's Day, launched by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood. This year's celebrations took place under the theme: 'Women & Innovation.'

"The Women's Committee has celebrated the Emirati Women's Day by holding a host of distinctive events through RTA's Auditorium. A documentary film was shown highlighting the achievements of Sheikha Fatima and her role in encouraging Emirati women to engage in all fields of professional life," said Moaza Al Marri, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communication cum Deputy Chairwoman of Women Committee, RTA. "A panel discussion was held between a number of female employees and a female leader who spoke about the scope of her work in terms of innovation & creativity in order to inspire other females to

engage in a drive of unlimited innovation, giving, excellence and national service," she continued.

"Another presentation was made highlighting the achievements of RTA's female leaders as well as the experience & skills they have gained during their professional career in order to act as a role model for other female employees. During the event, gifts and goodies bearing the logo of the event were distributed, and memberships of the Dubai Ladies Club were offered to a number of female employees in a bid to add to their happiness.

"RTA Women's Committee is keen on empowering female

'Transportation Systems' in Netherland, Germany to consolidate smart mobility

A delegation from the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently visited the Dutch capital Amsterdam, and the German city of Stuttgart to be familiarized with the experience of the two cities in smart mobility and autonomous driving. The move is part of the smart mobility strategy aimed at converting 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into self-driving journeys by 2030.

Adel Shakri, Director of RTA's Transportation Systems said, "During the visit to Amsterdam, the delegation was acquainted with the self-driving Future Bus fitted with sensors enabling automated speed control matching the approved

road speed. The speed is automatically adjusted according to the approved speed limits observed in the shuttle routes.

"The delegation also reviewed the experience of Car2go Company in smart shared car rental. The system



employees and reposing more confidence in their skills to help them take leading positions in the community, and play an active role in striking a balance between professional and family life. We pride ourselves on the support accorded by

our prudent leaders to the evolution of Emirati women, rendering them capable of playing a pioneering role in all fields, especially as regards innovation and creativity, shaping into a leading example across the region.

is available to public transport users offering them smooth mobility to and from public transport stations. The delegation was also visited the Movil company model via a smart app offering an integrated platform for all transit means. This experience can be of benefit to RTA's project of creating an integrated platform for mobility modes in the Emirate through a single app bringing together all RTA's transit services namely the metro, tram, buses, marine transit means and taxis.

"Overseas visits stem from RTA's strategy aimed at benefiting from international practices of public transport industry. Such a policy would enable the fruition of RTA's first strategic goal (Smart Dubai), second strategic goal (Integrated Dubai), and the third strategic goal (People Happiness), which all epitomize RTA's vision of Safe & Smooth Transport for All," added Shakri.



Opening registration for entries on 9th edition of DAST

The Best Media Team is a late addition to the Award categories

The Higher Organizing Committee of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST) has opened registration for entries and started the receipt of nominations from public, semi-public and private entities in the UAE for the ninth edition of the Award. Nominations can be forwarded to RTA through the link www.rta.ae/dast.



جائزة دبي للنقل المستدام
DUBAI AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Nasir Hamad Bu Shehab, CEO of Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector cum Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee of DAST, RTA, says the Committee has accomplished a number of milestones down the way of this notable award, and all systems go for staging the ninth edition of the Award. Registration in various categories of DAST can be made in simple steps through the Award's website www.rta.ae/dast that saves much time & effort. The step consolidates the Smart Government practices advocated by the Dubai Government to facilitate all transactions for corporate & individual customers, and contributes to the sustained efforts to make them happy.

"In keeping with its strategic partnership with various media organizations in the UAE and in recognition of the vital role played by mass media in diffusing the culture of sustainable transport amongst community members, RTA had added a new category to the Special Categories of the Award starting from this ninth edition. This new award is the Best Media Team award to run side by side with the Best Media Person award, which is already in place. The assessment of bids for the Best Media Person award entails screening the media coverage focused on contents educating the public about the importance of sustainable transport concept. Due consideration will be given to the implementation of the highest media ethics adopted in handling innovative ideas relating to sustainable transport provided by individuals and organizations in terms of accuracy, transparency, objectivity and reliability besides linking their impacts directly with the public needs in this regard. A sufficient space had to be allocated

to photos published in mass media supported by statistics in this field in addition to employing website contents to showcase the concept of sustainable transport," explained Bu Shehab.

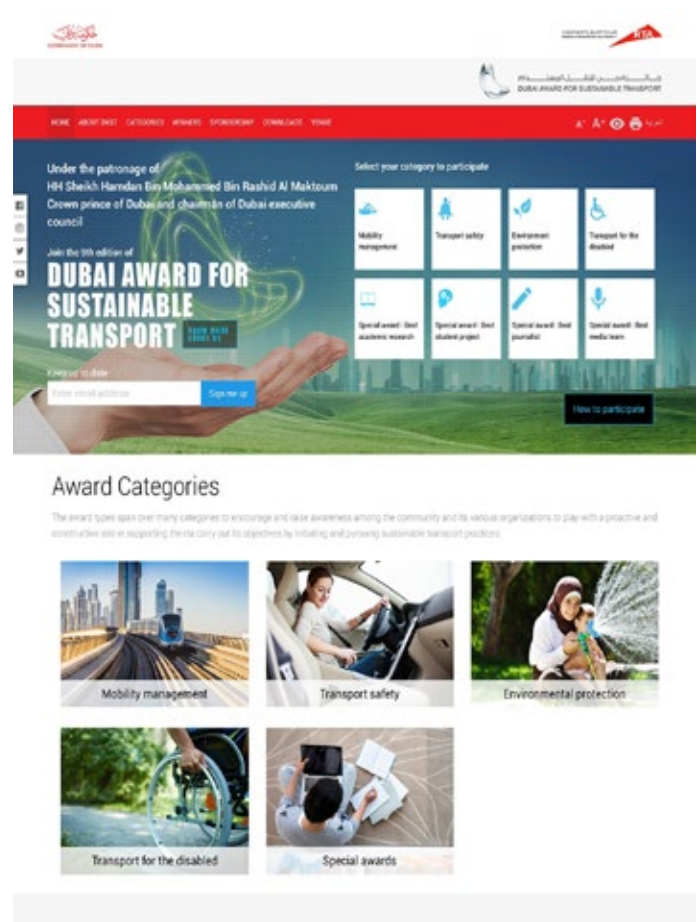
Commenting on the Best Media Team, Bu Shehab said, "Nominations would be assessed on the bases of support provided by the Media Team towards publishing news & interviews relating to enhancing sustainable transport. The Media Team has to concentrate on quality & glitzy media coverage made via various media platforms.

"From inception, DAST Higher Organizing Committee has been endeavouring to raise the bar of its business processes in keeping with the massive upswing seen by RTA's projects & initiatives. It also seeks to broaden the scope of participation in the Award by enticing the largest possible number of public & semi-public entities as well as private businesses in the UAE to contribute to leveraging the sustainable development drive in the UAE, side by side with RTA's efforts in this field.

"DAST is viewed as a practical manifestation of RTA's strategy geared towards enhancing its vision of providing Safe and Smooth Transport for All in keeping with the ongoing development in the Emirate of Dubai spanning business, economic, tourist and real estate sectors among others," he added. The Higher Organizing Committee of DAST urges the business community of the UAE, comprising government, semi-government entities and private organizations, to expedite the submission of bids.

DAST has main and special categories. Main categories

comprise four awards; the first is Mobility Management, which focuses on applied practices & initiatives that contribute to raising the efficiency of using various types of mass transit systems. The second is Transport Safety, which is concerned with practices & initiatives that contribute to raising the security & safety levels of commuters. The third is Environmental Protection, which is devoted to practices & initiatives capable of reducing the negative impact of transit systems on the environment. The fourth is Transport for the Disabled. The special categories comprise four awards as well; the first is the Best Academic Research for researchers as well as all community members compiling the best research on sustainable transport, if the established stipulations of the scientific research have to be complied with. The second is the Best Student Project; which relates to a project developed by students in various educational institutions across the UAE in the field of sustainable transport. The third is the Best Journalist; which targets members of media who made the best media coverage of sustainable transport nation-wide. The fourth is the Best Media Team; which aims at identifying the best media coverage of sustainable transport across the nation.



Workshop on governance in boosting transparency

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently held an induction workshop in collaboration with the consultant Protiviti Inc. about ways & means of consolidating the concept of corporate governance. The workshop is part of RTA's efforts to stress to employees the importance of this concept in driving corporate advancement, and adopting the best global standards of the industry.

The workshop, which included a comprehensive presentation about corporate governance and key underlying principles, attracted directors and managers from various RTA's agencies & sectors. Nasser Bu Shehab, CEO of RTA's Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector said, "holding this workshop is part of RTA's efforts to educate staff and other personnel in connection with this field. The workshop delivered by the consultant Protiviti Inc. highlighted the importance of corporate governance in consolidating the principle of transparency & accountability in order to leverage the government performance and the development drive.

"The workshop tackled some aspects impacting policies of boards of mega businesses such as technological risks, fluctuat-

ing global economic conditions, most common global systems, and the extent of implementation of this concept amongst GCC countries. Issues discussed also included revamping the corporate leadership practices in support of corporate governance (such as establishing a risk management model, developing anti-fraudulence programs, improving practices of monitoring of compliance, sustained development, and governance-centric policies). It also covered roles & responsibilities of Boards of businesses contributing to the role of corporate governance (such as strategic planning, performance management, policies & procedures, internal audit, quality assessment, external audit, risks management and disclosure).

Accessible Environment for Persons with Disabilities Project tests samples of urban structures to identify gaps

Key gaps include multiple benchmarks, lack of qualified cadres

The joint team overseeing the Accessible Environment for Persons with Disabilities Project has successfully completed Phase I of the project. This Project is undertaken in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Executive Council of Dubai Government, Community Development Authority) CDA, (Roads and Transport Authority) RTA, (Dubai Municipality, public & federal entities, key real estate developers in the emirate as well as scores of people with disabilities and other concerned parties.

The Team has examined & analyzed the current situation, identified & overcome obstacles in the way of achieving the best results towards providing disability accessible environment in the emirate, in a way that realizes Dubai's vision of becoming a disability-friendly city by 2020. The project also aims at promoting the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, entitled "My Community ... A City for Everyone." This project is one of the key deliverables of the Dubai Disability Strategy, launched by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Yousef Al Reda, CEO of RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, Head of the Joint Team overseeing the Transformation of Dubai into a Disability-friendly City Project, said, "The team had finalized the assessment of the current situation, identified gaps through field visits, conducted extensive interviews with the concerned parties in various sectors, and studied & analyzed all relevant legislations. Tasks have been assigned to two teams; the first is specialized in supervising the urban environment including buildings & facilities along with their surroundings, gaps,



open areas, roads & sidewalks, parking, and crossings in the surrounds."

"The team had conducted field inspection visits to a variety of urban structures including mosques, hospitals, sports facilities, schools, residential buildings, customer service



centers, parks and hotels among other vital facilities in the emirate to ensure that such buildings & facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. The second team, which is responsible for transportation, examined the availability of necessary specifications for the disabled people in taxis, public buses, school buses, trains, and marine transit modes,” added Al Reda

“Interviews have been conducted with specialists across disability-friendly environment at government & semi-government entities, private sector institutions, and a large number of people with various impairments to screen their views & experiences in Dubai, in terms of readiness of the urban environment & transit modes to meet their needs & aspirations.

The team examined all legislations & laws related to the disabled as provided for in the Federal Law No. 29/2006, and the Local Order No. 2/2014. The team conducted benchmark studies with relevant laws & regulations in Germany, United States, France, Canada, Spain, Saudi Arabia, England and Singapore in terms of urban environment and transport sector for people with disabilities. These benchmark studies covered codes, specifications and standards relating to the accessible environment,” continued Al Reda. “As a first step, some gaps had been identified before starting the upcoming phases of the project. These gaps

are highlighted by the existence of multi specifications & benchmarks used in designing & building the accessible environment for persons with disabilities in Dubai. The team has also identified a significant shortage of technical personnel specialized in this environment & applications, and spotted an inaccurate practical implementation of stipulations set forth in legislations & laws. It has been recommended initially to revise the executive regulations of these legislations, laws and standards at the emirate’s level to render Dubai a model to be emulated regionally and globally in terms of accessibility, and the design of an urban environment & transport modes for the disabled,” elaborated Al Reda.

Two workshops have been held of late as part of the Accessible Environment for Persons with Disability project to discuss the disability-customized design of urban environment and public facilities. The workshops were part of several phases intended to develop appropriate policies & standards for people with disabilities. Thus, they will pave the way for charting out the Dubai Strategy for Accessible Environment for Persons with Disabilities through which all buildings, facilities, installations and means of transport will be customized for the use of all, including people with disabilities by 2020, thus ranking Dubai among the best disabled friendly cities worldwide.