

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 129 March 2019



Mohammed bin Rashid and Hamdan bin Mohammed ride the future with Sky Pods

Vision Mission

Vision

Safe and Smooth Transport for All

Mission

Develop and Manage integrated and sustainable Roads and transportation systems at a world-class level, and provide pioneered services to all.

Stakeholders for their happiness, and support Dubai's vision through Shaping the future, preparing policies and legislations, adopting.

Technologies and innovations, and implementing world-class practices and Standards.



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

Future Mobility

“We are a country fond of the future; which is the key secret of our success. Our government is a ‘Future Government.’ ”

These are the words of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who never reconciles with something short of the First Position

Groundbreaking events coupled with technological and industrial breakthroughs triggered by the 4th Industrial Revolution, and the sprawling demographic growth seen by major metropolis along with the associated snarls, have prompted town planning executives and transport service providers to whip up solutions to beat such challenges.

Since most cosmopolitan cities view Dubai as a city of the future, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced the Dubai Autonomous Transportation Strategy aimed at switching 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into autonomous journeys by 2030.

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, has set up seven core principles for future cities namely urban design, mobility, livelihood, resource utilization, urban competitiveness, urban economies, and governance. As part of its efforts to envision the future, RTA had developed structures for monitoring and analysing local and international future trends, examining various scenarios, and undertaking future autonomous transport projects. RTA is currently working on trial runs of a 10-seater autonomous vehicle, 2-seater autonomous aerial vehicle, smart sky pods, and the first autonomous taxi in the region.

Recently, RTA announced an initiative for Sky Pods running on suspended rails and commissioned several projects in the field of shared mobility. It had also capitalised on artificial intelligence technology and big data to improve transit services and introduce new business models with the private sector to encourage research and development.

The 4th Industrial Revolution aims at developing artificial intelligence systems capable of making smart decisions by benefiting from big data and massive computing abilities. RTA has unleashed a package of artificial intelligence projects highlighted by the Enterprise Command and Control Centre that handles about 75 million information per day.

Work is currently underway in establishing the New Traffic Control Centre; which will be operational in the mid of 2020, i.e. before the start of Expo 2020. The centre will use Artificial intelligence to achieve three objectives. The first is supporting mega-events like Expo 2020. The second is anticipating and managing traffic movement, preparing quick response plans, and making instant decisions. The third is monitoring incidents and emergencies and reducing the response time.

The government sector is required to tackle the fast changes and focus on new roles like anticipating the future, complying with governance and legislation principles, boosting the relationship with the private sector, developing structures befitting the future, and encouraging research and development.

There is a pressing need for coordinated efforts of all stakeholders to develop future scenarios in support of taking correct decisions that serve the future of Dubai. We also need to develop special tools for tracking future trends and charting out proper business plans. We also need to transform the basics of town planning and the planning the infrastructure of roads and transport to measure up to future needs.

GENERAL SUPERVISOR
Rowdah.AIMehrzi

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AlMoatasem Belah Mohammed

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Mohammed Al Munji

EDITING MANAGER
Nashwan Mahmood
Inas Nabil Souleiman

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sahir Babu
Khaled Obeid

DESIGN & MARKETING

SPOTLIGHT
www.spotlightuae.net

Art Director
Said Mansour

CONTACT US
P.O.Box: 118899 Dubai,U.A.E
Tel : +971 4 2902638
Fax: +971 4 2903933
almasar@rta.ae
www.rta.ae

CONTENT

06 Mohammed bin Rashid and Hamdan bin Mohammed ride the future with Sky Pods



Our news

- 14 Volunteers platform launched in support of Expo 2020
- 14 Expo Road links Jebel Ali-Lehbab
- 15 Cooperation with Indian organisations discussed
- 16 New Dubai Taxi Control Centre opened
- 17 Al Tayer briefs ICAO President on Air Taxi
- 19 Traffic safety and transport security stepped up
- 18 Al Tayer briefs Singaporean delegation on smart mobility projects

Achievements

- 20 83% of Phase II of Ras Al Khor Street Improvement Project completed
- 21 Successful testing completed for rRoute 2020 fare collection gates and central system software

Reciprocal Ads Initiative

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.





06

Achievements

- 22 Gulf Traffic Congress regional award goes to RTA
- 23 British Safety Council awards RTA's safety practices
- 24 RTA becomes the first government entity to obtain ISO in Facility Management
- 25 Clean energy generated from parking lot at RTA's Head Office
- 26 Audit achieves highest governance standards
- 27 RTA leads the way in applying Maximo to Transportation
- 27 Drivers Training Programmes obtain Spanish Certification

Services

- 28 New international bus route opened between Dubai and Muscat
- 28 Dubai Commercial Bank offers easy payment to RTA clients
- 29 Six new bus routes opened

Numbers

- 30 12 million taxi bookings handled last year
- 31 2 million calls received by Call Centre

Activities

- 32 Indicators, initiatives aligned with the 8 Principles and 50-Year Charter
- 36 2nd Tamkeen with the RTA graduates honoured
- 37 Transport Excellence Centre holds activities & events
- 39 MoU to upgrade procurement & supply practices
- 38 2nd Awareness Gathering reviews scholarship programme

Strategic Map For AlMasar Magazine Team

Vision

The Pioneer Government Magazine in Dubai

Mission

To work in the spirit of team in presenting achievements, enhance Success, and document roles of RTA.

Core Values

Transparency & Credibility
Corporate Reputation
Excellence
Spirit of Team
knowledge Sharing



Almasar Application is available on Apple store &

Google play by name: **almasar magazine**



Mohammed bin Rashid and Hamdan bin Mohammed ride the future with Sky Pods

H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, described the World Government Summit as a bridge to the future. HH was proud of the immense participation and the solid trend of governmental transformation for the betterment of communities.

Reflecting on the 7th World Government Summit (10 – 12 Feb, Dubai) H.H tweeted, “Meetings, experiences, lectures, future initiatives, the future is part of the summit. The summit is the bridge to the future, proud of the immense participation and the solid trend of governmental transformation for the betterment of communities”.

Mohammed bin Rashid reviews Sky Pods H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, reviewed two models of

the Sky Pods, a mobility system being tested by Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in conjunction with Skyway Greentech Co. The Sky Pods form part of the RTA’s initiatives aimed at addressing the future of Dubai’s mobility needs.

H.H inspected the Sky Pods on the sidelines of the World Government Summit in the presence of H.H Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince, Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dubai Future Foundation.



H.H attended a briefing by H.E Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA about the Sky Pod models. The system occupies considerably less area than conventional systems of the same capacity. It is also characterised by higher power efficiency as it uses five times less power than electric vehicles.

The first model of the Sky Pods is the Unibike; which is characterised by its small size and lightweight. It moves on steel wheels on a hanging railway. It combines the features of a high-performance electric vehicle with recreational features. It is fitted with electric systems for driving the pod. It can be

fitted with a power generator such as the Bicycle Dynamo, and as such it can be driven by the body mass of passengers on board. It can accommodate two riders and travel at a speed of up to 150 km/h.

The second model of the Sky Pods is the Unicar. Designed for long-haul journeys, it features a design compatible with the urban setting and international standards of Dubai. These ultra-modern innovative systems have the potential of enhancing smooth mobility through the construction of an elevated network connecting high-rise buildings. Each pod has a capacity of four to six seated riders and can travel at a speed of 150 km/h.

“The Sky Pods initiative is part of RTA’s efforts to provide autonomous transport, one of the key aims of the Dubai Autonomous Transportation Strategy aimed at converting 25% of total journeys in Dubai into autonomous journeys on various transit means by 2030. It is also part of RTA’s efforts to enhance the integration of public transit means, and offer solutions for short journeys (first and last mile) enabling public transport users to reach their final destinations,” concluded Al Tayer.



Hamdan bin Mohammed: Dubai encapsulates the world in a city

In presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Crown Prince of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum delivered a session at the World Government Summit on the seven major transformations that will take place in the cities of the world. These include urban design, mobility, livelihood, resource utilisation, urban competitiveness, urban economies and governance. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Lt General His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and a number of Sheikhs and senior officials attended the session.

Addressing the audience at the World Government Summit via 3D hologram technology, Sheikh Hamdan said “Cities are the foundation of global economic development and the convergence of cultures and ideas. Measuring the development of cities depends on the quality of life and the journey towards the future provides us with passion and energy to achieve greater goals. Countries are a bunch of cities.”

He added, “Furthermore, the future is intimately related to the city of Dubai. Many of the world cities look at Dubai being a city of the future. But the future is not just about technology, it is about the potential of the human being, innovative ideas and tolerance. “HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has set for us a standing objective of placing Dubai at least ten years ahead of other global cities (10X), and launched it during a previous edition of the World Government Summit. To achieve this objective, we need to study how future cities will shape and endeavour to draw a clear roadmap for this stage,” he added.

Urban Design

There are seven shifts or driving principles that global cities have to undergo over the next years. We have to be prepared to capitalise on the opportunities that will unfold. The first pillar is a drastic evolution of town planning.



Mobility

The second pillar is the means of urban mobility. Mobility is one of the defining principles of the quality of living and accessibility in cities. It has a direct implication on the happiness of people. Moovit Public Transit Index indicates that the average transit time taken by a person from the place of residence to the workplace is 60 minutes per day, though may exceed two hours in some cities.

Congestion and difficult mobility cause a drop in people happiness. West of England University found that each 20 minutes delay in transport would cause a drop in people happiness like-wise a 19% drop in salary.

To beat the traffic congestion, and delays associated with urban mobility, future cities have to focus on innovative routes in air or underground. Over the past four years, global investments in autonomous transport exceeded 80 billion dollars. However, the challenge rests on setting an infrastructure for the operation of autonomous transit systems. Cities have to invest in developing their infrastructure and engage their roads & infrastructure engineers with companies operating in these futuristic fields.

Lifestyle

The third pillar relates to the lifestyle in cities in view of the growing role of artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality in the life of people. Electricity was the backbone of cities in the 20th century that enabled the emergence of machines and automation of human efforts during the sec-

ond industrial revolution, but the new electricity of cities in the 21st century is the artificial intelligence.

Resource Utilisation

The fourth pillar is the transformation of the way of utilising resources in cities. If technology changes our urban lifestyles, it will change the way we use resources, rendering the process more efficient and environmental-friendly.



Urban Competitiveness

The fifth pillar is the change in the concept of city competitiveness and how to compete globally. The future of global cities will open platforms for the communication of minds, evolution of ideas and innovation.

Urban economies

“The sixth pillar is the transformation in the economies of cities. The sweeping technology advancement generates opportunities enabling economic sectors to flourish and new jobs to appear; which will be the base for future wealth.

Governance “The seventh and last pillar is the transformation of governance, legislation and government business. There will be no viable living model in future cities without governance and resilient leadership. Accordingly, city leadership changes from the offering of solutions and services to residents to enabling the design of these solutions in partnership with the private sector and the community.

“Preparation for the future is not just a plan to draw up. It is rather a mindset and business culture to adopt throughout our life. I wish you a pleasant day and a promising future,” concluded Sheikh Hamdan.

The Seven Shifts shape the roadmap to make Dubai Number 1. Officials have confirmed that the key seven principles of the future cities set by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, at the World Government Summit give

a full image of cities of the future, and serve as a roadmap & a solid plan both locally internationally.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said: “The seven shifts of future cities announced by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, serve as a roadmap for all sectors in Dubai for a comprehensive transformation to the smart future city that realizes the happiness of inhabitants. The seven shifts also materialise the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to make Dubai the top-ranked city in the world.”

«Innovation and future envisioning have become a global demand for countries with robust economies, as these factors are the prime movers of economic growth and key elements in building an integrated, sustainable, technology, information and knowledge-based economy.

“The RTA is keen to keep pace with the rapid changes in autonomous mobility and is currently commissioning trial tests on a ten-passenger autonomous electric vehicle with high safety features, as well as a two-seater autonomous air vehicle, connected smart vehicles, and the first autonomous taxi in the region. It is also reviewing the suspended Sky Pods.

“The RTA has also established the Enterprise Command and



Al Tayar made this statement at a session during the World Government Summit 2019 entitled: The Future of Mobility in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"We, in the UAE, are privileged by the futuristic vision of our leaders HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and

Control Center for Transport and Road Systems, which handles approximately 75 million information per day, and processes 615 million items per day. Work is underway to establish a sophisticated smart traffic control centre to be operational in mid-2020 before Expo 2020. These projects and initiatives will support the efforts of Dubai Government to implement the seven shifts of future cities," continued Al Tayar.

Al Tayar speaks at a session during the World Government Summit 2019 on the Future of Mobility in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Shaping the future, leveraging relationship with the private sector, and encouraging research & development are key governing roles in future

Autonomous & shared mobility, sustainable transport and artificial intelligence are key drivers of transport in future

HE Mattar Al Tayar, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), stated that the UAE had committed all its resources to cope with the technological & industrial breakthrough. "The country had launched the UAE's Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy; which is based on benefiting from nanotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI), smart devices and digital transactions in all fields. In the mobility field, it seeks to provide autonomous air, land, and marine transit modes fully managed by AI systems. Dubai has recently established the Emirates Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution to improve on the business plans & applications, and enhance the governance of relevant technologies," he said.

Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. Our leaders have made an early start in anticipating & shaping the future. It is no wonder that UAE has been the home of the world's longest driverless metro line since 2009; with ridership clocking one billion by the end of 2017," said Al Tayar.

Shaping the Future

As part of its efforts to envision and shape the future, RTA has developed systems for monitoring and analysing the local & global future trends to study various scenarios.

"In 2016, Dubai's Government launched a fully-fledged autonomous mobility strategy in the field of autonomous mobility aimed at transforming 25% of the total transportation in Dubai to autonomous modes by 2030. The current share of autonomous modes is 9%.

In the field of AI, the Fourth Industrial Revolution seeks to develop AI systems capable of taking autonomous smart decisions based on Big Data and high computing skills. For instance, RTA's Enterprise Command & Control Centre (EC3) deals with 75 million information per day, and the Decision Support Centre handles about 615 million information per day. RTA has launched a package of AI projects highlighted by the Traffic Control System; which will be operational in the mid of 2020 (before the launch of Expo 2020). The centre uses AI to achieve three objectives: the first is to support mega-events (such as Expo 2020). The second is to forecast & manage the traffic movement, prepare quick response plans and take re-

al-time decisions. The third is monitoring accidents, detecting emergencies and reducing the time of handling them.

As for shared transport, RTA has charted out the 'Shared Mobility Plan 2030' covering the introduction and deployment of transit means for the 'First and Last mile' and boosting the integration with public transit means.

By the end of 2017, RTA launched the S'Hail System; offering a platform encompassing all transport systems in the Emirate. The system has so far been used in about 850 thousand journeys. In 2017, RTA rolled out a car-sharing initiative involving the deployment of about 400 vehicles for the time being, and the number is set to rise to 1400 shared cars by 2030.

RTA has also introduced the mini 'Bus on Demand service' covering two districts in Dubai. The plan envisages increasing the number of districts to 12 by 2030. RTA is currently working on procedures for the introduction of a Peer-to-Peer model, enabling the sharing of private vehicles.

"RTA's initiatives in the field of sustainable transport systems have contributed to reducing fuel consumption by 285 million liters per annum, and cutting carbon pollutants by 50 thousand tons per annum," he elaborated.

Future Government

Al Tayer recapped the future roles of government sectors in keeping pace with the accelerating developments in five key areas: Anticipating the future, governance & legislation, improving the relationship with the private sector, upgrading the business systems to cope with future needs, and encouraging research, trials and development.

At an early stage, the UAE had launched its Future Foresight Strategy. At the local level, the Dubai Government has launched several initiatives such as the Dubai Future Councils comprising 13 councils aimed at drawing up the future and turning successful ideas into a reality, including the Dubai Future Council for Transportation.

"RTA has launched several initiatives as part of the Dubai 10X such as the City Gate Airports to ease the check-in formalities for riders from various districts of Dubai and the Smarter Vehicles ... Quicker Response using AI to reduce the response time for emergencies. It has also kicked off the Sustainable and Innovative Roads initiative for developing a portfolio of integrated power production projects in addition to other projects undertaken with start-ups covering future accelerators,



such as the Connected Smart Mobility Units.

"The big changes in the roles of government & private sectors warrant enacting legislation that serve two basic objectives, i.e. protecting safety, security and privacy; and streamlining the relationship with the private sector with reference to the testing and operation of technology and introducing new models.

"Hence, RTA announced the launch of the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle and is currently cooperating with the General Civil Aviation Authority and the Dubai Aviation Authority to enact the legislation needed for the operation of this vehicle in Dubai.

"RTA has also streamlined its relationship with e-Hail companies (Uber and Careem) since 2016. The relationship has culminated in a strategic partnership with Careem for running taxi services using the same e-Hail services. The new company will be launched in April 2019.

"As for boosting the relationship with the private sector, RTA has enhanced its involvement with Khalifa University and Dubai University for developing robotic and autonomous driving systems. It has also forged an agreement with Du for the provision of free internet service in ten thousand taxis. Currently, RTA is cooperating with global firms to activate the use of the nol card as a means of payment for public facilities and stores, rendering it part of our lifestyles," explained Al Tayer.

Government Systems

"There is a need to upgrade the government systems to align them with future developments, such as the revision of the principles of town planning and the transport infrastructure to make them responsive to future needs. There is also a need to

improve the techniques of identifying customer needs and expectations and measuring their satisfaction level. For instance, RTA uses AI technologies to measure the happiness level of 35 thousand clients. It also uses the data of the EC3 to manage the movement of taxis and limousines.

“It is imperative to encourage research, trials and development to keep pace with the fast changes in place. Accordingly, RTA launched the Dubai World Challenge for Self-Driving Transport in 2018. It is the first contest of its kind worldwide in support of research & development. In October 2019, RTA will

hold the Dubai World Congress for Self-Driving Transport; the first of its kind held by a government entity. RTA is also mulling the launch of the Smart Mobility Lab; the world’s first lab including a site dedicated to making trials of aerial and land autonomous transport,” explained Al Tayer.

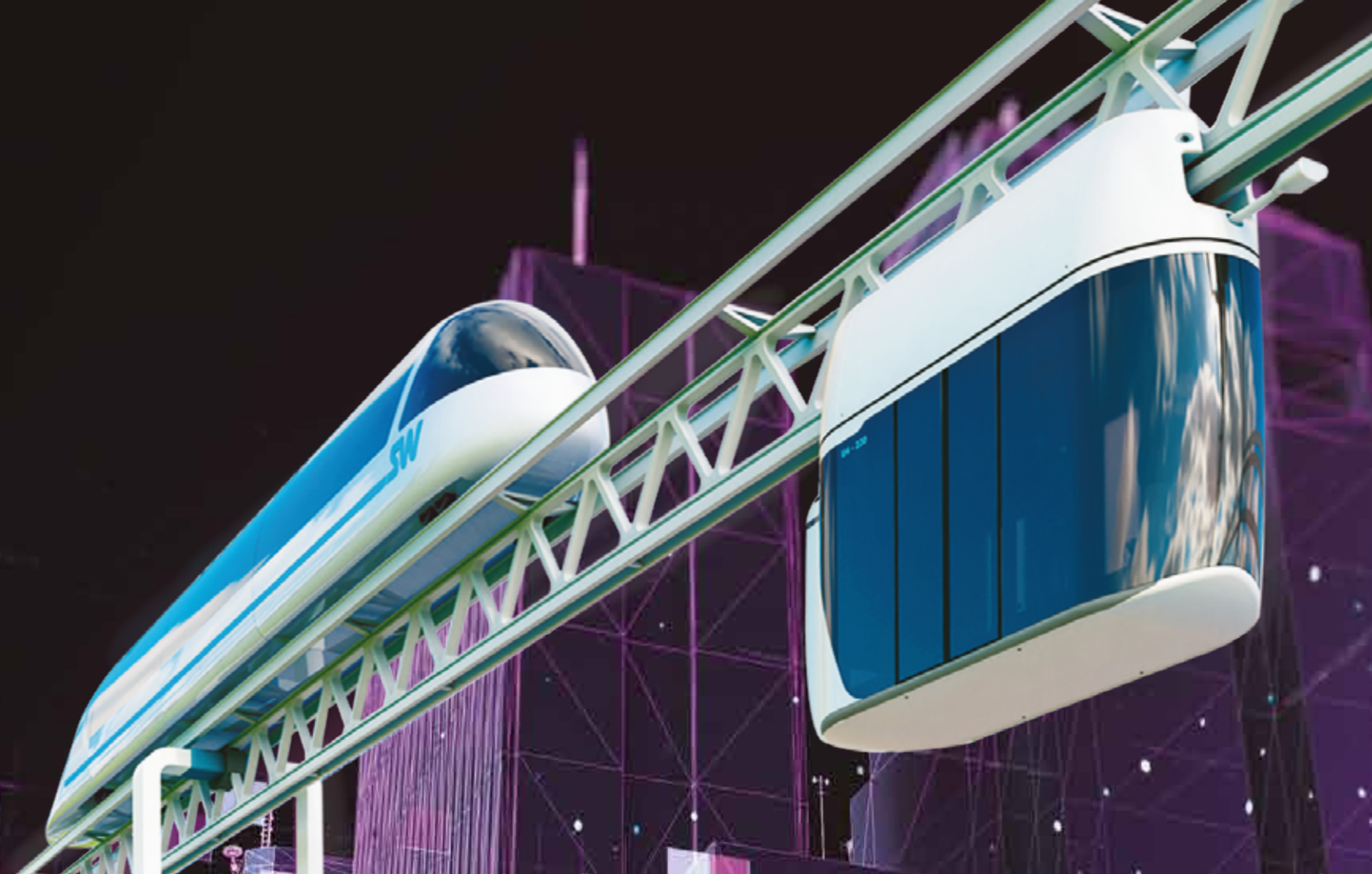
Closing his speech, Al Tayer was optimistic about the future of the transport sector across the world. “We are under no illusion that the future developments and challenges of transport will be immense. Yet, we are getting prepared to cope with them,” he concluded.



Al Tayer receives top officials

On the sidelines of the 2019 World Government Summit, HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, received scores of top officials including Bruno Le Maire, Minister of the French Economy and Finance and discussed ways to promoting relations and sharing experiences. The French Economy Minister visited the Enterprise Command and Control Center, where he was briefed about the facilities, equipment and systems in place. Al Tayer also met Gérard Collomb, the Mayor of the French city of Lyon, and shared ideas about how to cement bilateral ties and exchange experiences.

Al Tayer also received Dr. Nicola Yates, CEO of Future Cities Catapult, and discussed ways of fostering cooperation in smart mobility. He also received Michael Froman, Vice Chairman and Head of Strategic Growth at MasterCard. They explored ways of promoting cooperation to support RTA's initiatives relating to smart services.



Making a mark on mobility's future

RTA is driven to move to 25% autonomous transportation by 2030. By using smart technology, artificial intelligence and a world-class integrated road and transportation system, RTA is moving towards a smarter and well-connected tomorrow.

Smart Mobility Partner at World Government Summit 2019

RTA. We keep Dubai moving.

8009090 rta.ae



RTA opens employees volunteering platform in support of Expo 2020 Dubai

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched a volunteering platform in support of Expo 2020 Dubai. Over two days, RTA hosted the Expo 2020 Volunteers team, which held several events and workshops at RTA's Head Office.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA attended the event. Attendees also included Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ali, Executive Director, Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau as well as CEOs, Directors and Managers of RTA. The event is part of RTA's efforts to encourage employees to make an effective contribution to this exceptional national event. Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ali said: "The RTA is one of the strongest supporters of Expo 2020 Dubai and is putting in place the infrastructure that will transport thousands of people to and from the site every day. We are thrilled with the enthusiasm of RTA's employees in being part of this national event and registering for the Expo 2020 Volunteers programme."

"The workshops are aimed at nurturing the Emirati culture, and

its customs and traditions, to enable volunteers to showcase the UAE to millions of visitors from around the world. Volunteers are the faces of Expo 2020, and by extension, the UAE, and will help demonstrate UAE's ability to host and deliver successful world-class events," he added.

Launching a platform for employees interested in registering as volunteers for the Expo 2020 Volunteers Programme reflects RTA's commitment to supporting UAE's efforts to ensure the successful hosting of this global event; which is held for the first time in the MEASA region. The event is expected to attract 25 million visitors, with about 70% of visitors expected to come from outside the UAE. The RTA encourages employees to be part of the success story of this international showcase, and further enhance the image of UAE.

Volunteering for national events is a part of RTA's organizational culture. It offers the employees exposure to diverse expertise, enabling them to harness their abilities in support of all events. Through the workshop, the Expo 2020 Volunteers team has provided a wealth of knowledge & expertise to RTA's employees, especially in regards to how to communicate with visitors and exhibitors.



Mohammed bin Rashid orders Jebel Ali Lehabab Road to be renamed Expo Road

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has ordered Jebel Ali Lehabab Road to be renamed Expo Road.

Being held for the first time in the MENA and South-East Asia region, the World Expo will take place in Dubai from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021. The event is expected to attract about 25 million visitors, 70% of whom will come from abroad.

"Expo Road is a vital traffic corridor in the roads network of Roads & Transport Authority (RTA). It offers an alternative route for motorists heading to Jebel Ali Industrial Area and the

surrounding areas. It also serves motorists heading to or coming from Abu Dhabi without passing through the downtown area. Expo Road, which extends 15 km, serves several hotspots such as Jebel Ali Industrial Area, Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority, Dubai South and Dubai Investment Park and extends all the way to the site of Expo 2020," said HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA.

Al Tayer explores cooperation with Indian Consul in Dubai

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), received in his office HE Vipul, India's Consul General in Dubai. The meeting discussed means of boosting cooperation and exchanging expertise between RTA and Indian entities operating in the field of railways, roads and transport. The two parties also discussed the upcoming roads and infrastructure projects in Dubai.

Al Tayer praised the excellent relationships between UAE and Republic of India in economic and tourism sectors; which have yielded an increase in trade exchange between the two countries and the flow of tourists.

Al Tayer reviewed key roads and infrastructure projects currently undertaken by RTA along with public transport network in Dubai. He also highlighted RTA's efforts to improve the traffic safety level by revamping the processes of training & licensing of drivers as well as the inspection of vehicles. He also reflected on efforts made to raise the awareness of road users, be it motorists or pedestrians.

The Consul General of India in Dubai praised the upswing seen by Dubai, rendering it a focal point for investors, business leaders and tourists from all over the world. He expressed India's



hope to see the cooperation and exchange of expertise with RTA taken to the next level.

"RTA has carried out several projects to improve traffic flow on Expo Road; which starts at the Interchange of Sheikh Zayed Road and extends 15 km up to Emirates Road. Recently, RTA completed improvements of roads around Expo 2020 including widening lanes from four to six in each direction, constructing four junctions at Emirates Road, Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Road, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and Al Asayel Road. It has also constructed six bridges on service roads parallel to this corridor, in addition to a flyover of 24 bridges at the junction of Expo and Sheikh Zayed Roads (8th Interchange)," explained Al Tayer.

RTA has replaced all the 68 directional signs, including 18 large signboards.



Al Tayer inaugurates Dubai Taxi's new control centre and reviews taxi smart transformation plan

In a recent visit to the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC), HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), inaugurated the new control centre of Dubai Taxi, which covers all taxi services. He also reviewed the new corporate identity and logo scheme of the DTC that will be officially this March. Al Tayer also reviewed the smart transformation plan of DTC (2018-2020) aimed at utilising Artificial Intelligence in taxi services.

During the visit to the DTC, Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency cum Chair of DTC Supervisory Board accompanied Al Tayer. Also, in attendance were Dr Yousef Al Ali, CEO of DTC and several directors of RTA and DTC.

During the inauguration, Al Tayer was briefed about the control centre; which has been equipped with the latest technologies for monitoring and operating the taxi service. With a capacity for 11

staff per shift, the centre can manage the operation of 5,200 taxis, and 373 school buses serving 17 schools.

The centre also monitors negative practices of offensive drivers, attendance & dispersal of students and bus conductors, tracks bus movement, and controls the fleet. It also manages the operation of 505 limousines, 'Mashaweer' and 'In Safe Hands' services as well as the smart towing service. It also enables electronic surveillance of taxi movement, verifies compliance with work controls, and moves stopping and late-coming vehicles.

It enables responding to the calls of drivers and directs them to areas experiencing high demand. It also measures the daily efficiency of vehicles movement, analyses data, and acts appropriately to step up the perfor-



HE Mattar Al Tayer exhibits the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle to the President of ICAO

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), received Dr. Bernard Elio, President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The meeting took place in the presence of Captain Aysha Al Hamli, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the ICAO.

The meeting reviewed the trials conducted by the RTA on the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle as well as the operational requirements such as laws and legislation governing the operation of

Autonomous Aerial Vehicle. Discussions also covered air corridors, designing and locating the take-off & landing points and the safety of the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle.

mance level. The centre also monitors the integration with the Enterprise Command & Control Centre (EC3) systems of RTA.

Smart Transformation

Al Tayer reviewed the new corporate identity and logo of Dubai Taxi Corporation. It maintains the brand name, reduces it to three letters and integrates it in the revamped design of the DTC logo. He reviewed DTC's Smart Transformation Plan (2018-2020) based on three pillars: Clients, Drivers and Employees. As for Clients, DTC has accomplished 20 projects out of 36 projects designed to improve the services to customers and make them happier. Schools buses were fitted with devices for tracking and monitoring buses and students for added security & safety. Buses were also equipped with GPS systems, radio waves to scan identity, app, booking and students smart tracking systems. DTC has also upgraded its website to cover introductory information about services on offer and the booking of services online.

As for drivers, DTC has automated 38 out of 61 services. It had launched the drivers' stress measurement system operated via cameras fixed in the taxi's interior to focus on the driver's face only to monitor his motion and condition to detect any signs of fatigue or emergency conditions. The system sends automated alerts to the driver and cautionary signals to the control centre to assure the safety of drivers and riders.

For the employees, DTC has accomplished 20 automated projects out of 58 projects. Amongst the most important projects that have been recently completed is the taxi smart technical testing system; which has reduced the time taken in testing taxis from 40 minutes to just four minutes maximum. The system had also cut short the

number of required testing supervisors from five to one only.

Artificial Intelligence

Al Tayer also reviewed plans and projects of the smart taxi transformation including the application of artificial intelligence in serving the Airport Taxi, digital ads, and smart booking besides using hologram technology, and the smart chat for serving both employees and drivers.

Al Tayer also reviewed the new services launched by the DTC such as the royal limo. It is a deluxe vehicle fitted with display monitors, video communication with the chauffeur, internet, fridge, internal speakers, massage seats, and a USB port for charging mobile phones.

Convertible Limo

During the visit, Al Tayer also inspected the Range Rover Evoque convertible limo, which offers a unique mobility experience befitting the luxury of Dubai. This service is provided in certain areas such as Burj Khalifa, Burj Al Arab, JBR and City Walk. He also inspected the Limo Bike, which offers riders and tourists an exceptional mobility experience, especially in winter, besides providing quick mobility solutions during peak hours at high-population-density areas.

Al Tayer was delighted with the operational results, initiatives and plans of the DTC. He called for broadening the use of artificial intelligence and smart technologies in the taxi sector and improving the performance to achieve customers' happiness. Al Tayer concluded by calling for higher integration of multi-modal transit systems to ease the mobility of public transport riders to their final destinations (last mile).



Al Tayer Briefs Singaporean Delegation About RTA's Smart Mobility Projects

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has received in his office a visiting delegation from Singapore, headed by HE Lim Sim Seng, Chairman of Singapore Land Authority. The meeting discussed ways and means of boosting cooperation and exchanging expertise between RTA and Singapore Land Authority in the fields of smart mobility, smart services, and artificial intelligence (AI) as well as the upcoming roads and infrastructure projects in Dubai.

The meeting discussed projects related to smart mobility and Dubai's Autonomous Transportation Strategy aimed at transforming 25% of total mobility journeys in Dubai into driverless journeys by 2030. RTA is currently making trial runs of an electrically powered 10-seater autonomous vehi-

cle featuring high safety standards. Trials are also underway for the Autonomous Air Taxi capable of carrying two persons, autonomous mobility pods, and the first autonomous taxi in the region.

Al Tayer briefed the visiting delegation about RTA's experience

RTA Steps Up Cooperation With Dubai Police to Enhance Traffic Safety and Transport Security

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has held a coordinative meeting with HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police. The meeting was part of periodic meetings between the two parties to discuss cooperation and coordination in matters of common concern relating to the safety and security of roads and public transport in Dubai. The overall objective is to realise the strategic performance indicators & targets of the Dubai Traffic Safety Strategy 2017 – 2021.





in applying AI to projects such as Dubai Metro, and Enterprise Command and Control Center; which handles big data besides simulating & forecasting transport & crowds' movement. RTA also uses AI in smart testing of drivers and vehicles using robots, and smart scanning of parking.

HE Seng was impressed with RTA's projects and initiatives for migrating to the Smart City, rendering Dubai a smart technology model. He added that efforts were being made to boost the strategic partnership between RTA and Singaporean entities dealing in the smart mobility field.

The two parties discussed the 5-Year Traffic Safety Plan comprising four elements: monitoring & traffic enforcement, road engineering & vehicles, traffic awareness, and improvement of systems and management. Discussions also covered the strategic performance indicators and the targets of Dubai Traffic Safety Strategy 2017-2021.

Both parties were pleased with the substantial drop in traffic fatality rates from 21.9 per 100 thousand of the population in 2005 to 2.4 per 100 thousand of the population in 2018. They also reviewed the performance indicators of the trial run of the Traffic Incidents Unit, which was launched in September 2018 on a 70 km stretch of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road.

Al Tayer praised the strategic relationship between RTA and Dubai Police and stressed the importance of these periodic meetings in availing direct communication and discussion of issues of concern to both parties such as the enhancement of road traffic safety and public transport security for the benefit of citizens and residents of Dubai.

"RTA and the GHQ of Dubai Police have massive tasks and share several roles & responsibilities that serve the strategic

goals of Dubai government. Specifically, both parties share the Dubai Traffic Safety Strategy aimed at reducing traffic fatalities and the Security & Safety of Transport Strategy that serves the joint vision of 'Safe & Smooth Transport for All,'" said Al Tayer.

HE Major General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri praised the strategic partnership between the GHQ of Dubai Police and RTA that is growing by the day. "This partnership contributes to the joint business of promoting safety, security, tranquillity and happiness of citizens, residents and tourists," said Al Marri. He also hailed the efforts of the joint teams in leveraging the coordination in traffic safety and transport security in Dubai. Attendants from the Dubai Police were Major General Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, Assistant Commander-in-Chief of Ports Affairs, and Brigadier Jamal Salem Al Jallaf, Director of Criminal Investigation Department. Attendees from the RTA were Eng. Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic & Roads Agency; Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Rail Agency; Abdul Aziz Al Falahi, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector as well as several directors at the RTA and the Dubai Police.

Upgrades to Ras Al Khor Street and Entrances to International City Construction Hits 83% Completion

Project includes improving three junctions, widening Al Manama St

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that the completion rate of Ras Al Khor Street Improvement Project (Ex Al Awir Street) and the Entrances of the International City Project had reached 83%. The project, which is coordinated with International City main developer Nakheel, had been undertaken as a result of the traffic impact study for International City and Dragon Mart, especially after the expansion of Dragon Mart, and the expected growth of traffic density in the area.

"Phase II of the project, which is expected to be opened in March 2019, includes improvements on Al Manama Street and widening the junctions, namely the extension of Al Manama-Al Warsan 1 Streets (previously Nouakchott St), Al Manama Street-Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, and the International City-Al Manama Streets. Improvements of junctions also include the construction of bridges and signalised junctions enabling movement in all directions, namely on Al Manama-International City Streets (previously Street 414),

Al Manama-Warsan 1 Streets, and Al Manama Street-Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road," said Al Tayer.

The improvement of Al Manama Street-Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road includes widening the flyover above Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road from three to four lanes in each direction to increase its capacity from 4500 to 6000 vehicles per hour. It also includes increasing the number of lanes in the sector from Ras Al Khor Street to Sharjah, and from International City to Jebel Ali and Abu Dhabi, from one to two

RTA tests fare collection gates and central system software of Route 2020

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has verified the functionality of Automated Fare Collection (AFC) Gates as well as Central System Software of Route 2020 Project. The Project, which is undertaken by RTA in collaboration with big global firms, involves the extension of Dubai Metro Red Line up to the site of Expo 2020, which will kick off in last quarter of 2020.

To this effect, a technical team of RTA's Rail Agency visited French capital Paris to verify operational readiness of those equipment and devices, which are important for operating metro stations of Route 2020. The process is in full swing according to the set plan and timetable.

"The team's visit to France included Thales Headquarters

where it reviewed Factory Acceptance Test of AFC Gates and Central System Software of Route 2020 Project. This visit complements the continued improvements underway in AFC Gates of existing stations. New Gates will be installed, and existing ones will be upgraded through fitting them with the latest technologies in this field," said Mohammed Yousef Al

lanes. The step will double the capacity of slipways from 800 to 1600 vehicles per hour.

Al Manama Street will be widened in the sector between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and the entrance of the International City from three to six lanes in each direction. The step will increase the street capacity by 1500 vehicles per hour per direction. Al Manama Street will be widened in a sector from the entrance of International City up to Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street from two to five lanes in each direction. These works will increase the street capacity from 3000 vehicles per hour to 7500 vehicles per hour.

Phase II also includes the improvement of the junction of Al Manama Street and the entrance of the International City to a signalised junction enabling movement in all directions, and the construction of a flyover of three lanes in each direction, offering free crossing of Al Manama Street. The step will increase the capacity of the street to 4500 vehicles per hour.

Works also include improving the existing surface intersection of Al Manama with Warsan Street 1 (previously Nouakchott Street) to a signalised junction enabling movement in all directions. A two-lane flyover will be constructed to serve the traffic from Warsan Street 1 to the left in the direction

of Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street. It will increase the capacity of the intersection by 3000 vehicles per hour.

Phase I

In July 2018 RTA opened Phase I of Ras Al Khor and the entrances of the International City Project. Works included improvements on Ras Al Khor Street from Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road to Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street. A two-lane flyover had been constructed between Warsan 1 and Ras Al Khor Streets enabling free traffic from Warsan 1 Street to Ras Al Khor Street to the west (in the direction of Dubai Downtown). It included U-turns for traffic from Ras Al Khor Street to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and a service road in both directions of Ras Al Khor Street to ensure the smooth traffic flow on this key road and separate it from International City, Dragon Mart and Al Warqaa.



Mudharreb, Director of RTA's Rail Operations, Rail Agency.

"This tour of Factory Acceptance Test is one of three tours planned to ensure successful implementation of the new AFC systems. This tour included carrying successful tests of functionality of the supervision & monitoring system, using nol card in the system, and ensuring

new Central Computer System is centrally managing devices & transactions and configuration of devices.

"During the first quarter of this year, RTA will install new Ticket Vending Machines (TVM), new Ticket Office Machines (TOM), new AFC Gates with 3D sensor, upgrade existing gates and add



more central system functionalities," added Al Mudharreb.

The RTA is always keen to keep pace with technological advancements worldwide, and apply them to public transport and supporting services with the aim of bringing happiness to all spectrums of Dubai community.

RTA scoops Sword and Globe of Honour awards in public transport

RTA is the first government public transport entity to clinch the awards worldwide



RTA Wins Regional Award for Trials of Self-Driving Vehicles

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the Best Public-Private Project Award during the recent Gulf Traffic Exhibition and Conference held in the Dubai World Trade Center. The winning project was the Dubai Code of Practice for Self-Driving Vehicles.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, praised the winning of this Award; which reflects RTA's commitment to transforming 25% of mobility journeys into self-driving journeys by 2030. He called on realizing Dubai Government strategy in this regard and enhancing the cooperation with the private sector at various levels.

Al Tayer made these remarks upon accepting the Award's trophy from Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency and Head of Smart & Sustainable Transport Committee at RTA. The team members and other concerned officials were

also present during the event.

"Winning this Award underlines our belief that improvements in the self-driving vehicles rest on carrying out diverse trials on these vehicles. We have therefore introduced the Code of Practice to describe the minimal safety & security requirements of self-driving vehicles to be tested. Accordingly, we issue permits to companies to carry out trials within Geo-Fenced Areas to control the number of potential risks. RTA has developed this Guide, which is the first of its kind worldwide, to enable manufacturers to test the technology systematically in Dubai," said Ahmed Bahrozian.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the Sword of Honour for Health and Safety, and the Globe of Honour for excellence in environmental management from the British Safety Council, UK.

As such, RTA has become the first public transport entity to obtain these coveted awards worldwide. Obtaining the two awards is indicative of RTA's relentless efforts to improve its corporate performance to achieve the highest standards of health, safety and environment (HSE) throughout its public transport activities.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), commended the obtaining of the two awards as they reflect the vision of the government to make Dubai a sustainable city and a safe environment. He stressed RTA's keenness to ensure the highest HSE standards in public transport operations.

Al Tayer made these remarks while accepting the two award trophies from Nasser Bu Shehab, CEO of Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector; and Eng. Nada Jasim, Director of Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning, in the presence of several other concerned personnel.

"These two awards illustrate RTA's pioneering efforts towards

realising its vision of 'Safe and Smooth Transport' and stand out as a true representation of the performance & efficiency of HSE management systems," said Bu Shehab.

"The Safety, Risk, Regulation and Planning Department has achieved a five-star rating in the comprehensive assessment carried by a team of HSE experts. RTA has achieved 95% rating in the assessment of the HSE systems, and 92% in the assessment of Environment Management systems. It makes every effort to comply with the HSE standards in coordination with various concerned bodies internally and externally. It always seeks to screen clients' needs and respond to them under specific standards," he added.

"In the name of the Board of Trustees and employees of the British Safety Council, we congratulate RTA on achieving the highest HSE and environmental standards depicted by winning of both the Sword of Honour and Globe of Honour Awards. The two awards rank among the most prestigious international awards for public and private entities to compete in," said Lawrence Waterman, Chairman of the British Safety Council.



"The Guide includes a clear methodology for testing these vehicles against international standards to ensure the transparency and governance of the vehicle assessment procedures. It also highlights the security and safety of passengers as well as road users.

"Applying this Guide in the testing of self-driving vehicles involves four phases. Phase 1: Compliance and test. It verifies

the eligibility of manufacturers to take part in tests under specific criteria.

Phase 2: Tests within Geo-Fenced Areas. It aims to ensure the safety of vehicles for riders and road users, and the fitness of vehicles for driving on Dubai roads.

Phase 3: Assessment through Simulators. This phase aims to study the overall impact on roads network.

Phase 4: Trials on specific parts of Dubai roads network witnessing moderate traffic movement. The aim is to deploy trial vehicles with other vehicles while giving due consideration to the safety of road users.

"When the vehicle passes these stages, a no objection certificate is issued for the use of vehicles on Dubai roads as per the applicable legislation. This Guide, which will be implemented by the end of 2019, contributes to attracting manufacturers to invest in researches and trials to transform Dubai into a regional hub for self-driving vehicles," concluded Bahrozian.

Dubai Code of Practice for Self-driving Vehicles

RTA becomes first Govt entity to obtain ISO certification in Facility Management

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has obtained ISO 41001:2018 certificate in Facility Management from Bureau Veritas; a company responsible for issuing quality, benchmarking and standardisation certificates at the global level. As such, RTA has become the first government entity to obtain certification in this field.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, was pleased as it depicts RTA's compliance with the international standards of asset management and sustainability. He added that such certification would contribute to the achievement of RTA's eighth strategic goal (Asset Sustainability) through preserving and maximising the value of assets.

Al Tayer made these remarks when accepting the certificate from Yousif AlReda, CEO, Corporate Administrative Support Sector. Abdul Rahman Al Janahi, Director of Building and Facility Management attended the event along several specialists

in the field of facility management from RTA.

Obtaining this certificate fulfils the requirements of the first international standard of facility management, as RTA adopts a multi-task facility management system that caters to the coordination between buildings, individuals, and infrastructure in addition to power, water and sewage services. It seeks to ensure that these overlapping services are run in harmony. It is a demanding task that requires highly skilled management, and contributes to extending the prescribed lifecycle of assets. The underlying objective of fulfilling this standard is to set the base for leveraging the efficiency of deliverables of fa-

RTA completes the installation of 867 Solar Panels on the employees' multilevel car park at the Headquarters

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the installation of solar panels on the roof of employees' multistorey car park at its headquarters in Umm Ramool, in collaboration with the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (DCCE). The step is part of RTA's efforts to promote the use of clean & sustainable energy across various facilities and respond to Dubai Government's initiative in this regard.

"RTA has installed 867 solar panels above the multistorey car park at headquarters. Each panel has a capacity of 330 watts, and the overall production amounts to 286.11 KW. The system is linked to the main power grid of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). The production of renewable energy is expected to be in excess of 443 kW/h, which will cut carbon emissions associated with the conventional power generation," said Abdul Rahman Al Janahi, Director of RTA's

Buildings & Facilities.

This vital project is characterised by low carbon emissions amounting to 192 tons per annum, which saves about 5% of the monthly electricity consumption bill. The project is part of a 20-year agreement with the DCCE to supply the building with clean energy, which is in line with Shams Dubai.

"The Project is also part of RTA's strategic plan aligned with the Dubai Government's initiative themed (Green Economy for



cility management processes while taking into consideration end-users' requirements in line with risk response strategies.

The facility management in general impacts the health, welfare and quality of life across several communities worldwide.



Sustainable Development). The initiative has six pillars: Green Energy, Government Policies, Green City, Tackling Climate Change, Technology and Green Technology. The Green Economy concept has become a reality featuring in RTA's agenda for

buildings, facilities and services to the public. RTA is the first government entity to endorse a plan for preparing and implementing a plan for the governance of the Green Economy," added Al Janahi.

RTA's Governance Practices Measure up to International Audit Standards

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has obtained international certification of its governance standards in accountability & monitoring, rendering them compatible with the highest international audit standards. The certificate has been awarded by the UK-based American PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC); an internal audit specialist of government entities.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, praised the achievement as it reflects the compliance of the RTA with the highest internal audit standards. He noted that the certificate would raise RTA's transparency and governance in monitoring operational, services and administrative processes to the highest levels.

Al Tayer made these remarks upon receiving the certificate from Abdullah Al Jawi, Director of Internal Audit, in the presence of several concerned staff of RTA.

"The assessment results carried out by the consultant company proved that RTA's audit practices were fully compatible with the international audit standards; which is the highest obtainable compatibility rating," said Al Jawi.

"RTA has carried out several benchmarks to achieve this target with two international firms and four local companies in

addition to the global internal audit network comprising construction, transportation and government sectors. Such network entails benchmarking information for all companies with which RTA had made benchmarks," he added.

The awarding of this certificate echoes RTA's perception of the importance of boosting corporate governance and taking a leading role in this field globally. It requires adopting top professional standards of internal audit prescribed by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Such compliance will contribute to realising RTA's seventh strategic goal (RTA Excellence).

"The certificate reflects the maturity level achieved by RTA's internal audit in line with PwC's model. This achievement has been made for the third time, as it had been achieved from 2012 to 2015; which underscores our commitment to provide a high-quality monitoring environment," added Al Jawi.



RTA's obtain international certification from Spain on drivers' training programmes

The Public Transport Agency at Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has obtained Phase I accomplishment certificate from the National Confederation of Driving Schools (CNAE) in Spain, which is an accreditation and endorsement for its passenger transport drivers' training models. As such, RTA has become the first government entity outside European Union to obtain CNAE certification. The achievement is part of RTA's endeavours to boost road safety and improve public transport services in Dubai.

The CEO of Public Transport Agency Ahmed Hashim Bahroyzan received the Certificate of Achievement from CNAE President José Miguel. The award reflects RTA's efforts in improving the quality of public transport services and elevating them to world-class standards. The completion of Phase I follows months of preparations, and a team of experts & auditors from CNAE visiting to Dubai to carry out a comprehensive assessment of training programmes designed for passenger transport drivers, be it bus, taxi or limo drivers. Eventually,

"We are pleased to award this certificate to RTA. Where Phase I of assessment revealed RTA efforts in qualifying drivers. It echoes our appreciation of RTA's efforts which is our ultimate

objective as leaders of roads safety in Spain and the European Federation. This step is the cornerstone for endorsing a model system for qualifying drivers compatible with the highest international quality standards in the field of road safety," said José Miguel.

The National Confederation of Driving Schools (CNAE) was established in Spain in 1961. The Foundation is linked with 90% of driving schools in Spain and represents 55 regional associations. CNAE is one of the most represented organisations in transport sector in Spain. The Foundation chairs the Latin American Confederation of Driving Schools (CICEFOV) and is part of the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

RTA certified as the first entity to apply Maximo in transportation

IBM has certified Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) as the first entity specialised in roads & transport that applies the Maximo system in transportation. RTA's successful implementation of the system covers linear assets and various applications for managing contracts in various affiliated agencies & sectors.

Nasser Abu Shehab, CEO of RTA's Strategy & Corporate Governance, was delighted with the achievement. "This certificate echoes RTA's continued efforts to use the latest technology to raise the satisfaction & happiness of clients. These objectives are encapsulated in two of RTA's Strategic Goals; Smart Dubai and RTA Excellence. However, we need to extend our efforts to maintain this high-performance level," commented Abu Shehab.

"Obtaining this valuable certificate from a technology lead-

er such as the IBM culminates the relentless efforts of the concerned bodies within RTA towards improving the public transport sector as well as the infrastructure of Information Technology, which plays a crucial role in automating the services to customers and bringing happiness to them. RTA is fully aware of the paramount importance of various types of assets, and therefore seeks to ensure their sustainable management by using cutting-edge technology," he further added.

RTA and MWASALAT Oman Open International Bus Route to Commute Passengers Between Dubai and Muscat

RTA's Public Transport Agency has opened an international bus route between Dubai and Muscat. The step aims to boost land transport and ease mobility of passengers between the two sisterly countries.

An agreement was signed in Dubai by Ahmed Bahrozian, CEO of Public Transport Agency, RTA and Ahmed bin Ali Albulushi CEO, MWASALAT Oman. Coaches operating on this route will start at Abu Hail Bus Station, and the one-way ticket will cost AED55

Bahrozian started the meeting by welcoming the Omani delegation. He praised the agreement considering it an important step towards broadening the scope of international transport between the two sisterly countries.

"RTA is always keen to bring happiness to clients from various community segments including bus commuters using Dubai Bus, Inter-City bus as well as those travelling between Dubai and Muscat," said Bahrozian.

Ahmed Albulushi, CEO of MWASALAT Oman, was delighted with the signing of the agreement with a leading entity in the field of mass transportation, such as RTA. He stated that RTA had made impressive achievements in a very short time.

"We, at Mwasalat Oman, are keen to ensure the safety and

comfort of passengers travelling between the Sultanate and the UAE aboard sophisticated safe and comfortable coaches custom-built for long trips. I hope this step will herald the start of an integrated transport network between the two sisterly nations," added Albulushi.



RTA and Dubai Commercial Bank offer easy payment of fines and seasonal parking cards

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Dubai Commercial Bank International (DCB); a leading bank in UAE, have agreed on an initiative whereby fines due from road users to RTA and fees of seasonal parking cards can be paid through easy instalments. Payments can be arranged at varying time, depending on the amount, through credit cards with zero interest.

Yousef Ahmed Al Redha, CEO of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector in RTA, and Hasan Al Redha, General Manager, Institutional and Transaction Banking at Commercial Bank of Dubai have signed the agreement, in the presence of officials from both parties.

"RTA has agreed with Dubai Commercial Bank on a payment plan for fines and parking fees through easy instalments over 3, 6, 9 or 12 months with no interest involved," said Al Redha. "In keeping with Dubai Government vision of boosting hap-

RTA Opens Six New Bus Routes, Improves One Service Route

The Public Transport Agency at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently launched six new bus routes and improved the service on another route. The step aims at boosting the public bus network within Dubai, and between Dubai and other Emirates. The move is in line with RTA's efforts to bring happiness to public transport riders and meet the growing demand for the public bus service in particular.

"The six new bus routes include Route E411: Etisalat Metro Station – Ajman, Route F02: Etisalat Metro Station - Muhaisina 4, and Route 50: International City Dragon Mart - Al Khail Gate 1 via Silicon Oasis, Dubai Mall and Business Bay. Three new bus routes will be operated on Fridays only, including Route 11B: Rashidiya MS - Al Awir Bus Terminus, Route 34: Etisalat MS - Al Brayan Labour Camp Al Khawaneej 2 via Al Qusais Bus Station, and Route 56: DANUBE Metro Station - DWC Staff Village. We have reduced the service frequency of Route F55: Ibn Battuta Metro Station - Al Maktoum International Airport from 60 to 30 minutes" said Adel Shakeri, Director of Planning & Business Development, Public Transport Agency.

"The Public Transport Agency is always keen on expanding and improving the bus network within Dubai, and the bus service linking other Emirates. It carries out periodic studies and site surveys to assess the needs of public transport riders to address them as soon as possible," added Shakeri.



piness of residents, and as part of Dubai Commercial Bank commitment towards developing innovative financial solutions for clients, we are proud to team with RTA. This partnership entitles holders of our cards to transform their fines and parking fees into easy interest-free payments," said Hasan Al Redha, General Manager, Institutional and Transaction Banking at Commercial Bank of Dubai.

"The public-private partnership is vital for leveraging Dubai ambitions and realigning with the directives of our leaders. This partnership with RTA aims to ease the financial burden on our card-holders by offering them flexible and effective payment plans," added Hasan Al Redha.



RTA taxi bookings jump 17% to record 12 million in 2018

Taxi bookings carried out by the Booking and Dispatch Centre at the Public Transport Agency of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has touched 12,367,866 bookings in 2018, recording a 17% rise compared to the figure reported in 2017 that was 10,573,855 bookings.

"The average time taken to dispatch taxis to clients last year clocked 11.35 minutes. The centre has carried out benchmarking with Singapore and Western Australia to work out the rate of successful bookings made within 10 minutes; which amounted to 62% last year. The centre aims to improve the number of bookings handled and meet customer needs as quickly as possible," said Mohammed Nabhan, Director Transport Activities Monitoring, Public Transport Agency, RTA

The average time taken to respond to incoming calls at the Booking & Dispatch Centre was just 5 seconds in 2018, thus leapfrogging by 89% of the average reported in 2017, which was 11.2 seconds.

The customers' satisfaction rating achieved by the Booking and Dispatch Centre carried out through a self-rating system linked with the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System amounted to 82.6% last year, compared with 80.4% in 2017, which reflects a 3% rise.

"Last year, the Centre received 6,814,800 calls. About 4,879,396 of those calls were fully automated and handled through the IVR system; which amounted to 71.6% of the total calls re-

ceived. The number of booking requests made through Smart Apps amounted to 201,851 requests," he added.

Nabhan stressed RTA's standing commitment to bringing happiness to clients across the community by using state-of-the-art technology in delivering a diverse package of services. "RTA is always keen to ensure that transactions are processed with transparency and in a quick and efficient manner when responding to the needs of the public, including taxi users, while making the services of this sector as luxurious and unique as possible."

"RTA's efforts to bring happiness to clients is reflected in the number of complaints about the services of the centre. There was a 77% drop in the number of complaints received last year; which were only 17 compared to 74 complaints in 2017. This substantial decline in the number of complaints is attributed to the intensive training undertaken by customer service staff as part of the approved training programs of the 'Dubai The Model Centre' for government call centres.

RTA continuously endeavours to upgrade its services and offer innovative solutions to citizens, visitors and tourists through

RTA Call Centre Receives Two Million Calls in 2018

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that its Call Center had received 2,070,281 calls in 2018, and the targeted response time of 20 seconds per call had covered 86% of total calls. The Centre has also received 68,929 reports about lost items and found more than 65% of them, recording a sign-off rate of 99%. Additionally, Madinati system has received 17,035 reports.

"The number of calls picked up by the Call Center (8009090), which had exceeded two million calls last year, reflects the extent of interaction between the Center and RTA clients whose services, inquiries, suggestions, complaints are quickly re-

sponded. Recording such a high number of calls is also indicative of the diverse services provided by RTA to the public," said Ahmed Mahboub, Executive Director of Customers Happiness at RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector.



cutting-edge technologies in delivering diverse services and at par with the best international practices.

The taxi sector is undergoing an increasing demand fuelled by the rapid urbanisation seen by Dubai, which is shaping into a premier business hub for investors and business leaders descending on the city globally.

“In line with its corporate values and strategic objective of

bringing happiness to people, the RTA has endorsed ten initiatives for improving the conditions of taxi drivers. These initiatives will be implemented over the next two years and are bound to improve drivers’ satisfaction, which will reflect positively on providing better services to taxi riders in Dubai. It will also contribute to realising RTA’s vision of Safe & Smooth Transport for All,” concluded Nabhan.

“The Call Center has made outstanding achievements underscoring its success. The Centre has launched e-payment portal through Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system enabling customers to process their transactions without seeking assistance from phone service staff. The service was well received by the public as evidenced by the processing of 28,619 transactions in 2018, which compares well with the figure of 16,859 transactions processed in 2017. RTA always seeks to enhance its Third Strategic Goal (People Happiness) and considers it the backbone of its service improvement strategy and the means of delivering them via smart & hi-tech devices,” added Mahboub.

Valuable Lost & Found Items in Figures

Lost items found items included 16,607 mobile phones, 7,878 travel bags, 3,975 wallets, 1,136 passports, 1,880 important keys & cards, 955 eyeglasses, 542 computers, and 872 sunglasses. Additionally, it found lost jewelry, cash amounts and precious items estimated to worth of: AED480,000; US\$60,678; €13,750 and 1,854,000 Riyals and £25,000.

RTA's strategic indicators, initiatives are aligned with the 8 Principles and 50-Year Charter: Al Tayer

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), stated that RTA had aligned its strategic indicators & initiatives with the 'Eight' defining principles of Dubai, and the 50-Year Charter announced by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and has set them as a code of practice for the future. "This step is needed to keep pace with the ambitions of our leaders in harnessing the government's resources to serve the society and ensure sustainable welfare of future generations.

Al Tayer expressed gratitude to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for the unlimited support of RTA's plans & projects. He also thanked HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince

and Chairman of the Executive Council; and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Deputy Chairman of the Executive Council, for their close follow-up of RTA's business and guidance for further improvement.





In his speech during the ceremony marking RTA's 13th anniversary in the presence of CEO's, directors and staffs, Al Tayer said, "Dubai Government has earmarked 19% of its 2019 budget to RTA. It clearly reflects the Dubai Government's continuous support to the sustainable development and the construction of infrastructure projects required to enhance the competitiveness of the city. Such allocation will also stimulate

Projects underway are highlighted by Route 2020, Al-Shindagha Corridor and Smart Systems

the economic growth and underscores the government's sustained delivery of excellent services needed for the happiness of citizens, residents and visitors.





“This year, RTA will continue with the completion of several strategic projects in support of Dubai’s development plans. Projects underway are highlighted by Route 2020 for extending Dubai Metro Red Line to the site of Expo 2020, and road projects in the surroundings of Expo. The portfolio projects underway include Al Shindagha Roads Corridor, upgrading Dubai-Al Ain Road, expanding the smart traffic systems, procuring buses, and constructing bus stations to serve Expo 2020,” explained Al Tayer.

Future of Transport

RTA will continue its efforts to boost the profile of Dubai as a global hub of futuristic mobility means. RTA has a comprehensive set up for planning the future of transport highlighted by the Dubai Autonomous Transportation Strategy aimed at converting 25% of mobility means into driverless mobility means by 2030, and undertaking future mobility studies.

Roads network has extended by 62%; traffic accident fatality dropped by 825% during 2015-2018

RTA is monitoring the global trends and latest technologies for re-aligning Dubai future mobility path. These efforts entail developing innovative transit means and new mobility patterns that suit future generations; which will be revealed on time.

“Among the world’s pioneer projects currently under consideration at RTA is Dubai Sky Pods; a highly power-efficient futuristic autonomous mobility system; which requires infrastructure much less than conventional transit means. The future projects also include autonomous air taxi; which is being developed by a big global firm, and autonomous transit pods. RTA is working with global labs on trials of innovative transit systems to solve the first & last mile challenges,” explained Al Tayer.





Accomplished Projects

“Dubai roads network had been extended by 62% from 8715 km in 2005 to 23084 km in 2018. RTA has improved roads traffic safety through policies, legislation and advanced infrastructure. Accordingly, the rate of fatalities plummeted from 21.9 per 100 thousand of population in 2005 to only 2.3 per 100 thousand of population in 2018.

Last year, RTA opened several strategic projects such as the intersection of Latifa bint Hamdan-Umm Al Sheef Streets; and the intersection of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed-Sheikh Rashid Streets. It had also opened parallel roads in the Godolphin area, widened Airport Street, improved Al Awir Street & the entrances of International City, and constructed the 7th Interchange on the Sheikh Zayed Road with Al Yalayer and Al Asayer Roads. The public transport ridership had increased by 4% compared with 2017. In 2018, RTA established an e-Hail company with

Careem Networks to deliver online taxi booking service in Dubai. The company aims to improve the experience of taxis riders in Dubai and increase their happiness.

“RTA has launched a package of new services such as the convertible limo, limo bike, mobile customers service, loyalty points programme (nol Plus), smart booking of parking, and the automated conversation system (Mahboub),” he noted.

Training & Qualification

“RTA is keen to implement the directives of leaders for providing a perfect environment for supporting employees and qualifying young Emirati leaders capable of shaping the future. It also seeks to develop innovative tools necessary for leading the future.

“RTA has opened a training centre at the Marina Plaza near Dubai Marina to promote the abilities & skills of employees. The three-floor building has 17 training halls fitted with the latest smart learning technologies. The centre can accommodate 350 trainees.

“Last year, RTA had trained 2810 employees on 635 programmes in a bid to provide a working environment suitable for women, and expanded its nursery to accommodate 120 children,” he further added.

Al Tayer concluded his speech by hailing the efforts of employees enabling RTA to overcome challenges and make several achievements. At the end of the event, he honoured RTA’s agencies, sectors as well as excellent-performing directors, employees, inspectors and bus drivers.



Al Tayer Honours Second Batch of 'Tamkeen with RTA' Graduates



MENA Centre for Transport Excellence holds diverse events in 2018

The MENA Centre for Transport Excellence held a variety of events and activities in 2018 including training sessions and workshops covering diverse public transport issues in the region and beyond.

Events included six open calendar programmes and three in-house training programmes for transport organising bodies, the Centre also provided new training materials introduced as part of the UITP programme, in addition to compiling several types of research and studies relating to public transport in the MENA region.

“As per the plan set, the open calendar programmes included training courses such as building capacity (building urban transport leaders), service excellence, funding, public-private partnership, and taxi operations,” said Mohamed Obaid Al Mulla, RTA Board Member cum Chairman

of the Coordinative Committee overseeing the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence.

“The internal training programmes included the following: upgrading public transport in Madinat, Mecca and Riyadh carried out over three tracks: principles of public transport, principles of taxi transport, and the principles of urban bus transport.”

The internal training programs included a training course for Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority. Which covered topics like planning urban transport, data collection, public transport matrix & benchmarks, integrated urban trans-

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) honoured the second batch of 'Tamkeen with RTA' graduates comprising 25 Emirati university graduates (23 females and 2 males).

The six-months programme was part of RTA's initiatives for the 'Year of Giving' announced by HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. It enabled several graduates to obtain a career in RTA following the completion of the theoretical and practical training.

"Tamkeen with RTA is part of the 'Year of Giving' initiative deliverables. Out of its social responsibility, RTA has designed this programme to train Emiratis who have not found jobs for about a year since graduation. It trains them on the best professional and administrative practices to groom them for the job market. It instils in them skills that help them assume jobs befitting their academic qualifications. It reflects RTA's commitment to play an active role on

the Emiratisation of jobs and providing competent talents," said Al Tayer.

"RTA is keen on training university graduates to enhance their career prospects; which is in line with its responsibility of building and development. Under its strategic goals, RTA is seeking to be the first career destination for qualified human resources; which requires enhanced competitive ability to attract highly professional personnel," he added.

"The programme aims to groom trainees through a series of specialized workshops in behavioural and administrative skills. It also offers them on-job-training in various sectors and agencies of the RTA to offer them exposure to practical experience," concluded Al Tayer.

port planning, and sustainability in design and construction (codes, standards and best practices of the industry).

"RTA pays considerable attention to the centre and offers it all sorts of financial, marketing and administrative support,

"Such studies are focused on the background of the semi-parallel transport along with recommendations about the policy of the MENA region (MENA transport information report for 2018). It is a reference document for information and performance matrix in the MENA region and the MENA transport economy. The study seeks to understand various business models of public transport in the region," he added.

to ensure the success of events, plans and centre's strategies, which aim at promoting the culture of excellence in public transport.

"Our participation in the training courses has generated a positive impact as the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence is always keen on keeping abreast of the latest developments of public transport. It also keeps pace with the modern strategies applied in establishing entities tasked with regulating public transport operators in modern cities worldwide," added Al Mulla.

Research and Study

"The centre also carries out research and studies about an array of public transport topics such as the Public Transport from a user's perspective. It revolves around understanding the conceptions and expectations of users of public transport," said Abdul Aziz Malik, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the MENA Centre for Transport Excellence.

RTA hosted the 2nd gathering for students on scholarship programme

Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) hosted the second gathering of students covered by RTA's Scholarship Programme. The get-together event aimed at communicating with students, addressing challenges faced during their study besides offering them guidance helping them to realise their ambitions.

"The gathering of students on scholarships sponsored by RTA is held biannually to review their academic progress. It also offers them guidance to enrich their academic study and realise the objectives set," said Mansour Al Falasi, Director of Human Resources and Development at RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector. The gathering hosted a PhD graduate in a discussion panel to reflect on his academic experience and lessons learned. He also explained the role of RTA in supporting the Scholarship Programme and honouring high achievers to motivate affiliates of the programme.

"RTA Scholarship Programme sponsors Emirati secondary school graduates and assists them with their university studies in certain majors compatible with RTA's

scope of work, to employ them upon graduation. The programme is part of our endeavours to source competent Emiratis to meet RTA's future needs, and support the Emiratisation scheme as per the strategic plan of the RTA," he explained.

"The Scholarship Programme for secondary school graduates is offered across UAE universities and provides full sponsorship to affiliated students. They receive fixed monthly financial allowance to help them cope with their study expenses and encourages them to pursue their academic career. RTA is making extensive efforts to attract Emiratis and qualify them in line with the directives of our leadership to empower citizens and groom them for playing an active role in the upswing seen



RTA and CIPS MENA sign MoU to Upgrade Procurement and Supply Practices

RTA leads the way as the first government entity to boost professional delivery of services

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply in the Middle East & North Africa (CIPS MENA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the professional skills of RTA's personnel in procurement and supply. The move is a part of RTA's strategy to boost the cooperation between public and private sectors guided by the directives of Dubai Government.

The CEO of RTA Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector Yousef Al Redha and the CEO of CIPS Malcolm Harrison signed the MoU at RTA's Head Office.

"Signing the MoU renders RTA the first government entity to enhance the professional standards of delivering services. The move stems from RTA's appreciation of the importance of procurement & supply within RTA, considering it a key contributor to protecting and sustaining the financial resources of RTA," said Al Redha.

"This MoU will boost RTA's professional practices of procurement and supply through workshops held by CIPS for RTA employees. It will thus contribute to realising RTA's seventh Strategic Goal (RTA Excellence) and assist in turning Dubai into an excellent global hub in procurement & supply," he added.

Malcolm Harrison was delighted for signing the MoU with RTA;

one of the biggest government authorities in Dubai with an expansive procurement and supply system. "Under the MoU, we will apply all our abilities & expertise in holding events and workshops to step up the professional standards of RTA's employees in this field.



Honour and Congratulations

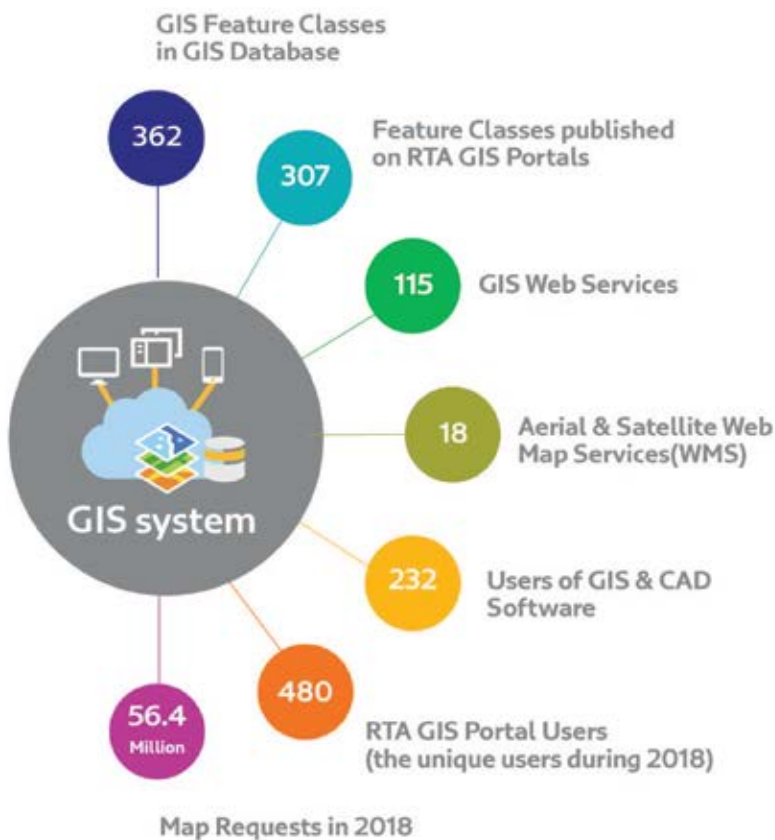
The Sports Team of the Roads and Transport Authority wishes to congratulate the international player Saeed Ishaq for winning the UAE President Men's Chess Championship held over a week by the Chess Federation at Zayed Conventions & Exhibitions Centre, Ajman University.

"Saeed had been crowned a champion after scoring 8.5 points. He was the only player in the championship who was not beaten in 9 rounds, and tied in a single game," said the RTA's Sports Team's Captain Abdul Rahman Al Janahi.

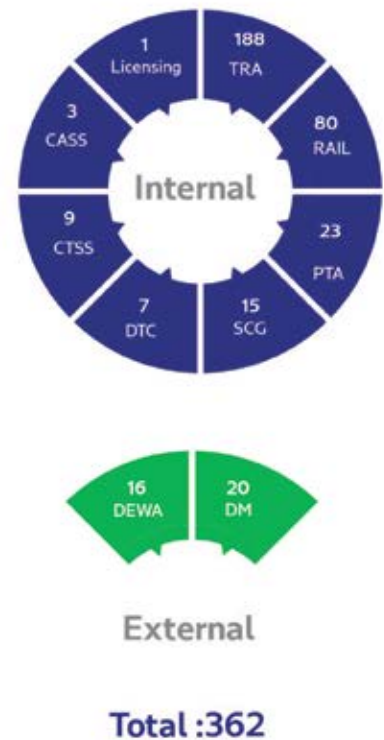
The Editorial Team of Al Masar Magazine congratulated Saeed on winning the title, wishing him more successes in future.



GIS-Smart Geospatial Integration Technology



Distribution of Feature Classes



Geographical Information System) GIS (Section in Information Technology Department is managing an Enterprise GIS Platform which consists mainly of a Centralized Database with nearly 362 layers beside 2 Portals on intranet and internet enabling RTA staff to view & analyze GIS data, and creating Maps and Reports.

Furthermore, GIS Platform is integrating with many systems in RTA to allow these systems benefiting from RTA GIS data and provide them with the capabilities of Spatial Analysis to enhance the Performance and Decision Making.

Number of Systems integrated with GIS - Completed



GIS Section, Information Technology – CTSS 2018

Al Masar alerts motorists of potential accidents during rainy weather

Al-Masar Magazine Editorial Board has alerted motorists of the risks of driving during fluctuating, rainy and dusty weather conditions, which require extra care and caution besides slowing down. It is well established that over-speeding during rainy conditions often leads to the lack of vehicle control and vehicle sliding.

If a vehicle is moving at 60km/h, it needs about 35 m to avoid collision with the vehicle in front in case of a sudden stopping. If the speed doubles to 120 km/h, the vehicle needs 4 times the distance, i.e. 140 m to avoid a collision. This applies to dry rather than wet roads. Moreover, motorists are cautioned against driving at high speed during windy or dusty conditions, especially when the visibility is low.

Hidden sand and water

Traffic studies conclude that the safe braking distance must increase during rainy weather due to the poor friction between the road surface and tyres; which has the potential of causing the vehicle to slide or flip. The same theory applies to windy weather. As we cannot leave long distances on roads, the best solution is to reduce speed and increase attention. During bad or dusty weather at night, it will be difficult to verify the road condition, be it wet, dry, submerged or has accumulated sand on sides or pavements, especially roads not fitted with storm-water drainage systems.

Changing weather dictates different driving style

When approaching water ponds, motorists are urged to slow down and keep clear of wet areas as much as possible through wise driving on dry places away from sand deposits. The potentials of traffic accidents multiply during rainy, windy, and dusty weather. The change in road conditions dictates a change in the driving style, and the UAE is heading now to the rainy season. Motorists need not turn the joy and fun of the rainfall into grief and misery.

Traffic awareness and safety experts call for compliance with the rules of driving during changing and poor weather conditions as they blur visibility and give rise to traffic accidents. The chances of having traffic accidents during foggy or rainy weather are higher by 5% than other periods; which is high considering the little number of rainy and foggy days of the year in this country. We have to take into consideration that

some accidents are attributed to the drop in visibility level, even if the driver was not reckless.

Cleaning Glass and Lights

Studies recommend motorists to clean windshields and headlights as well as signals and ensure their functionality before driving. Drivers have to keep sufficient safety distance from vehicles in front and reduce speed to allow space for braking during bad weather conditions. Under such weather, the driver must not attempt to accelerate to overtake a vehicle in front, nor allow other drivers to make him take the risk of this kind. The driver must also keep-in-lane and avoid lane changing unless it is necessary. When visibility is low, the driver can use high or low beam light such that fellow motorists can spot his car and avoid a collision.

Hazard signals not for rain

The call for switching lights on under bad weather conditions does not include the hazard signals (four side light signals) as they must only be used during an emergency stop. The use of these signals during driving deprives the motorist of using them when needed during emergency conditions and makes him unable to indicate the direction of the vehicle. Drivers are required to use wipers to avoid the accumulation of water that blocks or blurs visibility and eliminate the vapour developed inside the vehicle. The driver has to anticipate a risk occurrence at any moment such as a sudden stop of the vehicle in front or entry of a vehicle from a side opening. The driver must be ready to avoid such a risk and allow himself more time to complete the trip during changing weather than in the normal clear skies.