

# المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 184 October 2023



Hamdan bin  
Mohammed reviews  
expansion of Dubai's  
smart traffic systems

Master Plan for Marine  
Transport 2030 released

## **Vision**

The world leader in seamless & sustainable mobility.

## **Mission**

We provide seamless and safe travel with innovative, sustainable mobility solutions and services to make every journey in Dubai a world-class experience.

## On the Ground Leadership



Last September, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, visited Dubai's Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre (ITS) at Al Barsha. The visit signalled the keenness of our leadership to follow up on the work progress in the unique strategic projects that will raise the profile and competitiveness of Dubai.

The visit extended an opportunity for His Highness to review a host of RTA's strategic projects and initiatives aimed at uplifting the infrastructure of road and transportation networks across the city. His Highness was also briefed on RTA's ambitious plans to expand the smart traffic systems and introduce cutting-edge technologies to streamline mobility management in line with Dubai's endeavours to become the world's smartest city.

During the visit, His Highness endorsed Dubai Marine Transport Master Plan 2030. The plan envisages 188% expansion of the marine transport network and 400% increase in passenger lines. It also encompasses the manufacturing of the world's first electric Abra using 3D printing technology, in collaboration with the private sector, with a capacity to accommodate 20 passengers.

In November 2020, Dubai unveiled the ITS Centre, one of the world's largest and most sophisticated traffic control centres in terms of integrated smart technology and traffic management. The initiative aims to accommodate Dubai's rapid expansion and position it among global leaders in smart traffic systems on par with Singapore and Seoul.

The ITS lived up to its reputation with 100% of traffic signals integrated into the traffic control system. The centre contributed to enhanced smooth traffic flow,

increased traffic management efficiency, reduced travel times by 20%, improved incident monitoring by 63% and shortened the response time by 30%. To further capitalise on these achievements and make them sustainable, RTA plans to expand the ITS coverage of Dubai's main road network from the current 60% to 100% by 2026.

Given RTA's commitment to enhance the road network's infrastructure, the upcoming phase will see the development of several major roads. It encompasses a project to improve Hessa Street from the intersection with Sheikh Zayed Road to the intersection with Al Khail Road over 4.5 km stretch, which will step up the intake of the street to 16,000 vehicles per hour.

It also entails the Umm Suqeim Street Improvement Project over 4.6 km from the intersection with Al Khail Road to the intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road, increasing its capacity to 16,000 vehicles per hour. The plan also covers Al Khaleej Street Improvement Project, stretching 3 km from the Infinity Bridge ramp to Cairo Street. The project encompasses the construction of three underpasses stretching 1.65 km, with an estimated capacity of about 12,000 vehicles per hour. It also includes constructing a 13.5 km cycling track with a width of 5.5 metres, including a dedicated 2.5-metre-wide track for bikes and scooters and a 2-metre-wide track for pedestrians. It links Al Sufouh and Jumeirah to Dubai Hills via Hessa Street, serving residential communities like Al Barsha and Barsha Heights.

RTA remains steadfast in realising the vision of the leadership to transform Dubai into the best city for living in the world.

H.E. Mattar Al Tayer

Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors

# المسار almasar

## 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

## 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.

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Master Plan for Marine Transport 2030 released

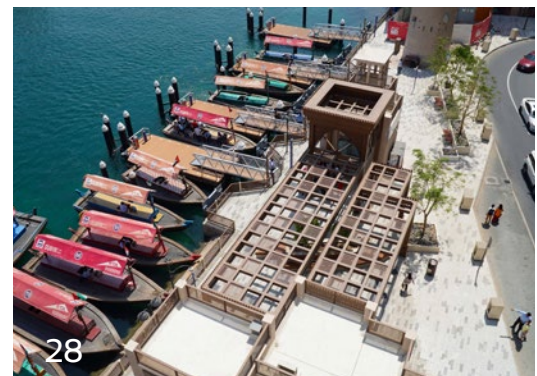
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## Hamdan bin Mohammed reviews RTA's strategic projects to develop infrastructure and expand smart traffic systems

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, reviewed the strategic projects and initiatives undertaken by the Roads and Transport Authority RTA to develop infrastructure related to road and transport systems in Dubai. His Highness was also briefed on RTA's plan to expand the coverage of Intelligent Traffic Systems ITS, which support the government's drive to transform Dubai into the world's smartest city and promote the use of smart technologies and software to manage traffic and ease mobility around Dubai.

The review took place during His Highness's visit to the Dubai ITS Centre in Al Barsha, a subsidiary of the RTA. One of the largest and most advanced traffic control centres in the world, the centre boosts Dubai's

ability to meet its growing needs emerging from its increasing urbanisation. It also raises its global standing in intelligent traffic systems, ranking it among cities such as Singapore and Seoul.







Upon arrival at the Dubai ITS Centre, His Highness was received by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority, and several senior RTA officials.

### Striving for 100% intelligent traffic management

At the start of the visit, His Highness received a briefing from His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, about the Dubai ITS Centre, which was developed under the directives of His





Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The centre uses cutting-edge technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, the Internet of Things IoT, and advanced communication systems to provide innovative traffic solutions. Equipped with an array of traffic-monitoring and data-gathering devices, as well as a suite of smart services, the centre plays a key role in ensuring that Dubai's intelligent traffic management systems are able to effectively manage the rapid expansion of the city's current and future road networks. Since its opening in November 2020, the Dubai ITS Centre has significantly enhanced the city's traffic management, leading to a 20% reduction in travel time, a 63% improvement in incident monitoring and a 30% faster response time.

"The centre currently monitors 60% of the main road network in Dubai, and RTA aims to increase coverage to 100% in 2026. Traffic signals and the traffic control system are now 100% interlinked.

"The centre features an advanced traffic control system

iTraffic enhanced with Artificial Intelligence as well as big data analysis and decision-making support tools to facilitate the management of traffic movement. Linking all of Dubai, the system ensures a smooth traffic flow, manages incidents, emergencies and events, monitors the efficiency of operational systems and reports malfunctions. The centre is connected to an 820-km-long fibre optic network, and 425 traffic surveillance cameras, including Dubai police cameras. It is also equipped with 235 incident-monitoring and vehicle counting devices, 115 travel time measurement devices, 112 electronic display signs, and 17 road weather information systems," said Al Tayer.

His Highness was briefed on the smart screening system for paid public parking, which currently covers 65,000 slots or 34% of all paid parking. These are monitored by nine smart screening vehicles, which are set to double to 18 by the end of the year. The expansion will cover around 140,000 slots or 70% of total paid parking. The system has significantly enhanced the operational efficiency and digital transformation of the parking screening process.





## Road network indicators

His Highness was briefed on mega road projects implemented by RTA in the previous phase: the Dubai-Al Ain Road Improvement Project, the Infinity Bridge developed under the Al-Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project, and the Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Corridor Improvement Project. RTA seeks to develop several main roads in the next phase, including a project to develop Hessa Street from its intersection with Sheikh Zayed Road to its intersection with Al Khail Road stretching 4.5 km to augment its capacity to 16,000 vehicles per hour. It also entails the Umm Suqeim Street Improvement Project from its intersection with Al Khail Road to its intersection with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road extending 4.6 km, increasing its capacity to 16,000 vehicles per hour, and the Al Khaleej Street Improvement Project, stretching 3 km from the Infinity Bridge ramp to Cairo Street. The project encompasses the construction of three underpasses stretching 1.65 km, with an estimated capacity of about 12,000 vehicles per hour.

His Highness was also apprised of major indicators of the rapid development of Dubai's Road network infrastructure. The total length of Dubai's Road network has grown from 8,715 lane-km in 2006 to 18,768 lane-km in 2022, marking a 115% growth. The number of bridges and underpasses saw a big increase, from 129 to 988 during the same period, a 666% expansion. Moreover, the number of pedestrian bridges and underpasses increased from 26 in 2006 to 122 in 2022, an increase of 369%.

Efforts to ramp up traffic safety standards have contributed to a significant drop in incident-related fatalities, from approximately 22 cases per 100,000 of the population in 2006 to only 1.9 cases in 2022, placing Dubai among the best global cities in terms of traffic safety alongside urban centres in Sweden, Norway, and Japan. These improvements have put the UAE in the global top tier in road quality between 2013 and 2017 and secured it a high international ranking in the road and highways satisfaction index in 2020.

## Cycling tracks

His Highness also reviewed the master plan to expand the construction of cycling tracks until 2026. The cycling track network in Dubai is set to expand from 544 km in 2023 to 819 km by 2026. His Highness also took a closer look at the upcoming cycling track as part of the Hessa Street Improvement Project. This 13.5 km long track, with a width of 5.5 metres, will feature a dedicated track width of 2.5 metres for bikes and scooters and 2 metres for pedestrians. It links Al Sufouh and Jumeirah to Dubai Hills via Hessa Street, serving residential communities like Al Barsha and Barsha Heights. Furthermore, it contributes to enhancing first and last-mile trips, linking with the Dubai Internet City Metro Station and nearby commercial areas. This track is distinguished by two specially designed bridges: one over Sheikh Zayed Road and another over Al Khail Road. Both bridges are five metres wide, with tracks for e-scooters and cyclists three metres across and those for pedestrians two metres across.

## RTA roadmap to 2040

His Highness was apprised of the outcomes of the RTA Path to 2040 workshop, which saw the participation of 11 international consultants. The workshop aimed to propose solutions to address traffic congestion on Al Khail, Jumeirah, and Al Wasl roads. A multitude of engineering and traffic concepts and solutions were put forward, encompassing public transport, mobility policies and soft mobility. Among the key solutions

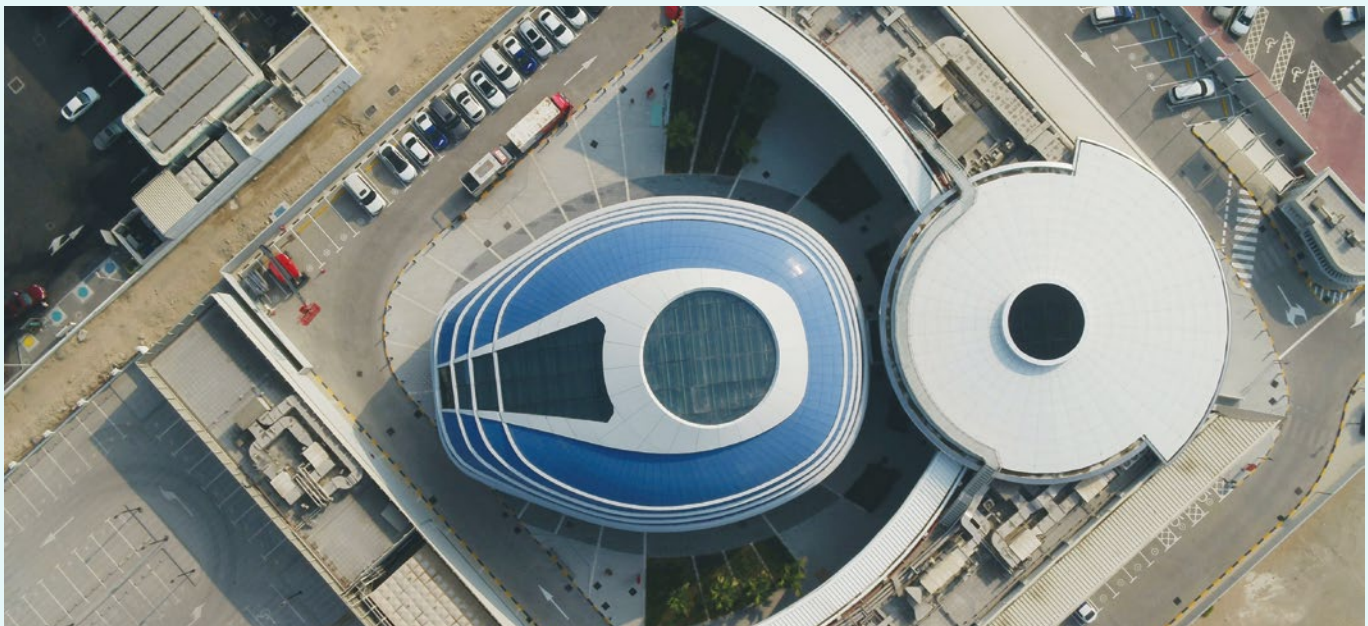
presented were the transformation of sections of Jumeirah Road into an urban boulevard and the expansion of Al Wasl Road to accommodate three lanes in each direction.

His Highness was also briefed on the key outcomes of the 2022 traffic index report by TomTom, which is a global company specialising in monitoring congestion and traffic worldwide and provides its analyses to 390 cities across 56 countries.

In a recent evaluation, Dubai surpassed major global cities like Los Angeles, Montreal, Sydney, Berlin, Rome and Milan in average time needed to travel 10 km in the central business district CBD. Dubai clocked in at 12 minutes, compared to the referenced cities' average of 21 minutes. The top performer, Almere in the Netherlands, averaged 8 minutes, while the lowest-performing city was London with 36 minutes.

## Array of facilities

His Highness toured the facilities of the Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre, which boasts world-class design and equipment, such as mega screens, and user-friendly control systems for operators and engineers of the intelligent traffic systems. The facility also includes a specialised centre for managing and monitoring traffic movement, equipped with giant display monitors as well as specialist rooms with the latest in technology to deal with emergency traffic movements. It also has offices for engineering teams tasked with the management and improvement of systems and the provision of backup support.







## Hamdan bin Mohammed approves Dubai Marine Transport Master Plan 2030

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, has approved the Dubai Marine Transport Master Plan 2030. The plan encompasses a 188% expansion of the marine transport network, a 400% increase in passenger lines, and the manufacturing of the world's first electric abra using 3D printing technology.

During his visit to the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), His Highness reviewed the master plan for scaling up Dubai's marine transport system through to 2030. His Highness was given an overview of key aspects of the plan by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). The plan targets a 51% increase in the number of marine transport users, from 14.7 million to 22.2 million annually by 2030. Additionally, it outlines a 188% increase in the total length of the marine transport network, from 55 km to 158 km. Another key element of the plan will see marine transport stations go up from 48 to 79 stations along the Dubai Creek, Dubai Water Canal, the coastline of the Arabian Gulf and various waterfront projects

in accordance with a well-thought-out strategy. The plan also includes increasing passenger transport lines from seven to 35, marking a 400% surge, besides expanding the marine transport fleet by 32%, from 196 to 258 marine vessels.

### 3D printed abra

His Highness reviewed RTA's initiative to manufacture the world's first electric Abra using 3D printing technology in partnership with the private sector. Designed to carry 20 passengers, the 3D-printed boat features a design that melds aesthetics and heritage cues of the original Abas. Aligned with the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy, this initiative slashes manufacturing time by 90% and enables 30% cost savings.

His Highness also reviewed the operational metrics and performance of the Al Garhoud RTA Marine Maintenance Centre (for abras, ferries, and water taxis). The biggest marine maintenance facility in the region, it spans 5,000 square metres, comprising five distinct workshops, a 250-metre pier, a dock capable of accommodating boats up to 32 metres in length, a boat crane with a lifting capacity of up to 100 tonnes, three storage areas, zones designated for marine and external tasks, administrative spaces and an employee rest zone.

The workshop can accommodate 16 boats at a time. Since its inauguration in 2018, the workshop has aided 57 RTA marine transport craft to operate at peak efficiency and has been instrumental in providing technical training to UAE nationals specialising in marine transport maintenance. The workshop also slashed maintenance costs by about 50%, enhancing the quality of repairs, bolstering the operational readiness of various means of marine transport to 99% and prolonging the lifespan of ferries and water taxis by 25%. The workshop also ensures private abras crossing Dubai Creek have a safety cushion they can rely on and offers marine maintenance services to both government and private entities.

## Predictive maintenance

His Highness was also updated on the predictive maintenance system for marine transport modes which involves installing remote monitoring devices and sensors on board marine transport modes. This helps with conducting rigorous testing to validate the precision of data, thereby greatly enhancing



■ **Plan envisages expansion of Dubai's marine transport network by 188% and passenger lines by 400%**

■ **HH Sheikh Hamdan expresses his appreciation for the outstanding example set by Emirati women in various fields and their relentless pursuit of excellence**

■ **His Highness reviews RTA's initiative to build the world's first electric abra using 3D printing technology**

■ **Hamdan bin Mohammed is apprised about the trial run of the world's first autonomous electric Abra**

■ **Al Garhoud Marine Maintenance Centre to boost operational readiness of marine transit means by 99%**

safety. The benefits of the system include achieving a 99% rating on the marine transport availability index, through predictive troubleshooting, precise scheduling of maintenance works, minimising operational downtime, efficient inventory management and meticulous planning of spare part requirements to avoid the stockpiling of materials. RTA is planning to introduce a real-time monitoring system empowered by Artificial Intelligence to analyse data, predict faults and plan ahead for potential spare part requirements.







His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed was also apprised about the trial run of the world's first autonomous electric Abra. In its initial phase, the abra successfully cleared Level 4 of the International Driving Automation Index out of a possible six levels. The trials involved operating the abra entirely autonomously and without the need for a captain between Al Jaddaf Station and Dubai Festival City Marine Transport Station, adhering to the route with 100% accuracy. Efforts are currently underway to successfully complete Level 5 of the Index by 2024.

"The autonomous electric Abra was crafted locally, thanks to the dedication of the RTA team. In its design and production, emphasis was placed on retaining the abra's heritage identity. The abra boasts a host of advanced features highlighted by zero carbon emissions, operating and maintenance cost savings of 30% and the elimination of noise compared to diesel-powered Abbras. Equipped with two electric motors, it can achieve a maximum speed of seven knots. It is fitted with an autonomous control system and four lithium batteries that ensure an operating time of seven hours. RTA adopted new technologies to design







## ■ His Highness meets with Hanadi Mohammed Al Doseri, the first Emirati woman to captain a mass marine transport vessel

the structure of the autonomous electric abra and used fibreglass in the hull to reduce its weight,” explained Al Tayer.

### Woman captain waiting in the wings

During the visit, His Highness met with Hanadi Mohammed Al Doseri, the first Emirati woman to captain a mass marine transport vessel. Al Doseri recounted her journey towards securing the qualifications needed to pilot sub-200 tonne ships on coastal voyages. His Highness expressed his appreciation for the outstanding example set by Emirati women in various fields

and their relentless pursuit of excellence. He commended Al Doseri for her accomplishments and wished her continued success in her career.

Al Doseri’s qualifications include five safety training certificates compliant with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). In addition, Al Doseri has successfully completed three months of maritime service and has received two more specialised training certificates. She is also licensed to pilot marine craft in the 12-metre and 24-metre categories. To enhance her practical skills, she underwent a comprehensive five-month training programme aboard the Dubai Ferry. Subject to a successful candidate evaluation in December, Al Doseri is on track to secure a license for piloting sub-200-tonne ships on coastal journeys.



# RTA, NAKHEEL sign agreement to construct bridges linking Dubai Islands from Bur Dubai

This agreement falls under Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project

In response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai to complete the Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project which will serve the city's extensive urban and demographic growth along the corridor and under the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) signed an agreement with NAKHEEL, the world's leading real estate developer to construct direct entrances and exits to the Dubai Islands project from Bur Dubai. The bridge spans 1,425 metres with four lanes in each direction.

The agreement was formalised by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA and His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Chairman of the Board of Directors, of NAKHEEL. Attendees from NAKHEEL included Issam Galadari, Managing Director, Member of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Naaman Atallah, Group CEO of NAKHEEL. Attendees from RTA included Eng. Maitha bin Adai, CEO of Traffic and Roads Agency, Moaza Al Marri, Executive Director, Office of RTA's Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, Hamad Al Shehi, Director of Roads and several directors from both parties. The Dubai Islands project will have a direct entry and exit points on the Bur Dubai side through a bridge stretching across

the Dubai Creek between the Infinity Bridge and Port Rashid Development Project. The bridge extends 1,425 metres and comprises four lanes in each direction with a total capacity of 16,000 vehicles per hour in both directions. It rises 15.5 metres above the waters of the Dubai Creek and features a 75-metre-wide canal allowing ships of various types to traverse the creek. The project encompasses a dedicated lane for cyclists and pedestrians on one side of the bridge and two elevators will be installed at both ends to ease the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists. The project also sets forth the construction of surface roads extending approximately 2,000 metres to connect with the existing roads from both ends of the Dubai Islands and Bur Dubai. The project is set to complete in 2026.



■ Building a 1,425m-long bridge featuring 4 lanes in each direction to facilitate the entry and exit for the Dubai Islands project

■ Carving out a dedicated track for cyclists and pedestrians along the bridge

**AL TAYER:** This initiative is a monumental phase in the broader project of improving the Al Shindagha Corridor

**AL SHAIBANI:** We are keen to sustain our collaboration with RTA in realising Dubai's aspirations.



## Mega Strategic Road Projects

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer expressed delight over signing the agreement with NAKHEEL to undertake the construction of entrances and exits leading to the Dubai Islands project: “This marks the second agreement under the initiative to provide entrances and exits leading to Dubai Islands, a venture that RTA successfully undertook in partnership with NAKHEEL in 2020. The project envisaged constructing three bridges at the junction of Al Khaleej Street and Abu Baker Al Siddique Road, spanning 1.6 km that lead to Dubai Islands.”

“This project forms a key phase of Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project. It is one of the largest projects currently being undertaken by RTA with a total estimated cost of AED5.3 billion. It encompasses the construction of 15 intersections spanning 13 km in total. Due to its massive scope, the project had been split into five phases. The Corridor serves Deira and Bur Dubai in addition to several development projects such as Dubai Islands, Dubai Seafront, Dubai Maritime City and Port Rashid. As such, it is expected to serve about one million people. It will slash the travel time from 104 minutes to just 16 minutes by 2030, and the time saved over 20 years will be worth about AED45 billion,” added Al Tayer.

## Enhancing Dubai Global Standing

His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Director-

General of Dubai Ruler's Court, Managing Director of the Investment Corporation of Dubai, Chairman of the Board of Directors of NAKHEEL said: “Nakheel and the RTA have both been at the forefront of innovation, looking at ways to develop sustainable environments, which further reinforce Dubai's position as the global hub for innovation in developing infrastructure that shapes the future of smart cities. Being an integral waterfront development situated at the northern coastline of the emirate, Dubai Islands will be easily accessible by land and sea through the well-planned road bridges and water transport. We look forward to working with RTA to enhance the future vision of Dubai and to see Dubai Islands come to life.”

In 2020, RTA finalised the construction of entrances and exits connecting Dubai Islands from Deira, to elevate the road entrances and exits to Dubai Islands at the junction of Al Khaleej Street and Abu Bakar Al Siddique Road. The project entailed constructing 3 bridges spanning 1.6km, namely: a two-lane bridge that provides smooth traffic flow from Dubai Islands to Al Khaleej Street in the North, and another three-lane bridge that ensures smooth traffic flow from Dubai Islands to Al Khaleej Street in the South in addition to a two-lane bridge that provides smooth traffic flow from Al Khaleej Street southward to Dubai Islands.



# Al Tayer honours rail team for upgrading metro service

## Honouring Dubai Metro Team coincides with the completion of 14 years of happy journeys

**Marking the completion of 14 years of happy journeys since the start of operations of Dubai Metro on 09.09.2009, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the event in style. His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, RTA honoured the team of RTA's Rail Agency for contributing to the sustained improvement of the Dubai Metro service since launched.**

“The metro stands as one of the significant projects that has transformed the transportation and quality of life in Dubai and has had a profound positive impact on the economy. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, hailed it as the project of the century and a distinctive hallmark for Dubai,” said Al Tayer during the event.

“We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the CEO of the

Rail Agency and the dedicated team of the Agency for their relentless efforts to improve the metro service from inception. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum commended these efforts earlier this year in a tweet, stating, “The number of Dubai Metro passengers has reached 2 billion since its inauguration on 9 September 2009. Dubai Metro has 129 trains, 53 stations, and a punctuality of 99.7%.”



# RTA hits new milestone with 16.8 million maintenance hours devoted to Dubai Metro since 2009

Dubai's Metro has set a new milestone in operational excellence, logging more than 16.8 million hours of specialised maintenance work since its inception in 2009, covering carriages, rails and tunnel maintenance. Managed by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), the urban rail service has also achieved a punctuality rate of 99.7%, exceeding international safety benchmarks.

Since its inauguration 14 years ago, Dubai Metro has also completed over 1 million kilometres in travel distance, demonstrating high levels of operational sustainability. Maintenance teams have covered 30,000 kilometers on foot during their inspection tours. Leveraging advanced technology, RTA has employed specialised apps and systems to streamline maintenance activities, aligning with its ambitious paperless strategy and plans to raise efficiency. These milestones reaffirm Dubai Metro's commitment to setting global standards in urban transportation.

## Specialised management

From the outset, RTA has been keen to ensure the highest global standards of maintenance for the metro system. The process, which skilled professionals with international

experts oversaw, was dedicated to preserving the metro's infrastructure, trains, stations and systems. Over the last 14 years, RTA strived to sustain the metro's assets, using cutting-edge technology to raise maintenance efficiency and ensure a seamless and high quality user experience.

## Maintenance programmes

RTA conducts two categories of preventive maintenance: the first, light maintenance conducted every 14 days or quarterly and the second, overhaul (comprehensive) maintenance. The latter, which involves periodic inspections and overhauling of trains based on mileage, is routinely performed for each train after every 750,000 km. Each train undergoes a 15-day overhauling process. About 1 million manhours were devoted to meticulously





## Security and safety

■ Security and safety remain paramount for RTA. The metro network has over 10,000 CCTV cameras to oversee all train facilities, ensuring passenger safety.

■ Throughout the year, meticulous maintenance is conducted on over 2,000 informational screens to guarantee peak performance, assisting passengers on all their journeys



maintain 79 trains and ensure their optimal performance. A dedicated team of 70 employees conducts maintenance working around the clock. Overhauls are conducted in a fully-equipped workshop located at the Al Qusais Depot. The Dubai Metro's fleet boasts 129 trains, comprising 50 modern units and the initial batch of 79 trains, which have recently undergone maintenance. With Dubai Metro covering a total of over 1 million kilometres so far, it is currently conducting its second overhaul maintenance, the highest level of an overhaul. This process involves the inspection and refurbishment of all 14 train systems, encompassing components like the metro carriage systems, gear unit, traction motor, brake system, train door system, pneumatic valves and air conditioning systems.

## Rail grinding

Since the metro's inception, overhauling teams have undertaken rail grinding for a combined length of 800 km. They utilised the world's most sophisticated rail refurbishment equipment, which automatically grinds rails to ensure optimal alignment between rails and train wheels. It prevents potential breaking of rails and extends the lifespan of the train infrastructure. Additionally, they employed state-of-the-art cameras and laser technology to meticulously scan rail sections and determine the most suitable maintenance system that guarantees smooth train operations. In doing so, RTA has seamlessly transitioned to an advanced preventive maintenance system, aligning with one of its core strategic goals of asset sustainability.







## Innovation

RTA began integrating modern technologies in overhauling the Dubai Metro, using drones to examine and inspect Dubai Metro tunnels extending 14 km on both Red and Green Lines. Using drones enables a precise and fast inspection of the condition of assets. They come equipped with multiple cameras, including a high-resolution one to monitor the condition of the tunnels.

Infrared technology is utilised to monitor the walls of train tunnels, providing instant reporting on asset conditions and maintenance activities. This technology seamlessly integrates with RTA's maintenance management system, offering a digital platform for inspection tasks, which minimises the possibility of human errors. In

addition to the use of (SightCall) technology by First Line Response Teams, which is an augmented reality application on mobile devices that enables experts to the teams to obtain instant information remotely to support diagnosis and quick resolution of complex system faults. It proved a significant driver of performance improvement since its deployment, and as a result, there has been a substantial reduction in response time.

## Unique design

Dubai Metro is the backbone of Dubai's public transport systems, linking vital areas across the city. Apart from providing safe and smooth mobility for riders, it represents an iconic addition to Dubai's urban infrastructure and a major accomplishment. It employs cutting-edge train manufacturing technology and serves as a comprehensive transit system. It features 900 automated fare gates, 548 escalators, 273 elevators, 96 electric walkways, and air-conditioned footbridges, all ensuring a smooth and safe transportation experience for all its users.

## Building local capacities

RTA has prioritised the development and training of Emirati engineering and technical talent in train maintenance. It recruits fresh engineering graduates and equips them with skills through field training, factory tours, and participation in international workshops and conferences. These engineers operate railways, train systems, electrical systems, and Dubai Metro's infrastructure.



# 90% construction completed of cycling tracks at Al Khalwaneej and Mushrif

The project is undertaken in response to the directives of Hamdan bin Mohammed.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that 90% of the construction has been completed for the cycling tracks of Al Khawaneej and Mushrif clocked. This 7-km stretch connects with the existing cycling tracks extending 32 km in the two areas, and as such the total length of cycling tracks in both districts reaches 39 km.

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA said, "In response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council, to transform Dubai into a bicycle friendly city, RTA has awarded a contract for constructing cycling tracks at Al Khawaneej and Mushrif. The project aims to provide suitable options for people to cycle according to

## Al Tayer:

■ The total length of cycling tracks will increase from 542 km in Q1 of 2022 to 819 km in 2026.

■ The construction of cycling tracks contributes to transforming Dubai into a bicycle-friendly city.





Dubai Urban Plan 2040 aimed to make Dubai the best city for living in the world.

“The project is part of RTA’s Master Plan for Jogging and Cycling Tracks across Dubai aimed to encourage residents and visitors to practice sports and recreational activities, and thus enhance the wellbeing of people in the emirate. The project affirms RTA’s commitment to improving the link between the existing cycling tracks at residential areas as well as the points of attraction in the neighborhood,” commented Al Tayer.

## Two Cycling Tracks

“The first track runs from the Quranic Garden on Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street up to the intersection with Al Khawaneej Street. It crosses the street through the combined pedestrian and cycling bridge on Al Khawaneej Street to link with the existing cycling track in Al Khawaneej.

“The second cycling lane starts from the Mushrif Park near the Crocodile Park, extends up to the intersection with Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan Street, and then heads North up to the intersection with Al Khawaneej Street. It crosses the street through the pedestrian and cycling bridge on Sheikh Zayed bin

Hamdan Al Nahyan Street to connect with the cycling track in Al Khawaneej. Accordingly, the total length of the two new cycling lanes and the existing lanes in Al Khawaneej and Mushrif rises to approximately 39 kilometres,” explained Al Tayer.

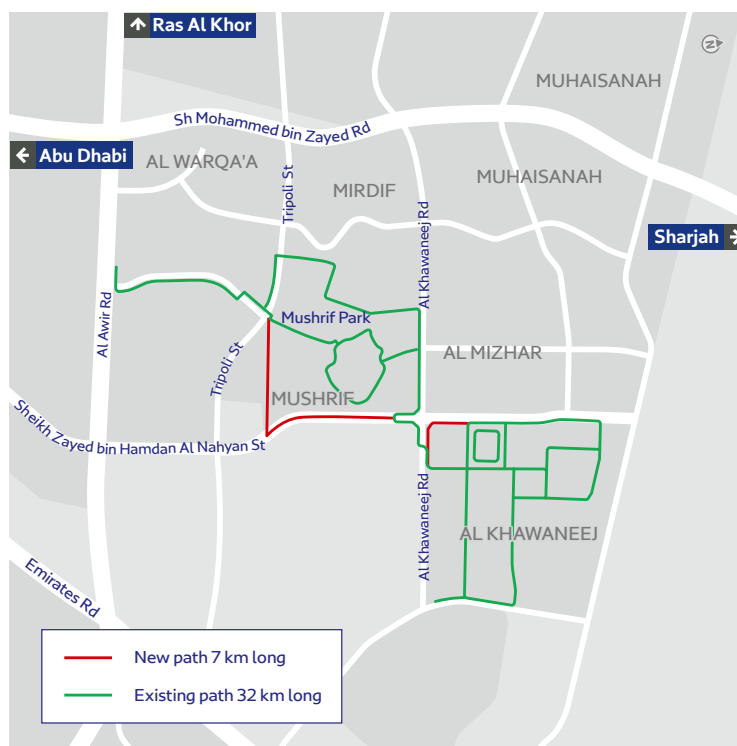
“The cycling track at Al Khawaneej and Mushrif is part of a master plan to develop cycling tracks and connect key districts of the city. The plan includes increasing the total length of cycling tracks in Dubai from the existing 544 km to 819 km by 2026. The coastal areas such as Jumeirah, Al Sufouh, and the Marina will be linked to the external road tracks at Al Qudra, Seih Al Salam, and Nad Al Sheba along Al Barsha, Dubai Hills and Nad Al Sheba,” added Al Tayer.

## Top Standards

“The design, construction, and setting of speed limits for cycling tracks are in line with the top international standards and technical directories. It is also customised to the nature of the locality and the classification of the tracks. These tracks encourage residents and visitors to practice cycling such that it will develop into an alternative and sustainable mobility means that serves the first and last-mile strategy,” concluded Al Tayer.

### Cycling Speed

■ RTA has set a speed limit of 30 km/h at cycling tracks dedicated to amateurs and those tracks shared with vehicles to make roads safer. It fixed a speed limit of 20 km/h on dedicated or shared tracks with pedestrians within urban areas. However, no specific speed limits are set for cycling training tracks. The overall objective of introducing speed limits for cycling tracks is to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.





# Rail Right-of-Way wins Construction Technology Awards 2023

The award was won under the Digital Transformation of the Year category.

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has won the Construction Technology Awards 2023 under the Digital Transformation of the Year category. The award acknowledges leading initiatives within the construction industry and fosters excellence and creativity. Winning the award is credited to the Digital Platform for Rail Engineering Information of the Rail Right-Of-Way Department.**

It was the first submission of The Rail Right-Of-Way Department for the award, which is presented by the organiser of the Construction Technology Conference and Exhibition 2023. This regional event, which was held in Dubai, drew participants from a

range of government and local entities, real estate development firms, and engineering consultancy companies. RTA bagged the award after advancing to the final rounds and outperforming six other nominated entities.

## RTA wins 13 local, regional, international awards during first half of 2023

This brings the total to 292 awards since RTA's establishment

**During the first half of 2023, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) garnered 13 esteemed local, regional, and international awards during the first half of 2023. This brings RTA's cumulative awards from 2008 to the first half of this year to 292 awards comprising 45 local, 113 regional, and 134 international awards. The participation in these awards enables RTA to showcase the creativity and innovation of its projects and services as well as enhance its global leadership in the fields of its business.**

"These achievements highlight the magnitude of RTA's initiatives aimed at realising strategic goals in becoming a pioneer in sustainability and digital transformation. The ultimate goal is to become centred on mobility data, and foster proactive services tailored to the needs of both customers and employees," said Fatima Al Mandous, Director of Innovation and Leadership, at the

Strategy and Corporate Governance Sector, RTA.

RTA clinched two global awards, namely: the 2023 Global Safety Award presented by the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), a UK-based establishment founded in 1916 and Customer Centricity World Series (CCWS).

The collection of prestigious awards won also includes two accolades under the GovTech Innovation Award 2023. RTA

## The digital platform

The digital platform efficiently manages information, encompassing over 800,000 documents related to the Dubai Metro's assets, and data of the Railway Agency and associated entities including rail consultants, contractors, and operators. The platform ensures the accuracy, speed and accessibility to information, besides documenting of engineering changes in assets and data management.

It is worth noting that the Construction Technology Conference and Exhibition 2023 focused on sustainability and broadening the use of novel technologies or services. It also tackled the handling of project information management systems, managing enterprise resources, and transforming physical sites into precise digital models.



won the digital transformation category for its call centre and also bagged the Smart City Initiative of the Year award for the Expo 2020 project for managing multimedia events.

RTA won the Happiness Award, which is presented by the Investment Corporation of Dubai. This recognition was a tribute to RTA's dedicated efforts in maximising customer happiness through social communication.

RTA also secured an award under the Automating Government Transactions category for the Vehicle Purchase and Sale service through RTA's Dubai Drive app, at the third edition of the UAE Innovates Award, which is organized by Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation.

The premises of RTA's Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) Centre at Al Barsha won the BigSee Architecture Award 2023 under the Government Buildings category. This accolade recognises the innovative accomplishments



in the innovative architectural design and the interior design of the facility. RTA won the Construction Technology Award 2023, which recognises entities that excel in employing digital technology to enhance project delivery through improvements in design, efficiency, cost, sustainability, and workplace safety.

# RTA upgrades lighting on Airport and Al Ittihad Roads to Eco-Friendly LED Technology

The project spans 19.5km and entails replacing 2000 lighting units.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has recently upgraded 2,000 conventional lighting units with energy-efficient LED lights. The project scope extends 19.5 km and serves 16 lanes in both directions on the Airport and Al Ittihad Roads. RTA is keen to make its assets more sustainable in line with best energy conservation practices and support for the green economy. Such efforts contribute to achieving sustainable development and promoting a clean environment in Dubai and across the UAE.

"The lighting upgrading project on Airport and Al Ittihad Roads took nearly 6 months. Works included re-engineering the operating system of the lighting units to integrate sustainable, environmentally friendly, and highly efficient lights. Undertaking the project underscores RTA's commitment to adopting the latest innovative means for optimising the use of assets, extending their lifetime, and saving the power

consumption across the lighting network."

"LED technology boasts numerous environmentally friendly features, such as: a 55% reduction in energy usage compared to conventional lighting units and a longevity increase of up to 173% over older streetlamps. Specifically, the new lights have a lifespan of 60,000 hours, in contrast to the 22,000 hours typical of traditional lamps. As such, it results

## New Generation of Cutting-Edge Technology of Smart Kiosks unveiled elevating user friendly experience 24/7 with advanced features

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in the Emirate of Dubai launched a new generation of 32 smart kiosks with advanced features and modern designs to improve ease of use and provide its services round the clock to all including people of determination, to achieve its strategic goals of enhancing customer happiness. The kiosks are installed in 21 locations, including RTA's main building, customer happiness centres, main service provider centres, and at several vital locations in the Emirate of Dubai.

The smart kiosks project is a successful example of the RTA's use of the latest technologies to enhance customer experience, in line with the directives of the Dubai government and the objectives of the Hamdan bin Mohammed Smart Government Programme to improve government services, achieve customer happiness, and provide the necessary support following international best practices.

The new kiosks provide 28 different digital services related to vehicle licensing, drivers, parking, nol, and revenue management services (licensing, sales invoice, etc) and are available round the clock to meet the needs of the public. The new kiosks provide various payment options for their users, including cash, credit card, and payment via NFC technology on smartphones.



■ The project contributes to 100% enhancement in lighting quality while decreasing power usage by 55%

■ The new lighting serves 16 lanes in both directions on both Airport and Al Ittihad Roads

in reducing the periodicity of replacing lamps along with maintenance and operating costs. It also reduces energy loss and heat emission by 20% compared to traditional lamps. It does not only enhance the operational efficiency of the lamp system but also raises the efficiency of the lighting energy grid throughout Dubai's streets.

"The upgraded lamps offer greater brightness and colour precision than their predecessors, improving nighttime visibility and road safety for motorists in Dubai. The LED lamps offer a colour temperature of 4000K, which is double the 2000K of the older



lamps, thereby enhancing lighting quality by 100%. These new lamps are also free from environmentally harmful substances, aligning with RTA's vision and Dubai's commitment to environmental sustainability. RTA consistently strives to enhance Dubai's road lighting systems by employing the newest, smart, and innovative technologies tailored to the UAE's climatic conditions, furthering its commitment to sustainability.

**28 digital services for the public round the clock**

**32 smart kiosks installed in 21 locations in Dubai**

RTA stated that the new kiosks are characterized by an automated and intelligent performance monitoring feature to monitor the performance of the kiosks and develop services continuously, which contributes to providing effective and high-quality services to customers around the clock.

RTA launched the project to upgrade smart kiosks in 2021 with the aim of developing and improving customers' experience with digital services. Since then, the project has witnessed significant demand and success in serving the community and increasing the level of customer happiness. It also included an expansion in the number of kiosks and their locations to serve a larger segment of customers, as 8 new kiosks were added in 6 locations and 24 other kiosks were upgraded.



# Revamping 4 traditional Abra stations along Dubai Creek

**His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the completion of the revamping of four traditional abras stations along Dubai Creek. The project aimed to enhance the experience of abra riders, and step-up security & safety at marine transport stations used by 14 million riders annually. The project also aimed to fulfil the requirements of the Dubai Universal Design Code for People of Determination and increase the capacity of Bur Dubai Station by 33%.**

“The launch of this project is part of RTA’s master plan for overhauling marine transport systems in Dubai, which is recognised as a primary mobility mode, and enriching the marine transport network in the emirate. The plan envisages the development of four key stations: Bur Dubai Model Station, Deira Old Souq Station, Dubai Old Souq Station, and Sabkha Station,” explained Al Tayer.

“Marine transport has seen consistent growth in terms of the transportation modes, stations, and riders since the

inauguration of the Dubai Water Canal linking the Dubai Creek to the coastal area,. The sector is poised to see further improvement with the completion of the urban and touristic amenities on the shores of the canal as well as the construction of marine stations. It plans to make marine transport means the ideal mobility choice for citizens, residents and tourists savouring picturesque tourist and urban structures overlooking the Dubai Creek, Water Canal and beaches.

“The revamping of Bur Dubai model station took into

## Inspections carried to ensure compliance with stipulations set for school buses in Dubai

**Officials from RTA’s Public Transport Agency conducted site visits to several schools in Dubai at the onset of the 2023- 2024 school year. These visits aim to ensure that school buses adhere to the approved standards and offer an opportunity to confirm that school administrations uphold the safety and security guidelines for transporting students of various age groups to and from their homes.**

The visits are conducted at the start of each academic year as part of RTA’s commitment to ensuring the optimal compliance of school managements with the standards governing the school transport in Dubai. The visits enable us to assess the commitment of operators with the stipulations governing this vital transport activity.

These inspections are planned based on an analysis of schools with the lowest compliance records from

the 2021–2022 academic year using the smart inspection system. The checklist of school buses include bus safety and security specifications, permits of bus drivers and attendants along with their compliance with their tasks, and the cleanliness of the school buses

As the 2023- 2024 academic year commences, the Passengers Transport Activities Monitoring Department at RTA’s Public Transport Agency started its inspections. These inspections are a continuous effort to oversee

## ■ The redevelopment of Bur Dubai Station catered to maintaining the cultural identity and increasing the capacity of the station by 33%

consideration maintaining the historic and cultural identity, providing advanced amenities for users, building a sheltered outdoor space, offering retail outlets to serve abra riders and visitors, and upgrading the technological systems of the station. In a commitment to sustainability, the materials used in construction are environmentally friendly and durable, which will cut maintenance costs and extend asset lifespan by 10%, besides reducing carbon emissions.

“The project also encompassed upgrading the lighting of stations and marinas. RTA had already started the revamping of the Deira Old Souq station and charted plans to develop the Old Dubai Souq and Al Sabkha stations in the fourth quarter of 2024,” concluded Al Tayer.

RTA has deployed a predictive maintenance system involving the installation of remote monitoring devices & sensors onboard marine transport modes, and conducts



rigorous testing to validate the precision of the data.

The benefits of the system includes achieving an impressive 97% rating on the marine means availability index, and considerable savings in maintenance costs, through predictive troubleshooting, precise scheduling of maintenance works, minimising operational downtime, efficient inventory management, and meticulous planning of spare part requirements to avoid the stockpiling of materials.

RTA is planning to introduce a real-time monitoring system empowered by artificial intelligence to analyse data, predict faults and plan for the required spare parts.

this crucial public transport sector that serves students of various age groups. RTA remains committed to guaranteeing their safe and smooth transportation.

The inspection of school buses is part of a pre-established strategic plan to oversee their operation in the Emirate of Dubai and ensure compliance with local regulations and laws. These campaigns consist of thorough checks, and RTA has outlined safety standards for operating school buses. These standards include guidelines such as buses not exceeding

a speed of 80 km per hour, and they must be equipped with a speed control device that meets the conditions and specifications set by the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology.

RTA had set several standards and controls for operators of school transport services highlighted by Regulation No. (2) of 2008 regulating school transport in Dubai, along



with its executive regulations. RTA has also issued a guiding manual detailing specifications of school buses. It addresses the appearance of the school bus, mandatory safety and security features, and defines responsibilities for school administrations, institutions, supervisors, school bus-operating companies, drivers, students, and their parents.



# Over AED49 million raised at RTA's 113th open auction for premium vehicle plates

The revenues surpassed the previous sale by 30%

**The proceeds of the 113th Open Auction for Distinctive Vehicle Number Plates of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), held at the InternContinental Dubai Festival City Hotel on Saturday, September 2nd, amounted to AED49.789 million, reflecting an increase of 30% compared to the first open auction that took place this year which raised AED38.21 million.**

Plate (AA 70) was the most expensive auctioned at AED3.82 million, followed by Plate (X 7777) for AED3.80 million, ahead of Plate (Z 43) which was sold for AED2.85 million. Then comes Plate (Y 96) which brought back AED2.66 million, and Plate (S 888) sold for AED2.3 million.

RTA offered 90 fancy plates at this auction comprising of two, three, four and five-digits bearing (AA-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y-Z) codes.

By offering distinctive licensing plates at open or online auctions, RTA seeks to provide a neutral and transparent platform that bidders can avail of. Such

## Dubai Taxi launches 4 smart app-based services

The move aims to improve digital transformation, ensure safe and long-lasting mobility services

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) subsidiary Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) has announced the launch of four smart and innovative services to its digital application (DTC App). This step aligns with DTC's digital transformation strategy and its pioneering efforts in providing safe and sustainable digital transportation services, which contribute to Dubai's global leadership in transportation services.**

"The launch of these services reflects the Dubai Taxi Corporation's commitment to developing smart services in accordance with the leadership's directives to enhance the digital transformation journey for the benefit of the community. DTC is a pioneer in the implementation of innovative and smart services that adhere to the highest global standards. It is constantly striving to improve performance to achieve its strategic goals of providing innovative digital and sustainable transportation services that make people happy," said Abdullah Ibrahim Al Meer, Director of Digital

Transformation and Commercial Development at Dubai Taxi Corporation.

One of the premium services recently provided by DTC is the 'Hourly Rental' service, which is meant to suit the demands of residents, tourists, and entrepreneurs, as well as tourist facilities such as hotels, tour operators, airlines, and other public and private entities. Users can use the service to make many nonstop trips without designating a specific destination. Passengers can guide the driver to specific locations. The service caters to business executives by allowing them to book a single limousine



plates are appealing to passionate clients as they symbolise important events in their lives. These auctions are also of great importance to RTA as they serve the needs of a wide range of customers. RTA tends to hold auctions according to market needs with the objective of maximising customers' satisfaction and improving the level of service.



for several meetings, with the option of making multiple stops as part of their business trips. The service is available 24/7, allowing users to complete all journeys with a single vehicle rather than switching between different vehicles, saving them time, effort, and cost.

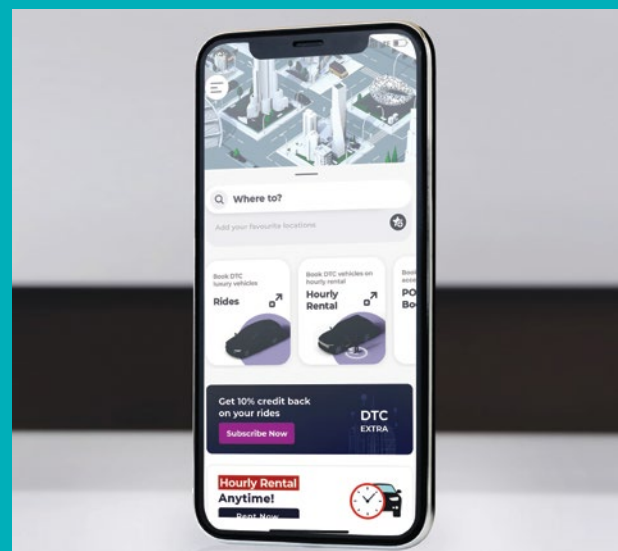
DTC also launched the 'Lost and Found Service', enabling passengers who lost any of their belongings during their trip to retrieve them by communicating with the driver or selecting the Lost Item Request feature in the available trip report on the DTC App to arrange for their return.

Additionally, DTC added the 'Meet Me Here' service to its list of services on the smart app, allowing users to share their precise location with friends, making it easy for them to meet at the intended destination. Furthermore, the Share My Trip Status service enables users to share their trip status accurately with their family or friends, giving them details about their trip, route, and estimated time of arrival.

"DTC is committed to achieving sustainable development and providing an innovative model of digital services. It aims to expand the use of artificial intelligence, smart systems, and automation by capitalising on advanced technologies to deliver transportation services in an innovative and

exceptional digital manner. The drive cements DTC's leading role in the smart transportation industry and promotes sustainability in Dubai's transportation landscape," added Al-Meer.

DTC offers a wide range of digital services through DTC App, enabling users to easily book limousines using advanced technologies that render the booking of diverse transportation services faster and more specific.



# Hosting the 5th Transport Sustainability Hackathon

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) hosted the fifth edition of the Public Transport Hackathon, themed "Sustainability of Public Transport." The event coincides with the UAE's hosting of the upcoming COP28 conference this November and aligns with the wise designation of 2023 as the year of sustainability. The hackathon is also a part of initiatives from RTA's 4th Industrial Revolution Lab for Transport carried out in collaboration with Unipreneur Company, a platform dedicated to nurturing young entrepreneurship.

In this edition, a brainstorming session was conducted with the participation of 110 students, both male and female, from 24 universities, colleges and schools across the UAE. The session generated 18 ideas, of which 8 were creative. Three innovative ideas were declared winners.

The hackathon on Public Transport Sustainability attracted 10 experts and mentors and was supported by 5 private establishments. It also included a 7-member jury panel representing entities from the RTA and beyond. Based on a survey conducted among participants, the satisfaction rating of this edition clocked 91%.

The 5th edition of the Public Transport Hackathon was organised over 4 days at RTA's Fourth Industrial Revolution Transport Lab. It saw the participation of leaders from

the Corporate Technology Support Services, Strategy and Corporate Governance, and Administrative Support Services sectors, along with several directors and staff of RTA, and participating entities.

## Creative Ideas

The event's objective was to gather creative and non-traditional ideas from school and university students, focusing on boosting environmental, economic, and social sustainability within transportation, communication, and infrastructure. In doing so, it cements RTA's leadership in seamless and sustainable mobility and ensures the participation of concerned parties in designing and innovating RTA's services.





## Objectives and Topics

Mohammed Yousuf Al Mudharreb, CEO of Corporate Technology Support Services Sector, RTA said: “This year’s Public Transport Hackathon aligned with several strategic objectives relating to sustainability, customer satisfaction, and future anticipation. It had three core themes. The first was Environmental Sustainability, which aimed to bolster environmental sustainability to realise RTA’s goal of transitioning to zero emissions by 2050. The second was Economic Sustainability aimed at optimising the use of RTA’s assets, elevating operational efficiency, and delivering innovative and proactive solutions in transportation. The third was Societal Sustainability, which aimed to promote wellbeing, satisfy customers, encourage the use of public transportation, bolster traffic safety, and achieve zero fatalities from road incidents.”

## Competition Ideas

“During the event, participants showcased 18 creative ideas and solutions. These were assessed by the judging panel based on RTA’s approved criteria for evaluating innovative ideas and solutions. Out of these, 8 ideas were shortlisted to vie for the top three places. Several results were achieved from organising the event by generating ideas for sustainable mobility using technical enablers such as data science and AI,” said Yousef Jawad, CEO of Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA. “Hosting such an event is crucial as it draws in young individuals, allowing them to showcase their ideas and proposals. Evaluating and adopting these ideas is valuable because they provide creative ideas for the future,” he noted.

## Following up on ideas and innovations

Participants of the Public Transport Sustainability Hackathon suggested creating a roadmap to follow up on ideas and initiatives and their implementation. This would be overseen by the Innovation and Leadership Department in collaboration with relevant entities and sectors. Additionally, they proposed that the Strategy and Corporate Governance Department host an exhibition on emerging technologies at the Fourth Industrial Revolution Transport Lab to showcase ideas innovatively and creatively.



## 3 Winners

The SB Solutions team clinched the first place by introducing a concept of a chip equipped with advanced algorithms built on a robust infrastructure. When installed in vehicles, this chip sends warnings to the driver about potential accidents, aiding in taking preventive actions to avoid potential hazards. This innovation is particularly beneficial for the Public Transport Agency - Dubai Taxi.

The second place was secured by the Hafilatuna team, which introduced an app offering a shared bus booking service for school students. This facilitates the transportation of students to neighbouring schools, aiming to eliminate repetitive trips and reduce congestion. The Public Transport Agency stands to benefit from this innovation.

The Dayma team clinched the third spot with their concept of solar-powered floating cycling tracks that enhance the aesthetics of coastlines, catering to the Traffic and Roads Agency.

## Advocating Ideas and Innovations

A roadmap has been mapped out to drive the realisation of groundbreaking concepts, and host an exhibition of emerging technologies at the Fourth Industrial Revolution Lab for Transport to foster innovative promotion of ideas.

# RTA's Customers Council ponders on the improvement of the Right-Of-Way Permits System

**The Customers Council of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) held a gathering to discuss the improvement of services rendered to holders of Right-Of-Way permits. The session was opened by Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, RTA Board Member and Chairperson of Customers Council, in the presence of Board Members as well as several representatives of relevant RTA agencies.**

The council praised the level of services provided by RTA to the business community in Dubai and its standing commitment to improving the services on offer to measure up to the needs and expectations of this category of customers.

The council reviewed several topics including holding workshops to educate the users of the Right-Of-Way Permits System with the requirements and conditions of

issuing permits besides addressing their comments and meeting their expectations.

The Council looked into the heavy vehicle lanes permit service system, the enhancement of the Right-Of-Way Permits System customer interface, in addition to the challenges and obstacles experienced by users of the Right-Of-Way permit system.

## A workshop in cooperation with AVAYA to enhance customer experience through modern technologies

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) concluded a successful workshop in cooperation with Avaya, a global leader in customer experience solutions, to enhance customer experience through the next generation of modern technologies. The move coincides with RTA's efforts to set new standards for customer experience.**

With a focus on integrating the latest smart technologies, such as the metaverse and generative AI solutions, like ChatGPT, into the customer experience through RTA's award-winning contact centre, the workshop illustrated how RTA can introduce the latest smart services in line with the UAE's vision of the digital government.

"RTA is always committed to enhancing the level of experience that we offer our customers who are increasingly eager to avail smarter services delivered in innovative ways. Our mission is to offer exceptional

services across any touchpoint that our customers demand and to use new technologies to make their experiences more seamless. Through this mission, we are aligned with the vision of our wise government to transform Dubai into the world's smartest and happiest city," said Mehailah Alzehmi, Director of Customer Happiness at RTA's Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector.

"RTA's investments into customer experience extend beyond digital customer contact. RTA has launched 3 new smart customer happiness centres, which provide



automated services without human intervention, located in Al Manara, Al Kifaf and Al Twar. RTA also this year launched a comprehensive customer experience lab to elevate customer service excellence,” she added.

“The new technologies will play pivotal roles in enhancing the Call Centre user experience. Through innovative solutions, contact centres can develop new communication channels and personalised services, meeting users’ evolving preferences. Automation streamlines routine tasks, cutting down wait times and boosting efficiency, while technologies like AI-powered chatbots provide instant responses and improve the speed of issue handling & resolution. Overall, these advancements create a

seamless and efficient environment, empowering contact centre users with quicker solutions and a higher level of satisfaction.”

Rodolph Khoury, General Manager of Avaya in Dubai and the Northern Emirates said: “We’re proud to collaborate with RTA as it continues to innovate to deliver exceptional customer experiences. The power of AI-based and Web 3.0-like tools to transform the customer experience is still being discovered, but organisations like the RTA are forging a clear path ahead as they develop real-life use cases and set standards to deliver seamless experiences across the whole customer journey.”



# DYOD campaign to educate underprivileged students worldwide in collaboration with The Digital School

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has donated 450 computers to the Donate Your Own Device (DYOD) campaign initiated by the Digital School; an initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.**

The DYOD campaign aims to collect used electronic devices from individuals and institutional donors, refurbish and recycle them to support underprivileged students worldwide, enhancing their access to education through digital means, ensuring they have access to high-class education opportunities.

The "DYOD" campaign seeks to involve the largest number of institutions in supporting students with ten thousand electronic devices, by donating surplus and old computers and electronic devices. Participating institutions will be granted a green contribution certificate in sustainability and recycling.

This marks RTA's inaugural contribution to the campaign initiated this year to assist students in need by fulfilling their educational requirements, which entails the provision of computers to ensure continued learning. This allows

students to keep up with the latest scientific publications and fosters communication between underserved students and teachers.

## 450 Computers

Rowdah Al Mehrizi, Director of Marketing & Corporate Communication, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA, said: "RTA supported the campaign by donating 450 computers, comprising 115 desktops and 335 portable devices, to assist students lacking up-to-date and adequate devices. In donating to this campaign, RTA seeks to provide digital infrastructure, which is a fundamental educational tool to enable students to enhance their reading skills, connect with educational platforms, and watch cultural and training programmes."

"RTA's contribution to this campaign underscores its

## 200 Job Opportunities presented at Ru'ya Careers UAE 2023

Applicants registered online or opted for an in-person interview.

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) participated in the 'Ru'ya – Careers UAE Redefined' 2023, offering 200 job vacancies across a range of engineering and scientific fields. The objective was to draw in Emirati graduates to build a database of qualified employees ready to adopt new skills and professional work practices. RTA sought to recruit experienced individuals to leverage their scientific expertise and professional practices.**

"Our annual participation in this fair underscores our commitment to the Emiratisation strategy. This event

drew a broad segment of fresh university, college, and institute graduates, as well as senior Emirati leaders

dedication and commitment to support CSR initiatives hosted by various entities. These initiatives aim to support diverse segments of the community, in line with the corporate values outlined in RTA's strategic plan for 2023-2030, which highlights collaboration and teamwork," added Al Mehrizi.

## Environmental Goal

"Participating in this initiative also serves an environmental objective, which entails the appropriate disposal of computers and accessories. These devices are viewed as reusable and functional. This environmental goal aligns with UAE's objectives for the Year of Sustainability, which embodies its commitment to enhancing environmental protection and establishing prosperous communities," commented Al Mehrizi.

## Partnership

"Joining this initiative affirms RTA's commitment to serving communities and individuals both within and outside the UAE besides supporting charitable efforts. It establishes a collaboration with the Digital School, which offers educational opportunities for students worldwide facing economic hardships that bar them from realising their right to pursue their education. In 2022, RTA rolled out



47 initiatives that benefited 53 million beneficiaries from diverse segments, encompassing both university and school students. Throughout the years, RTA initiatives provided school buses to students in Uganda and Tanzania, in addition to two classrooms in Egypt, and supplied nine small vehicles along with two buses in Thailand," concluded Al Mehrizi.

## 50,000 Digital Education Opportunities

Through global and local partnerships, the Digital School carried out educational programmes that contributed to offering over 50,000 digital education opportunities across 8 countries. The school is aiming to reach a milestone of 1 million students by the end of 2026.

in various positions," said Athari Mohammed, Director of Human Resources and Development Department, Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA.

## Interactive Work Environment

"RTA nurtures a work environment that promotes continuous learning and training for its employees. It values innovation and precision in task execution and focuses on nurturing and upscaling UAE talents by hosting workshops and familiarising them with international best practices in human development," explained Athari.

"Driven by the RTA's commitment to hire top young talents across various specialisations and universities, individuals interested in available jobs spanning engineering, data science,

urban planning, IT security, and other specialisations in transportation and rail can input their details online on tablets set up at the RTA's booth or opted for in-person interviews with specialists of RTA's Human Resources and Development Department," concluded Athari.



# DTC fits its fleet with top safety systems featuring automated fire suppression systems.

**RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) has equipped its taxis and school buses with automated engine fire suppression equipment. The move underscores DTC's commitment to fitting the fleets with systems matching the top safety practices and standards.**

## Mechanism

"This automated pneumatic fire detection tube system has been developed for the safety of our clients and drivers as well as the protection of our assets. The new system has so far been installed in 4,459 taxis and has also been fitted into 953 school buses, work is progressing in installing it in all vehicles.," said Nasser Mohammed Alhaj, Director of Assets Management, DTC.

"The system installed in taxis detects critically high temperatures and automatically dispenses the fire-extinguishing agent directly onto the fire's source and the fire can be put out in seconds without human intervention. The other system fitted in buses detects

and suppresses bus engine fires through a pneumatic detection tube. Once it is exposed to danger due to fire, it triggers the rapid dissemination of extinguishing powder, which is applied through a distribution network and dedicated nozzles. Such a system aligns with the top practices worldwide," he commented.

## Safety of Clients and Drivers

"The introduction of automatic engine fire suppression systems is in line with DTC's efforts to become a pioneer in enhancing client safety. The system is designed to autonomously detect and extinguish fires, preventing harm to both the driver

## Dubai Taxi trains 4,400 drivers, carries out 134 training courses

**4400 drivers have been trained by RTA's Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) as per its 2023 training plan to boost their efficiency and achieve excellent operation while providing transportation services in line with the highest international standards. The training focused on adopting innovative and sustainable ways to achieve customer satisfaction**

### Advanced Training Programmes

Through its Drivers Training Centre that boasts of several regional and international certifications and awards, several training programmes are run that include training new drivers on incident prevention, performance enhancement and

educating them about their tasks and responsibilities. It also holds educational workshops about traffic laws, public safety, customer service, communication skills, and dealing with people of determination as well as emergencies.

"The programmes included 134 training courses based





and passengers,” added Alhaj.

“The new fire suppression systems do not require the intervention of the driver. DTC is devoted to fostering the best skills and talents by hosting workshops and training sessions to train drivers on

firefighting techniques in the event of a vehicle or bus fire. The automatic fire suppression devices come with monthly and annual maintenance plans along with specific criteria for testing and upholding their performance,” concluded Alhaj.

on best practices and benchmarks of safe driving, customer service, and traffic health and safety,” said Abdelrahman Obaid Albah, Director of Drivers Happiness.

“DTC attaches great importance to developing the skills of its human resources and is keen to employ innovative strategies, advanced methods for qualification of drivers, including the utilisation of the technology and artificial intelligence,” added Albah.



# 3rd Sustainable Transport Means Photo Competition launched

The event is held in coordination with HIPA and the Year of Sustainability

**Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched the 3rd edition of Dubai's Best Sustainable Transport Means Photo Competition, which is held under the theme: Mobility in Dubai. The event is held in cooperation with the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Awards (HIPA) and will run for three weeks ending on 15 October 2023.**

His Excellency Ali Khalifa bin Thalith, Secretary-General of HIPA, said, "Sustainability plays a profound role in shaping the best and most appropriate lifestyle for current and future generations, not only in the UAE but around the world. We need to harness the power of photography to serve as a visual translator, crystallizing the meaning of sustainability and bringing it closer to our minds through innovative artistic expression."

"We are pleased to continue our fruitful collaboration with the Roads and Transport Authority to promote awareness about the significance of sustainable transportation. HIPA, with RTA's support, invite

all photographers and commuters alike, to participate in our mobile photography competition and be a part of this beautiful and challenging journey towards winning," added Bin Thalith.

Yousef Al Rida, CEO of the Corporate Administrative Support Services Sector, RTA said, "The competition, which coincides with the Year of Sustainability 2023, aims to encourage residents, tourists, and particularly public transport users to showcase Dubai's sustainable transportation through their smartphone lenses. Public

transport means include the metro,

tram, public buses, and water transport like the water bus, water taxi, ferry, and abra. The contest highlights the experiences of public transport pioneers via photography. At the same time, it promotes the public transport means of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority as a blend of leisure and transport. The public can take part in the contest using personal accounts on Instagram using the hashtag #RTAxHIPA.





## Participation Rules

Participants in this competition are required to adhere to the following rules: Photos are to be submitted only through the competition's online registration page via: ([www.hipa.ae](http://www.hipa.ae)) starting at (00:01) on September 25, 2023, until (00:00) on October 15, 2023, local time of the United Arab Emirates (+4 hours GMT). No entries will be accepted after the specified time.

Participants must be individuals and not institutions, and their age must not be less than (18) years at the time of participation in the competition. Participants must confirm their acceptance of these Rules at the time of participation. Participants must agree that the RTA and HIPA will automatically disqualify and without additional notice any photos found to have been submitted by a participant under the age of (18) at the time of participation.

## Participation Photos

The competition consists of two categories: a portfolio and a single photo. For the portfolio category, entrants need to submit a set of (5) images. For the single photo category, just a single image is required. Entrants cannot use the same photo for multiple categories, and any photo entered in more than one category will be disqualified. Submitted images should be in JPEG format, high-resolution, and a minimum size of 5 MB. The longer dimension of the photo should be no less than 2000 pixels, and the quality should be at least 300 dpi. Participants should only use mobile phones for capturing the images, ensuring each photo is at least 2 MB in size.

Furthermore, upon request, participants must upload the



RAW image or file. Submitted photos must be free from logos, signatures, names, frames, borders, symbols, signs, date and time, or any other marks added by the participant. While basic technical edits are allowed, they must not alter the authenticity or originality of the image. Advanced editing that creates illusions, visual tricks, or manipulations, including superimpositions and creative modifications, is prohibited. RTA and HIPA have the right to assess and exclude any images/video clips that, at their sole discretion, violate the stated rules. Images or clips that portray or include content deemed inappropriate and/or offensive, including but not limited to nudity, violence, or other materials considered incompatible with religion, culture, public morality, and the genuine customs and authentic Emirati customs and traditions, will be disqualified.

Submissions will be assessed by a judging panel from the HIPA Award, ensuring the utmost standards of impartiality, transparency, creativity, and aesthetics, given the award's esteemed international stature. Dubai boasts stunning beaches, and urban and cultural landscapes, that inspire its residents, visitors, and tourists to visually engage with them, especially those related to maritime transportation, which can be manifested in wonderful images.



# UAE and legal protection of Trademarks and Intellectual Property

**Intellectual property rights stand as one of the paramount human rights that have been upheld by local and international legal legislation in terms of effective regulation and full legal protection of these rights. They serve as one of the fundamentals of development that motivates creators, innovators and investors to achieve excellence and success in various aspects, for the overall benefit of the UAE and its community.**

Trademarks have long been recognised as vital elements of intellectual property rights in human legislation since ancient times. Their primary function has been to differentiate things and identify their origins, references, and owners so that ideas are not mixed, and rights are not attributed to others.

All local and international agencies recognise that the logos of RTA, nol, METRO, DUBAI BUS, and other trademarks are exclusively owned by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). These trademarks not only reflect RTA's extensive corporate identity but also necessitate protection to prevent any misuse, exploitation, or infringement.

As human societies evolved, and the Industrial Revolution took hold, international businesses and factories increasingly leaned on trademarks to set their products apart from competitors in the local market. This strategy safeguards their commercial reputation and also amplifies

their renown, distinction, and reach amidst various other brands. This necessitated the formulation of legislations and laws in most countries globally, aimed at instituting robust protection systems for these rights. Such frameworks ensure full protection for investors and producers, covering the diverse commercial ventures they undertake and safeguarding the associated names, marks, or logos that represent their products.

## UAE's Legislations

The UAE was keen to provide the required legal protection for intellectual property rights. It carried out awareness campaigns on the danger of violating such rights and sought to provide the required legal protection for them by enacting and launching modern legislation that achieves the desired goal of legislative protection.

The UAE legislation defined the concept of trademarks in Federal Law No. 36 of 2021 regarding trademarks as: "Everything that takes a distinctive shape such as names, words, signatures, letters, numbers, drawings, logos, titles, distinctive marks, seals, pictures, inscriptions, advertisements, packages, or any other mark and group of marks, used to distinguish goods, products or services."

UAE legislations were devoid of intellectual property rights law until 1992, and the Federal Civil Transactions Law of 1985 stated in Chapter 5 of the introductory section those rights and the necessity of regulating them, as Article 111 of the law stipulated: "Moral rights are those exercised over intangible things. Copyrights, rights of





■ **Fundamental rights recognised by human legislation for individuals a long time ago**

■ **Specifying and identifying things and their sources so that rights are not attributed to others**

inventors, artists, trademarks and all other moral rights are subject to special laws.”

Criminal protection stands as a pivotal and foremost form of legal protection approved by the UAE legislation, functioning as an effective punitive measure. The protection in UAE boasts the power of deterrence and swift procedures, which in turn may contribute to punishing violators and protecting trademark owners from all forms and forms of negative infringement, where criminal protection is represented by strict penalties. Such as imprisonment and a fine, in addition to the ancillary and complementary penalties imposed on anyone who infringes the trademark.

### Forgery’s Punishment

The legislator dealt with the punishment for whoever counterfeits a mark registered in the country as one of the controls for determining effective protection in the UAE. This is what was addressed in Article 49 of the UAE Trademarks Law, which stipulates in its content: “The penalty shall be imprisonment and a fine of no less than AED100,000 and not more than AED1,000,000 or either of these penalties shall be imposed on whomever: Forges a Trademark that was registered in accordance with the provisions of this Decree–Law or counterfeits a Trademark in a way that leads to confusing the public in UAE, whether in respect of the goods or services distinguished by the original Trademark or



Muhammad Rashid Khamis Al-Mughizawi  
Manager, Contracts and Agreements, Legal Affairs Department

those that are similar thereto or knowingly uses a forged or counterfeit Trademark for commercial purposes.

The effective legal protection in the UAE extends beyond combating trademark counterfeiting. It also encompasses instances where a trademark, belonging to someone else and registered in the UAE, is illicitly employed. Such unauthorised use requires appropriate criminal penalties, as provided for in Item 3, Article 49 of the UAE Trademark Law for Emirati Commercial Companies. It stipulates that any individual who commits any of the acts delineated in the law shall face imprisonment and fines ranging from AED 100,000 to AED 1,000,000 or one of these two penalties. This applies to anyone who, in bad faith, affixes a trademark to their products or employs a trademark registered by another party in connection with their services.

The UAE legislature has taken measures to safeguard the legal protection of trademarks. Trademarks are considered one of the fundamental rights guaranteed to trademark owners. This protection requires both civil and criminal protection, especially when the trademark is registered within the UAE and officially published in the Official Gazette. In such cases, trademark owners are entitled to civil protection, which includes precautionary detention, and civil compensation in addition to criminal protection in the form of imprisonment and fines as stipulated in the trademark governing laws.

### Source

Research: Trademark Legal Safeguards in the UAE  
Imam Malik College of Sharia and Law – Department of Postgraduate Studies, Dubai

# Laguna Garzon Circular Bridge

## Engineering at the service of people's safety

The Laguna Garzon Bridge is located in the village of Garzon in Uruguay, and is characterized by its unusual circular shape.

The bridge was designed by the famous Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly, and its construction was completed in 2015.

The bridge is about one kilometre long and consists of two lanes; one for each circular side as well as two tracks for pedestrians and cyclists.

The circular shape of the bridge forces drivers to slow down and allows pedestrians to walk on both sides of the one-way road.

The bridge is one of the most important tourist attractions in the area, and it attracts visitors from all over the world.

The bridge was constructed using building materials such as steel and concrete, and construction began in September 2014.

The Laguna Garzon Bridge is an excellent example of unique architectural design and innovation in civil engineering and is a wonderful addition to the beautiful landscape of Uruguay.

To get between the provinces of Rocha and Maldonado in Uruguay, one would have to cross Lake Laguna Garzon,

and before that, there was only one way for travellers to cross that lake, and that was by ferries and local boats, in which cars were loaded one by one, to transport them from one bank to the other.

But the situation changed dramatically, after the construction of this wonderful circular bridge, which facilitated the transition between the two sides of the lake, and also gave visitors the opportunity to enjoy the picturesque landscapes.

Each half of the circular bridge is comprised of a one-way road that forms a semi-circle, extending wide into the lake.



The bridge is used daily by nearly 1,000 vehicles, and it is open to all, according to the Real Estate Development Agency.



This bridge stands apart from others that allow drivers to accelerate while crossing a straight path; forcing them to slow down.

The project's focus on environmental friendliness is paramount, especially given the area's status as a sanctuary for black-necked swans, geese, and flamingos.

The construction of the Laguna Garzon Lake Bridge took 6 years of planning and construction.

The total cost of the bridge was \$11 million, with \$10 million contributed by Argentine real estate developer Eduardo Constantini. He regards it as an emblematic piece of engineering that plays a vital role in advancing the development of Rocha's coastline.

Besides serving as a means of transportation, the bridge also functions as a tourist attraction, observation point, fishing location, and cultural connector between the provinces of Rocha and Maldonado.

The bridge is anticipated to usher in a new cultural phase for Uruguay, particularly noting that while the province of Maldonado has seen development, Rocha remains largely untouched by change or human influence.



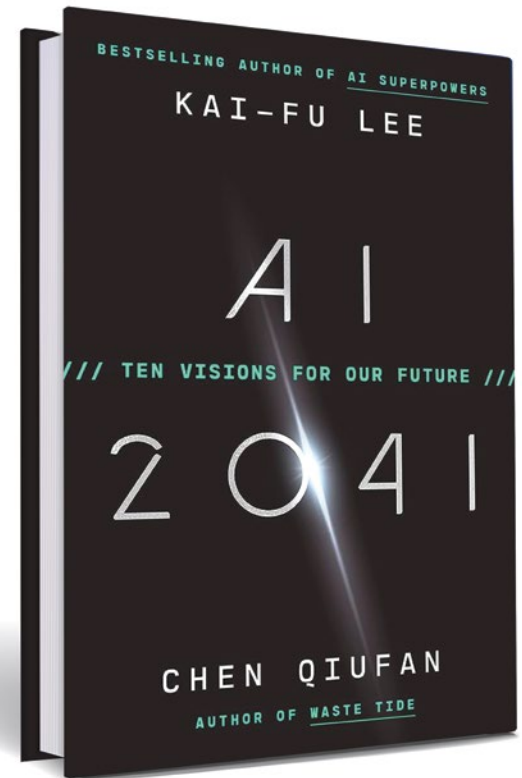
# Ten Visions for Our Future.

**Book authors: Chen Qiufan and Kai-Fu Lee.**

This book illuminates the concept of artificial intelligence, details how it is set to dominate the world in the next 18 years, from daily life to taking over jobs.

In the near future, the world will be disrupted as AI becomes a globally utilised tool. This will lead to the elimination of many jobs and alter our daily lives over the next two decades.

We must realise that this is a threat, but we must cope with it well to ensure that we preserve the civilisation that we have built.



Read the book for you: Maryam Al Attar.

# Human Compatible Artificial Intelligence

**Book Author: Stewart Russel**

Many individuals fear that artificial intelligence is approaching a stage that endangers human jobs, relationships, and even civilisation itself. This book substantiates that such a terrifying scenario can be averted if we reconsider the entire domain of artificial intelligence. It outlines the advancements that precede superhuman artificial intelligence and illustrates how humans are already misapplying AI. The book warns that if anticipated developments transpire and superintelligence emerges, we will have forged entities far more potent than humans. So how can we ensure that these entities do not have dominion over us? How can we guarantee that these machines remain subservient and focused on fulfilling our objectives, without developing goals of their own? How can we sidestep the fearsome clashes between humans and machines portrayed in Hollywood movies and science fiction novels, and preserve our civilisation and remain the masters of our destinies?



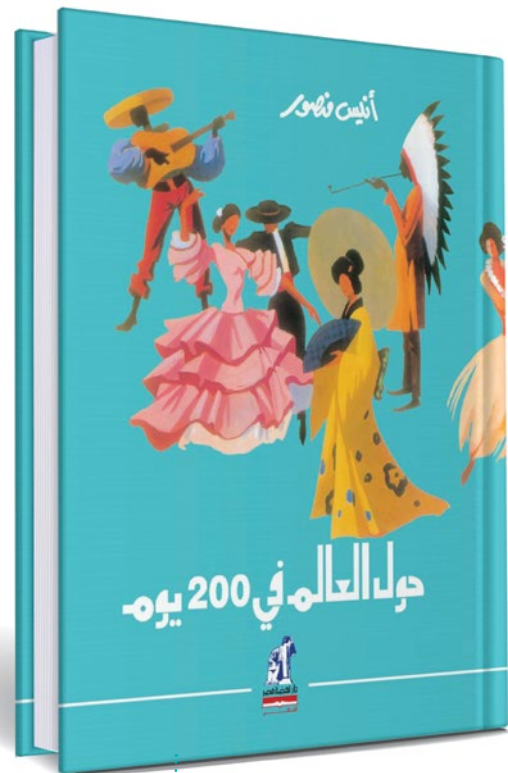


# Around the World in 200 Days

**Book Author: Anis Mansour**

This book provides two great benefits for every reader.

1. It provides a wealth of information about countries and renowned figures that the writer met. These people were influential in religious, social, political, artistic, literary, or spiritual spheres. The writer witnessed many unprecedented irregularities and stories in the 20th century. He also wrote anecdotes, jokes, and original stories that came to his mind as a result of his travels and seeing the impossible and horrors.
2. Experience is the best teacher. What you hear or read may not always be the full truth. When you go to a place, you will always be surprised by something, no matter how much you have read or heard about it. Coexistence can be a great source of pleasure, no matter how difficult or painful it is.

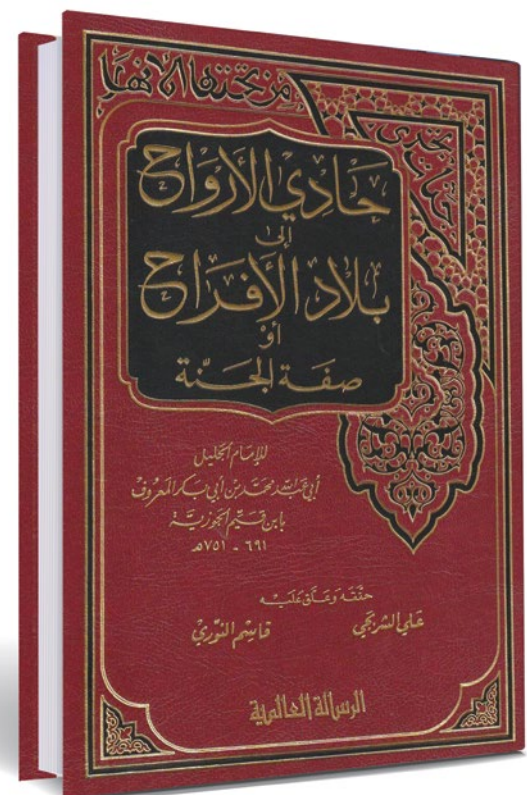


Read the book for you: Manal Ghandour

# The Guide of Spirits to the Land of Joys

**Book author: Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah**

In his book, Ibn al-Qayyim gives a captivating description of Paradise for the readers and viewers, in which he described its people, their food and drink, and their brides from among the pure virgins, and their characteristics. He mentioned the several gates of Paradise, their capacity, the levels of Paradise, the forerunners of this nation, and their description. He also referenced the types the people of Paradise, who are guaranteed to enter it, and not others. It also included the description of the soil, light, palaces, trees, drink, food, clothes, tents, beds, servants, and the women of the people of Paradise along with their types, and inward and outward beauty.





## Google Meet introduces new features powered by AI

Google has incorporated a range of sophisticated features, utilising artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, into its video conferencing platform, Google Meet.

Google has equipped its Google Meet service with the Duet AI assistant, enabling it to join calls and meetings, offering users an array of enhanced features.

Duet AI can represent users in meetings when they are preoccupied, and autonomously draft summaries of topics users intend to address, making them accessible for participants to deliberate upon.

Additionally, Duet AI can compose post-meeting summaries, take notes, record video snippets from the

session, and distribute them to all participants once the meeting concludes.

Should you join the meeting late, the intelligent assistant can produce a concise recap of the events prior to your arrival.

Furthermore, the innovative AI assistant is adept at identifying foreign languages during a session and offers on-the-spot translations, a feature currently supported in 18 languages.



## X Plans to implement fingerprints and facial recognition as passkeys

The social networking platform X (formerly Twitter) revealed that it plans to support the Passkeys feature, which allows users to log in without having to enter passwords.

The passkeys are a new standard developed in cooperation between the two most major technology companies, FIDO Alliance and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and the feature uses encryption techniques to create a secure link between the user's device and the website or application, and by using it, users will not need to remember or write traditional passwords, or fear that they will be leaked or stolen.

Some application developers have spotted signs and indications

in the latest version of the X platform, indicating that the company's developer team is working on adding the passkeys feature soon.

The new feature is available to users as a more secure additional option, and when available, users will be able to log into their accounts using biometric authentication through fingerprints or facial recognition technology.



## Google's Newest Tablet Computer Release

Google has re-entered the tablet market with its new Pixel device, powered by Android and accompanied by a magnetic charging dock. This dock not only charges the tablet but also transforms it into a smart display.

Without its dock, the Google Pixel tablet resembles a standard tablet. It comes in shades of porcelain white and hazel green. Built with a sturdy aluminium body and coated with nano-ceramic, the tablet boasts a sophisticated look, scratch resistance, and no visible fingerprint marks.

The Pixel device can be unlocked using the subtly embedded fingerprint sensor on its side, doubling as the power button. This strategic placement proves beneficial for daily use, allowing users to access the sensor effortlessly without mistaking it for the adjacent volume button.



### Apple Watch offers customisable colour options to suit user preferences

Apple, the US electronics giant, currently offers customisation options for its Apple Watch, such as colourful watch straps and changeable watch faces.

Yet, the company is exploring a new feature that would allow the Apple Watch to adapt its colour to the wearer's attire.

CNET.com, a tech-focused website, highlighted a patent by Apple aiming to grant users enhanced design control, aligning the watch interface with their preferences.

In practice, users could potentially match their watch colour

to their clothing by placing, for example, their shirt near the watch's display and activating a sensor.

This innovative sensor can identify colours by emitting various lights on an object and analysing the reflected light. It then utilises this reflection data to adjust the watch's colour to the identified object's colour.



### Meta's Messenger Lite fades from Android after iOS discontinuation

Meta Platforms, the American internet services company, is set to discontinue Messenger Lite, a streamlined version of its Messenger app for Android devices.

TechCrunch, a site specialising in technology topics, reported that users have been prompted to switch to the standard Messenger app for continued communication.

Messenger Lite has been removed from Google Play for newcomers, and it will become inaccessible for existing users after September 18.

"Starting August 21, people using the Messenger Lite

app for Android were directed to Messenger or FB Lite to send and receive messages on Messenger," a Meta spokesperson said.

It's worth noting that Meta, formerly known as Facebook, launched Messenger Lite for Android in 2016, catering to users with less advanced devices.



### Venu 3 Smartwatch Detects Your Nap Times

Garmin has unveiled the new Venu 3 smartwatch, featuring a 45mm size and a 1.4-inch AMOLED display with a 416 x 416-pixel resolution.

The American tech giant announced that its latest smartwatch offers a battery lifespan of up to 14 days.

Conversely, the Venu 3S model, at 14mm, sports a 1.2-inch screen and has a shorter battery lifespan of 10 days.

Some standout features of the watch include automatic nap detection, integrated as part of sleep monitoring, workout suggestions for wheelchair users, and screen

content magnification for those with visual impairments.

This latest offering comes with 8GB internal storage for apps and music. Standard features include a heart rate monitor, SpO2 sensor for tracking blood oxygen levels, a compass, an altimeter, and an NFC chip facilitating contactless payments via the Garmin Pay app.



# Hatta Sign Soars to 19.28m, Secures Guinness World Record

The Hatta Sign, an iconic feature nestled within the breathtaking Hatta tourist area, has etched its name into the annals of history by earning a prestigious Guinness World Record™. This towering marvel, soaring to a height of 19.28 meters atop the Al-Hajar Mountains, now stands as the Tallest Landmark Sign in the world. It embodies Hatta's unique identity and its role as a prominent natural gem and tourist hotspot in the emirate.

The achievement bolsters Dubai's standing on the global tourism stage and spotlights Hatta as an exceptional destination that beckons travelers from every corner of the globe. Celebrated as one of Dubai's most stunning natural areas, Hatta continues to captivate with its mountainous splendour and rich biodiversity.

This achievement enhances Dubai's standing on the global tourism map and casts more light on Hatta region as an exceptional tourist destination that attracts visitors from all over the world to explore its unique landmarks. The region was known in the past as the most beautiful and famous natural areas in Dubai and across the UAE.

