

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 212 – February 2026



**Ahmed bin Mohammed Opens
11th Dubai International Project
Management Forum**

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.

Platform for Knowledge and Bridging Communities

Since its launch more than a decade ago, the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) has evolved into a pioneering model in transforming traditional forums into intellectual laboratories that generate knowledge, forge partnerships, and redefine project management as a driver of sustainable development and an enabler of improved quality of life.

Over eleven editions, the Forum has achieved notable success, attracting more than 20,000 participants from around 50 countries and featuring over 600 speakers, including ministers, decision-makers, chief executives, and global experts. These figures were never an objective in themselves; rather, they reflect growing international confidence in the Forum as a global knowledge platform and a professional reference for exchanging best practices and modern standards in project management.

Throughout its journey, the forum has demonstrated its ability to keep pace with the rapid transformations shaping the world of projects management, whether in governance, digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), agile management, or future foresight. It has also enriched the professional knowledge base through specialised studies, practical recommendations, and in-depth dialogues that bridge theory and application, align global experience with local context, and position Dubai as a hub for the exchange of ideas and expertise.

The eleventh edition, held under the theme Bridging Communities, introduced a new strategic dimension to the Forum's journey. The focus shifted from execution efficiency to the broader societal impact of projects and their role in strengthening social cohesion, enhancing quality of

life, and building more resilient and sustainable cities. The selection of this theme coincided with the directives of the wise leadership in designating 2025 as the 'Year of Community.' It reflects a comprehensive vision that measures project success not solely by time or cost efficiency, but by the positive and lasting value projects create for society—enhancing quality of life, fostering stronger communities, supporting urban sustainability, and advancing the concept of integrated, smart cities. The eleventh edition brought together more than 3,000 specialists and over 60 speakers from around the world who explored five main pillars addressing the major transformations shaping the field of project management: the sustainable city, digital transformation, jobs of the future, emerging trends and technology, and customer centricity. This diversity enriched the dialogue, broadened professional perspectives, and delivered practical insights to address rapidly evolving challenges, from AI and agile management to the project economy and resource sustainability. Throughout its journey, DIPMF has demonstrated that building knowledge is as important as building infrastructure and that investing in minds is the true guarantee of sustainable achievement. The forum will continue its mission to reinforce Dubai's position as a global centre for advanced thought, a hub for expertise, a platform that shapes the future, and a bridge connecting experiences and cultures, while fostering more connected, resilient, and sustainable communities.



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

المسار almasar

Al Masar Magazine Strategy

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

GENERAL SUPERVISOR
Fatma Alkhumiri

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Maryam Al Blooshi

EDITORIAL ADVISOR
AlMoatasem Belah

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Mohammed Al Munji

EDITING MANAGER
Nashwan Mahmood

PHOTOGRAPHY
Sahir Babu

DESIGN & MARKETING
SLA
SPOTLIGHT
Advertising
www.spotlightuae.net

ART DIRECTOR
Said Mansour

Printed by
Al Nisr Publishing LLC

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.

CONTACT US

P.O.Box: 118899 Dubai,U.A.E
Tel : +971 4 2903608
Fax: +971 4 2903933
almasar@rta.ae
www.rta.ae

To browse Al Masar magazine



News

28 Dubai Airports and Salik Sign Agreement to Enable Seamless Parking Payments

Achievements

30 Opening Registration for 14th Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport 2026





Cover Story

06 Ahmed bin Mohammed
Opens 11th Dubai
International Project
Management Forum





Ahmed bin Mohammed opens 11th edition of the Dubai International Project Management Forum



Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Opens the 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF), held under the theme 'Bridging Communities,' in the presence of dignitaries, heads of public entities, and senior executives from leading global companies.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed was received upon his arrival at the venue at Madinat Jumeirah by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai; and His Excellency Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, Secretary General of the Executive Council of Dubai.

A Century of Mobility in Dubai

His Highness was briefed on a mural titled A Century of Mobility in Dubai, which highlights Dubai's legacy in developing road and transport infrastructure over a 100-year period. The mural traces the evolution of mobility infrastructure in the Emirate of Dubai, beginning with the

era of the late Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, who adopted a policy of openness and laid the initial foundations for prosperity. It then moves to the era of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the builder of modern Dubai, during whose reign the introduction of public transport services began, alongside the construction of roads and bridges and the expansion of the road network. This period also witnessed the opening of Al Maktoum Bridge in 1963, the first crossing over Dubai Creek, which was implemented by international companies; the inauguration of Al Shindagha Tunnel, the first tunnel crossing linking Deira and Bur Dubai; the development of the Clock Tower, one of Dubai's most prominent landmarks; the establishment of Port Rashid; and the construction of Rashid Tower (the Trade Centre). Dubai's comprehensive development momentum continued, with the transport sector undergoing a qualitative transformation during the era of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. Under his leadership, Dubai was transformed into a global city that leads international competitiveness indicators across all sectors. During this phase, the roads and transport sector recorded a significant leap forward through the adoption of a comprehensive vision that integrated road networks with public transport systems.



Ahmed bin Mohammed
@AhmedMohammed



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said in a post on the social media platform X: “Today, I opened the 11th edition of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, organised by the Roads and Transport Authority, with 3,400 participants from government and leading global companies, under the theme ‘Bridging Communities’.

During the forum, I explored iconic projects that showcase Dubai's progress and global standing, with a clear focus on people and quality of life. Through such global events, Dubai continues to shape the future of projects worldwide, fostering sustainable cities and communities for generations to come.”

This period saw the launch of strategic projects, including Dubai Metro and Dubai Tram, the development of the public bus transport system, and the deployment of smart solutions and traffic management systems in line with global best practices, enhancing mobility efficiency and quality of life.





His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Media Council affirmed that Dubai continues to shape the future of projects on a global scale, in line with its international ambitions and the aspirations of future generations. He emphasised that these efforts contribute to the sustainability of cities and communities, while further strengthening the emirate's position as a leading global hub for project management and innovation.

The mural concludes by showcasing the future vision led by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai. This vision focuses on anticipating future mobility patterns, foremost among them autonomous vehicles, aerial taxi services, and smart and sustainable mobility, alongside the application of advanced technologies and artificial intelligence in managing the transport ecosystem.

Dubai Auto Market

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed also reviewed a model of the Dubai Auto Market development project overseen by DP

World, which is set to be the largest and most advanced of its kind globally. Spanning an area of 22 million square feet, the project will feature more than 1,500 showrooms, in addition to dedicated zones for workshop complexes, warehouses, and multi-storey parking facilities. It will also include a conference centre, a hotel, an auction house, and dedicated spaces for restaurants, cafés, and retail outlets. The market has been designed to accommodate up to 800,000 vehicles annually and will incorporate a wide range of essential facilities, including customs inspection, staff accommodation, and recreational amenities, among others. This integrated approach ensures a comprehensive ecosystem in terms of infrastructure, facilities, and services, enabling the market to deliver best-in-class services and solutions tailored to the needs of investors and traders.

Iconic Station

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed reviewed the model of the Emaar Properties iconic station, the world's highest metro station, standing 74 metres tall and spanning 38 metres in width. Inspired by the concept of a Gateway, the station features a distinctive urban design, which will mark an exceptional new addition to Dubai's architectural landscape. It reflects the emirate's vision as a gateway to the future, delivers a strong visual presence that integrates seamlessly with the surrounding urban fabric, and advances



the concept of placemaking. His Highness received a briefing on the station, which covers approximately 11,000 square metres, has a designed capacity of around 160,000 passengers per day, and is projected to serve more than 70,000 users daily by 2040.

Forum Opening

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed attended the opening session of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, during which world tennis legend and noted humanitarian Andre Agassi reflected on his journey from the tennis courts to philanthropy, explaining that sport taught him discipline, commitment, and how to pursue long-term goals through process and accountability – the same principles that underpin successful project management.

Agassi emphasised that education is the cornerstone of any sustainable change in communities, noting that his early departure from formal education was the primary motivation for his efforts to support education initiatives worldwide through the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education.

“Finding my purpose and passion is what drives me. I focus on the process and the details, I build the best teams, and I set clear goals with measurable outcomes for every



initiative – just as I would plan a long-term match with defined steps and accountability. I also surround myself with experts in education and community development, relying on strong teams and data-driven decisions rather than passion alone,” he said.

On leadership in both sport and philanthropy, Agassi explained that teamwork is built on respect, trust,



communication and clear roles, and on putting people in the best position to succeed. He added that he leads by example and by purpose, ensuring that everyone understands the 'why' behind the work, not just the tasks, and that he strives to create a culture of trust and ownership where people feel responsible for the mission and empowered to contribute their ideas.

Agassi also spoke about his focus on education, recalling how he established his charitable foundation at the age of 24 after leaving formal education in the ninth grade. He explained that his lack of formal education became the very reason he devoted his life to helping others access what he had so acutely missed, adding that he faced significant personal challenges at the outset of the initiative, which led him to take out a \$40 million loan to launch the foundation. This step was driven by a belief that success must mean more than what it brings to one's own life and that it must extend to every child one could take responsibility for and had the ability to help, Agassi added. Looking to the future, Agassi said that combining sport and

education offers a powerful way to bridge communities globally, which is why he shifted his efforts towards an impact fund in search of a more effective model than traditional philanthropy. He explained that this approach enabled the foundation to finance multiple education projects and build nearly 130 schools, while also generating returns for investors, rather than relying solely on donations. He added that integrating education into sports programmes to teach life skills, leadership and resilience, alongside leveraging technology and global partnerships, will expand access to quality education beyond traditional classrooms.

Concluding his remarks, Agassi called on project managers to channel their personal passions into designing initiatives with genuine community value, stressing that the best projects are guided by a clear vision and measured by their real impact on people's lives.

Sponsors Recognised

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed, accompanied





by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, honoured Andre Agassis as the forum's keynote speaker. His Highness also recognised the forum's organising partners: Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DP World, Emaar Properties, and the Project Management Institute.

The ceremony also acknowledged the forum's strategic sponsors Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) and MAPA, as well as the platinum sponsors, namely Limak, Al Naboodah Group, Western Bainunah Group (WBG), and Planisware.

The gold sponsors, Wade Adams Contracting, United Motors and Heavy Equipment, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), CRRC, Parkin, and

Keolis-MHI, were recognised as well.

The silver sponsors, Parsons and Dutco (DBB), were also honoured, alongside the supporting sponsors in Al Ghanim International, Road and Traffic Engineering (RTC), Al Zarouni International Equipment, and AECOM.



DEWA is the Co-organiser of DIPMF for the years 2027 - 2029



Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai has signed a sponsorship agreement with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), to be the Co-organiser of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) for the years 2027- 2029. The agreement underscores the strength of the partnership between the two entities, and their joint commitment to support one of the most important intellectual and knowledge platforms that contribute to strengthening Dubai's position as a global capital for project management and sustainable development.

The agreement was signed by HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA; and HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA; and entails that DEWA will be the Organising Partner of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) in its 12th, 13th, 14th editions. This builds on the significant success achieved by the forum in the previous editions, which attracted more than 17,000 participants from approximately 50 countries, and featured over 400 keynote sessions, workshops, field visits, and specialised training programmes. These achievements have established the forum as a leading global platform for knowledge exchange and building capacity in the project management field.

HE Mattar Al Tayer has expressed his appreciation for the continued partnership with DEWA in organising the forum, which is held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai. This partnership represents strategic dimension in the forum's journey, as an international platform for exchanging expertise and shaping the future directions in delivering mega projects. Furthermore, this partnership reflects the two entities' shared belief in the importance of building an advanced knowledge ecosystem for project management that supports Dubai's vision for global leadership.

"Thanks to the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the

UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai has succeeded in developing a global model for planning and implementing strategic projects. Dubai's infrastructure, transport, energy, and urban development projects have become a global benchmark for efficiency, sustainability and innovation. The forum plays a key role in transferring this leading experience to the international community and enhancing the capabilities of corporates and individuals to manage projects in accordance with the highest global standards," HE Mattar Al Tayer said.

"The rapid transformation in AI, digitalisation and sustainability are reshaping the concepts of project management worldwide. This makes the forum' role more important than ever in enabling leaders, decision-makers, and project managers to anticipate the future and adopt innovative tools and technologies that enhance execution efficiency and achieve better economic and social returns," HE Mattar Al Tayer added.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer confirmed that DEWA's participation as an Organising Partner of the DIPMF reflects its commitment to supporting innovation and utilising artificial intelligence (AI) in the fields of project management, energy and sustainable infrastructure, given their pivotal role in enhancing the efficiency of planning and implementation and achieving optimal utilisation of resources in line with the highest international standards. He noted that DIPMF represents a significant platform for exchanging global expertise and strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors, in line with the UAE's sustainable development goals.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer said: "Guided by the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and through the follow-up of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, Dubai has become a leading global platform for hosting major events that enhance international dialogue on sustainability, accelerate the transition to a green economy and facilitate the exchange of best practices in the implementation and management of major projects, particularly in infrastructure and clean and renewable energy, in which Dubai holds global leadership and consistently tops international competitiveness indicators."

RTA and Emaar sign agreement to expand Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station, increasing capacity by 65%



Al Tayer: Project underpins RTA's commitment to proactive infrastructure capable of accommodating rapid growth in population and visitor numbers

Alabbar: Station expansion represents direct investment in quality of life and people's happiness, facilitating access to Dubai's most prominent landmarks

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has signed an agreement with Emaar Properties to expand Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station, in response to the sustained growth in passenger demand, particularly during New Year's Eve celebrations, as well as religious and national holidays and major occasions. The project will increase the station's total area from 6,700 square metres to 8,500 square metres, enhance station entrances and pedestrian bridges to facilitate smoother passenger access, expand concourse and platform areas, and add new escalators and lifts. The scope of work also includes separating entry gates from exit gates, increasing the number of fare gates, and expanding commercial areas to boost revenue generation. Additionally, the project encompasses the implementation of integration elements with public transport services and other mobility modes, as well as landscaping works. The station's passenger handling capacity will increase from 7,250 passengers per hour to 12,320 passengers per hour, representing a 65% increase. Following the completion of the expansion works, the station's daily capacity will reach up to 220,000 passengers. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Roads and Transport Authority by His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, and on behalf of Emaar Properties by His Excellency Mohamed Alabbar, Founder of Emaar and Noon, and Chairman of Eagle Hills. The signing took place on the sidelines of the Dubai World Project Management Forum, in the presence of several officials from both sides.

Public-Private Partnership

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, said: "The agreement with Emaar embodies the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to strengthen partnership and integration between the public and private sectors. This approach supports the development of world-class infrastructure aligned with the accelerated development witnessed by the Emirate of Dubai, enhances the city's readiness to host major global events, and reinforces Dubai's position as a leading global city in sustainable urban mobility and quality of life. The expansion of Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station represents a strategic investment at the heart of Dubai's urban core, where tourism and economic activity are most concentrated. The project underscores RTA's commitment to proactive infrastructure capable of accommodating the rapid growth in population and visitor numbers, while enhancing traffic flow and ensuring smoother mobility during peak periods and major occasions."

Enhancing User Service

Al Tayer added: "Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station is one of the most important stations on the Dubai Metro network, owing to its strategic location near Burj Khalifa, Dubai Mall, and the Downtown Dubai area. The station represents the most convenient and accessible option for residents and visitors travelling to and from the Burj Khalifa and Dubai Mall precinct, particularly during New Year's Eve celebrations, as well as national and religious holidays and major occasions. Increasing the station's capacity by 65%, and raising its daily handling capability to up to 220,000 passengers, will deliver a qualitative leap in metro services in the Downtown Dubai area, especially during peak periods such as New Year's celebrations and national and religious holidays. This enhancement will ensure the highest standards of safety, comfort and passenger flow efficiency, while supporting the continued growth in ridership and the expected increase through to 2040. The station has recorded a 7.5% growth in passenger numbers over the past five years."

Investment in Quality of Life

For his part, His Excellency Mohamed Alabbar said: "The agreement lies at the core of Emaar's vision to develop integrated urban destinations

that place people at the heart of design and planning, while ensuring ease of access, seamless mobility, and a rich experience for everyone who lives in or visits Dubai. Burj Khalifa and Dubai Mall area goes beyond being a commercial and tourism destination, representing the vibrant heart of a global city that welcomes millions of visitors each year, which requires transport infrastructure of the highest levels of efficiency and readiness.” He added: “The expansion of Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station represents a direct investment in quality of life and people’s happiness by reducing travel times, facilitating access to Dubai’s most prominent landmarks, and enhancing the visitor experience during peak periods, particularly during New Year’s Eve celebrations and holiday seasons, which witness the highest levels of movement in the area.”

Alabbar further added: “The partnership with the RTA reflects a

successful model of public-private sector integration in supporting sustainable urban growth and ensuring Dubai’s readiness to keep pace with the accelerating increase in visitors, shoppers and tourists. Emaar will continue working with its strategic partners to develop an integrated ecosystem of destinations and services that position Downtown Dubai as one of the most accessible areas, offering the highest quality of life and remaining among the world’s most attractive urban destinations.”

Ridership

It is worth noting that Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall Metro Station has recorded sustained growth in ridership since its opening in early 2010. Passenger numbers increased from 6.13 million in 2013 to nearly 11 million passengers last year.

RTA and Digital School launch first digital Project Management Academy



Mattar Al Tayer: The partnership with Digital School represents a knowledge investment aimed at transforming project management from a theoretical concept into practical, applicable skills.

Omar Al Olama: Empowering youth with the requirements of a rapidly evolving labour market and converting academic skills into practical, applicable capabilities.

The Digital School, one of the initiatives of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, launched the Project Management Academy in collaboration with Roads and Transport Authority as part of the activities of the Dubai International Project Management Forum. The launch of the Academy comes under the Skills Academies initiatives, marking a new qualitative step that strengthens the Digital School’s journey in delivering innovative educational models with global impact. The Academy targets 10,000 young people worldwide with practical, applicable skills, transforming project management from an academic discipline into a global skills language aligned with the requirements of the future labour market.

Pioneering Experience

His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said, “The launch of the Project Management Academy reflects RTA’s commitment to supporting human capacity building and transferring its accumulated practical expertise in managing and delivering major projects to younger generations worldwide. This contribution will help prepare qualified cadres capable of effective planning and execution in rapidly evolving work environments.”

His Excellency said: “RTA possesses globally leading experience in managing strategic projects and integrated infrastructure. The partnership with the Digital School represents a knowledge-based investment aimed at transforming project management from a theoretical concept into a practical, applicable skill that is accessible to a wide segment of young people, particularly in developing countries.” He added: “The Academy supports Dubai’s direction towards strengthening a knowledge-based economy and aligns with the vision of the wise leadership to empower youth and build human capital capable of leading sustainable development projects. Investing in skills is the cornerstone of ensuring project sustainability and achieving long-term developmental impact that positively reflects on quality of life across communities.”

Prepared Skills

His Excellency Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial

Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, and Chairman of the Board of Digital School, said, "The launch of the Academy represents a practical translation of the Digital School's mission, objectives, and ongoing efforts to expand global access to essential future skills. The initiative positions project management as a practical empowerment tool that enhances the readiness of young talents to meet the requirements of a rapidly evolving labour market." His Excellency AlOlama added: "The partnership with the Roads and Transport Authority represents a pioneering model for integrating the efforts of government entities in investing in human capital and supporting the development of scalable educational programmes. This collaboration aims to strengthen youth participation—particularly across the African continent—in development projects and in shaping a sustainable future for their communities."

Academy Programme

The announcement of the launch of the Project Management Academy followed the signing of the agreement between the two entities. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Roads and Transport Authority by Moaza Saeed Al Marri, CEO of the Executive Affairs Sector and Chair of the Organising Committee of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, and on behalf of Digital School by Dr Waleed Al Ali, Secretary General of Digital School. The Project Management Academy programme has been designed in collaboration with the International Project Management Association, offering—for the first time globally—an entry-level foundational training pathway. The programme aims to position

project management as a core skill accessible to all, rather than one limited to advanced professional levels.

The Academy represents a pioneering model targeting young people across countries worldwide, with a particular focus on the African continent. It strengthens collaboration between digital education, the government sector, and global professional institutions, while supporting the development of competencies capable of contributing to development projects and shaping a better future for their communities.

Digital School

The Digital School, launched in November 2020 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, is the first accredited digital school of its kind. The initiative aims to empower students through flexible digital learning options, while offering a high-quality model for blended and remote learning delivered in a smart and adaptable manner. It specifically targets underprivileged communities, refugees, and displaced populations worldwide by leveraging digital education and providing modern, future-ready curricula.

Digital School adopts a comprehensive approach to digital transformation in education, centred on expanding access to learning opportunities through digital platforms. The initiative continues to scale its global reach, offering educational and training content in several international languages, including Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Kurdish, Portuguese, and Indonesian.

ENOC named Strategic Sponsor of the DIPMF for two consecutive editions



His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between RTA and ENOC Group, under which the

Group becomes a strategic partner in the organisation of the 11th and 12th editions of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF).

The MoU was signed on behalf of RTA by Moaza Saeed Al Marri, CEO of the Executive Affairs Sector and Chair of the Organising Committee of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF). On behalf of ENOC Group, the MoU was signed by Hesham Ali Mustafa, Managing Director of Shared Services Centre, Group Human Resources and New Business Development.

Under the MoU, ENOC Group will serve as the strategic sponsor of the event for two consecutive editions. The partnership reflects the Forum's prestigious standing as one of the region's leading project management platforms and a global forum that brings together senior project management leaders from around the world to accelerate ideas shaping cities and industries.

Hussain Sultan Lootah, CEO, ENOC Group, said, "ENOC Group is proud to renew its strategic partnership with the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) for the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF), extending our sponsorship for another two years. Renewing this collaboration strengthens a platform that advances project management excellence, sustainability, and innovation—key drivers of the UAE's economic competitiveness. Our continued sponsorship reflects ENOC's focus on enabling strategic national priorities and delivering long-term value for the country's socio-economic development."

Moaza Al Marri expressed her pride in signing the MoU with ENOC

Group as the Forum's Strategic Partner, saying: "This partnership represents a key pillar in the continued development of the Dubai International Project Management Forum. Through its successive editions, the Forum has succeeded in consolidating its position as a prestigious global platform for the exchange of expertise and the showcasing of best practices and international standards in project management, guided by advanced leadership perspectives."

She added: "The strategic partnership with ENOC Group strengthens the Forum's role in promoting innovation and sustainability and in fostering a high-calibre knowledge environment that brings together leaders, decision-makers and global experts. It positions the Dubai International Project Management Forum as a vital nexus for Bridging Communities, facilitating the exchange of perspectives and ideas, and reflecting the ambitions of the United Arab Emirates and Dubai to achieve global leadership and apply international best practices in project management."

Project Management Institute Named Co-organiser of Dubai International Project Management Forum 2027



His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of Roads and Transport Authority, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RTA and the Project Management Institute, which stipulates a partnership with the Institute in organising the forum's events and activities during its 12th edition, as well as promoting the forum through the Institute's conferences across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The MoU was signed on behalf of RTA by Moaza Saeed Al Marri, CEO of the Executive Affairs Sector and Chair of the Organising Committee of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, and on behalf of the Institute by Hanny Alshazly, Managing Director – MENA, Project Management Institute (PMI).

Moaza welcomed the signing of the MoU with the Project Management Institute, noting that it reaffirms the continuity of close cooperation between the two entities and reflects the Institute's commitment to acting as a strategic partner in the success of the forum. She highlighted that the forum attracts a distinguished group of specialists and senior leaders from a wide range of fields related to project management and sustainability. She also underscored PMI's longstanding expertise in providing technical and knowledge-based support, as well as in fostering a culture of innovation and creativity that continues to enhance the performance and standing of the Dubai International Project Management Forum year after year.

"This agreement between Project Management Institute and the Road and Transport Authority reflects our shared focus on strengthening collaboration and building practical capability through long-term partnership. As co-organizers of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF), we are continuing to build on a trusted relationship that brings together expertise, leadership, and real impact for the project community," said Hanny Alshazly, Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa, Project Management Institute.

Al Tayer Receives Andre Agassi

On the sidelines of the 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), received Andre Agassi, American tennis player, eight-time Grand Slam champion and Olympic gold medallist.

Al Tayer welcomed Agassi's participation as a keynote speaker at this edition of the Forum. The meeting reviewed the role of leadership and teamwork in institutional success and achievement, Agassi's journey from professional tennis to philanthropic work, and the contribution of sport to instilling values of discipline, commitment, and the ability to manage long-term goals—principles that also underpin successful project management.



... and Reviews Workflow at Aerial Taxi Stations with Walker

On the sidelines of the 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, Director General, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), received Duncan Walker, CEO and Co-Founder of Skyports. The meeting reviewed areas of cooperation between the two sides and examined progress on workflow at Aerial Taxi stations.

Several officials from RTA and the company attended the meeting.



Key themes and sub-themes

The 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum covers 5 main themes and 16 sub-themes. The main themes include the Sustainable City theme, which covers Sustainable Development and Communities of the Future. The Digital Transformation theme covers Leadership and Strategy, Agile Management, Digital Twin and Metaverse, and Blockchain Technology. The Jobs of the Future theme encompasses Efficiency and Optimisation, Remote Project Management, Circular Economy and Project

Abdullah Al Hamed: Media in the UAE is a sovereign investment in societal stability and a strategic partner in shaping the future

His Excellency Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Butti Al Hamed, Chairman of the National Media Authority, affirmed that the United Arab Emirates views media as a sovereign investment in societal stability, not a secondary sector. He underscored that the wise leadership regards media as a strategic partner in shaping the future and a vital force in strengthening awareness, building trust and reinforcing social cohesion.

He explained: “The UAE manages national media through a governance-based approach, equipping it with the tools of professional influence. This approach has enabled media to become a genuine bridge for communication within society, a driver of sustainable development and an effective form of soft power capable of transforming discourse into impact and vision into reality—at a time when the need for responsible media that leads without drifting and influences without misleading is greater than ever.”

Speaking during a keynote session at the Dubai International Project Management Forum titled “Building Bridges Between Communities: Media as a National Ecosystem for Impact Leadership, Governance, Impact Creation, His Excellency described media as the soft infrastructure that shapes how people understand one another. He likened it to an invisible bridge upon which collective societal awareness is built, warning that when this infrastructure is not managed with wisdom and foresight, it can become a source of division rather than connection.

He cautioned that poorly managed media can create deep rifts within a single society, stressing that social cohesion is not achieved through emotion or resonant slogans, but through a professional media ecosystem that respects human diversity and manages differences with strategic intelligence.

He stressed that the media today is no longer merely a technological tool for transmitting information, but an integrated national project aimed at building genuine cohesion and forming a cornerstone of the strong social fabric on which modern states are built.



His Excellency further noted that the true strength of conscious media lies in its ability to skilfully manage cultural and intellectual diversity without undermining the unity of the societal narrative. He emphasised that genuine influence does not mean controlling discourse, but guiding it wisely towards the public good. Building bridges between communities, he added, requires the courage to speak the truth in an inclusive language that transcends exclusion, noting that media governed by strategic awareness becomes a force for de-escalation in times of crisis rather than a catalyst for escalation. Addressing the risks of misinformation, His Excellency warned that misleading news and false information pose not only a media challenge, but a serious threat to societal trust—the most valuable form of social capital any nation can possess. He stressed that national reputation is not built through campaigns or polished slogans, but through a deep, cumulative process shaped by the alignment of real conduct, responsible discourse and authentic experience. A country’s global image, he noted, is founded on the credibility of information before the aesthetics of the message. Concluding his session, His Excellency affirmed that media represents the foremost sovereign interface through which the ambitions of the national project are conveyed to the world. When managed as an integrated system, he said, media’s impact moves beyond fleeting brilliance to become a lasting imprint in the record of history.

Economy, and the Role of Specialised Education. The Future Trends and Technology theme includes Artificial Intelligence, Future Smart Mobility, and Data Management. The Customer Centricity theme covers Customer Engagement and Communication, Empowered Project Teams, and Agile and Hybrid Project Management.

Family is at the Heart of Social Cohesion, Forms a Pillar of Sustainable Developments

Her Excellency Sana Bint Mohammed Suhail, Minister of Family, stated that the 11th Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) 2026 serves as a strategic platform, bringing together minds that not only manage projects but also contribute directly to shaping life in cities and communities.

Her Excellency explained that this year's forum theme, "Bridging Communities," deeply aligns with the Ministry of Family's mission. She noted that the forum highlights the importance of designing projects around people and families, emphasising that projects are not merely infrastructure and timelines, but rather tools for strengthening family cohesion and fostering sustainable community development.

Her Excellency affirmed that the wise leadership's vision places the family at the heart of the development process. Therefore, projects must reflect this vision, serving all age groups, from infants and children to adolescents and youth, and extending to senior citizens and people of determination. She pointed out that the Ministry is working in partnership with government and private entities to develop practical solutions that create a supportive daily environment for families and instill positive behaviors that promote stability and family interaction, in line with the nation's development goals.

She continued: "When we talk about infrastructure projects, we often focus on timelines, budgets, operational efficiency, and technology. However, the reality is that these projects play a pivotal role in reshaping our daily lives: how we move around, where we live, how we raise our children, and when we feel that starting a family is a viable and sustainable option. Therefore, integrated infrastructure project planning is a key pillar for improving quality of life."



The Minister added that studies published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicate that improved access to transportation and basic services is linked to a 20% to 30% increase in family satisfaction and social cohesion in major cities. This simply means that when we plan well, we reduce pressure and give families more time and a better quality of life.

In closing, Her Excellency Sana Bint Mohammed Suhail expressed her gratitude to the Roads and Transport Authority and all organising partners for inviting the Ministry of Family to participate in this important event, which places project management at the heart of human development.

Ike Nwankwo: Artificial Intelligence, Sustainability and Agility are Future Trends for the Success of Any Project

Ike Nwankwo, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Project Management Institute, affirmed that future management trends aimed at ensuring the success of any project point to the importance of integrating advanced artificial intelligence technologies and data analytics with agile and flexible methodologies and sustainability. He also stressed the importance of individuals and project teams possessing the skills, competencies and personal capabilities that enable them to respond effectively to challenges and changes that may arise in the job market.

He made these remarks during a session titled “Future Trends in Project Management”, moderated by media personality Nimi Mehta, calling for the adoption of practices that focus on value rather than outputs alone in managing and delivering projects.

The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Project Management Institute also expressed his pleasure at delivering a session as part



of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, noting that the event has become an excellent opportunity to learn about a wide range of experiences, expertise and models from project managers, specialists and professionals from around the world, who have gathered to exchange views on the opportunities available to companies and officials to ensure business success, in a setting that reinforces Dubai’s position and distinction in hosting major international events and forums.

Communities of the Future: Long-Term Value Through Sustainability Discussed at 11th DIPMF

The Dubai International Project Management Forum held a panel discussion titled “Communities of the Future: Long-Term Value Through Sustainability,” moderated by Rosanna Lockwood, International News Anchor, Business & Sustainability Specialist, with the participation of a distinguished group of leaders and experts.

The session opened with remarks by Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid, Director General of the Community Development Authority, who underscored the importance of collaboration between the government, private and non-profit sectors, alongside the adoption of a comprehensive sustainability plan and a strong focus on capacity building.

She stated that these elements are firmly in place in the Emirate of Dubai, supported by additional drivers that contribute to development and growth. Chief among these, she noted, is a focus on the family, through the provision of awareness programmes targeting newly married couples, as well as educating future generations on the importance of resilience, future planning, and building capabilities grounded in cooperation and culture.

Her Excellency Hessa also pointed out that service design requires the engagement of individuals and the wider community, alongside long-term planning to maximise the utilisation of these services. She expressed pride in the implementation of care and empowerment



programmes in collaboration with 425 private-sector companies in the Emirate, with the support of the Government of Dubai and the Dubai Government Human Resources Department, which have contributed to the creation of more than 7,600 job opportunities. His Excellency Marwan Ahmed bin Ghalita, Director General of Dubai Municipality, spoke about the sustainability experiences taking shape across the Emirate, noting that the Dubai International Project Management Forum represents a successful and sustainable model, given its continuity over several years and its ability to attract a distinguished group of speakers.

He further explained that Dubai Municipality is keen to facilitate the delivery of services required by individuals and the community, alongside closely monitoring the maintenance of assets linked to sustainability and working in partnership with stakeholders to identify their requirements and needs. He noted that Dubai has succeeded in providing a high level of services, stressing that sustaining this success in the next phase requires raising service standards beyond expectations.

Alabbar: RTA's Projects in Dubai Shape a Global City, Strengthen Real Estate Success

Mohamed Ali Alabbar, Founder of Emaar and Noon and Chairman of Eagle Hills, praised the large-scale and diverse projects delivered by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) across infrastructure, public transport and other vital sectors, affirming that these achievements have played a direct role in consolidating Dubai's position as a global city and a leading economic, urban and commercial hub.

Alabbar made this statement during an interview conducted with him by media personality Jamal Al Mulla on the sidelines of the Forum: "Infrastructure and public transport projects, alongside the strategic initiatives delivered by the Roads and Transport Authority with high efficiency, have played a key role in ensuring the success of real estate and urban development projects, including those developed by Emaar." He added, "Dubai is a beautiful city and a global icon. What has further enhanced its beauty and distinction are the projects delivered by the RTA, which have kept pace with population growth and the remarkable urban expansion witnessed by the emirate."

Speaking about project management at Emaar, Mohamed Ali Alabbar said, "The company places strong emphasis on responding to market needs, based on its conviction that housing represents one of the most fundamental pillars of human and family life,



providing comfort, reassurance and security. Emaar is committed to achieving an integrated balance between construction projects, green spaces and essential services, given their direct impact on residents' daily quality of life."

He continued, "As a leading real estate developer in the UAE and globally, we place the highest importance on corporate reputation. We are committed to representing our beloved country abroad and reinforcing its esteemed standing by delivering real estate projects distinguished by innovative design, durability and comfort, alongside the premium post-completion services we provide."

Alabbar said, "The success of real estate developers is founded on integrity, excellence and transparency in the execution and management of projects, as well as on delivering credible developments that meet the needs of different segments of society, both within the UAE and internationally."

"Dubai Iconic Developments": Ambitious Vision and Unwavering Determination

"Dubai is a city that does not wait for opportunities but creates them." It is also a city defined by iconic developments that inspire admiration and pride, recognised as one of the world's most innovative, ambitious, and future-oriented cities. A city that embraces art, creativity, and quality across its initiatives, projects, and architecture, while placing people at the centre and striving to enhance the quality of life across all facilities.

These views were highlighted by His Excellency Mohammed Saeed Al Shehhi, CEO of ARM Holding, and Muhammad BinGhatti, Chairman of Binghatti Group, during a panel discussion titled "Dubai Iconic Developments", moderated by Marwan Al Hel, Producer and Presenter at Dubai TV.

They said that Dubai's projects have become global icons and defining landmarks that represent the city worldwide and narrate its journey of growth, excellence and distinction. They noted that these projects have been developed based on clear strategies and vision, and driven by passion and dedication from the teams behind them, who believe



in excellence, leadership and delivering the best for the country.

Al Shehhi and BinGhatti stated that work on iconic projects generally goes through stages related to design, execution, close follow-up and rapid delivery, for developments that combine architectural excellence and innovative ideas. They noted that such projects are delivered by teams that have acquired extensive practical experience through their work in Dubai, which has become a recognised reality among specialists seeking hands-on expertise in delivering these unique and distinguished projects in the emirate. They pointed out that all of Dubai's iconic projects, which reflect its architectural and technological identity globally, simulate the future and express the vision of an ambitious leadership that has made excellence a way of life.

Harnessing AI to Achieve Positive Social Impact

The session titled “AI for Humanity – Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Social Impact” discussed the role of artificial intelligence in supporting communities and enhancing positive social impact. The session was moderated by Alexandra Topalian, International Conference Chair and Panel Moderator.

During the session, HE Dr Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of the UAE Government Cybersecurity Council, explained that the national cybersecurity strategy is underpinned by clear policies focused on capacity building, ensuring security for all, and fostering innovation. He noted that the UAE’s cultural diversity, alongside partnerships with start-ups, has contributed to achieving significant milestones in this field.

Addressing cyber threats, he explained that these threats continue to evolve and include fraud, ransomware, cyberbullying, defamation campaigns and cyberterrorism. He emphasised that cyber warfare represents one of the most prominent current challenges, underscoring the need to safeguard national capabilities and sectors that rely on artificial intelligence.

For her part, Dr Ebtesam Almazrouei, CEO and Founder of AIE3 and Head of the United Nations initiative AI for Public Good,



stressed that the concept of artificial intelligence for the public good requires practical application.

She pointed to the UAE Government’s efforts in digital transformation and in designing systems that serve people and measure impact across sectors including healthcare, education and infrastructure. She also highlighted the experience of the Abu Dhabi Government in deploying artificial intelligence in the healthcare sector through the genome project to detect genetic conditions associated with newborns.

In turn, Prof. Hugh Herr of the MIT Media Lab underscored the importance of using artificial intelligence to enhance human capabilities. He stressed the need for ethical safeguards and data protection, and anticipated that artificial intelligence will play a pivotal role in creativity in the future within a clear ethical framework.

Agile Transformation Debate Explores Revolutionising Capital Project Delivery in the Digital Era

A debate session titled “Agile Transformation: Revolutionising Capital Project Delivery in the Digital Era” highlighted the role of agile methodologies in reshaping planning and delivery concepts for major capital projects, particularly in light of the rapid global pace of digital transformation.

The debate featured Denise Jarvie, Agile Community Leader and Managing Director at the Agile Alliance, affiliated with the Project Management Institute, alongside Dr Pedro M. Serrador, Lecturer at Northeastern University and the University of Toronto. The session was moderated by Hanny Alshazly, Managing Director – Middle East and North Africa at the Project Management Institute.

The session examined how agile transformation is revolutionising the delivery of capital projects in the digital era, addressing the fundamental shifts introduced by agility in executing such projects. It also explored how digital technologies, big data and artificial intelligence have enhanced organisations’ ability to



adapt to change, accelerated decision-making, and improved risk management efficiency—thereby ensuring the delivery of sustainable added value for stakeholders.

In concluding the session, the participants commended the technological advancement witnessed by the Emirate of Dubai and the agile approach adopted by the Roads and Transport Authority in delivering projects and strategic initiatives—an approach that has positioned Dubai among the world’s most advanced cities and best places to live.

Role of Leadership in Turning Community Aspirations into Actionable Projects

Salem Al Marri: The UAE enjoys a clear and strong vision under its wise leadership

His Excellency Salem Humaid Al Marri, Director General of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, affirmed that the Government of the United Arab Emirates adopts a clear and well-defined vision that recognises the strategic importance of space exploration, which is directly linked to daily life—from navigation and communications to advanced sciences. He noted that space is no longer an option but a necessity, stressing that translating vision into reality requires effective partnerships, long-term commitment, and stability in execution. H.E emphasised that the ultimate goal is to turn visions into impactful and inspiring projects that serve society and advance progress towards the future.

His Excellency Al Marri made these remarks during a panel discussion moderated by media personality Brandy Scott. The session featured Mladen Vukomanović, President of the International Project Management Association (IPMA), who noted that the future of project management is increasingly shifting towards community-centred projects, where the focus



goes beyond traditional methodologies to connecting vision with passion and strengthening behavioural and social competencies.

Vukomanović explained that the role of the project manager is evolving into that of an inspiring leader who engages stakeholders from the early stages, responds to community needs, and delivers sustainable projects. He added that project success is no longer measured solely by time, cost, and quality, but also by community acceptance, sustainability of impact, and benefit to society.

For his part, Juan Carlos Sahdala, Group Chief Planning and Project Office at DP World, stated that in recent years the approach to project delivery has evolved from focusing only on time, cost, and quality to a more comprehensive approach that places safety, sustainability, society, and the environment at the heart of project execution.

UAE, the Beating Heart of the World in Innovative and Sustainable Humanitarian Action

A host of officials and business leaders stated that the United Arab Emirates has become a global force in innovative and sustainable humanitarian action, serving as the beating heart of the world and a nation defined by its extended hand of goodwill. They stressed that the UAE continues to provide humanitarian and charitable assistance to those facing hardship or in need of support, anywhere in the world.

They added that the United Arab Emirates, in general, and Dubai in particular, have spared no effort in delivering assistance and support to those in need, noting that the country has been a pioneer in this field and has risen to the forefront of global donors. They further affirmed that the UAE has emerged as a leader in managing humanitarian and charitable work through innovative and sustainable approaches.

This was highlighted during a panel discussion titled “From the Heart of Dubai: Empowering Lives Through Humanitarian Efforts”, which featured Farhad Azizi, Group CEO of Azizi Developments; Dr Mahdi Al Fardan, Chairman of the Board of Gulf International



Cancer Center; Prof Khalid Al Marri, President of IPMA UAE and Professor at British University Dubai; and Dr Waleed Al-Ali, Secretary General and Board Member of the Digital School, one of the initiatives of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives. The session was moderated by Georgia Tolley.

They further noted that charitable and humanitarian work in Dubai, in all its diversity, is characterised by trust and confidence among those wishing to contribute. Participants are reassured that they are active partners rather than mere observers, fully aware that Dubai is not only a city for tourism and business, but also a global leader in innovative and sustainable humanitarian action.

Amira Sajwani Stresses Importance of embedding a culture of innovation and sustained ambition to achieve more

During an interview moderated by Sarah Cocker, Managing Director of Amplify Project Management Services, Amira Sajwani, Managing Director of DAMAC Properties and Founder and Chief Executive Officer of PRYPCO, underscored the importance of firmly establishing a culture of continuous innovation and strengthening a sustained ambition to achieve more. She noted that this approach constitutes a fundamental pillar within the company she works for, both in terms of the scale of projects undertaken and the nature of the products introduced to the market.

She added: "Today's market is clearly different from that of ten years ago, noting that it now combines luxury, quality and distinction alongside value for money. She stressed that this accelerated development requires companies to dedicate greater time and effort to keeping pace with change, strengthening innovation, and reinforcing their leading position in the market."

Amira Sajwani further stressed that adopting a creative approach to work requires focusing on both speed and innovation in order to achieve objectives and reach markets, adding that this approach represents a consistent framework applied across all affiliated companies.

She also highlighted the importance of keeping pace with growing demand beyond the Emirate of Dubai, referring to the experience



of selecting Chelsea Football Club as a model for engaging with global brands, given the associated complexities related to team spirit, brand management and development.

Speaking about property purchasing, Amira Sajwani explained that purchasing mechanisms have undergone a fundamental transformation, shifting from reliance on paper-based transactions to the use of digital platforms to complete purchases and pay reservation deposits.

She noted that, based on monitoring customer behaviour online, the company developed a dedicated purchasing application to support real estate brokers and prospective buyers.

She also stressed the importance of public awareness when purchasing property, by gaining insight into the real estate developer, its position in the market, and its track record in delivering projects, which contributes to making informed decisions and limiting the impact of market fluctuations.

Duncan Walker: Dubai's Vision and Astute Leadership Crucial to Delivering Quality Projects on the Ground

Duncan Walker, CEO and Co-Founder of Skyports, affirmed that vision and leadership are fundamental to accelerating the delivery and execution of vital, high-impact and quality projects on the ground, regardless of the obstacles or challenges that may hinder their implementation. He noted that Dubai, through its clear and forward-looking vision and its astute leadership in governance and decision-making, has firmly embedded these principles in practice across the projects it has delivered, particularly those of a high-quality and strategic nature.

He added, during an interview titled "Aviation Horizons: Bridging Communities and Empowering Collaboration," and moderated by Amandeep Bhangu, International MC & Moderator, that among the projects demonstrating Dubai's ambitious vision and prudent leadership in delivering tangible outcomes on the ground is the development of advanced air mobility infrastructure. This includes the Aerial Taxi project, which will position Dubai as the first city in



the world to offer urban air mobility through an advanced network for vertical take-off and landing, with four vertiport sites to be implemented near Dubai International Airport, Downtown Dubai, Dubai Marina, and Palm Jumeirah.

Walker noted that urban mobility and cities of the future are central to the agendas of many global cities in the years ahead, with numerous countries striving to implement high-impact projects within their own territories in an effort to lead or keep pace with this wave of development. He stressed, however, that Dubai consistently remains at the forefront of delivery, driven by its clear vision, prudent leadership, and proactive approach to turning plans into reality.

The CEO and Co-Founder of Skyports concluded: "By the nature of my work, I have been visiting the UAE frequently in recent times, and I now have a growing number of business interests within the

country. On a personal level, I have often wished that I had invested more in Dubai years ago, given the city's capabilities, clear vision and ambition to become the best city in the world to live and work."

Bear Grylls, World-Renowned Adventurer: Turning Leadership Under Pressure into Life Success

Bear Grylls, a British adventurer and writer, stressed the importance of courage and the need not to fear failure in any situation or hardship people may encounter in their lives. He highlighted the value of self-belief in transforming failure into a stepping stone for success—one that builds inner strength and enables individuals to become role models for others.

He added, during his address delivered at the conclusion of the first day's sessions of the Forum, titled Into the Unknown... Leadership Under Pressure, in a dialogue moderated by media professional Laura Buckwell, that a true leader and a successful individual is one who turns challenges into opportunities and transforms defeats or setbacks into valuable life lessons and insights.

He further noted that he has lived through and confronted numerous adventures in his daily life, including experiencing around 20 serious accidents during his exploratory career and travels around the world. Each time, he learned that "resilience, overcoming fear, and harnessing people's inner strength once it is discovered are essential



elements for success, excellence, and distinction."

Bear Grylls, the British author whose books have sold more than 20 million copies, explained that a strong and wise leader is one who leads a successful team with competence and confidence in difficult situations and times of challenge, and who can achieve the desired goals in both work and life despite the obstacles encountered.

The world-famous adventurer expressed his great pleasure at visiting Dubai and taking part in the Forum's sessions, noting that he had visited the city on several occasions and that his participation in the event represented an exceptional moment in his life, during which he shared his experiences and expertise with a large audience of participants from around the world.

Running Your Business Like a Circus

In a keynote address delivered by Duncan Fisher, Chief Show Operations Officer at Cirque du Soleil, during the second day of the Dubai International Project Management Forum, the speaker outlined his professional journey, which began with significant challenges as he started from scratch and progressed through various roles before moving into administrative and operational responsibilities. This progression enabled him to take part in major productions and large-scale festivals. He referred to a key milestone in his career through his work on a business conference in Montreal, which won the award for Best Conference of the Year, before later assuming leadership of the touring shows division, where he became responsible for one of the largest touring show operations in the entertainment sector.

Today, Fisher serves as Chief Show Operations Officer, managing the company's global portfolio of shows.

Fisher explained that managing a business is much like running a circus, as it is built on core elements including harmony among teams,



creativity and customer service, alongside shared goals, clear principles, effective communication and continuous information sharing.

He emphasised that safety is a top priority in the world of the circus, through minimising risks, providing protective equipment, and strengthening trust between employees and supervisors, in addition to the importance of planning, training and communication, as well as the availability of safety and emergency teams.

Concluding his keynote address, Fisher stressed that creativity thrives in motivating work environments and is closely linked to delivering a positive experience for audiences through the integrated efforts of teams.

DIPMF Participants Visit Dubai Landmarks

Visits included Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre, the Autonomous Abra, Autonomous Vehicles, The View at Palm Jumeirah, Deep Dive Dubai and Dubai Frame.

Providing project management leaders with valuable insights into the practical application of automation, sustainability and digital transformation in large-scale public mega projects

Several participants in the 11th edition of the Dubai International Project Management Forum visited several of Dubai's iconic landmarks and distinguished projects. The visits included the Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre, the Autonomous Abra, Autonomous Vehicles, The View at Palm Jumeirah, Deep Dive Dubai, and Dubai Frame.

The Roads and Transport Authority, represented by the forum organisers and in coordination with the relevant entities, provided detailed briefings on the nature of the projects and the services they deliver. The briefings also reviewed lessons learned, best practices in planning and implementation, and the pivotal role of project management in driving innovation in infrastructure and smart city projects, contributing to strengthening Dubai's position as a leading global city for living and working.

Forum participants, representing several Gulf, Arab and international countries, praised the dynamic and diverse experiences and the distinctive services they were introduced to, as well as the landmark destinations they visited. Each site was recognised as a creative icon reflecting excellence in engineering, innovation, design, management and service delivery.

Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre

Forum participants visited the Dubai Intelligent Traffic Systems Centre, a core smart mobility hub operated by the RTA. The centre plays a central role in monitoring, managing and optimising traffic flows across the Emirate through the use of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data analytics, the Internet of Things, and integrated telecommunications networks.

Autonomous Vehicles

Participants were introduced to Dubai's Autonomous Vehicles programme, which marks a significant step towards reshaping the city's mobility landscape through technology-driven innovation. The visit allowed participants to see how automation, connectivity and sustainable design come together to improve efficiency and safety across urban roads.

The experience also gave project management leaders a practical understanding of multi-disciplinary collaboration, from integrating emerging technologies and managing pilot projects to scaling solutions across citywide systems. It highlighted how informed planning and agile construction can turn smart mobility strategies into real-world solutions.

Autonomous Abra

During the visits, participants were introduced to the Autonomous Abra, launched by RTA, which offers a clear example of how smart mobility and innovation are shaping the future of urban infrastructure.

The vessel was locally designed and built by RTA teams at Al





Garhoud Marine Workshop, accommodates eight passengers, operates with zero carbon emissions, and achieves a 30% reduction in operating and maintenance costs, while running silently. Its design carefully preserves the traditional identity of the abra.

The visit aimed to provide project management leaders with valuable insights into the practical application of automation, sustainability and digital transformation in large-scale public projects, by showing how technology and data-driven design can modernise and enhance traditional transport systems.

The View at Palm Jumeirah

Forum guests were introduced to The View at Palm Jumeirah, recognised for its expansive 360-degree vistas. Rising 240 metres above the iconic Palm Jumeirah, the landmark stands as a notable engineering achievement, offering panoramic views of Palm Jumeirah, the Arabian Gulf and Dubai's dynamic skyline, while reflecting the city's capacity to translate dreams into realities.

Deep Dive Dubai

Forum participants expressed their admiration during their visit to Deep Dive Dubai, the world's deepest swimming pool, reaching

a depth of 60 metres and containing approximately 14 million litres of warm water. Inspired by the UAE's rich pearl heritage, the facility offers an immersive, purpose-designed environment that evokes the ruins of a submerged city, complete with walls, furnished rooms and a sunken vehicle. The venue also functions as an underwater film studio and attracts both professional and novice divers, delivering a distinctive experience that encourages deeper exploration and discovery.

Dubai Frame

Forum guests enjoyed their visit to Dubai Frame, an iconic architectural landmark designed in the form of a monumental picture frame rising 150 metres in height and spanning 93 metres in width. The structure symbolically links old and modern Dubai, offering panoramic views alongside distinctive experiences, including walking across a transparent glass floor and an elevated glass bridge. It also features immersive digital exhibitions that present Dubai's past, present and future through advanced audiovisual storytelling, delivered within a striking architectural setting and contemporary interactive facilities—creating an integrated experience that reflects Dubai's transformation into a thriving global city.



Ahmed bin Saeed and Mattar Al Tayer Attend Signing of 10-Year Agreement Between Dubai Airports and Salik to Enable Seamless E-Wallet Parking Payments at DXB

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, together with H.E. Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Salik, attended the signing of a 10-year agreement to enable seamless E-Wallet parking payments between Salik, Dubai's exclusive toll-gate operator, and Dubai Airports, which manages Dubai International (DXB) the world's busiest international airport. The agreement will introduce Salik's E-Wallet payment solution across all paid car parks at DXB, covering 7,400 designated parking spaces covering Terminals 1, 2, 3 and the Cargo Mega Terminal,

to be implemented starting 22 January 2026.

The agreement was signed by Ibrahim Sultan Al Haddad, Chief Executive Officer of Salik, and Paul Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Airports, in the presence of senior officials from both parties. Under the MoU, Salik will integrate its Salik E-Wallet System with the existing car park management systems used by Dubai Airports' appointed car park concessionaire.

This integration enables visitors to pay seamlessly from their Salik E-Wallet accounts, creating a smoother parking experience and improving traffic flow.

Commenting on the agreement, Ibrahim Sultan Al Haddad, Chief Executive Officer of Salik, said: "Dubai International is one of the world's leading gateways, continually setting new benchmarks with aviation driving tourism, trade, and investment. We are proud to support Dubai's position as a



global economic hub through our shared vision for smart, sustainable infrastructure. By integrating Salik's E-Wallet at DXB, we are delivering a seamless, efficient experience for road users and advancing state-of-the-art mobility solutions for the emirate."

"This agreement is fully aligned with our strategy to expand Salik's role in smart and sustainable mobility while accelerating growth beyond our core tolling business. It builds on the momentum we've created in seamless parking through our presence across UAE's key destinations and reinforces our position as a trusted digital payments partner for leading destinations and infrastructure operators in the UAE," Al Haddad added.

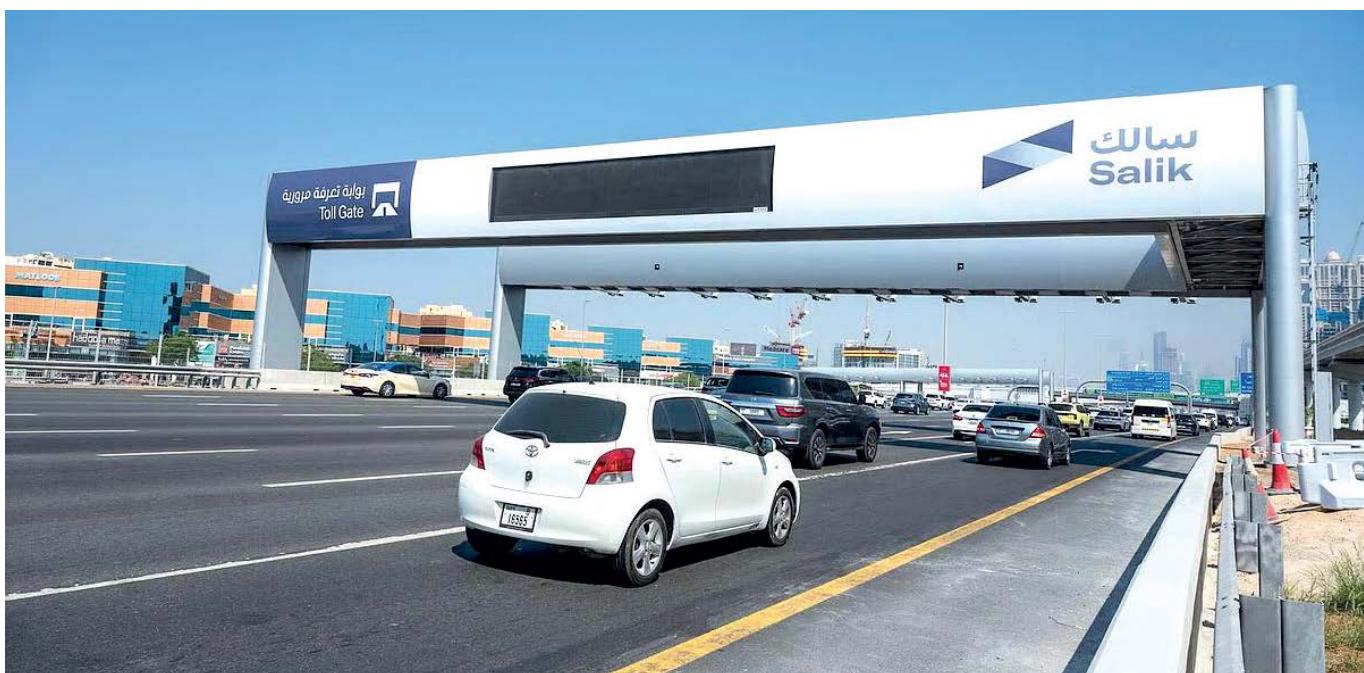
The collaboration is designed to support Dubai Airports' ambition to implement seamless entry and exit at car parks, increase vehicle throughput and improve traffic flow around the terminals, while delivering a more convenient, fully digital parking experience.

Paul Griffiths, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Airports, said: "Dubai Airports is committed to delivering exceptional guest experiences with human-centred hospitality, ensuring that every journey reflects Dubai's ambition and forward-thinking spirit. Parking is often the first and last touchpoint for our guests, and it plays a vital role in shaping the overall airport experience."

"Our collaboration with Salik introduces a fast, reliable

and widely adopted digital payment option that simplifies parking, reduces queuing at exits, and supports our long-term vision for seamless access across our car parks. With more than 4.7 million vehicles in UAE already linked to Salik accounts, this partnership offers a familiar and convenient solution for a large share of our customers while advancing Dubai's wider smart city ambitions. It also complements Dubai Airports' commitment to smart, sustainable operations and frictionless journeys, building on recent digital payment innovations and digitalisation milestones," he added.

Under the terms of the agreement, Salik will be responsible for integrating, operating and maintaining the Salik E-Wallet System. Dubai Airports will ensure the continued availability of multiple payment channels, with Salik E-Wallet introduced as a seamless and convenient payment solution provider, working with its car park concessionaire to complete the technical integration and promote the new payment solution within airport premises. Salik's E-Wallet solution will service all designated parking spaces covering Terminals 1, 2, 3 and the Cargo Mega Terminal. By partnering with Dubai Airports, Salik is extending this model to one of the region's most important aviation assets. DXB recorded its highest quarterly traffic in 65 years during Q3 2025, welcoming 24.2 million guests between July and September, bringing total traffic for the



Under the Patronage of Hamdan bin Mohammed Opening Registration for 14th Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport 2026



Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced the opening of registration for the 14th edition of the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport (DAST) 2026, one of the region's leading specialized awards dedicated to advancing sustainable transport across the Middle East and North Africa. The award reflects RTA's commitment to promoting sustainability principles and stimulating innovation.

The award aims to encourage government and semi-government entities, private sector organizations, as well as universities and schools, along with researchers and experts, to adopt sustainable mobility solutions, foster positive competition, recognize best practices, and support cross-sector partnerships, in line with quality-of-life targets and sustainable development goals across the Emirate, the United Arab Emirates, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Award Categories

Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport comprises four main categories: Elite, Sustainability, Inclusivity, and Innovation. "These categories clearly reflects RTA's approach and commitment to fostering partnerships and supporting the transformation to , sustainable transport systems. The categories were designed to showcase leading practices and innovative solutions in the sustainable transport sector. The Elite category represents the highest level of recognition under Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport. The winner is selected by a jury according to specific criteria to honor the best entry across all categories, without the need for a separate submission form..

The Sustainability category includes the Pioneering Sustainable Cities Award, the Outstanding Sustainable Fleet Award, the Clean Energy for Mobility Award, and the Urban Changemakers Award.

The Inclusivity category includes the Urban Flow Improvement Award, Safe Transport Award, the First and

Last Mile Award, and Transport for All Award.

The Innovation category features the Best Innovation in Transport Award, Outstanding Student Solutions Award(school students -18), and NextGen for Mobility Award (University and PhD students).

he opening of registration for this edition comes as part of a comprehensive development process that includes restructuring the award categories and introducing, new awards, as well as increasing the total number of awards to 12. which will enhance the inclusiveness of the award, extend its impact, and consolidate its position as a leading platform in the sustainable mobility sector at the UAE and across the region.

Dubai Sustainable Transport Award is a strategic pillar in the transport sector's innovation ecosystem, attracting and promoting high-quality projects and ideas that support research, development, and innovation, and promoting Dubai's position as a global leader in sustainable transport.. Since the launch of the award, RTA has consistently applied a continuous development approach to operational and evaluation mechanisms, in line with the qualitative advancements achieved across RTA projects and initiatives.

This reflects the award's advanced standing at both local and regional levels.

Registration for the Dubai Award for Sustainable Transport is open through its official website at <https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rt/a/e/home/dast>. The registration process follows simplified digital steps, saving time and effort for participants and reflecting RTA's commitment to advancing digital government practices and enhancing the overall customer journey.