

المسار almasar

The Official Monthly Magazine of Dubai's RTA

Issue No. 85 July 2015

Hamdan bin Mohammed blesses RTA's projects

Innovation lab ...
Permanent
location to foster
government
creativity

AED 85 billion
savings in time
& fuel between
2006 – 2014



RTA VISION

Safe and Smooth Transport for All

RTA MISSION

Develop integrated and sustainable transportation systems and support Dubai's comprehensive growth plans by preparing policies and legislations, adapting technologies and innovative approaches, and implementing world-class practices and standards

ترام
tram





On Track

The will of Creativity

"The secret to life renewal, evolution of civilizations and humanity development is simple: Innovation. Any Government that wants to remain competitive will have to be an innovative government, with a mentality which matches that of a great innovative company." H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai .

Through the definition of (innovation) that was developed by His Highness, emphasizing on the fact that evolution and continuity of institutions depends on its ability to innovate and create new opportunities, which will enhance their competitiveness. RTA recognized that its prosperity and ability to compete in the track of excellence heavily rests on the ability to innovate and offer value-added elements in all projects and services undertaken to meet the transport challenges in the Emirate of Dubai, especially when innovation is considered the most important element in any modern enterprise. Thus, RTA has devoted all its efforts of materializing aspirations of the wise leadership to make Dubai the number one city in the world.

Thanks to the leadership and generous support of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the continuous follow-up of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince, Chairman of the Executive Council, and HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Vice Chairman of the Executive Council, RTA was able to accomplish several creative and innovative projects, with Dubai Metro and Dubai Tram on the top of the list, as they have elevated Dubai's public transportation system into a higher level. RTA also successfully completed the project of converting all services offered to customers into smart, innovative and easy to use services.

RTA crowned its creative achievements with winning the Innovation-Sponsoring Entity Award in the Dubai Government Excellence Performance Program (DGEP) for two consecutive years. To foster and maintain excellence, RTA has also established the first permanent Government Innovation Lab in Dubai to search for more creative solutions that meets modern time requirements through applying the theory of: "Thinking outside the box".

Mattar Al Tayer

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blesses RIA's projects

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Hamdan Bin Mohammad visits RTA; briefed on infrastructure projects for Expo 2020

Dubai: Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, visited the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) headquarter . He was briefed on various infrastructure projects being implemented in preparation for World Expo 2020.

Shaikh Hamdan was briefed on the authority's projects by Engineer Mattar

Mohammad Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive

Directors of (RTA),. One of the projects is "Route 2020", which spans a distance

of 15km. The route will include seven metro stations heading to the World Expo venue in Jebel Ali, and will pass through Discovery Gardens, Al Furjan, Jumeirah Golf Estate and Dubai Investment Park.

RTA will also build the intersections required to serve the World Expo venue, such as Al Yalays Street, development of Jebel Ali Al Hbab Road, expanding the final section of Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Road, developing Academic City road, developing intersections on roads near the venue and building a parking lot that will be able to accommodate 44,000 cars for visitors of the expo.

Al Tayer said that RTA would also be increasing the capacity of Dubai International Airport Road in order to accommodate the expected increase in passengers. Dubai is expected to receive 92 million passengers by 2020. Developments will also be carried out on the Al Rashidiya and Airport road intersections with Marrakecht Street, Dar Al Baydat Street and Nad Al Hmars Street. Shaikh Hamdan was also briefed on the road and transportation system unified control center in order to manage the flow of transportation to the World Expo venue.



RTA is also looking into utilizing the most advanced technologies in the field of smart transportation to implement the driverless car initiative. Shaikh Hamdan looked into the 1,200-metre long aerial lift project that will link the metro stations in Dubai Creek and Dubai Festival City. Other projects include the development of Al Wasl and Jumeirah

roads, which involves the construction of walkways and cycling tracks.

Shaikh Hamdan expressed his satisfaction with the projects, and praised the efforts of RTA's Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, engineers, technicians and administrative staff.



RTA opens Head Office of 1st government Innovation Lab in Dubai

Al Tayer chairs the inaugural session spotlighting revamping of services to the business sector

مختبر الإبداع
Innovation Lab
هيئة الطرق والمواصلات
ROADS & TRANSPORT AUTHORITY



The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched the Head Office of the Innovation Lab within the premises of the Dubai Tram Depot at Al Safouh, rendering the facility the first Government Innovation lab in Dubai. The Lab includes cutting-edge training halls fitted with latest technologies, work areas for holding brainstorming workshops, and an innovation club designed to the highest standards and top-class finishing to offer a hospitable environment conducive to innovation. The facility also includes a library offering knowledge resources in various fields and majors; which will be regularly updated with the latest resources, in addition to a main platform for showcasing and discussing ideas. The facility is also fitted with interactive monitors enabling members to exchange visual contents which are also supported by smartphones & portable gadgets used by participants in workshops enabling the display of visual contents through wireless connectivity. It also encompasses supporting facilities such as a rest area, prayer rooms and meeting halls.



Establishing
“the future
team” in 2007

2007



“The RTA is making massive efforts to keep pace with the directive of our wise government in the quest for innovative solutions befitting the demands of this era; which requires implementing an out-of-the-box approach. Such a need is underscored by the high profile enjoyed by the UAE as a whole and Dubai Emirate in particular amongst advanced nations in advancing competitiveness concepts and cementing the role of government and corporate innovation in making people happier,” added Faridoon.

Authority’s records in innovation field:

Establishing Innovation Centre in 2013

Establishing innovation department in 2013

Adaption of general framework for research & development in 2013

Launching the first Government innovation lab in Dubai in 2015

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

RTA’s award for scientific research 2012

Establishing the General Framework for Research & Innovation in 2014



HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, chaired the inaugural session of the Innovation Lab which was dedicated to the revamping of services provided by the RTA to the business sector with a view to thrashing out solutions of the challenges in hand. The session was attended by a host of CEOs, Directors of the RTA as well as a bunch of university students and a representative of Ernst & Young

Advisory Company.

“Through the government innovation labs, the RTA is seeking to play a significant role in leveraging its business to the extent of materializing aspirations of our wise leadership in the drive towards excellence. HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, perceives innovation as: To Be or Not to Be: If a government is innovative, then it is

existing. HH believes that corporate sustainability hinges on the ability to innovate, and create opportunities for new beginnings capable of boosting the competitiveness,” said Al Tayer.

Coaching Innovation

“The innovation concept was thereabout in RTA’s thinking right from inception,” said Al Tayer. “RTA’s leadership recognized that prosperity and ability to compete in the track of excellence heavily rests on the ability to innovate and offer value-added elements in all projects & services undertaken. The RTA has thus launched a variety of initiatives in support of its innovation drive; it established the Future Team in 2007, and launched its Scientific Research Award in 2012. In 2013 it commissioned the Innovation Center, Section and endorsed the general layout of researches and development, and in 2014 it set up Researches, Development and Innovation Section,” he continued.

“These initiatives have set RTA’s projects a class apart and were





catalyst in snatching several local and international accolades. Thus it was not at all strange to note that the RTA was the winner of the Innovation-Sponsoring Entity Award in the Dubai Government Excellence Performance over two years in a row (2014 & 2015). "The RTA selection of: Revamping RTA's Projects provided to the Business Sector as a theme for the inaugural session was prompted by a host of factors highlighted by the goal of Bringing Happiness to People; which is at the forefront of our leaders' priorities. The economy is in fact one of the key development thrusts of the UAE, especially Dubai which is seeking to nurture an attractive environment for investments rendering it a platform for launching a variety of economic projects. Moreover, the RTA is offering 49 services to the business community and it will be quite fit to rejuvenate and push them to upper echelons," he

further added.

Al Tayer urged participants to interact effectively in these brainstorming sessions, and focus on generating creative & unique ideas which are viable over the short and medium terms in order to bring about a quantum shift in the business sector services experience.

Early Preparations

Ms. Laila Faridoon, Executive Director of the Office of the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA cum Head of the Committee Supervising RTA's Innovation Strategy, said: "Preparations for the first government Innovation Lab started back in February, and a training program was developed to qualify coordinators of brainstorming sessions and have them accredited by an international entity to make them more professional and capable of maximizing the benefits from such sessions. A wide

spectrum of community segments were invited to contribute ideas and suggestions for improving the services on offer to the business sector through the social media.

"Preparations for holding the first government Innovation Lab at the RTA are summarized in setting the objective of the Lab, forming the team, drawing up the agenda, constructing the contents, how to select participants from the RTA and beyond, and mapping out a media plan to engage the largest number possible of the concerned parties whether through participation in sessions or social media and other means. A tentative session was held to make sure that all systems go as planned in the organizational chart prepared, and assess all stages of the Lab in terms of accuracy, quality and offering a chance to voice opinions, make comments, and contribute proposals for improvements.

RTA highlights its strong participation at UITP's World Congress in Milan

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has participated in the 61st UITP World Congress and Exhibition held recently in Milan, Italy. HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors headed RTA's delegation.



The event, which is held biennially, is a global gathering of transport and mobility specialists from all over the world to discuss the latest technologies in the field of infrastructure of rail networks and public transport systems. The latest edition of the Exhibition drew participation of 270 firms from 34 countries, the Congress held more

than 40 sessions and discussion panels, and the entire event attracted more than 25 thousand visitors. The RTA has had a mega stand spanning 156 square meters that spotlighted the public transport systems in Dubai along with the evolution and development of the public transport sector in the Emirate. Al Tayer attended the opening session of

the Congress. The session was opened by HE Giuliano Pisapia, Mayor of Milan, Italy; Sir HENDY Peter, Commissioner, Transport for London, London, United Kingdom; HE Jasim bin Saif AL SULAITI, Minister of Transport, Qatar; HE Dr. Lina Shabeeb, Minister of Transport, Jordan; and HE Alain FLAUSCH, Secretary General of the UITP in addition to 2500



specialized in manufacturing & operating buses such as VOLVO, MAN, SCANIA, and VDL where he was briefed on the new designs as well as cutting-edge and environment-friendly technologies of bus operation.

RTA Stand

At the stand of the RTA in the Exhibition, Al Tayer received a number of ministers and senior executives including HE Jasim Al Sulaiti, Minister of Transport in Qatar, where the two parties discussed means of cooperation in various aspects of public transport. He also received HE Alain FLAUSCH, Secretary General of the UITP, and discussed the latest developments and prospects of future cooperation in matters related to public transport of the region. Al Tayer held a meeting with HE Bruno Rota, President of Milan Transport, where he reviewed preparations made by the Italian Agency for hosting Expo Milan 2015 along with lessons learned in the process. He also reviewed the experience of Milan in operating and

participants including transport officials and specialists from the world over.

Al Tayer stated that the growing international attention to smooth transport contributes to people's happiness. "Achieving this goal requires linking technological systems with the existing and proposed infrastructure, and linking the technology with the public transport systems to ease the use of transport systems. It also requires integrating multi-modal transit systems, and framing up policies & legislations to keep pace with the development of transport systems such as legislations regarding car-pooling (shared cars) and the use of driverless vehicles."

the latest rail technologies including passenger carriages, electromechanical systems, interior fittings of rail carriages as well as communication & safety engineering with a view to benefiting from these systems and technologies in Route 2020 project involving the extension of the Red Line of the Dubai Metro to the site of Expo 2020. Al Tayer also toured the stands of companies

Tour

Al Tayer toured pavilions of the exhibition accompanied by Mohammed Obaid Al Mulla, Member of the Board of Executive Directors; Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Public Transport Agency; Abdul Aziz Malik, Chairperson of the Higher Committee of MENA Center for Transport Excellence; and a host of Directors and engineers at the RTA. During the tour, Al Tayer reviewed



managing buses shuttling around Milan Expo. Al Tayer held a series of meetings with Dr. Jochen Skjult CEO of Siemens International; Henri Poupart-Lafarge President of Alstom; Miller Crawford; CEO of Thales; Davis Marin, CEO of DB Arriva.

Al Tayer briefed guests of RTA's stand on public transport achievements made by RTA highlighted by the Dubai Metro, Route 2020 project, Dubai Tram, smart apps of RTA services, map of tourist landmarks in Dubai linked by public transport means, and the use of barcode to obtain a variety of information about mobility and mass transport.

The stand of RTA also displayed the UITP MENA Congress held biennially by the RTA where the next edition is scheduled in April 2016. It also included a section for the MENA Center for Transport Excellence; an information center that attends to providing the best public transport practices, training public transport specialists on the best



global practices, conducting transport researches & studies, boosting cooperation & sharing expertise with transport entities & universities in the region and beyond, diffusing the public transport culture in the region, and assisting the countries of the region

in obtaining the successful practices of public transport and satisfying their needs in providing mobility means for the population.

Strategic Partnership

Al Tayer attended a meeting held by the UITP marking the tenth anniversary of establishing the UITP MENA Office. During the ceremony Al Tayer was decorated in appreciation of RTA's efforts in supporting the establishing of the UITP office as well as the MENA Center for Transport Excellence in 2012 and the successful hosting of the 59th UITP Congress & Exhibition in 2011 about Mobility & City Transport under the theme: Boosting Public Transport: Action!

Al Tayer accepted a trophy from HE Jasim Al Sulaiti, Minister of Transport in Qatar; and HE Alain FLAUSCH, Secretary General of the UITP, in the presence of HE Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Ohali, President of Public Transport Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



In a speech delivered during the event, Al Tayer expressed his appreciation of the partnership and the distinctive cooperation between the RTA, UITP and all countries of the region towards serving the public transport sector and sharing knowledge for a better future.

“RTA is moving ahead with its strategic plan for uplifting public transport systems with the aim of raising the share of public transport trips to 20% by 2020. In addition, pushing it further to 30% by 2030, noting that RTA has recently unveiled Route 2020 project to extend the Red Line of Dubai Metro 15 km to reach the site of Expo.

“In accordance with the Master Plan of Rail Network in Dubai, the total length of railways will extend to 110 km by 2020, extend to 200 km by 2025 and double up to 421 km by 2030. RTA is also improving and expanding the public transport routes to serve new communities. According to the Plan,



The UITP World Congress and Exhibition is an important global platform for public transport specialists to showcase the latest technologies in the infrastructure of rail & tunnel network along with a host of other issues related to the interior designs of trains, entertainment systems, public buses and marine transit modes. It is also viewed as a splendid opportunity for decision makers and other associated parties in public transport field to review the latest trends of public transport, corporate structures, technologies & policies as well as industrial innovations & financial plans in this field. It also offers an opportunity to discuss the best practices and review the successful experiences in various countries of the globe. The accompanying Exhibition also offers a great opportunity for participants from all over the world to highlight their products, services and solutions in the field of public transport.

the number of buses is expected to grow to 2000 buses by 2020 lifting about two million riders per day. The Plan also envisages leveraging the

marine transport services including the extension of the total length of marine lines to 450 km,” explained Al Tayer.



RTA opens registration in 2nd Dubai International Project Management Forum



The Organizing Committee of the Dubai International Project Management Forum (DIPMF) at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has announced the opening of registration in the 2nd edition of the DIPMF. Registration can be completed online via (www.dipmf.ae) portal through simple and smooth steps. Registration in this global event is open to public, semi-public and private organizations as well as individuals.

In the same context, the RTA has also signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBSG), and the British University in Dubai (BUiD) covering a variety of aspects and issues of common concern in academic as well as applied fields of project management.

Ms. Laila Faridoon, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the DIPMF, expressed her delight with the signing of the said two MoUs with the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government and the British University in Dubai, especially as these two academic institutions

boast of a high reputation in the fields of government management and business administration.

“Working with institutions that have abundant knowledge and proficiency as well as pioneering concepts in their respective domains will definitely boost the exchange of experience between the DIPMF and these highly regarded entities; which in turn will enrich the second edition of the Forum this year,” said Faridoon.

“The two MoUs signed with the MBSG and the BUiD will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the RTA and these two academic bodies,

and promote the training programs, workshops, conferences, and academic programs shared by the two parties. As for research, the two MoUs open up windows of joint efforts besides sharing scientific researches, technological reports and academic studies of relevance to Project Management.

“The remarkable success achieved by the inaugural DIPMF last year prompted us to deliver an outstanding edition this year, and hopefully participants will come up with highly important conclusions capable of leveraging the project management industry; which is viewed as the backbone of any

organization, and even critical to any city or country aspiring for modernization in all sectors across the board,” she added. “Organizing the DIPMF stems from the commitment of the Dubai city to play a pivotal role in steering the development, modernization and innovation drive in the region, and nurturing the ingredients of enhancing it on sound scientific bases aligned with the highest international standards. Such a practice can best be achieved through enticing the cream of international experts and specialists to attend such world-class forums which can be cultivated as effective knowledge-transfer platforms. The Forum also echoes Dubai’s keenness to act as a communication channel in the exchange of expertise, concepts and views between gurus of various industries worldwide in keeping with its billing as an Arab city with global profile. “The project management as a profession has a vital role to play in carrying out a variety of works which are catalyst to achieving objectives of various organizations. However, this role requires an efficient, capable and skilled

Two MoUs signed with Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government, British University in Dubai

project manager to play a leading role and contribute effectively to nurturing a sound and solid project management environment that constitutes no burden to the organization. Such a leader has to be equipped with appropriate means and tools to establish successful and sustained project management structures,” explained Faridoon.

“Many prominent international project management experts will take part in the second edition of the DIPMF and deliver important speeches in various sessions. The presence of these figures will undoubtedly encourage the participation of several countries of the region and the world over.

“Through organizing this Forum, the RTA is seeking to spotlight the Dubai

Emirate and its pioneering experience and successes in the field of project management, which rank up with the highest international standards. These successes are emulated in a series of giant projects which have commanded a broad international attention such as Burj Khalifa, Dubai Metro, Dubai Airport projects and mega ports to name a few in addition to an array of architectural projects with unique designs,” said Faridoon.

It is worth-mentioning that the first edition of the DIPMF was hugely successful in terms of immaculate organization, intense gathering of about 1500 delegates 70% of whom were CEOs and Project Managers, and the diversity of topics & events held. Activities of that Forum covered issues relating to the management of engineering & construction projects in a host of technical, sports, energy and sustainability fields. Events held included five workshops, 7 panel discussions, and 18 concurrent sessions and successes of the event were best illustrated by the amassing as much as 56 speakers.



RTA honors winners of Energy and Green Economy Award as trial run of electric bus starts

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has recently felicitated entities, businesses and individuals winning the 2nd Energy & Green Economy Award presented by the RTA to its strategic partners spanning government entities, external customers (suppliers, contractors & consultants), and internal customers (affiliated sectors, agencies and employees). The award is intended to show recognition and appreciation of contributions made by winners through submitting cracking ideas and presenting fine practices capable of leveraging the green economy concept, and saving energy.

In the meantime, Al Tayer inaugurated the trial operation of the electric bus which is powered by batteries as one of the unique initiative at the regional level launched in support of sustainable development plans of public transport systems with the aim of conserving natural resources, and protecting the environment from pollution.

The ceremony, which was held at Al Wasl Auditorium of the RTA, was attended by a host of Directors of departments, entities, as well as contracting & consultancy offices and CEOs of the RTA.

Al Tayer decorated the award winners and presenting them with Green Fronds trophies. The Dubai Municipality won the Energy and Green Economy Award in the Strategic Partners category in recognition of the extraction of methane gas from waste project. Emirates Driving Institute won RTA's Customers category through the Implementation of the Green Buildings Standards initiative. RTA's Rail Agency won the Best Project category for the Dubai Tram, and also clinched the Best RTA's Sector / Agency award in recognition of the Noise and Vibration project. Kaleem Allah won the Energy & Green Economy Award for individuals in appreciation of the Irradiated Diode at four locations project. Al Tayer also decorated the Chairperson and Members



of Energy and Green Economy Award's Judging Panel at the RTA.

"The launching of the Energy and Green Economy Award conforms to the national initiative launched by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in 2012 under the theme: A Green Economy for a Sustainable Development. It encompassed six tracks; green energy, government policies, green city, coping with the impacts of climatic changes, green life, and the green technology. The Award is also viewed as implementation of the fifth strategic goal of the RTA i.e. enhancing safety and environmental sustainability," said Al Tayer.

"The RTA has rolled out several initiatives concerned with the conservation of the

environment such as the clean energy and green buildings. Among the pioneering projects the RTA boasts of are the Dubai Metro and Dubai Tram projects; which rank amongst the top mass transit projects worldwide. Both are electricity-powered and have reduced the use of private vehicles; which in turn would lead to curbing carbon emissions in Dubai city, and help achieve the ultimate objective ensuring safety and environmental sustainability for future generations. Studies commissioned by the RTA about the carbon footprint of the Dubai Metro proved that the amount of harmful carbon emissions was reduced by 60 thousand tons in 2014, and the forthcoming years will witness further reductions as a result of the rising numbers of the metro riders; which will bring about a string of health



& environmental benefits to the city. The water saving initiative in the Dubai Metro covering both the Red & Green Lines has contributed to reducing water usage by as much as 30%.

“The RTA has made a successful launch of the trial run of hybrid eco-friendly vehicles in 2008 and is pondering beefing up the fleet of hybrid vehicles every year. These vehicles have low carbon emissions amounting to 30% less than emissions of other vehicles, and the RTA has operated electric abras in Dubai Creek featuring a light body of fiberglass which can reduce carbon emission as they generate no harmful gases such as carbon dioxide; which is normally associated with the use of diesel and causes higher noise levels contrary to the quiet electricity-powered abras. The smart and electronic transition in delivering RTA’s services has saved time, money and efforts in addition to the use of paper during transactions. For instance the smart and e-services in 2014 contributed to saving about seven million papers; which is equivalent to the saving of 213 trees. Moreover, the smart and e-services have reduced the wasted kilometers by 14 million km, and

saved fuel in as much as 1.4 million liters,” explained Al Tayer

RTA Chairman of the Board and Executive Director revealed that the RTA embarked on the tentative installation of LED lights; which are highly efficient and save electric power. In its strategic plan, the RTA is envisaging the transformation of all street lights to LED technology by 2030; which will further reduce the carbon footprint by more than 3000 tons per annum.

15 million

Abdul Mohsen Ibrahim Younes, CEO of Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector and Chairperson of the Green Economy Award, said: “The Award, which was launched in 2013 has witnessed the addition of the individuals category in its 2nd edition, bringing the number honored categories to 5 in order to encourage all RTA employees to adopt the best practices in energy and green economy field. The 2nd edition of the Award has also included energy concepts, as reflected in the new name of the Award: “Energy and Green Economy Award” rather than “Green Economy Award”.

Younes added: “In 2014, the RTA rolled

out about 32 initiatives to save energy and 8 initiatives to support the green economy. These initiatives contributed to reducing carbon footprint and achieved estimated savings of AED 15 million. The RTA’s efforts were culminated by winning BGreen Award as the most sustained regional public entity in 2014.”

Electric bus

Al Tayer kicked off the test run of electric bus powered by batteries, which can be charged up to 80% in less than 30 minutes. When fully charged, the electric bus can travel a distance of 200 km, at an estimated speed of about 100 kilometers per hour.

The RTA will tentatively operate electric buses to evaluate their environmental benefits, measure carbon emissions, the distance covered with fully charged battery, bus speed, battery lifespan, and bus adaptability to weather conditions in the UAE, especially during the summer season. The test run will also assess the engine efficiency and maintenance cost among others. On the bases of these results the RTA will decide on the next step.

Dubai Taxi clinches Princess Haya Award for

The Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) at the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has been named the winner in the 5th Princess Haya Award for Special Education 2014-2015 in the category of: The Excellent Initiative (Disabled Vehicles Service), in recognition of its corporate social responsibility efforts and the support to the disabled.



The DTC was felicitated during the awards distribution ceremony held at Johara Ballroom, Madinat Jumeirah

under the patronage of the wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussain. The award, which is held biennially, aims to

RTA clinches two prestigious awards in Occupational

The Public Transport Agency, Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has scooped two internationally reputed awards in the golden category of occupational health & safety as well as Managing Occupational Road Risks from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The awards come in recognition of the positive results achieved by the public transport sector overseen by the Agency in minimizing associated accidents & risks, and attaining higher occupational safety levels.

Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of Public Transport Agency at the RTA, expressed his deep delight for bagging these two coveted international accolades in vital fields impacting the life of people such as public transport riders, road users and public transport employees as well. The achievement also enhances the profile of the RTA as a pioneering public

transport entity in diffusing the traffic awareness and improving the safety in handling occupational risks not only in the UAE but also at the global level.

"We, in the Public Transport Agency, are keen on training public bus drivers in the Emirate of Dubai, on complying with driving, traffic and public safety rules together with the safe speeds in

an effort to safeguard the lives of riders and road users alike," said Al Ali.

"We are always seeking to showcase our efforts in this vital field and other aspects through participations in local, regional and international contests and it is always thrilling to see our efforts bear dividends in clinching awards that will also amplify the standing of

Special Education

show recognition and encouragement to entities that make diligent efforts in support of the disabled. It also seeks to enhance the innovation through adopting world-class standards and nurturing a competitive environment capable of improving the level of future services and ensuring their continuity.

HE Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, presented the award to engineer Ahmed Khalfan Al Suwaidi, CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation, in the presence of representatives of public and private entities winning various categories of the award. Engineer Al Suwaidi congratulated the RTA for scooping this prestigious award and thanked all employees of the DTC and the Work Team that compiled the bidding file. "We are thrilled to bag this award as it tantamount to a recognition

of RTA's external activities and initiatives targeting all community members, especially the disabled," he said.

"The DTC's participation in the award is part of its endeavours to realize its vision: Pioneers in Passenger Transport Services, in addition to RTA's approved awards plan 2015 together with the directives of the senior management exhorting to make additional achievements. This award underscores the attention of the senior management to improve the performance & quality of services provided to customers and the public. It also brings in additional responsibilities of maintaining this excellent performance, and playing a crucial role in highlighting DTC's profile in improving the taxi sector. It also enhances RTA's contribution to the sustained economic development through improving the efficiency and

corporate performance, and uplifting the performance efficiency of all businesses; which in turn contributes to improving the caliber of services and accordingly raising customers satisfaction rating," continued Al Suwaidi.

"The DTC is always keen on supporting the disabled and integrating them in the community through providing dedicated services round-the-clock via the Booking and Dispatch Center (04-2080808) to travel to anywhere in the UAE. These vehicles have been fitted with accessories to assist the boarding of the disabled, thus offering them a smooth, convenient and safe traveling experience. These vehicles are recognizable by their red tops, and the logo of a disabled vehicle at the sides of the vehicle and rear windshield," said the CEO of Dubai Taxi Corporation.

Health & Safety, Managing Occupational Road Risks

the RTA in the community in general and among public transport riders in particular," noted the CEO of Public Transport Agency.

"Bidding for these awards was intended to complement our previous endeavours where we submitted a bid in 2013 entitled: Accidents Investigation Decision-making AID-50, or (AIDA 50); which resulted in winning the Silver Award in the category of Managing Occupational Road Risks," he explained.

"The objective underlying the latest

submission for the award was to showcase RTA's efforts and its role in addressing the international requisites of safety in keeping with its vision of Safe & Smooth Transport for All. The ultimate objective of the move was to achieve excellent improvements in statistics relating to traffic accidents triggered by public bus drivers in Dubai. Results achieved last year reflected a rating of 0.49 accident per 100 thousand kilometers; reflecting a 53% improvement when compared with statistics of 2012. The Public Transport

Agency has also achieved remarkable improvements in slashing job-related injuries from 0.7 to as low as 0.29," revealed Al Ali.

"The project is based on five key pillars namely: classifying public bus accidents, listing factors impacting bus accidents, charting out processes for investigating bus accidents along with investigation templates, identifying the existing technological systems, and introducing a technological system for investigating traffic accidents," concluded the CEO of Public Transport Agency.

Savings in time and fuel from 2006 to 2014 hit AED87 bn RTA's completed project worth AED 80 bn, assets



HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), revealed that RTA's expenditure on infrastructure projects since established in November 2005 has reached about 80 billion dirham, and its assets amounted to more than 85 billion dirham.

Al Tayer made these remarks during the launch of Projects Management Development Program (Projects) organized by the RTA in collaboration with the Project Management Institute (PMI) in a periodic meeting with the Executive Directors, Directors and Managers at the RTA.

The giant projects undertaken by the RTA contributing to ranking the UAE at the top of all countries of the world in terms of the quality of roads in 2012 and 2013 according to the Global Competitiveness Report published by the World Economic Forum. These projects also contributed to improving the quality of life of residents where Dubai was clinched the first position in the quality of living

in the MENA region in 2014. Thus RTA's projects have had a positive bearing on the economy of Dubai Emirate, with savings in time and fuel exceeding 87 billion dirham during the period from 2006 till the end of 2014.

"Maintaining the achievement and excellent standing achieved by the RTA warrants taking a continual review of RTA's assessment with the aim of

learning and improving the business conduct, and identifying lessons learned from the past besides translating them into a factual reality. This can only be achieved through mapping out improved work plans, developing new unconventional initiatives, picking up new knowledge & expertise capable of meeting future requirements, improving points of strength, and engaging in a

touch AED 85 bn



continuous process of learning and improvement,” explained Al Tayer.

RTA’s Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors reviewed the future drive of the RTA highlighted by the implementation of the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in terms of reducing the number of visitors of all government’s customers service centers by as much as 80% in 2018. Future plans also envisage leveraging customers service strategies as well as the smart city projects, maintaining academic & training programs to qualify second & third generation of leaders, enticing national

talents to meet the needs of future phases, and running a new initiative in the field of project management.

Projects

“The Projects Management Development Program (Projects) just launched by the RTA complements the project management program accomplished in 2014. The new program aims at uplifting the skills and capacities of employees to be engaged in project planning, construction and management in future to ensure that they are accomplished in a highly professional manner and at world-class standards. It also seeks to qualify & train individuals in various levels of corporate project management, groom young national cadres to take up the role of projects management, qualify some directors and project managers to manage a portfolio of the program’s projects, and upgrade the efficiency of managing and monitoring project portfolios. It also intends to increase the number of professional and occupational certificates obtained by RTA employees which will pave the way for developing an internal accreditation by means of certificates awarded by the RTA depicting the ability to manage certain levels of projects & programs. Such a programs bears the potentials of growing further in future to span government entities in the

Emirate,” stated RTA’s Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors.

“The programs covers a wide array of mini programs aimed at boosting the skills of target groups in the field of project management to instill in them the principles of project management, management of advanced projects, management of project portfolios, and additional competencies and skills required for project management.

The program will be undertaken over several phases including workshops introducing project management policy, and RTA’s leaders project monitoring & following up guide. Then specialists of the program and projects at various agencies & sectors will engage in awareness & follow up efforts about the needs of RTA’s project management guides & policies. Affiliates of the program will then be subjected to a test to measure their knowledge about various knowledge projects and project management policy at the RTA. Those who achieve high scores will be affiliated to the first experimental course of RTA’s project management improvement program. Successful candidates who complete the training hours and pass the final test will be awarded certificates and registered for obtaining occupational projects accredited by the PMI.



RTA takes first steps towards construction of 'Route 2020' project



The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has kick started the initial steps towards the construction of 'Route 2020' project; which encompasses the extension of the Dubai Metro Red Line from Nakheel Harbour & Tower Station to the site of Expo 2020. To this effect the RTA held a broad gathering to highlight the project details, which was attended by more than 300 executives hailing from 34 countries representing more than 100 rail contractors as well as suppliers of trains, rail communication systems & technologies among others. The gathering was also attended by ambassadors, consuls of eight countries.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, opened the session which was held at InterContinental Hotel by welcoming the enormous gathering of representatives of international firms who were keen to know the details of the 'Route 2020' project which stretches about 15 km and covers seven stations. "The intense presence of international firms is a great start of this project which is set to provide safe and smooth transport to visitors of Expo and several districts of

Dubai as well. It will also act as a vital link between various areas of Dubai and Al Maktoum International Airport in future.

"The development of 'Route 2020' project is undertaken in implementation of the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to achieve sustainable development, and develop world-class infrastructure and services in the Emirate of Dubai. It also comes in

implementation of RTA's master plan to provide mass transit systems comprising metro, tram, buses, and marine transit services," stated Al Tayer.

'Route 2020' project starts off Nakheel Harbour & Tower Metro Station on the Red Line and extends 15 km (11 km viaducts and four km underground), and includes seven stations (5 elevated, and 2 underground stations). It also includes a future plan to construct three stations to serve Al Maktoum International Airport. The project serves districts

RTA completes construction of internal roads in 13 residential districts, costing AED552m under 5-Year Plan 2012-2016

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the RTA, announced that construction works of internal roads had been accomplished in 13 residential districts costing about 552 million dirham, and works were continuing in constructing internal roads in five residential areas costing about 319 million dirham. He revealed that the RTA would release next November a tender for a project constructing roads at Al Khawaneej 2 and Nad El Sheba 4, and would undertake internal road projects in five other districts in 2016. "These projects are part of the 5-Year Plan (2012-2016) endorsed by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, costing more than one billion dirham. The plan underscores the keenness of HH to improve and upgrade internal roads to meet the demographic & urban expansion in the Emirate," he said.

"In 2013, the RTA completed the construction of internal roads at 3 residential districts including the pavement of internal roads costing about 61 million dirham.

These included construction of roads at Al Qusais 3 extending 6 km in addition to street lighting works, and pavement of parking slots for some mosques and public schools in the area. It also completed the construction of roads extending 8 km at Al Quoz 4 and lighting works, parking, and rainwater drainage services in addition to internal roads extending 6 km at Hatta community," elaborated Al Tayer.

In 2014, the RTA completed the construction of internal roads in six residential areas namely: Al Quoz 2 and 3, Al Khawaneej 1, and Al Barsha 1, 2 and 3 at a cost of 335 million dirham. Works under this phase included the pavement of roads extending 11 km at Al Quoz 2 comprising two-lane roads and dual carriageways in addition to

parallel parking, water drainage and sewage networks. It also included the pavement of roads at Al Quoz 3 extending 8 km with collector roads of 7 meters in width, and local roads of 6.5 meters in width in addition to longitudinal roadside parking places of 2.5 meters in width. It also undertook lighting works, rainwater drainage services, traffic signs works, and ground cables. As for Al Khawaneej 1, pavement works covered 38 km including internal roads (main & local) and unpaved roads at Al Khawaneej Residential Area including lighting works. This phase also included the construction of internal roads at Al Barsha 1, 2 and 3 situated between Sheikh Zayed Road to the north, Al Khail road to the west, Umm Suqeim Road to the north, and Road 331 to the south. The project also included undertaking internal roads comprising lighting works extending 116 km, constructing new roads extending 63 km, and improvements on existing roads

extending 53 km.

"At the start of this year, the RTA concluded the construction of roads at Al Warqaa 1, 2, 3 and 4 costing about 156.631 million dirham covering construction and lighting works of roads extending 125 km, constructing new roads extending 89 km, improvements of the existing roads extending 36 km, roadside parking, parking slots for some mosques and public schools in the area, and all road works such as markings and traffic signals," said Al Tayer.

Projects Underway

"Work is currently underway in internal roads in five residential areas costing about 319 million dirham. This includes constructing internal roads at Al Barsha South 1, and collector roads at Al Barsha 2; where completion rate reached 60%. The project also includes the construction of internal roads at Al Barsha South 1 (Area 671) extending 53 km, collector roads at Al Barsha South 2 (Area 672) extending 7 km. The project

will provide an additional entry to Al Barsha South 1 from Umm Suqeim Road, and an additional entry to Al Barsha South 2 from Hessa Road.

“The completion rate of construction works of roads at Muhaisna 2 has exceeded 30%. The project includes the construction of roads extending 31 km comprising re-pavement of existing roads inside the area, carrying out improvements on Amman Road, converting some R/As into signalized junctions, erecting a fence on the median such as Algiers Street as well as designating crossing points for pedestrians in order to improve the traffic movement and road safety. The project also includes providing new parking slots for vehicles and buses all over the area in addition to street lighting works & storm water drainage network.

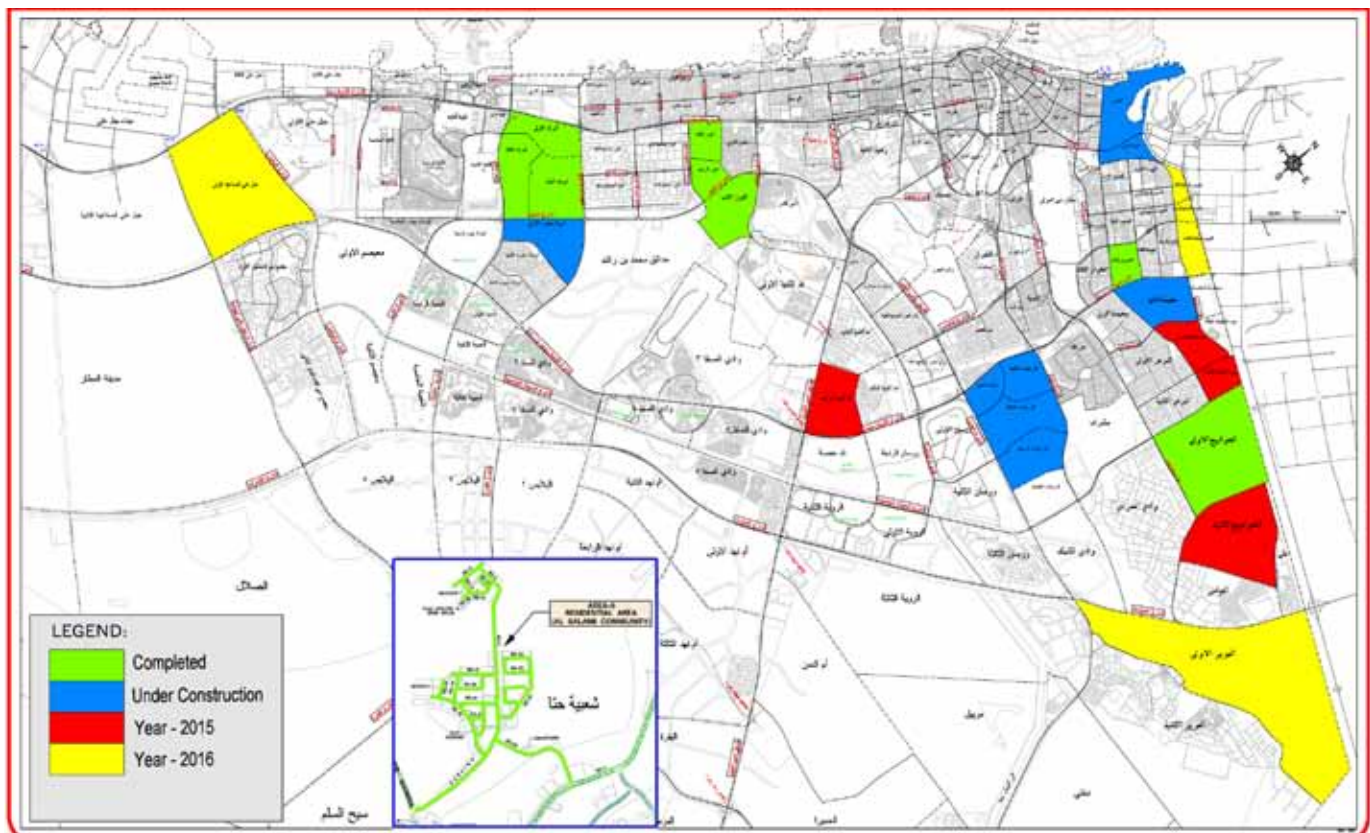
Al Tayer: Construction works continue in 5 districts, 2 districts to be completed in Nov, 5 districts to be completed in 2016

“The construction of internal roads at Al Mamzar and Al Nahda 1, which started at the beginning of this year, comprises the construction of single and dual carriageways, improvement of the existing roads network in those areas, designating areas for car parks & streamlining the existing ones, and transforming 10 new locations into parallel parking. A new traffic signal will be erected at Amman Road to streamline the traffic flow at the entrances & exits of Al Nahda 1 along with directional sign, road markings and suitable traffic signage to ensure the provision of all means of traffic safety for

road users. The project also includes the construction of all required directional signage, lighting works for all internal roads in the area, storm water drainage system, sewage drainage system and protecting the existing utility lines,” elaborated Al Tayer.

Under Award

Al Tayer explained that the RTA would release next November two tenders for constructing roads at Al Khawaneej 2 and Nad El Sheba 4. It also intends to construct road construction works at five residential areas in 2016 namely: Al Awir1, Jebel Ali Industrial in addition to Al Qusais Industrial 3, 4 and 5.



Buses are set for debut from the start of the academic year 2015-2016

RTA unveils design of DTC school buses

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has raised the curtain on the design & technical specifications of its eco-friendly school buses; which are set for operation by the Dubai Taxi Corporation (DTC) to offer transit services to students starting from the forthcoming academic year 2015-2016. The DTC will launch the service with the debut of 50 buses and the number of the fleet is envisaged to grow to as much as 650 buses by 2024.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the RTA, accompanied by a host of Executive Directors and Directors, inspected the bus to review its technical & technological specifications. Al Tayer attended to a briefing by Ahmed Khalfan Al Suwaidi, Executive Director of the DTC, about the technological features of the bus. The bus is fitted with a hydraulic suspension system enabling smooth entry & exit from the bus, a remote control & tracking system through the Operations Control Center, and a navigation system compatible with the geographical addressing

system of the Dubai Municipality branded Makani. All buses will use environment-friendly technologies, thanks to their engines compatible with Euro 4 & 5 specifications, and the clean diesel; which has low emissions rate, and low sulfur content (50 ppm). The bus interior has deluxe finishing, noise-free environment, ample room and luxurious seats offering added comfort to students.

Explaining the features of the bus, Al Suwaidi said: "The bus is fitted with cutting-edge technologies such as surveillance cameras to ensure the security & safety of students in transit,

text messages services to inform parents of the safe arrival of their wards, a tracking system using the GIS technology, and an optional WiFi service for interested academic institutions.

Al Tayer was impressed by the interior and exterior designs of the school buses; matching to the highest quality safety standards in use by school transport services worldwide. "The DTC has to comply with the standards, stipulations and controls applied by the Public Transport Agency to all entities engaged in the school transport business. These include Order No. (2) for 2008 governing school transport in the Emirate of Dubai,





“Information in hand indicate that the total number of students in the Emirate of Dubai is in the tune of 253 thousand students of whom 151 thousand students (60%) use school buses, and the RTA is seeking to raise this proportion to 70%,” noted Al Tayer.

along with its Executive Regulation, and RTA’s Guide issued in this regard. The Guide details specifications in terms of shape and safety & security standards of the bus in addition to respective responsibilities of school managements, firms, attendants, operators, drivers, students and parents,” explained Al Tayer.

“The school transport is one of the key public transport sectors in the world lifting millions of students every day. Engaging the RTA in this activity aims at providing safe & smooth transport for all students of different ages, and playing a leading role in delivering brilliant, safe & high quality services to students in such

a way that encourages parents to allow their children transported by public transit means instead of private vehicles. It will also support the UAE Education Strategy 2020, raise the bar for school transport, and strike a balance between supply & demand,” he continued.



RTA opens five new bus stops to lift riders from Sharjah to Dubai

The Public Transport Agency, Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) has recently introduced some improvements in the network of inter-city buses, namely Routes #307, A307 shuttling between Dubai and Sharjah. The move is intended to make it easy for riders residing along the bus route in the direction of Dubai to catch the bus without requiring them to travel first to the main bus stop at Jubail Station, Sharjah.

Adel Mohammed Sharkri, Director of Planning and Business Development at RTA Public Transport Agency, said: “Five new passenger pick-up points have been added on Routes 307 and A307 in Sharjah, over and above the main bus stop at Jubail Station for passengers heading to Dubai.

“The first of the new five loading points is at King Faisal Road nearby Jump Sony, and the remaining stops are on Al Wahda Road, starting with a stop opposite to City Center Sharjah, nearby Subway, nearby Safeer Mall and the last one is opposite to Ansar Mall. The service frequency (headway) will be 20 minutes on both lines,

especially during morning & evening peak times in order to accommodate the largest possible number of inter-city bus riders,” added Shakri.

“The RTA pays considerable attention to providing a flexible public transport network and broadening its coverage to serve riders and offer them smooth & accessible transport; which echoes the vision of the RTA revolving around providing Safe & Smooth Transport for All. The move is also linked to an array of constructive initiatives to which the RTA accords special attention such as saving power consumption, and reducing expenses. It also assists in conserving the environment

through curbing carbon emissions from vehicle exhausts; which fits well with the green economy objectives derived from the initiative of the Dubai Government dubbed: Green Economy for a Sustainable Development. There is also a close link between the initiative and the easing of traffic congestion as well as saving the time & effort of public transport riders in a bid to make them happier. This will eventually reflect positively on promoting the use of mass transit systems; a key strategy of the RTA at the moment,” concluded the Director of Planning and Business Development.

RTA Q-coded distinctive number plates set for debut this month

RTA's Licensing Agency in Dubai set to launch distinctive licensing plates for vehicles bearing the Code (Q) for the first time this month. Plates will be auctioned off through customer service centers, RTA portal as well as Drivers & Vehicles App on smartphones.

Mohammed Abdul Kareem Nimaat, Director of Vehicles Licensing,

Licensing Agency, said: “The Licensing Agency is always keen on offering

new codes of licensing plates in alphabetical order to meet public

RTA offers Ferry tickets to watch Dhow Sailing Race (Al Gaffal) 2015

The Public Transport Agency, Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) announced that tickets will be offered to community members interested in watching the traditional Dhow sailing race, known as Al Gaffal, on board Dubai Ferry on May 23rd. The race is one of the oldest traditional sporting events held and supported by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance; who rolled out the idea in 1991. It is a grand showpiece for Emirati sailing boats measuring 60 feet in length.



Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of RTA's Public Transport Agency said: "We are keen on taking part in a variety of community-oriented social, economic and sport events in general and traditional initiatives in particular as they offer a chance to revive our glorious past and reflect the attention paid by our ancestors to marine life, fishing and

pearl diving in the Gulf region.

"Our participation in Al Gaffal race for the third year in a row is intended to revive this sort of traditional marine contests and educate the new generations about the practice. The race is intended to showcase sailing boats measuring less than 60 feet in length used in fishing and transporting goods. It depicts the

history of the UAE and how the life of its people was linked to the sea; which offered them a safe refuge and a source earning their living.

Individuals interested in watching Al Gaffal race 2015 aboard Dubai Ferry can buy tickets through calling 050-5875531, and 04-3963135.

needs. Accordingly, distinctive numbers of the new Code Q will be released this month to suffice the needs of vehicle plate enthusiasts. "Q-coded plates can be acquired directly through several channels including customers service centers (in Deira, Umm Al Ramool or Bur Dubai), RTA website (www.rta.ae), service providers (such as Tasjeel, ENOC, Tamam, Quick and Shamil), or auto

dealers who have vehicles registration service. The new feature in this code is that about 700 plates of this code will be offered at nominal price till the end of August 2016 in order to have them continuously available for interested individuals.

"The Vehicles Licensing Department at the RTA always seeks to enhance its e-service offering by encouraging customers to use smart apps on

offer such as Drivers & Vehicles app provided in platforms of main smartphones such as Apple Store and Google Play. Distinctive plates and licensing plates are all available in the app, making it easy to obtain the fancied numbers in hassle-free manner with minimum time and effort as our objective is to make people feel happier," added Nimaat.

RTA, Deutsche Bahn review best practices of asset protection strategy

The Asset Management Department, Corporate Technical Support Services Sector of RTA has recently reviewed with Deutsche Bahn AG; a Company that owns railway assets & infrastructure, and operates trains and depots in the Federal Republic of Germany, the best practices in the principles & strategy of managing asset & relevant information, benchmarking of operation, and how to deal with depreciating assets.



To this effect a workshop was held at RTA's Head Office in the presence of Abdullah Al Madani, CEO of RTA's Corporate Technical Support Services Sector; Udai Al Deesi, Director of Asset Management; Hussain Al Saffar, Director of Rail Right-of-Way; Mr. Arash Mirzaee, Regional Director of Deutsche Bahn, and Mr. Mathias Gramar, Chief of Operations & Control Planning in the Company; in addition to several officials from both parties. Al Madani started the meeting with welcoming the visiting delegation of Deutsche Bahn; one of the biggest

specialized entities in the field of railways and the operation of trains saying: "Such communication offers a great opportunity for sharing expertise with the aim of upgrading operations and improving the performance." The RTA made a visual presentation outlining the principles of modern asset management adopted by the RTA; which covered the definition of sensitive RTA's assets, monitoring the performance of assets, and the classification of assets in coordination with the Department of Finance at the Dubai Government. It also reviewed the

maturity level of RTA's asset management practices together with the future objectives and improvement plans. The RTA was briefed on how these practices are adopted in the Company through questions and answers exchanged between the two parties.

The Deutsche Bahn Company made two presentations about the strategy and principles of asset management, asset maintenance, asset indicators, types of maintenance operations adopted, and how they deal with depreciating assets along with the standards of scrapping them.



RTA uses water jet blasting

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai has acquired the latest water jet blasters using cutting-edge technology in removing markings and paints spilled on roads. This device is the most sophisticated of its kind in terms of speed and performance besides being environment-friendly.

"The RTA is pioneer in introducing the water jet blasting technology in removing markings and paints spilled on roads surface to the region. This ground-breaking technology was previously

Tourist abras at Global Village serve 142 thousand riders in 157 days

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that the number of riders (tourists and visitors) who used the tourist abras, dubbed as the Blue Abras, at the Global Village has reached 142,389 riders over 157 days starting from November last. The figure is indicative of the soaring demand for the service amongst tourists and visitors of the Village who are keen on using this traditional transit mode which offers a fun and safe riding experience.

“This figure reflects the substantial role of abras in encouraging the tourist movement in the Global Village, and constitutes a remarkable increase when compared with last year’s figure,” said Dr. Yousef Al Ali, CEO of RTA Public Transport Agency. He renewed RTA’s keenness on participating in events held at the Global Village which continue for several months every year under a vision aimed at positively impacting this annual event. “The deployment of traditional abras at the Global Village also indicates the communication and inter-cooperation between various entities in Dubai. Moreover, the management of the Village contributed to the success of the initiative



through providing the optimal route for the seven abras on service, offering riders

a great opportunity to see landmarks of the Village,” continued Al Ali.

technology to remove road markings, spilled paints

used in removing rubber deposits from aircraft tires caused by friction with runways; particularly after the successful experimental use of this new technology in 2010” said engineer Maitha bin Udai, CEO of Traffic & Roads Agency. “Removing road markings and spilled paints through water jet blasting technology and the re-sucking of used water is environment-friendly and does not inflict any harm to the public health compared to the old traditional method of sand blasting. Moreover, the new technology is economical, quick and

free from negative impacts on the flow of traffic as it doesn’t require traffic diversions,” she explained. “The capacity of the tank of the new machine is 12 thousand liters whereas as the tank of the old machine was only 5 thousand liters i.e. it saves more than double the time needed to do the process using the old machine. Moreover, the new one is fitted with accessories and tools enabling to use it in narrow places such as parking yards. The new procedures is also characterized by high speed equalling 10 times the speed of the old model. It has

the capacity to clean 600 square meters per hour, whereas the area cleaned using the traditional method is not more than 40 square meters per hour,” added Maitha.

“The RTA is pondering to avail this service to contractors and other parties on demand at competitive rates, especially as its use serves the goals of safety and environmental sustainability the RTA is seeking to achieve throughout its operations and services across the Emirate,” said the CEO of Traffic & Roads Agency in a concluding remark.

RTA opens new Water Taxi station

The Public Transport Agency, Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has recently opened a new Water Taxi station (Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah Station). The Agency has also endorsed the tariff of the new station, which offers a safe, convenient and enjoyable experience, in order to align the services on offer with the applicable fare.

Mohammed Masoud Al Janahi, Acting Director of Marine Transport at RTA Public Transport Agency, said: "The RTA is always keen on delivering services measuring up to expectations and needs of the public among residents, visitors and tourists descending on Dubai from all corners of the globe. "The Dubai Taxi boasts of a smooth

design combining typical Emirati design of abra and modernity replicated in a roof emulating the shape of the Dubai Metro stations. It is fitted with the latest technologies of the industry and characterized by a Low Wash dual based structure and a sleek roof. "The Dubai Taxi has a central air-conditioning interior in addition

to comfortable seats simulating aircraft business class seats as they are fitted with remotely controlled LCD monitors installed at the rear of the front seat, 45 degrees reclining seats and a food tray. The water taxi can accommodate up to 11 passengers plus the driver. It measures 11 meters in length and 4 meters in width, weighs 9 tons and

RTA ponders Smart Car Rental model

The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) is currently examining in detail the implementation of the Smart Rental initiative whereby cars will be on offer to ease the mobility of public transport riders, especially the Dubai Metro, to their final destinations. It is believed that the initiative will have three-fold benefits in terms of increasing the ridership of public transport, reducing car ownership, and minimizing carbon emissions.

HE Mattar Al Tayer, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA, said: "A team from the RTA has commissioned a study of the Smart Rental initiative to review the best global practices in this field. The team developed the initial strategy towards exploring

the possibility of implementing the initiative in the Emirate of Dubai, examined the impact of the initiative on traffic safety, and reviewed the most suitable operational model. The gist of the initiative is that a person rents a car for a short period, not exceeding six hours, by using

smart apps on mobile phones or online, and the vehicle will be collected from a public place without involving employees in the process. Once the mission is accomplished, the car has to be returned to a specific location nearby metro stations. "The RTA is currently mulling three



can travel at a speed up to 35 knots. engines of 370 horsepower, the best It is fitted with two eco-friendly navigational devices approved by the

(IMO), and the world's highest safety security and safety standards.

models of smart rental. The first is two-way rental model; where a person will collect the car from a specific location (near a public transport station) and the car has to be delivered back after use to the same location. The second is a one-way rental model; where a car will be collected from one location and delivered to another location. The third model is station vehicles; where a number of users will share the same vehicle. The RTA is planning to offer the project to private companies in the near future," explained Al Tayer. "International practices reviewed by the RTA proved that the Smart Rental model has a host of benefits including reducing

the ownership of private cars; where 25 to 71% of respondents refrained from buying new vehicles, and 15 to 20% of them disposed of their private vehicles. Benefits also include reducing the distance covered by vehicles and accordingly curbing congestion as well as carbon emissions. It also contributed to increasing the use of mass transit means by as much as 13 to 54%. "The RTA has then commissioned a questionnaire covering about 1000 samples to figure out places and scope of the anticipated demand for the Smart Rental model in the Emirate of Dubai. Results showed that about 66% of respondents welcomed the

idea, and 80% of them reported they would use the cars when provided. It also showed that 50% of respondents believed that the model is highly relevant to shopping and visits during holidays," added Al Tayer. RTA's Director General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors stressed that the RTA would continue to roll out innovative solutions and pioneering initiatives capable of enhancing public transport modes, and undertaking projects that would encourage the public to use mass transport means such that they would become the favourite mobility choice in Dubai.