



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2014

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اضغط هنا للنسخة العربية



## TWO NEW LAUNCHES IN LOS ANGELES BOOST UAE / CALIFORNIA RELATIONS

**UAE Opens First Consulate in the USA and  
Etihad Airways Commences Non-Stop Flights to L.A.**

***U.S. – Arab Chamber: “UAE Partnership is Stronger Than Ever”***



H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States, at the Etihad Airways Gala in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA – This past week, the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) participated in two launch events in Los Angeles in support of U.S. – United Arab Emirates (UAE) relations. The first event was the opening of a new UAE Consulate in Los Angeles, the first of its kind in the United States, and the second event was the inauguration of Etihad Airways’ new non-stop service from Abu Dhabi to Los Angeles. The UAE’s Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, and the U.S. Ambassador to the UAE, Hon. Michael Corbin, spent several days in Los Angeles, headlining a number of launch-related events.

“The National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce was privileged to support these two important milestones,” noted David Hamod, NUSACC’s President & CEO. He and Ms. Rim Elbayar-Aly, Director of NUSACC’s office in Los Angeles,



represented the Chamber at both celebrations. Said Hamod, “These events highlight the fact that the UAE presence in the United States is growing and that the partnership between our two nations is stronger than ever.”

### Growth in UAE / California Commercial Relations

Ambassador Al Otaiba presided over both launch events, each of which, in its own way, will strengthen commercial ties between the State of California and the UAE. “California ranks fifth among U.S. states exporting merchandise to the UAE,” the ambassador noted. “In 2013, this state exported more than \$1.6 billion in goods to the UAE, which ranged from agricultural products to automotive equipment to high tech products.”

More than one-third of California’s merchandise exports to the Arab world go to the UAE, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. The State of California is America’s second largest exporting state.

“All of this economic activity has helped solidify the UAE’s position as the United States’ largest trading partner in the Middle East for five straight years, with total bilateral trade nearing \$27 billion in 2013,” continued Ambassador Al Otaiba. With this in mind,

he suggested, the new Consulate in Los Angeles and Etihad’s new non-stop service “serve as a bridge that highlights the close commercial and cultural ties that already connect us.”



Dignitaries open the new UAE Consulate in Los Angeles (from left to right): H.E. Omar Al Shamsi, UAE Deputy Chief of Mission; H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States; H.E. Abdulla Ali Al-Saboosi, Consul General of the UAE; and Hon. Michael Corbin, U.S. Ambassador to the UAE.



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These connections, Ambassador Al Otaiba concluded, “Not only generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and support tens of thousands of U.S. and UAE jobs, but they also make it easier than ever to visit and experience all that the UAE has to offer.”



NUSACC congratulates the Consul General on the opening of the UAE Consulate (from left to right): Ms. Rim Elbayer-Aly, Director of the NUSACC office in Los Angeles; H.E. Abdulla Ali Al-Saboosi, Consul General of the UAE; Mr. David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC.

The American Ambassador to the UAE, Hon. Michael Corbin, offered a similar assessment. “The rapid expansion of Emirati airlines, Abu Dhabi’s Etihad Airways and Dubai’s Emirates Airline, is indicative of the U.A.E.’s growing stance as a global crossroads and international transit hub,” he noted at a luncheon co-hosted by the U.S. – UAE Business Council and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. “It is important to highlight the role that commercial aviation plays in boosting U.S.-U.A.E. commerce,” he concluded, “while supporting American and Emirati jobs across the supply chain economy.”

The Honorable Eric M. Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, concurred, “This new route between Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi further strengthens the increasingly important ties between two great cities, both of which serve as hubs for regional markets. California companies are building stronger economic bridges to the United Arab Emirates every year, and direct connections – like those provided by Etihad Airways – play an instrumental role in facilitating two-way trade and investment and the L.A.-based jobs that this economic activity creates.”



### Los Angeles: UAE Opens First Consulate in the USA

The official opening of the UAE Consulate in Los Angeles – the first Emirati consulate in the United States – took place on Tuesday, June 10. H.E. Abdulla Al Saboosi, Consul General, welcomed numerous dignitaries and guests, including but not limited to: H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States; Hon. Michael Corbin, U.S. Ambassador to the UAE; H.E. Omar Al Shamsi, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UAE Embassy; and several other high officials and government representatives.



H.E. Abdulla Ali Al-Saboosi, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates, at the official opening of the UAE Consulate in Los Angeles

In his remarks prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Consul General Al Saboosi said, “The UAE Consulate in Los Angeles celebrates another milestone in the UAE-US bilateral relationship. The location of this consulate is a natural fit given the many similarities shared by the UAE and California: diversity, an entrepreneurial spirit, and a dedication to innovation.”

### Etihad Airways Launches Non-Stop Route to Los Angeles

Arabian Gulf-based airlines are opening a host of new non-stop routes to the United States. With the addition of Etihad Airways’ new Los Angeles flight, there are now 112 nonstop flights each week from ten American cities to the United Arab Emirates on four different UAE and U.S. carriers.

Peter Greenberg, Travel Editor for CBS News, recently said, “The global face of aviation is changing, and much of that is centered in the UAE . . . in particular in Abu Dhabi, where



Etihad is now the fastest growing airline in commercial aviation history. By flying to Los Angeles – its newest route – the airline not only connects California with the Gulf, but far more significant, Etihad connects the City of the Angels with the world . . . *through* the Gulf. And in the process, Etihad is sending a huge wakeup call to other airlines around the globe.”



James Hogan, President and CEO of Etihad Airways: “Los Angeles is one of the world’s premier travel destinations and iconic cities, and we are delighted that today it becomes part of the Etihad Airways global network.”

Los Angeles is Etihad’s fourth destination in the United States, joining Chicago, New York and Washington, DC. At this past week’s launch events, James Hogan, Etihad’s President and CEO, noted, “Los Angeles is one of the world’s premier travel destinations and iconic cities, and we are delighted that today it becomes part of the Etihad Airways global network. The greater Los Angeles area has a diverse population of more than 18 million people, the second largest in the U.S., who can now access direct flights to Abu Dhabi and beyond into the Middle East and Indian Subcontinent.”

Hogan went on to say, “As a UAE-based global carrier and Abu Dhabi’s flagship airline, Etihad Airways takes pride in providing superior service to communities from around the globe. This new link between Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi will undoubtedly and significantly enhance business, commercial, and leisure opportunities for air travelers supporting the U.S., UAE, and the global economies.”

Gina Marie Lindsey, Executive Director at Los Angeles World Airports, noted, “We are thrilled that Etihad chose LAX, gateway to the world, for this new, historic service, and we warmly congratulate them on their inauguration.” She continued, “Etihad Airways joins an impressive list of international air carriers that are now able to offer passengers an improved and exceptional level of customer service with the opening of the new Tom Bradley International Terminal.”



Michael Kohlstrand, Etihad Airways' Vice President Western USA, said: "Since launching our non-stop daily service from Los Angeles to Abu Dhabi and beyond, on 1 June, there has been huge interest and demand from business and leisure travelers. The NUSACC leadership has been a great support to the airline during this period and we look forward to working with them in the months ahead."

### Etihad Launch Event in Beverly Hills

Etihad's launch event in Los Angeles took place at the iconic Beverly House in Beverly Hills, the luxurious former home of publisher William Randolph Hearst. John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy spent part of their honeymoon here, and the 28-bedroom, 36-bath estate was featured in such movies as "The Godfather" and "The Bodyguard."



The highlight of the evening was a live performance by singer – songwriter – actor Harry Connick, Jr., who regaled guests with his signature style, combining jazz, big band, and swing. Connick has sold over 28 million albums worldwide, including seven top-20 U.S. albums and ten number-1 U.S. jazz albums, earning more number-one albums than any other artist in the U.S. jazz chart history. He was introduced by emcee and "X Factor" judge Ms. Dannii Minogue, a brand Ambassador and frequent flier on Etihad.

Dignitaries at Etihad Launch Gala (from left to right): Hon. Michael Corbin, U.S. Ambassador to the UAE; Mr. James Hogan, President & CEO of Etihad Airways; H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the United States; Mr. David Hamod, President & CEO, NUSACC

Guests got their first look at Etihad Airways' recently announced Residence, which will be introduced on the airline's A380 aircraft and is the only "three-room hotel in the sky." Noted President & CEO James Hogan, "Etihad Airways is delighted to bring a taste of Modern Arabia to Beverly Hills for the night and to showcase the world-class hospitality



and service that guests now receive every time they fly with us from Los Angeles to Abu Dhabi and beyond.”

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has won more than 170 awards, including “World’s Leading Airline” at the World Travel Awards in 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, and 2009. Etihad’s fleet of 88 aircraft operates more than 1,400 flights per week, serving an international network of 84 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North America.



Renowned jazz musician Harry Connick, Jr. provided entertainment for distinguished guests at the famous Beverly House.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility at Terminal 3 in Abu Dhabi Airport – the first of its kind in the Arab world – is one of only a handful of airports outside North America that feature a CBP facility. This new service allows U.S.-bound passengers to undergo all immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections in Abu Dhabi

prior to departure. Travelers can send bags to final destinations in the United States and, upon reaching the USA, these travelers will be treated as domestic arrivals, thereby expediting the arrivals process.

#### L.A.: “City of Angels” and “Creative Capital of the World”

In his remarks, Mayor Eric M. Garcetti characterized Los Angeles as the “Western Capital of the United States, the Eastern Capital of the Pacific Rim, and the Northern Capital of Latin America.” Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) serves 66 million passengers every year, he said, and processes two million tons of cargo valued at \$87 billion. “The airport generates 300,000 jobs in our area,” Garcetti noted, “and today’s announcement means even more.”



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The relationship between L.A. and Abu Dhabi goes beyond strong ties in the film and entertainment industry, Mayor Garcetti suggested. “Strong capital inflows from the UAE have supported Californian companies in real estate, aerospace, semiconductors, communications, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and hotels,” he said.

Nicknamed the “City of Angels,” Los Angeles is a global destination, with extraordinary strengths in business, international trade, entertainment, culture, media, fashion, science, sports, technology, education, medicine and research. (Wikipedia) It has been ranked sixth in the Global Cities Index and ninth in the Global Economic Power Index, with one of the largest Gross Metropolitan Products (GMP) in the world. L.A. is also the largest manufacturing center in the Western United States, and the contiguous ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach comprise the fifth-busiest port in the world.

Los Angeles is often called the “Creative Capital of the World” because one in every six of its residents works in a creative industry. According to the Stevens Institute for Innovation, “There are more artists, writers, filmmakers, actors, dancers and musicians living and working in Los Angeles than any other city at any time in the history of civilization.” With some 850 museums and art galleries in Los Angeles County, L.A. has more museums per capita than any other city in the world.

The Los Angeles area is home to some of the best known colleges and universities in the United States, including but not limited to the University of Southern California (USC), the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), California State University, Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, and the Claremont Colleges.

*The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.*