



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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## U.S. – ARAB CHAMBER SUPPORTS DUBAI ELECTRICITY AND WATER AUTHORITY (DEWA) VISIT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

***“Without ambition that knows no limits, we can never build a bright future for generations to come.”***  
***-- H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum***

**Los Angeles, CA** – The National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) has just concluded a visit to Southern California by a high-level delegation representing the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), the United Arab Emirates’ premier utility. At the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, NUSACC organized a morning briefing that featured H.E. Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer – Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director & CEO of DEWA – and his leadership team. Members of the UAE delegation discussed upcoming DEWA initiatives, including energy and technology exhibitions, and held networking meetings with some 100 U.S. companies. The visit coincided with the Final Award Ceremony of the Solar Decathlon USA, which the UAE delegation attended.



H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai.

David Hamod, President and CEO of NUSACC, described the visit as “another highly successful U.S. road show by DEWA. We appreciate the UAE’s willingness to open the door to U.S. companies, which are widely recognized to be some of the best in the world in this sector.” He concluded, “These face-to-face opportunities are especially meaningful for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which gain a better understanding of what the UAE – and DEWA in particular – has to offer.”

## UAE Consul General's Welcome

The event was inaugurated by H.E. Abdulla Alsaboosi, the UAE's Consul General responsible for the West Coast of the United States. He pointed out that the UAE has been the number one destination for U.S. exports to the Arab world for six years in a row, reaching more than \$24 billion in merchandise exports last year.

"We are also very proud of the fact that the World Bank, in the 2015 edition of the Bank's 'Doing Business' series, ranked the UAE among the world's premier power providers," Alsaboosi noted. "The UAE, represented by DEWA, was #1 in the Arab world for access to electricity and #4 around the globe, behind only South Korea, Germany, and Taiwan." Against this backdrop, Alsaboosi said, "We are delighted that DEWA is here in Los Angeles, home to many high tech, clean tech, and green tech companies."

## Keynote Speech: H.E. Saeed Al Tayer

The morning's keynote speaker was the CEO of DEWA, H.E. Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer. "We are gathered here today to provide an overview of the Government of Dubai, under the guidance of the emirate's wise leadership, to diversify the energy mix and increase our focus on renewable energy," he said. These measures are "in support of the vision of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum -- Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai -- to transform Dubai and the UAE into a global hub of green economy and sustainable development."



The UAE delegation included (from left to right): H.E. Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director & CEO of DEWA; H.E. Abdulla Alsaboosi, UAE Consul General, Los Angeles; Dr. Yousef Al Akraf, DEWA EVP of Business Support and Human Resources; and Saif Alaleeli, Project Manager, UAE Drones for Good Award, Office of the Prime Minister.



H.E. Abdulla Alsaboosi, UAE Consul General in Los Angeles, pointed out that the UAE has been the number one destination for U.S. exports to the Arab world for six years in a row.

Al Tayer continued, "DEWA will invest \$16.4 billion in the energy and water sectors across Dubai over the next five years to meet growing demand in our emirate, which is expected to rise by 65 percent. Our goal is to meet more of the increase in demand with clean technology."

Al Tayer went on to say that these initiatives are part of the [Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030](#), which is "designed to reduce dependence on natural gas in energy production from 99 percent currently to 71 percent by the year



DEWA's workshop in Southern California, organized by NUSACC, attracted upwards of 100 U.S. companies, some of which are seen here.

2030." With this in mind, he concluded, "We welcome the American private sector to partner with us to achieve our goals for renewable energy projects in Dubai."

A centerpiece of the delegation's presentation revolved around the [2016 Water, Energy, Technology, and Environment Exhibition \(WETEX\)](#) in Dubai. WETEX is one of the largest exhibitions of its kind, featuring exhibitors from 55 countries who come to Dubai to showcase technologies and to share best practices in water, energy, and environmental conservation. (A NUSACC delegation participated in the [2014 WETEX exhibition](#). Next year's WETEX gathering will take place on October 4 – 6, 2016.)



Dr. Yousef Al Akraf, DEWA's Executive Vice President of Business Support and Human Resources.

Al Tayer noted, "This event will encourage U.S. energy companies to participate in Dubai's economic growth and provide the latest oil, gas, clean coal, renewable energy solar power generation, smart grid, efficiencies, and conservation technologies." Expanding further on this WETEX 2016 theme, Dr. Yousef Al Akraf, DEWA's Executive Vice President of Business Support and Human Resources, explained, "Our 'Vision 2021' goal is to meet energy demand through a more diversified mix. We hope to achieve 15 percent of energy growth through solar, seven percent through clean coal, and seven percent through nuclear power generation."

### Across-the-Board Opportunities

Members of the delegation discussed large investment opportunities connected to DEWA's energy initiatives, with special emphasis on the [Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park](#). This solar park is planned to cover forty square kilometers, providing 1,000 MW of power to Dubai while diversifying the UAE's energy production. As planned, this solar park is envisioned to be among the largest of its kind in the world.



David Hamod, NUSACC President & CEO: “These face-to-face opportunities are especially meaningful for SMEs, which gain a better understanding of what the UAE – and DEWA in particular – has to offer.”

Phase I of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park was constructed through close partnerships with U.S. solar companies, such as First Solar. Future phases are expected to raise the park’s capacity to 110 MW by 2020 from its current capacity of 13 MW, utilizing Photovoltaic (PV) and steam generated power. A research park alongside the station is planned to help develop the UAE as a hub of green energy development as well as production.

The workshop in Los Angeles identified new opportunities for U.S. companies, associations, and academic experts in the areas of water, energy, renewables, smart technologies, and the environment:

water for people around the world. The campaign has been highly successful, raising a total of \$49 million in 18 days, enough to provide over seven million people with clean water. The [Suqia UAE Water Aid](#) project is seeking a wide range of American expertise on water treatment, purification, power plants, and new technologies.

**Water** – The L.A. event highlighted the June 2014 launch of UAE Water Aid (Suqia), inspired by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The goal of this initiative is to provide access to safe, potable

Mohammed Adbulkarim Al Shamsi, Acting Executive Director of UAE Water Aid, invited U.S. companies to participate in an international competition to find permanent solutions to the problem of water scarcity. This competition seeks to augment the efforts of the UAE Water Aid Foundation, a non-profit affiliate of DEWA that is focused on improving access to safe drinking water throughout the world.

**Solar** – Delegates met with experts from the solar sector to discuss best practices and to share information about recent developments, including upcoming solar projects in Dubai. One such project being tendered currently is [Shams Dubai](#), DEWA’s first “smart” initiative to connect solar energy to buildings, part of the Distributed Renewable Resources Generation program. Shams Dubai aims to make Dubai the most energy efficient city in the world by diversifying the energy mix and by promoting the use of clean and renewable energy sources. The Shams Dubai initiative encourages households and building owners to install photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity and to connect these to DEWA’s grid.



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The electricity will be used on site, and any surplus will be exported to DEWA's energy network.

***Dubai Solar Innovation Center*** – The Solar Testing Facility at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park will be one of the largest PV testing centers in the region. The testing facility is part of the Research and Development Center at Solar Park, which includes two testing facilities, one for photovoltaic solar testing and the other for concentrated solar power (CSP). Like Shams Dubai, the Solar Testing Facility supports the DEWA smart initiative to encourage households and building owners to install photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity.



H.E. Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer (center), Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Managing Director & CEO of DEWA, flanked by H.E. Abdulla Alsaboosi (left), UAE Consul General, Los Angeles and David Hamod (right), NUSACC President & CEO.

### Partnerships

The briefing in Los Angeles is the latest NUSACC initiative to promote DEWA in the United States. In addition to taking select U.S. companies to [WETEX and the World Green Economy Summit](#) last year, NUSACC has co-hosted DEWA in: [Washington, DC; Houston and Austin, Texas; and Los Angeles and San Francisco, California.](#)

Partners in the L.A. event included the U.S. Commercial Service, the District Export Council of Southern California, Kallman Worldwide Incorporated, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council.

The high quality partnerships ensured a strong turnout from L.A.'s sustainable development community, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that came to the briefing with specific questions about projects. "All of the delegates made themselves available before and after their presentations. They were forthcoming and knowledgeable," said Don Kamlager, Vice President of New Business Development for the Environmental Resource Group LLC.

He concluded, "Now I can understand how the UAE has progressed so much in such a short time -- by the quality of leadership that was on display by the speakers. I commend NUSACC for a job well done."

*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.*

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