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Expert Discussion with H.E. Mariam Almheiri at the UAE Embassy Berlin, jointly organized by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates



Dubai raked in AED15.9 billion (\$4.3bn) in foreign direct investment across 378 projects in the first nine months of 2021, making it the third most popular destination for FDI globally, according to a statement carried by UAE state news agency WAM. The 2021 figure represented a “significant increase” over the same period in 2020 when FDI slowed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to data from the ‘Dubai FDI Monitor’ released by Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI) ... [Please read more on Page 5.](#)



Together with the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the UAE Embassy in Berlin organized an Expert Discussion with the title “International Cooperation to Progress on Climate Action”. The Expert discussion was hosted by Her Excellency Hafsa Al Ulama, UAE Ambassador to Germany with Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment as Guest of Honour. A number of Germany experts in the energy sector representing both the government and private sector were in attendance as well.

HE Mariam Almheiri kicked-off the meeting by recalling the UAE’s commitment, as the first country in the region, to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. She highlighted that the UAE is considering this commitment as a huge opportunity for its economy and the region. HE further highlighted the UAE’s distinct advantages in using this momentum, including its ambitious plans for constructing further solar power plant, which

already produce energy at record low prices. HE further highlighted the UAE’s ambitious goals for building out UAE capacities in the areas of carbon capture and storage (CCS), as well as the UAE’s plans for planting 100 million mangroves by 2030, to serve as natural carbon sinks. Finally, HE argued that the world needs to move beyond working in silos on these issues and that instead the sharing of information and learning from each other’s is key. It is in this spirit that this roundtable was convened which provided an occasion to share ideas and information.

Norbert Gorißen, Deputy Special Envoy for International Climate Policy, Federal Foreign Office, highlighted that the change in the German government had led to a shifting of responsibilities, as visible from his own shift to the Federal Foreign Office, where he will act as Germany’s deputy climate envoy. Gorißen further explained that there would be significant structural changes due to this shift, including the posting of climate representatives at all German





embassies and a much heavier focus on climate change in German foreign policy. Gorißen further stated that COP26 in Glasgow strongly shifted the agenda towards implementation. One clear outcome of Glasgow was the agreement of the “Just Energy Partnership” South Africa and Germany, France, EU, US and UK. Five similar partnerships have been concluded and there are plans to branch out these partnerships further. In this context, Gorißen raised the question whether the UAE would be interested in joining international efforts to assist other countries in their energy transformation processes. Gorißen further stated that the focus currently is on countries revising their NDCs and in that context it would be welcome to see the UAE further specifying its NDCs. Finally Gorißen noted the strong focus on COP27 on adaptation issues. In this context, the UAE’s focus on mangroves is very interesting and noteworthy. The upcoming Berlin Climate Dialogue, hosted by the Federal Foreign Office, will provide another platform for dialogue. HE Mariam Almheiri responded to Gorißen by highlighting that the UAE sees itself as a bridge-builder on many of these issues. She also confirmed that the UAE would update its NDCs and shared that the UAE has already made a significant contribution to Irena’s ETAF, was closely coordinating with Indonesia as current G-20 Chair, and is discussing trilateral cooperation with Germany and Israel on an initiative concerning maritime ecosystems.

Ellen von Zizetwitz, Deputy Head of the Bilateral Energy Cooperation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), highlighted the ambitious targets that the new German government had adopted when it comes to climate change and renewables, which

will include a tripling of the current renewable energy capacities of Germany as well as massive investments in energy efficiency and other areas where urgent progress is required to drive forward the energy transition. Hydrogen will be a critical factor for the energy transition as there is currently no alternative to moving towards carbon neutrality in the industrial sector. German needs are vast, which is why the German government has launched the H2 Global initiative to kickstart this sector. Zizewitz confirmed that the UAE government would soon be approached on this issue. Zizewitz noted that there are further cooperation opportunities, lauding the German-Emirati cooperation in the framework of the Green Flacon project and stating that the KfW’s innovation window may provide further opportunities in the future. Zizewitz also stated that the UAE and Germany should consider adding climate partnerships to their existing energy partnership, which has been a success story on all levels.

Finally, Zizewitz stated that Germany could learn from the UAE when it comes to implementing infrastructure projects, noting in particular the UAE’s huge progress with implementing smart grids – an issue that was only proceeding at a low pace in Germany, causing difficulties.

Felix Matthes, Research Coordinator for Energy and Climate Policy, Öko Institute, argued that there are a number of significant challenges when it comes to moving forward on the path towards climate neutrality for Germany and the world as a whole. First, Matthes argued that the climate debate is moving into a new phase. The last few years of reductions have been the result of focusing on the “low hanging fruit” when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. Going forward, reductions

will be more costly and much more difficult to achieve. There are no more easy answers and the costs of measures will rise. Second, Matthes argued that the profession was addicted to targets. However, the 2030/2035 targets are much more important than the 2050 ambitions. This means that countries have to do much more now to specify and streamline their 2030/2035 targets. Third, knowledge sharing and learning from each other will be important in the next phase of climate adjustments. However, too little attention is being paid to the failures / non-success stories of climate change. As a result there ought to be more attention on these. Fourth, the world is moving into an era of transformative technologies. Tech will drive new inventions in climate adjustment, in particular when it comes to climate neutral commodities. However, tech won’t be easily shared, because it provides competitive advantages. Fifth, there is a need to create markets for climate neutral commodities. Here, there is a need to look beyond hydrogen, including to ammonia, but also green steel and similar commodities. Sixth, as a result of these changes, international trade patterns will change, which will have all kinds of significant impacts. In order to prevent carbon leakage, sectoral agreements will be required and there will be a need for increasing import-export dialogues.

Andreas Kuhlmann’s, CEO, German Energy Agency, intervention focused on the geopolitical and political disruptions resulting from the change in energy and production patterns. Kuhlmann argued that while currently some 74% of German energy is imported that will shift to ca 40% by 2045. This will bring enormous changes. Moreover it is not only the amount of energy, but also the type of energy that will be imported that will be different. Going forward there will be a strong focus on new technologies. Industry needs new technologies in order to drive these changes. Building sector will be amongst those sectors that will see particularly heavy adjustments. Achieving reductions in the building sector is more complex and more costly to achieve. Hence, there is a need to innovate and look for new technologies, which are not taking place enough right now. Agreeing on the modalities and standards for trading hydrogen will be equally difficult. The German energy agency conducted some studies into this, but they only show the complexity.

Eva Kastner, Head of Government Affairs, Siemens Energy, welcomed the excellent cooperation between Siemens

Energy and the UAE when it comes to various climate change projects and common efforts. Kastner highlighted that since 2020, Siemens is not building any coal power stations anymore and its focus on gas turbines was to get them ready for hydrogen. In moving forward Siemens Energy was putting a premium on partnerships. Here, Kastner welcomed the

ongoing discussions with the UAE on a Siemens Innovation Centre.

The Expert discussion ended with an open debate where participants got to share their opinion about the main topics discussed. It's been agreed that the targets for 2030 are at least as important if not more than those set for 2045 due to

the fact that what will be achieved during this decade will be of crucial importance and will dictate the course of climate action for decades to come. Another important point of agreement was the importance of investing in African countries which are currently lacking in investment particularly in climate change.

UAE views progressive climate action as key enabler of stability, economic prosperity: Sultan Al Jaber



The United Arab Emirates views climate action as a key enabler of stability and economic prosperity and will seek to promote climate progress through the UN's Conference of the parties (COP) process and all other relevant forums in the run-up to hosting COP 28 in 2023.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Special Envoy for Climate, said, "While climate change remains a huge global challenge, the world is actually in a much better position after COP 26 than it was just a few months ago, as 90 percent of the global economy is now committed to net zero. That commitment sends a massive market signal, and it is clear that the time to invest in low carbon

solutions is right now. This is, in fact, a multi-trillion-dollar opportunity to create new jobs, new industries and whole new sectors."

He continued, "As such, the COP process has a critical role in enabling an accelerated pathway to low carbon economic development. The key to success is inclusivity, bringing together the public and private sectors, scientists and civil society, developed and developing economies. I believe COP27 in Egypt can build on the successes of COP 26, and we intend, as hosts of COP 28, to build on that momentum by ensuring it as inclusive as possible and as solutions-oriented as possible."

Dr. Al Jaber made his remarks on a panel on the opening day of the Munich Security

Conference entitled "Scaling Up Climate Action" alongside John Kerry, U.S. President's Special Envoy for Climate; Dr. AK Abdul Momen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh; and Dr. Franziska Brantner, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Federal Republic of Germany.

The session, moderated by Zanny Binton Meddoes, Editor in Chief of the Economist, covered the role of international climate cooperation at a time of rising geopolitical tensions in the world. On this point, Dr. Al Jaber, remarked, "Times like these show how important international cooperation truly is, and whatever differences exist, addressing climate change is a shared global challenge. It is also worth



keeping in mind that the scale of economic opportunity that comes with progressive climate action has the potential to bring nations closer together.

“By focusing on a challenge that unites us all, we will make greater room for cooperation and less space for disagreement.”

Dr. Al Jaber added, “The UAE supports any forum that advances climate progress, including the proposal by the German Chancellor for a G7 “international climate club”– if it can bring the right people together, in the right spirit, with the right aims, without disadvantaging developing countries.”

He noted that the impacts of climate change could exacerbate conflicts if left unaddressed. “The fact is, as the trend toward extreme weather patterns continues, climate impacts are increasingly affecting a range of issues from food security to water security and sowing the seeds of future conflicts. In other words, climate concerns are becoming security concerns, and we need to upgrade our response accordingly. There needs to be greater emphasis placed on climate resilience and adaptation.”

The minister elaborated, “Going forward, we need to activate a more pre-emptive approach across multilateral systems from the G20 to the UN. Leveraging technology is key to this. For example, by integrating AI and big data into the forecasting models at humanitarian agencies, we can pre-position resources before a disaster strikes. Knowledge is power, and we need to start applying that power to protect communities from what we can predict is coming.”

Dr Al Jaber noted the need to increase investments in agri-tech and leverage best practices that safeguard vulnerable nations’ food and water security.

“That is the goal of AIM for Climate, an initiative that the UAE has launched along with the US, with the participation of with 37 countries, to scale up investments in breakthrough agricultural innovation from drought-resistant seeds to water-efficient vertical farming. Investments we make now in helping countries adapt, make all communities more resilient, ensure stability now, and pay a dividend of peace in the future.”

He reiterated the UAE’s support for robust climate finance and that the world

should make good on its pledge of \$100 billion in annual climate finance to developing nations.

“These countries have contributed the least to climate change, yet they face the largest costs of inaction. A just transition must ensure that the right level of finance flows to countries that need it most. The result will be greater peace, stability and prosperity not just for those countries, but throughout the world.”

Regarding the energy transition, Dr. Al Jaber concluded, “We should acknowledge that the energy transition is exactly that: a transition, and transitions take time. For our collective security, the world will need to continue using all energy options for a long time. As such, it is critical to ensure investment flows to the lowest-cost, lowest-carbon oil and gas resources. Our primary goal should be to hold back emissions, not progress.”

<https://gulfnews.com/business/energy/uae-believes-progressive-climate-action-is-a-key-enabler-of-stability-economic-prosperity-sultan-al-jaber-1.1645276929692>

Dubai brings in \$4.3bn in FDI in first nine months of last year



Dubai raked in AED15.9 billion (\$4.3bn) in foreign direct investment across 378 projects in the first nine months of 2021, making it the third most popular destination for FDI globally, according to a statement carried by UAE state news agency WAM.

The 2021 figure represented a “significant increase” over the same period in 2020 when FDI slowed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to data from the ‘Dubai FDI Monitor’ released by Dubai Investment Development Agency (Dubai FDI), an agency of the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) in Dubai. Dubai has sought to increase FDI as it looks to diversify its economy.

“Dubai has continued to introduce and implement initiatives that improve business confidence. Global investors have placed their faith in Dubai’s business ecosystem, making it among the most attractive FDI locations in the world. Initiatives such as full foreign ownership, an evolving visa administration, and the alignment of the work week with global markets demonstrate Dubai and the UAE’s responsiveness to business needs,” said Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai.

FDI reinvestment projects accounted for 11 percent of the total FDI projects in the emirate. FDI job creation witnessed a

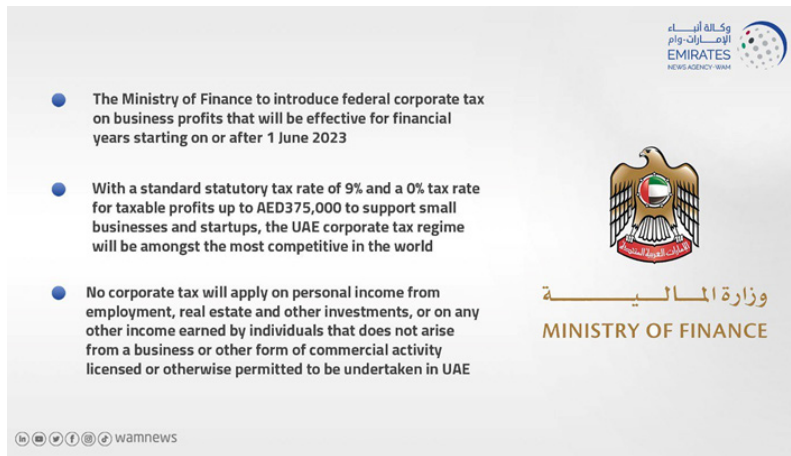
huge growth of 36 percent during the first nine months of 2021 compared to the same period last year, as 16,430 new jobs were created compared to 12,090 jobs in the same period prior to last year.

The total number of FDI projects increased by 16 percent, from 326 in the first nine months of 2020 to 378 in the same period of 2021. As much as 58 percent of the inbound FDI is in strategic sectors and 52 percent is in greenfield projects, or projects developed on a vacant site. High and medium technology investments comprise 64 percent of inbound FDI capital, with an increase of 2 percent over the same period in the previous year.

The UK led FDI investment, followed by France and Dubai. The US, Saudi Arabia and India also made the list for capturing the highest percentage of FDI investment, according to the ranking by Financial Times’ fDi Markets, which captures and compares FDI data across the world.

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/dubai-brings-in-4.3bn-in-fdi-in-first-nine-months-of-last-year>

UAE to introduce 9% corporate tax on business profits from June 1, 2023



- The Ministry of Finance to introduce federal corporate tax on business profits that will be effective for financial years starting on or after 1 June 2023
- With a standard statutory tax rate of 9% and a 0% tax rate for taxable profits up to AED375,000 to support small businesses and startups, the UAE corporate tax regime will be amongst the most competitive in the world
- No corporate tax will apply on personal income from employment, real estate and other investments, or on any other income earned by individuals that does not arise from a business or other form of commercial activity licensed or otherwise permitted to be undertaken in UAE

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The Ministry of Finance has announced that the UAE will introduce a federal corporate tax on business profits that will be effective for financial years starting on or after 1st June 2023. Businesses will become subject to UAE corporate tax from the beginning of their first financial year that starts on or after 1st June 2023.

The UAE corporate tax regime has been designed to incorporate best practices globally and minimise the compliance burden on businesses. Corporate tax will be payable on the profits of UAE businesses as reported in their financial statements prepared in accordance with internationally acceptable accounting standards, with minimal exceptions and adjustments. The corporate tax will apply to all businesses and commercial activities alike, except for the extraction of natural resources which will remain subject to Emirate level corporate taxation.

With a standard statutory tax rate of 9 percent and a 0 percent tax rate for taxable profits up to AED375,000 to support small businesses and startups, the UAE corporate tax regime will be amongst the most competitive in the world.

No corporate tax will apply on personal income from employment, real estate and other investments, or on any other income earned by individuals that does not arise from a business or other form of commercial activity licensed or otherwise permitted to be undertaken in the UAE.

“As a leading jurisdiction for innovation and investment, the UAE plays a pivotal role in helping businesses grow, locally and globally. The certainty of a competitive and best in class corporate tax regime, together with the UAE’s extensive double tax treaty network, will cement the UAE’s position as a world-leading hub for business and investment”, said Younis Haji Al Khoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance.

Younis Haji Al Khoori further adds that “with the introduction of corporate tax, the UAE reaffirms its commitment to meeting international standards for tax transparency and preventing harmful tax practices. The regime will pave the way for the UAE to address the challenges arising from the digitalisation of the global economy and the other remaining BEPS [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting] concerns, and execute its support for the introduction of a global minimum tax rate by applying a different corporate tax rate to large multinationals that meet specific criteria set with reference to the above initiative.”

Recognising the contribution of free zones to the UAE’s economy and competitiveness, the UAE corporate tax regime will continue to honour the corporate tax incentives currently being offered to free zone businesses that comply with all regulatory requirements and that do not conduct business with mainland UAE.

Given the position of the UAE as a global financial centre and an international business hub, the UAE will not impose withholding taxes on domestic and cross border payments, or subject foreign investors who do not carry on business in the UAE to corporate tax.

As an international headquarter location, a UAE business will be exempt from paying tax on capital gains and dividends received from its qualifying shareholdings, and foreign taxes will be allowed to be credited against UAE corporate tax payable.

The UAE corporate tax regime will have generous loss utilisation rules and will allow UAE groups to be taxed as a single entity or to apply group relief in respect of losses and intragroup transactions and restructurings.

The UAE corporate tax regime will ensure the compliance burden is kept to a minimum for businesses that prepare and maintain adequate financial statements. Businesses will only need to file one corporate tax return each financial year and will not be required to make advance tax payments or prepare provisional tax returns. Transfer pricing and documentation requirements will apply to UAE businesses with reference to the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines.

“The introduction of a corporate tax regime will help the UAE achieve its strategic ambitions and incentivise businesses to establish and expand their activities in the UAE,” said Younis Haji Al Khoori.

UAE businesses will be given ample time to prepare for the introduction of corporate tax in the UAE. The UAE Ministry of Finance plans to issue further information on the UAE corporate tax regime toward the middle of the year to help businesses get ready and be fully compliant.

*For further information, please visit the Federal Tax Authority website: <https://tax.gov.ae/en>

No UAE income tax for now, minister says in the wake of corporate tax move

The UAE will not introduce an income tax for the time being, a senior official said, weeks after the nation unveiled a new company levy.

“It is not at the table at all now,” Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, the minister of state for foreign trade, told Bloomberg TV in an interview Monday.

The UAE announced earlier this year it would impose a 9 percent

corporate tax starting in 2023 as it seeks to align itself with new international standards, particularly the move toward a global minimum tax on multinational corporations endorsed by the Group of 20 major economies.

The UAE's new corporate tax has been received in a "positive manner" by businesses, said the minister. The new levy is going to replace most of the fees companies now have to pay, according to Al Zeyoudi.

The nation has already taken several steps to improve its taxation structure for both businesses and individuals. It introduced a 5 percent value-added tax in 2018. It already taxes banks and insurance companies operating outside of the country's vast network

of free zones as much as 20 percent on their profits. The oil and gas sector of OPEC's third-biggest producer is also taxed under a separate program.

Over the next few weeks, the Ministry of Finance is expected to announce more details clarifying how the corporate tax will be imposed.

<https://gulfnews.com/business/markets/uae-to-introduce-9-corporate-tax-on-business-profits-from-june-1-2023-1.1643627271956>

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/gcc/uae/no-uae-income-tax-for-now-minister>

Dubai: Trackers to boost production by 30% at Solar Park

The technology uses machine learning and advanced sensors to maximise performance



The latest solar tracking technology deployed at Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park will boost production capacity by up to 30 per cent, a top official associated with the project said.

The 900MW fifth phase of the solar park uses photovoltaic bifacial technology, which allows solar radiation to reach the front and back of the panels, thereby collecting sunlight from both sides instead of one. This combined with new software that integrates artificial intelligence and machine learning, enables panels to harvest more energy by solving for shading and diffused light conditions that can reduce energy production.

"Innovation in algorithmic solar tracking systems and machine learning software enable solar panels to literally follow the sun and optimise performance," Hans Sauter, vice-president (Mena), Nextracker – the project's solar tracking technology and solution provider, told Khaleej Times. The technology known as TrueCapture, uses machine learning and advanced sensors to maximise performance for efficient energy capture, storage and transmission. TrueCapture complements additional yield generation from ground-reflected light on the rear of the bifacial solar panels. "These innovations have helped new solar plants achieve up to 99 per cent efficiency ratings, with machine learning accounting for an increase in efficiency of up to 6 per cent."

Sauter noted the increase in efficiency has directly correlated to a dramatic decrease in the cost of energy production.

"In the past 5 years, innovation in technology, plant design and storage has driven the cost of solar from \$0.05 to \$0.0135 per kilowatt-hour. That's nearly 75 per cent reduction in energy production costs and a fraction the cost of fossil power production." Implemented by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) using the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, the solar park is the largest single-site solar park in the world with a planned total capacity of 5,000MW by 2030. The fifth phase is projected to provide clean energy to over 270,000 residences in Dubai. Sauter noted that the gains made by the use of innovative technology will be enough to power more than 96,000 additional houses.

"The addition of Nextracker's technology to phase five of the park will boost its production by 20 to 30 per cent more than a fixed tilt installation, and a further 1.02 per cent gain over competitors' tracking solutions. This gain delivered by Nextracker is enough to power 96,060 additional Dubai residences," said Sauter, making a comparison with immobile single-panel PV modules.

Also, featured in the fifth phase is Nextracker's robotic cleaning systems, which ensures maximum performance of the plant.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/dubai-trackers-to-boost-production-by-30-at-solar-park>



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