



H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid approves amendments that enhance the competitiveness of Dubai Financial Center universally and H.H. Sheikh Maktoum Mohamed Bin Rashid to be the Chairman of the Board

Business & Finance Club – Dubai

Dubai International Financial Center is considered as one of the most prominent achievements which Emirates of Dubai attained during the last years under the modern leadership of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, deputy of UAE president, prime minister and ruler of Dubai – May Allah protect him- as the Center has incorporated, since its launching in the year 2004 as a free federal financial zone, its compliance with development and growth of the economy in the region to become within a short period a center of business that links between the emerging markets of the region and the markets of Europe, Asia and American countries. The center has succeeded in presenting the role and importance of Dubai as a universal platform for the financial services, as the copy of the year 2010 of the economic survey of Dubai International Financial Center has indicated that the for the center's economy amounted to 2.92 billion dollars scoring an increase with a percentage of 5.2% compared to the product of the year 2009 which amounted to 2.77 billion dollars. Therefore, Dubai International Financial Center has contributed with approximately 3.6% in the total domestic Product of Emirate of Dubai amounted to 81.96 billion dollars and approximately 0.97% in the estimated total domestic product if the United Arab Emirates. The Economic Affairs Division of the center, confirmed that the activities of the financial sector constituted



what is equivalent to 72% of the total local product of Dubai International Financial Center, while the commercial services sector represented 26.5%, and the general department 1.5% which are similar percentages approximately to what these sectors scored in the result of the report of the last year.

Despite the difficult economic circumstances which the world encountered in the past two years, Dubai International Financial Center continued its growth with

constant steps as one of the most important international financial centers that seeks for linking the regional emerging markets With the rest of the world. Number of the active licensed companies in the financial center area till 31 December 2010 amounted to 792 companies, of which 396 were organized companies and 83 stores, compared to the first half of the year which included 745 companies 297 organized companies, 374 non organized companies and 74 stores.



“Dubai International Financial” Investment gate and platform for the management of money between east and west



Under his carefulness about the continuation of keeping the center at the level of the international financial institutions which are similar to it in their business, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, deputy of UAE president, prime minister in his capacity as a ruler for the Emirate of Dubai, on last July, has issued a decision for appointing his Excellency Abdullah Mohamed Saleh as a new Governor for Dubai International Financial Center with effect from 25 July 2011, as a successor of the ex-governor Ahmed Humaid Al Tayer. Also, his highness has issued during the month of August a decree concerning the appointment of the higher board of directors for the center under presidency of H.H. Maktoum Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and membership of each of gentlemen Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair as vice chairman, Hussein Mohamed Saeed Ghabbash, David Alden, Governor of Dubai International Financial Center and chairman of Dubai Financial Services Authority, provided that such decree should be enforced from the date of its issuance and publishing in the official gazette.

Also, his Highness has issued a law in respect of amending some provisions of the law No. (9) for the year 2004 concerning the center. And pursuant to the law, the financial free zone in

the Emirate of Dubai called Dubai International Financial center, which is known as “DIFC” shall be of financial and administrative independence and shall be attached to the government, and the Center shall have a chairman to be appointed under a decree issued by the ruler, and three authorities shall be established in the center which are : Dubai International Financial Center Authority, Dubai Financial Services Authority and Dubai International Financial Center Courts.

The center continues translating its commitment to provide on organizing frame and legal system in accordance with the international standards, in an attempt to enhance the growth of the financial services and commercial activities, as well as provision of optimal environment to carry on the business. During the year 2010, each of Dubai Financial Services Authority and Dubai International Financial Center Authority made several organizing changes for the purpose of improving the components of the Center and enhancing the easiness of carrying on the business and investment therein. In the first half of the year, Dubai Financial Services Authority made series of organizing changes to the work system of the group investment funds of the Center, for the purpose of making Dubai International Financial Center as a most attractive center for the directors of the local and international investment funds.

In addition to conducting amendments to the regulation of the real estate provisions related to the Center,

and which aim at explaining these provisions and increasing the number of the cases which do not require payment of the fees for transfer of the freehold.

The wide geographic diversity of the companies which carry on their activity in the Center reflects its important standing internationally, as 41% of the organized companies come from the whole Europe, and 3% from the Middle East region, and 16% from the United States and 3% from the rest of the world countries. Several of the leading companies internationally have taken from the center a seat for them in the region, and 16 of the largest 20 international banks and 8 of the largest asset managers and 4 of the largest 5 insurance companies in the world carry on their business from the center.

The customer base in the center includes currently more than 800 registered and active companies, including 18 of the largest 25 international banks and 8 of the largest asset managers and 6 of the largest 10 insurance companies in addition to 6 of the most important 10 law and legal services companies in the world, as well as more than 11 thousand employees work in the center within an open work environment complemented by a series of the international regulations, laws and standards.

Dubai International Financial Center provides to the companies registered therein an operational environment of high competition, due to what offers-



of incentives such as allowing the foreign ownership with a percentage of 100 percent, and a percentage of taxes amounting to zero on the income and profits, and the freedom of transferring the capitals and profits as a whole. The Center witnessed a constant growth in a number of the registered companies during the first nine months of the past year, while the last quarter witnessed a steady growth in a number of the registered companies which amounted to 32 companies, which is the highest rate which has been recorded since first quarter in 2009. The standing of the Center becomes clear as a gate linking the east and west through the proximity of the percentage of the new companies coming from North America and Europe (52% in 2010), and those coming from the Middle East Region and Asia (45% in 2010), while 3% of the new companies came from other areas of the world, as well as a number of the grand international establishments joined the Center which are present for the first time in the region.

Demand on the spaces in Dubai International Financial Center continued its increase during the second half of the year 2010 benefiting from the continuation of the Center's attracting new customers at the regional and international levels, as well as the desire of the current customers for expanding their business. Also, the developments of the material infrastructure continued during the past year adding 300,950

square feet of the office commercial spaces, so that the total office spaces available for leasing including those related to the independent developers amounts to what is equivalent to 2,074,818 square feet.

The Center enjoys a strategic location, independent organizations, general and comprehensive legal frame, deep-rooted infrastructure, distinguished tax system, the matter which provides to the companies registered therein a universal environment to carry on the business and catch the opportunities resulting from the increase of the regional demand on the money and business services, The Money and business services community of the Center embraces a number of the most prominent international companies working in various fields of the financial services sector and the sectors connected with it including, the banking services, money markets, insurance and management of wealth and professional services.

Dubai is characterized with a strategic location that makes from it a unique exit to a region which witnesses a steady growth at the level of economy, population and investment opportunities. The Emirate was careful about the investment heavily in the infrastructure for its vital sectors such as transport, communications, electric power and industry, the matter which enhanced its capability to attract the international companies. As a result of that, today Dubai is considered as leading trade center at the regional level, and it enjoys business

environment of universal class. Dubai Financial Services Authority licenses and regulates the business of the financial service establishments in Dubai International Financial Center according to a comprehensive and universal class organizing frame. This Authority was established as a regulating independent authority depending on a basic legislative frame based on the general legal principles, and similar to the approved frames in London & New York. Dubai Financial Services Authority grants the licenses for carrying on a wide group of the financial service activities, and allows for establishing the several legal mechanisms along with affording a high standard of flexibility at the level of capital structuring.

Since the establishment of the Center, a large group of the most important banks and financial brokerage companies have established their business in Dubai International Financial Center due to what the region enjoys of important components such as the increasing wealth, investment activity, external trading, abundance of merging and acquisition activities, continued restructures of the companies by the governments and by the private establishments and bodies. The legislative and regulating system in the Center allows to these banks providing a miscellaneous bundle of services including the investment trading banking in addition to financing the trade, export and the banking operations which agree with the provisions of the Islamic Sharia

The most important listed companies

- Capital Towers Investments
- Franklin Templeton Investments
- "Zurich" Insurance
- Barclays Bank
- Deutsche Bank
- Saxo Bank
- Standard Chartered
- Mazya Holding
- Dubai Aviation Industries
- C B Richard Alice



and the business of the counterpart banks, as well as the Center allow the banks to support the requirements of the increasing finance in the region and meeting the increasing needs of the companies operating in it. The last years witnessed expansion of the companies sector of the companies and its need for the developed financing solutions.

More than 800 companies comprising of 18 of the largest banks and 8 of the largest asset managers

The Center offers miscellaneous opportunities in a boomed market to the international insurance companies the opportunity to enter a regional market which is fast in terms of growth and development. The insurance market is expected to grow in the Middle East region with a percentage of 25% within the next two years. Under the great discrepancy in the comparative insurance law and the diversity of the standards of compliance and, control and issuance of the reports in the region, Dubai International Financial Center grants to the insurance companies a platform allowing them through it to provide the services of insurance, reinsurance, takaful, retakaful in addition to the insurance against the risks and actuarial studies. The other business fields in the Center are represented in management of wealth and capital markets through the collection, employment and management of the capital in this region, which enjoys a huge balance of wealth with increasing demand on the investment products and the importance of penetration into the regional liquidity.



H.H Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

H.H Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohamed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Deputy Ruler of Dubai holds the position of the Chairman of DIFC and Chairman of Free Zone Technology & Media Authority since the year 2002 in addition to his chairmanship of Dubai Media Corporation, as he has contributed in putting the name of the United Arab Emirates strongly on the technological and media map of the world. In the light of the vision of the wise leadership of the State and in compliance with the directives of his Highness and his continued proceeding with the business course in its various corporations, the Free Zone Technology & Media was able to establish a group of the qualitative important projects, most prominent thereof Dubai Internet City, Dubai Media City and Knowledge city.

Under his personal follow up of the business in the Free Zone Technology & Media, Dubai Internet City has become the largest

cultural specialized gathering in the Arabian region, while Dubai Media City has succeeded to deep-root its standing as the first center for the regional media comprising of the largest international and Arabian names in this field, as such success has been followed by a group of the new projects such as Dubai Studios City, International Zone For Media Production to add new spaces to the increasing media society which has found in Dubai the suitable environment for its growth.

H.H Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohamed enjoys the features of the young leaderships of opened thought, looking forward to creating a qualitative change in the fields of the economic business which is built on the basis of knowledge, and he has several important human contributions, the most prominent of them his contribution within Dubai Care Campaign to provide the basic education for more than million children in the developing countries.