

# RVG CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## IN THIS ISSUE

**UAE: NATIONAL  
PROJECTS**

**EXPO CITY**

**CORPORATE TAX**

**UAE ECONOMY**



## UAE: 50 days to submit proposals for national projects, ministers told

UAE ministries and federal government departments have been told to double their efforts to complete national projects. They have been asked to submit their development proposals to the Cabinet in the next 50 days, the UAE Vice-President tweeted. Ministers have been told to draw inspiration from the way the President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, approaches work. Addressing the Cabinet, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai said: “We confirm that the vision of the UAE President will form the roadmap for all strategies and projects of all ministries and federal institutions. His Highness’ reign started with fieldwork, directing his first projects and initiatives to the well-being and happiness of the people.”

# Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid unveils Expo City Dubai

The Expo 2020 site is to be transformed into Expo City Dubai and will soon welcome thousands of new residents and businesses, said Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, in a series of tweets, Sheikh Mohammed set out his vision for the legacy site.

Expo City Dubai will be a “hub of economic activity” and home to major companies and their headquarters. The city will open up in phases from October.

It will be free to enter and explore but a paid-for attraction pass will be needed to enter the pavilions. More details on passes are expected soon.

With a focus on technology and the environment, it will serve as a destination in its own right, served by the nearby Dubai World Central airport and the metro link to the city centre.

“After the historical success of Expo 2020 Dubai, visited by more than 24 million visitors, left a mark in the 170-year history of world expositions, today we announce the transformation of the exhibition site into Expo City Dubai, a new city that represents the ambitions of Dubai,” Sheikh Mohammed wrote.

“Expo City Dubai will be an environmentally friendly city that caters to families and future generations. “A city connected to a port and two airports, and also to beautiful memories in the hearts and minds of millions of people. Important buildings and some of the most popular attractions from Expo 2020 Dubai, which ran from October last year until late March, will remain.



# UAE economy's growth for this year upgraded to 5.4 percent by Central Bank

**It should also grow another 4.2 percent in 2023 as growth momentum continues, predicts the banking regulator**



The UAE economy is set to grow by an annual 5.4 percent this year, predicts the country's central bank.

The Central Bank of the UAE says this growth has been driven by the country's success in containing the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 5.4 percent figure is higher than the 4.2 percent real gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate the CBUAE made in April. UAE auctions \$2.5 billion in federal treasury bonds as investor confidence grows

The UAE, the Arab world's second-largest economy, expanded 3.8 percent in 2021 and is expected to grow another 4.2 percent in 2023 as growth momentum continues. The country's non-oil economy is expected to expand by 4.3 percent this year after growing 5.3 percent last year. Overall GDP growth will be supported by a robust 8 percent jump in the UAE's oil economy in 2022, according to the banking regulator's 2021 annual report released on Monday.

Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the CBUAE board, said: "Despite the numerous economic challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, the UAE was able to excel on the economic front, and even improve its competitiveness, thanks to the overall vision and timely policies enacted by our leadership."

# Ajman Free Zone witness's 33 percent increase in corporate tax companies

Ajman Free Zone has recorded a significant increase of 33 percent in the number of corporate tax institutions, offering a wide range of financial and tax consultancy services, as it continues to witness an influx in corporate tax companies in line with implementing the UAE Federal Corporate Tax in 2023.

Ali Al Suwaidi, Director-General of Ajman Free Zone, stated that the Federal Corporate Tax will become applicable in 2023, and is believed to propel the country forward.

"Businesses are expected to align their relevant processes in order to ensure full compliance with the new law and will need the assistance of specialised tax advisory firms specialising in this domain. As a global business hub, Ajman Free Zone is prepared to address these requirements with innovative solutions and cost-effective packages, while facilitating growth opportunities for tax advisory companies. Moreover, we recognise the importance of these entities to enhance our performance and ensure compliance with federal regulations.

"In addition, the introduction of the corporate tax is set to position the UAE as an attractive destination for foreign direct investments. This will drive us to help companies grow and expand, streamline their business processes, and attract more foreign investors who can benefit from the competitive advantages of Ajman, one of the region's top investment destinations," he added.

Al Suwaidi affirmed that this growth is a strong indication of the increasing confidence of the business community in the free zone's offerings. To sustain this confidence and trust, Ajman Free Zone will continue to empower companies through its world-class facilities, incentives, and comprehensive support as one of the region's business and investment hubs.



# DP World, NIIF announce broadening of partnership in India

DP World and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have announced the broadening of their existing partnership, with NIIF Master Fund investing primary capital of approximately US\$300 million for a shareholding of approximately 22.5 percent in Hindustan Ports Private Limited (HPPL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of DP World.



With this transaction, which is also the Master Fund's single largest investment, NIIF's investment under this partnership will reach around US\$500 million.

The transaction is subject to customary completion conditions and is expected to close by Q1 2023.

HPPL is one of India's leading container terminal platforms with a proven track record of growth over the long-term.

The entity operates five container terminals managing more than 5 million TEU of capacity and representing a national market share of over 20 percent. The terminals are in strategic growth locations including Mumbai (2), Mundra, Chennai and Cochin.

This investment from NIIF Master Fund extends the existing DP World and NIIF partnership, formed through the creation of Hindustan Infra log Private Limited (HIPL) in 2018. Since its inception, HIPL has made substantial investments in rail logistics, multi-modal logistics parks, container freight stations, economic zones, cold chain infrastructure and contract logistics to create a market-leading integrated logistics platform.

As the value chain becomes more integrated, significant growth opportunities exist across the entire Indian ports and logistics space and both HIPL and HPPL are suitably placed to capture these opportunities.

The primary capital raised through this transaction will aid in new infrastructure development, drive supply chain efficiencies and support future growth initiatives of HPPL. The investment in this combined entity will improve cargo connectivity which will deliver cost efficiencies and an enhanced customer experience.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said, "The broadening of our partnership with NIIF to include our flagship India ports platform is a natural extension of our existing relationship and aligns both parties to focus on delivering end-to-end supply chain solutions. Since the beginning of this partnership with NIIF, we have made significant progress in building an inland logistics infrastructure network of great scale that complements our container ports platform.

"Notably, the opportunity landscape in India remains significant and this transaction will allow us to accelerate investment across ports and logistics to drive returns for our respective stakeholders."

Sujoy Bose, Managing Director and CEO of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited, said, "The deepening of our successful 4-year partnership with DP World is a testament to the attractive opportunities in the Indian ports and logistics sector and the strategic vision and ongoing reforms under the PM Gati Shakti programme."

He added that the investment will enable NIIF's domestic and international investors to have a meaningful exposure in the sector through a unique and scalable platform with a significant presence across sea-based container terminals and land-based container logistics infrastructure.

# Emirati and Gulf travellers receive visa-free travel to the UK

Emirati and Gulf visitors to the UK gained a significant boost on Monday when the UK government announced the country and its GCC counterparts would be included in the first wave of eligible states to use a new electronic borders system.

The Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme

is to be introduced in 2023 as a vital part of Britain's ambition to have a fully digital border by the end of 2025.

"This move means that Gulf states will be among the first countries in the world to benefit from ETAs and visa-free travel to the UK," said Priti Patel, the UK Home Secretary. "Our number-one priority is the security of the UK border and by launching ETAs we can ensure that everyone wishing to travel to the UK has permission to do so in advance of travel and refuse those who pose a threat."

Mansoor Abul houl, the UAE ambassador to London, welcomed the development. "The United Arab Emirates will be granted access in the first wave of countries in the system granting Emirati nationals for the United Kingdom, a country that they love so much and spend a lot of time in," he said. "I think this is a wonderful development. It will bring much more opportunity into the relationship."

Before the introduction of ETAs in 2023, travellers from Gulf countries can continue to use Electronic Visa Waivers which can be completed online before their visit to the UK. The Home Office statement said the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain



would be shifting on to the platform. The requirements of Gulf-country citizens would then come into line with other key partners including the US and Canada.

The ETA system grants access to the country for passengers visiting or transiting in Britain who do not currently need a visa for short stays or do not hold another UK visa.


The scheme is designed to “act as an additional security measure, allowing the government to block threats from entering the UK, whilst also providing individuals with more assurance at an earlier point in time about their ability to travel”, the Home Office said.




## Contact Us

 [www.rvquae.com](http://www.rvquae.com)

 [info@rvquae.com](mailto:info@rvquae.com)

 +971 56 679 6910  
+971 48866844

## Office Address

 RVG Chartered Accountants  
Office No109,  
The Atrium Center, Bank Street,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## Our Services

- Audit & Assurance
- Accounting & Business Advisory
- International Tax Advisory
- VAT Advisory
- IS Audit & ERP Implementation
- Business Consultancy
- PRO Services

\*Disclaimer: All the information is sourced from the latest updates of the Ministry of finance, and media updates