

CUSTOMS

نوافذ جمركية
Windows

RAK PORTS

SUPPORT THE GROWING ECONOMY OF RAS AL KHAIMAH

8 PILLARS

customs strategy
to combat Corona
pandemic

SINGAPORE

from Asia to the
world, a unique
economic icon

RAK CUSTOMS

inaugurates the
new light and heavy
vehicles scanner

HOW UAE

helps entrepreneurs
hit the ground
running?

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MISSION:

To protect the society from prohibited items, facilitate the movement of legitimate trade, and ensure a competitive economy for the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah so as to achieve customer happiness

VISION:

A leading customs administration in protection of society, supporting a sustainable and competitive economy with innovative tools and excellent.

INSTITUTIONAL VALUE:

Customer Care: providing internal and external customers and the best services that satisfy their needs and expectations.

Integrity: Rising above self-interest, or even seeking it, for the sake of the Department's interest.

Teamwork: promoting teamwork amongst teams and committees in order to achieve Department objective. Creativity and Excellence: Taking the initiative in developing department activities through creative methods.

CUSTOMS STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. To ensure the security and protection of society against prohibited commodities, fraud and smuggling attempts.
2. To Facilitate trade and support competitiveness.
3. To ensure sustainability in collecting and managing customs duties.
4. To achieve excellence in delivery of customs services.
5. To promote relations with strategic partners.
6. To develop institutional support services, and promote a culture of institutional creativity and innovation.



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A SUSTAINABLE CUSTOMS SECURITY SYSTEM

The

Customs Department in Ras Al Khaimah continues its steady path of preparation for the next 50 years by persistently working on raising and promoting the quality of its services. The Department is directly inspired by the directives of our wise leadership and their ambitious vision on forward-looking and consolidation of a culture of excellence in order to achieve qualitative leaps in different fields.

In doing so, RAK Customs Department is planning the incoming 50 years for our new generations. Our efforts, at this point of time, are joined to be part of an integrated, national system that carries on with creative working to enhance the path of a strong, yet young, nation that is now considered to be a global role model for leading development experiences. Within a relatively short lifetime, the UAE has creatively written a unique story of success in which it has already exceeded all expectations. RAK Customs stands out as an icon in the Emirati mosaic, which has delivered, over the last forty-eight years, a model of giving and innovation. The efforts of RAK Customs integrate with the efforts of other customs departments in our beloved country and this assures that customs are the fortress which boosts the safety and security of the UAE. We are proud of where we have reached, and we renew our commitment and promise to follow the path of our founding Fathers, and to complete the path of building and prosperity.

RAK Customs provides an optimum and incentivised environment to grow business through the facilitation and simplification of customs procedures and the automation of customs operations. All departmental staff, including leaders, administrators, operational officers and inspectors have joined their efforts, in conjunction with those of our strategic partners, including government entities, private sector establishments, traders, importers, exporters and customs brokers, to raise performance levels at all customs centres, not only in Ras Al Khaimah, but also in the UAE, and apply the international best practices.

We, at RAK Customs Department, endeavour to reinforce our footprint as a leading customs administration in protection of society and in support of a sustainable and competitive economy. The Department is carrying this out by utilising innovative tools and outstanding partnerships that support the customs security prohibited items whilst facilitating the movement of legitimate trade. This ensures that the economy of Ras Al Khaimah is sustainable and competitive and is able to achieve customer happiness.

Our inspirations have no limits, and they are basically associated with our care for the security of the UAE and support of the economic system, which supplements the success system of the UAE and puts it in the forefront row of the most developed countries in the world.

Editor-in-chief:

Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mehrezi
The Director General of RAK Customs



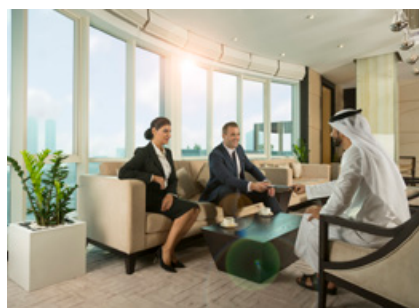
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8 PILLARS CUSTOMS STRATEGY TO COMBAT CORONA PANDEMIC

UAE Customs sector attained success in implementing integrated strategy to cope with Covid19- virus consequences, known as Corona, a strategy that contributed to protect community and customs workforce in border ports and key centers, and secure community members basic needs and commodities safely and in timely manner.



On course to tackle Corona, the strategy adopted by FCA and local customs departments embarks on 8 key pillars represented in process of procedures, completing customs transactions easily and simply while taking precautionary arrangements and actions, effectuating customs clearance transactions via smart applications, intensifying control over imported shipments, taking security and safety steps to ensure that admitted shipments to state are virus free and intact.

Customs strategy, across the state, further aim at protecting customs workforce in key premises and customs ports against the virus, issuing guidelines on how to handle inward shipments, mechanism of practice and health guidelines, and launching awareness and health initiatives targeting sector staff members as



Business continuity plans and preventive procedures at customs outlets to protect society and employees

29.5 billion dirhams, the volume of UAE food trade with other countries of the world in 4 months

well as the community in addition to collating and analyzing statistics on commodities and goods' movement and furnishing the same to competent authorities in the country to support decision making nationwide. H.E Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi, Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA, said that thanks to the directives of Emirates wise leadership, its early prompt perceive to Corona virus outbreak crisis consequences, the country was able to avoid massive risks, and contributed to siren an early alert in government sectors to get prepared for tackling this crisis and promote community members awareness.

His Excellency highlighted that customs sector response once initial indications of Corona virus appeared was extremely swift and positive and the Authority and local customs departments have taken crucial measures in terms of customs, health and security to impede virus outbreak and meanwhile, secure community's basic needs.

Corona virus pandemic, H.E added, represents not only an immense challenge to customs sector across the State due to health, security, economic and social consequences but also a significant opportunity to reinforce this sector's abilities in managing crisis, emergency and disasters and remote working, and also an opportunity to unleash potential energies reservoir in this sector to oversight future, innovation and creativity in setting outlook strategies to ensure tackling such crisis and challenges.

As for the pillar of processing procedures, completing customs transactions easily and simply, Customs sector strategy incorporated a set of procedures and initiatives the most significant of which; remote transactions completion, insertion of all e-clearance system requisite papers without customers touching thereof, providing thermal inspection devices for testing customers prior entering service centers, travelers and truck drivers and providing customs centers with preventive safety tools as sanitizers and purification.

Moreover, customs centers are keen to facilitate moving imported goods to local market, suspended dealing with cruise vessels and dhows save as exceptional cases, in addition to cutting duty hours and working days for customs clearance officers, banning entry of trucks to State allowing trade trucks only, banning sailors entry to ports or free zones and laying down business continuity plans while ensuring business free of impacts.

To this extent, Authority's initial statistics indicate that UAE food stuff trade volume with all other countries (direct trade and free zones) amounted AED 29.5 billion during the period from December 2019 until March 2020 whereas imports and exports accounted for AED 20 billion and AED 5.1 billion respectively while re-export accounted for AED 4.4 billion.

As for the pillar of remote working mechanism and facilitating clearance transactions handling via smart devices, the Authority and local customs departments authorized phased remote working methodology the first phase of which included administrative functions, staff with chronic diseases and pregnant female employees with a view to be expanded to apply the same methodology on all departments save as customs inspectors practicing inspection functions in customs centers where working hours are cut in some ports, shifts are increased to achieve social distancing between inspectors and workers in addition to dedicating an e-mail for each customs port and finalizing clearance transactions via smart applications.

H.E Commissioner of Customs - Chairman of FCA ascertained that the magnificent achievements made by customs sector in the state in developing services, handling transactions and promoting local competencies levels, infrastructure, smart and systems and programs featured by the sector particularly prior e-clearance, advanced inspection instruments are of the most important factors that helped the sector confront Corona challenges and address the same in professional and skilful manner.

The Authority and local customs department have intensified control over inward shipments particularly those coming from the countries with spreading virus, by reducing manual inspection, extending X-ray inspection and scanning, communicating with competent security and health authorities upon suspecting any shipment, sanitizing the shipments arriving from hot spot countries on regular basis to reach to suspending transacting with some countries with spreading virus. As well, security and safety measures have been taken to ensure that shipments allowed to be admitted to State shall be intact, this is achieved by reinforcing cooperation with competent authorities, and by assistance of many of these authorities inward shipments, parcels, offices, inspection yards, building and other customs buildings of custom functions are carried out. H.E Ali Alneyadi added that the Federal Customs Authority extended required supports to the Supreme National Committee for Emergency, Crisis and Disasters from the outset and effectively participated in all its meetings and cooperated with all concerned entities in the State with a view to mitigate Corona virus spread across the state. In this regard, His Excellency extended praised all customs departments and customs sector affiliates in relevant countries and competent authorities for their tangible efforts exerted to augment customs sector and State's abilities to confront the crisis.

In the domain of protecting customs sectors workforce from being infected by the virus, the Authority and local customs departments adopted number of initi-

Intensified control over inward shipments particularly those coming from the countries with spreading virus, by extending X-ray inspection and scanning, communicating with competent security and health authorities upon suspecting any shipment



H.E Ali Saeed Matar Alneyadi,
"The crisis of
Coronavirus spread
is a great challenge
for the customs
sector to enhance
customs capacities
in managing
emergency
and crisis"

atives that included authorizing business continuity plan, remote working, reducing the number of employees and working days to bring down staff assemblies, terminating fingerprint system, providing sanitizing tools, gloves, face masks and adding thermal testing devices for employees and customers as well as sanitizing and disinfecting workplaces constantly.

Moreover, the Authority and local customs departments issued a number of circulations to its employees on how to handle shipments, prevent Corona infection, and introduce precautionary

measures to be applied in addition to health, safety and security guidelines, personal protective equipment and the applicable mechanism to interact with employees arriving from trips or business missions from overseas countries.

Since crisis inception, the Authority and local customs departments inaugurated set of health and customs initiatives embodied in conducting workshops addressing remote working, business continuity plans, launching video applications for employees communication, organizing remote specialized training courses and taking precautionary health procedures to maintain the wellbeing of elderly, of determination and with chronic diseases citizens, instructing employees to refrain from traveling abroad, forming health conditions follow up committees and preparing medical chamber and quarantine for suspected cases.

WORLD LOGISTICS PASSPORT HIGHLIGHTS UAE'S DRIVE TO SUPPORT GLOBAL TRADE

A review of the World Logistics Passport initiative, which was recently launched by the UAE, took place on the sidelines of the 50th World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, during which HE Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori, UAE Minister of Economy, confirmed that the initiative is a distinct example of the pioneering approach adopted by the UAE for the realisation of its vision for development.

The "initiative is set to benefit many countries around the world and will redefine the development of the shipping industry by creating necessary technologies and capabilities, opening up new paths for trade linking the East with the West, and enhancing Dubai's and the UAE's position in supporting global trade and economy. This forms an important aspect of the development strategy adopted by the UAE, in line with the new directives announced by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. It aims to position Dubai as the capital of the new economy in the region and to achieve the ambitious target of two trillion dollars in revenue from Dubai's non-oil foreign trade by 2025," said Al Mansoori.

The UAE attended the discussion, in the presence of H.H Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Chairman and CEO of the Emirates Group, with the participation of Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori; Sultan bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World and leader of the Dubai Logistics World initiative; and Nadya Kamali, CEO of Customs World.

During the discussion, Nadya Kamali said, "We have launched the World Logistic Passport in Dubai, with an aim to offer its services

at the global level in order to serve the shared business cooperation goals of all countries."

The session, which saw the discussion on the World Logistics Passport initiative, was attended by ministers, government officials and leaders from major countries along the South-South trade corridor, on which

Ministers, officials & top-level executives from 20 countries welcome and join the initiative which support international trade and economic cooperation

the initiative is currently focused. These include Colombia and Brazil from Latin America; Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe from the African continent; and India, Thailand, and Vietnam from Asia.

Fadi Farra, Co-founder and Partner at the public policy and strategy advisory firm, underlined the need to re-think trade, in view of protectionist policies, rising costs and the development of new trade hubs in developing regions that have led to a global trade industry with increased volatility and uncertainty.

Among the key stakeholders from more than 20 countries that participated in the session were Demeke Mekonnen Hassen, Deputy Prime Minister, Ethiopia; Joao Doria, Governor of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Morten Engelstoft, CEO APM, A.P. Moller-Maersk; Jeroen van der Veer, Chairman, Royal Philips; Henadi Al Saleh, Chairwoman, Agility Logistics; Kamal Nath, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, India; Angela Maria Orozco, Minister of Transport, Colombia; Manpreet Badal, Minister of Finance and Planning of Punjab, India; Zainab S. Ahmed, Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria; Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer of Emirates Group; Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO, Antwerp Port Authority; Paula Ingabire, Minister of Information, Communications Technology and Innovation, Rwanda; and Yasushi Kinoshita, Managing Executive Officer, Development Bank of Japan.



TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES OVER 26 MONTHS

A UNIFIED CUSTOMS E-SYSTEM ACROSS UAE

In collaboration with local customs administrations, the Federal Customs Authority has initiated executive procedures to unify customs system across the UAE.

The move is meant to authorise common customs electronic system within all local customs administrations and border zones to contribute to cementing the security scheme, facilitate trade, simplify clearing procedures, and expedite information and data.

The Cabinet had authorised last June, the implementation of common customs electronic system broadly in all customs administrations in the state and its affiliated zones under the supervision of the Federal Customs Authority, FCA.

Ali Saeed Matar Al Neyadi, Customs Commissioner and Chairman of the FCA, said that implementing such a system contributes to achieving the Emirates 2021 strategy objectives on two key pillars. These are anchoring safe society rules and policies and building a knowledge-based competitive economy.

He said that customs electronic systems form the most effective tools in managing risk, customs control, clearing customs transactions and facilitating goods flow. Unifying the customs systems in the state is one of the key security and customs requirements of the strategy. Al Neyadi clarified that implementing a common electronic system all over the state will contribute to fulfilling the GCC Customs Union requirements of supporting the mechanism of direct transformation towards direct customs duties among GCC countries as implemented by Emirati initiative in November 2015.

The new system will contribute to accomplishing the Al Azm Retreat outcomes between the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on implementing the initiatives of Customs Union and Gulf Common Market, and tackling mutual trade obstacles between both countries. It would help to implement a (Paperless customs) initiative by activating and developing electronic integration in both countries and implementing a single window to all entities existing in interfacing zones and implementing the Authorised Economic Operator Program.

He recalled that the Federal Customs Authority had conducted a detailed study in customs systems implemented in the state by specialised subject matter



A unified customs e-system will be introduced and implemented at all customs administrations and their customs centres under the supervision of the Federal Customs Authority (FCA)

experts committee in the Authority and local customs administrations.

Al Neyadi said that implementing the new electronic system will cement performance level, promote compliance with customs procedures and security measures at border ports which will benefit local customs administrations, merchants, importers, exporters and cargo agencies.

It was also sufficiently resilient to adjust with modern techniques and contemporary customs concepts including Artificial Intelligence, smart risk engine, blockchain, compliance culture in the commercial supply chain, automation, and post-clearance audits.

The FCA plans to implement the system in stages, the first of which will cover two local customs departments that possess essential infrastructure and capabilities. The entire system implementation in all local departments will take up 26 months, he added.

CUSTOMS TERMS

Article 1

This regulation (law) is called “The Common Customs Law for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Sates)”.

Article 2

The following words and terms, wherever mentioned throughout this Regulation “ Law “ , its Explanatory Note and Rules of implementation, shall have the meanings hereby assigned for them, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “The Council” means the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
2. “The Minister” means the minister to whom the Custom Administration reports.
3. The “competent authority” means the authority to which the customs administration reports.
4. The “Director General” means the Director General of Customs.
5. The “Director” means the director of a Customs office.
6. Administration” means the Customs Administration.
7. “Customs office” means the sector, designated by the Minister, at each seaport, airport, and land port or at any other place where there is a branch office of the Administration authorized to complete all or some of the customs procedures.
8. “Regulation/law” means the rules and provisions governing customs work, and any other supplementing or amending rules or provisions.
9. “customs zone/territory” means that part of the lands or seas subject to the customs control and procedures set forth herein which is of two kinds:
 - (i). Sea customs zone: Which includes that part of the sea located between the shores and the end boundary of the territorial waters.
 - (ii) Land customs zone: which covers the lands located between the land boundaries or shores, on the one hand, and the internal line on the other hand, to be prescribed by a resolution by the Minister or the competent authority.
10. “Customs line” means that line conforming to the political boundaries (borders) separating between the country and the adjacent countries and the seashores surrounding that country.
11. “Customs tariff” means the nomenclature containing the descriptions of the goods

and the respective taxes and customs duties as well as the rules and notes of the kinds and types of commodities.

12. “Customs taxes (duties)” means the amounts levied on the goods according to the provisions of this Law.
13. “Fees/charges” means the amounts collected by customs for the services rendered.
14. “Goods “means any natural, material, animal, agricultural, industrial or intellectual product.
15. “Type of goods” means the description mentioned in the customs tariff nomenclature.
16. “The price actually paid or payable” means the total amount paid to the seller, directly or indirectly, for the goods imported by the buyer or for his account.
17. “The imported goods being valued” means the goods being valued for customs purposes.
18. “Identical goods” means goods that are the same in all respects, including physical characteristics, quality and reputation. Minor differences in appearance would not preclude goods otherwise conforming to the definition from being regarded as identical.
19. “Similar goods” means goods which, although not alike in all respects, have like characteristics and like component materials which enable them to perform the same functions and to be commercially interchangeable. The quality of the goods, their reputation and the existence of a trademark are among the factors to be considered in determining whether goods are similar.
20. “Sales commission” means the commission paid to the seller’s agent who is related to the seller or factory, governed by or acting for its favor or on its behalf.
21. “packing costs” means the cost of all packing and coverings (excluding instruments of international traffic) whether for the labor or the materials used for placing the goods in packings suitable for shipping to the GCC Member States.
22. “Unit price at the greatest total quantity” means the unit price at which certain goods are sold to unrelated persons, at the first commercial level after importation at its state when imported or after further preparation or processing, if the importer so requested. *To be continued*

Services

RAK CUSTOMS COMPLETES 7,396 ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS THROUGH REMOTE WORKING

Since remote working for emergency purposes has been put in place by RAK Customs Department, the Department completed 7,396 electronic transactions between 22nd and 30th March, 2020. This demonstrates the significant benefit that can be achieved for customers through the electronic services provided by the Department.

The electronic services varied between the services groups of registration and licensing, customs clearance, customs exemption, customs control and inspection and refund of cash deposits and release of bank guarantees. H.E. Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, the Director General of RAK Customs, confirmed that customers can complete the customs services they require without the need to attend the Head Office or any of the customs centers. Dr. Al Mehrezi explained that under the precautionary measures followed by the Department in response to the Covid-19 virus pandemic to maintain public safety and health, the customer can now use the electronic portal of the Department to request and apply for customs services delivered by the Department. He assured that the services are effortlessly available in fully electronic form on the website. This includes the services of issue of importer codes, issue of customs declarations, manifests, gate passes, customs exemption letters, inspection and examination, refund of cash deposits and release of bank guarantees.



RAK CUSTOMS STOPS AN ARAB YOUNG MAN WITH TABLETS AND NARCOTICS IN HIS POSSESSION

A customs inspector at RAK International Airport was successfully able to stop a young man from an Arab nationality who arrived in the UAE via the Airport with a large quantity of tablets and narcotics in his possession. The man attempted to smuggle the narcotics into the UAE by concealing them in a sweet box. The inspectors noticed an indication given by the baggage x-ray machine highlighting the presence of medical tablets in the box, upon which it was referred to the manual inspection.

HE Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi, Director General of RAK Customs Department, said that the vigilance of customs inspectors at RAK International Airport, their sense of security and wide knowledge of body language enabled them to intercept the Arab man with the narcotics concealed in an ambiguous box.

THE SECRET OF A TRAVELER WHO CAME TO DUBAI WITH 200\$ AND WITHOUT A SUITCASE

An inspector at Dubai Customs noticed that a traveler coming to the country through Dubai airport to spend a whole month according to the tourist visa he obtained, does not carry a travel bag, and does not possess money except for \$ 200, so he suspected him to discover that he had hidden in his womb a large number of narcotic capsules. In detail, the Dubai Criminal Court sentenced 10 years in prison and a fine of 50,000 dirhams and deportation of the right of a



25-year-old Asian visitor after being convicted of a felony bringing and obtaining narcotic substance with the intention of promoting, after finding in his guts 38 plastic capsules. A customs inspector at the General Department of Passenger Operations at Dubai Customs said that he stopped the accused and checked his passport, and asked him about the reason for his arrival, so he stated that it is for the purpose of tourism, and he will stay for a month, so he took him directly to the viscera apparatus and found for him the presence of foreign bodies in his intestine, so he asked him about its nature, but the accused denied, then he was referred to the authorities. The competent authority shall download the capsules from his gut, and then the Dubai Police referred him to the Public Prosecution and from there to the Criminal Court, which sentenced him to 10 years in prison and a fine of 50 thousand dirhams, in addition to deportation after serving the sentence.



THE "CUSTOMS AUTHORITY" SEIZES AN AFRICAN HIDING 297 GRAMS OF DIAMONDS IN HIS BOWELS

The Federal Customs Authority said that several days ago it has received a report from the Early Information Center of the General Authority for the Security of Ports, Borders and Free Zones, stating that an African traveler working on mobile phones is attempting to smuggle a quantity of rough diamonds in his guts while coming from an African country to the UAE through Sharjah International Airport. Immediately, the Sharjah Seaports and Customs Department was coordinated with and necessary actions were taken. Immediately upon arrival of the passenger on a flight coming from an African country to the passports area at Sharjah Airport, his passport was kept and transferred to the Sharjah customs which inspected him as well as the bags in his possession.

In its statement, the authority added that after the traveler was presented to the viscera screening device by Sharjah Customs, it was revealed that he had hidden 3 plastic pieces in his guts containing about 297 grams of rough diamonds, valued at approximately \$ 90,000. He was investigated, the seized diamonds were confiscated and he was referred to the competent authorities in the country to take the necessary actions.



RAK PORTS

SUPPORT THE GROWING ECONOMY OF RAS AL KHAIMAH

RAK Ports, managed by Saqr Port Authority, has been conceived to oversee the growth of the maritime industry in the region and drive the economic development of Ras Al Khaimah, provide a suite of essential services including cargo handling, free zone land lease, ship repair, warehousing, marine & anchorage, cruise tourism and industrial training to many clients and partners in the Middle East region and beyond.

Customs Windows highlights the strategic role that the Ras Al Khaimah Ports play in the success of development and economic plans in the emirate.





5 PORTS

RAK ports consist of 5 ports are port in the north, then moving south down the coast line you have Saqr port and right next to Saqr port you have RAK maritime city, then in the city center you have Ras Al Khaimah port and then in Al-hamra you have Al-Jazirah port, the biggest port is Saqr port authority and that is the biggest handling port in the middle east and north Africa by far, it exports somewhere in the region of 70 million tons of crushed rock products, which come from Stephan rock and RAK rock where are the largest quarries in the world, other ports like RAK maritime city is a free zone in its own right, so you have RAK maritime city free zone authority which is completely separate from RAKEZ, this is a land mass of 8 million Sqm, and at the moment, it has 22 anchor tenants such as Pascal, Van-Ord, air lee quid which is a big French manufacturer of air vessels for the off shore oil and gas industry and other tenants, also sign a MYU with the federal electricity and water authority they reserved lands for 3 years with a possibility of building a station, and it is also in the process of signing a MY with Bangladeshi company called Basha Gondra and that is for a 20 million tons production, both their projects are worth over a billion dollar each.

The other thing to mention is Saqr port, just completed 2 deep water ports, 8 meters which will allow to take the biggest vessels in the world, they are called cape-size vessels, that project was completed and launched last year at a cost of 500 million dirhams in total, in the RAK ports group it employ about 1400 people, and



SAQR PORT

The largest port for handling bulk cargo in the Middle East and North Africa

The port exports 70 million tons, and the capacity is about 100 million tons

RAK Ports Group employs approximately 1,400 employees of various nationalities

the senior management consist of mix of nationalities from various countries.

In city center port, it do a lot of warehousing, a lot of lay-offs, ships coming when they are not working they lay-off and that stay alongside, there is tenants, warehouses and just finished building a boutique cruise terminal so in the first of December 2019, welcomed the first cruise vessel visit and that is called the sea born which is 220 meters long, which is not a huge one but not a small one either, they are going to develop that area in the future for the cruise, water tourism and in the long term real estate, and then finally they have a port in the center which is Al-Jazirah port in Al Hamra Area, they do ship repair and ship building.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

In 1974, Sheikh Saqr bin Muhammad Al Qasim (may God have mercy on him), decided to have this port built in order to export the natural resource of Ras al Khaimah, It is now the biggest bulk handling port in the middle east and north Africa, it has an important strategically to the emirate, along with other enterprises such RAKEZ, RAK hospitality, etc..

70 MILLION TONS

Saqr port is exporting about 70 million tons, and the capacity with the addition of the 2 new berths are somewhere in the region of 100 million tons and that's as far the bulk ports are concerned world wide is big, there's probably only a handful of ports which are bigger than that.



"Ras al-Khaimah has witnessed a major transformation and remarkable growth in many areas in the recent period. Foreign direct investment companies are willing to undertake more projects, and therefore the future is bright"

All the business which is going through Saqr port in particular 95% of it is export, so the crushed rock product from the Hajjar mountains quarry mines are by Stevin rock and RAK rock and, mostly are lime stone for India which is used in the production of steel, and also for what call Gabro products which is destined for other countries of the gulf such as Kuwait, Bahrain, etc.. and that's used in the construction process for roads and buildings, and the quarries also supply somewhere in the region of 20 millions tons to other emirates, so that's the kind of mixed cargo that the port deals with and the quarries, the vessels they load, Panamax vessels 50 or 60 thousands tons, they also load Cape-size vessels of 150 thousand tons per vessel, in addition to what they have a container terminal which is current capacity of 350 thousand TEU, and TEU is (Twenty foot equivalent unit) so it's a box which is 20 foot long, and that's under concession to company called Hutchinson Ports, since January 2018 and they pay them

concession fees on annual basis but they run it, this is good for the emirate because all the manufacturing industries in Ras Al Khaimah and free zones are able to export their products by containers through Saqr ports.

Export RAK products mainly in the gulf area and India, and export of manufactured goods from the free zones, now the other ports are different, this port is a free zone, free zones as you probably know, someone comes along and starts a business and he pays you rental, and you issue him a license and you renew it on an annual basis, ship repairs and ship building, you repair ships and you build ships, and in our port in the north which is on our border with Oman is a leisure port but that's dormant at the moment but will be opening very soon.

2500 VESSELS PER YEAR

In Saqr port will be able to have probably 18 vessels in any same time, and handle somewhere in the region of 2500 vessels

per year, but if you want to know the current statistics, coming into Saqr port you probably seen on the roads we handle over 10,000 lorries per day, they take products from quarries and down to rest of emirates.

ENCOURAGE THE INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Ras Al Khaima just started to market what's called ONE RAK, that means when you come to Ras Al Khaimah you will deal with portal called ONE RAK, RAK ports, customs and immigration are part of this, so instead of going to different entities in Ras Al Khaimah you will deal with only ONE RAK, it's been driven by RAKEZ and the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah under the instruction of His Highness, is putting a lot of effort into what's called FDI which is Foreign Direct Investment in Ras Al Khaimah, you see the tourism started to increase and hotels are being full everywhere and obviously Foreign Direct Investment companies are wishing to do business in Ras Al Khaimah.



THE FIRST INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LUXURY CRUISE

They receive this inaugural visit of MV Seabourn Ovation after completing the development of the city's first boutique cruise vessel passenger terminal, over the past year we have finalized the transformation of its old ferry terminal into a modern and efficient boutique cruise passenger terminal and developed marine transport infrastructure around it, which is able to accommodate vessels up to 210m in length carrying approximately 1000 guests. The terminal has been installed with state-of-the-art Immigration E-Gate equipment, CCTV, and security X-Ray machines to ensure that ships guests receive impeccable service and enjoy a hassle-free experience.

RAK Ports, RAKTDA, RAK Hospitality and RAK transport authority will continue work on multiple maritime projects to support the development of boutique cruises and water tourism offerings. To achieve its goals the departments will develop marine transport infrastructure



To enhance the presence of Ras Al Khaimah on the global tourist map, in the future we will consider building a passenger lounge for large cruise ships

around the cruise terminal.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

RAK ports comply with an international code, called the international ship and port security, and they are ordered on a regular basis at least every 6 month by a federal authority called the general authority for ports, borders and free zones, they have a local office in RAK, and in all emirates, they visit ports regularly to make sure that all the security are in place, all the fences in place, camera, passes and everything, and in order to visit the port you have to request a security pass in advance, be screened and granted a pass, without this pass you wouldn't be allowed to get in, so they pride themselves on the level of security we maintain.

1 MILLION HOURS WITHOUT SINGLE INCIDENT

And regarding safety, they pride themselves for health and safety, they are accredited by international associations that deals in safety, they check them also every 6 months. There is a very good safety record here in RAK ports, they are just about to achieve 1 million hours without single incident.

On the other side basically what happens is when a ship arrive it has to declare what's on the manifest, so if it has any dangerous goods it has to declare them, and it moves into the customs territory here and if there were any suspicion of any dangerous goods that had to be declared or illegal goods we would by then inform the authorities, now they have drills with the customs for emergency exercises, and they are well prepared with the latest inspection facilities, they have radar scanners so trucks move through and it picks any illegal goods, they have very good surveillance systems, cameras, and good authorities.



Reclamation of more lands, building new berths, developing tourism recreational activities, expanding in the real estate field and the luxury yacht building industry are some of the future plans to be implemented

looking at reclaiming further land in RAK maritime city and that would be a 5 year project and will do that in order to create more berth and more storage lands for industries with interest to come into RAK and setup a manufacturing business, and in Saqr port they just built 2 berths and for the next 5 years, need to fill them with business, and for the port in the north Al-Jeer which will be opening soon they hope to do small cargo work in that port as it used in the past 5 to 6 years to handle all the import operations of the livestock into the emirates like goats from Somalia, at city center port they want to turn that into a successful cruise destination, and they are going to introduce an Abra service between the malls and on the creek so they are working with RAK transport authorities to do that, and they are going to locate basically leisure activities and water tourism, for the port in the south Al-Jazirah port unfortunately it's located in an area that will be developed for residential purposes, as it has already Al-hamra area from one side and Mina Al Arab from another side, so they are looking in that port to go into partnership to build some luxury yachts, which will fit the area because that's another area that is destined for future development.

Register awards

RAK PORTS HAVE MANY REGISTER AWARDS OF QUALITY:

ISO 9000 – management systems.

ISO 15000 – Quality systems.

ISO 18000 – environmental systems.

Also, they have recognitions and various awards that they receive from various organizations.

EMERGENCIES CASES

An emergency for them primarily would be a marine emergency because they are a port mainly concerned about marine matters.

Nobody wants to see oil on the beaches but let's assume a ship had a collision and started to leak oil, so they are all equipped with the latest oil response equipment, they are prepared that we can tackle it and stop it from spreading and getting to beaches, they work in conjunction with specific departments in RAK, which deals with emergencies and disasters

HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT

For the marine side they have the latest marine surveillance radars, latest technology for the automatic identification of ships, perimeter fencing, the latest cameras, and latest detection equipment, all these are requirements of the federal authority.

FUTURE PLANS

For 5 years as the ports' management

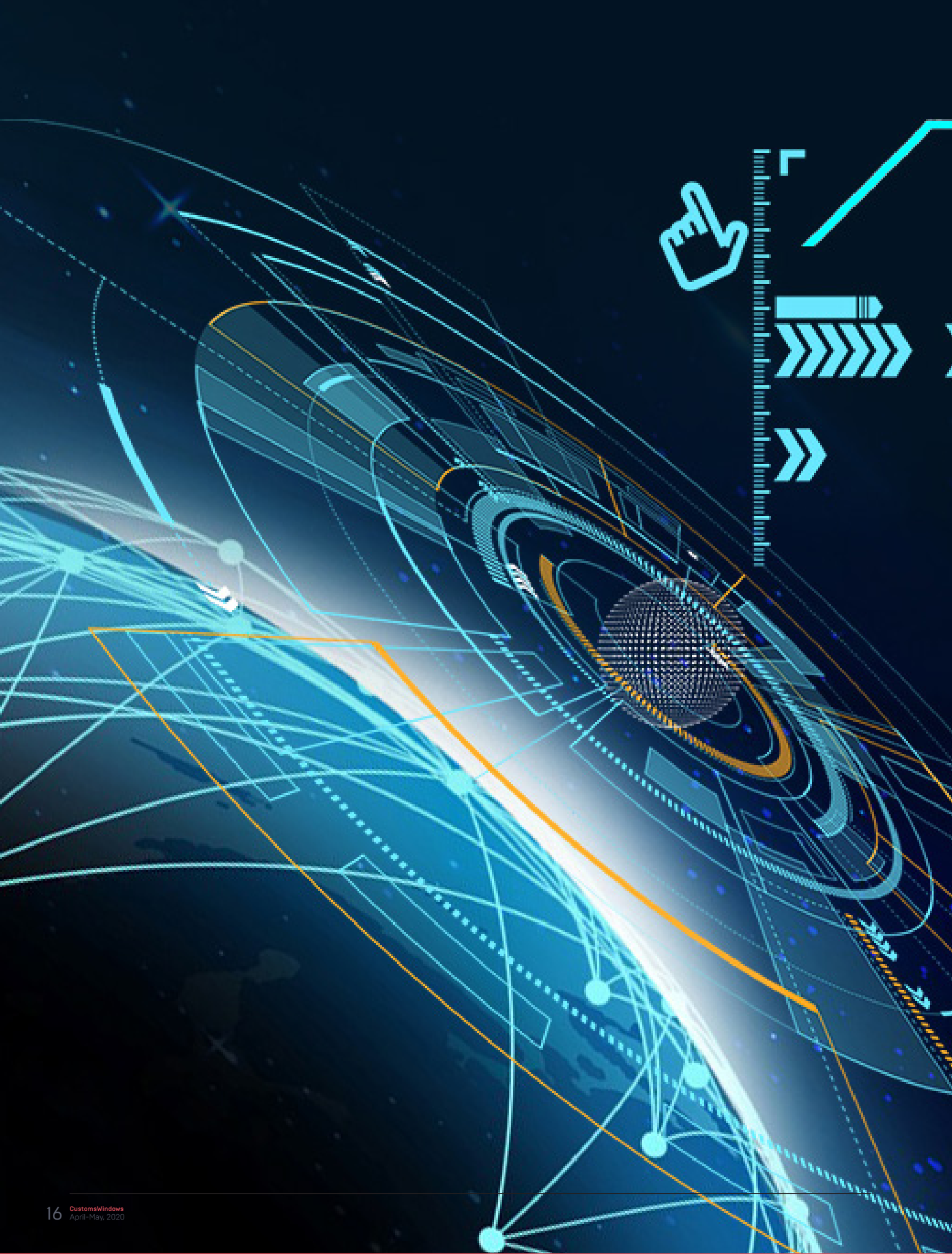


RAK CUSTOMS TAKE PART IN RECEIVING THE 'SEABOURN OVATION' CRUISE SHIP

RAK Customs Department, represented in RAK Port customs centre, took part in receiving the world-renowned 'Seabourn Ovation' cruise ship during its first visit to a port in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. This participation by RAK Customs came in cooperation with partners of RAK Customs, including RAK Tourism Development Authority, RAK Ports Group and a number of VIPs and representatives of government authorities in the Emirate.

The arrival of the 'Seabourn Ovation' cruise ship was a result of continuous efforts made by the Tourism Development Authority of Ras Al Khaimah and RAK Ports Group to evolve the industry of luxury cruise and nautical tourism in Ras Al Khaimah. Last year, RAK Ports Group completed a project to transform the one-time ferry terminal into a modern luxury cruise passenger terminal, and develop the infrastructure of maritime transportation in the vicinity of the terminal. For its part, the Tourism Development Authority of Ras Al Khaimah had designed the tourist itineraries for visitors arriving in the Emirate throughout the 2018-2019 tourist season to further attract the luxury cruise ship passengers.

Mr. Kevin Burnett, the Customs Operations Supervisors at RAK Customs, said that RAK Customs Department is very well-prepared for receiving and handling the cruise ship passengers. He added that RAK Port customs are highly equipped with the most sophisticated inspection devices, to ensure the readiness of RAK Customs Department, along with all participating authorities, in receiving and processing the passengers once they arrive at the Port and facilitating the baggage clearing procedures.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

BETWEEN FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING

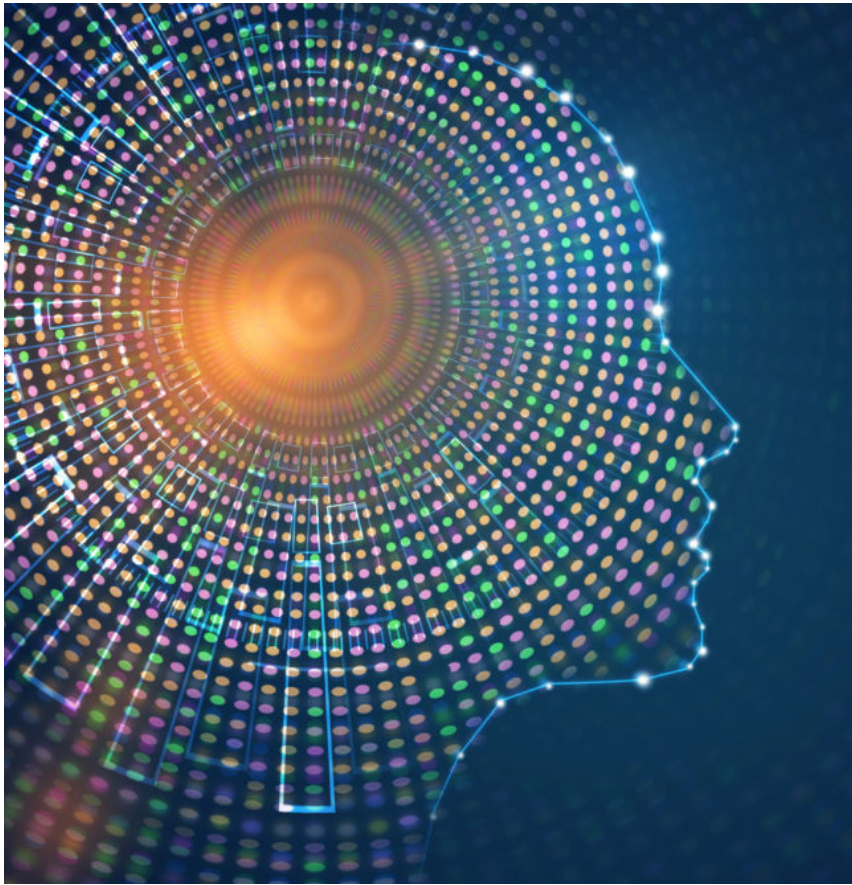
Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.

IP is protected in law by, for example, patents, copyright and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between the interests of innovators and the wider public interest, the IP system aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish.

IP is not a new concept. It is believed that IPR initially started in North Italy during the Renaissance era. In 1474, Venice issued a law regulating patents protection that granted an exclusive right for the owner. The copyright dates back to 1440 A.D. when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press with replaceable/moveable wooden or metal letters. Late in the 19th century, a number of countries felt the necessity of laying down laws regulating IPR. Globally, two conventions constituting the basis for IPR system worldwide had been signed; Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) Berne Convention for the Protection of Lit-

erary and Artistic Works (1886).

The main purpose of intellectual property law is to encourage the creation of a wide variety of intellectual goods. To achieve this, the law gives people and businesses property rights to the information and intellectual goods they create, usually for a limited period of time. This gives economic incentive for their creation, because it allows people to profit from the information and intellectual goods they create. These economic incentives are expected to stimulate innovation and contribute to the technological progress of countries, which depends on the extent of protection granted to innovators.



Economists see the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge as key to sustainable economic growth. That is true for both developing and developed economies, although they differ greatly in their abilities to generate innovation. It is only natural, then, that developing countries would primarily seek to upgrade their stocks of knowledge and technology through acquisition rather than invention.

It is in society's interest to support the broad dissemination of knowledge, but the creation of knowledge requires incentives to innovate. When determining appropriate rules for IP, governments have to keep in mind that protections simultaneously spur creativity and inhibit the flow of knowledge.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

Industrial Property, which includes: inventions (patents), trademarks, industrial designs and models and geographic indications of source.

Copyright: is a form of IPR concerned with protecting works of human intellect, which includes: literary and artistic works, namely novels, poems, plays, films, musicals, cartoons, paintings, photographs, statues and architectural designs.

Related Rights is a term in copyright law, used to include the rights of performers in their performances, the rights of producers of phonograms in their recordings and the rights of broadcasting organizations in the radio and television programs they air.

Trademark registration and protection



205
Million jobs are threatened every year as a result of the loss of a culture of Intellectual Property

1.7
Trillion dollars is the economic and social effects of counterfeiting and piracy issues

Over the years, these marks have evolved into today's system of trademark registration and protection. The system helps consumers to identify and purchase a product or service based on whether its specific characteristics and quality – as indicated by its unique trademark – meet their needs

A Trademark is a sign (logo) that serves to distinguish the goods or services of one organisation or individual from those of another. A trademark is a distinctive sign that identifies certain goods or services produced or provided by an individual or a company. The sign may consist of: (words including personal names, figurative elements, Letters, Numerals, shapes, signs, slogans or logos of the good or its packaging.

For a trademark to be accepted, it has to be: (original, distinctive, non-descriptive. Exclusive right over a trademark is valid for 10 years, however it is possible to renew the trademark indefinitely.

The origin of trademarks dates back to ancient times when craftsmen reproduced their signatures, or “marks”, on their artistic works or products of a functional or practical nature.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FORGERY AND COUNTERFEITING?

1. Forgery of a trademark means a complete transfer being identical from the unique brand or transferring the main parts thereof making the forged brand greatly identical to the original one.

2. Counterfeiting a trademark means making a brand similar in total to the original one in a manner that might mislead the public in connection with the source of goods that are marked by the brand in question.

Countries Care for IPR and Seek to Promote and Protect it, new innovations in all IPR domains lead to Human progress and advancement, legal protection of new innovations encourages safe spending on other innovations, Caring for and protecting IPR contribute to achieving economic and social development.

Every April 26, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.

REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION (RKC)...

A CAPABLE TOOL FOR TRADE FACILITATION



The

Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) is the main trade facilitation customs convention. It was developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and entered into force on 3rd February 2006. The current Convention is an update and revision of the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention) adopted in 1973-1974.

The RKC aims at facilitating trade by harmonizing and simplifying customs procedures and practices. To this end, the Convention provides standards and recommended practices for modern customs procedures and techniques.

Countries wishing to become a contracting party to this international convention have to accept the Body and the General Annex to the RKC, which are binding. The General Annex of the RKC commits contracting parties to the following key principles:

- transparency and predictability of customs actions,
- standardization and simplification of the goods declaration and supporting documents,
- simplified procedures for authorized persons,
- maximum use of information technology,
- minimum necessary customs control to ensure com-



PREDICTABILITY:
standard principles
for customs
processing of goods,
conveyance and
persons moving
across borders
and clearance
procedures

TRANSPARENCY
(provides all
information relating
to customs)

LEGAL
prevent arbitrary
or unfair action by
customs

THE USE
of information
technology

pliance with regulations,

- use of risk management and audit-based controls,
- coordinated interventions with other border agencies, and
- partnership with the trade.

The WCO Secretary General is the depositary of the Convention. Countries need to deposit their instrument of accession or ratification with the Secretary General of the Council.

The Convention is administrated by the Management Committee to the RKC whose members are contracting parties. Only contracting parties have a vote, but all others can attend as observers.

It is worth mentioning that the Management Committee has no enforcement or dispute-settlement function in the cases where a contracting party does not comply with the standards contained in the RKC. Countries having acceded to this Convention have three years to implement the standards and five years to implement the transitional standards contained in the General Annex and in the specific annexes accepted.

The WCO supports the implementation of the Convention through awareness raising, training and capacity-building initiatives.



TAHER SHAMBEEH AL MOHAMMADANY: CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IS A CORNERSTONE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Shipping and customs clearance agencies are regarded as the right hand of importers and exporters because customs clearance is the final step in the process of exportation, and similarly the last step in importation. Customs clearance is a cornerstone in the growth and flourish of international trade. Despite the fact that any importer or exporter can handle customs clearance by himself without the assistance of a customs broker, however, customs clearance experts would never advise to go down this path. Lack of experience in completing customs clearance may cause delays to a lot of things, and thereby increasing the demurrage and storage fees. So, it is always advisable to contract a professional customs clearance office to complete clearance formalities, reducing any extra costs.

CustomsWindows magazine met Mr. Taher Shambeeh Al Mohammadany, a cus-

tombs broker, who has extensive experience in this industry; as his company provides maritime services. He initially talked to us about such particular skills a customs broker needs to acquire, highlighting the skills of good communication, control, leadership, creativity, problem-solving, strong commitment, motivation, hard-working and resilience.

He affirmed that together with all of the above, a customs broker should have such strong ethics of dedication and devotion and should be very dynamic.

Shambeeh said about challenges they experience at work, "challenges are inevitable in any business. However, these challenges can be confronted with determination and persistence. Some of these challenges may clearly be insufficient experience by staff, which may not get the job done as it should ideally be, and certainly the unavailability of sufficient resources to help us carry on work as intended.

He pinpointed work difficulties by the nature of ports, goods and companies, "Yes. The General Authority and the Executive Office for Goods and Materials Subject to Import and Export Control are amongst the most important control and examination authorities before releasing the goods. Internal difficulties: transportation; lack of sufficient land fleet, unjustified increase in transport prices, which would have a negative impact on competitiveness of any product; failure by drivers to comply with rules and regulations; absence of control over those drivers and their employers. External difficulties: such as unqualified ports to receive shipments imported, unpaved or unsafe roads to move the goods, insufficient knowledge of laws in effect in countries to which the products are being exported, or imposition of additional charges by some countries on exported vehicles and containers.

About the significance of the customs bro-



Relying on an experienced Customs Clearance Agent can reduce costs and quickly ends business, therefore business owner is not advised to do the customs clearance process himself unless he is experienced in that work

ker role for companies and businesses, he said, “ Customs clearance is a fundamental step in international trade (both import and export), and it is basically a set of procedures that a customs broker undertakes to facilitate goods passing through customs zones, then into the country. The broker proceeds with the necessary procedures under authorization from the owner, which gives him the power to submit supporting documents relating to the goods to the relevant customs authorities for approval. The work of a broker does not stop at this point, but continues until the goods leave the customs zone and are delivered to the entity concerned.”

STEPS AND PROCEDURES TO COMPLETE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE:

Customs clearance companies undertake some procedures in relation to release of goods. These procedures do not significantly vary for importation and exportation. However, they are absolutely required and cannot be ruled out in both cases. As customs clearance procedures are initiated, it is very important to contract a customs clearance company in order to use their services and utilize the expertise they have to

solve any issues while finalizing the customs release of shipments. This minimizes release time needed and saves a lot of costs. The steps to complete customs clearance can be summarized as follows:

- The container liner arrives in the relevant port, and containers are grounded into the terminal. This may take between one to two working days.
- The customs broker then approaches the marine agent to collect the Delivery Order (DO).
- The broker submits a customs value declaration in accordance with related invoices.
- The customs authorities send their representatives to assess and value the goods.
- In case the goods require more approvals from other competent authorities, a representative from the customs will collect a sample and send it to the competent authority.
- The broker will then pay the applicable customs tax, in addition to any other examination and inspection fees (if any) owed by the competent authority.
- The broker contracts an internal transporter, and the shipment is, then, loaded on a truck, passes through the x-ray scanner and leaves the port

BETTER TO KNOW

UAE government prohibits the importation of certain items into the country while some restrictions are imposed on other goods. In this feature, we are about to list some of the control measures currently in place that everyone should be aware of:

MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DRUGS:

Tourists are required to be cautious about medicines they carry from their home countries. Some medicines may contain substances that are banned in the UAE, leading to the arrest of those carrying them. Hence, people should not only carry the doctor's prescription, but also ensure that the quantity of tablets justify normal use during their scheduled duration of stay. They are also advised to get a certificate from the respective embassies.

For bringing bulk quantity of medicines (containing banned substances) to the UAE, prior permission from the Ministry of Health and Prevention is needed. There is zero tolerance for drug-related offences, whether controlled drugs or recreational drugs. Some herbals and natural products; such as tobacco, poppy/opium seeds/powder, betel leaves are controlled items in the UAE, and possession of which is illegal. Some herbal highs are also illegal in the UAE.

The penalties for trading, trafficking, smuggling, possessing drugs and presence of drugs in the blood stream even in residual amounts are severe. It must be pointed out that patients can apply for a permission to import medicine for their personal use. According to the website of the Ministry of Health and Prevention, UAE nationals and residents can obtain a permit to import medicine for personal use. The imported medicine should not exceed the personal need of a period of three months for non-controlled medicines and one month for controlled and semi-controlled medicines.

HOW UAE HELPS ENTREPRENEURS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING?

IN PART, THIS IS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS WORKED HARD TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS ATTRACTIVE TO INNOVATION. FROM FREE ZONES AND BUSINESS MATCHMAKING TO EMPOWERING WOMEN – THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERY BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR.



Could one of the opportunities and initiatives outlined below be the boost your startup needs?

1. ONGOING BUSINESS SUPPORT

For many budding entrepreneurs this is a first time adventure. Having come up with your big business idea, you need to know how to write business plans, how to best market your services, obtain the necessary approvals and licences, and navigate all the legal and taxation clutter to get the real picture.

Few people are experts in all these areas – and even fewer have the money to hire people for these roles when they're just starting out – so support can be crucial.

How the UAE provides ongoing business support?

There are various organisations, government agencies and initiatives that provide business counseling and mentoring, as well as technical and marketing support. This enables you to access most of the advice and assistance you need through one dedicated source.

If you establish in a free zone, your business will also



WHY RAKEZ?

Because whether you're an entrepreneur, a freelancer, an SME or even a large enterprise, They have a range of solutions perfect for your stage of development

naturally receive support. The right company setup specialist will be able to provide a myriad of services to help companies set up, meet regulations, recruit staff, and even brand the company. Many free zones also offer a one-stop-shop concept, where they are able to facilitate all approvals and paperwork with other governmental authorities without the need to visit the other authorities. As a business owner, this saves you a lot of time and energy.

2. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Setting up is just the beginning of the adventure. Meeting and interacting with the business community is a vital part of the process for entrepreneurs looking to make a mark in the UAE. Networking ensures that innovation, contacts and partnerships keep flowing.

How the UAE provides the opportunity to network?

There are various organisations that can help pair entrepreneurs and startups with strategic UAE-based partners via business matchmaking.

Entrepreneurs will find many business networking opportunities too. Online and word-of-mouth grapevines are very busy in the UAE, and not hard to find. Many networking groups have online hubs on the likes of Eventbrite, Facebook, LinkedIn, Meetup.com and Twitter's Tweetups. These groups often meet regularly offline, too.

In addition you'll find support centres and support groups relevant to your sector. For non-UAE nationals there are also business councils specific to the entrepreneur's country of origin.

These exist to streamline economic co-operation between the UAE and foreign-run businesses, and there will usually be the opportunity to attend seminars, workshops and informal gatherings.

It's all about meeting and greeting, building profitable links, making the right connections, getting the heads-up for events and awards ceremonies, and gaining the attention of both your peers and your intended audience. It's also about gaining less tangible benefits, such as moral support and a sense of community.

3. COST CUTTING

Setup fees can be astronomical and difficult to judge. There is the cost of business registration, opening a corporate bank account, establishing an office, IT, insurance, and work permits. Any help a business can get to reduce these costs can make all the difference.

How the UAE helps keep new business costs low?

The UAE government frequently announces new initiatives and resolutions that slash the cost of starting a new business.

Free zones themselves often offer promotions to help businesses keep costs down. If you're just starting out, some of the free zones offer business setup packages for SMEs, new startups, and even new graduates, allowing access to shared workstations, ongoing support, and eligibility for visas, and residency.

4. EMPOWERING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

Figures by the Unilever Foundry show that worldwide just 17% of all new startups are founded by women. The story is similar in the MENA region.

When Dubai SME and event organiser Arabnet published their report State of Digital Investments in MENA 2013-2018, the contrast between the likelihood of equity success for men and women was startling. The report analysed 1,423 regional investments in startups across the region, and found that just 14% of these deals were with companies founded by women.

How the UAE is supporting women succeed in business?

The situation is evolving all the time, and in the UAE



1. CUSTOMISE YOUR PACKAGE

With the help of their Business Development professionals, you will select your suitable legal entity, licence type and facility

2. SUBMIT APPLICATION & DOCUMENTS
The Business Development professionals will guide you from filling out your application all throughout submission, ensuring that all requirements are met

3. RECEIVE YOUR BUSINESS LICENCE
Your licence along with your registration set and bank letter will be issued upon completion of the licensing formality, then the visa application process will start

there has been a lot of change very quickly when it comes to gender equality. The UAE government has already made gender equality in the workforce one of its sustainable development goals and half of all SMEs in the UAE are now led by women.

The free zones are also taking the issue seriously, and some have developed business packages specifically for women. Look for cutting edge setup specialists who offer services dedicated exclusively to female entrepreneurs.

5. RESIDENCY STABILITY

If you're looking to start a business in another country, the red tape involved in securing visas and work permits is a big concern.

How the UAE keeps residency simple

Free zone one-stop-shops (OSS) streamline the process of living and working in the UAE. Visas and work permits can be obtained through a free zone authority's OSS centres, making things much simpler.

Long-term residency in the UAE is now open to more people than ever before, following the implemented new visa system in 2019. This includes 5 and 10 year visas for entrepreneurs, investors, specialist talents such as doctors and scientists, creative people in the fields of culture and art, and outstanding students who meet the authority's requirements.

Make your business dream a reality in the UAE. These are just five key ways the UAE is supporting innovation and new businesses. We haven't covered everything, so be sure to do more research. You'll be surprised just how much support is available across the entire



A night-time photograph of the Singapore skyline. The Singapore Flyer, a massive Ferris wheel, is illuminated with purple and white lights, dominating the right side of the frame. To its left, the city's skyscrapers are lit up, reflecting on the water in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds.

SINGAPORE

A UNIQUE ECONOMIC ICON

It is one of the smallest countries in the world with an area of 719 square kilometers, but Singapore was able to book advanced sites among the largest global economies, with the help of its strategic location and its natural port which is located in the Malacca Strait and connects more than 600 seaports in 120 countries, and nearly 40% pass through it from global maritime trade. As its strategic location helped to be the headquarters of more than 37,000 international companies, located in the middle of a large financial market of four billion people in the circle of a seven-hour flight, thus becoming a global trade and financial center with a good reputation, It is one of the easiest places in the world to do business, to be considered the gateway to the world to Asia.

By this decade, it is beyond doubt that Singapore is the most secure, calm, and contemporary business destination with a vivid and multilingual culture to support its ecosystem. The country is considered as an official financial capital of the world. Not surprisingly, it is the 3rd richest country in the world.

TRADE EXCHANGE VOLUME BETWEEN THE UAE AND SINGAPORE:

The economic relations between the UAE and Singapore are witnessing remarkable developments, due to the interest of many mega UAE companies to invest in Singapore and expand in the Asia Pacific region, on the other hand, UAE is a gateway for many Singaporean companies to expand in the Middle East. Despite the slowdown in the global economy last year, the volume of trade exchange between the United Arab Emirates and Singapore fixed at a rate of 45 billion dirhams. The cooperation between the two countries include many fields of trade, industry and investment, sustainable development and energy, education and human resources development and cooperation in the field of defense and security.www

The UAE investments in Singapore is varied in the oil and port sectors, communications, real estate investments, electronic industries, media, retail, banking and advanced technology. As such the volume of commercial activity between the UAE and Singapore has increased in various sectors such as the construction sector, gas and oil, administrative facilities, services, health care, information technology, logistics and real estate.

UAE SINGAPORE BUSINESS COUNCIL

Recently, the UAE Singapore Business Council was set up to enable companies and the business communities in both countries to benefit from communication and logistics services which contribute to exploring the promising business opportunities, in addition of the combined efforts to identify the areas of cooperation in the important sectors such as industrial sectors, energy, banking, financial, construction, education, food, electricity, tourism, and the health sector.



UAE Singapore Business Council aims to facilitate exchanges of information and shed light on investment benefits for establishing partnerships between business owners and investors

WHY TO INVEST IN SINGAPORE?

Singapore stands out for its remarkable development and prosperity year after year. It is often referred to as Switzerland of Asia because of its economic prowess, and the low levels of crime, corruption, and drugs, which makes it an ideal place to start investing where confidence is high in the inevitability of achieving very profitable returns.

Singapore provides many opportunities for people looking to invest in various sectors including shipping, finance, tourism, pharmaceuticals, and others. It can also benefit from the extensive network of Singapore trade agreements, ease of doing business, an attractive tax system and intellectual property protection system, so business owners around the world consider Singapore an ideal place to grow their business and as a springboard to take advantage of other emerging markets in Asia.

Investor-Friendly:

Another investment attraction in Singapore is its distinguished

investor-friendly business environment where the corporate tax rate is somewhat low, making it home to 7,000 multinational companies from USA and Japan, and 3,000 companies from India and China. With advanced infrastructure and more than 100 international airlines covering all important destinations around the world.

Zero Corruption

Singapore is known for its incorruptible system. Singapore has been ranked 3rd in the annual ranking of least corrupted countries in the world. Mr. Denis Tang from the Corrupt Practice Investigation Bureau (CPIB) said in one of his statement that “Working hand in hand with all the community and stakeholders the CPIB remains committed and resolute in the fight against corruption”.

Real estate:

There are many reasons why real estate in Singapore is very attractive, as it is easy to find and the process of buying is easy with flexible price negotiations. Therefore, investing in this sector is one of the best ways to make good profits.



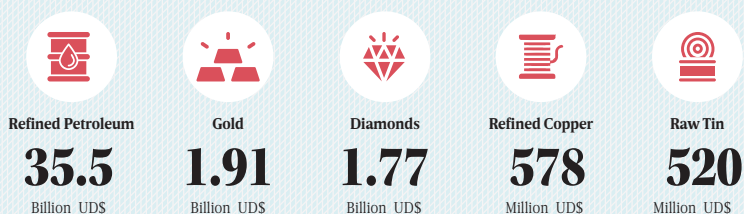
Singapore provides many opportunities for people looking to invest in various sectors including shipping, finance, tourism and pharmaceuticals

TOP SINGAPORE'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS COMMODITIES:

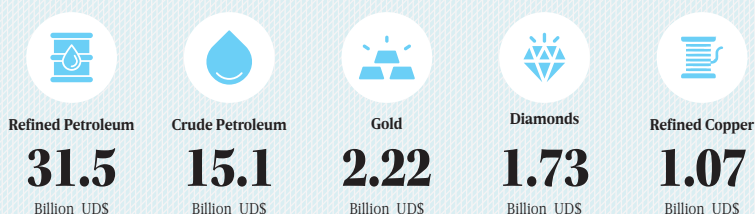
Singapore is often described as one of Asia's economic tigers and is additionally renowned for its conservatism and strict local laws, it is also currently ranked as the 14th largest export economy in the world. The country has annual exports of \$315 billion and imports of \$259 billion, giving it a positive trade balance of \$55.4 billion. The GDP of Singapore is \$296 billion and its GDP per capita is \$87,900. Export values have risen steadily in the last thirty years and Singapore has seen a rise in the last five years from \$250 billion to \$315 billion per year during that period.

Leading export destinations of Singapore are China (\$42.9 billion), Hong Kong (\$41.6 billion), Malaysia (\$35 billion), Indonesia (\$25.8 billion) and the United States (\$22.6 billion).

SINGAPORE'S TOP 5 COMMODITY EXPORTS:



SINGAPORE'S TOP 5 COMMODITY IMPORTS:



SINGAPORE TOURISM

Time for fun, after businesses and meetings are over, do not deprive yourself of the pleasure of exploring the beauty of Singapore. As it is a commercial and attractive country for investments, it is also a first-class tourist country that combines Chinese, Indian and Malaysian cultures with a touch of European taste.

Singapore offers a completely different experience from the rest of Southeast Asia, as it is a well-organized modern city, and everyone speaks fluent English, and it can be compared more to the cities of the United States and Europe than it is similar to the Asian countries.

Although Singapore is a fairly small city, it is divided into several regions, each with a unique and very different atmosphere and culture. Visiting Little India looks like it is in real India, while Sentosa Island makes you wonder if you have come to California, and walking around Gardens by the Bay and Marina Bay makes you feel like you've passed the time to the future.

As Singapore is one giant city whose sights can be explored in a maximum period of three



days, we advise you plan to visit other near tourist destinations such as Vietnam, Thailand or Malaysia, it is not more than 22 km from the city of Johor Bahru in Malaysia, and about 4 or 5 hours by bus or train from the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

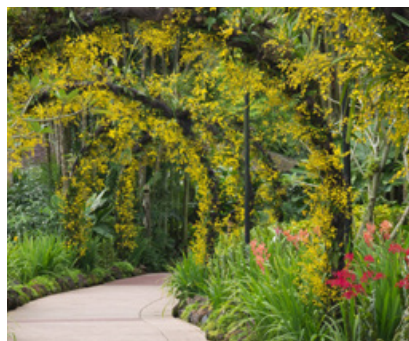
You don't have to be a retail junkie or foodie to have fun in Singapore. Non-shoppers can potter around the mosques and cafés of the Arab quarter, nose into the shops of Chinatown, have breakfast with an orang utan at Singapore Zoo, catch a show at the Esplanade or have their fortunes told by a parrot in Little India.

Here, There, Everywhere

Whizzing around Singapore can take a matter of minutes, thanks to one of the world's most efficient and widespread public transport systems. Hankering for breakfast in Little India, but want to visit the temples in Chinatown before lunch? No problem, you'll be there in a jiffy using the sparkling MRT system – and why not stop at Marina Bay for a spot of shopping on your way? Plus, with new metro lines opening practically every two years, this tiny island just keeps on becoming easier to explore.

Singapore food & drink

Food is an obsession with Singaporeans – and frankly, who can blame them when the food is this good? Don't expect too



many fancy restaurants; the focus here is on the food rather than the surroundings. Most people eat in unpretentious food courts or hawker centres where Asian food is served up at bargain prices. Chinese, Indian and Malay food is the norm here.

When to go to Singapore:

Singapore is very humid for most of the year. November and December are usually the coolest, wettest months. Chinese New Year (Jan/Feb – date varies year on year) is a great time to visit.

Transportation:

Public transport is excellent in Singapore. The whole island is covered by the MRT (Mass Rapid Transport System) which is a cheap way to zip around the city.

Singapore accommodation:

There are plenty of hotels in Singapore – especially if you've got cash to flash. High-end and mid-range options are the norm. There are budget options (the majority in little India and Chinatown) but communal dorms in resthouses can be variable, to say the least. There's a campsite at Changi and East Coast Parkway. If you're stuck, Singapore Hotel Association has desks at the airport and will find you a room for a small fee.

Languages:

The four official languages of Singapore are: English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

AUTHORIZED ECONOMIC OPERATOR (AEO)

ADOPTION OF AI ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES



The World Customs Organization has approved Dubai Customs' initiative of launching an international platform for the best practices and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) mutual recognition agreements among AEO members.

Dubai Customs will lead the way in facilitating the exchange of secure data between the WHO and the member customs administrations.

The WCO endorsed the initiative in the latest Brussels SAFE sessions last October. Dubai Customs was selected to develop the AEO platform owing to its world class status in customs innovation and adoption of AI advanced technologies.

Other factors that encouraged the WCO to approve the AEO platform initiative is the strong international relationships and intensive network that Dubai Customs enjoys, coupled with its strategic role as a world strategic trade enabler.

"We are proud to be selected to develop and promote a global AEO platform that represents the future of the world trade,"

said Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director General of Dubai Customs. "Our development plan will be in line with our AEO strategy 2.0 and in fulfilment of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai of fostering the position of Dubai as a global hub for trade and tourism."

Musabih stated that Dubai Customs has played a pivotal role in activating and implementing the Authorized Economic Operator in the UAE under the aegis of the UAE Federal Customs Authority. There are 70 companies registered in the program now. Recent figures released by Dubai Customs showed that 5.6 million customs transactions have been completed through the Authorized Economic Operator in 2019, and this makes 43% of the total 13 million.

Member companies made 36% operational cost reduction and 53% faster customs clearance.

Director General of Dubai Customs restated the great role AEO will play in supporting

national efforts to host EXPO 2020.

The WCO has also agreed to the request of Dubai Customs and the Federal Customs Authority to reschedule the 5th WCO Global AEO Conference to 15 - 17 February 2021, in Dubai, UAE. The new date will be in conjunction with EXPO 2020, which makes it a better opportunity for all parties to exchange expertise and best practices in trade, economy, culture and innovation. Eman Badr Al-Suwaidy, Director of Customs Valuation Department, who is in charge of the Authorized Economic Operator program, said the program is a WCO requirement to facilitate trade, and cooperation between customs administrations and the private sector is very important. The Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program is a partnership between trade community and customs administrations, in which actors in the global supply chain can apply for AEO status to receive trade facilitation benefits and, at the same time, verify and increase their level of compliance and security.



RAK CUSTOMS OPENS THE NEW SAQR PORT CONTAINER X-RAY SCANNING INSPECTION SYSTEM

HE Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, Director General of RAK Customs Department, opened recently the new container X-ray scanning inspection system at Saqr Port Customs Centre, with a number of departmental managers and representatives from the Department's strategic partners and the manufacturer and supplier of the system in attendance.

HE Dr. Al Mehrezi, accompanied by Mr. Akram Ciu, General Manager of Nuctech Middle East FZE, toured the facility where

the new scanning system, which is the new generation of high energy portal container, truck, and passenger vehicle inspection systems and which provides efficient screening methods and high quality imaging

they viewed the system in operation and the upgrades and developments introduced through the deployment of this latest and technically advanced inspection

equipment to assist RAK Customs inspectors in their duties.

HE Dr. Al Mehrezi said "Such systems are in use by customs administrations across the UAE and globally and upgrading to the latest technology at Saqr Port will enable our department to undertake inspections to a high level for the purposes of safety and border security of the country whilst importantly facilitating trade through the use of such non-intrusive methods of inspection to bring further happiness to the society and people from all walks of life in the UAE," Al Mehrezi stated.

He added that the system is suitable for inspection of most vehicles such as containers, trucks, car vans, mini buses and SUVs at border crossing, seaports and airports.

Al Mehrezi pointed out that high quality scanning images and powerful software tools helps customs inspectors to identify concealed contraband items inside vehicles without opening and such an investment includes training human resources to provide the required level of operation and achieve projected operational levels. He added that the system adopts the concept of compact modular design for convenient integration with other devices such as Radioactivity Monitoring, Under Vehicle Surveillance System, License Plate Recognition, Container Code Recognition, CCTV and RFID.

RAK CUSTOMS CARRIES OUT THE FIRST BUSINESS CONTINUITY DRILL BY ACTIVATING THE ALTERNATIVE CENTRE

RAK Customs Department carried out its first Business Continuity drill in collaboration with the National Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA), with the aim of measuring the capability of the Department to continue its critical activities in cases of emergencies, crises or disasters. The Thursday drill targeted the Department's Head Office at all of its staff categories (employees, customers, office boys and messengers).

HE Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi, Director General of RAK Customs Department and Head of Business Continuity Team, had initiated the drill by sending a scenario message to the Operations room, who in their turn activated the Recall Plan to all concerned staff through SMSs stating: "All competent staff have to report to the Alternative Centre due to a contingency at the Head Office." Following completion of the drill, Al Mehrezi instructed the Operations room to send another SMS to all concerned staff informing them that the contingency was over, and normality was restored. HE Dr. Al Mehrezi added that the transfer process to the Alternative Centre was successful by all accounts; all competent staff of the Head Office reported to the Alternative Centre and proceeded with their normal duties in accordance with the set sitting and placement plan without any difficulties experienced. RAK Customs Department is the first department at the level of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, and may be in the UAE, to adopt and implement the Business Continuity policy based on utilisation of an alternative centre. Members of RAK Customs praised the role of the Business Continuity Team in educating them and raising their awareness about handling contingencies and guiding them to quickly respond and carry out the evacuation process in a record time.



RAK CUSTOMS INAUGURATES THE NEW LIGHT AND HEAVY VEHICLES SCANNER AT AL DARA CUSTOMS

On behalf of HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of RAK Customs Department, HE Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, Director General of RAK Customs Department opened, this Monday, the new light and heavy vehicle scanner at Al Dara Customs Centre, with a number of departmental managers and representatives from the Department's strategic partners and the manufacturer and supplier of the system in attendance.

HE Dr. Al Mehrezi toured the facility where he viewed the system in operation and the upgrades and developments introduced through the deployment of this latest and technically advanced inspection equipment to assist RAK Customs inspectors in their duties. HE Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi said that through the patronage and directives of HH Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and rules of Ras Al Khaimah, and HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Saud Al Qasimi, RAK Crown Prince, and the follow-up of HH Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, RAK Chairman of RAK Customs Department, RAK Customs Department constantly continues to identify and update systems used in customs inspections and supplies its customs centres with these systems to

It represents the latest and technically advanced inspection equipment used in the inspection of light and heavy vehicles, which would assist customs inspectors to discover contraband inside vehicles without having to open them.

ensure the safety and security of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE.

"This type of systems is the first ever to be in use in the UAE. Upgrading to the latest technology at Al Dara Customs centre will enable our department to undertake inspections to a high level for the purposes of safety and border security of the country whilst importantly facilitating trade through the use of such non-intrusive methods of inspection to bring further happiness to the society and people from all walks of life in the UAE," Al Mehrezi stated. Al Mehrezi commended the new scanning system, which is the new generation of technically advanced light and heavy vehicle inspection systems and which provides efficient screening methods and very high quality imaging. He added that the system is suitable for inspection of all vehicles such as containers, trucks, car, mini vans, buses and SUVs crossing the land borders.



RAK CUSTOMS LAUNCHES HAFIZ (REWARD) PROGRAMME FOR DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

RAK Customs Department launched recently the internal Customs Rewards Fund program (Hafiz) after it has been fully renovated into an electronic application. The 'Hafiz' program is one of the Happiness initiatives provided by RAK Customs Department to the staff. The launch of the program has been announced during the regular Leadership meeting held by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Mehrezi, the Director General of RAK Customs, with managers and heads of internal departments, sections and customs centers using remote meeting technology. H.E. Dr. Al Mehrezi started the meeting by conveying the greeting and commendation of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Chairman of RAK Customs Department, for the efforts of all departmental leaders, and also expressed the keenness of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed to follow up work progress, particularly amid the current precautionary measures.

The new 'Hafiz' application can produce various reports, all of which will contribute towards precisely monitoring and following up the chain of customs seizures and relating customs rewards. H.E. Dr. Al Mehrezi applauded the explanation given, and added that the 'Hafiz' program will maintain the rights of operational customs staff, and will highlight their efforts and competency in carrying out their work, which will positively reflect on the work environment and will increase productivity of the staff. Before concluding the meeting, Al Mehrezi stressed the necessity for all staff to strictly adhere to and implement the protective and precautionary procedures already in place to fight the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.