

# CUSTOMS

نوافذ جمركية  
Windows

## UAE

An exception  
in global trade and  
economy

## EGYPT

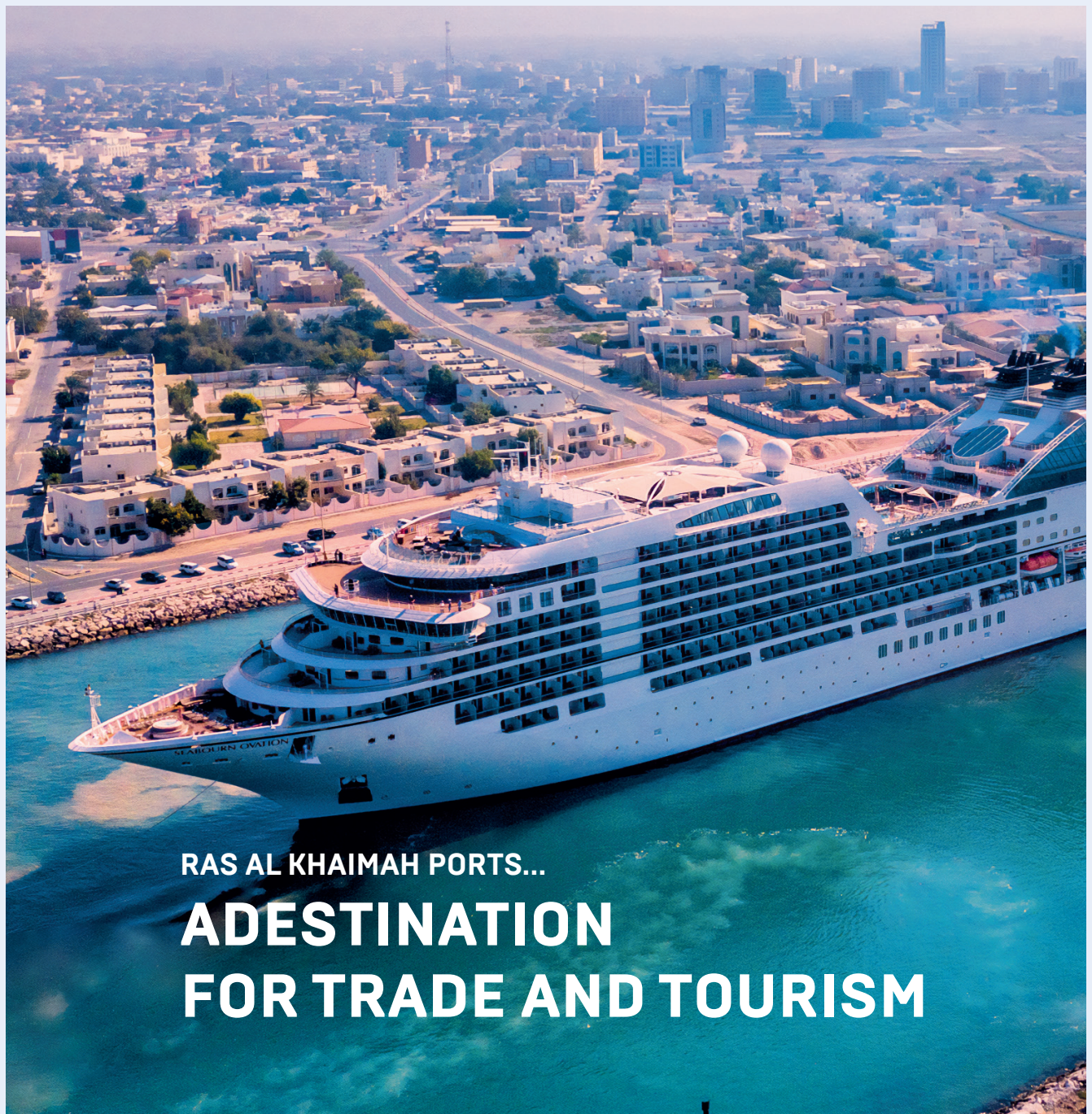
A vigorous human  
reservoir driving  
development

## PRODUCTION COST

Collaboration Continues  
to Create a Business-  
Friendly Environment

## RAK CUSTOMS

Inaugurate the customs  
inspection platform at  
North FreeZones Customs



RAS AL KHAIMAH PORTS...

**A DESTINATION  
FOR TRADE AND TOURISM**



مصرف الشارقة الإسلامي  
SHARJAH ISLAMIC BANK

# Best Trade Finance Solutions for your Business



## Islamic Trade Finance

Sharjah Islamic Bank's Trade Finance solutions suit all your business needs, be it Guarantees, opening Import and Export LCs and financing of LCs.

**For more information:**

**Visit** [www.sib.ae](http://www.sib.ae)

**Call** 065999999

**Email** [tradesales@sib.ae](mailto:tradesales@sib.ae)

Sharjah Islamic Bank is licensed by the Central Bank of the UAE.

Terms and Conditions apply



06 5999999

SIB Business App

[www.sib.ae](http://www.sib.ae)



## ENJOY A GREAT TRAVEL EXPERIENCE WITH FLYDUBAI.

From the moment you step on board, we're focused on making sure you enjoy your flight. Our crew are warm and friendly and are well-trained to look after you and your loved ones.

And with our network of more than 90 destinations, you will have plenty of exciting places to choose from when booking your next trip.

Book today.

**flydubai**•

[flydubai.com](https://flydubai.com)

**General Supervisor:**

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saqr Al  
Qasimi

**Editor-in-chief:**

Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mehrezi

**Editorial Team:**

Ghayeh Saeed Alshamsi

Khawla Jasem Alsuwaidi

**NewGeneration Media Team:**

Khawla Ibrahim

Abdulaziz Alelwi

Zainab Shieha

Maher Safyeldin

**Ras Al Khaimah Customs  
Department Website**

[rakcustoms.rak.ae](http://rakcustoms.rak.ae)

@rakcust



NewGeneration  
Media Consultancy

+971 50 690 0399  
[ngmedia.ae@gmail.com](mailto:ngmedia.ae@gmail.com)

Opinions expressed in articles are the writer's own and do not reflect the view of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department of Customs Window Magazine. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information published, the publisher also disclaims any legal responsibility towards other parties.



## دائرة الجمارك Customs Department



**Mission:**

To protect the society from prohibited items and facilitate the movement of legitimate trade with innovative tools, so as to develop a competitive and sustainable economy.



**Vision:**

A leading customs administration in protection of society and supporting of the competitive economy.



**Institutional Value:**

- \* Ambitious Vision.
- \* Leadership and Pioneering.
- \* Institutional Agility.
- \* Happiness and Wellbeing.
- \* Knowledge Awareness.



**Customs Strategic Goals:**

- \* Reinforce customs security.
- \* Contribute to the expansion of trade volume.
- \* Enhance the quality of services.
- \* Ensure institutional evolution.

## Ras Al Khaimah Ports... A destination For trade and tourism



**with** its vital geographic location, the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah incubates several seaports that play a prominent role in supporting and strengthening the economy of the UAE in general and Ras Al Khaimah in particular driving the trade moving forward. Today, the port of Ras Al Khaimah continues its path of progress that distinguishes all ports of the UAE due to its advanced infrastructure. Expansions and the introduction of more deep quays have enabled Ras Al Khaimah ports to accommodate larger vessels and handle different types of goods, including bulk and LCL cargo, general commodities, and various shipping containers. This has deservedly well-positioned our ports to best oversee large supply chains for thousands and thousands of companies from all over the world and has made them an ideal destination, through which goods can easily flow from and to the UAE.

With four seaports in total and Saqr Port as the largest bulk-handling port in the Middle East and North Africa, the import and export movement has seen substantial growth and speed in delivery due to the use of cutting-edge technologies. This was particularly true with the start of the global trade movement recovery. The movement of cargo from and to the seaports of Ras Al Khaimah has also recovered back to normal to continue the path of progress and remarkable achievements.

Perhaps and most notably, tourist activity to Ras Al Khaimah through its seaports, airport and land borders is recovering to its previous levels as well. Ras Al Khaimah Port (Khor) starts to receive cruise ships as the season is back at the Port, which has already kicked this cruise season off by receiving Silversea Spirit cruise ship.

Ras Al Khaimah Port (Khor) is considered an ideal point of embarkation for the cruise tourism sector due to its proximity to the city center and thanks to its modern and improved port facilities that are equipped with very advanced infrastructure and amenities, which promise cruise passengers with a smooth and comfortable experience. This particularly comes on the heels of opening the cruise passenger terminal that is dedicated to serve luxurious cruises and cruise lines. The cruise terminal can receive cruise ships of up to 210 meters long and 1000 passengers in capacity and is equipped with the most advanced electronic gates for completing immigration procedures, advanced CCTV and x-ray baggage machines.

Ras Al Khaimah ports have recently bolstered their leading position as a favorable destination for luxurious cruise lines from around the globe thanks to their innovative facilities and transformation from being goods and international trade terminals, in essence, into an international leading destination for cruise tourism. This, beyond question, has supported the position of Ras Al Khaimah as a prominent international destination that offers outstanding, enhanced services and speed of processing arrival and departure procedures for all passengers, plus a genuine promise of a comprehensive experience around every corner of Ras Al Khaimah and a memorable unique experience]]

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

---

## [ CONTENTS ]

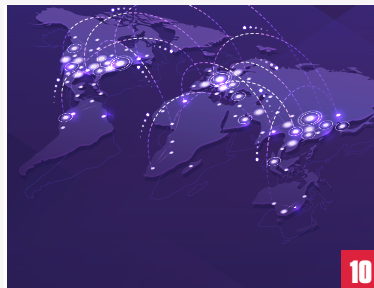


### 08 | Ras Al Khaimah Port receives “Silversea Spirit”

RAK Ports is closely working with the other competent authorities on constantly developing the delivered services in order to offer an outstanding tourist product, and attract a greater share of the global tourism.

### 10 | The comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPAs)

The first phase of the Fifty Projects in UAE includes forming comprehensive economic partnerships with strategic global markets and increasing current trade exchange with these markets as part of their strategic plan.



### 14 | Mohammed bin Rashid UAE is an exception in global trade and economy

The UAE is exceptional in global trade, economy, services, infrastructure, and international relations. Hoping for a stronger and more united Union. Wishing UAE and its people prosperity.



### 10 | DP World Embraces Metaverse to Solve Real World Supply Chain Challenges



### 21 | Inspection Services

RAK Customs Department provides inspection services on goods, passengers, and transportation, whether imported or exported.

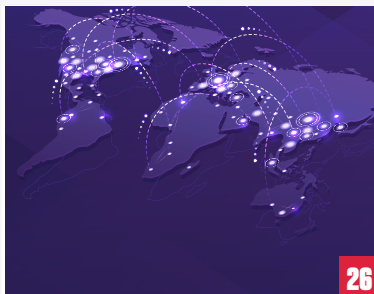
## 18 | Targeted strikes against drug traffickers

Customs in the UAE continues to target and stop drug traffickers and prevent their attempts to smuggle drugs and psychoactive substances through the country's customs ports.



## 26 | Mohammed bin Rashid UAE is an exception in global trade and economy

The UAE is exceptional in global trade, economy, services, infrastructure, and international relations. Hoping for a stronger and more united Union. Wishing UAE and its people prosperity.



### Mohammed bin Saud

Witness the celebrations of "RAK Customs" on the 51st UAE National Day



### RAK Customs

Inaugurate the customs inspection platform at the North Free Zones Customs



### Mahmoud Mohamed Fathy

RAK customs assists TAG in the smooth running of its activities



## 22 | 'Production Cost' Procedures, Collaboration Continues to Create a Business-Friendly Environment

Implemented by the RAK Customs facilitates cooperation between companies operating in the free zones in the emirate and local market companies throughout UAE.



## 28 | Egypt is A vigorous human reservoir driving development and growth

Most of the economic activity in Egypt is centered around the Nile Valley, and it is based on agriculture, tourism, media, oil exports, cotton and textile exports.



RAK Ports Group is closely working with the other competent authorities on constantly developing the delivered services in order to offer an outstanding tourist product, and attract a greater share of the global tourism.

## Ras Al Khaimah Port receives “Silversea Spirit”

Ras Al Khaimah (Khor) Port received, yesterday, the ‘Silversea Spirit’ cruise ship that was carrying 761 tourists on board, in addition to the crew. This was the second ship during this cruise season to call to the Port, which is expected to receive the third cruise ship in the upcoming few days.

Iyad Rasbey, Executive Director of Destination Tourism Development and MICE at Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, said, “as Ras Al Khaimah inaugurates the new cruise ships season, and through our partnership with RAK Ports Group and the other competent authorities that is aimed at developing an advanced maritime transportation infrastructure across all seaports of Ras Al Khaimah, we are set to receive up to 50 cruises and 10 thousand passengers within the upcoming three cruise seasons.”

He confirmed that the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah is all ready to receive the most prestigious cruise ships in the world, and attract this growing segment of passengers and tourists whose goal is to enjoy the fabulous natural peculiarities that are unique to Ras Al Khaimah, as a leading destination for cruises. Ras Al Khaimah is looking forward to continuing to welcome cruise ships of different specialties.



**Iyad Rasbey:**  
Ras Al Khaimah is all ready to receive the most prestigious cruise ships in the world, and attract this growing segment of passengers

### AN IDEAL POINT OF DISEMBARKATION

Captain Mike Magee, RAK Ports Group Harbor Master at Ras Al Khaimah Port “Khor” asserted that Ras Al Khaimah Port is characterized with its proximity to Ras Al Khaimah city center. This qualifies the Port to be an ideal point of disembarkation for the cruise sector, not to mention the advanced and modern cruise terminal that the Port incorporates.

Ras Al Khaimah Port offers a set of the most comprehensive and flexible services as that provided by the best global ports. The Port has various advantages, including the accessibility to the free zone, and a direct access to various tourist, historic and cultural destinations. The competent authorities offer a tourist program to introduce the various tourism components of Ras Al Khaimah, from recreation and exploration of the Emirati culture to the adventure tourism. We are aspired to expand our strategic partnership with the well-known international brands and receive more of those cruise ships into Ras Al Khaimah Port.

Jasem Zaiton, Cruise Tourism Development Adviser at Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development, said that receiving “Silversea Spirit” at Ras Al Khaimah Port came in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, to reinforce the position of Ras Al Khaimah through its tourism components and to offer more attractions for international tourists to come, relish and spend enjoyable times amidst the incredible tourist packages that the Emirate offers.

He emphasized that the arrival procedures were quickly and efficiently completed for all passengers. This enabled them to easily start their tourist program by visiting the museums, historic and cultural sites and the local souks of the Emirate.]]

## UAE calls for joint international action to develop global trade”

Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, has called on the global trading community to move forward with reforms to modernise and support the efficient flow of goods and services.



During a recent visit to the World Trade Organisation's General Council meeting in Geneva, Dr Al Zeyoudi, who led the UAE delegation, called for measures to support joint efforts to back the global body's role as a forum for trade negotiations and an effective platform for solving disputes.

Global trade is both a key catalyst for inclusive global growth and an important remedy for current economic headwinds, Mr Al Zeyowudi told the council, which is the WTO's highest decision-making body.

Now is the time to push for greater progress to embrace digitalisation and enhance strategic digital trade policies, as well as to strengthen the WTO's role as a forum for trade negotiation and rule-making, and an effective platform for dispute resolution and arbitration,” Mr Al Zeyoudi said.

The WTO Goods Trade Barometer issued on August 23 suggested that the trade of global goods continued to grow in the second quarter of 2022.

However, the pace of growth was slower than in the first quarter and is expected to remain weak in the second half of the year. The organisation lowered its forecast for



**Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi**  
Now is the time to push for greater progress to embrace digitalisation and enhance strategic digital trade policies

global trade growth this year to 3 per cent, from 4.7 per cent, due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Global trade growth in 2023 is expected to be 3.4 per cent.

Mr Al Zeyoudi sought support for the UAE's bid to host the 13th WTO ministerial conference in Abu Dhabi in December 2023.

The UAE, the Arab world's second-largest economy, has strong trade ties globally, a history of support for multilateralism and a track record in hosting international events, which make it an ideal venue for the conference, Mr Al Zeyoudi told ambassadors from WTO member states.

“As we emerge from the biggest disruption to supply chains in our lifetimes, member states must continue to reject isolationism and protectionism, and pursue multilateral, multilevel partnerships that accelerate the flow of goods, remove unnecessary barriers to trade and catalyse industrial activity and job creation,” he said.

“With our Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement agenda, we have placed trade at the heart of our new economic policy.”

The UAE signed Cepas with India, Israel and Indonesia, and negotiations are under way for a similar pact with Turkey and Georgia, as the country looks to double the size of its national economy and push gross domestic product beyond Dh3 trillion (\$817 billion) by 2030.

Mr Al Zeyoudi also met with Ngozi Iweala, WTO director general, Rebeca Grynspan, secretary general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and Borge Brende, president of the World Economic Forum.



## THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (CEPAS)

By: Yousef Mahmoud Abu Rumi

THE

UAE has recently launched its Higher Committee for Economic Agreements (HCEA). The launch came in implementation of the UAE's strategic plans that were announced as part of the Projects of the 50. Such projects are intended to drive the upcoming phase of growth and sustainable development in the UAE over the upcoming fifty years. Throughout its first phase, eight comprehensive economic partnership agreements will be entered into with some strategic global markets and the present trade exchange with those markets will subsequently be increased. Most importantly, access to the

**In execution of the strategic plan within the Fifty Projects of the United Arab Emirates, the first phase will include contracting comprehensive economic partnerships with strategic global markets and raising the current trade exchange with these markets.**

global markets will be elevated, customs duties will be reduced or even eliminated, clear and transparent trade rules will be set and competitiveness on the basis of fair trade will be boosted.

The UAE commenced these ambitious projects by entering into two comprehensive economic partnership agreements with the states of India and Israel. In this article, we will cast some light on these two agreements and their economic feasibility for the UAE.

#### **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH INDIA:**

On 18th February 2022, the UAE signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with India, and the agreement entered into force on 1st May 2022. It is expected that as soon as this agreement becomes effective, the following immediate gains will be realized:

1. simpler customs procedures: such as facilitation of cross-border customs clearance for economic operators and adoption of international best practices in customs management techniques.
2. clear and transparent rules of trade: such as setting preferential rules of origin that govern the criteria under which traded goods will eligible for tariff reduction or elimination, in addition to a minimum percentage of the value added.
3. providing UAE exporters with greater access to the Indian market through tariff elimination or reduction on more than 80% of goods.
4. providing the opportunity to access India's government procurement that will grant a price preference of 10% in favor of national companies, SMEs and green companies in tenders for goods and services that are covered by the agreement.
5. greater information and guidance for SMEs by

providing a mechanism for information sharing in relation to trade-related aspects.

#### **ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL:**

The UAE also entered its second comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the State of Israel on 31st May 2022, after signing its first agreement with India. This agreement has the announced objective of strengthening trade and investment relationships and advancing the non-oil bilateral trade beyond USD 10 billion within five years.

Among the most important advantages of this agreement to the UAE are the following:

1. eliminating customs tariffs on more than 96% of goods that generate about 99% of the export revenues.
2. enhancing access to the Israeli market for UAE exporters.
3. attracting more investments and creating new opportunities in priority sectors, such as energy, environment, digital trade, digital economy and advanced technology.
4. stimulating the growth of service sectors, such as hospitality, financial services, distribution and construction.
5. providing a platform for SMEs in both counties to expand internationally by providing these enterprises with accessibility to new customers, networks and cooperation means.
6. adding USD 1.9 billion to the UAE's GDP over the same time period.
7. achieving solid annual increase in the value of non-oil exports for the UAE **]]**



## UAE STRESSES THE NEED TO UNITE EFFORTS TO REMOVE CARBON FROM SHIPPING AND PORTS

UAE has maintained its position among the top global commodity trading hubs, according to the third iteration of the Commodity Trade Index presented in DMCC's latest Future of Trade 2022 report.

**WITH** the presence of its permanent representative to the International Maritime Organisation Mohamed Khamis Al Kaabi along with Capt Saif Al Mheiri, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Maritime, an official delegate participated in The World Maritime Day Parallel Event (WMDPE) which was hosted by the Government of South Africa in the City of Durban under the theme of "New Technologies, Greener Shipping". On the role of the UAE in developing the global maritime sector, Al Kaabi said: "The UAE is among the most influential countries in developing the maritime industry and has established its pioneering position among the leading maritime hubs globally. Through its membership in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council, the country plays a pivotal role in meeting regional and global maritime needs. We will continue to work with the other member states to advance the global maritime sector and enhance the role of IMO in supporting the safety, security and

**Mohamed Khamis Al Kaabi :**  
UAE has always been one of the most influential countries in developing the maritime sector, occupying a competitive status among the best maritime hubs worldwide.

efficiency of maritime transport in clean oceans. The UAE has played an effective role in introducing fundamental amendments to many resolutions that contribute to developing and improving work systems to keep pace with global changes and latest technological developments, especially with regards to green shipping.

Al Kaabi added: "The theme for this year's World Maritime Day Parallel Event, "New technologies for greener shipping", requires all countries to unite and take action on decarbonisation of shipping and ports through the use of zero or low carbon technologies, fuels and infrastructure. The shipping sector produces 2-3% of global CO2 emissions.

"Therefore, IMO has set a target to cut the sector's carbon emissions by at least 40% by 2030, pursuing efforts towards 70% by 2050 compared to 2008 levels and to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008, with the aim of phasing them out as soon as possible in this century. The technologies and infrastructure for new fuels must be ready for wide market uptake in shipping by 2030 for the sector to meet the IMO's 2050 target. This will require major collaboration with energy companies, ports, shipping companies and cargo owners." The delegation also attended a high-level ministerial roundtable to discuss significant topics; such as international industry challenges and opportunities, strengthening the capacity building and IMO Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) **||**



## DP World Embraces Metaverse to Solve Real World Supply Chain Challenges

The metaverse presents a huge opportunity to solve real-world supply chain bottlenecks, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World, said at the first Dubai Metaverse Assembly.

### SPEAKING

at a fireside chat, Bin Sulayem reiterated the power of technology to create equal economic opportunities and cement Dubai's position as a global trade hub in the digital age.

"Over the past decade, we have seen the power of data and technology enabling global transparency," he said. "Especially in the last two years, global supply chains have undergone turbulent moments because of the pandemic and geopolitical tension. Now more than ever, businesses and governments are ready to embrace technologies that will boost the resiliency and sustainability of our supply chains," he added. According to The Analysis Group, the metaverse could add USD 3 trillion to the global economy within a decade. "I believe it will be far more," said Bin Sulayem, as more industries acknowledge the need to move away from archaic technologies and paperwork.

"We are exploring the usage of the metaverse across our services, including simulations of warehousing



**Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem:** Digital solutions ensure the continuity of trade flow, reduce challenges in supply chains, and contribute to building international trade networks that are adapted to the future.

and terminal operations, container and vessel repair inspections, safety training, and other commercial uses," he said. "Our customers will now be able to see and understand the whole supply chain from end to end – with full visibility – and take corrective actions in case of logistics bottlenecks. By using this technology, we hope to keep trade flowing, increase visibility and minimize disruption to build trade networks fit for the future."

To build new digital solutions, DP World has opened a new technology center in Bangalore, India, its second tech office in the region, and plans to launch a third in the coming months.

"We are digitalizing a traditionally analogue industry to make trade smarter and more transparent," he explained. "We no longer need to be bound by physical marketplaces or customer interactions; instead, we can reach an unlimited number of new markets and customers."

At DP World's new Trader's Market in Jebel Ali Free-zone, shoppers can have an immersive shopping experience across 1,600 showrooms using the metaverse. "We can open this to an unlimited number of customers around the world. Through the metaverse, we can expand our reach into new markets.]]



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID

# UAE is an exception in global trade and economy

UAE's foreign non-oil trade created another record in the first nine months of 2022, totalling over AED1.6 trillion, a rise of 19 percent compared to the same period in 2021.

## WITH

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, said that despite the predictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of a 3.5 percent decline in international trade this year, the UAE achieved a growth of 19 percent in the first nine months of the year.

He also expects the country's foreign trade to grow to AED2.2 trillion by end of 2022.

"The UAE is an exception in global trade and economy, as well as in services, infrastructure and international relations," he said, expressing optimism for a strong new year.

A report by the Ministry of Economy on the country's non-oil foreign trade for the first nine months of this year showed that non-oil exports maintained their strong performance during this period, amounting to AED275 billion, an increase of nine percent compared to the same period in 2021, and an increase of 43 percent, 53 percent, 73 percent and 99 percent compared to the same period in 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017, respectively.

Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said that the outcomes achieved by the country's non-oil

foreign trade confirm the success of the commercial and economic policies adopted by the UAE, guided by the forward-looking vision of its leadership.

He also noted that the economic developments that took place under the framework of the Projects of the 50 have strengthened the country's foreign trade performance, due to accelerating the pace of signings of trade agreements and growing partnerships with global markets, adding that the strategic location of the UAE as a logistics gateway

**"The United Arab Emirates forms an exception in global trade and economy... and forms an exception in services and infrastructure... and forms an exception in distinctive and stable international relations... Optimistic for a stronger, higher and more unified Union God willing... Allah bless UAE and its people**

allows access to the region's markets, which have also supported this process.

"Today, we are seeing a new achievement to be added to the country's foreign trade sector,



boosting its prominent stature on the world trade map,” Al Zeyoudi further added.

#### **Emirati re-export, import indexes**

Trade data for the first nine months of 2022 showed that the total value of re-exports was AED456 billion, an increase of 19 percent compared to the same period in 2021, and 54 percent compared to the same period in 2020 while imports exceeded AED906 billion, an increase of 22.2 percent compared to the same period in 2021.

The report also noted that the re-exportation of goods helped achieve positive results that strengthened the UAE’s stature on the world trade map, as it is one of the most important commercial centres that support the flow of goods to and from international markets.

Monthly performance of Emirati non-oil trade

The monthly performance of the UAE’s non-oil foreign trade sector is witnessing strong growth this year, and the country recorded a value of AED202.9 billion in March, and AED204.2 billion in September. The UAE’s non-oil trade could reach a value of AED2.2 trillion in 2022 and 2023.

#### **Quarterly performance of Emirati non-oil trade**

Non-oil foreign trade achieved over AED583 billion

**Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi: “The outcomes achieved by the country’s non-oil foreign trade confirm the success of the commercial and economic policies adopted by the UAE, guided by the forward-looking vision of its leadership”**

# 456

**Billion AED,  
Is the volume of  
re-exportation  
during the first 9  
months of 2022”**

during the third quarter of 2022, an increase of 11 percent compared to the second quarter of this year, and an increase of 23 percent compared to the third quarter of 2021.

In the third quarter of 2022, Emirati exports continued their positive performance to achieve nearly AED100 billion, an increase of 11 percent compared to the second quarter of this year, and a rise of 12 percent compared to the third quarter of 2021.

Re-exports in the UAE amounted to AED160 billion, an increase of six percent compared to the second quarter of 2022, and an increase of 17 percent compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The UAE’s imports amounted to AED326 billion, an increase of 13 percent compared to the second quarter of 2022, and an increase of 29 percent compared to the third quarter of 2021.

# 906

**Billion AED,  
The total value of  
the state’s imports  
during the first 9  
months of 2022**

**UAE's top trading partners are China, India, Saudi Arabia, the US, Iraq, and Turkey. Non-Arab Asian countries account for 39% of the UAE's non-oil trade during the first 9 months of 2022. Europe comes in second, followed by GCC countries, non-Arab Africa, other Arab countries, and American countries**

#### Trade partners

The report highlighted the fact that China is on top of the list of the UAE's trading partners, followed by India, Saudi Arabia, the United States (US), Iraq, and Türkiye. They were followed by India, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey, Hong Kong – China, and Oman as the top recipients of the UAE's non-oil exports during the first nine months of 2022.

As for the UAE's imports, China, India, the US, Japan, Türkiye, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia come at the top of this list. The report pointed out that non-Arab Asian countries are the main and first partners in the non-oil trade of the UAE during the first nine months of 2022, which account for 39 percent of the country's non-oil trade, 38 percent of its exports, 29 percent of re-exports, and 44.4 percent of the UAE non-oil imports.

While the European countries came in second place, they were followed by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the non-Arab African countries, the other Arab countries, and the group of American countries.

#### UAE-India trade exchange under CEPA

As the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and India came into force from May to September 2022, mutual trade exchange reached AED79 billion, an increase of 23 percent compared to the same period in 2021, an increase of 133 percent compared to 2020.

Non-oil exports to India amounted to about AED20 billion, an increase of 12 percent compared to the same period in 2021, and over 154 percent and 112 percent compared to the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively]]

## UAE's RECORD NON-OIL TRADE, Q3 2022

The UAE recorded its highest value of quarterly non-oil foreign trade in history in Q3 2022, reaching AED 583 billion. This equates to a growth of 11% over Q2 of 2022 and 23% over Q3 of 2021

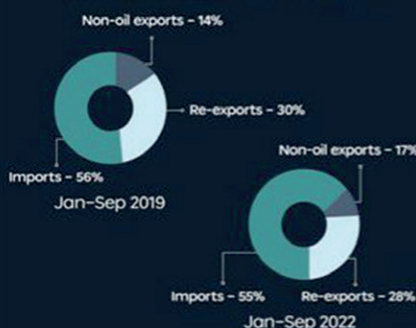
# AED 1.637 trillion

The value of the UAE's non-oil trade reached **AED 1.637 trillion** in the first 9 months of 2022.

### Growth in UAE's non-oil trade January–September



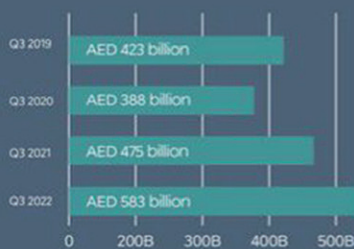
### Increase in exports as share of non-oil trade



### UAE's main trading partners January–September 2022

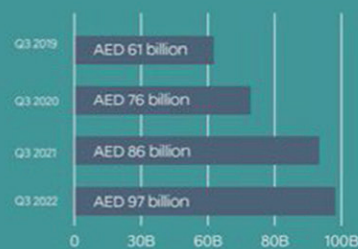


### UAE Q3 trade value



\*Q3 recorded the highest quarterly non-oil foreign trade value in UAE's history

### UAE Q3 export value



\*Q3 recorded the highest quarterly value of non-oil exports



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



## TARGETED STRIKES AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS

### **Seizing 29.3 of Hashish in possession of a GCC citizen**

Officers from Ras Al Khaimah Customs at Al Dara Border Crossing customs center successfully intercepted and seized a significant quantity of Hashish, which was expertly concealed in the spare tire of a vehicle while attempting to smuggle the narcotic substance into the UAE. The necessary legal proceedings were instantly taken, and a seizure report was made for the incident. While performing the customs inspection and when the vehicle was moving down the tunnel of the light and heavy vehicles scanner, the abnormal density of the spare tire kept in the vehicle trunk raised the suspicion of the customs officer operating the scanner. The operator immediately directed the passenger vehicle to the inspection bay to manually inspect the suspected place of the vehicle. The officer in duty was also informed to divert the suspected vehicle for physical search. During the inspection, the customs officer noticed some

changes that seemed to be recently made to the spare tire. The tire was removed for x-ray scanning to double check if there were any suspicious substances inside. According to the followed procedures, the officer in duty asked the driver about what was inside the tire. The driver answered that he did not know. The officer started to take the tire off the rim to see what was inside. It turned out that 28 bags, later on were figured to weigh 29.3 kg, of hashish were concealed inside the tire. The case customs officer made the necessary seizure report, detained the driver, secured the seized substance and contacted the competent authorities to hand the driver over.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department, said that vigilance of Al Dara customs officers, their sense of security and strong knowledge of body language led to this qualitative seizure. He elaborated that the incident was a clear reflection of the efforts



made by the Customs Department to constantly develop its human resources and continuously support them with the latest inspection and examination equipment, whether for use in inspection of goods, passengers or vehicles. This has made an immense contribution towards many recent qualitative seizures and the ultimate protection of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE from different prohibited items.

### **Thwart smuggling of 12.5kg of marijuana, carried by African passenger**

The high security sense supported by the most advanced screening technologies enabled Dubai Customs inspectors to thwart smuggling of 12.5 kg of marijuana at Dubai International Airport, which were carried by a passenger coming from an African country to Dubai International Airport.

Inspection officers at the Passenger Operations Department at Dubai International Airport were able to detect the suspicious bags.

Inspection officers at the Passenger Operations Department at Dubai International Airport were able to identify the suspicious bags after they passed the x-ray machines, which reveal abnormal density in the two

bags. The bags then were searched manually and the marijuana, which was hidden skilfully in the inner lining of the bags, was discovered and seized.

Two plastic bags that contained 2.9kg and 2.7kg of marijuana were hidden in the first bag, and the second bag had two bags that contained 3.4kg and 3.5kg of marijuana, with a total weight of 12.5kg.

The operation started when one of the inspection officers suspected the luggage of a passenger coming on a trip from an African country. At the inspection area, the passenger was asked if he has anything to disclose, but he said there was nothing to disclose. The bags, then, were searched manually and the narcotics were seized.

### **Dubai Customs seizes 36.7kg of marijuana at Dubai International Airport**

Dubai Customs' inspectors managed to thwart the smuggling of 36.76 kg of marijuana at Dubai International Airport. The contraband was skillfully hidden in two bags that belonged to an African passenger.

The inspection officers suspected the two bags that had varying densities during the scanning procedure, and they were manually searched in the presence of the passenger. Black plastic bags that contained foodstuff and the marijuana were discovered. The first bag contained 16.86kg of marijuana and the second one contained 19.9kg, which brought the total weight of the contraband to 36.76kg.

The suspect was handed over to the relevant authorities for further investigation and legal procedures.

Commenting on this, Ibrahim Kamali, Director of Passenger Operations Department said; "We are proud of doing our national duty to secure the borders and protect the society from the hazards of these illegitimate contrabands. Dubai Customs' inspection officers are the first line of defense to secure the borders against the smuggling of prohibited and hazardous shipments. Our inspectors are among the best in the world owing to their distinctive experience and skills. They are an integral part of the Government Department's 2021-2026 strategy and vision, which sees Dubai Customs leading the customs sector worldwide."

Kamali pointed out that smugglers sometimes resort to strange tricks, such as hiding prohibited items in foodstuffs, especially those with strong smells like spices, and dried fish, and even body packing.

Kamali added; "For this, our inspectors joined intensive training workshops and courses to hone their skills in body language and methods of revealing the various concealment and camouflage. These workshops are regularly updated to keep up with the latest trends in the field. Modern technologies, devices and equipment aid the process." **]]**



The purpose of this section is to familiarize the readers with the various customs terms to use them whenever necessary.

### **MANIFEST**

Shall mean a statement made by the captain on the cargo that shall be unloaded from the ship to a specific port; a copy thereof shall be sent to the customs authority and shipping agents. This manifest shall include a full description of cargo, name of importer, weight, number of parcels, volume of cargo, name of ship, number of trip, port of loading, and port of unloading.

### **PROTECTIVE TARIFF**

Shall mean a tariff enacted for the purpose of protecting or encouraging a domestic industry, by fixing a high customs percentage on imported commodities that rival similar commodities made locally. Such tariff shall work on promoting and diversifying the national industry, but, at the same time, it increases the production cost; hence, the buying power of citizens shall be affected.

### **RE-EXPORTATION**

Shall mean exportation of commodities or goods that were previously imported from a foreign country without manufacturing the same or introducing a major change therein. This process takes place in case of rejecting cargo by the importer because of violations in the shipping conditions. Further, the cargo shall be re-exported to the country of origin or any other country in case the customs and health authorities refuse to clear the cargo because it is unfit for human consumption.

### **EXPORT DUTIES**

Shall mean the rate of indirect tax levied by the government on the commodities exported abroad and paid by the exporter, whether it shall be borne by the exporter directly or transferred to the producer and collected by the importer. Export duties also include the fees levied by the government against the right of exportation.

### **EXPORT INCENTIVES**

Shall mean the Financial aid granted by the government to local companies with view of encouraging exports and helping the balance of payment of the state. Export incentives shall include direct subsidies for lowering exports prices – export aid, tax privileges-exemption of profits yielded from exports, credit facilities- financing exportation with minimal costs, financial guarantees – bad debts reserve. Other countries consider export incentives as unfair trade practices; accordingly, they take retaliatory measures.

### **EXPORT RESTRAINT AGREEMENT**

Shall mean an arrangement between an exporting country and an importing country that limits the volume of a certain product(s) trade, particularly the exports and imports between two countries shall not exceed specific limits or percentage of the local sales in the importing country. Hence, an export restraint agreement shall be such a measure that protects local producers in the importing country from competitors abroad and enhances the balance of payment in that country.

### **EXPORT SUBSIDIES**

Shall mean the subsidies paid by the country to encourage exports.

### **HARBOR OR PORT DUES**

Shall mean port fees paid by importers and exporters in return for using port facilities, anchorage places. Exportation procedures/ company registration: All economic establishments, sole proprietorship or companies, should be registered at the Ministry of Economy and Trade by virtue of Law, as companies are categorized into public stock company/ limited private company/ company/ limited company- limited partnership / foreign trade dealing card. Having registered the company at the Ministry of Economy, the merchant shall file an application to obtain a foreign trade dealing card to be annexed.

### **FREE ON BOARD**

Shall mean that the importer bears the risk of cargo after loading the same aboard the ship. Accordingly, the importer shall pay an insurance cost once cargo is shipped from the port of departure as the cargo price does not include the transport and insurance cost.

### **CIF**

Shall mean the price of cargo along with insurance and freight. It indicates that the exporter shall pay the costs of insurance and freight until cargo reaches the port of arrival. The exporter shall bear the responsibility for cargo until it reaches the port of the importer as the price includes cost, insurance, and freight. The bill of lading is the carriage contract between the carrier and cargo owner, which shall be issued by the carrier, and shall be either negotiable or not. The term “negotiation” means the possibility of selling goods while they are still in the carriage phase. The airway bill, which is a document (for air shipment only) shall form a confirmation by the carrier of receiving cargo to be carried.]]



## Inspection Services

Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department provides inspection services on goods, passengers, and transportation, whether imported or exported, in customs areas

### INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF CUSTOMS RELEASE

It is a service provided by the Customs Department to customers through the inspection and examination of shipments, and inbound and outbound modes of transport at customs zones and which are intended for total or partial clearance under one of the customs procedures after completion of registration and documentation procedures for applying for issue of approved customs declarations.

#### Service Delivery Requirements

- The customs declaration made by the clearance companies
- Approvals of competent authorities

#### Service Requirements

The customs declaration along with all its attachments.

### CUSTOMS CLEARANCE INSPECTION

The power given to the competent employees of the Customs Department to inspect and examine goods (under different types of customs declaration) at areas of customs jurisdiction when entering and exiting the customs posts.

#### Service Requirements

The inspection and examination report based on the customs declaration issued by the customs post.

#### Service Fee

As per Customs Circular No. 19 of 2011 concerning the UAE Customs Services Charges

### SEARCH OF PASSENGERS

The power given to the competent employees of the Customs Department to search passengers and their baggage at customs

areas of jurisdiction when entering or exiting the customs posts.

#### Service Requirements

The inspection and examination report based on the customs declaration issued by the customs post.

#### Service Fee

As per Customs Circular No. 19 of 2011 concerning the UAE Customs Services Charges.

### TRANSPORTATION INSPECTION

The power given to the competent employees of the Customs Department to inspect means of transport at customs areas of jurisdiction when entering or exiting the customs posts.

#### Service Fee

As per Customs Circular No. 19 of 2011 concerning the UAE Customs Services Charge



## [ Free Zones ]

## 'PRODUCTION COST' PROCEDURES

COLLABORATION CONTINUES TO  
CREATE A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY  
ENVIRONMENT

**DUE** to the exponential growth in trade volume in Ras Al Khaimah free zones, whether the free zones of RAK Economic Zone (RAKEZ) or those of RAK Ports Group, and the ability of such free zones to attract lots of specialized international companies operating in all walks of industry, Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department decided to put into practice a set of new customs procedures to break new ground for cooperation between the UAE local market companies and the free zone companies operating in Ras Al Khaimah. This has allowed both sides to enter into memoranda of understanding and mutual contracts, particularly those companies who are capable of performing complicated manufacturing operations that are unparalleled in the UAE local market.

The Production Cost procedures are focused on handling some business models that require the movement of items owned by a company located in the UAE local market to complete certain manufacturing stages and operations by one of the free zone companies. This enables free zone companies to offer their services and expertise to complete manufacturing processes for such items resulting in a product that is returned back to the local market company, the owner of the project. The customs tax will then be levied only on the cost of the production operations performed by the free zone company, and not the whole product later removed from the free zone.

**Production Cost Procedures:**

According to Article 2 of the Customs Policy No. 2 of 2020 concerning the Free Zone Procedures, the customs duties will be collected on the production cost value of the others' goods, which are not owned by the free zone companies and which are admitted into the free zone for the purposes of processing, modifying, cutting and painting when these goods are returned to the local market company.

**Registration mechanism for the Production Cost Calculation system:**

- The free zone company that owns an industrial license will submit an application to Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department for registration in the Production Cost Calculation system for services provided by such a company on goods or items owned by another local market company.
- The competent customs center will raise a report to the Department following a visit to the applicant free zone company to ensure that the industrial activities that will be performed are in conformity with the actual activity stated on the industrial license issued to that company.
- Following meticulous audit of the application, the Director General of the Customs Department will approve the registration of the free zone company into the Production Cost Calculation system.
- The free zone company will be registered in the Production Cost Calculation system for two renewable years.



Application mechanism for the Production Cost Calculation system:

- The free zone company will fill in the (Production Cost Approval) form for each mutual contract, memorandum of understanding or invoice. The form has to be submitted to the competent customs center after attaching the required documents, i.e. the purchase order, invoice, memorandum of understanding between the free zone company and the local market company that owns the goods or items, etc.
- The manager of the competent customs center will approve the form after auditing the data filled in.
- Necessary customs declarations will be made and the customs duty (tax) will be calculated based on the actual production cost agreed within the contract, and not on the total value of the product when removed out of the free zone back to the local market.

#### **Application controls of the Production Cost system:**

- The production operations agreed within the contract or memorandum of understanding have to be completed and the goods have to be removed out of the free zone to the local market company within a period that does not exceed 6 months for each contract or memorandum of understanding.
- The company must list in the Production Cost Approval form the imported items on which the customs duty (tax) have not been paid yet in order to duly collect such duties when the items are removed from the free zone.
- The free zone company also has to state the actual production cost in dirhams, and not as a percentage of the product value.

**"The 'Production Cost' Procedures implemented by the Customs Department in RAS Al Khaimah facilitates cooperation between companies operating in the free zones in the emirate and local market companies throughout the United Arab Emirates."**

#### **The control role of the competent customs center:**

- The competent customs center will regularly audit the industrial companies approved within the Production Cost Calculation system.
- In case of suspecting that the company has breached the controls of the Production Cost in any of the contracts that the company submit, the customs offences system will be triggered against the offending company in accordance with the guide approved by the Department, and registration of the company in the Production Cost Calculation system will be suspended.

In general, the Production Cost system that was put into effect by the Department has helped create a business-friendly environment. The system has also facilitated cooperation between companies operating within Ras Al Khaimah free zones and the local market companies all over the UAE, and has supported the ability of the free zone authorities in Ras Al Khaimah to promote and market the free zones in order to attract more investors<sup>II</sup>.



## Raman spectroscopy and handheld inspection devices

Customs administrations all over the world carry out several tasks that are mainly concentrated on two areas: the protection of borders and the collection of revenues. One challenge to customs work is the vast amounts of substances that are transported through borders and that need to be inspected and examined before customs clearance. Failure to confirm which substance may be inside a container would impose an imminent risk to public health, security and the environment. Therefore, customs deploy a significant number of inspection and examination devices that heavily rely on advanced scientific concepts, including x-ray, Raman spectroscopy, Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), etc.

Raman spectroscopy is a trusted technique that provides highly accurate results when used in analyzing and identifying chemicals, narcotics, and explosives. Raman spectroscopy is a laser-based technology that utilizes a single laser to examine a sample. The process is done by measuring the light that is scattered by the substance of interest to customs in order to develop the unique chemical fingerprint.

Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department has recently been using a very advanced application that operates by utilizing the concept of the Raman spectroscopy, namely Rigaku ResQ CQL device for chemical identification.

Rigaku is a handheld devices that can identify more the 13,000 chemical materials. This makes it much easier for the customs inspector to detect and identify explosives, chemicals, narcotics, pesticides, steroids, etc. The device shows the result of the analysis to the inspector in less than a minute.

Rigaku ResQ CQL offers unique features and capabilities:

- doing the analysis in a more convenient way using a small handheld devices.
- identifying prohibited substances/materials.
- adding photographic evidence by using the camera mounted on the device.

### How to collect a sample for analysis:

There are two modes for analysis:

- **QuickDetect Mode:** when selected the material will be analyzed by taking a swap and placing it in the test sample. The device will then be used to read the QR. The material will then be identified in less than one minute.

**LED Mode:** when doing the analysis using the material itself using the device, the LED light will be directed to the sample as illustrated in the picture. The device will show how hazardous the substance being tested is **II**

## Good To Know!

### RELEASE OF IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

his service allows for the release of agricultural products, including cut flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables, raw timber, and plant-based fodder. The consignments are inspected upon arrival at the entry point and are only released if they comply with all import requirements. There are general and specific requirements for these products. In general, it is prohibited to import agricultural shipments that are infected with any quarantine or regulated non-quarantine plant pests. The importing country should not be prohibited and when importing the main hosts from countries infected with the Fall army worm, additional declarations of Phytosanitary certificates must be provided to prove that the consignments are free from fall armyworm. For feed, Disinfections and/or Disinfection Treatment of Phytosanitary certificates must be provided to prove that the consignment has been treated with fumigation. Special requirements for vegetables and fruits include being free of pesticide residues or within permissible limits in accordance with the standards adopted by the United Arab Emirates and in accordance with the decisions issued by the Ministry. Certificates of analysis of pesticide residues must be attached for certain countries and types of products. When importing certain products from countries infected with Tomato leafminer, additional declarations of Phytosanitary certificates must be provided to prove that the consignments are free from all pest stages.



## TOP TIPS FOR TRAVELERS TO UAE

**THE** exemptions and restrictions on items that passengers can carry while traveling to the UAE, including items that are exempt from customs duties and disclosure requirements for cash and restricted items. The regulations include limits on the value of gifts, permissible limits for cigarettes and alcohol, and requirements for disclosure of cash and certain items.

**Luggage that are exempted from customs duties that passengers can carry while traveling to the UAE:**

- Telescopes.
- Movie projection devices and relevant accessories,
- Radio, CD players, and CDs.
- Video and digital cameras for personal use.
- Portable music instruments.
- Cell phones.
- TV and receiver, one each.
- Strollers.
- Personal sports equipment.
- Portable computers and printers.
- Calculators.

- Wheelchairs and vehicles of people with special needs.
- Medication for personal use, that is in compliance with the applicable regulations.
- Clothes, toilet tools, and luggage of personal nature
- Personal jewelry.

#### Exemptions requirements:

- The value of gifts held by travelers shall not exceed AED 3,000.
- Baggage and gifts must be of personal nature and in non-commercial quantity.
- Traveler should not be dealing with the customs department or a trader of the substances in possession.
- Cigarettes shall not exceed the limit of (200 cigarettes).
- The quantity of tobacco should not exceed the permissible limit of chopped tobacco for smoking, pipe tobacco, regular tobacco, or hookah; otherwise, the quantity shall be subject to the prescribed duties.
- The quantity of alcoholic drinks should not exceed the value of gifts which travelers are allowed to hold.
- Tobacco products and alcoholic drinks may not be entered nor exempted for travelers below 18 years old.
- Traveler should not be a member of the transport crew.



#### • Restricted items:

Restricted items are those items the import or export of which is subject to approval of other authorities.

Item	Authority competent with approval in the UAE
Live animals, plants, fertilizers, and pesticides	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
Weapons, ammunition, explosives, and fireworks	Ministry of Defense/ Armed Forces/ Ministry of Interior
Medicines, drugs and medical equipment, devices, and tools	Ministry of Health and Prevention
Media publications and products	Ministry of Culture and Youth
Nuclear energy products	Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
New vehicle tires	Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology
Transmission and wireless devices	Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority
Alcoholic drinks	Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology
Cosmetics and personal care products	Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology
Raw diamond	Kimberley Office UAE
Tobacco processed cigarettes	Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology

#### Disclosure of cash:

- All travelers (arriving in or departing from the UAE) must disclose any currencies, negotiable monetary instruments, precious metals, or stones, if their value exceeds AED 60,000, or the equivalent in other currencies. In the event of exceeding this limit, travelers should fill out the Cash Disclosure Form.
- Travelers below 18 years old are not allowed to bring in or take out cash amounts exceeding the said limit.

#### Prohibited items:

Prohibited items are those items the import or export of which is prohibited by the UAE, in accordance with the Customs Law, and the competent authorities in the UAE.

- All types of narcotics.
- Gambling tools and machines
- Nylon fishing nets
- Live pig species.
- Raw ivory.
- Laser pens with red light bundle.
- Fake and counterfeit currency.
- Used and reconditioned tires.
- Substances contaminated with nuclear rays and dust.
- Publications, pictures, drawings, and stone sculpture that violate religion or public morals.
- Paan substance and betel leaves.
- Any other items whose import is prohibited

# EGYPT

## A VIGOROUS HUMAN RESERVOIR DRIVING DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Egypt is located in the north-eastern part of the African continent, and extends its landscape in the southwest of Asia through its Sinai Peninsula. Due to the special geographic location that it enjoys, Egypt is viewed as a land bridge that connects the two continents of Asia and Africa. Thus, Egypt is largely considered as a rendezvous point for different civilizations and the crucible where cultures from around the world meet.







## EGYPT

is the cradle of civilizations and the mother of all lands. Civilization appeared early in the Egyptian Nile valley and delta. In ancient Egypt, the River Nile formed the prime source for the development of the ancient Egyptian civilization, which was once described by the most notorious Greek historian Herodotus as the "gift of the Nile".

Egypt comes in the 30th place globally with an area of 1 million and 1 hundred square kilometers; mostly desert. Egypt is ranked fourteenth worldwide in terms of population, which stands for 104.2 million people according to the latest 2022 census by the Egyptian Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

Egypt is physically split into the Western Desert, Eastern Desert, Nile Valley and Delta, and Sinai Peninsula while being administratively divided into 27 governorates. Cairo comes in first place in terms of population. It is said that 95% of Egypt's population lives around the two banks of the River Nile and its Delta; an area of 33 thousand square kilometers representing 4% of the total area of the country. Therefore, this particular area is considered one of the most populous areas in the whole world.

### Resilient economy and positive growth rates

The Egyptian economy recorded 6.6% growth in the last fiscal year of 2021-2022, compared to 3.3% in 2020-2021. The resilience of the Egyptian economy was proven solid in recent years as the true GDP continued to grow beyond most of the emerging market economies. This growth has been driven by the powerful domestic consumption and growth of production, in addition to the huge export

Most of the economic activity in Egypt is centered around the Nile Valley, and it is based on agriculture, tourism, media, oil exports, cotton and textile exports, and metal products, as well as chemical materials

**The Egyptian economy recorded a growth of 6.6% during the financial year 2021-2022**

**The Egyptian economy has been flexible in recent years with the continued growth of real gross domestic product exceeding most emerging market economies**

**The Egyptian industrial sector has experienced a significant development thanks to the government's successful economic reform program**

capabilities and positive business expectations for Egypt due to its strategic location and the size of its domestic market.

Most of the economic activities in Egypt are concentrated around the River Nile and heavily rely on agriculture, tourism, media, exports of petroleum exports, and the exportation of cotton, textiles, metal products, and chemicals. The information technology sector in Egypt is stimulated by Egyptian entrepreneurs plus the consistent encouragement by the government. The Egyptian industrial sector witnessed substantial development thanks to the successful economic reform program undertaken by the government, which involved a significant breakthrough in infrastructure and construction projects.

This has positively reflected in achieving unprecedented positive ratios, whether in growth rates and its contribution to the overall GDP along with scoring the highest commodity export rates in the modern history of Egypt with a percentage of 27%.

### Emirati-Egyptian economic relations

Under the slogan 'Egypt and UAE, one heart', the UAE has

recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Emirati-Egyptian relations, which have recently witnessed qualitative development in various areas and sectors, particularly in pumping more qualitative investments. Such investments were crowned over the past period with the signature of the Industrial Partnership for Sustainable Economic Growth.

The UAE is considered the second largest trading partner of Egypt at the pan-Arab level. On the other hand, Egypt is ranked the fifth largest Arab trading partner of the UAE in the non-oil intra-regional trade, as it attains 7% of the total UAE's non-oil trade with the Arab Countries. The UAE is deemed to be the largest international investor in Egypt with cumulative investments of more than 55 billion dirhams. The total value of the non-oil trade exchange between the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Egypt over the last 22 years has accounted for 247.68 billion dirhams.

Trade between the two countries for the same period split between imports of 83.3 billion dirhams, exports of 61.3 billion dirhams and re-export of 102.9 billion dirhams in value.

#### Top imports and exports

The list of top commodities imported by Egypt from the UAE in 1st quarter of 2022 included plastics and articles thereof, natural pearls, precious stones, metal fuels,

**55**

**Billion AED**  
**The accumulated**  
**UAE investment**  
**balance in Egypt.**

**247**

**Billion AED**  
**The value of non-**  
**oil trade exchange**  
**between UAE and**  
**Egypt during the**  
**past 22 years.**

mineral oils and products of their distillation, iron, steel and fish, while the list of the top 3 commodities that were re-exported to Egypt included communication equipment, automatic data processing machines, petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude.

Broadly, the most significant commodity groups exported from Egypt to the UAE during 1st quarter of 2022 were natural pearls and precious stones, electrical machinery, equipment and parts thereof, and fruits, vegetables and plants.

#### Egypt, a first-class tourist destination

Egypt is considered a first-class tourist destination due to its unmatched natural and historic inventory that is complemented with a moderate climate in summer or winter. Egypt has extended coastline and shores that are packed with rare corals. All of this comes with the hospitality of a very kind, friendly people, who enjoy the sense of humor and keep the smile on their faces all the time.

There you will never feel bored. After you are done with your rounds of business and meetings, do not miss the opportunity and dedicate some of your time to discover the Pharaonic, Coptic, Roman and Islamic monuments. Egypt's view of the Red Sea provides an opportunity to enjoy the clear waters, swimming, and snorkeling and scuba diving. The country has a strong infrastructure that serves the tourism sector, including hotel rooms, tourist resorts and airlines offices.

The months from September to March are the best months of the year to visit the tourist attractions as the temperature is at its lowest, and tourists can also enjoy various activities in the open air. Cairo is the most prominent tourist destinations in Egypt with a lot of entertainment, cultural and historical activities and events. Do not forget to allocate some of your time there to explore Cairo's public atmosphere.

You must stop by Alexandria, the second capital of Egypt. A city that is full of tourist attractions and sites. Alexandria is overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and is called the Mediterranean Mermaid, and is hosting Egypt's largest seaport on the Mediterranean Sea coast. Hurghada is a beautiful tourist destination and it incubates many tourist spots such as monuments, resorts, parks and souks. However and if you are looking for absolutely marvelous tourist resorts, you must visit Sharm al-Sheikh, the most beautiful tourist resorts in the world. The city will offer you unparalleled opportunity for vacation and relaxation, particularly with a range of luxurious hotels, resorts, fascinating eastern and western cuisine restaurants. Sharm al-Sheikh is also considered one of the best world spots for snorkeling and scuba diving, amongst other water sports and activities. You will be also excited to learn that Sharm al-Sheikh incubates magnificent desert, souks and traditional markets as well]]





### **RAK Customs inaugurate the customs inspection platform at the North Free Zones Customs**

► His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department, inaugurated the customs inspection platform at the North Free Zones customs with the presence of a number of strategic partners and managers of internal customs departments.

Al Mehrezi, accompanied by His Excellency Mr. John Davies, the Interim Chief Executive Officer of RAK Ports Group, Mr. Justin Wardle, Manager of Saqr Port and Ras Al Khaimah Port, Mr. Marwan Doorbeni, Assistant to Director General Of Ras Al Khaimah Customs, and a number of the Department's strategic partners, cut the traditional ribbon to mark the opening of the new facility that are intended to serve the inspection bays at the North Free Zones customs.

The high-ranking guests and officials from 'Ras Al Khaimah Customs' and 'RAK Maritime City' toured the new facility that heavily relies on the state-of-the-art means of inspection technology.

This new inspection facility allows customs operations staff to deliver the best and most efficient in terms of speed and quality of finalizing the customs formalities and procedures. The project also gives added value to

the already outstanding services provided by the Customs Department throughout its customs centers which are star-ranked for their delivery of service to different categories of the public. The new customs inspection facility is operational around the clock to meet the constant increase in the North Free Zones operational capacity. This bolsters the position of Ras Al Khaimah as a leading destination for capital and businesses through the simplification and speeding up of customs procedures whilst maintaining the security and safety of society and economy. In order to achieve these strategic goals, Ras Al Khaimah Customs is using the most advanced international and local customs technologies at this new facility.



### **RAK Customs launched a Basic Training Program for new customs inspection officers**

► On December 7, 2022, Ras Al Khaimah Customs Authority launched its seventh cycle of the Basic Training Program for new customs inspection officers. The General Manager, Dr. Muhammad Al Mahrouzi, opened the training course by saying "We are happy to welcome you to the Customs family and we are always striving to recruit and train human resources.



### **Mohammed bin Saud witness the celebrations of “RAK Customs” on the 51<sup>st</sup> UAE National Day**

► His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, attended the celebrations of Ras Al Khaiah Customs on the 51<sup>st</sup> National Day. The celebration began with the national anthem and a performance by the police music band, followed by a speech by Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezir, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department.

During his speech, he extended his congratulations and best wishes to the country's leadership on this blessed occasion

and emphasized that the UAE is moving forward under the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State, may God protect him, in its inspiring development journey and its aspirations to achieve global leadership in various fields. He welcomed the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, at this celebration, which reflects the values of cohesion and solid unity in the UAE community.

## Third meeting of UAE Customs Directors General in 2022 atop Jebel Jais

► The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security held its third meeting for the directors general of the UAE customs in cooperation with the Ras Al Khaimah Customs Department at the top of Jebel Jais mountain peak in Ras Al Khaimah. The Directors General discussed several important customs topics and updates that are currently on the agenda of the customs sector in the UAE, including the classification and standardization of the national dangerous goods lists, and the trade and economic effects associated with the comprehensive economic free trade agreements entered by the UAE and trade partners.

The meeting also covered the efforts made by the customs sector in the UAE, at both the federal and local levels, to implement the Etihad national rail project and promote areas of cooperation between the sector and Etihad Rail. Customs exemptions for national industries and the handling of industrial waste exports by customs were also discussed, as well as means of cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technologies in this regard.

H.E. Ahmed Abdullah Bin Lahej Al Falasi, Director General of Customs at the Federal Authority, chaired the meeting in the presence of Their Excellencies Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Chairman of Ajman Port and Customs Department, Rashid Lahej Al Mansoori, Director General of General Administration of Customs in Abu Dhabi, Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director General of Dubai Customs, Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarah, Director of the Department of Seaports and Customs at Sharjah Ports, Customs and Free Zones Authority, Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Mehrezi, Director General of Ras Al Khaimah Customs, Rashid Saif Hamad, Director General of Al Fujairah Customs, and Sultan Al Ali, Executive Director of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation in the Emirate of Umm Al Quwain.



## “Niham” a new virtual employee at the “Ports, Customs and Free Zone” in Dubai

► The Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation announced the launch of its virtual employee, “Niham”, who is concerned with self-response to all customer inquiries related to the services of the Corporation and its affiliates through a number of digital and smart communication channels.

The Chairman of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, indicated that the corporation provides more than 500 services to more than 100,000 customers, including individuals and companies, so it is constantly keen to develop its services and diversify communication channels to meet the needs of customers and achieve their happiness in line with its ambitious approach to develop systems New work and the adoption of modern and smart tools that meet the directives of our wise leadership in entrepreneurship and the digital transformation of services.



## Abu Dhabi Customs Wins local and international awards

► Abu Dhabi Customs was honored for its pioneering efforts in implementing innovative international best practices and establishing an empowered digital institutional environment in line with the vision of the UAE's wise leadership, and supporting the Strategic Vision of the General Administration to be a “world-leading customs authority” driving change to enhance security, facilitate trade and provide service excellence.

Also, the General Administration of Customs in Abu Dhabi, as the first customs authority in the world to implement the digitized inspection management system in border control, won the “Trendsetter” award for government innovation at the Accela ceremony for the year 2022, which was held in Utah, in the US.

## Mahmoud Mohamed Fathy RAK CUSTOMS ASSISTS TAG IN THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF ITS ACTIVITIES



**WITH** For over 30 years, TAG has been engineering and manufacturing custom armored and non-armored vehicles for use by individuals, businesses, law enforcement, military agencies and governments. Present through our certified manufacturing facilities, service locations and clients in over 60 countries, Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed Fathy said: "We have a global reach that enables us to compete with anyone on price, quality and delivery time. Our commitment to quality is paramount and is reinforced by our multiple ballistic and blast certifications from various certified labs around the world such as the latest and world-first VPAM Edition 3 - VR7 we received for our Land Cruiser 300 series. We are committed to our clients and value their business".

**What first brought you to Ras Al Khaimah? And why did you decide on Ras Al Khaimah as a place to start this business?**

TAG was first attracted to RAK due to the strategic, geographical and financial benefits of opening in the free zone.

**What is so special about Ras Al Khaimah from your point of view?**

The people in RAK make working here a pleasure. From the government to the free zone, there is a real sense of ownership to progress and grow to get things done.

**How did you get started and find your share of the armored vehicles market?**

TAG started in Ras Al Khaimah due to the geographical advantage that the UAE offers. Close to many of the

big markets for armored vehicles, RAK was the perfect place to open an armored vehicle manufacturing facility and we were able to compete with many international manufacturers as a result.

**How do you market your products? And how is business going so far?**

We sell our vehicles to a variety of countries and do so through our extensive sales network. We also have strong business partners that operate throughout the world enabling us to reach our customers where they are present and we have great plans in place to further it.

**Where do your clients come from?**

Our clients come from over 60+ countries around the world including the USA, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and more.

**What is special about the products that you offer? And how satisfied are your clients, as users, with those products?**

Our specialty is that we are a long-term trusted partner for our clients and we are committed to helping them achieve their goals. We are able to customize and design our products to suit our customer's needs and do so while maintaining a high level of quality at a competitive price.

**What kind of support do you find from the Customs Department in general and the local customs Center where you are located?**

The customs management is actively helping us daily and they ensure that we can have smooth operations for our activities in RAK.



**Mahmoud Mohamed:** Our commitment to quality is our most important goal, and this is reinforced by the many certificates of shots and explosions that we have received from various specialized agencies around the world.