



Australia United Arab Emirates Business Council

Delegation Overview
25-30 January 2022

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

After two years of isolation due to COVID-19, the January 2022 Delegation was a welcome opportunity to connect with our United Arab Emirates based members, businesses and Emirati Government officials, and strengthen the relations between these two great nations.

With over 31 individuals joining the delegation from Australia and the UAE, our members enthusiastically took up this opportunity to meet with influential figures in government and business.

The delegation program provided something for all our members with highlights including: a welcome reception with HE Heidi Venamore, Australian Ambassador to the UAE and HE Abdulla Al Subousi, Emirati Ambassador to Australia; a tour of Masdar City; Official Dinner with Keynote speaker HE Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade; and meetings with HE Younes Al Khouri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance and HE Sultan Abdullah Al Hebsi, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Climate Change.

As the Australia UAE Business Council's first international delegation, we were delighted to see the enthusiasm with which members took advantage of engagement opportunities with senior government officials, networked with fellow members, and learnt about the trading environment in the UAE.

We thank all our members and special guests for their participation. We look forward to welcoming you on our next delegation.



The Hon Christopher Pyne
Australian Co-Chair



HE Badr Al Olama
Emirati Co-Chair

DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTS

DAY ONE - ABU DHABI

Tuesday 25 January 2022

Members eased into the delegation with a welcome and briefing session hosted by Australia UAE Business Council Emirati Co-Chair, **HE Badr Al Olama**. We were delighted to be joined by special guests **HE Heidi Venamore**, Australian Ambassador to the UAE, **HE Abdulla Al Subousi**, Emirati Ambassador to Australia, who both provided their insights on the Australia UAE trade and diplomatic relationship.



"The delegation was a fantastic experience for Tribe. We came away from the week with even greater enthusiasm for the opportunities in front of us, and a deeper commitment to collaborating with partners old and new to advance mutual interests."

Mr Ed Nicholas
Executive Director
Tribe Infrastructure Group



DAY TWO - ABU DHABI

Wednesday 26 January 2022

The day commenced with a briefing from **Mr Jamie Levy** (General Counsel) and **Mr Salvatore Lavallo** (Head of FDI Attraction) from the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), which highlighted the various support and incentives that ADIO could provide Australian companies wanting to establish and operate businesses in the UAE.

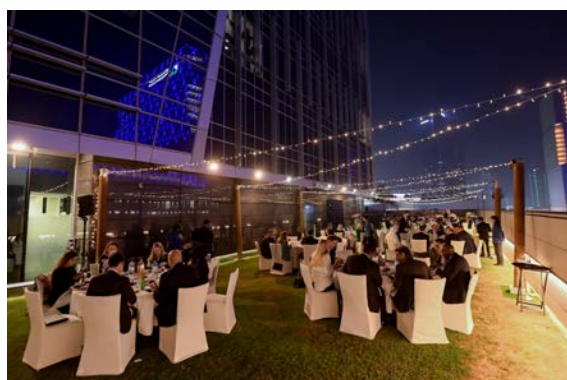
Participants then travelled to Masdar City to undertake a tour of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI). Led by **HE Abdulla Al Subousi** (Emirati Ambassador to Australia), participants heard from **Mr Sultan Al Hajji** and his team about various programs and industry partnerships across the region and world, and discussed opportunities for collaboration.



Lunch at the Rosewood Abu Dhabi was followed by a briefing from **HE Badr Al Olama**, **Mr Abdulla Abdulhakim AlMir** and **Mr Abdalla Mohamed Al Musharrekh** from Mubadala. This session touched on the priorities of the Abu Dhabi Government in ensuring investment in a diverse portfolio across the UAE and abroad.

Following this session, members participated in a Members Roundtable. Members had the opportunity to raise specific business interests and opportunities that they would like to pursue, including strategic priorities for cooperation.

The day concluded with the Delegation's Official Dinner at the Rosewood Abu Dhabi which saw the attendance of around 80 people from across industry and government from both Australia and the UAE. We were honoured to be joined by special guest and keynote speaker **HE Juma Al Kait**, Emirati Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade, as well as **HE Heidi Venamore**, Australian Ambassador to the UAE. Thank you to Australia UAE Business Council Advisory Board Member, **Ms Ellecia Saffron**, for MC'ing the event.



DAY THREE - MASDAR CITY AND DUBAI

Thursday 27 January 2022

Day three commenced with a briefing from **Mr Abdullah Saif Al Awani** and **Mr Khalifa Issa Abushahab** from the Economic Section of Tawazun, on the Emirati defence industry and opportunities to work with Tawazun on contracts for the UAE Armed Forces and Abu Dhabi Police Force. This was a particularly useful session for many Australian companies who have interests in advanced manufacturing and are looking to export their military capability to the region.

The Abu Dhabi Global Markets (ADGM) then presented to the delegation, with **Ms Linda Fitz-Alan** (ADGM Registrar) and **Dr Bhaskah Dasgupta** providing members with insights into the business regulatory background and process in the UAE.

Delegates then travelled to Masdar City, where Australia UAE Business Council Gold Member Masdar hosted a light lunch at Dolce and Capprici, which featured an impromptu presentation from **Ms Kate Orlova**, CEO of Niska, who was working with the restaurant on automating service through artificial intelligence and robotics.

The highlight of the afternoon was a tour of Masdar City and discussion of Masdar's clean energy projects and strategic initiatives.

Day three concluded with dinner at Bentley Kitchen hosted by Australia UAE Business Council Silver Member, Tribe Infrastructure Group.

"The discussions we had opened doors that our local representation simply could not open. It was an extremely well organised delegation that was executed to perfection. We highly recommend being part of future delegations if you are looking to break into a new country or expand your markets."

Mr David Barrow
Vice-President - Marine & Offshore
Bureau Veritas



DAY FOUR - DUBAI

Friday 28 January 2022

The delegation travelled from Abu Dhabi to Dubai in the morning.

The delegation met with **HE Sultan Abdullah Al Hebsi**, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Climate Change to discuss the department's views and policies on agriculture and climate change.



The delegation then met with **HE Younes Khouri**, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, where attendees received a briefing on the nation's progress to align its financial policies with likeminded countries.



Following these meetings, participants then attended lunch with Australia UAE Business Council Co-Chair, **The Hon Christopher Pyne** who facilitated discussion on Australia UAE trade relations alongside a theatrical lunch overlooking the Dubai Creek.

The day concluded with dinner at Cipriani Dubai, where participants were joined by **Mr Ian Halliday** (Australian Consul General to Dubai) and **Ms Krysta Fox** (Chair – Australian Business Council Dubai).

DAY FIVE - DUBAI

Saturday 29 January 2022

The delegation travelled to Expo 2020 to attend a business forum lunch and panel session which was well attended by around 100 people. The business forum featured a keynote speech by **HE Ahmed Al Sayegh**, Emirati Minister of State, who spoke to the depth of the Australia UAE diplomatic relationship.

This was then followed by a panel session which featured Australia UAE Business Council Advisory Board Member, **Ms Ellecia Saffron**, as well as **Mr Adam Malouf** and **Ms Kate Midtunn**. The panel addressed business and investment opportunities between Australia and the UAE, in traditional and emerging sectors.



Photo credit: Ellecia Saffron



Participants were then ushered outside to the Expo 2020 Al Wasl dome where they witnessed **His Excellency the Governor General's** keynote speech, followed by a showcase featuring Australian artists.

In the evening, Advisory Board and Foundation Members attended a Reception with the **Governor General** at the Australian Pavilion, while Platinum, Gold and Silver Members joined Co-Chair **The Hon Christopher Pyne** at the Australia Day at Expo – Business Networking Reception along with members from the Australian Business Group Abu Dhabi and Australia Business Council Dubai.

DAY SIX - DUBAI

Sunday 30 January 2022

On our final day, our delegation had a private tour of the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, hosted by the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding. The private guided walking tour took delegates through the unique narrow sikkas and beautiful wind tower residences along the Dubai Creek. Delegates learnt about the history and culture of Dubai and the UAE.

A Delegation Farewell Lunch was hosted in the Diwan Masjid at the Centre, where delegates said their final good byes.



The delegation program provided an unparalleled level of access to senior government figures on the Australian and Emirati side. Being able to make those personal connections and participate in information sessions tailored to the interests of members was invaluable to TAMAS."

Mr Sameh Masry
Chief Executive Officer
TAMAS



DELEGATION PARTICIPANTS

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

aspenmedical



الإتجاه
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS



GOLD MEMBERS



SILVER MEMBERS





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