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The 13TH Annual Investment Meeting

7 - 9 May 2024 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

POST SHOW REPORT

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His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates
Ruler of Abu Dhabi



His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi
Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council

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AIM CONGRESS 2024 AT A GLANCE

“Adapting to a Shifting Investment Landscape: Harnessing New Potential for Global Economic Development”

This year’s Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress 2024), marked by its unparalleled diversity compared to previous editions, was held for the second year in the dynamic capital of UAE – Abu Dhabi. The event’s mission remained steadfast: to promote foreign investment, facilitate dialogue and agreements among governments, business leaders, and investors, and explore both current and future investment opportunities, all with the overarching goal of global economic development.

Focusing on innovation and technology, the three-day event featured a variety of activities aligned with its commitment to strengthening six key pillars: Foreign Direct Investment, Small and Medium Enterprises, Future Cities, Startups, Foreign Portfolio Investment, and Digital Economy.

This year’s gathering of some of the world’s leading innovators and visionaries from government, business, and society underscored a critical paradigm shift in investment strategies. Emphasis was placed not only on short-term gains but also on long-term sustainable growth that benefits all stakeholders. AIM 2024 highlighted the importance of prioritizing shared prosperity, where investors contribute to creating a better future for everyone while still achieving their investment objectives.



AIM CONGRESS 2024 IN NUMBERS

12,427
Attendees

8,130
B2B Meetings

927
Speakers

412
Sessions In
Conference

352
Exhibitors

179
Participating
Countries

138
High-Level
Dignitaries

136
Participating Startups

3
High Level
Roundtables

71
Countries
(Exhibitors)

43
MOUs Signed

29
Side Events



GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the 13th edition of the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress 2024) was a highly anticipated event that marked the start of three days of engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and valuable networking opportunities. More than just an inauguration, it was a moment of immense pride and resounding praise for the UAE's impressive economic standing, where it has risen to the status of being the business hub for the world. The ceremony also celebrated Abu Dhabi as the perfect host for the second year in a row, underscoring its numerous recent economic achievements. These accomplishments have cemented Abu Dhabi's reputation as an ideal destination for business, showcasing it not only as a vibrant place to live but also as a significant enabler of global economic development and investment.

AIM Congress, a key initiative of the AIM Global Foundation, supported by the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development as the lead partner, witnessed significant attendance at the Grand Opening Ceremony. Notable attendees included **His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, His Excellency Andry Rajoelina, President of the Republic of Madagascar; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah; Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority; His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance; His Excellency Sheikh Shakhboot Nahyan Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of State, Sheikh Khalid bin Saud Al Qasimi, Vice Chairman of Ras Al Khaimah's Investment and Development Office; His Excellency Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology; His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade; and His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League.**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOR

H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi – UAE Supreme Council Member & Ruler of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah

Your highnesses, your excellencies, distinguished guests,

I am delighted to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the 13th edition of the AIM Congress here in Abu Dhabi. We are here to discuss investment, which is the key to emerging economies becoming advanced economies. Our hunger for development runs through our DNA, and investment has always been at the heart of our story.

But what you see around you today could easily have remained a dream. After all, a dream is just a dream without hard work. And without a vision and a plan, and without a good strategy, work without purpose may lead to chaos and a waste of a country's resources. When it comes to delivering outcomes, wisdom and a sense of duty are the differentiators.

So how did we do it?

Firstly, we channelled our strategic wealth into the construction of infrastructure, and the formation of robust institutions. Secondly, we concentrated on the soft infrastructure the establishment of a regulatory, legal and commercial environment that gives investors confidence.

Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, we nurtured our greatest asset, our people, understanding that to thrive we needed to educate the generations, and the leaders, to come. We bet on them and their future achievements through investments in science, technology and state of the art educational institutions.

We did this understanding that education is only part of the puzzle. After all, our Founding Fathers had little formal education, but that didn't stop them having the wisdom which guided them and led us to where we are today. We are indebted to these great leaders, with Sheikh Zayed guiding the way.

Today their vision remains unchanged, led by my brothers, the Rulers of the Emirates, and our President Sheikh Mohamed, whose commitment to our people and to our future inspires us all.

With the right vision, and the right plan, the dream came true. And it continues to be built upon, by new generations of Emiratis, and by the expats that have made the Emirates their home and have contributed to our success story.

Of course, like every nation, along the way we might have made mistakes, and we might make more. But we showed our people, and the wider world, that we had the character to learn from our mistakes and challenges, and course

correct quickly, to keep our mission on track.

By showing this flexibility, by being open, by being bold, we were able to rise quickly – and in time, attract the finest minds and most original thinkers to complement our own, home-grown talent.

Let me share some numbers:

Today, the Emirates accounts for around **one third of the total FDI into the MENA region.**

We rank second after the US for greenfield FDI in 2023, underlining our status as a destination for the world's biggest, boldest projects. This investment has allowed us to relentlessly reshape our economy, taking hydrocarbons' share of national GDP below 30%.

Furthermore, we hope to attract **150 billion dollars in foreign investment by 2031** and rank among the top 10 destinations for FDI.

But this is not just one-way – we are among the top 15 leading nations in global FDI.

These figures don't just mean economic success – they mean economic development.

It means the development of new clusters of excellence in sectors such as: Renewable energy, Fintech and financial services, AI & Digital Assets, Space science, Logistics, Aviation and Tourism.

Now, let me tell you about our Emirate, Ras Al Khaimah.

We are one of the longest continually inhabited places on the planet, a destination for cultures to come together, cooperate and flourish.

Our environmental diversity, from our rugged mountain peaks to our endless beaches, has provided pathways for our people to thrive.

Our tourism sector witnessed the highest number of visitors in the Emirate's history in 2023, and overall our visitor arrivals, which jumped by **more than 60% in the last eight years, are expected to triple by 2030.**

And at the same time as we were building this global reputation as a tourist hub, we have seen the value of our yearly real estate transactions double since pre-Covid levels.

The total number of companies in our free zones almost doubled in the last 10 years.

This all comes as the trade volumes through our ports increased five times in the last 20 years.

Our economic ambitions have always been in harmony with our environment and the communities it supports.

In Ras Al Khaimah, our vision is built on these four pillars:

Empowered citizens who are shaping their own future.

A natural environment that safeguards our historical and cultural identity.

An engaged government that builds bridges for prosperity and progress.

A vibrant, sustainable economy that can serve as a key to a better tomorrow.

Today, a host of world-renowned businesses now call our Emirate their home, and they have thrived and prospered. More are coming, and I hope some of you in the audience may join us.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I began this speech by saying that when wisdom and a sense of duty meet vision and hard work, anything is possible. The Emirates has demonstrated that when investment and development are done right, national success soon becomes the world's success.

Just as the world's oceans are interconnected, so, too, are its people. Recently, blue and white porcelain from the time of the Yuan Dynasty, in the 13th and 14th centuries, was found in Ras Al Khaimah. This porcelain is hardly ever found. It suggests that archaeologists are only just beginning to understand the depth of our trade with China along the Silk Road.

Only a short while later, in the 15th century, our famous son, Ras Al Khaimah navigator Ahmed bin Majid was trading across the seas – exploring new frontiers, discovering new cultures, and forging new connections.

Emiratis understand that our future consists in looking outwards and working together. We were born with this understanding. We are a nation built on trade.

We have always understood that development can, and should, be reciprocal.

I am convinced that by joining forces we can forge a new investment landscape, with growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and as far as possible, universal. You can be sure of one thing; the Emirates will be there to play its role.

I would like to wish you all a very successful conference.

Thank you.

“

I am convinced that by joining forces we can forge a new investment landscape, with growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and as far as possible, universal.”

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H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi

UAE Supreme Council Member & Ruler
of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H.E. Andry Nirina Rajoelina – President of Madagascar

Ladies and Gentlemen and Esteemed Guests,

It is a great pleasure to be here in Abu Dhabi for the 13th Annual Investment Meeting.

Madagascar is honored to participate in this gathering, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is President of the United Arab Emirates, for his hospitality and the genuine friendship shown to us by welcoming us as honored guests to the world's largest investment platform.

The 2024 AIM Congress conference holds significant importance in a context where we explore the potentials of global economic development. This occasion allows us to forge fruitful partnerships and exploit new opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, we live in a world where every country has its potential, whether in terms of expertise, resources, or means.

The rapid development of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, two cities that have captivated the world with their transformation, is an inspiring example that proves that vision, determination, and innovation can turn our vision into action.

Simple deserts have been transformed into thriving global economic centers, attracting talent and investments from around the world.

This success perfectly illustrates the importance of perseverance.

This perseverance inspires us to value the opportunities awaiting to be seized in our country.

As you know, Madagascar is rich in potential, incredible natural resources, and a unique cultural diversity.

To achieve our emergence, we seek the support of potential partners and friendly countries to accompany the long-awaited development desired by the Malagasy people.

Madagascar's geostrategic position and its central place on the world map at the crossroads of maritime routes reveal our crucial role in regional trade and exchanges.

With our 5,000 km of coastline, our country stands as a strategic bridge between Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the entire Indian Ocean region.

Our Great Island alone concentrates 5% of the world's biodiversity. It is rich in natural resources and offers countless economic and touristic opportunities.

The potential for the development of the tourism industry is still vast, especially in sports, cultural, beach, and, most

importantly, wildlife observation tourism, including the famous "big four": humpback whales, whale sharks, sea turtles, and dolphins.

To achieve this, we are exploring new sources of investment, especially from the United Arab Emirates, to diversify our tourist clientele and stimulate sustainable growth in the sector in Madagascar.

The construction of an additional 11,500 rooms, spread across the entire territory, is a priority for us to meet the growing demand. Natural reserves are already ready to welcome luxury ecolodges, eco-resorts, and upscale club hotels.

Several sites are suitable for the installation of marinas, offering travelers an unforgettable maritime experience while preserving the integrity of our coastal ecosystems.

Other sites are intended for the development of activities such as hot air balloon rides, thermal tourism centers, or river cruises. With a population of nearly 28 million people, the majority of whom are under 30, and an area of 587,000 km² of fertile land, our country aims to establish strategic links and attract partners and investors who share our vision of sustainable economic growth. Madagascar thus offers an ecosystem conducive to investment in various key sectors. First and foremost, I want to talk to you about the agricultural sector.

Currently, population growth is leading to an increase in global food needs and a rise in meat consumption reaching nearly 350 million tons, while rice consumption stands at around 500 million tons per year. Given the need to feed a continuously growing global population and considering the scarcity of arable land, it is estimated that over 800 million hectares of agricultural land would be needed to feed the world's population. Madagascar has over 36 million hectares of arable land, offering tremendous potential to bridge this global food gap.

We have the natural resources, fertile soils, and favorable climate to become a major agricultural powerhouse. However, to fully exploit this potential, we must modernize our agricultural techniques, invest in research and development, and encourage investment in this sector.

By modernizing our agricultural practices, we can achieve food self-sufficiency first, and then meet the needs of regional markets, thereby contributing to global food security. In the field of aquaculture, Madagascar stands out for the exceptional richness of our coastlines.

Our waters are rich in high-quality fishery products, particularly shrimp, which benefit from the prestigious "Label Rouge," attesting to their excellence. With an annual production of 30,000 tons, our country is already a significant player in the international aquaculture scene. And we can produce a hundred times more with the potential production reaching up to 300,000 tons.

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We are proud to announce our collaboration with the United Arab Emirates for the upcoming opening of Madagascar's first gold refinery, a major step in the development of our mining industry.

”

H.E. Andry Nirina Rajoelina – President of Madagascar



Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I cannot speak of Madagascar's economic opportunities without mentioning a few words about the mining sector, which is another promising investment area.

In the current global context where mining extraction is of strategic importance, providing the raw materials necessary for industry, Madagascar is the third-largest exporter of nickel in Africa. With considerable reserves of cobalt, vanadium, iron, gold, graphite, and gemstones estimated at 300 million tons, our island positions itself as a major player in the global minerals market.

Accounting for 33% of our exports, this sector significantly contributes to the country's economy. To strengthen our commitment to a solid regulatory framework and encourage responsible investments, we have adopted a new mining code with incentive measures.

In this regard, we are proud to announce our collaboration with the United Arab Emirates for the upcoming opening of Madagascar's first gold refinery, a major step in the development of our mining industry.

Regarding the energy sector, a subject that is particularly close to my heart, our goal is to double or even triple our energy production capacity. The energy transition focuses on renewable energies such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Currently, our dependence on thermal energy represents a major challenge, with 90% of our production relying mainly on this costly source. For example, for a production of 600 MW, we annually spend \$250 million on fuels, including fuel oil and diesel. Yet this amount could have financed the installation of 300MW each year in solar parks. To accelerate the energy transition, we have launched an extensive project to install solar parks in 47 out of the country's 120 districts. Furthermore, Madagascar has a hydroelectric potential estimated at over 7,800 MW, a considerable resource that we are determined to exploit.

By investing in renewable energies, we aspire not only to ensure our energy security but also to play a leading role in the transition towards a greener, more sustainable future. Our challenge is to provide electricity to families who do not yet have domestic lighting.

To this end, we have launched a national program for the massive distribution of solar kits called "HAZAVANA HO ANAO" or "Light for Every Household." Through this project, 4 million households, or 75% of the Malagasy population, will save between \$2 and \$4 per month. This would amount to nearly \$960 million in savings over 5 years, thus improving the daily lives of each family. This unprecedented progress in providing lighting to every household will illuminate the entire country.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit – Secretary General of the Arab League

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

I am honored to address this esteemed gathering at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress). Under the strong and visionary leadership of the United Arab Emirates, AIM has become a beacon of collaboration and innovation, building robust partnerships and benefitting immensely from the rich diversity of its participants.

Over the past decade, the Arab world has faced significant instability and crises. These challenges have undeniably impacted investment in our region. Yet, it is through forums like AIM that we find hope and opportunities to overcome these adversities.

One cannot ignore the ongoing regional risks. In Gaza, we witness an acute humanitarian crisis as Israel's actions aim to undermine the resilience of the Palestinian people by destroying critical infrastructure. This devastation extends beyond Gaza, affecting neighboring countries and breaching international law. There is an urgent and compelling need for humanitarian aid to reach the people of Gaza. It is imperative that we work together to address the dangerous consequences of this conflict, particularly its impact on international supply chain management, operations in the Suez Canal, and commodity prices.

Looking to the future, I want to emphasize the critical role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for our region. Major companies globally are heavily investing in AI, reaping substantial revenues. It is essential for Arab countries to follow suit, investing in research and development to harness the full potential of AI. We must also be vigilant, studying the risks and threats associated with AI to develop robust legislation that will regulate this burgeoning industry.

By working in harmony, we can ensure comprehensive growth and a brighter future for all. The potential is vast, and together, we can create a prosperous and sustainable future for our region.

Thank you.

“

It is essential for Arab countries to follow suit, investing in research and development to harness the full potential of AI.

”

H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit

Secretary General of the Arab League



WELCOME SPEECH

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

Minister of State for Foreign Trade & Vice Chairman of Industry Development Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I welcome you all to the auspicious opening ceremony of the 13th AIM Congress here in the vibrant city of Abu Dhabi.

As we gather here today, amidst the backdrop of global recovery and renewed optimism, it is crucial to reflect upon the profound theme of this year's congress: "Adapting to a Shifting Investment Landscape: Harnessing New Potential for Global Economic Development".

This theme resonates deeply with the current global landscape, characterized by rapid transformations, evolving challenges, and unprecedented opportunities for global economic development.

Distinguished Guests,

The world stands at a critical juncture, where the imperative for sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity has never been more pressing.

We are witnessing a paradigm shift in the way we perceive

and approach investments, as we increasingly recognize the interconnectedness of economic progress, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been confronted with multifaceted challenges that have tested the resilience of nations and communities worldwide.

Yet, in the face of adversity, we have also witnessed remarkable acts of solidarity, innovation, and resilience.

It is in times of crisis that the true spirit of human endeavor shines brightest, as we unite our efforts to overcome shared challenges and build a better future for all.

Excellencies,

The United Arab Emirates, under the visionary leadership of His Highness **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, President of the UAE, has remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering sustainable development, promoting economic diversification, and nurturing a culture of innovation and excellence.

Guided by the ambitious **goals outlined in the UAE Centennial 2071 and in Abu Dhabi Economic Vision**

2030, we have embarked on a transformative journey towards a knowledge-based economy, characterized by resilience, agility, and forward-thinking.

Our nation's remarkable progress on the global stage is a testament to the enduring spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that defines the UAE.

We have established ourselves as a beacon of stability, a hub for investment, and a catalyst for progress in the region and beyond.

Through strategic partnerships, forward-looking policies, and bold initiatives such as the **UAE Green Agenda 2030**, we are charting a sustainable path towards prosperity, while safeguarding the well-being of future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the 2023 World Investment Report by UNCTAD, the UAE continues to shine as a beacon of investment opportunity.

In 2022, FDI inflows surged to **USD 22.737 billion**, marking a commendable **10% increase**.

This propelled the UAE to the **16th position globally in FDI inflows**.

Remarkably, the UAE claimed the top spot in both the **West Asia and MENA regions**, receiving **47.1% and 32.4% of total FDI inflows** respectively.

These figures underscore the UAE's unwavering appeal to investors and its pivotal role in driving economic growth and prosperity in the region.

So, as we embark on this collective journey of exploration, collaboration, and innovation, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Let us seize this moment as an opportunity to harness the power of investments for the greater good, creating shared value that transcends borders and transforms lives.

Together, we can navigate the uncertainties of our time and emerge stronger, more resilient, and more united than ever before.

In the end, I extend my sincere appreciation to all participants, partners, and stakeholders for their invaluable contributions to this year's AIM Congress.

May our deliberations be fruitful, our partnerships enduring, and our shared vision for a better world realized.

Thank you.

“

It is in times of crisis that the true spirit of human endeavor shines brightest, as we unite our efforts to overcome shared challenges and build a better future for all.

”

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

Minister of State for Foreign Trade & Vice Chairman of Industry Development Council



THE GLOBAL LEADERS' DEBATE: FIRESIDE CHAT

During the Grand Opening Ceremony at AIM Congress 2024, a Fireside Chat, titled “**The Very Age of Agility: Global Investments 2024-2025**” took place. Mathew Stephenson, Head of Investment & Services at the World Economic Forum, engaged in a captivating discussion with Kiho Park, President and CEO of LB Investment. Mr. Park emphasized the importance of the UAE's investment in AI infrastructure, stressing the need for strong partnerships in technology development and the cultivation of AI talent through education and training programs. He advised both investors and governments to stay at the forefront of technology and innovation for long-term success, highlighting the potential impact of AI on various industries. Mr. Park shared insights into his company's investment strategy, having backed nearly 565 startup companies, and expressed a keen interest in exploring business opportunities and partnerships between South Korean startups and those in the UAE. His extensive experience in fueling the growth of Korean startups and his influential roles within Korea's venture capital landscape added depth to the discussion, inspiring attendees to explore opportunities for collaboration and investment.

INTERVIEWER



Mathew Stephenson
Head of Investment & Services
World Economic Forum

INTERVIEWEE



Kiho Park
President and CEO
LB Investment



THE GLOBAL LEADERS' DEBATE

The Global Leaders Debate at AIM Congress 2024, moderated by May Ben Khadra from CNBC Arabia, delved into the critical topics of industrial and technological mega trends, exploring investment directions for 2024 and beyond. The session featured insightful contributions from esteemed speakers representing diverse sectors and regions, offering valuable perspectives on the evolving global economic landscape.

Overall, the Global Leaders Debate provided valuable insights into the trends shaping global investments in 2024 and beyond. The speakers emphasized the importance of technology, collaboration, and sustainable practices in driving economic growth and prosperity. The session underscored the need for proactive measures to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in an evolving global economy.

MODERATOR



May Ben Khadra
Senior Business Anchor
CNBC Arabia

PANELISTS



H.E. Claver Gatete
Undersecretary General
United Nations &
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Africa



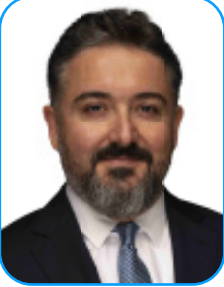
H.E. Jung Sook Park
Secretary General
The World Smart Sustainable
Cities Organization (WeGO)



Sameer Abdullaah Nass
President
Union of Arab Chambers



H.E. Jamal Al-Jarwan
Secretary-General
UAE International Investors Council



Ismail Ersahin
Executive Director & CEO
World Association of Investment
Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)



H.E. Claver Gatete, Undersecretary General of the **United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa**, highlighted Africa's significance in technological advancements. He emphasized the continent's role in sustaining the production of essential items such as satellites, batteries, and smartphones. Gatete outlined Africa's initiatives to establish industrial parks and special economic zones, aiming to boost regional trade and economic growth.



H.E. Jung Sook Park, Secretary General of **The World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO)**, discussed the imperative of smart city development in addressing environmental and social challenges. Park emphasized the importance of digital inclusion and government support in fostering smart city initiatives. She highlighted the role of collaboration and knowledge sharing in driving successful smart city projects.



Sameer Abdullaah Nass, President of the **Union of Arab Chambers and Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, addressed the challenges and opportunities presented by AI. Nass emphasized the need for skill-based education to prepare individuals for emerging job roles in the face of automation. He highlighted Bahrain's resilience and determination to rebound from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, outlining the country's vision for economic growth and collaboration in the region.



H.E. Jamal Al-Jarwan, Secretary-General of the **UAE International Investors Council**, shared insights into the UAE's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on technological advancement. Al-Jarwan highlighted the UAE's transition to digital transactions and the acceleration of AI development. He emphasized the UAE's transformation from reliance on oil and gas to a diverse economy driven by the private sector. Al-Jarwan emphasized the UAE's attractiveness to investors and its role as a model for sustainable economic practices.



Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director & CEO of the **World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)**, emphasized the pivotal role of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in economic development. He highlighted the importance of leveraging technology to streamline licensing procedures and attract investments efficiently. Ersahin underscored the transformative impact of technology on showcasing countries and facilitating investment opportunities.



Message from AIM Global Foundation

Dawood Al Shezawi

President of AIM Global Foundation and AIM Congress

Organizing the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress) for the second time in Abu Dhabi this year and exceeding expectations was a remarkable feat and honor for us, the organizers of what has been lauded as the world's leading investment platform.

The success of AIM Congress 2024 can be attributed to the unwavering support and participation of leaders and experts from the business, finance, and government spheres who convened to broaden opportunities for all. We are immensely grateful to our sponsors and partners from various industries whose strengths and networks provided the resources, expertise, and exposure necessary to achieve the event's desired outcomes. Additionally, the businessmen and investors who established beneficial agreements and partnerships introduced new channels of work, further amplifying the event's impact.

Hosted by Abu Dhabi, a preferred business hub, this 13th edition of AIM Congress promised to be more diverse and comprehensive than ever, focusing on various sectors and featuring significantly more topics. We are delighted to have surpassed these expectations, attracting participants

from 179 countries, with over 12,427 attendees. Notably, 927 high-level speakers led a total of 412 sessions, making this year's event truly exceptional.

Our accomplishments were made possible largely due support provided by the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development as the lead partner.

It goes without saying that all participants were instrumental in making this year's AIM Congress a grand success. The engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and innovative ideas shared throughout the event have been invaluable in shaping the future of investment and economic development locally, regionally, and internationally.

As we look ahead to the coming months and years, I am confident that the relationships and partnerships forged at the 2024 AIM Congress will help build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive global economy.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's AIM Congress, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the 2025 edition.



AIM CONGRESS CONFERENCE

The AIM Congress 2024 convened over 927 influential leaders, thinkers and renowned experts, who imparted the latest investment intelligence, trends, and updates to the participants. The theme of this year's edition, **"Adapting to a Shifting Investment Landscape: Harnessing New Potential for Global Economic Development,"** was comprehensively explored by the conference's esteemed speakers through engaging topics focusing on key sectors such as Tourism & Hospitality, Agriculture, Energy, Technology, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Transportation & Logistics, Finance, Healthcare, and Education.

INVESTMENT TRACK

Resilient, Sustainable Economic Growth: Creating a Healthy and Prosperous Economy through FDI and FPI

In an era characterized by global economic uncertainty, political turbulence, and environmental challenges, the pursuit of resilient and sustainable economic growth has become an imperative for nations worldwide. At the heart of this quest lies the strategic deployment of two critical investment mechanisms: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI). These instruments play a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscapes of countries, offering pathways towards both economic prosperity and environmental stewardship.

The title “Resilient, Sustainable Economic Growth – Creating a Healthy and Prospective Investment through FDI and FPI” encapsulates the essence of this discourse. It underscores the interplay between economic resilience, sustainability, and the infusion of foreign capital. In this introductory exploration, we will delve into the concepts, mechanisms, and implications of FDI and FPI as they pertain to fostering economic health, sustainability, and prospects for the future.

Conference Highlights


- **Focus on Attracting FDI:** Participants emphasized the importance of attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to different countries globally, highlighting the competition and challenges involved.
- **Strategies for FDI Attraction:**
 1. Various countries presented their strategies, such as the Dominican Republic’s emphasis on simplifying investment processes and diversifying its economy.
 2. Oman highlighted matchmaking between investors and stakeholders and efforts to speed up licensing processes.
 3. Sharjah emphasized sustainability and strategic location, while Malaysia focused on developing digital talent.



- **Alignment with Climate Goals:** FDI aligned with climate goals was stressed as essential for supporting developing countries in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- **Success Stories and Opportunities:** The UAE, particularly Sharjah, showcased successful collaboration between public and private sectors and highlighted infrastructure development, geopolitical stability, and strategic positioning as key to attracting FDIs.
- **Importance of Economic Strength:** Participants noted that countries with strong economies, political stability, and favorable regulatory environments are magnets for FDI inflows, with the Middle East and Africa regions poised for significant FDI growth despite challenges like bureaucracy.

INVESTMENT TRACK

Leaders’ Panel: Geopolitical Tensions 2024: New Challenges and New FDIs Destinations

In Cooperation with:  FDI Center

Few global dynamics shaped the last several decades of geopolitics more than the U.S.-China rivalry, as the two preeminent powers pushed their interests in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. Trends of friend-shoring and nearshoring had already started but became even more prevalent as investors sought security on their investments. US outbound FDI was in a period of change. American companies looked to diversify operations away from China. In 2023, China only accounted for around 2% of US outbound FDI projects compared with over 5% in 2019. This was to the benefit of other Asian countries such as India, Malaysia, and the Philippines, among others. US companies also looked to invest more in growth markets. Outbound projects into countries such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia increased substantially. Nearshoring was also a key theme for US companies – demonstrated by Mexico’s increased share (6.3%) of US outbound FDI projects in 2023. These changing trends accentuated in 2024. In this session, leaders of global companies, FDI experts from international organizations, and leading academics shared their views on this matter and discussed the effect of 2024 geopolitical tensions on FDIs destinations.

MODERATOR



Andreas Dressler
Managing Director
FDI Center

PANELISTS



Biviana Riveiro Disla
Executive Director
Export and Investment
Center of the Dominican
Republic



Daniel Silverman
Vice President Foreign
Direct Investment
Investissement Quebec



H.E. Ibtisam al Farooji
Undersecretary of the
Ministry of Commerce
Industry and Investment
Promotion of Oman



Raymond Siva
Head of Digital
Investment
Malaysia Digital
Economy Corporation

Fireside Chat: FDIs in UAE

The UAE was ranked 1st in the West Asia region as it received 47.1 percent of the total FDI inflows to the region, amounting to USD 48.3 billion. The UAE also was ranked 1st in the MENA region as it accounted for 32.4 percent of the total FDI inflows to the region, amounting to USD 70.2 billion. The UAE provided numerous incentives to investors and promoted entrepreneurship. It implemented incentives to attract FDI. Incentives included the opportunity for investors of different nationalities to establish and fully own companies. This session highlighted the 2024 status of FDIs in the UAE.

INTERVIEWER



Eleanor Slinger
Regional Director
New Statesman Media
Group and GlobalData


INTERVIEWEE



Massimo Falcioni
Chief Competitiveness
Officer
ADIO




Panel: Unlocking the Power of Sustainable Investment: Evaluating Current Trends to Stimulate Economic Growth and Attracting investor

In Cooperation with: 


With appropriate policies in place, foreign investment had the potential to yield substantial economic and social advantages for host countries. In the environment of global economic uncertainty, political turbulence, and the threatening climate crisis, it was pivotal in the pursuit of resilient and sustainable economic growth. At the same time, its pursuit was marred by an increasingly competitive landscape and the creation of economic dependencies on the global and regional value chains that foreign investment could give rise to. Investment promotion policies needed to find a middle ground in balancing these competing and at times conflicting policy objectives. While recognizing that no one size fits all, the panel strived to identify recent best policy practices for attracting foreign investment whilst minimizing the potential negative effects that this could bring with it.

MODERATOR




Ayman El-Tanbouly
Co-Founder &
Managing Director
Exits MENA

PANELISTS



Aziza Shaat
Economic & Trade
Advisor
Embassy Netherlands
in Egypt

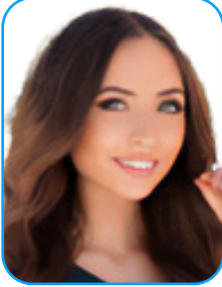


Dr. Pallavi Kishore
Head of Accounting
and Finance
Senior Lecturer,
Accounting & Statistics
- Middlesex University
Dubai

Panel: Industry 4.0 and the future of global investment


This session revolved around harnessing FDI as a crucial tool to drive climate change mitigation efforts in developing nations. The panel discussion sought to explore how FDI could be strategically directed towards sustainable investments, particularly in green technologies and climate-resilient projects, to address pressing environmental challenges. We recognized the pivotal role of the private sector, with companies serving as innovators of green technologies and solutions.

MODERATOR




Anna Tutova
CEO
Coinstelegram -
Contributor Fortune


PANELISTS



Erdinç Ekinci
Co-Founder and CEO
Openfor.co,Inc.



Natalia Sycheva
Managing Director
Integra Seven



Amier Alawadhi
Director
Masdar City Free Zone

Panel: Leveraging FDI for Climate Change Mitigation: Escalating Sustainable Investments in Developing Countries

This session revolves around harnessing FDI as a crucial tool to drive climate change mitigation efforts in developing nations. The panel discussion seeks to explore how FDI can be strategically directed towards sustainable investments, particularly in green technologies and climate-resilient projects, to address pressing environmental challenges. We recognize the pivotal role of the private sector, with companies serving as innovators of green technologies and solutions. It aims to highlight the transformative potential of FDI in facilitating the transfer of advanced clean technologies to developing countries, enabling them to transition towards a low-carbon and sustainable future. Overall, it emphasizes the need for an enabling policy environment that encourages and incentivizes FDI in climate-friendly initiatives.

MODERATOR

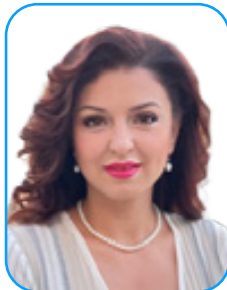


Usman Piracha
Chairperson
*OIC Intergovernmental
International Law
Experts Group Meetings*

PANELISTS



Ambreen Iftikhar
Additional Secretary/
Executive Director
General
*Investment Reforms
& Policy, Board of
Investment - (Invest
Pakistan)*



Marianna Bulbuc
Founder & CEO
Bizzmosis Group



Marwan Alichla
Head of Investment
Promotion at Sharjah FDI
Office
Invest in Sharjah



Zakaria Farahat
Director of
International
Cooperation,
Communication and
Partnerships
*Ministry of Investment,
Convergence, and
Evaluation of Public
Policy of the Kingdom of
Morocco*



Paul Holthus
Founding President and
CEO
World Ocean Council

Panel: Digital Marketing Tactics for Small to Medium-Sized IPAs to attract FDI

In Cooperation with: **wavteq**

This session focused on practical tactics for leveraging low-cost digital marketing solutions to enhance the visibility of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It provided attendees with actionable tactics for maximizing the impact of digital marketing within budget constraints. Through a combination of presentations and panel discussions, participants gained practical knowledge on leveraging digital channels effectively to promote investment and attract FDI.

MODERATOR

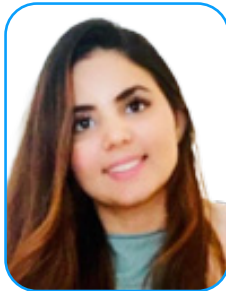


Janine McNeill
Senior Marketing
Executive
Wavteq - UK Office

PANELISTS



Hassan Mohalal
*Independent Senior FDI
Advisor*



Manju Mehla
Lead Generation
Manager
*Wavteq - EMEA / Dubai
Office*



Marwan Alichla
Head of Investment
Promotion at Sharjah
FDI Office
Invest in Sharjah

Panel: Empowering Developing Countries with Renewable Technologies: Leveraging Foreign Portfolio Investment for Sustainable Socio-Economic Growth

This panel explored the crucial role that Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) played in promoting the adoption of renewable technologies in developing countries. By channeling FPI into sustainable projects, these nations harnessed the potential of renewable energy sources to foster socio-economic growth while minimizing environmental impacts. The discussion also delved into case studies and success stories where FPI catalyzed the integration of renewable technologies, leading to positive transformations in the social and economic landscape of developing countries.

MODERATOR



Maria Flouda
Founder and Managing
Consultant
*Sustainability Switch
Consultancy*

PANELISTS



Avanthika Satheesh
Director
*Emerging Technologies
- MENA - Customized
Energy Solutions*



Courtney Fingar
Founder & Principal
*Fingar Direct
Investment*



Marko Selakovic
Chairman
Serbia Business Council




Sushil Bhatta
CEO
*The Investment Board
Nepal*

Master Class: Blended finance dissected


Blended finance instruments were the talk of the town when it came to capital-intensive infrastructure investments. This masterclass provided insights into what these instruments were, how they had been used in the past, and what their prospects were for the future. In so doing, the Masterclass outlined the challenges and opportunities they provided and clarified several issues surrounding their use.

MODERATOR




Paul Clements – Hunt
CEO & Founder
The Blended Capital Group

PANELISTS



Neal Smith
Portfolio Manager
All Weather Capital




Andrzej Voight
Senior Advisor
International Organization & Corporations

Panel: Unveiling FDI’s power in AI financing: Navigating the landscape of Greenfield Investments


Artificial intelligence (AI) was the most talked about technology investment trend of 2023 and continued to attract investment throughout the coming year. Artificial intelligence had become a much more prominent theme for greenfield investments in recent years. Companies had been opening foreign offices and research centers to develop their AI offerings. These included both internal and external offerings. Companies saw AI as a way to provide quicker insights, inducing efficiency savings (in terms of time and cost). Yet, many companies (especially smaller companies) were still only at the initial stages of developing their AI strategies. Big data analytics was another popular use of AI. This session highlighted the direction of investments in the AI field.

MODERATOR




Chris Knight,
Managing Director
FDI Intelligence


PANELISTS



Daniel Silverman
Vice President of FDI
Invest Quebec



Daniel Callaghan
Senior Vice President
Marketing & Business
GrowthSVP Marketing
& Business Growth
Dubai Silicon Oasis




Sam Guédouard
Global Engagement
Manager
*Australian Trade and
Investment Commission
(Austrade)*

Panel: Public-private partnership and FDI in sustainable infrastructure: Latest trends and policy implications


Public-Private Partnerships were the way to go in huge capital-intensive infrastructure projects that were critical for addressing key SDG goals, including the energy transition to combat climate change. International investment was not only part of this equation but could be pivotal in controlling costs. The panel presented recent best practices in this regard, drawing on the vast membership of the World Association of PPP units and PPP professionals, and strived to provide a checklist of best policy practices as a take-away.

MODERATOR




Waheed Qaiser
Chairman
AlephFinance


PANELISTS




Bertrande Badre
Managing Partner &
Founder
*BlueOrange Sustainable
Capital*



Ida Beerhalter
Co-Heading
IOME



Yassin Al Suroor
Founder, President &
CEO
A'amal Group



Russell Curtis
CEO
Invest Durban

Panel: The New Global 15% Minimum Tax

The implementation of a global 15% minimum tax rate represented a radically different approach to the international tax framework, which had both financial and operational tax implications for finance & FDIs sectors. The agreement established a two-pillar solution revising tax rules to address profit shifting and tax base erosion caused by tax avoidance practices, as well as challenges posed by the increasing digitalization of the global economy. This session discussed the effect of the agreement on Global FDIs, taking into consideration the increased number of signing countries.

MODERATOR



Dr. Mazdak Rafaty
CEO
LIC

PANELISTS



Andrejs Senkovs
Co-Partner
MAGNUM ESTATE



Anton Garanin
Deputy General
Director
Nizhny Novgorod
Region Development
Corporation



Glenn Barklie
Principal Economist
for FDI
GlobalData



Sumit Kukreja
Managing & Founding
Partner
PV

AIM Talks 2024: Implications of tax reforms for IPAs and SEZs

The panel discussed the issue of the global tax reform from the perspective of Investment Promotion Agencies and Special Economic Zones (SEZs). This reform was bound to eliminate major policy instruments from the toolkit at the disposal of these agencies. Hence, alternative policy instruments needed to be considered in the pursuit of sustainable investment promotion and sustainable SEZs. The panel heard from IPA practitioners and international experts on the potential way forward in investment promotion

LEAD BY



Douglas van den
Berghe
CEO
NxtZones

SPEAKERS



Dr. Manuel Pedro
Co-Partner
MAGNUM ESTATE



Reginald Yofi Grant
CEO
Ghana Investment Promotion
Centre



Stephanie Pragnell
Investments Unit
Coordinator
PROPANAMA

Panel: Building a Sustainable future: FDI in Renewable Energy

In Cooperation with: 

Renewable energy took center stage in this session as a critical aspect of building a sustainable future. Recognizing the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions, this session featured in-depth discussions on the latest investment trends, innovations, and investment opportunities in renewable energy projects, examining how FDI could play a pivotal role in scaling up renewable energy projects globally based on successful case studies where FDI facilitated the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies in various regions.

MODERATOR



Andrew Clutz
Head of Sustainability
Tractus

PANELISTS



Irena Spazzapan
Founding Partner
Systemiq Capital

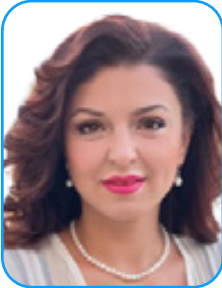


Thomas Heinfart
Chairman
Solar Hero GmbH

Panel: Unlocking sustainable potential: Exploring FDI’s impact on food security, and the SDG attainment in agriculture

This session considered how FDI advanced food security and the attainment of the SDG on hunger. According to recent estimates, reaching global food needs required an extra \$300–350 billion per year for the next decade, and FDI could contribute greatly to reaching this target, provided appropriate policies were in place that strived to harness the positive effects and minimize the potential negative impacts. FDI in agri-food systems also presented opportunities for mitigating and adapting to climate change and addressing biodiversity loss. The panel considered recent policy developments in this area, distilling best practices and policy and regulatory lessons that could be learned from them.

MODERATOR



Marianna Bulbuc
Founder & CEO
Bizzmosis Group

PANELISTS



Alvaro Silva
– Santisteban
Director UAE & GCC
Ministry of Foreign
Trade and Tourism
– Peru



Amanda Line
Co-Founder
New Leaf Modern Farms



Amruta Kshemkalyani
Managing Director
AK Sustainability
Advisory



Marie-Christine
Luijckx
CFA - Founder &
Managing Partner
Fruitful Day

Panel: Regulation 2.0: Investment Facilitation and Digitalization

In Cooperation with:

As we navigated the complexities of a rapidly evolving digital landscape, the role of regulatory frameworks in facilitating investment and fostering innovation became paramount. This panel session, aptly titled “Regulation 2.0,” delved into the challenges and opportunities of regulating investment for the future, exploring how innovative regulatory approaches and new international agreements could unlock investment potential. This session was an opportunity for leading firms to share their insights with governments on how best to tackle these challenges. In particular, discussions took place around three themes:

- Identifying Regulatory Barriers to Future Investments: What regulatory hurdles currently hindered investment in digitalization and climate solutions? From outdated policies to legal uncertainties, how could stakeholders identify and address these barriers to pave the way for future-focused investments?
- Innovative Regulatory Approaches for Investment Facilitation: How could regulatory frameworks be redesigned to encourage innovation and investment in emerging sectors? What role did flexible regulations, regulatory sandboxes, and cross-sectoral collaboration play in fostering a conducive environment for future investments?
- International Cooperation for Investment Facilitation: How could stakeholders collaborate globally to address regulatory barriers and foster innovation in investment facilitation using international instruments such as the WTO’s Investment Facilitation Agreement in facilitating cross-border investment flows and regulatory harmonization?

OPENING REMARKS



Deemah Al Yahya
Secretary General
Digital Cooperation
Organization

MODERATOR



Khalid Alaamer
Policy Analyst,
Investment Policy and
Practice
World Economic Forum

PANELISTS



Ahmad Riad Ismail
Senior Director
Huawei Technologies



Mohit Bhasin
Partner & Global Co-Lead
Economic Growth Lead
KPMG International




Lishia Ezra
Executive Board & Investment
Working Group Advisor
Koalisi Indonesia Membumi (KEM)

Panel: The Future of Digital Health: Envisioning Artificial Intelligence as the Next Frontier in Medical Care


This session delved into the exciting prospects of digital health and its potential evolution with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI). As medical technologies continued to advance, the question of AI's role as a future doctor emerged. We explored the current applications of AI in healthcare, its impact on diagnostics, treatment recommendations, and patient care. Participants critically analyzed the challenges and opportunities that arose when AI took on a central role in the realm of medicine, paving the way for a new era of healthcare delivery.

MODERATOR




Glen D. Gilmore
Founder
Gilmore Business Network


PANELISTS




Alex Zhavoronkov
Founder and CEO
Insilico Medicine




Darlington Akogo
Founder and CEO
minoHealth AI Labs



Dr. Mohammad El Sahili
Chief Vision Officer
Medland Health Services Zambia




Nikhil Sharma
Founder and CEO
BioCortex



Ming Jie Chua
CEO
EVYD Technology Limited


Global Data Report Launching Navigating the Changes Affecting FDI Across Middle East and Africa

OPENING REMARKS



Eleanor Slinger
Regional Director
New Statesman Media Group and GlobalData

PRESENTER



Glenn Barklie
Principal Economist for FDI
GlobalData


AIM CONGRESS 2024 - REPORT

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Rethink Foreign Direct Investments: Global Vision Session


In the panel session titled “Rethink Foreign Direct Investments: Global Vision,” industry leaders and experts gathered to explore the evolving landscape of foreign direct investments (FDIs) in today’s interconnected world. The session delved into the complexities and opportunities presented by shifting global economic dynamics, emphasizing the need for a renewed strategic approach to FDIs. Key discussions focused on the impact of technological advancements and digital transformation on investment strategies. Panelists highlighted the necessity for countries to adapt their policies to attract and retain investments in tech-driven sectors. The role of sustainability and green investments also featured prominently, with experts advocating for environmentally responsible investment practices that align with global climate goals. Geopolitical factors and their influence on investment flows were scrutinized, underscoring the importance of stability and cooperation among nations to foster a conducive investment climate. Additionally, the session addressed the challenges faced by emerging markets in attracting FDIs and the potential solutions to bridge these gaps. The panel concluded with a consensus on the need for collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and international organizations to rethink and reshape FDI strategies. This collective vision aims to enhance economic growth, innovation, and sustainable development worldwide.

MODERATOR




Prof Henrik von Scheel
Industry 4.0 Originator & The Most Influential Futurist


PANELISTS




Gilles Koch
CEO
SHIELD Bank



Ciprian Popa
CEO
CarbonX



Paul Lalovich
CEO
Agile dynamics



Shaik Hamdan
CEO
NEXT IT

AIM CONGRESS 2024 - REPORT

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INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRACK

Envisioning Future Cities: Integrating Technology, Sustainability, and Resilience

In the pursuit of sustainable and efficient urban development, AIM 2024 focuses on future cities, which embraces cutting-edge technologies and heralding a new era of progress. Robotics-enabled automation and AI-enhanced systems will be at the core of this transformation, revolutionizing industries and daily life. By integrating automation into manufacturing, transportation, healthcare, and services, cities can boost productivity, minimize human error, and enhance overall quality of life. As we strive for the advancement of urban living, it's essential to acknowledge the growing impact of climate change and the rising threat of natural disasters. These challenges must be factored into the blueprint of future cities. In the face of changing weather patterns and an increase in extreme events like hurricanes, droughts, and floods, urban planning should prioritize resilience and sustainability. Incorporating climate-resistant infrastructure, implementing disaster response mechanisms, and embracing eco-friendly practices are imperative for ensuring the longevity and well-being of future cities. One of the key aspect of future cities is the empowerment of data-driven decision-making through AI-powered systems. By harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence, cities can optimize resource allocation, implement predictive analytics, and create smarter and more adaptive urban environments. The expected outcome will not only demonstrate heightened economic competitiveness but also significantly improve living standards, paving the way for the blueprint of cities in the future.

Supply chain digitalization will also be another critical aspect of future city development, through the strategic utilization of digital platforms, cloud computing, IoT devices, blockchain technology, and additive manufacturing, it can construct interconnected and highly efficient supply chain ecosystems. Each aspect of supply chain digitalization will play a distinct and crucial role in future city development. The adoption of digital platforms will facilitate seamless collaboration and real-time data exchange between stakeholders, enhancing supply chain visibility and agility. Cloud computing will offer scalable computing power for AI-driven analytics and real-time access to critical supply chain information. IoT devices and sensors will provide continuous monitoring of goods and environmental conditions, enabling proactive issue identification and optimal resource management. Blockchain technology will enhance supply chain security, transparency, and traceability, fostering trust among stakeholders and reducing fraud. Emphasizing the significance of each aspect, future cities will become a vital foundation for building resilient and sustainable economies, ensuring the smooth flow of goods and services to sustain growth and attain inclusive prosperity.

Conference Highlights

- **Digital Economy Focus:** Dr. Ali Alkhoori emphasized maximizing the potential of the digital economy to drive growth and sustainability in future cities, highlighting the importance of digital transformation and collaboration across sectors.
- **Award Ceremony Participants:** Recognized figures from various countries and companies were honored during the award ceremony, including officials from the UAE, Egypt, and Bahrain, alongside representatives from innovative tech companies like ELIXR and Modern Edge Inc.
- **Innovation in Smart Cities:** Speakers like Catalina Valentino and Charles Austen Angell highlighted the role of digital twins, AI, and smart design in creating safer and more sustainable urban environments, emphasizing the importance of accurate data and community-centric approaches.



- **Building Resilient Economies:** Panel discussions led by experts like Ishaku Maitumbi and Safder Nazir explored strategies for building resilient and sustainable economies through innovative solutions in future cities, touching on topics such as renewable energy, smart infrastructure, and data-driven governance models.
- **Empowering Emerging Countries:** Panelists like Amruta Kshemkalyani and Bertrand Badre discussed the potential of future cities as catalysts for inclusive growth and sustainable development in emerging countries, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors, along with a focus on human-centric urban planning.



Panel: Fostering Efficiency in Future Cities: Paving the Way for Supply Chain Digital Transformation



INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRACK

Leaders' Panel: Empowering Global Economy through IOT, Digitalization and AI Systems: The Role of Data-Driven Decision-Making

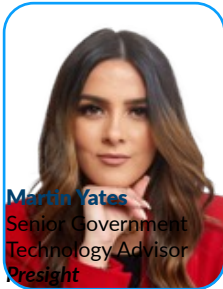
As the Global Economy contended with the ever-growing complexities of new technologies, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) systems offered promising potential to enhance Global Economy's operations, services, and planning. AI-driven technologies enabled data collection, analysis, and interpretation on an unprecedented scale, holding the key to informed and efficient decision-making. However, the effective implementation of AI in urban contexts required addressing challenges. This problem statement sought to catalyze discussions on how Global Economy could harness the power of AI to bolster their efficiency and livability through data-driven decision-making. By exploring strategies to responsibly collect, analyze, and apply data, the conversation aimed at leveraging AI's transformative potential while safeguarding ethical considerations and the broader well-being of the Global Economy.

MODERATOR

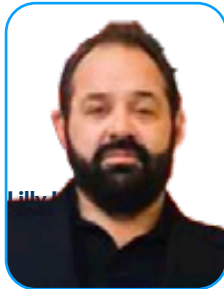


Glen Gilmore
Forbes Top 20 "Social Media Influencer and also ranked a top influencer in Digital Transformation
Emerging Tech & Travel

PANELISTS



Martin Yates
Senior Government Technology Advisor
Presight



Charles Austen Angell
CEO
Modern Edge Inc.



Steve Nouri
Founder & Board Member
Generative AI



Catalina Valentino
Chief Executive Officer
ELIXR



Lilian

Masterclass: Designing the Future of Cities: Innovation, Sustainability, and Community Engagement

Cities were hubs of innovation, diversity, and growth, shaping the future of our societies. As urban populations continued to grow, so did the challenges and opportunities for urban development. This session aimed to delve into innovative approaches and sustainable solutions for designing cities of the future that were resilient, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of their communities. It showcased successful initiatives, best practices, and transformative projects that harnessed technology, promoted environmental sustainability, and fostered community engagement to create vibrant and livable urban environments.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad
Senior Vice President
Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) & Chairman - Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance Association (MSCA)

Panel: Smart Agriculture - The Future of Farming & Food Transformation

Smart agriculture referred to the utilization of technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), sensors, location systems, robots, and artificial intelligence (AI) on farms. The main goal of smart agriculture was to achieve greater food self-sufficiency and revenues by compensating for environmental risks of crop failures and increasing overall yield quality. Tailor-made IoT devices and AI solutions were preferable in order to maximize efficiency and output. By training machine learning models with both new and existing information, yield prediction became a reality. As a countermeasure, even very traditional industries like agriculture increasingly utilized IoT, Big Data, and AI. These technologies were expected to counter the pressures of increasing food demand and climate changes. Utilizing modern technology as part of broader digital transformation initiatives had become a significant requirement for reducing labor and ensuring manpower.

MODERATOR



Mark Tester
Professor of Plant Science & Associate Director
Center for Desert Agriculture - KAUST

PANELISTS



Dr. Farah Ali Al Zarooni
Assistant Undersecretary for Standards and Regulations Sector
MOIAT



Erin Grover
Head of Regenerative Finance
The Sovereign Development Bank




Zoran Lazarevic
Chief Technology Officer
Middle East and Africa Ericsson

Fireside Chat: Industry 4.0: Smart Manufacturing & Industrialization


Leading manufacturers had begun realizing significant value from data and analytics, AI, and machine learning (ML). However, a large majority remained stuck in pilot purgatory, struggling to capture the full potential of their transformation efforts or deliver a satisfactory return on investment. While digital transformations were notoriously difficult to scale up across networks of factories, the pressure to succeed was intense. Companies at the forefront were capturing benefits across the entire manufacturing value chain—increasing production capacity and reducing material losses, improving customer service and delivery lead times, achieving higher employee satisfaction, and reducing their environmental impact. Scaled across networks, these gains could fundamentally transform a company’s competitive position.

INTERVIEWER



Irena Spazzapan
Managing Partner
Systemiq Capital

INTERVIEWEE




Humera Malik
Chief Executive Officer
Canvass AI

AIM Talks 2024: Blockchain in the Digital Economy


Like the internet in its early years, blockchain technology was hard to understand and predict, but it could become ubiquitous in the exchange of digital and physical goods, information, and online platforms. When The Economist put blockchain on the cover in 2015, it wasn’t really about its use to support a digital currency anymore; it was all about the other applications this technology would unleash within the next 5 to 10 years. There were two types of costs blockchain could reduce: the cost of verification and the cost of networking. Using a blockchain could also reduce the cost of running a secure network, and this would happen over a longer timeline.

SPEAKER




Lavinia D. Osbourne
Linkedin Top Voice & Chief Executive Officer
Women in Blockchain Talks

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH



H.E. Oh Se-Hoon
Mayor of Seoul




Erfan Ali
Chief of Staff
UN-Habitat

Leaders’ Panel: Building Resilient and Sustainable Economies through Future Cities’ Innovations


Urbanization and economic development were converging forces that necessitated innovative approaches to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability. This session explored the transformative potential of harnessing innovative solutions within the context of future cities to establish economies that were not only robust but also environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. The discussion touched upon how these innovations could fortify economies against shocks, bolster environmental sustainability, and create new avenues for inclusive growth. Topics of exploration included the integration of renewable energy systems, smart infrastructure, circular economy practices, and data-driven governance models.

MODERATOR




Glen Gilmore
Forbes Top 20 “Social Media Influencer and also ranked a top influencer in Digital Transformation
Emerging Tech & Travel


PANELISTS




Ishaku Maitumbi
Head of the Horn and East Africa Portfolio
UN-Habitat



Safder Nazir
Senior Vice-President
Public Sector of Middle East & Central Asia
Huawei



Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad
Senior Vice President
Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)
Chairman
Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance Association (MSCA)



Vitor Pereira
Co-Founder & Director
ZOOM Global Smart Cities

Panel: Empowering Emerging Countries: Future Cities as Catalysts for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth

The dialogue delved into a multifaceted exploration of how urban centers could harness cutting-edge technologies, data-driven governance, and sustainable infrastructure to leapfrog traditional development trajectories. The emphasis was on designing cities that prioritized offering affordable housing, providing reliable public services, and ensuring access to adequate education and healthcare for all citizens. The discussion also touched upon how future cities could foster entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation, leading to robust economic growth and enhanced quality of life. By bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences, this panel discussion contributed to a comprehensive understanding of how emerging countries could leverage future cities as powerful tools for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

MODERATOR



Dr. Houda CHIHl
Senior Researcher
InnovCOM Sup'COM

PANELISTS



Amruta Kshemkalyani
Managing Director
AK Sustainability
Advisory



Bertrand Badre
Managing Partner &
Founder
BlueOrange Sustainable
Capital



Daouda Gueye
Deputy Mayor
Dakar City in Charge
of ICT



Thato Mmereki
Special Envoy:
Business,
Developmental
Diplomacy &
Geopolitics
Executive Outcomes
Global

Fireside Chat: Crafting Resilient and Sustainable Future Cities in the Wake of Climate Change and Natural Disasters

The session delved into the critical intersection of urban development, climate change, and natural disasters. As we envisioned the future of cities, it was paramount to address the challenges posed by the growing impact of climate change and the heightened risk of natural disasters. Our discussion explored how these challenges should shape the blueprint of future cities, emphasizing the need for resilience and sustainability. Experts in urban development, climate science, and disaster response shared insights on incorporating climate-resistant infrastructure, establishing effective disaster response mechanisms, and promoting eco-friendly practices. By centering our dialogue on these vital topics, we aimed to uncover strategies and solutions that ensured the well-being and longevity of the cities we built for generations to come.

INTERVIEWER



Paul Holthus
CEO
World Ocean Council

INTERVIEWEE



**Ambassador Rae
Kwon Chung**
Board Member
Ban Ki-Moon
Foundation

Presentation: Converge in Tianhe, Build the Future

SPEAKER



Xu Wei
Director
Tianhe District

Panel: Urbanization's Impact on Global Business Landscape: Opportunities and Challenges

This discussion encapsulated the dynamic interplay between urbanization and the global business landscape. Exploring the profound shifts brought about by urban growth, the discourse aimed to dissect the new avenues and complexities that urbanization presented to businesses worldwide. By bringing together industry leaders and economists, this conversation navigated the evolving consumer behaviors, technological innovations, and market dynamics that urbanization fueled. It also addressed the potential hurdles, including resource constraints, competition, and regulatory demands, while seeking strategies to harness urbanization's potential for sustainable business growth. The expected outcome was a nuanced understanding of how businesses could align with urbanization trends to foster innovation, inclusivity, and economic prosperity.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Safder Nazir
Senior Vice-President
Public Sector of Middle
East & Central Asia
- Huawei

PANELISTS



Azura Ali
Exco
Malaysia Smart Cities
Alliance Association (MSCA)
Designation Sales Director
Sistem Perintis Sdn Bhd



Corey Gray
Chair
Smart Cities Council



Lilly Lau
Founder
DESMO

MODERATOR



Christina Zhang
CEO
The Metaverse Institute



Igor Ezhkova
Director
Business Development -
Sitronics Group

Presentation: Cambodia – Bay of Light

This session delved more into the opportunities of Cambodia, Bay of Light to emerge as a coastal masterpiece of innovation and attract global capital flows and financial success.



David Richard
Head of Division
*Hospitality & Tourism -
Canopy Sands*

Panel: The Development of Data Focused Infrastructure Through Business & Education and Importance of Connecting the Unconnected

As data was a critical factor in enabling cities to decarbonize, cities were finding ways to get the data they needed, and the utilization of IoT devices was increasingly becoming more important. At the same time, how to connect the unconnected ‘digital divide’ and to increase broadband connectivity led to improved economic activities. NIFCO’s Mr. Nakamura and Global Plan’s Mr. Okamura addressed the importance of education on the utilization of data and connecting the unconnected.

MODERATOR



Ashraf Ali Mahate
Chief Economist
*Department of Economy
and Tourism*

SPEAKER



Haruo Okamura
Chief Executive Officer
Global Plan Inc.



Isamu Koyama
Chief Executive Officer
136LLC

Master Class: PropTech – The Future of Real Estate Sector within Future Cities

A significant shift was underway in the evolving landscape of real estate technology (“proptech”). As we delved into 2024, the sector experienced an unprecedented surge in innovation and early-stage investment, reshaping the future of real estate transactions and management. The proptech sector, a technological cornerstone of the real estate space heavily reliant on venture capital, encountered formidable challenges. Technology was set to emerge as a crucial tool in such sectors as the rental segment, with the advent of online rental screening software enhancing efficiency, rent payment reporting, and thwarting fraudulent activities. This Masterclass focused on proptech as a revolutionary solution in the Real Estate sector.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Dr. Nour El Deen El Serougy
The Eagle of Real Estate' & Chief Executive Officer
HRE Properties Egypt



Vitaly Berezka
PropTech ambassador
MENA & APAC
PlanRadar

Panel: Fostering Efficiency in Future Cities: Paving the Way for Supply Chain Digital Transformation

The discussion aimed to unravel the transformative potential of digitized supply chains in optimizing resource allocation, reducing waste, and enhancing overall urban operations. Through this session, we explored innovative technologies such as IoT, AI, and blockchain, which held the key to seamless collaboration, real-time tracking, and predictive analytics within urban supply networks. Anticipated outcomes included actionable insights, best practices, and collaborative strategies to navigate the complexities of digitalizing supply chains, thereby contributing to sustainable and resource-efficient future cities.

MODERATOR



Erdinc Ekinci
Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer
Openfor.co, Inc



Mall Kikas
Director of Business Development
Exponaut/4.control.ai



Mark Skljarov
Chief Executive Officer
Waste Locker



Martin Yates
Senior Government Technology Advisor
Presight

AIM Talks 2024: Creating Resilient and Smart Urban Ecosystems

In an era marked by rapid urbanization, the transformation of cities into resilient and smart urban ecosystems had emerged as an imperative endeavor. The convergence of technological advancements, environmental concerns, and population growth had prompted a paradigm shift in urban planning, requiring cities to not only withstand the challenges posed by climate change, resource constraints, and social inequalities but also to harness innovative technologies to improve livability, efficiency, and sustainability. This discussion focused on exploring strategies that could transform cities into thriving, adaptable, and technologically advanced hubs.

SPEAKER



Robert Brears
Founder
Our Future Water

Panel: Embracing the Future: Integration and Prospects of Renewable Energy in Urban Environments

As cities globally strove for sustainability and reduced environmental impact, the integration of renewable energy sources stood as a crucial pathway toward achieving these goals. The session sought to explore the potential for sustainable development, enhanced resilience, and the pivotal role of renewable energy integration in urban settings, including spotlighting the transformative potential of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydro, within urban landscapes.

MODERATOR



Zafar Said
World's Top 2% Scientists|Community Partnership Leader
Sustainability Circles

PANELISTS



Avanthika Satheesh
Director
Emerging Technologies MENA - Customised Energy Solution



Joseph Michael Daniels
Vice President
Live Data Trust and UKBCSD | Special Advisor, DESNZ | Forbes 30under30



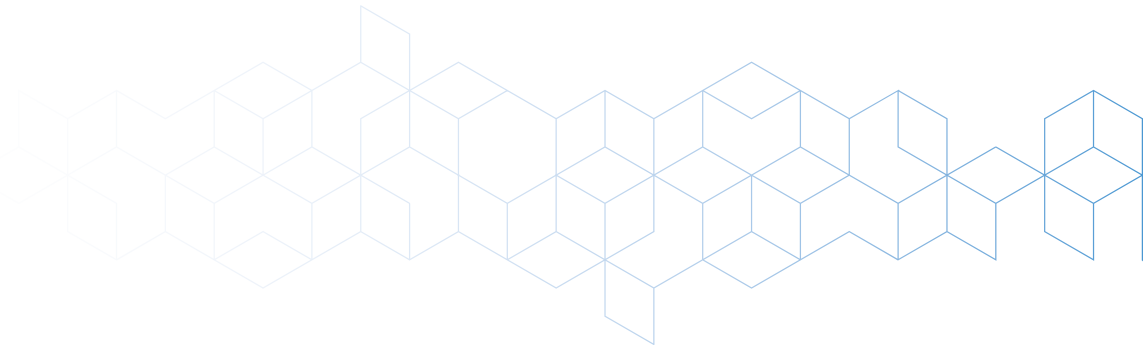
Maria Flouda
Founder & Managing Consultant
Sustainability Switch Consultancy



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Gamal Kafafy
President
World Chairman & World Green Economy Council (WGECCO)



Thomas McMahon
Co-founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer
ACX Group



Fireside Chat: AI-Enhanced Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating AI into Medicine and Healthcare

The healthcare industry faced a multitude of challenges, including inefficiencies in administrative processes, limited access to medical services in underserved areas, and the need to enhance diagnostic accuracy. These challenges were exacerbated by the growing demand for healthcare services and the strain on healthcare systems. In response to these issues, there was a pressing need to explore and implement innovative solutions driven by healthcare automation technologies. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, data analytics, and telemedicine held the potential to revolutionize the way healthcare services were delivered, improving efficiency in administrative tasks, broadening access to medical services, and enhancing diagnostic precision. However, effective adoption hinged on addressing ethical, security, and human interaction aspects. Thus, the session covered how healthcare automation could strategically address the challenges, contributing to an evolved healthcare ecosystem that prioritized efficiency, accessibility, and improved patient outcomes.

INTERVIEWER



Jyothi Devakumar
Director of Scientific Projects
Healthspan Action Coalition

INTERVIEWEE



Alireza Haghighi
Founding Director of International Center for Genetic Disease - Harvard Medical School



Sheena Pirbhai
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Stress Point Health



Panel: Forging Intelligent and Responsive Urban Environments through the Application of Artificial Intelligence

As urbanization accelerated and cities became increasingly complex, the need for efficient, sustainable, and responsive urban environments had never been more critical. However, the challenges posed by rapid growth and resource limitations demanded innovative solutions. In this context, the application of artificial intelligence (AI) offered a transformative opportunity to revolutionize urban development. To effectively address these challenges, there was a pressing need to explore how AI could be strategically integrated into urban systems and processes to create intelligent, data-driven, and adaptable urban environments. This problem statement aimed to initiate a dialogue on how AI technologies could be harnessed to enhance urban infrastructure, optimize resource allocation, enhance public services, and ultimately forge urban environments that were intelligent, responsive, and capable of meeting the evolving needs of citizens and stakeholders in the modern era.

MODERATOR



Jimi Daodu
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Vault Hill

PANELISTS



Dr. Mohd Nor Azman Hassan
Deputy Secretary General
MOSTI



Gesa Ziemer
Academic Lead
UNITAC



Haruo Okamura
Chief Executive Officer
Global Plan Inc.



Isamu Koyama
Chief Executive Officer
136LLC



Steve Severance
Director of Growth
Masdar City



Omnia Hamed
Senior Director
The Private Office of Sheikh Saeed Bin Ahmed Al Maktoum

Panel: Interconnected Supply Chain Ecosystems: The Power of Collaboration

In today’s globalized economy, supply chains are intricate networks that extend across geographical boundaries and involve multiple stakeholders, from manufacturers to distributors, retailers, and consumers. However, these interconnected supply chain ecosystems are confronted with multifaceted challenges that hinder operational efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. Fragmented information sharing, lack of transparency, supply disruptions, and environmental concerns are just a few of the obstacles impeding the seamless flow of goods and services. To address these challenges, the concept of collaboration emerges as a potential solution. Yet, achieving effective collaboration among diverse entities within a supply chain ecosystem poses its own set of complexities, requiring alignment of goals, information sharing, and trust-building. This session catalyzed a conversation on the transformative power of collaboration in interconnected supply chain ecosystems, highlighting the need to explore strategies, technologies, and best practices that enable seamless coordination, foster transparency, enhance risk management, and ultimately optimize the functioning of supply chains in an increasingly interconnected and dynamic global market.

MODERATOR



Erdinc Ekinci
Co-founder & Chief
Executive Officer
Openfor.co, Inc

PANELISTS



Charupriya M Chahal
Director
Crescent Enterprises



Raji Hattar
Acting Chief
Sustainability Officer
Aramex



Sowmya Ramaswami
Consulting Practice
Manager in Global Trade
and Export Solutions
Euromonitor

Panel: Transportation Transformation: How Automation Shapes the Future of Logistics & Transportation in FC

Mobility worldwide has experienced a notable resurgence since the pandemic’s end, underscoring the pivotal role of transportation in our modern lives. However, this resurgence brings with it critical questions about sustainability, environmental impact, and the need for innovative solutions. As transportation companies ramp up production to meet this increased demand, concerns arise about the sustainability of their operations. The energy consumption and emissions associated with traditional gasoline-powered vehicles present a significant challenge. This session will explore how digitalization and AI redefine the future of automation, transportation, and logistics, not only in terms of efficient and convenient transit but also in terms of its environmental footprint. The discussion focused on how the transition of major automotive and logistics manufacturing into more sustainable and eco-friendlier environments can develop a better future, integrating greener transportation to create a healthier and more environmentally friendly world.

MODERATOR



Jamal Payne
Founder & Chief Supply
Chain Office
Blknsdm

PANELISTS



Hani Tannir
Chief Executive Officer
*Al Masaood Group
Industrial*



Marwa Kaabour
Group Head of Marketing and
Corporate Communication
Al Masaood

Masterclass: 2024 Revolutionary Solutions for Future Cities

Digital technologies connect people, information, and urban elements, allowing smart cities to function as a single organism to improve the quality of life. Tech-driven innovations optimize energy consumption in a broad scope of applications from mobility to urban planning and waste management. This Masterclass discussed the top revolutionary solutions for smart cities in 2024, showcasing the latest advancements and their potential to transform urban living. Attendees gained insights into cutting-edge technologies and innovative practices that are shaping the future of cities, driving sustainability, efficiency, and enhanced urban experiences.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Prof. Luca Mora
Urban Innovation at the Business School
Edinburgh Napier University

SMEs TRACK – ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The Largest Economic Driver: The Road Ahead to Enhance the Effect of SMEs on the Development of the Global Economy

In an increasingly competitive global environment, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from emerging economies (EEs) have been witnessed to rise and rapidly expand in international markets. AIM Congress 2024 calls for enabling and encouraging policies that stimulate SMEs, creativity, innovation, lifelong learning, agility and entrepreneurial education throughout society. Despite this fundamental role, smaller companies continue to be affected by structural market failures, meaning that public support is warranted. The majority of SMEs innovate in an incremental but continuous manner. Therefore, improving the innovation ecosystem must focus on skills and qualification, access to finance and knowledge, the support for networks and clusters and the availability of coaching. International institutions and leading countries offer an extensive range of strategies to address the challenges preventing SMEs from accessing finance, including the cost, diversification of financing, and availability. Especially important for the current transition to a digital and circular economy is the provision of incentive for the transfer of technology between SMEs and from larger companies and knowledge centers towards SMEs.

Conference Highlights

- Supply Chain Stability and Technology Integration:** Christian Purstinger emphasized the critical role of maintaining supply chain stability to protect the economy, noting that technology plays a crucial role in enhancing and localizing supply chains to avoid disruptions.
- Geopolitical Challenges and Trade Routes:** Maria Camilleri Calleja highlighted the impact of political disruptions on the food supply chain, particularly in the Gulf region, and stressed the importance of securing trade routes like the Red Sea and Cape of Good Hope to maintain supply chain resilience.
- Innovation and Government Support:** Dr. Assia Ben Saad discussed Morocco's advancements in digital transformation and cloud computing, underscoring the government's efforts to promote exports and economic growth through technological innovation and financial incentives.




- Transportation and Investment Opportunities:** Dr. Martin Zhu spoke about the development of marine transportation and the importance of investment in infrastructure to make transportation affordable and efficient, while addressing global supply chain challenges.
- Sustainable Development and Climate Impact:** Grazvydas Bajoras pointed out the significance of reducing emissions in aviation and marine fuels, advocating for sustainable development practices that minimize the climate impact without disrupting the supply chain.

SMEs TRACK – ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Leaders' Panel : The Outward Foreign Direct Investments (OFDI) of SMEs: New Challenges and Opportunities


SMEs typically have limited resources compared to large companies and therefore often rely on innovation capability to enhance their competitiveness in the global market. Research in more developed economies has shown a positive link between R&D intensity, the domestic institutional environment, and SMEs' OFDI. Furthermore, economic growth and rising consumption levels in emerging economies (EEs) are driving SMEs to focus on innovation through R&D investments. Consequently, SMEs in EEs may develop firm-specific advantages that they can leverage in foreign markets. Drawing on the resource-based view (RBV) of the firm, we expect that SMEs in EEs with high R&D intensity are more likely to have specific innovation advantages that allow them to engage in more frequent OFDI activities. This session highlighted the capabilities of SMEs regarding outward foreign direct investment.

MODERATOR




Giovanni Zazzerini
Secretary General
The International Network for SMEs (INSME)


PANELISTS




Dr. Hoda Galal Yassa
President
Arab Women Investors Union
President
Businesswomen Association for Development




H.E. Fabio Righi
Minister of Industry
Handicraft and Trade,
Technological Research
San Marino




Hayssam El Masri
Senior Executive
Officer
Ento Capital



Mohamed Khodeir
Founder & Managing
Partner
Khodeir & Partners



Orkhan Mammadov
Chairman
Management Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency - Republic of Azerbaijan




James Hehn
Director
Fox-Davies Capital

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Panel: Technology Overload: The New Challenge in SMEs World

In Cooperation with: 

As we head into the New Year, it will be critical for SMEs to consider how automation can push their business forward in 2023. Over the past few years, new tools have been integrated into tech stacks across companies to “help” employees do their work. However, this has resulted in tech overload – in fact, at large organizations, an average of 175 applications are offered to employees. But that’s not necessarily a good thing. We’ve gotten to a point where those tools complicate workflows, and employees spend more time navigating platforms than actually doing impactful work. SMEs need to prioritize tools that let employees focus on doing the work they’re meant to do while the rest is automated. Document generation platforms are already doing this by automating the document creation process – allowing them to protect their internal documents and overcome common document governance challenges. This session tackled technology overload as a new concept affecting the SMEs realm.

MODERATOR



Ahella Shaban
Co-Founder & Vice
Chairman
Exits MENA

PANELISTS



Dr. Heba Labib
Director
Nile Preneure



Hany Ayad
Chairperson
YEN



Omar Al Haddad
GCC GM
Paymob



Basel Hijazi
Product Marketing
Google



Sabrina Salama
Head of MENA
Partnerships
Seedstars

Panel: Unlocking Possibilities: Supply Chains Disruptions

The pandemic created a cataclysmic disruption to the supply chain that is still causing reverberations, even into 2024—shelves are still not stocked with some once-common items while others sit in warehouses. A truly revolutionary way to enable the secure sharing of information, the blockchain will prove to be the ultimate answer to supply chain transparency (along with many other things). A robust, agile supply chain is critical for business success. Advanced ERP solutions based on AI and blockchain will help make complex networks much more transparent and resilient. Many SMEs still work off inadequate systems, such as ancient legacy systems or spreadsheets. They don’t have stock visibility and can’t guarantee fulfilment – a serious business risk in volatile times. Those who invest in technology that gives them transparency and real-time data will best position themselves to survive future volatility and take advantage of opportunities in 2024. This session discussed how the disruptions in the supply chain that happened in 2020 led to the creation of innovative tools to manage the supply chain field.

MODERATOR



**Reinhold von
Ungern-Sternberg**
Director International
Markets
BVMW

PANELISTS



H.E. Maria Camilleri Calleja
Ambassador of Malta to the
United Arab Emirates
Permanent Representative of
Malta To I.R.E.N.A



Dr Martin Zhu
Founder
i2Cool



Dr. Assia Ben Saad
Director of
Cooperation &
Partnerships
AMDIE



Christian Purstinger
CTO
Terraplasma Medical



**Ibraev Danil
Tursunbekovich**
President
Kyrgyz Union of
Industrialists and
Entrepreneurs



MAHER AL KAABI
Advisor to Alserkal
Group Chairman
Independent Board
Member



Grazvydas Bajoras
Partner/Director
Inion

Fireside Chat: Adoptive Innovative Technologies in 2024: The Way Ahead of Improving Customers' Retention Rate

As expectations continue to rise, capturing consumer retention becomes harder. For retailers, delivery is a large contributor to loyalty-based purchasing habits. By offering flexible delivery options, communicating cut-off times, and diversifying their couriers should one be impacted, retailers can offer hugely convenient and transparent deliveries that can turn first-time shoppers into loyal customers. Dependability and certainty are essential to success, especially in 2023. Since the pandemic, digital has risen in power. However, 2023 arrives with enormous disruption, particularly in the digital ad space. Traditional acquisition channels are starting to deliver diminishing returns – it costs a lot more to achieve flat YoY growth. This is due to dramatic increases in cost-per-click (CPC) costs across paid media for the same volume of clicks and additional privacy measures, making it harder to retarget customers. Working towards an extended deadline of 2024, Google is phasing out third-party cookies (3PCs) in its Chrome browser. Though many retailers and SMEs have understandable concerns, there's a significant growth opportunity for those that intelligently evolve their approach well ahead of this deadline. Next year, it will be crucial that businesses let customer sentiment drive their decision-making. The digital landscape is constantly evolving. One way to keep pace is by putting the customer at the forefront and looking for ways to optimize and personalize their digital experience across multiple channels. This session tackled the new adopted tactics of improving customers' retention rate.

MODERATOR



Austen Angell
CEO
Modern Edge Inc

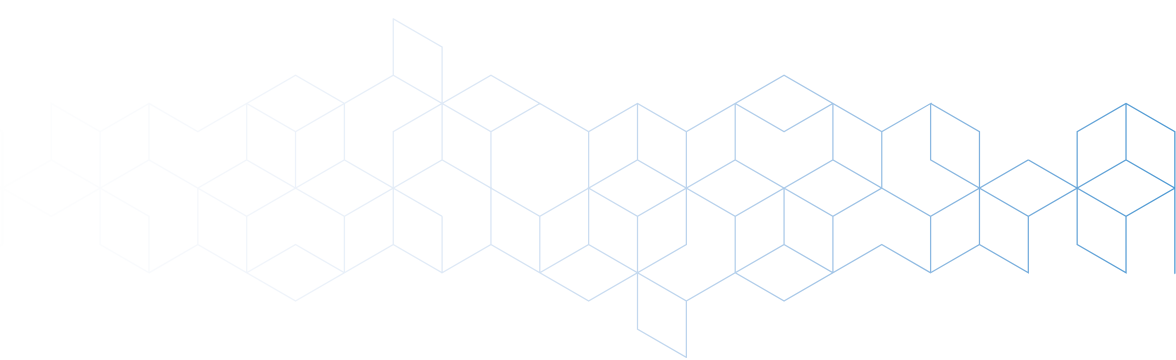
PANELISTS



Thami Zondi
Economic Development and
Investment Expert Senior
Government Official
RSA



Karima Catherine
Founder & CEO – B2BeeMatch |
Founder
Tech Canada Advocates



Panel: Customers' Based Challenges: Innovate to Captivate - The Power of AI in Customer Loyalty and Retention

Acquiring a customer is becoming more expensive, so local businesses must find new, cost-effective ways to drive leads and sales. Some of the easiest, most effective, and budget-friendly ways of driving acquisition are improving online reputation and website conversion. Google Reviews are today's word of mouth, providing relatable and influential feedback consumers desire and boosting local search ranking. Meanwhile, a webchat function can increase website conversion rates by 20% because they lead customers to exactly what they need within seconds. Despite economic uncertainty, 2024 won't be defined by problems but exciting possibilities for Australia's innovative and essential local business community. With ever-evolving customer needs and expectations, brands acknowledge the eminent need for innovation in their customer experience and customer engagement approach. This panel discussion focused on leveraging AI tools to boost customer engagement and loyalty and hyper-personalize the experience and interactions.

MODERATOR



Baha Hamadi
Founder & Managing
Director
Keelcomms

PANELISTS



Dogad Dogoui
WUSME Special Representative
and Ambassador in Tunisia




Hajra Shiraz Mohamed
General Manager
Gwen Insurance Consultancy &
Tempo Tours & Travel Limited



Stephan Davies
General Manager for Customer
Centricity
AI-Massood



Panel: Keeping Business Operations Flow Smoothly in Uncertain Times/Unforeseen Situations

In Cooperation with:  FOUNDER INSTITUTE

A few years ago, no one could predict how the pandemic would hit and affect the economy to the lowest point in the last decade. Let alone SMEs, even big corporations struggled financially due to the unforeseen situation last year. The majority of businesses had to recreate their business models due to the sudden change in this climate to make sure that they adjust to the current situation. Unexpected obstacles like the pandemic require an effective backup plan for the business. It will be challenging, but it is possible to cope with the change. This session discussed the challenges facing SMEs in keeping stable workflow, especially in the operation part, considering the global economic challenges.

MODERATOR



Dr. Hanan El Basha
Managing Director of
*Founder Institute GCC &
Founder of The Business
Doctor*

PANELISTS



Bianca Gracias
Managing Partner
Crimson Legal



Dr. Allan Villegas
Entrepreneur in Residence
HEC Paris | Board Member



Jose Francisco Fernandez Serna
Angel Investor / Board Member
SBC
CEO – *E-Motion*



Sherif Elmasry
CEO
Maverika
Vice Chairman & CBO
Macber



Tariq Nizami
CEO
CEO Clubs Network

Panel: Women Led SMEs: Talks from Successful Models in 2024 (ShePreneurs)

Women are proving their mettle, playing a critical role in the nascent economic recovery. They are breaking barriers, crossing into occupational areas that were traditionally for ‘men only.’ Yet women around the world are often surrounded by ‘glass walls,’ making it difficult for them to enter more profitable areas. They are held back by unconscious biases, societal norms, capital constraints, and laws. Digital transformation, accelerated by the pandemic, is another area that holds great potential for women’s economic empowerment. Digital technologies can facilitate access to information and training, support networks, and foster financial inclusion – but the large digital gender divide may be an impediment. This session discussed the role models of women entrepreneurs who rose during 2024.

MODERATOR



Nadine Zerrini
Director Founder
Institute
Harvard University

PANELISTS



Bertha Yenwo Yiberla
Entrepreneur, Leadership Coach,
Wee Capacity Builder, and PMO –
Certified Practitioner



Hon Monica Mustangwa
the Minister of Women Affairs,
Community, Small and Medium
Enterprises Development
Zimbabwe



Moukouri Nee Ngo Odile
CEO
CAMPACK



Yvonne Winter
COO and Co-Founder
FlyNow Aviation GmbH

Panel: Export Priorities for Local SMEs: Market Access Strategies

In Cooperation with: 

Several studies reveal that SMEs need to internationalize to grow, but they often struggle to expand outside their home market or to do so strategically. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, high-potential SMEs in many markets found success domestically, but their potential was capped by the size of their local market. Unlike large companies, many SMEs don't have the resources to conduct extensive market research before expanding into new markets, instead following opportunities and growing only marginally. In the European Union, nearly all of the 20 percent of small businesses with e-commerce sales sell within their own economy. Fewer than half of these businesses—representing only 8 percent of the overall market—sell in other EU countries. Only 4 percent sell outside of the European Union. A similar trend is true among medium-size firms. In the United Kingdom, SMEs that have ambitious growth targets for the next five years have twice as much turnover from exports, with nearly 40 percent of their sales coming from online channels. This panel explored effective market access strategies and highlight successful case studies of SMEs that have managed to scale their operations internationally.

MODERATOR



Giovanni Zazzerini
Secretary General - The International Network for SMEs (INSME)

PANELISTS



Betty Alexandropoulou
Board member Enterprise Greece



Ciro Aquino
Regional Manager Middle East - SACE and Board Member Italian Arab Chamber of Commerce



Giulia Ajmone Marsan
Director Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)



Sarah Hassnaoui
Consultant & Researcher (INSME)



Karima Catherine
Founder & CEO B2BeeMatch Tech Canada Advocates

Interview: The Green Economy: SMEs Sustainability Plans & Decarbonization Commitments - 2024 Challenges & Risks

Climate change is the world's largest business challenge, and consumers are demanding transparency in sustainability practices as well as more eco-friendly products and services. Companies can respond by viewing the whole picture of their business practices and auditing their full supply chains. They should also consider switching to renewable energy, moving to more sustainable packaging, and allowing people to work remotely when appropriate, which can help lower emissions. This session highlighted the 2024 adopted strategies by SMEs to achieve the 2030 Agenda, discuss the challenges and risks associated with these commitments, and provide insights into the best practices for sustainability.

INTERVIEWER



Dr. Hamsa Thota - PhD
President Innovation Business Development, Inc

INTERVIEWEE



Ambassador Raekwon Chung
Board Member – Ban Ki-Moon Foundation, Personal Copy Recipient – Nobel Peace Prize 2007 of IPCCand PMO – Certified Practitioner



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Gamal Kafafy
World Chairman | President, Global University of Science & Technology (GUST), World Green Economy Council (WGECO), Chief Consultant for Energy & SD of WFPD United Nations

Breaking Barriers: “Empowering Women to Invest” Masterclass

The “Empowering Women to Invest” Masterclass tackled the often-overlooked topic of female participation in the investment world. Led by entrepreneur Bianca Tudor, the session addressed both the motivations and challenges women face when considering investing. Discussions explored the reasons why women might choose to invest, such as building wealth and achieving financial independence. The session acknowledged the unique obstacles women encounter, which could be societal pressures, lack of confidence, or a knowledge gap. To bridge this knowledge gap, the Masterclass offered strategies to help women feel more informed about investment options. Case studies of successful businesses that received funding provided practical insights into evaluating potential investments. Bianca Tudor’s story as a successful entrepreneur served as an inspiring example for aspiring women investors.

SPEAKER




Bianca Tudor
Entrepreneur, Business Advisor & Founder Elite Business Women Club Europe

Panel: The War for Talent Acquisition: 2024 – 2026 an Acute Business Need


The War for Talent is one of the emerging concepts, which has prevailed during the past couple of years in the World of Business. Companies across industries are facing massive gaps for vital future skills, and they will need to re-skill or upskill massive sections of their workforce to get ready for the 4th industrial revolution. Companies can and should take on the onus of training talent by taking steps like hiring people straight out of school, employing low-code or no-code software for critical needs, and instilling cultures of continuous learning. This session tackled the importance of talent acquisition and development, the strategies businesses can adopt to attract and retain talent, and the role of continuous learning and skill development in preparing for future business needs.

MODERATOR




Dr. Beatrix Henkel
Co-Founder
Hempy People Trading


PANELISTS




Bahram Atabeyli
Founder
Caucasus Consulting Group of Companies




Dr. Laila Marouf
Founder
the Knowledge Mindfulness Group




Dr. Marko Selakovic
Chairman
Serbian Business Council



Maria Dervenco
Chief Operating Officer
Vault Hill



Martin Denz
Managing Partner
SDTC Solutions




Reem Elshafie
HR Senior Manager
Schneider Electric

Panel: Technology and AI: the Future of Revolutionizing the Agriculture Sector.


Demand for food is growing at the same time the supply side faces constraints in land and farming inputs. The world’s population is on track to reach 9.7 billion by 2050. By 2030, the water supply will fall 40 percent short of meeting global water needs, and rising energy, labor, and nutrient costs are already pressuring profit margins. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence, analytics, connected sensors, and other emerging technologies could further increase yields, improve the efficiency of water and other inputs, and build sustainability and resilience across crop cultivation and animal husbandry. This session highlighted the different usages of AI and other technological tools in supporting SMEs working in the agriculture sector.

MODERATOR




Robert Kupstas
Founder
Ocean Harvest


PANELISTS




Ajibola Odukoya
(BA, BSc, MSc, OCP), Chief
Operating Officer
AfriLabs




Daniel Solomon
Founder & CEO
HeroGo




**Jose Francisco
Fernandez Serna**
Angel Investor / Board
Member *SBC*
CEO – *E-Motion*



Sam Guédouard
Global Engagement Manager,
Agribusiness, Food and Consumer
Trade Division
*Australian Trade & Investment
Commission (AUSTRADE)*




Martijn De Jong
*Tech Advisory Board of Northern
Data Generative AI Company*



Jawad Jamil
CEO & Co-Founder
Ocean Harvest Ltd.

Panel: Disability Inclusion: How does Including Disability affect the SMEs Ecosystem?

In Cooperation with:  International Labour Organization

While small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) generate the majority of employment opportunities worldwide, their visibility in promoting the employment and inclusion of persons with disabilities has been low, compared to the efforts of multinational enterprises. SMEs face barriers when it comes to promoting disability inclusion because companies lack disability awareness and sometimes do not see an advantage in disability inclusion. This session tackled how disability inclusion affects the SMEs working ecosystem and explore strategies to overcome these barriers, emphasizing the benefits of a more inclusive workplace.

MODERATOR



Jorge Cesar Ramirez Mata
Senior Programme Officer
International Labour Organization - ILO

PANELISTS



Dr. Mourad Mansour
COO
Serr Consulting Company



Jose Jose Grimaldo
Director
Guanajuato Institute for People with Disability



Vanessa Múnera
Manager
Casa de Carlota



Hans Genthe
CEO
CSSB.TECH

Masterclass: Enhancing Talent Acquisition Capabilities for SMEs

Lack of the right talent and capabilities has thwarted the ability of SMEs to manage various challenges. SMEs tend to struggle to acquire digital talent: 40 percent of respondents to a survey in Singapore stated they lack the digital skills to successfully adopt new technologies. The struggle to expand internationally is also attributed to trouble attracting the right talent, limited financial resources, and unfamiliarity with the regulatory environment overseas. Additionally, a lack of in-house expertise can inhibit the decarbonization efforts of SMEs. This session tackled the challenges facing SMEs in the talent acquisition field and provide practical solutions to enhance their recruitment capabilities.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Reham Arafa
Country Focal Point
Invest for Jobs (IFE) Egypt

Panel: The Blue Economy: The New Wave of Sustainable Economy

In Cooperation with: 

Every year, the ocean economy has an estimated turnover of between US\$3 and 6 trillion. This includes employment, ecosystem services provided by the ocean, and cultural services. Fisheries and aquaculture alone contribute \$US100 billion per year and about 260 million jobs to the global economy. A blue economy supports sustainable economic growth through ocean-related sectors while improving human well-being and preserving the environment. To reduce existing man-made pressures on marine ecosystems, large collaborative agreements and significant changes in all industrial sectors are needed. This session highlighted the 2024 strategies for achieving more towards the Blue Economy and discuss the long-term objectives for 2030.

MODERATOR



Robert Brears
Senior Programme Officer
Our Future Water

PANELISTS



Li Chengyong
R&D Director
Aromem PTE. LTD. (SURO)



Peter Warden
Director
the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation's Startup Accelerato



Sam Enoka
Founder and CEO
Greensparc




Tommy Sheridan
Associate Director
the Alaska Blue Economy Center



Paul Holthus
Founder
Ocean Council

Fireside Chat: The Rise of Family Offices: 2024 New Trends

In Cooperation with: 

Establishing a family office ensures family wealth is properly managed and eventually distributed to successive generations. Family office trends for 2024 will be dominated by inflation and its effects on the global economy. Investing in healthcare and AI are focus areas for family offices; 62% are currently using AI and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) or planning to do so in the near future. Setting up succession plans for family offices in emerging markets is also a concern. This session will highlight family office investment trends in 2024, including private equity, cryptocurrency, ESG, and sustainable investment. Additionally, the session discussed succession plans and the rise of single and multi-family offices.

INTERVIEWER



Pravin Raveendran
Founder & Director
AssetOwner Holdings

INTERVIEWEE



William Ma
Chief Investment Officer
GROW Investment Group

Panel: Access to Finance: A Close Outlook to the MENA Region
Alternative Solutions

A high share of firms operates without external finance, and therefore classified as financially autarkic. At 37%, the share of financially autarkic firms in the average MENA economy is comparable to peer economies. However, Egypt, Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza have a much higher share of autarkic firms. The majority of autarkic firms is voluntarily autarkic and thus not credit-constrained. Low aggregate investment rates are reflected also in Enterprise Survey data. The share of firms investing in fixed assets has declined relative to the previous survey round and is now lower than in peer economies, consistent with crowding out. the region’s comparatively deep banking sectors were not adept at providing access to finance for a broad cross-section of mainly small and medium-sized companies. This session shall highlight the 2024 challenges of access to Finance in MENA Region.

MODERATOR



Holger Schlechter
Representative Dubai
BVMW

PANELISTS



Karim Gad
Country Manager
Invest for Jobs (IFE)
Egypt & Ethiopia



Lamin Drammeh
OIC - Financial Internediation
and INclusion Division,
African Development Bank,
Access to Finance for SMEs
through FIs Prtogramme



Nashid Chowdhury
Investment and Trade
Commissioner
India-Gulf, Government
of Western Australia

Panel: Technology Overload: The New Trends of Technology
Wave of SMEs

This session will consider new technology trends that define Industry 4.0 and their fundamental role in achieving connected manufacturing geared towards smart and autonomous factories. Experts will provide an overview of emerging technologies advancing Industry 4.0 and debate their implications for SMEs, both in terms of opportunities and challenges. Best practice users presented their experiences and lessons learned. Key takeaways inspired the entire track and set the stage for the ensuing panels, fireside chats, and masterclasses.

MODERATOR



Anna Chojnowska
Lead Knowledge
Analyst Team Lead
BCG

PANELISTS



Dr. Xuguang Wang
Founder
AINSTEC Institute Co.,
Ltd



Weiguo Zhao
Founder
Cytowiz



Wen Xu
Founder
Saisi




Johann Neubauer
Managing Director
Pixida GmbH

Panel: 2024 SMEs Financial Challenges: Cash Flow Management


Due to their small base, many SMEs struggle with managing their finances. Often, there is no one available to keep track of expenses versus income, leading to unsustainable growth and potential shutdowns within a few years. This lack of financial oversight can also impact tax remissions, resulting in expensive fines or overpayments to the government. This panel discussed the common financial challenges faced by SMEs and provide strategies for effective cash flow management to ensure long-term sustainability.

MODERATOR




Sumit Kukreja
Founder
PV Advisory LLP

PANELISTS



Andrzej Voigt
Senior Advisor
International Organizations & Corporations




Nadia Shalaby
Founder /CEO / Investor
Pakira, Inc.

Interview: Blended Finance: A Way Ahead for Mobilizing Investments in 2024


Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance to mobilize additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries. It attracts commercial capital towards projects that contribute to sustainable development while providing financial returns to investors. This innovative approach helps enlarge the total amount of resources available to developing countries, complementing their own investments and ODA inflows to fill their SDG financing gap, and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This session discussed different usages of blended finance strategies in achieving sustainable development.

MODERATOR




Martin Dietrich Brauch
Lead Researcher
Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment CCSI, Columbia University

PANELISTS



Lishia Erza
Executive Board
Sustainable Investment - Koalisi Ekonomi Membumi (KEM) of Indonesia




Luca Lazzaroli
Director General, Portfolio Management and monitoring
European Investment Bank

Panel: The Role of Integrating Technology in SMEs in Overcoming 2024 Financial Challenges: SMEs, Fintech & Economy - CE


Following the operational paradigms proposed by Industry 4.0, recent years have seen the rapid growth of technology-based firms adopting sustainable business models. Research suggests that Fintech, a sector developed under Industry 4.0's influence, can significantly aid SMEs in transitioning toward more sustainable business models and better integrating circular economy practices. This session discussed how integrating technology can help SMEs overcome financial challenges and support the development of the Circular Economy (CE). Experts provided insights into leveraging Fintech solutions to enhance financial stability and promote sustainability within SMEs.

MODERATOR




Jimi Daodu
Founder & CEO
Vault Hill


PANELISTS




Catalina Valentino
CEO & Co-Founder
ELIXR



Mariusz Szmigiel
Head of Financial Services Strategy
Accenture



Ricardo Costa
CEO
ArcLive



Sheikh Muhammad Noman
Cofounder & BDP
Halliday Growth/Vrijednosnice Osijek Holding/Mortgage Hub

Panel: Business Owners Mental Health Challenges in 2024
Gender Perspective (ShePreneurs)

In Cooperation with:  FOUNDER INSTITUTE

The mental health of business owners, particularly female entrepreneurs (ShePreneurs), is a growing concern in 2024. SMEs often struggle with managing finances, leading to stress and potential business failures. This panel addressed the unique mental health challenges faced by business owners, emphasizing the gender perspective. Discussions will cover the impact of financial management issues on mental health, strategies for balancing work and personal life, and the importance of mental health support for sustaining business growth. The panel also explored how gender-specific challenges affect female entrepreneurs and provide resources and strategies for mental well-being.

MODERATOR



Dr. Hanan El Basha
Managing Director of
Founder Institute GCC
Founder of *The Business Doctor*

PANELISTS



Viktorija Aksionova
CEO
MindTales



Samaa Salama
Founder & Creative
Director
Sophia G



Ngwi Njikta Favor
Entrepreneurial Consultant &
Founder
*F&F Young Women
Entrepreneurship Development
Organization (FYWEDO)*



Jocelyne Elias
Owner
Mindset Rewire



STARTUPS AND UNICORNS TRACK

Heading to the Future: 2024 the Bounce Back Year for Startups & Unicorns

As reflected in the goals set for AIM 2024, UAE aims to become a global leader in advanced technology and create a sustainable ecosystem by fostering startups. Last year, startup investments in UAE surpassed the remarkable milestone of 2.9 billion dollars, solidifying their crucial role in driving economic growth. These innovative ventures are at the forefront of developing cutting-edge technologies that disrupt traditional industries and reshape society's way of life and work. Their pursuit of unique solutions to contemporary challenges has led to breakthroughs in transformative fields such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotechnology, and renewable energy. As startups gain momentum, they attract attention from investors and industry experts, resulting in increased funding and further technological advancements that shape the future. They have the potential to shift the investment landscape and thus contribute to global economic development. Additionally, startups serve as catalysts for the digital transformation of traditional businesses, inspiring them to adopt new digital tools and strategies to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market. Embracing emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, big data analytics, and machine learning, startups develop scalable and efficient solutions that can redefine industries and contribute to a more technologically advanced landscape.

Conference Highlights

- **Increased Investment in Africa:** The discussions highlighted a growing interest in investing in African startups, driven by the continent's untapped potential, emerging markets, and supportive ecosystems. Investors are recognizing the opportunities presented by diverse industries, such as fintech, agriculture, and healthcare, leading to a surge in venture capital funding and the emergence of unicorns.
- **Advancements in Industry 4.0 Technologies:** Startups and entrepreneurs are actively leveraging Industry 4.0 technologies, including AI, robotics, and blockchain, to drive innovation in manufacturing, waste management, and renewable energy sectors. These advancements are not only enhancing operational efficiency but also contributing to sustainable practices and environmental conservation.
- **Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion:** There is a concerted effort to promote diversity and inclusion within startup ecosystems, with a focus on gender balance, inclusive hiring practices, and support for underrepresented groups. By fostering diverse teams and inclusive environments, startups are better positioned to drive innovation, creativity, and organizational success.



- **Collaborative Ecosystem Development:** The discussions underscored the importance of collaborative ecosystems in supporting startups and fostering innovation. By building strong networks, providing mentorship, and facilitating partnerships, these ecosystems enable startups to access resources, expertise, and funding necessary for growth and scalability.
- **Emphasis on Work-Life Balance:** Women leaders in startups shared insights on achieving work-life balance, emphasizing the importance of delegation, setting boundaries, and finding fulfillment in both personal and professional endeavors. These discussions shed light on the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and highlighted the need for supportive networks and inclusive practices to navigate these challenges effectively.

Leaders' Panel: Emerging Industry 4.0 in 2024: Industry Trends & Innovation in 2024 & the Promising Startups

The Leaders' Panel of the AIM 2024 Start-Ups and Unicorn track will consider new technology trends that define Industry 4.0 and thus have a fundamental role in achieving connected manufacturing geared towards smart and autonomous factories. Experts provided an overview of emerging technologies advancing Industry 4.0 and debate their implications for start-ups, both in terms of opportunities and challenges. Best practice users will present their experiences and lessons learned. Key takeaways inspired the entire track and set the stage for the ensuing panels, fireside chats, and masterclasses.

MODERATOR



Stephan Heller
Founding Partner
AlphaQ VC

PANELISTS



Aliya Grig
CEO & Founder
Kosmo Foundation
Evolwe AI



James Rilett
CPO
Open Mineral



Maher Al Kaabi
Advisor to Alserkal
Group Chairman
Independent Board
Member



Mark Skljarov
CEO
Waste Locker



Said Murad
Senior Partner
Global Ventures




Sean He
Founder
Silicon Harbour

Fireside Chat: The New Geographical Focus of Startups: Spreading the Digital Innovation to Africa and other Places


Startups and venture capital money are starting to move into Africa. Once deemed too risky, the untapped potential on the continent is too great for many startups to ignore. Startups like Uber Eats, GrubHub, and DoorDash have already proven the food delivery app model, and now there's a venture capital-funded race to capture different geographies in these spaces. New players are establishing strongholds in other parts of the globe using the same.

INTERVIEWER




Audrey Verhaeghe
CEO
Anza Capital


INTERVIEWEE




Dr. Daniel Asare-Kyei, PhD
CEO
Esoko




Francis Nkurunungi
COO
XENTE Uganda




Gilbert Ewehmeh
Continental
Coordinator
Accelerate Africa



Jimi Daodu
Founder & CEO
Vault Hill




Nael Hailemariam
CEO/Cofounder
Chapa




Vikash Sharma
Founder
IC1101 Holdings

Fireside Chat: Women Leading Startups: Finding Work Life Balance (ShePreneurs)

In Cooperation with: 


This talk spotlights women leaders in the startup field, sharing their experiences and insights through their career paths. The discussion delved into building strong support networks, addressing gender biases, and inspiring the next generation of women entrepreneurs. A case study of successful women-led startups will illustrate innovative solutions and industry impact.

INTERVIEWER




Sherin Ewase
Business Consultant for
Startups
& New Markets
Launcher


INTERVIEWEE




Basma Abdallah Uraiqat
Co-Founder and COO
Konn Technologies



Bella Ikeme
Founder & Editor in
Chief
ASPIRE Luxury
Magazine Co-Founder
& Managing Director
- Fucaire Lifestyle Ltd,
Founder & CEO - Caizen
Business Development
Company



Dr. Naike Moshi
Founder & CEO
Women in Management
Africa Country Directory
of CVPeople Tanzania




Rania Ayman
Founder and CEO
Entreprenelle

Panel: Hiring the Right People and Finding Healthy Ecosystem


This panel discussion focuses on two essential elements for organizational success: hiring the right talent and cultivating a healthy ecosystem. Experts will share strategies for effective hiring, talent development, and retention, emphasizing the significance of diversity and inclusion. The discussion also explores the value of collaborative ecosystems, adaptability in changing environments, and methods for measuring success. Valuable for business leaders, HR professionals, and entrepreneurs, the session provided practical insights to empower organizations in building strong, innovative, and sustainable foundations.

MODERATOR




Dr. Roland Suico
President
People Management
Association of the
Philippines


PANELISTS




David Munir Nabti
CEO
Bloom




Dr. Hanadi Mubarak Al-Mubarak
Founder & CEO
Ecosystem Consultants




Hammad Khan
Founder
LYFE/X



Maria Flouda
Founder and Managing
Consultant
Sustainability Switch
Consultancy



Natalia Sycheva
Senior Strategy Advisor
Fulbright Fellow



Sumit Kukreja
Managing & Founding
Partner
PV


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Fireside Chat: AIM Unicorns Conclave: The Way Ahead from A Unicorn to Decacorns and Hectocorns


It's always a big day when a startup breaks into the world of unicorns. But as these unicorns grow in number, they've grown into finer, more majestic beasts: hectocorns, valued at \$100 billion apiece. Unicorns are startups valued at \$1 billion, while decacorns are those with at least a \$10 billion valuation. The most elusive of them all are the hectocorns: privately held startups valued at \$100 billion. From being a mythical creature to a regular feature in business and financial discussions, unicorns certainly have come a long way. This session discussed the fine tactics and strategies used by startups to transform into decacorns and hectocorns.

INTERVIEWER




Andre Ayotte
Managing Partner
Modus

INTERVIEWEE




Kiho Park
CEO & President
LB Investment




Saifi Ismail
President
Yalla Group

Fireside Chat: India Unicorns Conclave: The platformization of consumer financial & Health services

In Cooperation with: 


The growth of the platform economy and e-commerce created an unprecedented need for seamless, cross-border, highly scalable digital payments. The payments phenomenon is most clearly represented by the evolution of Square (which changed its name to Block in December 2021). Consumer app platforms are now expanding beyond payments to lending, through 'buy now, pay later' (BNPL) products, digital banking, mortgages, insurance, and wealth management. The number of fintech unicorns grew more than fourfold, from 36 in 2016 to 159 in 2021, a CAGR of 35%. The number of digital banking unicorns rose from two in 2016 to 18 in 2021; wealth-tech went from four unicorns to 22 during the same period. Of the lending unicorns, three raised more than \$1 billion each. Meanwhile, the pandemic has also profoundly changed how people access healthcare. Consumers and providers rapidly adopted telehealth and telemedicine services, enabling people to monitor medical conditions, meet virtually with their care providers, and manage prescriptions remotely. Moreover, since the pandemic started, there have been 13 new telehealth unicorns—nine of which became unicorns during the first half of 2021.

MODERATOR



Mohit Bhasin
Partner & Global Co-Lead
Economic Growth Lead - KPMG
International

PANELIST



Shri Bejoy John
Director
DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and
Industry, Government of India

AIM CONGRESS 2024 - REPORT


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Panel: Middle East Unicorns Conclave: Unicorns & the Mobility Industry

In Cooperation with: Exits


Over the course of the study period, \$67 billion flowed into 26 companies, led by Uber and Didi. The pandemic fundamentally changed people’s mobile behavior overnight. In 2018, mobility companies raised \$23.6 billion; in 2020, they raised \$7.2 billion. Delivery unicorns raised \$16 billion during the pandemic. Established mobility outlets like Uber Eats, which started in 2014, saw a sudden spike in users as well as in usage (average sales) per user. With Uber trip bookings down 75% between April and June 2020, orders to Uber Eats more than doubled. US unicorn DoorDash grew from 4 million users in 2018 to 20 million users in 2020. This shifting concept of where and how we buy, and the impact of mobility players, is resulting in new ecosystems based on services traditionally provided by retailers, digital commerce companies, and logistics providers.

MODERATOR




Mohamed Nagaty
Co-Founder & Global Chairman
EXITS MENA


PANELISTS




Mohammed Ezzat
Tech Logistics Visionary and CEO
BOSTA



Salman Bin Mohammed Al-Suhaibaney
Founder and Chairman of the Board
Morni



Maan Khalid Eshagi
Investment Professional
Wealth Management Private Placement & Venture Capital




Faisal Hilal
Founder and CEO
Ahlan

Panel: Securing Funding without Sacrificing Focus on Product

In Cooperation with: tick & talk

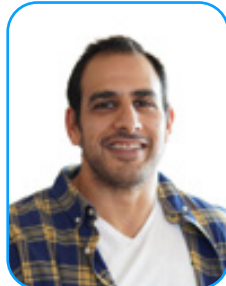
This panel discussion addressed the challenge of securing funding while maintaining a sharp focus on product development. Industry experts and entrepreneurs will share strategies for striking the right balance between fundraising and product innovation, building investor relationships, and making informed decisions regarding bootstrapping versus external funding. Participants will also gain insights into lean and agile practices, effective pitching techniques, and real-world case studies of companies that successfully navigated this delicate balance, making it a valuable session for startup founders and business leaders seeking to raise capital without sacrificing their product’s quality and vision.

MODERATOR




Omar Hamada
Founder & CEO
Tick & Talk


PANELISTS




Ahmed Abaza
CEO
Synapse Analytics




Dmitriy Nikolaevich Kurin
Director of the Department of Strategic Development and Investments of Strategy Division - MTS Group Corporate Center




Karim Selima
Co-founder
Supplyd



Muhammad Ehsan Khan
Founder & CEO
Trade Foresight Global Information Solutions LLC



Nada Helmy
Value Creation
Hala Ventures




Zavosh Zaboliyan
Serial Entrepreneur, Investor & ISV PM
Spring

Panel: Korea Unicorn Investment Conclave: The Relation Between the Big Tech Cities and the Emerging of New Unicorns


San Francisco (255) and New York (212) have the highest number of potential unicorns; 14 of the top 25 cities were US-based. Notable non-US cities include London, which ranks third with 152 potential unicorns, Bangalore (82), Berlin (58) and Beijing (56). The top cities boast large, developed markets and are tech and R&D focused. The global spread of potential unicorns is limited. There appears to be little potential in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Many countries within these regions, particularly Latin America and Africa, are poorer nations. Companies may lack the technological capacity – important as many unicorns and potential unicorns are tech-related companies – to develop new ideas and/or to scale up quickly. They may also be much further from a network of peers that can either help build capabilities (via venture capital) or encourage them through competition. Silicon Valley in the US is a perfect example of how networks and clusters can produce unicorns. This session tackles the New potential cities which can help producing more Unicorns, and the challenges facing the poorer cities in this context.

MODERATOR




Rachel Cho
Vice President of International Business Relations
Global Project Management Forum


PANELISTS




JinKyung Kim
CEO
Big Value




Kiho Park
CEO/President
LB Investment



KyungSoo Noh
COO
Seadronix



Kim Tae Hyung
Commissioner
Invest KOREA



Munil Han
CEO
Munisa

China Unicorns Conclave: Electric Vehicles and Energy Transformation

The EV market is expanding to meet this demand, with many major global automakers now offering electric models or committing to an electric transition. lithium battery makers, energy storage companies, and charging network providers are supporting this growth by scaling up industrial tech. In fact, much of the EV Consumer app platforms are now expanding beyond payments to lending, through “buy now, pay later” products, digital banking, mortgages, insurance, and wealth management. feature innovation www.strategy-business.com 8 activity is happening in China and the US, the two largest auto markets in the world; 14 of the 17 EV unicorns are based in these two countries (six in the US, eight in China). China was an early mover in this space, and unicorns rapidly expanded its auto market. The birth of electric vehicles was the first step in the creation of new ecosystems that will engage not only the automotive sector, but also energy, logistics, and financial services. The result will be transportation that is platform-based, offering services to consumers and enterprises. This evolution will occur over the current decade as the speed of charging technology accelerates.

INTERVIEWER



Aly Ramji
Director
Mediapix

INTERVIEWEE




Sean He
Founder
Silicon Harbour

Interview: Scaling Up for Unicorns & Startups


Growth takes time. The key is not to get frustrated, but instead, to keep in mind the solutions to all the challenges in this article. As you gradually tackled and overcame them, growth came. But what happened when you actually DID begin to grow? There were invariably NEW problems that arose as you scaled up. Were you retaining your talent? Were you adapting to the changing marketplace? Were you utilizing your resources as efficiently as possible?

INTERVIEWER




Nadia AlBanna
Senior Director of Product & Business Development
Allarta Life Science Inc and Founder - Value-N-Action Consulting


INTERVIEWEE




Ibrahim 'Abe' Seksek
CEO and Serial Entrepreneur
Rainmaking



Jenny Zeng
Managing Partner
MSA Capital



Paul Dawalibi
CEO
Holodeck Ventures



Amin Elkholy
COO
Modus Capital

Masterclass: The Importance of Agile Development in Managing 2024 Startups

Agile development was a software development methodology that encouraged adaptive and flexible planning. It had been widely adopted and had become common practice at many tech startups. However, it wasn't without flaws. HBR reported that a good chunk of agile developers felt that the approach bred stress and tension. This was why startups were looking to streamline this process with techniques and tools that removed friction and helped enforce good practice. The model, adapted from traditional agile principles, was designed with enterprise scale in mind. In practice, this meant far more guidance on how to operate effectively in environments including more than one team. In the future, we might have also seen more startups turn to agile automation. PractiTest, a software test management portal, integrated with various automation tools in order to best align the testing process with agile practices.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Mohamed Deiab
CTO
Tick & Talk

Fireside Chat: The Rising of Agritech Startups

Agricultural technology was needed as societies looked to go beyond sustainable farming. Sustainable agriculture looked to maintain the status quo of topsoil and ecological systems (which were often already degraded). However, regenerative agriculture was next on the agenda. This meant to improve the soil and reverse humans' impact on the environment through a self-nourishing process. Agtech innovations could help to facilitate the change, such as IoT soil sensors that measured aeration and respiration, or software that helped farms with their supply chain management. For example, digital livestock tech startup Antelliq had a \$2.4 billion exit. Their smart tag product category allowed farmers to more easily keep track of and monitor cows.

INTERVIEWER



Zeineb Chabchoub
Startup Ecosystem
Builder
Tunisia

INTERVIEWEE




Jason "The Water Guy" Moore
Co-Founder
LocoFoodUAE



Sam Guédouard
Global Engagement Manager
Agribusiness, Food and
Consumer Trade Division
Australian Trade & Investment
Commission (AUSTRADE)

Panel: Financial Management & Limited Resources: The Ongoing Startups Challenges

In Cooperation with: 

Money begets money. Remember the fact that when income increases, the expenditures also increase. There is no doubt about it. One of the biggest challenges that startups face today relates to financial management. It is a fact that small startups rely heavily on financial backups from the so-called investors. At times, when there is a cash influx, small firms, most importantly startups tend to find it really hard to properly manage their finances, and they bog down against the pressure. In order to address this kind of situation, startups need to play a safe and cautious hand, by keeping all the cards close to their chests. Taking help from a reputed financial consultancy firm may really help out in managing financial crises facing today's startup businesses. Success isn't JUST reliant on the people you hire. You can have a team of outstanding individuals, but if you don't provide them with the right tools and resources needed to reach their fullest potential, then you'll never get the results that you expect from them. For example, startups often require that team members wear varying hats and do things outside of their specific area of responsibility. When there are limited resources, you need people to pick up the slack in areas where they might not be experts. Startups are constantly being asked to simply 'make it work' with fewer resources than would be ideal. The good news is that software can often fill in some of the resource gaps that startups are likely to encounter in their first years of business. Startup tools and resources can act like a workforce multiplier, empowering your team to do more with less or to achieve goals that they wouldn't be able to on their own. Startup tools and resources might be things like project and task management software, collaboration and accounting software, design tools, HR database support, help desks for customer service, social media scheduling tools, analytics tools, and more. Everyone, regardless of their role in your team, needs help from such tools and resources to be as productive and effective in their work as possible.

MODERATOR



Sameer Sortur
Regional Director
Founder Institute GCC
& Founding Partner -
SquareCircle Ventures

PANELISTS



Bill Ashlock
Principal
Bosa Advisers



Catalina Valentino
CEO & Co-Founder
ELIXR



Padmini Gupta
CEO & Co-Founder
Xare



Saqr Eriqat
Co-Founder
Crypto Oasis




Dr. Mohd Nor Azman
Deputy Secretary General (Technology
Development)
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
of Malaysia

Panel: The Single Person Risk: A Dive in the Hidden World of the Startups


As of March 2021, only 80% of startups continue after one year. There are many macro reasons for this, including failure to raise capital, a lack of market need, stiff competition, wrong business model, team issues and many more. one of the main reasons for a startup’s failure is a premature departure of a critical individual. That is called “single-person risk. That one person we are talking about didn’t have enough financial cushion to survive the fact that it usually takes longer to raise money than originally anticipated, thus he/she had to leave the startup for a real paying job.

MODERATOR




Silvia Eldawi
Founder
PROPOLOGI


PANELISTS




Frances Simowitz
CEO
WEVA Acceleration



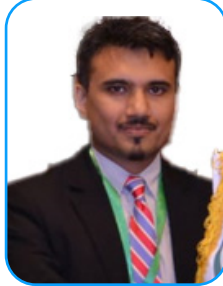
Kayode Odeleye
Founder/CEO
CAENA




Mohammad Gawish
Co-Founder & CEO
iSchool



Sonia El-Sherif
Chief of Staff & Investor
JLL Spark



Usman Piracha
Chairperson
OIC Intergovernmental International Law Experts Group Meetings




Peter Herediaa
Managing Director
of Maxsale Solutions


Presentation: The Booming of the No-Code Startups

Companies like Zapier now make it easier than ever for anyone to build digital products. Another no-code platform, Webflow, has raised a reported \$334.9 million in funding. These platforms allow you to create “no code” or “low-code” custom apps and websites. Low-code” refers to web and mobile development using a drag-and-drop interface, rather than programming languages and raw code. Low-code requires much less, or even zero coding knowledge, and even seasoned web developers often use no-code solutions as a super-fast way to build apps, or to quickly prototype business ideas.

PRESENTER




Hany Sayed
Group Chief
Information Officer
D&B Properties




Nadine Zerrini
Director
Founder Institute Boston Accelerator

Panel: Finding a Product Market Fit: 2024 – 2026 Startups’ New Trends – Focusing on Personalizing Products

In Cooperation with: 


Product-market fit is ensuring you know that your specific product fits a specific need for a specific audience. It’s about making sure people want what you have. 34% of startups fail because of a lack of product-market fit. Unfortunately, it is all too common for startups to rush to market without knowing whether anyone is looking for what they are selling. If you expect someone to pay for your products or services, you had better make sure it meets their needs. Until you find your startup’s product-market fit, you risk investing in the development of a product or service that brings no value to the market and therefore will be overlooked. Meanwhile, offering personalized products or services can increase a company’s sales by 10% or more. For example, Nike’s product personalization service “Nike By You” (previously Nike ID) costs 30-50% more than their regular selection. But it has led to an increase in repeat purchases for the shoemaker. The “Nike Makers’ Experience” allows the same customization, but in person. It uses AI, augmented reality and image projection to show customers what their new shoes will look like as they customize them in real time. B2B products are being customized, too, Elevator manufacturer Aritco provides an on-site configurator that lets customers choose the construction, size, colors and many more details.

MODERATOR




Sama Salama
Head of Growth& Partnership
Tick & Talk


PANELISTS




Ahmed Hazem Dakroury
Managing Director
Falak Start up




Ahmed Mahmoud Abdeen
Founder & CEO
Elgameya (Fobres 30 under 30)



Amr abou el Azm
Co-Founder & CEO
Macro finance



Haytham Al- Azaizy
CEO
Thara Ventures



Rania Ayman
Entreprenelle & School of Fashion Management

Panel: Fierce Competition: Sailing in a Wild Sea

It's no surprise that competition is one of the biggest growths challenges a startup faces. There are always going to be more established, bigger competitors with access to more resources than your startup has. In fact, has found that 20% of startups fail because they get suppressed or overtaken by competitors. No matter how great or useful your product or service is, you're never going to make it in the crowded marketplace if you don't study your competition. It's not just about competing – it's about standing out. truly differentiating yourself in the marketplace. You are competing for audience and market share, which means you need to know what your competition has to offer, how they are offering it, and how successful they are in doing so. Measuring your competition's success and failures can help identify gaps in your own marketing, sales, and overall business strategies. Addressing those gaps gives you a competitive advantage. The corporate world is quite fierce. There is always a competition going on between the giants. Competition poses one of the biggest challenges for the survival of startup businesses. And if you have an online business startup, the competition gets tougher. The competitive environment keeps the startups on their toes, as there is no margin of error available. Both B2B and B2C organizations always tend to feel the heat of the fierce competition. In order to survive in this competitive business environment that covers both traditional and online businesses, the startups need to play aggressively, and punch above their weight to gain the much needed recognition amongst the clusters of ever challenging and expanding businesses.

MODERATOR



Andrzej Voigt
Senior Advisor
International
Organizations &
Corporations

PANELISTS



Mohamed Abdalhamid
Managing Director
Sales
Cubicle



Sudeep Gopi
Director of Business
Delivery
Bizzmosis Group



Thabo Pitse
Founder and CEO
EBL Institute of Business
and Technology



Walied Albasheer
CEO & Founder
Intuitio VC

FUTURE FINANCE FORUM TRACK

Digitalization and the Transformation of the Global Macro-Financial Landscape and Digital Money

The Future Finance Forum 2024 connects industry experts and professionals to explore the utilization of cutting-edge technologies such as blockchain technology, AI and machine learning, fintech innovations, and digital money like cryptocurrencies in advancing financial inclusivity, stability, and sustainability. Through a series of keynote speeches and panel discussions, participants will discuss the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with implementing these technologies in the financial sector to develop a sustainable future. AIM 2024 through the Future Finance Forum 2024 provides a platform for industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and innovators to explore the profound impact of digitalization on the global macro-financial landscape and the emergence of digital money. With its theme "Digitalization and the Transformation of the Global Macro-Financial Landscape and Digital Money," the Forum considers the ongoing paradigm shift in the way financial systems operate, impacting economies, businesses, and individuals worldwide. This process involves the integration of digital technologies and innovations into traditional financial systems, leading to significant changes in the way financial transactions are conducted, assets are managed, and monetary policies are implemented. The forum will delve into how emerging technologies, including blockchain, AI, and digital cryptocurrencies, and fintech can be effectively utilized to expand financial services, enhance financial stability, and foster sustainable finance practices. Additionally, it will consider the appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks necessary to ensure stability, security, and inclusivity. The Future Finance Forum 2024 aims to deliver insights into the transformative potential of digital money and its impact on the global economy. It will provide valuable networking opportunities and foster collaboration and partnerships among attendees and other stakeholders in the finance industry.

Conference Highlights

- **Role of AI and Technology in Financial and Accounting Sectors:** Across multiple sessions, the speakers emphasized the transformative impact of AI and digital technologies in enhancing cybersecurity, fraud detection, auditing, and accounting. AI tools like ChatGPT, intelligent databases, and generative technologies are highlighted for their efficiency and cost-effectiveness in delivering services and improving accuracy.
- **Sustainability Reporting and ESG Standards:** The importance of sustainability reporting was a key theme, with discussions on the implementation of IFRS S1 and S2, the promotion of international sustainability reporting standards, and the challenges faced by companies in adopting these frameworks. The regional partnership aims to support sustainability reporting and harmonize practices across Gulf states and neighboring countries.
- **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending vs. Traditional Banking:** The comparative analysis of P2P lending and traditional banking methods focused on the benefits of P2P lending for SMEs, such as quicker access to funds, serving niche markets, and bypassing collateral requirements. The discussion highlighted the need for innovation in the financial sector to meet evolving business needs.



- **Training and Development in Accounting:** The necessity of continuous training and development in the accounting profession was underscored, particularly in adapting to new technologies and changes in financial regulations. Educational institutions play a crucial role in equipping future accountants with practical skills through updated courses and internship opportunities.
- **Challenges and Strategies in Sustainability Assurance:** The practical implementation of sustainability reporting and assurance standards was discussed, addressing the need for robust and authentic data, coordination among institutions, and the challenges in building national sustainability reporting infrastructures. Experts emphasized the importance of integrating sustainability with financial reporting and the role of AI in enhancing the quality and reducing the costs of assurance.



FUTURE FINANCE FORUM TRACK

THE MAIN MC FOR 3 DAYS

SPEAKER



Prasanna Lohar
FFF - Prasanna Lohar
CEO, *Block Stack*

Leaders’ Panel: ICT - The New Era of Trust in Financial Services

The Future Finance Forum 2024 was opened by a Leaders’ Panel dedicated to discussing the utilization of cutting-edge technologies in modern finance and its implications for the trust relationship between all partners in a financial transaction. Specifically, the Panel did so by looking into the application of modern information and communication technologies – such as the Internet-of-things (IoT) and blockchain on banking services. Providers and users of the ICT-based banking services innovations deliberated on the subject matter, shed light on the latest developments, and set the stage for the AIM Future Finance Forum 2024.

MODERATOR



Bruce Jeong
Deputy CEO
Eulogian Foundation

PANELISTS



H.E. Raja Al Mazrouei
CEO
Etihad Credit Insurance



H.E. Renat Bekturov
Governor
Astana International Financial Centre



Dominik Schiener
Co-Founder
IOTA

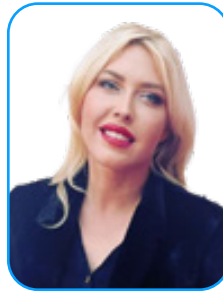


Alexey Poroshin
CEO
First Group JSC

Fireside Chat: Sustainable Finance: A New Era of Responsible Investing

Sustainable Finance measured the tangible outcomes of responsible investments, navigated the shifting regulatory landscape, fostered cross-sector collaboration, and identified the nascent trends encouraging a future where profitability coexisted harmoniously with ethical considerations. This panel delved into the question of how the relationship between finance (i.e., the imperative of making profit) and sustainability (i.e., the imperative of protecting the planet) could become symbiotic and what conditions were required to develop a symbiotic relationship between the two.

MODERATOR



Mariya Spartalis
Partner Wealth
Management HNWI
UHNWI
Terreus Capital AG

PANELISTS



Sheikh Muhammad Noman
Co-Founder & BDP
Halliday Growth/ Vrijednosnice Osijek Holding / Mortgage Hub



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Gamal Kafafy
World Chairman | President
Global University of Science & Technology (GUST), World Green Economy Council (WGECC), Chief Consultant for Energy & SD of WFDP - United Nations



Prof. Borche Trenovski
Member
Council of the National Bank of North Macedonia

Fireside Chat: Enhancing Cybersecurity in Financial Systems: The Power of AI in Fraud Detection

Delving into the intersection of cutting-edge technology and security, uncovering how AI was bolstering defenses against financial fraud. Participants gained insights into real-world applications, challenges, and the future landscape where AI-powered solutions played a key role in safeguarding financial ecosystems. Exploring the vital realm of cybersecurity within financial systems, this session focused on the transformative role of AI in fraud detection.

INTERVIEWER



Vaishal Mehta
Chief Transformation
Officer
Paramount Computer Systems

INTERVIEWEE




Edgar Perez
Fortune 500 Keynote
Speaker and Author

Fireside Chat: A Comparative Analysis: Unmasking the Face-off Between P2P Lending and Traditional Banking


This fireside chat explained the differences between Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending and traditional banking, exploring the unique features of P2P lending, including direct online borrower-lender connections, disintermediation, and broader credit access. It highlighted and compared the strengths, challenges, risks, and potential trajectories of P2P lending as compared to traditional banking, shedding light on the ongoing transformation of the financial industry.

MODERATOR



Dr. N. Krishna Kumar
Dean
State Bank Institute of Leadership (SBIL)

PANELISTS



Peter Tavaner
Co-Founder | Group
CFO & COO
Beehive

Interview: Retaining Good Auditors & Accountants: The New Challenge for the Accounting Firms

Since 2020, 300,000 accountants and auditors had quit in the United States. That was a 17% decline. And with more accountants retiring than graduate accountants entering the profession, there was a serious talent shortage. The onus was to attract and retain top talent in a dwindling talent pool. In order to do so, firms of the future needed to focus on different factors. This session highlighted the main challenges of retaining highly qualified accountants and auditors.

INTERVIEWER



Dr. Zeljko Tekic
Professor
Department of Business Informatics, Graduate School of Business, HSE University

INTERVIEWEE




Mostafa Elrefaey
Managing Partner
Integrity Accounting Services

Fireside Chat: Digital Disruptions and AI – How Would the New technologies Affect Auditing & Accounting Development


Would AI Replace Accountants? AI could be a major business enabler for an organisation through automating repetitive tasks and processing complex data. Nevertheless, it was essential for organisations to be aware of the accompanying risks and to proactively address them, particularly by focusing on the ethical deployment of these emerging technologies within the organisation. Technological literacy would become a fundamental part of what it meant to be an accountant. This session discussed the implications of the new era of digitalization and AI on the accountancy profession.

MODERATOR




Sanjeev Singhal
Chairman
ISAR


PANELISTS



Prasanna Lohar
CEO
Block Stack



Bernhard Schatz
Director, Sustainability Reporting, Standards and Methodology, Public Sector Accounting and Advisory Services
PwC




Prof. Stefano Santucci
Professor of International Financial Reporting Standards
University of Pavia

Panel: Stock Exchange Market 2024 – Global View and Prospective Growth


Overall, 2024 was expected to be a transition period for global stock markets, with a somewhat bumpy ride early on. Investors could expect declining inflation and reasonable economic growth, potentially led by interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. However, equity volatility was likely to rise into the first half of the year, given the uncertainty of the disinflationary process and weakening consumer spending and labor market fundamentals. This session discussed the 2024 forecast with regard to Global Stock Exchange Markets.

MODERATOR




Paula Naoufal
Senior Finance Reporter
CNN Business Arabic

PANELISTS



Yie-Hsin Hung
President & CEO
State Street Global Advisors




Andrzej Voigt
Senior Adviser
Governments & European Union Organisations

Fireside Chat: UAE Stock Exchange – UAE plans for Success Stories in 2024


he United Arab Emirates had bucked global trends that year, showcasing remarkable economic performance amidst global uncertainties and challenges. This success could be attributed to its well-balanced policies centered around the process of economic diversification. This session highlighted the success stories of UAE 2024 markets.

MODERATOR



Mohamed El Masri
Head of Corporate Finance
Ento Capital

PANELIST




H.E. Abdulla Salem Al Nuaimi
CEO
Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)

Panel: The Stock Exchange & Cryptocurrency Markets 2024 – Investors Angle


Investors needed to make deliberate choices in 2024, paying close attention to monetary policy if they wanted to avoid a variety of potential pitfalls and find opportunities in an imperfect world of cooling but still-too-high inflation and slowing global growth. Markets had already baked into asset prices the idea that central banks would manage a smooth transition to reduced levels of inflation—meaning there was limited runway for increased valuations. However, 2024 should have been a good year for income investing. For the first half of 2024, strategists recommended that investors stay patient and be selective. Risks to global growth—driven by monetary policy—remained high, and earnings headwinds might have persisted into early 2024 before a recovery took hold. This session discussed the investors’ angle with regard to the Stock Exchange & Cryptocurrency Markets.

MODERATOR




Brad Levy
CEO
Symphony


PANELISTS




Gerry Afentakis
Head of European & MENA Sales
Zodia Custody



Phil Harvey
Chief Executive Officer
Sabre56



Dr. Karndee Leopairote
Chief Foresight and Digital Assets Officer
FutureTales Lab, MQDC




Dr. Sameer Al Ansari
CEO
RAK Digital Assets Oasis

Panel: Islamic Finance: Hyper Automation & the Principles and Practices in Modern Banking


Hyper automation referred to the introduction of AI, deep learning, event-driven software, and Robotics. Meanwhile, the global expansion of Islamic banks, the growth of the sukuk market, and the implementation of FinTech, digitalization, blockchain, and green financing in Islamic finance were prevailing. By examining the unique attributes, challenges, and potential future directions of Islamic finance, attendees gained a deeper understanding of its influence in the evolving world of finance. This session delved into the world of Islamic finance, its core principles, and how they were practiced in the context of modern banking, especially after the introduction of Hyper Automation.

MODERATOR




Mohamed Roushdy
Senior Consultant-
Digital Transformation
and Fintech
*IFC - International
Finance Corporation*

PANELISTS



Nizardeen Kumardeen
Chief Executive Officer
CIB




Ammar Ahmed
Chief Executive Officer
Dar Al Sharia

Panel: Revolution of Banking: The Emergence of Neo-Banks

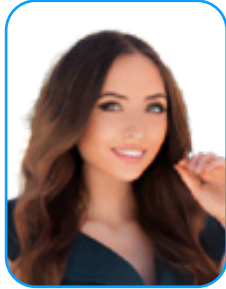
Neobanks were a transformative type of banks driven by technology and digital applications, with unique characteristics such as minimal physical infrastructure and customer-centric approaches. They constituted one of the highlighted future directions of the Global Financial Sector. This session discussed the strengths, challenges, regulatory considerations, and future prospects that Neo-Banks brought to the financial sector.

MODERATOR




Dr. Krunoslav Ris, PMP
CEO
Lumen Spei Ltd


PANELISTS



Anna Tutova
CEO
*Coinstelegram,
Contributor Fortune*



Kelvin Tan
CEO
audax



Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Ansari
CEO
*APOLLONIA CAPITAL
ADVISORS*



Rachel Shackman
Executive Director
J.P. Morgan



Prakash Sunkara
CFO
Wio Bank



Rajesh Johnny
Cofounder & CEO
BranchX - AI Powered Neobank

Panel: Fintech – The Application of Digital Asset Technology to Financial Services

The ongoing digitization of financial services and money creates opportunities to build more inclusive and efficient financial services and promote economic development. Fintech is transforming the financial landscape rapidly and is blurring the boundaries of both financial firms and the financial sector. With global digital asset adoption and payments innovation on the rise, this session will discuss the latest digital finance trends -- from stablecoins, artificial intelligence, decentralized finance and more and the implications and opportunities provided by these new fintech services for business leaders.

MODERATOR



Azam Shaghghi
Board Member
International Astronautical Federation

PANELISTS



Prakriti Singh
SVP, Digital Payments and Acceptance Solutions, EEMEA
Mastercard



Mariusz Szmigiel
Head of Financial Institutions Strategy Practice in Poland
Accenture



David Rutter
CEO
R3



Reece Merrick
Managing Director
Middle East & Africa, Ripple

Masterclass: The Transformative Influence of Personal Finance Apps on Financial Prosperity

This masterclass investigated the transformative potential of personal finance apps and their significant influence on fostering financial development. It explored the impact as these apps empowered individuals with the tools to seamlessly manage finances, track expenditures, and actualize financial aspirations, discovering a realm where budgeting intricacies, investment oversight, and more were effortlessly accessible. Attendees gained insights into maximizing the capabilities of personal finance apps.

MASTERCLASS LEADER



Prof. Stefano Santucci
Professor of International Financial Reporting Standards
University of Pavia



Francis Nkurunungi
COO & Co-founder
Xente

Panel: Cloud Computing – The Road to Liberated Financial Institutions

By 2030, cloud technology was expected to account for EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization) in excess of \$1 trillion across the world's top 500 companies. Cloud computing liberated financial companies from non-core businesses such as IT infrastructure and data centers, while enabling access to flexible storage and computing services at a lower cost.

MODERATOR



Syed Yousuff Shahan
Founder
Touchforce

PANELISTS



Dr. Rahma Beaugrand
VP, Head of Customer Advisory and Pre-Sale Middle East South
SAP



Abdullah AlBaker
Chairman & CEO
AlBaker & Associates Law Firm



Pascal Laenen
Chief Technology Officer
Alpheyra



Batungwa Frank Tumusiime
Chief Executive Officer
YOYA Technologies

Regional Partnership for the promotion of sustainability reporting in Gulf States and neighbouring countries and AIM Congress 2024

The AIM Congress invited UNCTAD to contribute to the 2024 Congress, including organizing sessions on pertinent aspects of accounting, financial, and sustainability reporting. Accordingly, the Regional Partnership for the promotion of sustainability reporting in Gulf States and neighboring countries held its first in-person meeting on 9 May 2024 as a parallel/side event to the 2024 AIM Congress.

Session I: The current state of play of sustainability reporting in the Gulf States and Neighbouring countries.

MODERATOR



Richard Bolwijn
Acting Director,
Division on Investment
and Enterprise
UNCTAD

PANELISTS



Dr. Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Meghames
Chairman of the Reginal Partnership for Gulf States and Neighbouring countries, Vice-Chair, Thirty-eighth session of *ISAR*



Ewald Muller
Vice-Chair of the Regional Partnership for Gulf States and Neighbouring countries., Managing Director, Supervision and Authorisation, *Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority*



Pierre Kmeid
Board Secretary, *Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants*



Philippe Richard
Director of International Affairs Department
Abu Dhabi Global Market, Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA)

Session II: Practical implementation of sustainability reporting and assurance standards: practitioners' perspectives

MODERATOR



Ewald Muller
Vice-Chair of the Regional Partnership for Gulf States and Neighbouring countries, Managing Director, Supervision and Authorisation, *Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority*

PANELISTS



Sanjeev Singhal
Chairman,
ISAR



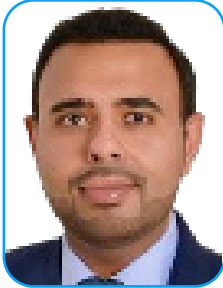
Yasir Ahmad
Partner and Leader, Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS), *EY, UAE*



Rashid Khursheed
Partner, ME ESG Reporting Assurance Leader, *PwC*



Damian Regan
Middle East Sustainability Reporting & Assurance Leader,
Deloitte



Ata Malik
Director
ESG Services, KPMG, Saudi Arabia

Session III: Training on IFRS S1 and S2

MODERATOR



Bernhard Schatz
Director
Sustainability Reporting, Standards and Methodology PwC

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS' TRACK

International Partners Track is one of the new tracks which has been added to AIM Congress this year; where we aimed at expanding AIM Side Events, which are being held in partnership with international & regional key players. The track has achieved a big success with regards to the number of the new partners participated in the track, with regards to the number of attendees, and with regards to the new and diversified scopes, which were great added value to AIM Congress 2024. The International Partners Track included the following side events; World Health Org. Event: The Road to World Local Production Forum 2025, Korean Institute for International Economic Policy side event, Investing in Smart Agriculture Forum: Climate Smart Agriculture – CSA - The Future Of Food & Agriculture Security, UNWTO event on Women in Tech, IRENA Side Event, Russia Investment Forum: Unlocking the Future of Investment in Russia, & UNWTO on Investment: Tourism Investment Forum: Quo Vadis Tourism Investments: The Middle East Chapter.

Conference Highlights

- **Advancing Global Health Security and Local Production:** The “Road to World Local Production Forum 2025” session by World Health Organization highlighted the significance of technology transfer and local production in bridging global health disparities. Key speakers emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to ensure access to essential medicines and health products, with a strong focus on sustainable solutions and equitable pathways for a healthier future.
- **Climate Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Practices:** Discussions on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) by Korean Institute of International Economic Policy underscored the importance of financial and institutional support for farmers transitioning to sustainable practices. The role of technology in enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agriculture was emphasized, demonstrating long-term benefits and fostering global collaboration for sustainable growth.
- **Empowering Women Entrepreneurs:** UN Tourism led several sessions focused on the empowerment of women in entrepreneurship, particularly in the Middle East. Key speakers highlighted the increasing participation of women in various sectors, the need for supportive policies, and the importance of networking and financial support to maximize their potential and drive sustainable development.



- **Innovation and Technology in Tourism:** UN Tourism session emphasized on the role of technology, including AI and the Metaverse, in revolutionizing the tourism sector was a key theme. Innovations are helping to create personalized and sustainable tourism experiences, with a focus on increasing female participation and leadership in the industry, thus driving economic growth and inclusivity.
- **Global Industrial Decarbonization and Youth-Led Innovation:** The importance of decarbonization and sustainable development was a recurring theme, with discussions on the need for global collaboration, financial investments, and innovative solutions. Emphasis was placed on engaging youth and fostering innovation to address climate challenges, highlighting successful initiatives and strategies for a sustainable future.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS' TRACK

Panel Discussion: “What should be the highlights of the upcoming 3rd World Local Production Forum”

The World Local Production Forum (WLPF), led by WHO, ensures equitable access to quality health products through sustainable local production. The recent 2nd WLPF in The Hague focused on enhancing global healthcare production, recommending measures like manufacturing maps. The upcoming 3rd WLPF in the UAE will expand efforts for local production, technology transfer, and equitable healthcare access. Through collaboration and innovation, WLPF aims to advance global health security and access to essential healthcare products.

KEYNOTE SPEECH



H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade

MODERATOR



Dr. Jicui Dong
WLPF Secretariat and Unit Head
World Health Organization

PANELISTS



Dr. Hatem Amer
Associate Minister of Health and Population for International Relations, *Egypt*



Dr. Shaozhong Dong
Vice President
Walvax Shanghai Wotai Biotechnology Co. Ltd.



Mr. Jian Dong
CEO
WuXi Biologics



Professor Abderrahmane Maaroufi
Professeur d'Epidémiologie et de Santé Publique and Director
Centre de Sérums et Vaccins, Institut Pasteur de Maroc



Heran Gerba
Director General
Ethiopia Food and Drug Authority

Women Tech Forum - UN World Tourism Organization

OPENING SPEECH



Peter Janech
Coordinator
UN Tourism

Countries across the Middle East have integrated innovation and women empowerment within their long-term economic development plans. With women across the region becoming more interested in STEM degrees and launching startups, they need support and access to funding. The women in tech startup competition, which focuses on the tourism sector, will offer women in the Middle East an opportunity to compete for financial and in-kind support as well as opportunities to connect with investors. During the first edition of Women in Tech Middle East we successfully attracted 143 applicants from 11 countries in the Middle East. Building on the success of our first edition, our second edition is centered on our new investment framework, which focuses on People, Planet and Prosperity. As we are nearly halfway to 2030 and the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, every sector needs to turn towards sustainability, while leaving no one behind. The tourism sector is not different – The tourism sector has to continue to be sustainable by offering jobs, support countries in alleviating poverty. The categories of the competition will be based on the key elements, which are economic, social and environmental factors.

Special Session: The Role of VC's in Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

SPEAKER



Jordan Bray
UAE Director
Plug & Play

Panel Discussion: Key insights into empowering women entrepreneurs in the tourism sector

MODERATOR



Basmah Al-Mayman
Regional Director
of the Middle East
- UNWTO

PANELISTS



Deena Ragaban
HR Director
Almosafer

PANELISTS



Ahmed Daoud
Executive Director of
Innovation
The Royal Commission
for AIUla

PANELISTS



Taryn Anderson
CEO
Metaverse Institut

PANELISTS



Christina Zhang
CEO
The Metaverse Institute

PANELISTS



Abir Leheta
CEO
Egytran

Shepreneurs Pitching Rounds

SHEPRENEURS



Zeljana Babic
Founder & CEO
Xenios Academy



Kirti Chandel
Co-founder & CPO
Sparkle Haze (Woohoo)



Suzan Choudry
Managing & Creative
Director
Nimblebot

Panel Discussion: Investing in the next generation of women in tech to unlock sustainable tourism

MODERATOR



Nicolas Barrios
Regional Manager
Department of
Innovation, Education
and Investments
- UNWTO

PANELISTS



Ahmed Riad
Senior Director
Huawei

PANELISTS



Rima Manna
Vice President Middle
East & UAE Country
Director
Nokia

PANELISTS



Rosanna Chopra
Executive Director
Red Sea Global

PANELISTS



Kim Ruiter
Country Manager
Northern & Eastern
Europe
Uber

PANELISTS



Mirna Arif
General Manager
Microsoft Egypt

Special Session: The Role of Promoting Women Entrepreneurs in the Arab World

SPECIAL SESSION



Omar Sareddine
Chief Operating Officer
9Yards

Panel Discussion: The Industry Perspective: Innovation in Financing the Global Industrial Decarbonization

MODERATOR



Najla Alzarooni
Program Officer,
Country Engagement
and Partnerships
IRENA

PANELISTS



Zafar Samadov
Program Officer,
Country engagement
and Partnerships
IRENA



Rahul Oberoi
EVP - Project &
Corporate Finance
Emirates Development
Bank



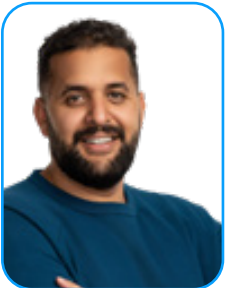
Elie Adiamy
Group Director
Business Development
& Innovation
Gulf Cryo



Sobh Benmaamar
Head of Strategy
Siemens Energy MEA

Panel Discussion: Green Value Chain Integration: Opportunities for Youth-led innovations to accelerate green transition in private & public sectors, IRENA Country Engagement and Partnerships – Alliances for Global Decarbonization

MODERATOR



Abdelrahman Fahmy
GSO Consultant, Youth
Engagement
IRENA

PANELISTS



Dr. Nawal Al Hanaee
Director of Future
Energy department
Ministry of Energy &
Infrastructure – UAE



Omar Saif
Senior Specialist
Technology, Innovation
& Entrepreneurship
COP 28 UAE



Dennis Ekow Sintim-Aboagye
Innovation Management Lead,
Siemens Energy UAE

Panel Discussion: Investing in the next generation of women in tech to unlock sustainable tourism

This panel discussion provided valuable insights into how investing in women in tech could drive sustainable tourism development. By addressing the guiding questions, the panel aimed to highlight actionable strategies for empowering women entrepreneurs and attracting investment to the tourism sector in the Middle East.

MODERATOR



Nicolas Barrios
Regional Manager,
Department of
Innovation, Education
and Investments
UNWTO

PANELISTS



Ahmed Riad
Senior Director
Huawei



Rima Manna
Vice President Middle
East & UAE Country
Director
Nokia



Rosanna Chopra
Executive Director
Red Sea Global



Kim Ruiter
Country Manager
Northern & Eastern
Europe
Uber



Mirna Arif
General Manager
Microsoft Egypt

Panel Discussion: The Industry Perspective: Innovation in Financing the Global Industrial Decarbonization

Global industrial decarbonization had historically been a critical point in the clean energy debate. Recently, global initiatives on decarbonizing industry had brought together countries and industry stakeholders to address the key decarbonization challenges in a range of industrial sub-sectors, such as cement, iron and steel, and chemicals. In addition to technical barriers, such as achieving the required high temperatures for many industrial processes, well-known commercial barriers included the capital costs for low carbon technologies (such as fuel-switching to clean hydrogen or renewable electricity, carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS), digitalization and deep energy efficiency, industrial symbiosis and circular economy approaches), and the need for effective policy enabling environments and cross-border frameworks for stimulating regional and global demand for low carbon industrial products.

The discussions were centered on the role that innovation in financing the global industrial decarbonization could play to address commercial barriers, such as developing effective markets for low carbon industrial products and creating innovative financing products that facilitate the uptake of technologies to decarbonize industrial processes. It was also of key importance to address industry views on policy measures to secure green financing and promote the energy transition through enhanced digitalization, smart decentralization and technology advances, and human capital.

MODERATOR



Najla Alzarooni
Program Officer,
Country Engagement
and Partnerships
IRENA

PANELISTS



Zafar Samadov
Program Officer,
Country engagement
and Partnerships
IRENA



Rahul Oberoi
EVP - Project &
Corporate Finance
*Emirates Development
Bank*



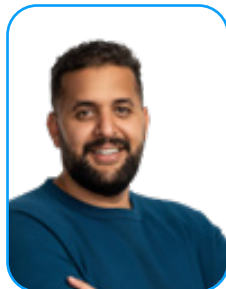
Elie Adiamy
Group Director
Business Development
& Innovation
Gulf Cryo



Sobh Benmaamar
Head of Strategy
Siemens Energy MEA

Panel Discussion: Green Value Chain Integration: Opportunities for Youth-led innovations to accelerate green transition in private & public sectors

MODERATOR



Abdelrahman Fahmy
GSO Consultant, Youth
Engagement
IRENA

PANELISTS



Dr. Nawal Al Hanaee
Director of Future
Energy department
*Ministry of Energy &
Infrastructure - UAE*



Omar Saif
Senior Specialist
*Technology, Innovation
& Entrepreneurship,
COP 28 UAE*



**Dennis Ekow
Sintim-Aboagye**
Innovation Management
Lead
Siemens Energy UAE

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE – CSA: THE FUTURE OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE SECURITY

Fireside Chat: Food Security and Global Supply Chain

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) was an approach for transforming and reorienting agricultural systems to support food security under the new realities of climate change. Widespread changes in rainfall and temperature patterns threatened agricultural production and increased the vulnerability of people dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, which included most of the world's poor. Climate change disrupted food markets, posing population-wide risks to food supply. Threats could be reduced by increasing farmers' adaptive capacity and enhancing resilience and resource use efficiency in agricultural production systems. This session discussed the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture and the global development of this approach.

MODERATOR



**Jose Francisco
Fernandez Serna**
Angel Investor / Board
Member *SBC*
CEO
E-Motion

PANELIST



Munsu Kang
Fellow Doctor
*Korean Insitute for
International Policy
- KIEP*

Panel: Climate Smart Agriculture – CSA: the Future of Sustainability in Food & Agriculture Sectors

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach for transforming and reorienting agricultural systems to support food security under the new realities of climate change. Widespread changes in rainfall and temperature patterns threaten agricultural production and increase the vulnerability of people dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, which includes most of the world’s poor. Climate change disrupts food markets, posing population-wide risks to food supply. Threats can be reduced by increasing farmers’ adaptive capacity and increasing resilience and resource use efficiency in agricultural production systems. This session shall discuss the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture and the development of this concept globally.

MODERATOR



Jose Francisco Fernandez Serna
Angel Investor / Board Member SBC, CEO E-Motion

PANELISTS



Averianov Aleksandr
Founder/CEO Terroir Concept SPBU LLC



Robert Kupstas
Founder Ocean Harvest Ltd.



Dr. Shamal Mohammed
Head Agritech - Silal

REGIONAL FOCUS FORUM TRACK

Synergy and Progress: Uniting for Regional Advancement

The AIM 2024 regional focus forum track will look at the economic prospects of various regions and consider regional economic integration efforts to boost economic growth and stability. In today’s globalized society, regional cooperation and synergy have become pivotal drivers for sustainable progress and development. The global landscape is marked by an increasing need for regions to unite and pool their collective strengths. Environmental issues such as climate change, economic challenges such as trade imbalances, and social concerns like healthcare disparities transcend national borders. Addressing these complex issues necessitates a coordinated approach that transcends individual nations’ capabilities. Regional cooperation offers a platform to harness the diversity of skills, expertise, and resources within a defined geographical or thematic area. At the heart of the theme is the belief that regional synergy can lead to progress in various aspects of society, including economic growth, innovation, social development, and environmental sustainability. Against the varied background of regional economic prospects, AIM 2024 will highlight the importance of forging collaborative partnerships, fostering cross-border cooperation, and leveraging shared resources to unlock new opportunities and overcome common challenges.

Conference Highlights

- EU Investment and Competitiveness:** The European Regional Focus Forum highlighted the EU’s position as a global investment hub, with \$8 trillion in FDI. The forum underscored EU-GCC cooperation, green finance, and renewable energy projects, such as Austria’s green hydrogen initiative in Spain, emphasizing resilience and sustainable growth.
- Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The UN ESCAP’s panel stressed the urgency of achieving SDGs by 2030, highlighting a \$4 trillion annual investment gap. Discussions centered on renewable energy investments, infrastructure development, and policy adjustments to foster gender equality and sustainable tourism, particularly in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia, and Malaysia.
- Korea-Middle East Economic Relations:** The Korean Institute for International Policy (KIEP) emphasizes the significance of South Korea’s economic strategies in the Middle East. Key focus areas include energy transitions involving hydrogen, LNG, and digital trade sectors, highlighting mutual growth opportunities in advanced technology, digital payments, AI, and entertainment industries.



- African Investment Opportunities:** African leaders highlighted the continent’s vast resources and growth potential, projecting a 4% growth rate in 2024. Key areas for investment include renewable energy, mining, and agriculture, with emphasis on regional cooperation and creating special economic zones to attract foreign investments.
- BRICS+ Business Forum:** The forum discussed reshaping the global economic landscape with the inclusion of new BRICS members. Key sectors identified for investment include AI, technology, agriculture, and tourism. Emphasis was placed on the importance of international cooperation, policy alignment, and leveraging technological advancements to enhance economic growth and attract FDI.

REGIONAL FOCUS FORUM TRACK

The Global Player in Investment: EU's Drive for more Growth and Competitiveness

The European Union (EU) was not only the world's largest trading bloc but also a major global investment hub. Its investment policy ensured a fair, transparent business environment. Amid rapid technological advancements and economic shifts, the EU stood out for its advanced regulations and stable business climate, making it a prime destination for global investors. This session aimed to highlight investment opportunities in key areas like climate change mitigation, green energy transition, digitalization, and infrastructure development within the EU.

OPENING SPEECH



H.E. Lucie Berger
Ambassador
The European Union
to the United Arab of
Emirates

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Henrik Von
Scheel
Advisory Council
Member
at European Union
Advisory Board on
Climate Change



Leon Delvaux
Director General Trade
European Commission

MODERATOR



Nele Eichhorn
DG Trade - Head of
Unit
European Commission

PANELISTS



Alexis Rostand
Managing Director
Eiffel Investment Group



Dr. Joseph Gerada
Regulator
The Family Business
Office - Malta



Jean-Mari Frentz
Executive Director
Luxembourg Trade and
Investment Office



Luca Lazzaroli
Director General -
Portfolio Management
and monitoring
European Investment
Bank



Marios Tannousis
CEO
Invest in Cyprus



Johannes Brunner
Commercial Counsellor
Austrian Embassy to
the UAE

Investing in Asia's Sustainable Future: Unlocking Opportunities for FDI in SDG Sectors

After the exogenous shocks that influenced foreign direct investment (FDI) on a global scale in recent years, uncertainty – yet also hope – permeated recent economic forecasts. Increasing levels of FDI are desperately needed to bridge the financing gap to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While Greenfield FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2023 has reached on of its highest levels in the past decade, the amount the region is receiving will still fall short of contributing tangibly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OPENING SPEECH



Jonathan Wong
Chief of Innovation, Enterprise and
Investment in the Trade, Investment and
Innovation Division
United Nations ESCAP

MODERATOR



Tom Becker
Economist of the Innovation, Enterprise and
Investment Section of the Trade, Investment
and Innovation Division
United Nations ESCAP

PANELISTS



Evariste M. Cagatan
Executive Director,
Investment Promotion
Phillipine Board of
Investment



Wirat Tatsaringkansakul
Deputy Secretary General
Board of Investment
Thailand



Raymond Siva
Senior Vice President, Digital
Investment
Malaysia Digital Economy
Corporation



Renuka Weerakone
Director General
Board of Investment of
Sri Lanka



V. Enkhbaatar
Director General
Investment and Trade
Agency of Mongolia



Tran Thi Hue
Deputy Director,
Investment Promotion
Center North Viet Nam,
Foreign Investment Agency,
Ministry of Planning and
Investment VietNam



Yusif Abdullayev
Executive Director
Export and Investment
Promotion Agency of the
Republic of Azerbaijan

Korean International Economic Policy Towards Middle East

Korean Insitute for International Policy – KIEP

As the US-China technology competition exacerbates disruptions within the global value chain, nations like Korea are pivoting towards diversifying their value chains and enhancing economic and technological cooperation to mitigate uncertainties. Concurrently, since the Obama administration, the US has fortified its ties with Asian nations through its ‘Pivot to Asia’ strategy.

OPENING SPEECH



Munsu Kang
Fellow Doctor
Korean Insitute for International Policy - KIEP

Africa Rising A New Chapter For Investors

MC



Mila Cataldo
Journalist & Blogger
Tgcom 24 (MC)

MODERATOR



H.E. Claver Gatete
Under-Secretary General
the *United Nations* &
Executive Secretary of
the ECA



H.E. Francesco La Camera
Director General
International Renewable Energy Agency

PANELISTS



H.E. Monica Mutsvangwa
Minister of Women Affairs,
Community, Small and Medium
Enterprises Development,
Zimbabwe



H.E. Dr. Diaka Sidibe
Minister for Trade, Industry and SMEs
Republic of Guinea



H.E. Achille Bassilekin III
Minister of Small and Medium-
Sized Enterprises, Social Economy
and Handicrafts
Cameroon



Manuel Francisco Pedro
Chairman
Luanda Bengo Special Economic Zone, Angola

The Shifting in World's Economy Gravity Centre: BRICS Towards Reshaping the Global Economic Landscape

On 1 January 2024, the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) was expanded to include new countries. This expansion stage included five countries (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Ethiopia), which has added economic weight to BRICS and offers the opportunity for important investments exchange and cooperation. The BRICS Business Council was established during the fifth BRICS Summit held in 2013 in Durban, South Africa, with the aim of promoting and strengthening business, trade and investment ties among the business communities of the five BRICS countries.

OPENING SPEECH



H.E. Dawood Al Shezawi
President
Annual Investment Meeting

MODERATOR



Alexandra Burman
Head of international
projects
TV BRICS Media Network



Sean He
Silicon Harbour Capital,
Founding Partner,
Investment Company,
China

PANELISTS



Sergey Katyrin
CCI RF President,
Chairman BRICS
Business Council,
Russian Federation



Mikhail Makarov
Director of the
International Relations
Office, Agency for
Strategic Initiatives,
Russia



Roman Shaykhutdinov
Deputy Prime Minister
Republic of Tatarstan



Russel Curtis
CEO of Invest Durban,
South Africa



Dra Leteia Pricila Gomes
President
Invest Brazil Institute for investment and international coopetaion




Sujatha U.G.
Vice President Global
Partnerships - *Invest India*
Senior Adviser - *WAIPA*

Arab Region’s Visions: Navigating Investment in an Innovation Driven Economy towards Sustainability


The Arab region stands at a crossroads of transformation, where economic aspirations intersect with the imperative of sustainability. The region’s oil-centric economies have long powered global markets, but the dynamics are evolving rapidly. With a burgeoning youth population, an increasing focus on diversification, and a recognition of the finite nature of fossil fuels, countries in the Arab region are turning their attention to innovation as a key driver of economic growth. The vision of an innovation-driven economy is tantalizing, promising new industries, job opportunities, and technological advancements. Yet, this vision is not devoid of challenges. As the Arab region seeks to become a global hub for innovation, the urgency of aligning the ambition with sustainable practices becomes undeniable.

MODERATOR




Dr. Khaled Hanafy
Secretary General
Union of Arab Chambers


PANELISTS




Dr. Hoda Galal Yassa
President – Arab Women
Investors Union, & President
*Businesswomen Association
for Development in Egypt*




Dr. Ibrahim Moustafa
Vice Chairman
*SCZONE for Investment &
Promotion*




Dr. Mourad Mansour
COO
Serr Consulting Company




Toufic Dabboussi
President
*Chamber of Commerce
Industry and Agriculture of
Tripoli and North Lebanon*



**Khalil Mohammad ElHaj
Tawfiq**
President
Jordan Chamber of Commerce



Hilda Al Hinai
Secretary General
*Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce
and Industry (CASI)*




Jalal Zein El Din
*Director of the Arab
Authority
for Agricultural
Investment and
Development*

Regional Focus Forum For Latin America And The Caribbean Connecting Regions, Building Futures

Session 1: Advancing Sustainable Prosperity - Green And Blue Investment In The Lac Region

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region represented a diverse tapestry of nations, each with its unique blend of economies, cultures, and developmental stages. It had long been a beacon for global investors, drawn by its abundant natural resources, emerging markets, and promising growth prospects. Against this backdrop, the investment landscape in the LAC Region evolved, embracing both traditional industries and emerging opportunities in Green and Blue Investment.

MODERATOR




Martin Dietrich Brauch
Lead Researcher,
*Columbia Center on
Sustainable Investment*

PANELISTS



Mr. Emilio Escartin
Partner
*Middle East Fuel Venture
Capital*



H.E. Yassin Saeed Al Suroor
CEO, Aamal Group
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Session 2: GCC Investments In Lac - Roadmap To Accomplish Them

This session delved into the growing investment ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and the LAC region, focusing on sustainable development and prosperity. The GCC countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman, had been increasingly looking towards the LAC region for investment opportunities. These countries possessed significant financial resources, driven by their oil wealth and strategic economic diversification efforts. As they sought to expand their investment portfolios and diversify their economies further, the LAC region presented promising prospects due to its rich natural resources, burgeoning markets, and strategic geographical location.

PANELIST



Mr. Lucas Reiris
General Deputy Coordinator,
*Executive Unity of Cordoba Province & Middle East Advisor, Argentine
Republic*

Session 3: Building Sustainable Investment Partnerships For Development In Latin America And The Caribbean

LATAM Reverse Pitch Day emerged as a transformative platform, flipping the traditional investor-startup dynamic on its head. Hosted with precision and vision, this event unveiled a novel approach, where Latin American investors took the stage to pitch their investment thesis and opportunities to esteemed Limited Partners from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. With a global audience, including startups and unicorns from around the world, this session promised to be a beacon of collaboration and opportunity.

MODERATOR



Martin Dietrich Brauch
Lead Researcher,
Columbia Center on
Sustainable Investment

PANELISTS



H.E. Miguel Medina
Minister of Investment
Promotio
Republic of Honduras



H.E. Maria Sonsoles García León
Minister of Production,
Foreign Trade, Investment
and Fishery
Republic of Ecuador



Ms. Angela Musgrove
CEO
Invest Turks & Caicos

Session 4: Illuminating Excellence: The Ibero-American Innovation Award

In the relentless pursuit of progress and excellence, the Ibero-American Innovation Award 2024 emerged as a beacon, illuminating the path for visionary companies across the Ibero-American landscape. Set against the backdrop of Abu Dhabi, a global hub of innovation and ambition, this prestigious event stood as a testament to the transformative power of innovation in shaping our collective future. More than a mere accolade, it symbolized a celebration of ingenuity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of what is possible. As we delved into the essence and significance of this distinguished award, we unraveled the tapestry of innovation that binds together the fabric of our economic and social evolution.

PRESENTER



Mr. Allan Villegas
Senior Research Fellow
and Entrepreneur in
Residence
HEC Paris, Qatar

AWARDEES



Social Impact Management
Mr. Jorge Correa Toro
Founder & CEO
EatCloud



Promotion and Change Management
Mr. Luis Contreras
Founder & CEO
ComexPoint



Agile Methodologies for Innovation
Mr. Fernando Patricio Venegas Calderón
Founding Partner
Grupo Zenit

Session 5: Latam Reverse Pitch Day - Unveiling Investment Opportunities Flipping The Script, Empowering Investors

MODERATOR



Mr. Allan Villegas
Senior Research Fellow
and Entrepreneur in
Residence
HEC Paris, Qatar

PANELISTS



Mr. Fernando Patricio Venegas Calderón
Rampante Capital
Chile



Mr. Marcelo Santos
Monashees
Brazil



Ms. Tatiana Córdoba
Managing Director Uvera
Holdings
Colombia



Mr. Diego Serebrisky & Rogelio de los Santos
Partners, Dalus Capital,
Mexico



Mr. Oleg Gordienko
Managing Partner Citius
LATAM



Mr. Rodrigo Villar
Founder
New Ventures Capital,
Mexico



Ms. Diana Roa
Investor Relations
Ashmore Group
Colombia



Mr. Rafa de Haro
Managing Partner
Cometa Capital, Mexico



Mr. Jaime Guillena
Managing Partner
MIP Real Assets, Mexico

AfCFTA Investment Protocol: A Beacon of Hope for Africa's Development

A session at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) explored how the newly established Investment Protocol can unlock Africa's investment potential. The protocol offers a clear framework for investment across the continent, aiming to expedite financing and harmonize policies. Speakers highlighted its role in attracting investment in key sectors like renewable energy and fostering participation from women, youth, and the African diaspora. Challenges remain, however. Dr. Stephen Karingi emphasized the high project failure rate and lengthy approval processes hindering investment completion. Patience Okala stressed the need for legal alignment across African states to streamline cross-border investment. Transparency and clear information were identified as crucial. Dr. Okechukwu Ejims commended the protocol's balanced approach to investor protection and sustainable development. Paul Bismarck called for a "one-stop shop" system to guide investors through the process in each country. The session painted a cautiously optimistic picture. The AfCFTA Investment Protocol offers a path forward, but addressing bureaucratic hurdles and ensuring clear information dissemination will be essential for attracting and retaining investment across Africa.

SPEAKERS



Emily N. Mburu-Ndoria
Director of Trade in Services, Investment, Intellectual Property Rights and Digital Trade
the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat



Eric V Guichard
Founder and CEO
Homestrings.com, GRAVITAS Capital and Orango Capital, Ltd



Dr. Okechukwu Ejims PhD
Senior Lecturer in Law
University of Bedfordshire



Patience Okala
Expert Investment Advisor
AfCFTA Secretariat



Roslyn Ng'eno
Senior Investment Expert
AfCFTA Secretariat



Dr. Stephen Karingi
Director
Regional Integration & Trade Division - UNECA

INVESTMENT DESTINATION TRACK

Investing in an Innovative Ecosystem: Navigating Growth Through Startegic Partnerships

The Investment Destination sessions provide a comprehensive overview of the investment opportunities and advantages offered by different participating countries around the world. They are designed to showcase the unique features and benefits of specific investment destinations, and offer an unparalleled opportunity for attendees to network with key stakeholders and industry leaders from around the world, providing them with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed investment decisions and expand their portfolios on a global scale.

Conference Highlights

- Angola showcased its strategic partnerships in the diamond industry and its exclusive collaboration with the UAE Chamber of Commerce to promote bilateral relations.
- Kurdistan Region emphasized its skilled workforce, dynamic infrastructure, and commitment to fostering economic growth, offering attractive incentives across key sectors.
- Ecuador positioned itself as a strategic investment hub with logistical advantages, a dollarized economy, and abundant natural resources, supported by Investment Protection Agreements.
- Gabon presented a promising investment landscape under the leadership of President Brice Clotaire OLIGUI NGUEMA, with significant progress in lifting sanctions and normalizing relations with international donors.
- Oman impressed investors with its stable economy, \$59 billion in FDI, world-class infrastructure, and investment opportunities spanning logistics, tourism, and manufacturing sectors.
- Moscow showcases robust economic growth, environmental sustainability efforts, advanced smart city technologies, and extensive social infrastructure development, enhancing its global stature and investment attractiveness.
- Cyprus presents a compelling investment destination with a robust economy, strategic location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and a favorable business environment supported by a competitive tax regime and skilled workforce. Key sectors for investment include tourism, shipping, real estate, and renewable energy, offering stability and growth opportunities in diverse markets.



Ecuador: Investment Destination

Ecuador presents itself as a compelling destination for investment. Located in the heart of South America, it boasts a strategic location for trade with direct Pacific Ocean access and proximity to the Panama Canal. The country offers a dollarized economy with low inflation, tax incentives, and a stable political environment. Ecuador has a well-educated workforce and a wealth of natural resources, including water, agricultural land, and minerals. The government actively encourages foreign investment through policies promoting economic efficiency, job creation, and competitiveness in energy and tourism sectors. Investment Protection Agreements (IPAs) provide legal certainty and tax stability for qualified investments. These agreements can be established for up to 15 years and offer benefits like tax breaks for projects exceeding \$1 million. With its strong fundamentals and attractive investment policies, Ecuador positions itself as a promising location for businesses to grow.

CHIEF GUEST - SPEAKER

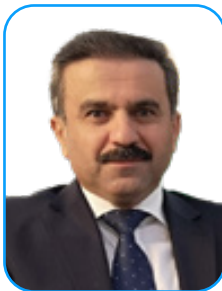


H.E. María Sonsoles García León
Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment and Fishery
Republic of Ecuador

Kurdistan Region: The Land of Untold Opportunities

Kurdistan, a region brimming with potential, beckons investors with its untapped opportunities. Renowned for its skilled workforce, Kurdistan offers a dynamic and well-connected infrastructure, fostering a stable environment for businesses to flourish. The presentation highlights Kurdistan’s strong economic growth and commitment to attracting foreign investment. Enticing incentives and a supportive government create a landscape conducive to success across various sectors. However, the details regarding these sectors and the specific support offered are not provided in this excerpt. Overall, Kurdistan positions itself as a promising destination for investment, boasting a skilled workforce, robust infrastructure, and a thriving economy.

OPENING REMARKS



H.E. Dr. Mohammed Shukri
Chairman of Kurdistan
Region Board of Investment

SPEAKER



Rowand Salam
Researcher and
Development Specialist

Sultanate of Oman – Invest Oman

Oman presents a compelling case for investment, boasting a robust economy with over \$59 billion in foreign direct investment by Q3 2023. The country enjoys strong credit ratings from Fitch, Moody’s, and S&P, signifying its financial stability. Oman’s infrastructure is world-class, ranking 10th globally for road quality and boasting the second-best container port performance according to the World Bank. Additionally, the country ranks 43rd in the Logistics Performance Index, highlighting its efficient trade environment. Investment opportunities abound across various sectors. Logistics, food security, tourism, mining, and manufacturing offer exciting possibilities. The government actively supports these sectors through investments in education, healthcare, information technology, and the circular economy, making Oman a future-oriented investment destination.

CHIEF GUEST



H.E. Ibtisam Al Farooji
Undersecretary
*Ministry of Commerce,
Industry and Investment
Promotion for Investment
Promotion*

SPEAKERS



Omar Al Harth
Senior Business
Development Executive
Invest Oman



Yazin Al Busaidi
Business Development
Director
ASYAD Group

A New Era of Investment in Gabon

Gabon is poised for a comeback. Following recent political changes, the Gabonese government, led by President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, has taken significant strides towards economic revitalization. International sanctions have been lifted, diplomatic relations restored, and partnerships with institutions like the World Bank and IMF are back on track. This newfound stability has fostered an environment conducive to foreign investment. Gabon boasts a rich resource base, ranking first in world production of high-grade manganese ore and second in wood veneer sheets. The government actively promotes investment in key sectors like energy, infrastructure, and real estate. To ensure investor security, Gabon offers a revised Investment Code and favorable agreements for foreign investment protection.

SPEAKERS



Ghislain Moandza Mboma
CEO
*Gabon National Agency for
Investment Promotion*



Serge Samy Biveghe
General Administrator
Administrative
*Authority of the Nkok
Special Investment Zone*

Cyprus: An Attractive Investment Jurisdiction & Gateway to the EU

SPEAKER



Marios Tannousis
CEO
Invest Cyprus

The presentation on Cyprus highlights its strategic advantages as a prime investment destination. With a stable economy and consistent GDP growth post-2023, Cyprus is an attractive gateway at the crossroads of Europe, and Asia. It offers a favorable business environment with a competitive tax regime, extensive double tax treaties, and a skilled, multilingual workforce. Key investment sectors include tourism, shipping, real estate, and renewable energy, featuring luxury developments, a strong EU merchant fleet, promising property opportunities, and significant investments in solar and wind energy projects.

Moscow’s Strategic Leap: Sustainable Growth and Digital Innovation

The presentation highlighted Moscow’s advancements in global economic and cultural stature. Significant strides in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality underscore its commitment to sustainability. Moscow leads in smart city technologies, leveraging AI for urban management and expanding electric public transport. Strong economic growth in manufacturing, construction, and IT sectors is supported by technoparks and startup hubs. Social infrastructure development includes health, education, and cultural facilities, enhancing residents’ quality of life. Moscow’s attractiveness for investment is bolstered by subsidies, loans, and tax incentives, alongside its cultural richness and global tourism appeal.

MODERATOR



Michael Gibson
Journalist
BIG ASIA TV Channel

SPEAKERS



H.E. Sergey Cheremin
Minister of the Governemnt of Moscow, Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow



Andrey Likhachev
General Director of JSC Rublyovo-Arkhangelskoye (SberCity)



Vadim Fedorov
Business Development Director
STC Constructor



Platonov Vladimir
President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Pavel Sharavskiy
Head of Public Sector
VisionLabs



Sam Markin
Head of International Partner Relations
Sitronics Group

Investment & Business Opportunities in Angola

Angola’s arm of the Angola-UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry champions Angolan businesses in the UAE market. They provide essential support services, including business registration, legal navigation, and cultural guidance. They also conduct market research to identify promising sectors and potential partners. The Chamber connects Angolan businesses with UAE investors and advocates for trade policies that benefit Angolan enterprises. Emphasizing the diamond industry, they partner with prominent Angolan companies like ENDIMA, SODIAM, and CATOCA to promote this vital sector.

SPEAKERS



H.E. Domingos Custódio Vieira Lopes
Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Angolan Communities



H.E. Júlio Belarmino Gomes Maiato
Ambassador
Angola to the United Arab Emirates



Dr. Benedito Paulo Manuel
Chairman and CEO
Sociedade Mineira de Catoca, Lda



Dr. Bráulio Mohammed Sanda Martins
President
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Angola-UAE
CEO
GBA- Global Business Angola



Dr. M’zée Fula-Ngege
Senior Vice-President of International Relations
Angola-UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Angola Global Business Forum (GBA)



CHINA INVESTMENT FORUM

Investing in an Innovative Ecosystem: Navigating Growth Through Strategic Partnerships

China Investment Forum not only stands as a pivotal convergence of intellectual prowess and strategic vision but also aligns with the principles of the multi-stakeholder mechanism for global development – the global partnership for development. As we dissect the multifaceted aspects of China's economic evolution, we draw inspiration from the cooperative spirit of the global partnership for development, emphasizing partnerships aiming to achieve common global goals.

As discussions within the forum highlight prevailing trends, economic development, and emerging sectors, we echo the spirit of the global partnership for development, which brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from governments, business associations, and the private sector. The forum's forward-looking exploration of innovative and technological frontiers showcases the potential role that technology might play in making it easier for successful partnerships to emerge, contributing to the sustainable development goals. This convergence of macro-economic insights and micro-level intricacies within the AIM – China Investment Forum offers a holistic perspective, fostering a collaborative environment for participants navigating the complexities of the Chinese business landscape and contributing to global development initiatives.

Conference Highlights

- Strategic Partnerships between UAE and China:** The panel discussions emphasized the importance of strategic alliances between the UAE and China, particularly in transforming from mere trading partners to logistical hubs. Dr. Khaled Hanafy highlighted the significant trade volume between Arab countries and China, amounting to \$390 billion, and emphasized the need for strategic collaborations to capitalize on mutual opportunities.
- Record Investment Figures:** Several speakers noted record-breaking investment figures between China and the UAE. Dr. Ibrahim Moustafa highlighted Chinese investment exceeding \$2.5 billion, indicating substantial success and the potential for further collaboration.
- Rapid Growth in Bilateral Relations:** There was a clear acknowledgment of the rapid growth in bilateral relations between China and the UAE. Yang Lin highlighted the exponential increase in Chinese investment in the UAE, from \$110 million in 2020 to \$1.05 trillion in 2022, showcasing the strengthening economic ties between the two nations.



- Focus on Sustainable Development:** Dr. Shasha Tan emphasized the importance of nurturing a conducive ecosystem for sustainable business ventures. MENSA Investments focuses particularly on projects related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and sustainable development goals (SDG) in the energy sector, indicating a commitment to responsible investing practices.
- Adoption of Industry 4.0 Technologies:** Wang Gao Xiang highlighted the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in optimizing logistics operations and enhancing efficiency. The increasing use of AI in supply chain management and the anticipation of increased transactions in Chinese currency (RMB) signal a move towards smarter supply chain practices and closer economic ties between the UAE and China.

CHINA INVESTMENT FORUM

Panel: Economic Growth: The Intersection of Arab and Chinese Business Landscapes – The Two-Way Investment

This Panel explores the intricate dynamics of economic growth at the intersection of Arab and Chinese business landscapes in a captivating discussion. Industry experts, economists, and leaders will examine strategic partnerships, investment opportunities, fostering collaboration between these influential regions. The impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative, technological innovation transfer, and challenges faced by businesses navigating this dynamic crossroads will be discussed. Insights into evolving economic ties shaping the future of Arab-Chinese cooperation will be shared, providing a comprehensive understanding of the synergies propelling mutual growth and success in future cities and financial sectors.

OPENING REMARKS



H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade



H.E. Jamal Al-Garwan
Secretary-General
UAE International Investor Council



Shengwei Hua
Vice Chairman
Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce



Yassin Al-Suroor
Founder & CEO
A'amal Group



H.E. Ahmed Helal Al Blooshi
Executive Director
Economic Strategy Sector - Abu Dhabi
Department of Economic Development

MODERATOR



Dr. HUNG, Wing Lok
Title, Lecturer
Faculty of Social Science, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

PANELISTS



Dr. Khaled Hanafy
Secretary General
Union of Arab Chambers



Dr. Ibrahim Moustafa
Vice Chairman
for SCZONE for Investment & Promotion



Yang Lin
International Founding Partner
Beijing Yingke Law Firm



Dr. Shaha Tan
Chairman
Mensa Investment

AIM Congress 2024 Supporting Partner Awards



H.E. Jamal Aljarwan
Secretary General
UAE International
Investors Council



H.E. Dawood Al-Shezawi
President
AIM Global Foundation



Ms Lexy Chiu
Chairman
Fuwah International
Group



Ms Jin Meng
CFO
Qianhai Ark



Ms Xu Wei
Guang Zhou City
Tianhe
CBD District

Launching of China - UAE Industrial Investment White Paper – By CCID (China Center for Information Industry Development)



Wang Gao Xiang
President Assistant
China Center for
Information Industry
Development

Panel: Investing in Green Economy: Strategies for Effective Research Funding - China-Arab States Green Energy Cooperation Dialogue

Discovering effective strategies for research funding amid the landscape of innovation. The session spotlights the crucial role of strategic partnerships in steering growth. Throughout this engaging discussion, we navigate through best practices, hurdles, and emerging trends, offering participants a valuable opportunity to immerse themselves in the interconnected world of strategic partnerships and the transformative potential within this innovative ecosystem.

INTERVIEWER	INTERVIEWEE	INTERVIEWEE
 Ben Harburg Managing Partner MSA Capital & MSA Novo	 Dr. Hoda Galal Yassa President of the Women investors union Mmber of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs	 Maher Al Kaabi Advisor to Alserkal Group Chairman Independent Board Member
	 Tan pengfei Vice Chairman Duyi Fund	 Yiyang Liu China, Deputy Secretary General Photovoltaic Industry Association



Prof. Dr. Mohamed Gamal Kafafy
World Chairman | President, Global University of
Science & Technology (GUST),
World Green Economy Council (WGECO),
Chief Consultant for Energy & SD of WFDP -
United Nations

Launching of China – Arab Finance & Investment Report



Rebecca Wong
Partner
PwC

Roundtable: Arab Main Board Companies

This session will explore the key role of strategic partnerships at the intersection of the digital economy and artificial intelligence. Delving into collaborative innovation strategies, the session will address the impact of open innovation platforms, and the challenges and opportunities presented by ongoing technological transitions specially in relation to Free Zones Economy. Attendees will gain insights into industry-specific applications, the significance of inclusive collaboration.

MODERATOR



Duan Yanling
Partner
Zhejiang University
Science Park
Development Co., Ltd

PANELISTS



Bin Wang
Co-Founder &
President
EqualOcean



Zou Chuan
CEO
TF International
Securities Group Limited



Jiamin Yu
Chairman and General
Manager
Lead Investment
(Hangzhou) Private
Fund MGT. Co.,Ltd.; Vice
President of Zhejiang
United Investment
Group



Dr. Hanan El Basha
Managing Director
Managing Director of Founder Institute
GCC & Founder of The Business Doctor



RUSSIA INVESTMENT FORUM

The Russia Investment Forum welcomed Russian regional project developers and presented investment potential in key regions such as Moscow, Sakhalin, Yakutia, and others. These regions demonstrated their areas and opportunities for international cooperation, investment exchange, and the current business climate. The keynote speech was delivered by the President of CCI Russia, Mr. Sergey Katyrin. The session was moderated by the Vice-President of CCI Russia, Mr. Dmitry Kurochkin.

Conference Highlights

- Investment Opportunities in Russia:** Sergey Katyrin emphasized the vast investment opportunities available in Russia, highlighting the country's ranking as first in Europe and fifth in the world in terms of GDP. He discussed the efforts to attract investors through federal and regional legislation, with more than 300 cooperation agreements with foreign partner organizations and around 300 projects in Russia attracting 260 billion rubles of investments by 2023.
- Regional Investment Opportunities:** Representatives from different Russian regions showcased unique investment opportunities and projects. Galina Dziuba highlighted the natural resources and business opportunities in the Sakhalin Region, inviting investors to participate in forums discussing oil and gas industry development. Dr. Elena Faizrahmanova presented investment opportunities in Tatarstan, emphasizing its leading position in the investment climate for 10 years and the establishment of Innopolis, a city for businesses.



- Innovation and Technology Transfer:** Eugene Borisoff discussed the importance of innovation and technology transfer for economic growth, highlighting the need for collaboration to solve global problems. He suggested Abu Dhabi as an ideal location to establish a global technology hub for various sectors, including renewable and traditional energy, space technologies, digital systems, and autonomous transport.
- Specialized Projects and Technological Solutions:** Andrei Shestakov mentioned technological projects available for investment in Tula, focusing on innovative solutions such as smart roads and thermoelectric modules. He offered opportunities for investors to purchase technology or companies involved in these projects.
- Unique Tourism Opportunities:** Bogoslovskaya Marina presented unique tourism experiences in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), despite its cold climate. She highlighted tourism activities such as hunting, fishing, gastronomic tourism, and pure water production, showcasing the region's potential for tourism development.



RUSSIA INVESTMENT FORUM

Panel: Russia Investment Forum

The Russia Investment Forum welcomed Russian regional project developers, showcasing key investment potentials in regions such as Moscow, Sakhalin, Yakutia, and others. The forum aimed to highlight opportunities for international cooperation, exchange of investments, and insights into the current business climate. The keynote speech was delivered by the President of CCI Russia, Mr. Sergey Katurin, with moderation by Vice-President of CCI of Russia, Mr. Dmitry Kurochkin.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sergey Katyrin
President
CCI Russia

MODERATOR



Dmitry Kurochkin
Vice-President
CCI RUSSIA

PANELISTS



Galina Dziuba
President
CCI SAKHALIN



Evgeny Borisov
Deputy Director
Internet Initiatives
Development
Foundation



Elena Faizrahmanova
First Deputy Chairman
CCI TATARSTAN



Vladislav Mishchenko
Department Director
CCI MOSCOW



Andrei Shestakov
President
CCI TULA



Dmitrii Telegin
Vice-President
CCI VOLOGDA



Timur Khakimov
President
CCI BASHKORTOSTAN



Aleksandr Zhurakovskii
Division Head
CCI SAKHA YAKUTIA



Aleksandr Sitnikov
General Director
AleksandrGrad
BrownField company

ROUNDTABLES TRACK

The Leaders 2024: Exceptional Talks and Visions

Roundtables Track is one of the New Tracks added in AIM Congress 2024, where a set of 6 New Roundtables are being created to boost the development of high-level discussions, on the level of Global Economy Leaders. The Roundtables aim is to leverage the discussions on global economy and investment, leading to concrete results and conclusions.

Conference Highlights

- Regional Integration Discussions:** The International/ Regional Organizations Heads' Roundtable focused on regional and international integration to overcome divisions hindering economic growth. Insights from top decision-makers, including representatives from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNIDO, and D-8 Organization of Economic Cooperation, aimed to highlight the future of regional and international collaborations worldwide.
- Investment Policy Design and Implementation:** The Ministerial Roundtable on Investment aimed to support countries' efforts in maintaining open, transparent, and non-discriminatory policies for international investment. With participation from various ministers and officials from countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Indonesia, the roundtable sought to discuss and develop new forms of supporting policy coherence and maximizing the role of private investment as a catalyst for sustainable development.
- Smart Cities Initiative:** The City Mayors' Roundtable on Smart Cities, in cooperation with UN-Habitat & WeGO, addressed the future of the globe by focusing on innovative solutions and impactful changemakers tackling major challenges. The roundtable aimed to strengthen ties between innovative entrepreneurs, urban experts, and forward-thinking city representatives to develop solutions for more sustainable and resilient communities. The launch of the Global Alliance of Mayors on Digital Cooperation, established by UN-Habitat and the Office of the SG's Envoy on Technology, was a key highlight of this session.




- Discussion on Economic Slowdown:** The Ministerial Roundtable on Investment discussed preparing for an economic slowdown and hidden investment opportunities. With participation from ministers and officials from various countries, including El Salvador, Honduras, and Indonesia, the roundtable aimed to promote dialogue and develop strategies to navigate through potential economic challenges. The session considered real GDP growth slowing to 1.4% in 2024 and aimed to position portfolios accordingly.
- Role of IPAs and Bankable Projects:** The discussions under the themes "The Power of IPAs in Driving Growth" and "Pipelines of Bankable Projects" highlighted the crucial role of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in driving growth and the importance of identifying and promoting bankable projects. Representatives from different IPAs and organizations shared insights and experiences, aiming to promote investment and economic development.

ROUNDTABLES TRACK

Ministerial Roundtable on Investment


The Ministerial Panel on Investment aimed to uphold open policies and maximize private investment for sustainable development amid global crises. With GDP growth projected at 1.4% in 2024 due to rate hikes, investors were advised to prepare for an anticipated economic slowdown.

MODERATOR




James Zhan
Chief Advisor to the Secretary General
UNCTAD


PARTICIPANTS




H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade




H.E. Elmedin Konaković
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Bosnia and Herzegovina




H.E. Jean Lucien Busa
Minister of Foreign Trade
Democratic Republic of Congo




H.E. Miguel Medina
Minister of Investment
Honduras




H.E. Sandiaga Uno
Minister of Tourism & Creative Economy
Republic of Indonesia




H.E. Ryad Mezzour
Minister of Industry & Trade
Kingdom of Morocco




H.E. Fabio Righi
Minister of Industry, Handicraft and Trade, Technological Research
San Marino




Hon. Anite Evelyn
Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Privatisation and Investment)
Uganda




H.E. Claver Gatete
Undersecretary General – United Nations, & Executive Secretary – *Economic Commission for Africa*




H.E. Sulton Rahimzoda
Chairman of the State Committee on Investment and State Property Management
Republic of Tajikistan



H.E. Sergey Cheremin
Minister of the Government of Moscow, Head of the Department for External Economic & International Relations of *Moscow*



H.E. Dr. Mohammad Shukri
Chairman
the Kurdistan Region Investment Board




Dr. Khaled Hanafy
Secretary General
Union of Arab Chambers

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WAIPA Breakfast Roundtable on LDC, LLDC, & SIDS

MODERATOR




Dushyant Thakor
Deputy Executive Director
WAIPA

WELCOME ADDRESS




Ismail Ersahin
Executive Director & CEO
WAIPA

REMARKS



Stefan Kratzsch
Team lead,
Sustainability Standards
and Responsible
Business Unit
UNIDO



Dr. Matthew Stephenson
Head, Investment and
Services
World Economic Forum

Theme 1: The Power of IPAs in Driving Growth

SIDS Case Study: Presentation on usage of Digital Tools and leveraging social media platforms



Angelina Biviana Riveiro Disla
Executive Director
ProDominicana


Theme 2: Pipelines of bankable projects: Key role of an IPA

LDC, LLDC Case Study: Presentation on creation of pipeline of bankable projects




Sushil Bhatta
CEO
Investment Board of
Nepal


Remaks by Participants




Courtney Fingar
Senior Advisor
Europe and
Communications,
WAIPA on tools for
building a positive
perception




Mamadou N'Diaye
CEO
API Mali




Mohit Bhasin
Partner
KPMG




Peter Janech
Coordinator
Education, Innovation
and Investments -
UN World Tourism
Organization (UN WTO)




Tom Becker
Economist
United Nations
Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and
the Pacific (ESCAP)



Mahmoud Mahgoub
COMESA
Regional Investment
Agency (RIA)




Jose Henrique Martins
Senior Expert
WAIPA




Marcial Smerster
Investment Director
ProDominicana

SUMMARIZING
KEY POINTS



Ibrahim Toure
Director Investment
Promotion and
Relations
API Mali



Dr. Matthew Stephenson
Head, Investment and
Services
World Economic Forum

Central Banks & Stock Exchange Market's Presidents' Roundtable

The Leaders 2024: Exceptional Talks and Visions

The Central Banks and Stock Exchange Markets' Presidents' Roundtable discussed various aspects of the 2024 forecast, among other topics. Following a strong 2023, investors' main concern was whether the stock market rally could continue into the next year. Despite fears of a potential recession, a resilient economy, moderating inflation, and the potential peak in interest rates encouraged investors to re-enter the stock market. The discussion also addressed the question of whether the strong market rally could sustain into 2024, with Morgan Stanley predicting a flat stock market for the year.

MODERATOR



Prof. Henrik Von Scheel
The Most Influential Futurist

PARTICIPANTS



Mr. Mazen Wathaifi
Chief Executive Officer
Amman Stock Exchange



Mr. Medet Nazaraliev
Chief Executive Officer
Kyrgyz Stock Exchange



Mr. Hayk Yeganyan
CEO
Armenia Securities Exchange



Mr. Yamungu Kayandabila
Deputy Governor
Central Bank of Tanzania



Jalil Tarif
Secretary-General
Union of Arab Securities Authorities (UASA)



Ali Zeb Khan
Trade & Investment Counsellor
Consulate General of Pakistan



Gilles Koch
Chief Executive Officer
Shield Bank



Bob Karina
Chairman
Rwanda Stock Exchange



Mohamed Lamine Conte
Vice-Gouverneur
Banque Centrale De La Republique de Guinee

City Mayors' Roundtable on Smart Cities

In Cooperation with:



The Future of the Globe

The City Mayors' Roundtable brought together innovative solutions and impactful changemakers focused on addressing significant global challenges. The roundtable aimed to strengthen ties between innovative entrepreneurs, urban experts, and forward-thinking city representatives, providing a platform for collaboration to develop solutions for more sustainable and resilient communities.

OPENING SPEECH



H.E. Dawood Al Shezawi
President
Annual Investment Meeting



H.E. Jung Sook Park
Secretary General
WeGo

MODERATOR



Ms. Edlam Yemeru
Director (a.i.) of the External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation - UN-Habitat

PARTICIPANTS



Atty. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay
Mayor
Makati City



Daouda Gueye
Deputy Mayor
Dakar City in Charge of ICT



Douglas Nana Kwaku Annoful
Coordinating Director and Acting Deputy Mayor
Accra



Hon. Issa Kassir
Mayor
Ramallah



Hon. Manuel de Araújo
Mayor
Quelimane



Umar Nasir Usman
Deputy Mayor
Abuja



Dorothy Kisaka
Executive Director
Kampala

INVESTMENT FACILITATION IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BY UNCTAD

The global landscape of international investment policymaking continues to evolve. At the same time, the investment deficit in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is estimated to have increased to \$4 trillion per year. Investment facilitation has become a recent focal area for enhancing the ability of international investment agreements (IIAs) to boost investment flows to narrow this gap. Achievement of the Agenda 2030 requires concerted efforts to facilitate investment, tailored to developmental needs, and support for the transfer and diffusion of novel technologies.

Conference Highlights

- Egypt's Evolving Approach to International Treaties: Radwa I. Kamouna emphasized Egypt's progression in international treaties, particularly noting the 2010 treaty focused on technology transfer for economic development and the 2022 AfCFTA investment protocol that comprehensively addresses investment facilitation and technology transfer. This evolution reflects the increasing emphasis on aligning national policies with international standards to enhance the business climate and attract technology-intensive investments.
- Decline in Global FDI and the Role of Investment Facilitation Agreements (IFAs): Hasan Aslan highlighted a 9% decline in global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2023 due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical risks. He stressed the importance of transparent




and fair frameworks in IIAs and the potential of Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreements (SefAs) to foster sustainable development. The need for capacity-building support and technical assistance for successful implementation of IFAs was also underscored.

- Technology Transfer and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Tanya Ghossein discussed the critical role of IIAs with investment facilitation measures in promoting technology transfer and sustainable development. She pointed out that IIAs can incentivize reforms, create predictable investment climates, and address barriers to technology adoption in developing countries.

Panel : Bridging the Gap - Enhancing Investment Flows through Effective Facilitation Provisions in IIAs


This panel aims to delve into how IIAs can be optimized to boost investment flows, particularly in areas crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will explore the role of investment facilitation within the framework of international investment agreements. By addressing the challenges and opportunities related to investment facilitation in IIAs, the event aspires to contribute to the development of effective policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth.

MODERATOR




Hamed El-Kady
Chief, International Investment Agreements
UNCTAD


PANELISTS




Dr. Abdullah Alomair
Executive Director,
International Partnership,
*Ministry of Investment,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*




H.E. Juma Mohammed Al Kait
Assistant Undersecretary,
Foreign Trade Affairs
– *Ministry of Economy,
United Arab Emirates*



H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary General,
*D-8 Organization for
Economic Cooperation*



Roslyn Ng'eno
Senior Investment Expert,
African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat



Dr. Josef Ostřanský
Policy Advisor,
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

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Panel : Facilitating Investment in Technology through International Cooperation

This panel will focus on the crucial role of technology and innovation in sustainable development and how IIAs can facilitate investment in technology and its transfer and diffusion. It aims to highlight the importance of international cooperation in removing barriers to investment, investment facilitation and technology exchange. It focuses on sectors critical for sustainable development such as clean energy, health, and agriculture.

MODERATOR



Vincent Beyer
Expert in Legal Affairs,
IIA Section
UNCTAD

PANELISTS



Radwa I. Kamouna
Under Secretary of State
Head of International
Relations Department
Promotion Sector
General Authority for
Investment and Free Zones
Egypt



Hasan Aslan Akpinar
Head of International
Relations Department,
Ministry of Industry and
Technology, Republic of
Türkiye



Tania Ghossein
Senior Private Sector
Specialist
Investment Climate
Unit, World Bank Group



Prof. N Jansen Calamita
Head of Investment Law
and Policy
Centre for International
Law and Research
Associate Professor (CIL),
Faculty of Law, National
University of Singapore

DDC GLOBAL CREDIT INVESTOR FORUM

Exploring how technology, data-driven insights, best practices and innovative legal frameworks are redefining Debt Investing and NPL management strategies, ultimately leading to more efficient and sustainable outcomes across different geographies. Benchmarks and lessons taken from markets further ahead in the curve help navigate this dynamic market.

Conference Highlights

- **Shift Towards Private Credit:** The discussions highlighted a significant shift towards private credit and alternative financing solutions in the UAE and GCC regions. This trend is driven by various factors, including stricter capital regulation requirements for banks, increased opportunities for distressed companies, and strategic partnerships between commercial banks and funds to leverage existing relationships.
- **Importance of Legal Framework Enhancements:** There was a strong emphasis on the importance of enhancing the legal framework for restructuring practices. The introduction of new bankruptcy laws, designated courts for bankruptcy, and mechanisms for debt restructuring were discussed as essential steps to support economic growth and resilience in the region.
- **Role of Technology in Debt Collection:** Technology was highlighted as a significant factor in debt collection practices. The adoption of automation, AI, and predictive analytics was discussed as crucial for improving operational efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing recovery rates in the debt collection process.




- **Need for Professional Expertise in Restructuring:** There was a consensus on the importance of professional expertise in restructuring processes. The role of insolvency practitioners, legal advisors, and financial experts was emphasized in navigating complex restructuring scenarios and ensuring successful outcomes for all stakeholders involved.
- **Adapting to International Standards:** The UAE and GCC regions are actively adapting their restructuring practices to align with international standards. Continued efforts in legal reform, fostering a supportive ecosystem for distressed companies, and promoting professional expertise in restructuring were highlighted as key strategies to address the evolving needs of the business environment and attract investment.

DDC GLOBAL CREDIT INVESTOR FORUM

Panel: Insights & Outlooks on Global Debt Markets


This panel explored how technology, data-driven insights, best practices, and innovative legal frameworks were redefining debt investing and non-performing loan (NPL) management strategies, leading to more efficient and sustainable outcomes across different geographies. It highlighted benchmarks and lessons from markets further ahead on the curve to help navigate this dynamic market.

MODERATOR




Alex Dooler
Senior Reporter
Debtwire


PANELISTS



Nicola Jackson
Partner
Charles Russell Speechlys



Hatim Dawood Al-Lawati
Senior Advisor
GCC Relationa




Ayman Al-Wadi
Chairman
AW Holding

Panel: Maximizing Returns: Strategies in Asset Recovery and Litigation Funding


Experts delved into the dynamic realm of asset recovery and litigation funding, exploring innovative approaches to maximizing returns in complex legal battles and asset-retrieval endeavors. The discussion covered navigating legal intricacies, optimizing financial strategies, effectively recovering assets, and securing funding for litigation. Attendees gained valuable insights on mitigating risks, leveraging opportunities, and achieving success in this evolving landscape.

MODERATOR




JP Joseph
Managing Partner
Mayfield Capital, UAE


PANELISTS




Nick Wood
Partner of Insolvency & Asset Recovery
Grant Thornton



Joe Durkin
Sebiar Vice President
Burford



Kanika Sharma
Managing Director
Fulcrum Capital




Tina Asgarian
Counsel
Ogier

Panel : Unlocking Opportunities: Exploring the Landscape of Private Debt and Credit


This panel brought together industry leaders to dissect the evolving landscape of private debt and credit, from emerging trends to regulatory shifts. It provided valuable insights into navigating the intricacies of private debt markets, identifying lucrative investment prospects, and managing risk effectively. The discussion included innovative strategies for capital deployment, portfolio optimization, and driving sustainable returns in today's dynamic economic environment.

MODERATOR




William Watson
Partner
White & Case


PANELISTS



Markus Thomas
Senior Executive Officer
Centricus Limited



Rafael Gonzalo
Founding Partner
REEM Partners, ES




Genane Maalouf
Director of Private Credit
Distressed Credit - HSBC

Panel : International Insights into Restructuring Practices


This panel brought together industry leaders to dissect the evolving landscape of restructuring practices, from emerging trends to regulatory shifts. Participants gained valuable insights into navigating the intricacies of private debt markets, identifying lucrative investment prospects, and managing risk effectively. The discussion explored innovative strategies for capital deployment, portfolio optimization, and driving sustainable returns in today's dynamic economic environment.

MODERATOR




Hisham Ashour
Managing Director
Haykala Advisors & Managers, SA


PANELISTS




Amir Ahmad
Partner
Reed Smith, AE




Kosta Georgiadis
Senior Managing Director
Teneo



Hafidh Thani
Managing Partner
M&CO Legal



Debashis Dey
Partner
White & Case



Esteban Buljevich
Vice Chairman
Rothschild & Co

WORLD GOVERNMENT INCUBATOR FOR TOLERANCE

The AIM Congress 2024 in the United Arab Emirates emphasizes the exchange of ideas and experiences to address global challenges. As an independent international organization the AIM Congress is fully committed to amplifying and empowering the world economies by creating and encouraging positive progressive policies which facilitate diverse opportunities for economic productivity and expansion all across the globe. In contributing to this year's edition of the AIM Congress, the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence highlighted the pertinent role of tolerance and what it brings to the table in the form of human fraternity in addressing global issues, improving education, fostering innovation, and preserving heritage. The Ministry calls for prioritizing universal human values such as respect, compassion, and cooperation to build a peaceful and prosperous society. The Ministry's unique mission in fostering tolerance and coexistence stems from values that are deep rooted in the UAE as envisioned by the nation's Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and further supported by the President, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, by building on the founding vision in promoting human dignity, peace, tolerance, and a knowledge-based economy.

Conference Highlights

- HE Nahyan underscored the visionary leadership of Sheikh Zayed in charting the path for a tolerant and inclusive society in the UAE. He highlighted the UAE's commitment to promoting human dignity, peace, and respect, positioning the nation as a global hub for tolerance and coexistence. Emphasizing the importance of universal human values such as compassion, cooperation, and education, HE Nahyan called for collective efforts to create a world free from extremism, hate, and violence.
- The session witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the UAE and several nations, including the Republic of Honduras, Republic of Ecuador, and Republic of Austria, aimed at fostering cooperation and promoting tolerance on a global scale. Representatives from these nations expressed gratitude for the agreements and lauded the UAE's leadership in promoting tolerance and laying the foundation for a better future.
- HE Miguel Medina, Minister of Investment Promotion of the Republic of Honduras, thanked the UAE and HE Sheikh Nahyan for their leadership in forging partnerships for global progress. Similarly, HE Maria Sonsoles Garcia Leon, Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Production of the Republic of Ecuador, highlighted the efforts of her country to improve foreign trade and attract investment opportunities, with a focus on empowering women in international trade.
- HE Elmedin Konakovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasized the importance of active efforts towards peace and prosperity, citing the peaceful coexistence of diverse communities in his country as a testament to the possibilities of tolerance and harmony.



- The panel discussion featured insights from representatives of academic institutions, including Ms. Zahra Khalifa from the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, Mr. Artur Kireev from St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, and Ms. Ruchita Sharma from the University of Wollongong Dubai. They highlighted initiatives to promote tolerance and diversity within universities, including inclusive activities, cultural exchange programs, and support services for students.
- Ms. Sharma emphasized the shared responsibility of governments, students, and universities in creating an inclusive environment, highlighting the importance of addressing individual needs and fostering collaboration among diverse communities. She shared examples of successful collaborations between universities and external organizations, such as the partnership with Al Noor Centre for People of Determination, illustrating the positive impact of such initiatives on student experiences and perspectives.
- In conclusion, the session underscored the critical importance of tolerance, diversity, and economic inclusion in building a more peaceful and prosperous world. By fostering collaboration, promoting education, and embracing diversity, governments, academic institutions, and civil society can work together to create a better future for generations to come.



WORLD GOVERNMENT INCUBATOR FOR TOLERANCE

Ceremonial Keynotes: Part One

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahayan
Cabinet Member,
U.A.E Minister of
Tolerance & Coexistence

SPEECH



H.E. Miguel Medina
Minister of Investment
Promotion
Republic of Honduras



H.E. Maria Sonsoles Garcia Leon
Minister of Production
Foreign Trade,
Investment and Fishery
Republic of Ecuador



H.E. Harris Whitbeck
Minister for Tourism
Republic of Guatemala



H.E. Elmedin Konakovic
Minister of Freign Affairs
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Global Tolerance Clubs' Efforts in Universities

PANELISTS



Mr. Artur Kireev
Acting Director,
Graduate School of
Technology Entrepreneurship,
St. Petersburg Polytechnic
University, The Russian
Federation



Ms. Ruchita Sharma
Student Life Officer
(University of
Wollongong)

The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria

MOU Signing Ceremony



FAMILY OFFICE FORUM

The landscape of family offices and their investment strategies are undergoing a significant transformation. As the dust settles on an extended period of historically low interest rates, family offices are reevaluating their investment strategies to better adapt to the evolving economic terrain. The rationale behind this change is driven by the confluence of factors, including the anticipation of shifting interest rates, the specter of inflation, the uncertainty of asset values (especially in real estate), and the prospects of varying economic growth trajectories. Amidst these changes, one overarching concern looms above all else: geopolitics. It has surged to the forefront of family offices' collective consciousness, displacing inflation as the paramount issue affecting their investment decisions.

Conference Highlights

- **Evolution of Investment Goals:** Traditional investment objectives have expanded beyond mere financial returns to encompass broader social, cultural, and environmental considerations. Long-term investment strategies now prioritize sectors such as energy transition, climate change mitigation, food security, and digital transformations. Family offices are at the forefront of this shift, embracing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria and showcasing the critical role of private capital in fostering economic inclusivity and sustainability.
- **UAE as a Global Hub for Family Offices:** The United Arab Emirates has emerged as a prominent global hub for family offices, with a projected 46% increase in financial wealth in the region. This recognition underscores the UAE's commitment to ambition and innovation, highlighting the essential role that family offices play in driving positive change on a global scale.
- **Vision of the Royal Bafokeng Nation:** Tirelo Molotlegi, Her Majesty the Princess of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, outlined a vision centered on cultivating a community of capable and self-sufficient individuals. Their comprehensive master plan aims to shape a brighter future across various sectors, including education, health, infrastructure, and sports. The emphasis on unity and collaboration underscores a commitment to fostering positive change and interdependence within communities.



- **Leadership and Collaboration:** Successful leaders are not only those who inspire progress but also those who foster unity and collaboration among individuals and communities. The emphasis on moral joy derived from fostering interdependence highlights a commitment to positive collaboration as an essential element of successful leadership, contributing to meaningful societal change.
- **Commitment to Global Impact:** Both speakers emphasized a commitment to global impact through investment strategies that prioritize social, cultural, and environmental considerations. This commitment reflects a broader shift in investment philosophy towards generating positive outcomes beyond financial returns, demonstrating a collective recognition of the importance of private capital in driving meaningful change worldwide.

FAMILY OFFICE FORUM

Panel: Global Asset Allocation and Impact Investing for Family Offices

In this illuminating panel discussion, a diverse group of experts explored the intriguing realm of “Impact Investing and Global Asset Allocation for Family Offices.” The focus was on uncovering insightful perspectives and strategies in finance with a keen eye on societal impact.

Esteemed panelists, boasting varied backgrounds and deep expertise, shared their personal journeys and invaluable insights into the complex dynamics of impact investing and global asset allocation. They discussed navigating market fluctuations, harnessing emerging opportunities in sustainable finance, and balancing financial returns with positive societal outcomes.

Throughout the dialogue, the panelists delved into the evolving landscape of impact investing, examining its role in driving meaningful change across sectors such as renewable energy, healthcare, and education. They dissected the nuances of global asset allocation, considering factors like geopolitical risks, market trends, and the pursuit of long-term value creation. The discussion also highlighted the importance of robust due diligence and impact measurement in impact investing, alongside the challenges and opportunities inherent in integrating impact considerations into investment decision-making processes.

Drawing on their collective expertise and real-world experiences, the panelists aimed to equip family offices with actionable insights and pragmatic strategies for navigating the evolving intersection of finance and impact. The exploration of impact investing and global asset allocation uncovered innovative approaches, emerging trends, and tangible pathways for family offices to drive positive change while achieving financial prosperity.

Whether attendees were experienced investors, family office professionals, or simply curious about the transformative potential of finance, this panel offered fresh perspectives and actionable takeaways for shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future.

MODERATOR



Bryan Henning
Senior Vice President
Head of International,
Eton Solutions

PANELISTS



**Her Majesty
Tirelo Molotlegi**
the Princess of the Royal
Bafokeng Nation



Maurice Gravier
CIO
Emirates NBD



Jannie Tsuei
Partner
TVM Capital Healthcare



Joe Tennant
Head of Middle East
Wealth
Schroder

Keynote: Next Gen Education and Leadership

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Xiang Bing
Founding Dean and Dean's
Distinguished Chair Professor of
China Business and Globalization at
Cheung Kong Graduate School of
Business
(CKGSB)

Panel: Next Gen Education and Leadership

In this compelling panel discussion, a distinguished group of experts explored the critical topic of “Next Gen Education and Leadership.” Conducted entirely in Chinese, the discussion promised an insightful exploration of topics central to the transmission of values, knowledge, and resources from one generation to the next.

Esteemed panelists, representing diverse backgrounds and perspectives, shared their experiences and insights into the multifaceted landscape of inheritance education. They discussed evolving methods and approaches used to impart essential skills, values, and wealth management strategies to future generations. Key topics included the importance of financial literacy, preservation of cultural heritage, and cultivation of ethical values.

The panelists examined the role of technology in modern inheritance education, exploring how digital platforms and tools facilitate communication, learning, and legacy preservation across generations. They addressed contemporary challenges and opportunities in inheritance education, such as navigating generational differences, promoting intergenerational dialogue, and fostering responsibility and stewardship among inheritors.

Drawing on their expertise and real-world experiences, the panelists provided actionable insights and strategies for families, educators, and policymakers seeking to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of inheritance education in today's rapidly changing world.

The discussion offered engaging perspectives and practical guidance for parents, educators, or guardians concerned about passing on values and assets to the next generation, shedding light on the dynamics, trends, and innovations shaping the future of inheritance education.

MODERATOR



Yang Lan
founder - Mum Don't
Cry Foundation, &
co-founder
the Singapore Next-gen
Academy

PANELISTS



Zhao Jing
Co-founder - Nora
Family Office, Executive
Partner - Fuyin Tangjia
Medical Venture Fund



Zhuo Liang
Family Globalization and
alternative investment
management specialist
Family Office
Representative



Liu Xia
Founder of NGO
charity Aspine heath
group, Family Office
Representative

BUSINESS DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR ACP AMBASSADORS

The 79 member states of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) are facing significant challenges due to the triple crisis of food security, energy, and financial market performance, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 UNCTAD World Investment Report reveals a widening annual investment deficit that developing countries face as they work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Although foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to developing countries grew by 4% in 2022, considerable disparities on an inter-regional basis continue to persist and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are at risk to fail on their national-level SDGs targets. Enormous investments in food security, renewable energy, water and sanitation, infrastructure, health and other sectors need to be mobilized to stay on track.

Conference Highlights

- Launch of a Digital Platform for Investment Opportunities:** A significant milestone was achieved with the rollout of a digital platform showcasing investment opportunities from African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries. This platform aims to facilitate global investment flows and promote sustainable development in the region.
- Emphasis on Business Diplomacy Skills Enhancement:** The training session focused on enhancing business diplomacy skills to raise interest and further enhance investment promotion efforts. By leveraging diplomatic networks, participants aim to amplify outreach in foreign markets in a cost-effective and efficient manner, fostering collaboration between Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and ACPs.
- Importance of Passion in Business Diplomacy:** The session highlighted the critical role of passion in driving successful business diplomacy initiatives. Passion fuels commitment to fostering strong and enduring business relationships, even in the face of adversity, and is identified as a key characteristic for effective business deployment.



- Key Elements of Effective Business Diplomacy:** Essential elements for successful business diplomacy, including insight, prioritization, networking, and problem-solving, were outlined. These elements serve as a roadmap for diplomats to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes and foster positive outcomes in investment promotion efforts.
- Focus on Continuity and Handover Processes:** The importance of continuity and structured handover processes in diplomatic endeavors was emphasized. Documenting progress and achievements ensures the preservation of institutional knowledge, facilitating seamless transitions and the sustained success of diplomatic initiatives.

BUSINESS DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR ACP AMBASSADORS

Business Diplomacy Capacity Building Workshop for ACP Ambassadors

The objective of the Business Diplomacy Training is to give Ambassadors and technical staff of ACP Embassies an overview of the tools to fully harness the potential of business diplomacy in fostering sustainable investments and economic growth.

OPENING REMARKS



H.E. Dawood Al Shezawi
President of AIM Congress
AIM Global Foundation



H.E. Lucie Berger
Ambassador
The European Union
to the United Arab of Emirates



Mr. Junior Lodge
Assistant Secretary General
Department of Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)



Mr. Stefan Kratzsch
Team Lead
Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO

TRAINER



Mr. Aleksandar Medjedovic
Senior International Investment Expert
Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO

PRESENTER



Mr. Stefan Kratzsch
Team Lead
Sustainability Standards and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO



H.E. Dawood Al Shezawi
President of AIM Congress
AIM Global Foundation

AIM PERCEPTION STUDY FOR IPAS 2024



The third edition of the AIM Perception Study for Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) aims to elevate the recognition of innovative and collaborative efforts by IPAs worldwide. AIM Congress partnered with UNIDO, WAIPA, and KPMG to conduct a comprehensive perception study, curate workshops, and execute various activities aimed at extracting valuable insights from IPA experiences. This ongoing initiative showcases a collaborative approach within the IPA landscape and aims to drive global economic development. The launch event featured distinguished panelists including Walid Farghal, Director General of AIM Congress; Ismail Ersahin, CEO & Executive Director of WAIPA; Stefan Kratzsch, Team Lead at United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and Mohit Bhasin, Global Co-lead and National Lead, Economic Growth, Government and Public Services at KPMG in India.

Conference Highlights

- **Launch of the IPA Survey:** The session marked the official launch of the IPA Survey, a significant initiative aimed at gathering insights, best practices, and key data from Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) worldwide. This survey is designed to assess the current landscape, challenges, and opportunities faced by IPAs.
- **Focus on Collaboration and Knowledge-Sharing:** The survey aims to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building among IPAs. By understanding investor expectations and IPA needs, the initiative seeks to tailor services to meet specific requirements, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of investment promotion efforts.
- **Emphasis on Digitalization:** One key finding from last year's report highlighted a significant gap in digitalization among many IPAs. The current survey will continue to emphasize the importance of digitalization, helping IPAs to navigate the digital landscape more effectively and adapt to emerging trends.



- **Continuous Improvement and Tracking:** The survey is designed to be continuous, allowing for regular assessment and tracking of changes over time. This approach ensures that the support provided to IPAs remains relevant and effective, responding dynamically to evolving challenges and opportunities.
- **Presentation of Survey Findings:** The session will include a slideshow presentation of the survey findings, offering valuable insights into how IPAs are addressing current challenges and opportunities. This data will help IPAs to prioritize areas needing support and improve their overall capabilities in attracting and facilitating investment.

SMART MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT FORUM

After an eventful several years, smart manufacturing technology remained at the forefront of manufacturing industry trends for 2024 as facilities continued to explore innovative ways to improve processes and efficiencies while being prepared for disruptions and unpredictable scenarios. Following the upheaval of 2020 and subsequent recovery, 2024 brought a host of new smart manufacturing trends and technology applications that you would have wanted to understand. Here, we examined those trends and how they could help optimize your operations and contribute to the health and resiliency of your business. The Smart Manufacturing Investment Forum discussed the 2024 opportunities of applying smart manufacturing applications in the factory of the future.

Conference Highlights

- **Evolution of AI and Industry 4.0:** Prof. Henrik Von Scheel discussed the evolution of AI within the context of Industry 4.0, emphasizing its gradual development and integration into various industries rather than a sudden revolution. He highlighted the importance of collaboration and open-source innovation post-2008.
- **Launch of the IPA Survey Initiative:** Dr. Yao Wang spoke about the collaborative survey conducted in partnership with KPMG and WAIPA, aimed at understanding and improving the baseline capabilities of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs). The survey focuses on areas like digitalization and provides continuous insights for adapting to new trends.
- **AI Ethics and Standards:** Ahmed Riad Ismail from Huawei stressed the significance of AI ethics, highlighting the need for standardized frameworks to ensure accountability, fairness, and transparency in AI development. He pointed out the role of traditional institutions like ITU and ISO in fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders.



- **Purpose-Driven AI Implementation:** Emilija Vukovic emphasized the importance of a strategic framework in AI implementation, advocating for a human-centric approach grounded in purpose and introspection. She highlighted the need to understand the “why” behind technological advancements to ensure ethical and responsible AI development.
- **Spark Manufacturing Incentive Program:** Dr. Eng. Antonio Feraco announced the Spark Manufacturing Incentive Program by the DVS Economic Development Bureau in Abu Dhabi. The program offers up to \$500,000 in co-funding to manufacturers for implementing Industry 4.0 technologies, including AI, to enhance processes and drive economic growth in the region.

Presentation: Artificial Intelligence Hype Cycles 2024: Executive Guide for Investor, Business and Entrepreneurship

This session defined what AI is while exploring the Artificial Intelligence Hype Cycle 2024. The 30-minute session made sense of how and where to apply the Artificial Intelligence Hype Cycle as an executive guide for investors, businesses, and entrepreneurship.

PRESENTER



Prof. Henrik Von Scheel
Industry 4.0 Originator

Panel: Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are two types of intelligent software solutions that are impacting how past, current, and future technology is designed to mimic more-humanlike qualities. At the core, artificial intelligence is a technology solution, system, or machine that is meant to mimic human intelligence to perform tasks while iteratively improving itself based on the information it collects. Machine learning is a subset of AI that focuses on building a software system that can learn or improve performance based on the data it consumes.

MODERATOR



Prof. Henrik Von Scheel
Industry 4.0 Originator

PANELISTS



Humera Malik
CEO
Canvass AI



Martin Denz
Managing Partner
SDTC Solutions



Ahmed Riad Ismail
Senior Director Strategy and
Industry Development
Huawei



Emilija Vukovic
Business Architect to
Applied AI Web 3.0
and Blockchain to the
Healthcare Industry



Dominick De Ron
CEO
VecCtor



Dr. Yao Wang
Deputy Chief Engineer
China Association
of Automobile
Manufacturers



Ramil Kuleev
Center Director, Associate
Professor, Institute Director
ANO HE Innopolis University



H.E. Shaik Hamdam
CEO
NEXT IT

WAIPA - ADRESSING G20 CHALLENGES THROUGH IPA COLLABORATION

The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil) organized a panel discussion during the AIM Congress focused on the development and cooperation of G20 IPAs. Amidst escalating global environmental concerns, the urgency for sustainable investments was more pronounced than ever. IPAs played a crucial role as intermediaries between the public and private sectors, not only in attracting sustainable foreign direct investments (FDI) but also in retaining and expanding them. Within green sectors, for instance, IPAs were pivotal in streamlining regulations, implementing performance-based incentives, and reinforcing investor protection mechanisms. This open panel aimed to bring together G20 Investment Promotion Agencies, policymakers, experts, representatives from the business community, and others, in preparation for the forthcoming in-person G20 IPA meeting in Brazil, under the leadership of ApexBrasil.

Conference Highlights

- Launch of the Spark Manufacturing Incentive Program:** Ismail Ersahin announced the Spark Manufacturing Incentive Program by the DVS Economic Development Bureau in Abu Dhabi. This program offers up to \$500,000 in co-funding for implementing Industry 4.0 technologies, including AI, to enhance processes and drive economic growth.
- G20 IPAs Collaboration for Sustainable Development:** Tatiana Riera Riberio emphasized the importance of collaboration among Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to support G20 priorities. This includes promoting renewable energy projects, supporting environmentally friendly industries, and fostering innovation and technology transfer to drive sustainable development and economic prosperity.
- Global Investment Outlook:** James Zhan provided insights into the current global investment outlook, highlighting a modest growth pace with global GDP growth projected at 2.6% for the current year. Despite ongoing challenges like



- geopolitical tensions and the lingering impact of the pandemic, there are still opportunities for investment and economic advancement.
- Initiative for IPA Engagement within G20:** Sujatha UG from Invest India discussed the creation of an engagement group of IPAs within the G20 framework. This initiative, started under India's presidency, has seen significant progress with nearly 20 dialogues and collaborations, aiming to foster global collaboration to drive sustainable Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
 - Focus on ESG and Sustainable FDI:** Tae Hyung Kim highlighted the potential of IPAs to foster sustainable FDI by prioritizing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations. Through cooperation, information sharing, and policy alignment, IPAs can attract investors interested in ESG criteria and contribute to global sustainability efforts.

Setting the context: G20 IPA group highlights and vision for the upcoming meeting



Ismail Ersahin
Executive Director
WAIPA



Tatiana Riera Ribeiro
COO
ApexBrasil Middle East

Global investment landscape - key prospects and implications for G20 economies



James Zhan
Chief Advisor and Senior Director
UNCTAD

Climate FDI Coalition: IPAs role to take climate action.



Matthew Stephenson
Head, Investment and Services
World Economic Forum

Panel: How can G20 IPAs foster global collaboration to drive sustainable FDI?

Facilitated discussion on the key priorities, challenges, and opportunities facing G20 IPAs in the current economic environment.

MODERATOR



Matthew Stephenson
Head, Investment and Services
World Economic Forum

PANELISTS



Karina Bazuchi
Investment Department
ApexBrasil



Sujatha UG
Vice-President
Global Partnerships & Net Zero - Invest India



Tae Hyung Kim
Commissioner
Invest KOREA

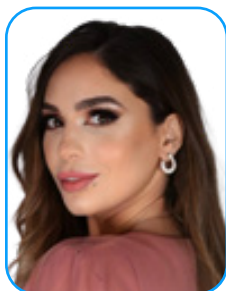


Ahmed M. Alamri
Strategic Management Office
Executive Director
SIPA

The Main MCs of Each Track for AIM Congress 2024



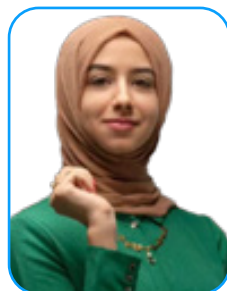
Opening Ceremony
Amira Mohammed
TV Presenter



Innovation and Technology Track
Basant Eissa
Interviewer and Host, B Meets



SMEs Track
Ahlam Gharbaoui
Global Business Strategist & Thought Leader



Startups and Unicorns Track
Basma Eissa
Founder & CEO – Triumph Consultant



Future Finance Forum Track
Prasanna Lohar
CEO, Block Stack



REGIONAL FOCUS FORUM TRACK
Mila Cataldo
Journalist & Blogger - Tgcom 24



ROUNDTABLES TRACK
Joerg Weber
Senior Advisor – AIM Congress



INVESTMENT DESTINATION TRACK
Imad Eddine Oubiri
Knowledge Partner – International Business Advisor, UAE



DDC GLOBAL CREDIT INVESTOR FORUM
Martin Kunzmann
Production Director – DDC Financial Group



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS' TRACK
Prasanna Lohar
CEO, Block Stack

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

In the AIM Congress 2024, questions were raised regarding Global Investment Directions.

What were the implications of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for the operations of global value chains and investment strategies? What types of new strategies should host countries have put in place to promote and facilitate investment in new sectors and new business models for growth and prosperity?

How could the technology divide between advanced and the least-developed countries be closed? How could global investment trends and policy development be effectively monitored, with particular attention on growing protectionism and concerns of national security? How could developing countries, accustomed to attracting export-oriented investment, more effectively promote international investment in infrastructure, services, and domestic manufacturing capacity?

How could a stable, predictable, and transparent regulatory framework for cross-border investment be safeguarded in the era of VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity)? How could countries shift investment policy direction from a GVC towards an RVC (regional value chain)-based approach? How could policy coherence for cross-border investment be fostered in light of the growing fragmentation in international trade and investment policymaking?

How could synergies be created among industrial policy, investment policy, and technology policy? How could international investment be promoted and facilitated to green and clean traditional value chains?

AIM Congress 2024 had six pillars that tackled the challenges of Global Investments in 2024 and targeted hot topics such as climate change, SDGs, smart cities, challenges in global value chains (GVCs), agriculture challenges, Fourth Industrial Revolution, and other relevant topics. Throughout three consecutive days, AIM Congress 2024 focused on critical global economic development issues facing SMEs, startups, future cities, FDIs & FPIs, and introduced the Future Finance Forum.

Conference Highlights

- The pre-conference workshops at AIM Congress 2024 in Abu Dhabi set the stage for insightful discussions and strategic collaborations, paving the way for the main event from May 7-9, 2024. Covering diverse tracks, including Investment, SMEs, Innovation & Technology, Future Finance Forum, and Startups and Unicorns, these workshops offered attendees a wealth of knowledge and strategic insights.
- In the Investment track, workshops by WAVTEQ, FDI Intelligence, FDI Center, and Synthetic Equity explored digital marketing solutions, location competitiveness benchmarking, IPA leadership, and the transformative potential of FDI-as-a-Service & RWA Tokenization. SME-focused sessions highlighted B2B sales dynamics, innovation market entry strategies, and internationalization for sustainable growth.



- The Innovation & Technology track featured workshops on empowering cities with digital twins, people-centered smart cities, digitalization of transport and logistics, and the impact of digitalization on the supply chain. Future Finance Forum sessions delved into cutting-edge financial technologies and sustainable finance practices.
- Moreover, Startups and Unicorns' workshops delved into blockchain technology, fintech innovations, scaling startups to unicorn status, and effective pitching strategies. With support from the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, AIM Congress 2024 promises to be an event of groundbreaking insights and collaborative opportunities.

INVESTMENT TRACK WORKSHOPS



Digital Marketing Solutions: How to Leverage Low-Cost Tactics for Small to Medium-Sized IPAs



This workshop focused on practical tactics for leveraging low-cost digital marketing solutions to enhance the visibility of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). It provided attendees with actionable tactics for maximizing the impact of digital marketing using cost-effective measures. Through a combination of presentations with hands-on training and practical discussions, participants gained valuable knowledge on leveraging digital channels effectively to promote investment and attract FDI. The workshop aimed to equip IPAs with practical insights and tactics to enhance their digital presence and effectively reach their target audience while adhering to budget constraints.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Janine McNeill
Senior Marketing
Executive
UK Office - WAVTEQ



Shivani Sharma
Lead Generation
Manager EMEA
Dubai Office - WAVTEQ

How to Benchmark Location Competitiveness in Target Sectors to Develop High Impact Value Propositions



In today's ever-changing world, sectors have become more defined, with key growth across sub-sectors such as AI, Cybersecurity, and Hydrogen. Many value propositions have not adapted to these sector changes. This session focused on how to benchmark the competitiveness of your location to attract FDI in target sectors. It explored strategies for developing high-impact value propositions and crafting responses to investor requests for information.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Chris Knight
Managing Director
FDI Intellige



Henry Loewendahl
Founder
WAVTEQ

Strategy and leadership: How to create and lead a high performing IPA FDI Center in partnership with Møller Institute, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, UK



In this session, participants gained comprehensive insights into the trends and challenges facing an IPA in current times. They were guided through the framework of creating a strategy that could help them overcome these challenges, considering the size and resources of their IPA. Participants also learned IPA leadership techniques, including how to align their teams with the strategy and lead their IPA to success with a shared vision. This workshop provided a preview of the 4-day Advanced FDI Leadership Programme, held bi-annually by FDI Center and Møller Institute at the University of Cambridge.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Andreas Dressler
Managing Director
FDI Center

Invest Globally, effortlessly: Unlocking Opportunities through FDI-as-a-Service & RWA Tokenization



This immersive session was designed to unfold the transformative potential of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the digital age, powered by a cutting-edge FDI-as-a-Service platform and Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Paul Lalovich
CEO and Founder
Synthetic Equity

SMEs TRACK

Sales as Capital: Boosting Valuation through B2B Mastery



Participants joined Mostafa, a seasoned business expert and the founder of Sales Cubicle, as he unveiled the secrets to transforming technical expertise into substantial business growth through strategic B2B sales. This workshop was designed for technical founders, startup leaders, and business owners who excel in their specialties but sought mastery in sales to drive their company's valuation and financial stability.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Mohamed AbdAlhamid
Managing Director
Sales Cubicle

The German Mittelstand – What’s it all about?



The German Mittelstand, the backbone of the German economy, consists of about 3.3 million small and medium-sized businesses employing 58% of Germany’s workforce, creating 42% of the GDP, and having a 45% share in German exports. Participants were welcomed to explore The German Mittelstand workshop hosted by BVMW, the largest business network in Germany, featuring more than 300 regional offices nationwide and 75+ representatives worldwide. They had the opportunity to meet the Director of the international department of BVMW and discuss business opportunities with The German Mittelstand.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Reinhold von Ungern-Sternberg
Director International
Markets
The German
Mittelstand. BVMW

Bringing Innovation to the Market



Commercialization was a critical step in the technological innovation process, known for its high risk and costliness due to the low success rate of new products. Firms faced exacerbated challenges in effectively bringing innovation to market, particularly in high-technology sectors characterized by volatility, rapid changes, and uncertainty. Today, innovation is more crucial than ever, with technological advancements predominantly stemming from R&D. However, technology alone is insufficient; it must be coupled with viable market opportunities.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Prof. Giovanni Zazzerini
Secretary General
International Network
of SMEs (INSME)

Leveraging Internationalization for Sustainable SME Growth: Strategies and Risk Management



This interactive workshop was specifically designed for business owners and leaders of SMEs aiming to propel their enterprises onto the global stage to achieve longevity and a competitive edge in the international market. Participants explored the concept of internationalization, uncovering its essence and pivotal role in driving SME success. The workshop highlighted the opportunities that international expansion could offer and the transformative impact it could have on a business.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Dr. Hanan El Basha
Founder of The
Business Doctor &
Managing Director
Founder Institute GCC

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRACK

Investment in Digital Economy

The purpose of this workshop was to introduce the initiatives launched by the Arab Federation for Digital Economy and invite interested parties to participate in these projects, whether by benefiting from its services or participating in decision-making through investments in these projects.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Ahmed Ashoor
Chairman
Entlaqa



Haisam Jamal
Foudner & CEO
Distichain

Empowering Cities with STC Constructor 3D Web GIS Platform for Creating Digital Twins



Join us for an immersive workshop on the STC Constructor 3D Web GIS Platform, tailored to empower cities through Digital Twin creation. The workshop uncovered the platform's microservice architecture, flexible deployment options (on-premises and in the cloud), and its extensive capabilities, spanning territory planning, BIM model support, integration of CCTV surveillance monitoring and transport tracking solutions, underground utilities management, and more.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Vadim Fedorov
Business Development
Director
STC Constructor

Putting people at the center of smart cities: UN-Habitat's International guidelines



Member States of the United Nations agreed on the need to fill global normative gaps in the domain of smart cities and digitalization and committed to supporting the development of the International Guidelines on People-Centered Smart Cities through an inclusive consultative process. These guidelines, set for completion by the end of 2024, aimed to establish a comprehensive framework for crafting national and local smart city regulations, plans, and strategies, ensuring that digital urban infrastructure and data contribute to sustainable, inclusive, prosperous cities, and respect human rights.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Milou Jansen
UN-Habitat
Project Coordinator



Hazel Kuria
UN-Habitat
Associate Programme
Management Officer



Maud Frangi
UN-Habitat
Research and Policy
Analyst

The Impact of Digitalization of Transport and Logistics to the Supply Chain in Construction



When the success of architectural megaprojects demanded collaboration between multiple functions, competencies, and suppliers, transportation played a crucial role in maintaining project schedules by ensuring components arrived at the right place at the right time.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Mall Kikas
Director of Business Development
Exponaut/4.control.ai

FUTURE FINANCE FORUMS' TRACK



Prioritizing Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Neo Global Economic Compulsions



The world economy increasingly prioritized sustainability and digitalization. There was a compulsive need for the banking, finance, and investment community to address climate change and its catastrophic impacts.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Dr. N. Krishna Kumar
Dean
State Bank Institute of Leadership
(SBIL)

Navigating the Future: Empowering Your Business with Wio Bank



Embark on a transformative journey with Wio Bank PJSC in a dynamic workshop designed exclusively for SMEs, business owners, entrepreneurs, and freelancers. This interactive workshop invited participants to explore the realm of business banking, discover the seamless process of opening an account with Wio Business, and delve into the innovative features that empowered businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape.

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Usman Khawaja
SME Business
Development Lead
Wio Bank PJSC



Aayushi Mansinghka
Product Lead
Wio Bank PJSC



Arnold Wirnsberger
Strategic Initiatives
Manager
Wio Bank PJSC

Navigating the Future – GCC



Offshoring and outsourcing had long been key strategies for businesses aiming to optimize costs and enhance efficiency. Traditionally, companies sought to leverage labor arbitrage by relocating operations to countries with lower labor costs.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Sanjeev Singhal
Chairman
ISAR

STARTUP & UNICORNS' TRACK

Sales as Capital: Boosting Valuation through B2B Mastery



Attendees joined an essential workshop led by Bloom, specifically designed for founders and startup teams looking to propel their ventures into their next growth phase.

WORKSHOP LEADER



David Munir Nabti
CEO
Bloom

Fundraising Uncovered



Participants embarked on a fundraising journey, starting from advisory guidance through data collection to deal execution, exploring every step along the way.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Karim Mahrous
Transactions Leader
Exits MENA

Investing in MENA's Unicorn Future



Attendees explored MENA's startup landscape at the Annual Investment Meeting workshop on May 6th. Sessions included "Investing in MENA's Unicorn Future," focusing on scaling startups to unicorn status through strategic investments.

WORKSHOP LEADER



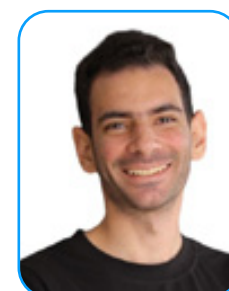
Sameer Sortur
Regional Director GCC, Founder
Institute and Founding Partner
SquareCircle Ventures

Pitching for Startups 101



This comprehensive workshop offered startup founders a bird's-eye view of everything that mattered in pitching to investors, starting with the key components that made their pitch conclusive and extending to the necessary public speaking skills that enabled them to speak with power and charisma, making investors eager to hear more.

WORKSHOP LEADER



Omar Hamada
CEO & Founder
Tick & Talk



AIM STARTUP

At the 2024 edition of AIM Congress, AIM Startup continued to stand as a vital component of the event, upholding its mission since its inception in 2017. Dedicated to providing an optimal platform for startup companies, AIM Startups endeavors to facilitate funding, market expansion, and the establishment of fruitful business partnerships with renowned investors, business leaders, representatives of global institutions, and government entities.

This year, the AIM Startup curated enriching activities for all participants, including workshops and the highly anticipated Startup Pitch Competition, alongside valuable networking opportunities within the Investors' Hub. The 2024 edition of the AIM Startup Pitch Competition, a highlight of AIM Congress 2024, showcased the participation of 124 startups at various stages, from pre-seed to seed, underscoring the platform's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship on a global scale.



AIM STARTUP PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS

Pre-Seed Stage:



Winner: Wastelocker Solutions

WasteLocker offers a personalized approach for an informed and efficient in-house waste management.

1st Runner up: Foqcus

As an experienced professional IT consultant with a deep-rooted belief in building sustainable & functional data technology systems, Foqcus leverages expertise to drive SME businesses further.



2nd Runner up: Kratu

Kratu provides innovation driven simplistic solutions for complex problems. Their Ideation & proof of concept is backed by evidence-based research and validation.

AIM STARTUP PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS

Seed Stage:



Winner: Revamp Moto

Revamp Moto aims to revolutionize lives with innovative electric two-wheelers.

1st Runner up: Qarbotech

QarboGrow is formulated with a technology that uses a special organic compound which has similar properties as chlorophyll.



2nd Runner up: Smart QR

Connecting Multiple Payment Service Providers (PSPs) and Banks in an interoperable network to facilitate digital payment and mobile payment.

AIM STARTUP PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS

National Winner: Anda from Angola

Anda provides the most accessible, convenient, and safe motorcycle taxi service in Angola.



AIM STARTUP PITCH COMPETITION JURY MEMBERS



Patricia Geli
Founder & COO
C10 Labs



Sarah Abuagela
Head of Investments
Ceras Ventures



Munther Hilal
Founder and CEO
Gate Capital Limited



Zavosh Zabolian
International Growth Manager
Spring



Jeremy Shorter
Assistant Vice President
ALDAR Properties



Dr. Nadia Shalaby
CEO & Founder
TBD Angels



Sir Malachi Halliday
CEO
HFS



Stephan Heller
Founding Partner
AQVC



Audrey Verhaeghe
Chief Operations Officer
Anza Holdings



Hany Ayaad
Chairperson of the Board
Youth Entrepreneurs Network



Gary Swart
Managing Partner
Polaris Partners



Ahmed Nasser Al Nowais
Founder, CEO
Annex Investments



Sameer Sortur
Regional Director GCC
Founder Institute



Frances Simowitz
President and CEO
WEVE Acceleration




Shirley Shahar
Co-Founder, COO
Dana Global

AIM ACADEMIA PROGRAM


For the second year running, the 2024 AIM Congress hosted the AIM Academia Program, showcasing AIM's commitment to advancing higher-level objectives. This innovative initiative welcomed universities to participate in the event, granting their students unique educational opportunities for experiential learning. Students were granted full access to AIM's live sessions and workshops, providing them with valuable insights into industry trends and the future of work.

A notable feature of the AIM 2024 Academia Program was the opportunity for select students from participating universities to pitch their original research theses and innovative tech startup projects. These presentations took place in front of investors and fellow student participants, offering a platform for showcasing their ideas and fostering collaboration.


Participating universities in the 2024 AIM Congress included:




Saint Petersburg Polytech University




Saint Petersburg State University




ITMO University




Amur State Medical University




High School of Economy



American University in the Emirates



Middlesex University Dubai



Moscow institute of physics and technology



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

In 2024, AIM Congress continued its tradition of hosting an impressive International Exhibition, attracting 352 main exhibitors from 71 different countries. Over the course of three days, the Annual Investment Meeting 2024 showcased a diverse array of industry projects and services tailored to foster investment growth across various regions. With a primary focus on promoting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and exploring effective strategies to attract investors to diverse economic sectors, AIM Congress 2024 underscored the significance of international collaboration and investment in driving sustainable economic growth and development. This commitment to facilitating investment and economic progress has been a hallmark of AIM Congress for 13 consecutive years. The AIM International Exhibition served as a platform for governments and private organizations to launch and promote their projects to a diverse and engaged audience, further solidifying AIM Congress as a leading global investment platform.



EXHIBITING COUNTRIES

TRULY ENSURING THAT VISITORS GOT TO CONNECT AND BUILD RELATIONS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD



SMEs EXHIBITORS

The SMEs Exhibitors at AIM Congress 2024 showcase a diverse range of innovative small and medium-sized enterprises from various sectors. These exhibitors are dedicated to driving economic growth through entrepreneurship, creativity, and sustainable practices. The event provides an invaluable platform for SMEs to network with potential investors, partners, and industry leaders, facilitating the exchange of ideas and the formation of strategic alliances. Attendees can explore cutting-edge products, services, and solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of global markets, highlighting the pivotal role of SMEs in fostering economic resilience and innovation.



FUTURE FINANCE FORUM EXHIBITORS

Future Finance Forum Exhibitors at AIM Congress 2024 represent the forefront of financial technology and sustainable finance. These exhibitors include leading financial institutions, fintech startups, and investment firms showcasing the latest advancements in blockchain, digital banking, and renewable energy investments. The forum provides a unique opportunity for attendees to engage with pioneers in financial innovation, explore cutting-edge financial products and services, and discuss the future of finance. Exhibitors aim to demonstrate how technological advancements and sustainable practices can be integrated to create a more inclusive and resilient global financial system.



FUTURE CITIES EXHIBITORS

Future Cities Exhibitors at AIM Congress 2024 are at the vanguard of urban innovation, presenting transformative solutions for smart city development. These exhibitors include technology firms, infrastructure developers, and urban planners focused on creating sustainable, people-centered cities. Attendees can explore advancements in IoT, AI, GIS, and smart infrastructure that are shaping the cities of tomorrow. The event facilitates dialogue on best practices, emerging trends, and collaborative opportunities, highlighting the role of innovative technologies in addressing urban challenges and improving the quality of life in cities worldwide.



STARTUP EXHIBITORS



The Startup Exhibitors at AIM Congress 2024 bring together a vibrant community of early-stage companies poised to disrupt various industries. These startups, spanning technology, healthcare, fintech, and more, are eager to showcase their innovative products and services to a global audience. The exhibition offers a platform for startups to connect with venture capitalists, angel investors, and industry experts, fostering opportunities for funding, partnerships, and market expansion. Attendees can witness the entrepreneurial spirit in action, discovering groundbreaking solutions that have the potential to drive significant economic and social impact.



INVESTOR HUB

At the 2024 edition of AIM Congress, the Investors' Hub continued to serve as an exclusive zone tailored for selected and reputable investment organizations representing diverse countries, regions, industries, and sectors. This specialized platform provided an ideal environment for project owners to engage with investors and financiers, fostering discussions on investment opportunities and partnerships, ultimately facilitating the closure of investment deals. In 2024, AIM Congress witnessed a large number of meetings between high-level businessmen and official government representatives, highlighting the robust engagement and productive conversations surrounding investment opportunities and potential partnerships.



MOU SIGNINGS

At the 2024 edition of AIM Congress, the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) remained a pivotal highlight, symbolizing the tangible outcomes of the conference's networking and deal-making endeavors. Throughout AIM Congress 2024, a total of **43 MoUs** were signed among investors, governments, and businesses from diverse regions worldwide, with a specific emphasis on sectors including trade, technology and innovation, energy, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and investment promotion and facilitation. These MoUs signify the establishment of new partnerships, investments, and projects aimed at catalyzing economic growth and development on a global scale.



BILATERAL MEETINGS

At the 2024 AIM Congress, bilateral meetings continued to play a pivotal role in facilitating communication, collaboration, and cooperation among various entities. AIM Congress 2024 hosted a total of 8,130 G2G, G2B, and B2B meetings, providing a crucial tool for forging partnerships and driving innovation and growth across key sectors. With a range of meeting options available, participants were afforded opportunities to explore areas of potential cooperation, ultimately contributing to the advancement of economic development initiatives showcased at the event.



AIM INVESTMENT AWARDS 2024

As in previous editions, AIM Investment Awards 2024 celebrated the best foreign direct investment (FDI) projects from around the world. This year's awards honored the winning countries and their respective Investment Promotion Agencies for their outstanding success in attracting substantial and beneficial FDI. These achievements highlight their significant contributions to market growth and development, positively impacting their economies.

USA & CANADA



Winner

Investissement Québec



CENTRAL ASIA, CAUCASUS & RUSSIA

Winner

Government of Moscow



Runner-up

Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan - AZPROMO



EUROPE & TÜRKİYE

Winner

Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency



Runner-up

Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye



AFRICA



Winner

Tanzania Investment Centre



Runner-up

Uganda Investment Authority



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Winner

Invest in Bogota



Runner-up

Prodominicana



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



Winner

Morocco Investment and Export Development Agency



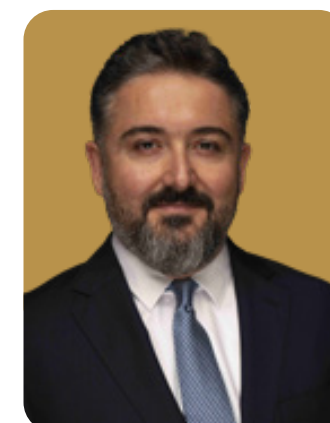
Runner-up

General Authority of Investment and Free Zones from Egypt



AIM INVESTMENT AWARDS 2024 JURY MEMBERS

Celebrating Exceptional Contributions to IPAs:



Mr. Ismail Ersahin

CEO, The World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)



Ms. Courtney Fingar

Founder, Fingar Direct Investment



Mr. Glenn Barklie

Head of FDI Services, Global Data



Mr. David East

Senior Director - Global Head of Sales Coordination, Moodys



Mr. Andreas Dressler

Managing Director, FDI Center



NETWORKING PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner was held at the luxurious Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental on the evening of 7th of May. As one of the most anticipated activities at AIM, the Gala Dinner provided attendees with an opportunity to network and socialize in a festive and celebratory atmosphere. It also served as a platform to recognize the winners of the AIM Investment Awards 2024 and to show appreciation to AIM 2024's sponsors, partners, and investors, as well as the jury members of the AIM Investment Awards.

Entertainment for the evening began with a young violinist from America, captivating the audience with a stunning performance. As we continued our entertainment segment, attendees enjoyed a mesmerizing cultural dance by performers from Cambodia. The night concluded with a unique and captivating performance by a talented Russian artist, who showcased light painting inspired by the beauty of the UAE.



SOCPA LUNCH

On Day 3 of the 2024 AIM Congress, industry professionals gathered for a pivotal networking lunch hosted by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants (SOCPA). The lunch commenced with a compelling speech by Dr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Meghames, CEO of SOCPA. Among the 40 participants were esteemed figures such as Ewald Muller, Managing Director of Qatar Financial Center Regulatory Authority, as well as representatives from leading organizations including the big 4 accounting firms, KPMG, PwC, and Deloitte, along with IFAC, ADGM, the Central Bank of UAE, Saudi Central Bank, and Qatar Stock Exchange. The lunch served as a platform for insightful discussions and networking opportunities, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among industry leaders.



DESERT SAFARI

In a notable repeat occurrence, the Desert Safari experience returned to the Annual Investment Meeting, marking its second appearance in AIM history. This unique opportunity offered attendees a blend of adventure and networking, allowing them to immerse themselves in the natural beauty and cultural richness of Abu Dhabi's desert landscape. Against this picturesque backdrop, participants engaged in informal networking sessions, fostering connections and camaraderie in a relaxed environment. The Desert Safari provided a platform for forging new business relationships and strengthening existing ones, complementing the formal proceedings of the event with memorable experiences and meaningful interactions.



INVEST IN ART – “INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE”



The 2024 AIM Congress hosted an Invest in Art section, organized by the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE) and personal support of Mr. Maxim Belopotapov, vice-president of International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE) with the theme “Industrial Heritage” by Ilya Gaponov, spotlighting the significance of industrial landscapes in cultural and economic contexts. The exhibition featured monumental canvases that engage in a dialogue about industrial heritage as a vital cultural element. Gaponov’s works, which are part of renowned museum and private collections worldwide, emphasize the scale and impact of industries on architectural and social landscapes. This exhibition underscored the cultural and technological contributions of industrial enterprises, highlighting their pivotal role in regional development.

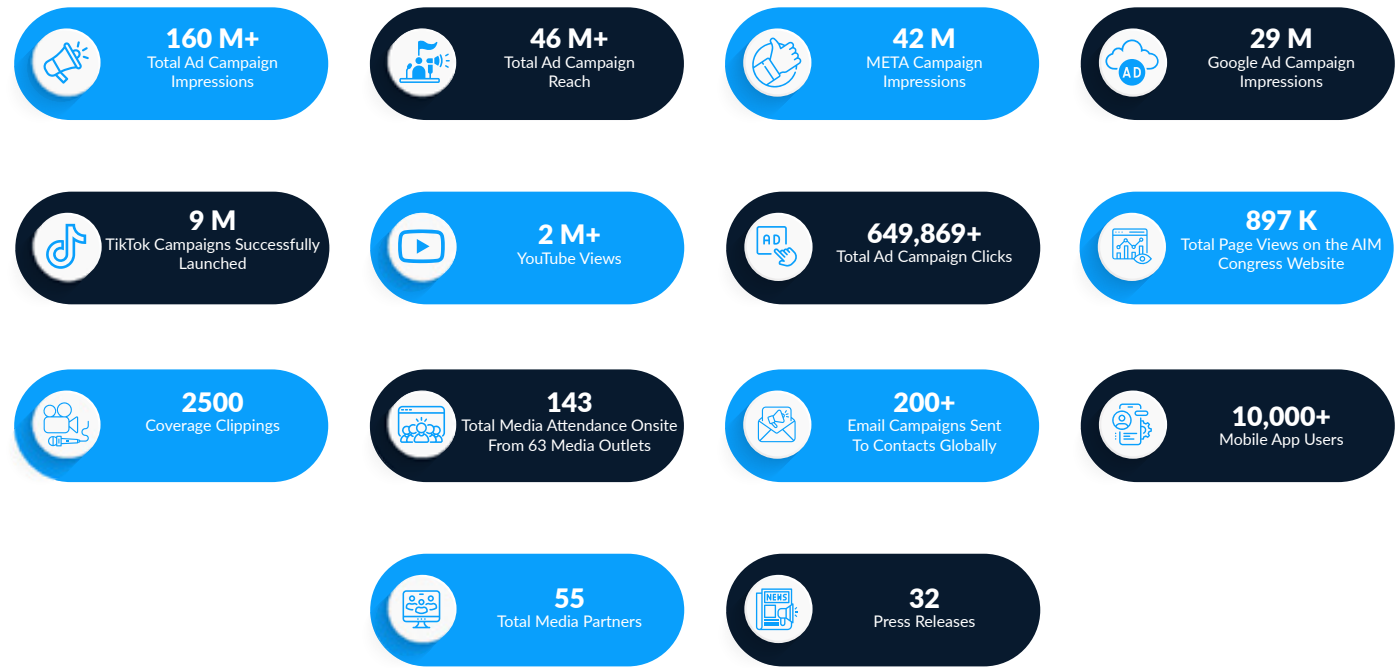
A 360-DEGREE COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

FROM ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD

AIM Congress 2024 executed a comprehensive 360-degree communications campaign, pre, during, and post the event, ensuring consistent messaging and maximum reach to our diverse audience.

Held in the vibrant heart of Abu Dhabi, UAE, AIM Congress convened at a pivotal moment for the investment and economic industry. Our campaign successfully amplified AIM Congress’s key messages, critical insights, and event outcomes globally, highlighting the Congress’s crucial role as a thought leadership and business platform.

This effort showcased the UAE’s unique ability to unite the world in addressing pressing global investment challenges, reinforcing its reputation as a hub for collaborative problem-solving on the world stage.





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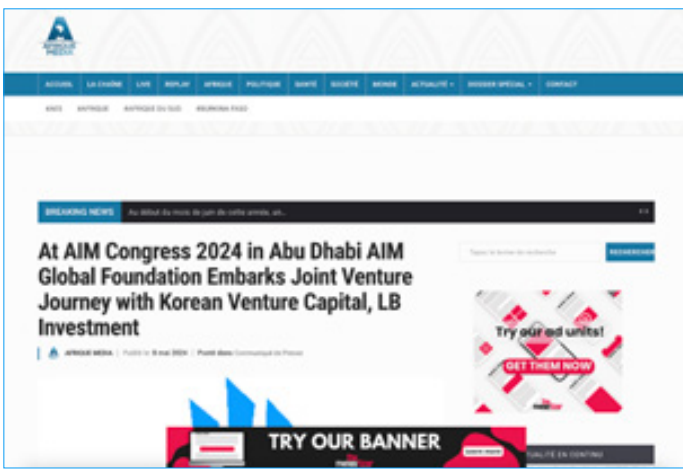
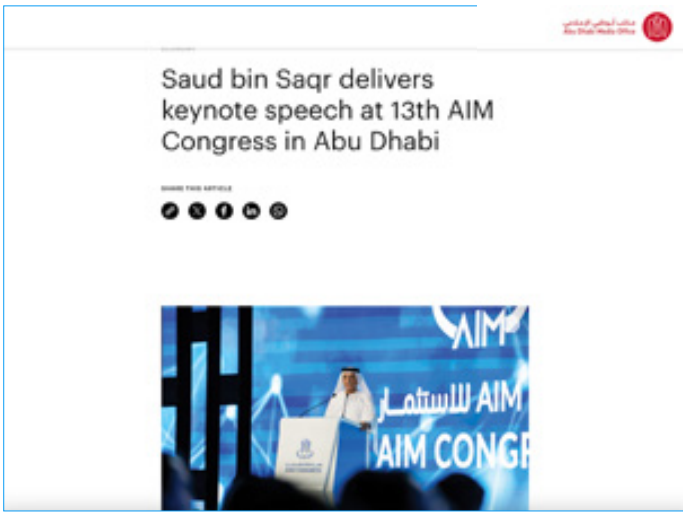
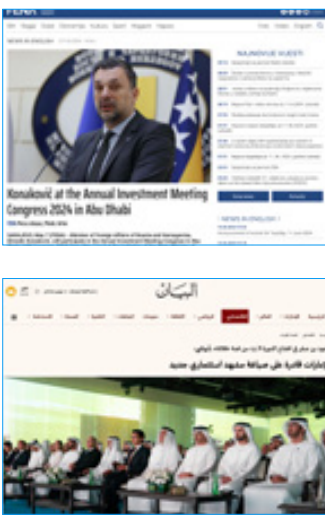
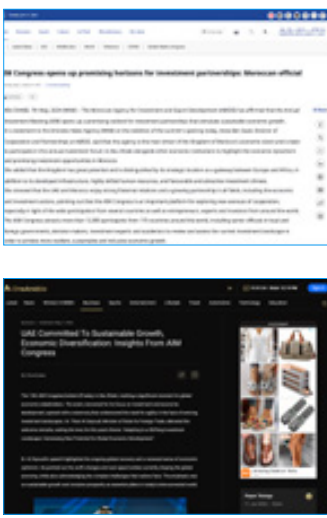
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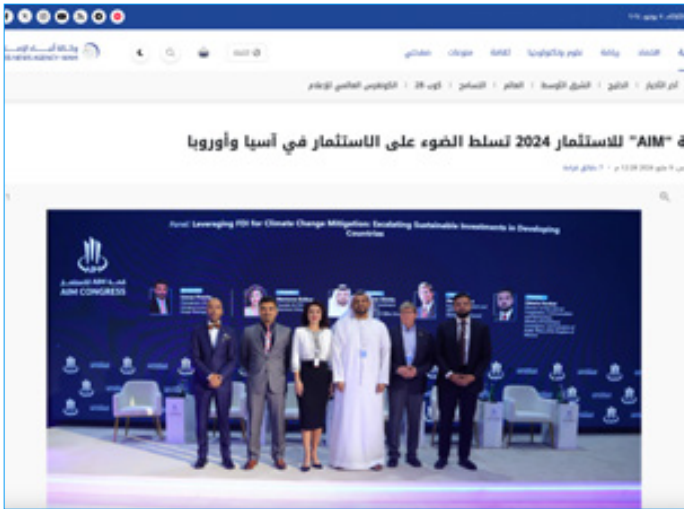
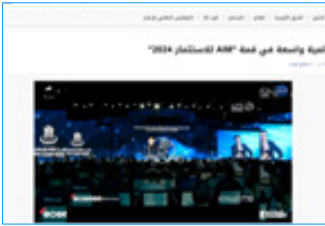
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AIM CONGRESS IN MEDIA

AIM 2024 garnered extensive media coverage through its strategic media partnerships, press releases, interviews, and thought leadership articles. Media partners played a crucial role in broadcasting the event's highlights, sessions, and key announcements. Press releases provided timely updates on AIM's progress and outcomes, while exclusive interviews with industry leaders and experts offered deeper insights into investment trends and opportunities. Thought leadership articles published across various platforms discussed the event's impact on global investment landscapes, reinforcing AIM's role as a premier investment platform. This comprehensive media strategy ensured widespread visibility and engagement, amplifying AIM's influence and reach.





Chinese investors and experts spoke to **Alethhad** on sidelines of Chinese Investment Forum

Stability and global connectivity fuel Chinese investment in the UAE

KHALED AL KHAWALDEH
(AIM DIBAB)

The UAE's position as a global hub, its political and economic stability, and its business friendly environment with attractive tax policies were cited by experts and investors as the main reasons for the country's dominance in attracting Chinese investment in the region.

The topic was discussed extensively at the recent Chinese Investment Forum held at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) in Abu Dhabi.

According to PwC data presented at the event, the UAE was

China's largest trading partner in the region, receiving the highest level of investment inflows. Notably, 80% of Chinese investors choose the UAE as their regional headquarters.

Speaking to Alethhad on the sidelines of the event, PwC China Partner Rebecca Wong attributed this phenomenon to several factors. Most importantly, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are seen as gateways to global markets.

"Chinese investors seek a friendly business environment and efficiency, of course," Wong said. "While the UAE's zero-tax rate was initially attractive, I believe they also value access to good in-

ternational markets. Some of our clients at the event are interested in retail, but they choose the UAE because it caters not only to local customers but also to an international audience. The UAE's status as a global trading and transportation hub makes it an attractive location to capture market share."

The data, collected in 2023/24, was presented to a crowd of eager investors and will be included in an upcoming PwC report on China-Arab investment to be released in the coming months.

"The UAE offers a more attractive lifestyle compared to other countries in the region," Wong added. "The open-minded and di-

verse culture is familiar to many Chinese people. We have clients here in Abu Dhabi who frequently travel to Saudi Arabia and Egypt for business."

The forum, held over several hours on Monday, attracted one of the largest crowds at the AIM congress. Underlining the importance of Chinese investment, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, opened the forum and called for increased cooperation, particularly in logistics, green energy, and industry.

The trend is unsurprising to Dr. Shasha Tan, whose family has operated outside of the UAE since

1999 and recently relocated to Abu Dhabi full-time to pursue business opportunities.

"Economic growth and political stability are the most crucial factors for us," Dr. Tan told Alethhad. "The UAE offers investor protection and strong markets."

Dr. Tan observes a growing sophistication in investment strategies, reflecting the evolving strategic relationship between the two nations.

"Previously, investments often focused on hospitality and retail due to their simplicity," she explained. "Now, there's significant interest in areas like battery technology, sustainable businesses, and even digital assets."

Wong agrees, noting the maturing relationship. UAE firms are increasingly interested in importing Chinese technology for renewable energy and healthcare, while Chinese companies seek access to capital and new markets.

"Middle Eastern investors are often actively involved," Wong said. "They expect Chinese companies to contribute technology and talent while setting up locally and generating new business opportunities. The strong purchasing power and openness to new ideas displayed by UAE consumers make this market highly attractive to Chinese companies."



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