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12th Annual AmCham Abu Dhabi's Business Summit

ABU DHABI, September 2021, - AmCham Abu Dhabi held its 12th Annual Roundtable Summit. Over 150 leading business executives, academics, thought leaders and government officials participated in this event. The event's theme addressed "Digitalization & Sustainable Economic Development – the U.A.E./U.S. Innovative Partnership", and was addressed by keynote leaders with **H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri**, the U.A.E. Minister of Economy, **H.E. Faisal Al Bannai**, Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council, **Mr. Sean Murphy**, U.S. Charge D'Affaires, **Dr. Ali Saeed Bin Harmal Al Dhaheri**, First Vice Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and **Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri**, Head of Digital Cluster, AD Ports Group and CEO of Maqta Gateway.



From left to right: Mr. Abdullah Ghurair Al Qubaisi, Deputy Director General of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Ali Saeed Bin Harmal Al Dhaheri, First Vice Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, the U.A.E. Minister of Economy, Kim Schofield, Chair, Roundtables Committee - AmCham Abu Dhabi & Managing Partner - O2K Ltd., Liz Beneski, Chief Executive Director – AmCham Abu Dhabi, Mr. Jay Huston AmCham Abu Dhabi's Chairman of the Board & Effectors Lead - Raytheon Emirates Ltd., H.E. Faisal Al Bannai, Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council, and Mr. Mamoon Sbeih, President, Middle East & North Africa, APCO Worldwide.

Jay Huston, Chairman, AmCham Abu Dhabi, stressed the importance of the Summit in bringing together the different stakeholders; "The dialogue helps us further our goals of increasing foreign direct investment in the U.A.E. and enhancing U.S. – U.A.E. commercial relations."

H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, during his keynote speech, commended the role played by AmCham Abu Dhabi in enabling American investors and businesses to establish their footprint in the U.A.E. He said: “The U.A.E. has a long and successful relationship with the U.S. and enjoys strong bilateral cooperation in the trade and investment. For instance, the U.A.E. is the United States’ single largest export market in the Middle East, receiving more than USD \$15 billion in exports in 2020 – the 12th consecutive year the U.A.E. has held this distinction. Furthermore, we currently have trade and investment ties with all 50 states in the U.S., significantly contributing to U.S. economy and supporting nearly 88,000 American jobs. As the U.A.E. accelerates economic and social reforms and prepares for a post-pandemic future, we look forward to welcoming more American investors and entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in our markets and join us in shaping a better, brighter economic future for the two countries.”

Commenting on the event, **H.E. Faisal Al Bannai**, Secretary General of the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), said: “This year’s Summit was particularly significant as it focused on post-pandemic economic recovery and the priority sectors over the next five decades in light of the growing focus on digitalization to ensure business continuity. The outcomes of this Summit will go a long way in informing decision - and policymaking in the crucial sectors – finance, health, and advanced technology, underscoring some of the key government priorities for the next five decades that were recently announced as part of the U.A.E.’s ‘10 principles for the Next 50’ – with technology and digital featuring as priority areas on this agenda.”

U.S. Charge D’Affaires **Mr. Sean Murphy**, stressed the importance of the digital economy and AmCham Abu Dhabi’s efforts to strengthen the U.S. - U.A.E. relationship, and said in his remarks; “The United States is committed to developing mutual economic prosperity through increased trade, investment, and job creation – to build back better together post-pandemic. We are eager to support the U.A.E.’s goal to build a digital economy, and U.S. companies are committed to the U.A.E.’s vision to grow as a Digital Hub. We are already working closely with the relevant Ministries in the areas of data privacy, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and telecommunications. A policy framework in the U.A.E. that enables interoperability, and a secure open internet will encourage further investment in the U.A.E. to build out this vision.”

Dr. Ali Saeed Bin Harmal Al Dhaheri, First Vice Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pointed to the relationship between Abu Dhabi Chamber and AmCham describing it as a deep-rooted relationship; “Through our partnership with AmCham, and other strategic partners, we are able to offer the business community insight about the economy, and provide a platform, by which the members of the business community can raise their suggestions, concerns, and comments regarding improvements that would benefit their business dealings.” he explained. “I would like to express our continued commitment to support American Businesses in Abu Dhabi, and to those who are interested in doing business here. The possibilities and opportunities are endless, and I am certain the coming years will further solidify the relationship between the U.S., Abu Dhabi and the U.A.E. as a whole.” he concluded.

Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri, Head of Digital Cluster, AD Ports Group and CEO of Maqta Gateway, shed light on Digitalization in the Supply Chain: the Advanced Trade and Logistics Platform (ATLP). Commenting on the event she said: “AmCham serves as an excellent platform for engaging with leading American and U.A.E. businesses and discussing the potential opportunities that digitalization brings for sustainable economic development. “Inspired by the vision of our wise leadership in the U.A.E., AD Ports Group embarked on a journey towards digital transformation more than a decade ago. Today, we have embraced digitalization across every facet of our organisation and introduced industry-leading solutions, including the Advanced Trade & Logistics Platform (ATLP). It was a pleasure to discuss how the latest digital advances in trade and logistics contribute to economic growth and help position Abu Dhabi as a leading global trade and logistics hub.”

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About AmCham Abu Dhabi:

AmCham Abu Dhabi (the trademark of the American Business Group of Abu Dhabi) is a member of the global network of American Chambers of Commerce. Active since 1986, AmCham Abu Dhabi's Mission is to promote commerce, investment, and goodwill between its membership, the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates. Our vision is to be an innovative organization creating trusted commercial partnerships that broaden U.S. - U.A.E. relationships. AmCham Abu Dhabi is an independent, not-for-profit association comprised of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium sized companies and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs.

For more information, visit: www.AmChamAbuDhabi.org