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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
31 MAR 1999



Government of Dubai

CENTRE FOR THE GULF REGION
UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI

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1976

PRESS RELEASE

1322

Not for publication until 2 August 1976

JEBEL ALI HARBOUR, DUBAI

Dubai 1 -
P&R

His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Said Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai has today (2 August 1976) announced a massive new harbour scheme on which construction is beginning immediately in Dubai.

The new harbour will provide berths for 74 ships of various types. It is to be adjacent to an area in which heavy industries are already being developed and 15 berths in the harbour will provide water deep enough for large bulk carriers.

Associated with the harbour will be a free zone, 25 of the berths being designated as free port berths. Of the remainder, 14 will be for general cargo, 15 for trans-shipment and 5 for Containers. There will also be two slipways for ships.

The estimated cost of the new harbour is 3000 million U.A.E. Dirhams (some 430 million pounds sterling). Five berths will be ready for use by the end of 1977 and the remainder in four years.

Together with the existing port, currently being expanded from 15 to 37 berths at an estimated cost of 120 million pounds sterling (making 111 berths of various types) and the dry dock complex being built at a cost of 160 million pounds sterling, the new facilities will give Dubai an enormously strong base for further growth as a commercial and industrial centre of international importance.



Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority

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His Highness also announces the construction of a new international airport complex within 5 kilometers of the Jebel Ali Harbour. It will have a runway capable of taking jumbo jets and concorde. It too will have free zone arrangements. The present Dubai International Airport, which is close to the town, already caters for some cargo and a very heavy load of passenger movements. This too will be expanded.

The consulting engineers for the new harbour and airport are Halcrow Middle East Ltd. The main contractors so far appointed are Dutco-Balfour Beatty Construction J. V.; Gulf-Costain Blankvoert (Bahamas) Ltd. J. V.; Al Futtaim-Wimpey; and Okura-Nippon Kokkan. Local interests are thus associated with British, Dutch and Japanese companies in a noteworthy example of international cooperation.

DRAFT SPEECH BY W. R. BRIGGS FOR 2. 8. 76

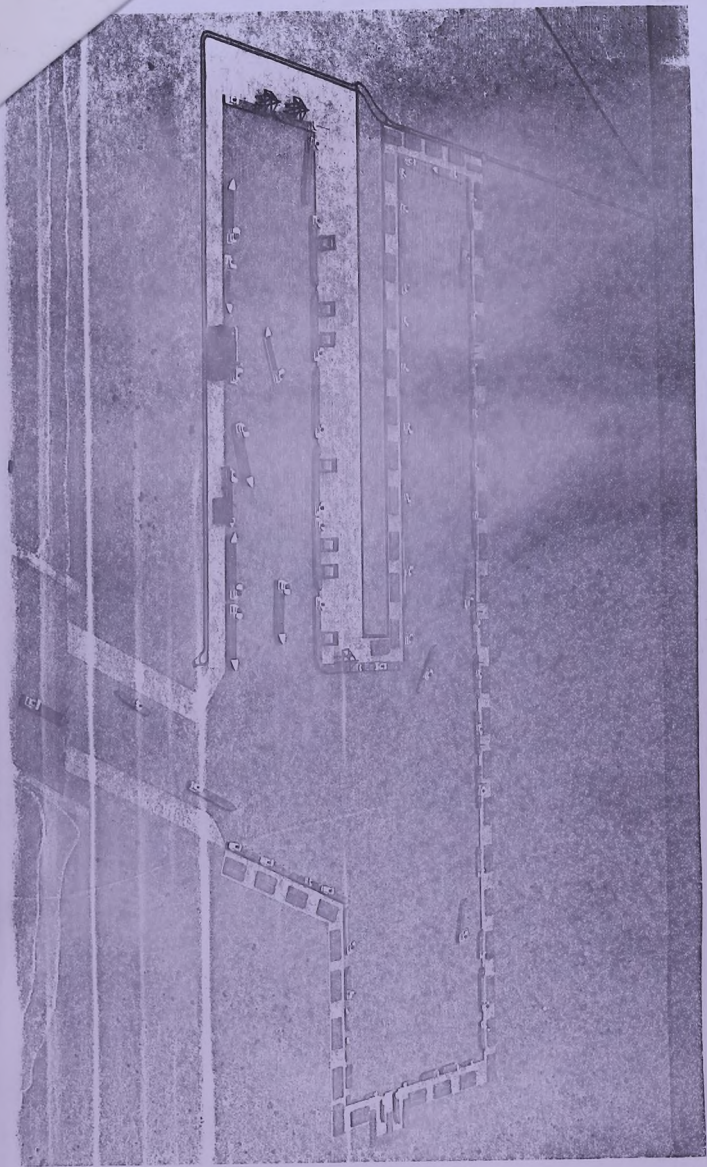
Your Highness(es), your Excellencies, Gentlemen

The prosperity of Dubai, which is well known throughout the world, was founded on the trade that followed from Sheikh Rashid's development projects. These have always been daring, in relation to the resources available at the time, imaginative and, most importantly, successful.

This new harbour project is the most daring and imaginative scheme so far, for it will be the focal for a whole range of new industries that will transform Dubai from a purely trading centre. In years to come we shall have in Dubai a broadly based mixed economy. Many industrial products will be manufactured or processed in, or merely distributed from, Dubai to other centres throughout the Middle East. Some of the industries concerned are already in process of setting up here and others are being attracted to the area almost daily. It is Sheikh Rashid's forward thinking in the provision of facilities that attracts these industries to Dubai.

The new harbour will provide berths for 74 ships of different types at an estimated cost of 3000 million Dirhams. It could later be expanded still further if necessary. One third of these berths will be freeport berths associated with a proposed free zone. The remainder will be industrial, trans-shipment, general cargo and container berths. An approach channel will be constructed with a minimum depth of 15 meters and width of 300 meters which is 100 meters wider than the entrance of Port Rashid. An immediate start is being made, with a view to having 5 berths in use by end of 1977 and the remainder within about 4 years.

The consulting engineers, contractors and workpeople of many nations involved in this exciting project are proud to be given the opportunity of contributing to the development of Dubai in this way. We face a period of very hard work but are confident that the success of His Highness's scheme will make that work well worth while.





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CENTRAL GULF STUDIOS
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- 1 -

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JEBEL ALI FREE ZONE

While economists and politicians around the world debate the benefits of free trade, or more often the hurdles to it, one government has put theory into practice. Founded in 1985, Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone is a bustling industrial park where international companies enjoy unequalled freedoms and the benefits and opportunities that free trade brings.

Built around the world's largest man-made port, Jebel Ali was initially seen as the ideal base for multinationals to warehouse and distribute their products in the Gulf. Over the years the range of industries has grown from distribution to include the whole spectrum of manufacturing, trading and services and the region has grown to cover all the Middle East, the Asian sub-continent, Africa and for many the entire world.

By June 1993 there were more than 500 companies in the Zone, with the number growing almost daily. These hail from 57 countries and represent combined investments of well over US\$1000 million.

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As a testimonial to their success many of them have expanded their operations since setting up in the Free Zone, some of them more than once. Cleveland Bridge, Rank Xerox, Shell, Black and Decker, 3M Corporation and McDermott were among the first companies to seize the opportunities on offer; Sony, Citizen, Reebok, Aiwa, Land Rover, AST and Brother are among the more recent additions.

Whereas previously only subsidiaries were permitted in the Zone, since the passing of Law 9 of 1992 companies can be incorporated in Jebel Ali as totally independent Free Zone Establishments. FZEs have a distinct legal identity and the liability of its single shareholder is limited to the amount of its paid up share capital. FZEs therefore share many of the key characteristics of limited liability companies and may have significant international tax advantages.

JAFZA is the sole regulatory agency for FZEs, which do not need any memorandum or articles of association but are governed solely by Implementing Regulations issued by JAFZA. The minimum share capital of an Dhs1 million, although this may be varied in special cases.

Whether they are FZEs or holders of a General Licence, or Special Licence, the advantages and benefits of a Jebel Ali base speak for themselves:

100% foreign ownership

Jebel Ali Free Zone companies do not need a local partner, as is the case with most international companies in the Middle East and developing world. JAFZA itself acts as the nominal sponsor.

No recruitment/sponsorship problems

The Free Zone Authority also acts as the nominal sponsor of staff whom companies wish to hire. Companies are free to recruit for themselves or the Free Zone Authority can provide employees according to a client companies' specifications. There are no regulations regarding employing nationals, as is the case in many competing incentive zones.

100% repatriation of capital and profits

No taxes are imposed, therefore repatriation of both profits and capital is allowed.

No currency restrictions

Dubai's trading tradition, established over many years, is based upon the free flow of capital and profits; the Free Zone is an extension of this attitude.

No corporate taxes for 15 years

Companies operating in the Jebel Ali Free Zone are exempt from corporate taxes for a minimum of 15 years, renewable for a further 15 year period.

No personal income taxes
within the Free Zone area.

Unlimited energy

The Jebel Ali Power Station serves both the water and power needs of Dubai and the Free Zone area.

Regional Distribution

For many companies involved in product marketing or distribution, the combination of sophisticated port facilities and Free Zone incentives has proven irresistible. Companies can choose to set up a base in the Free Zone totally independent of any local partner or agent. As a tax-free profit centre this company can have complete control over its regional distribution from one central warehouse to the company's sales agents in nearby countries.

Ready-Made Facilities

Utilizing some of the most advanced facilities and efficient services, such an operation becomes extremely cost effective. These facilities include airconditioned warehouses, the Gulf's largest cold stores and an ultra-modern container freight station. These are backed up by experienced staff, computer monitoring and control systems, computerized inventory control, modern narrow-aisle racking and cargo handling equipment, supported by extensive services which include promotional repacking, co-packaging and shrink wrapping.

Strategic Location

The location of Jebel Ali Free Zone, at the foot of the Arabian Gulf, is an optimum base for world markets lying mid-way between East and West. Easily accessible by road, sea and air, the Gulf offers a market of 15 million consumers. Together with nearby Iran, the Asian subcontinent and East Africa this market swells to more than one billion.

Superb Communications

Communications available at the Jebel Ali Free Zone are second to none. Modern telephone, telex and telefax services are on hand with direct dialing to over 154 countries. Major international couriers are well represented and provide service at competitive rates.

Excellent Support Services

Support services on offer are excellent. Dubai Ports Authority, comprising Port Rashid and Jebel Ali, provide efficient cargo handling facilities and is the 16th busiest container port in the world used by over 100 shipping lines. Dubai International Airport has a dedicated Cargo Village capable of handling 250,000 tonnes per year. Clearance procedures at both sea and air ports are well organised and the delays in obtaining cargo, often experienced in other countries, are non-existent in Dubai.

Providing an attractive working environment for staff is an important factor. Dubai is a fast-paced modern city with liberal attitudes and a cosmopolitan society. As such, potential investors will have no difficulty in attracting suitable staff to work for their companies in the Free Zone, situated just 30 minutes drive away from Dubai's city centre.

Dubai has been a successful trading centre for many years and was known as 'The City of Merchants' long before the discovery of oil. Today, Dubai is investing in the future with the Jebel Ali Free Zone.

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