

Dubai Business Forum UK

A Business Partnership: Driving Mutual Growth

14 November 2024 – London

The business relationship between the United Kingdom and Dubai is a **long-standing multi-faceted partnership** – a historical connection that has laid the foundation for bilateral trade and investment. While collaboration between the two markets dates back decades, it has also evolved to meet the commercial challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. **Dubai's emergence as a global hub for business, finance, and innovation has created new avenues for collaboration** between the UK and the Emirate.

The two markets share a **commitment to growth, innovation, and international expansion**. This shared vision has paved the way for a wide range of profitable synergies in areas such as commerce, financial services, training and education, creative industries and culture, as well as technology research and innovation, most notably in green tech and AI. By bringing businesses from the UK and Dubai closer together, **synergies and opportunities will result in successful ventures and partnerships**.

Plenary Forum Programme

- 08:30 – 09:15** **Registration & Networking**
- 09:15 – 09:20** **Welcome by Master of Ceremony**
- 09:20 – 09:30** **Opening Remarks: A Business Partnership: Driving Mutual Growth**
H.E. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President & CEO, Dubai Chambers
- 09:30 - 09:40** **Welcome Address**
H.E. Mansoor Abdullah Khalfan Juma Abulhoul, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United Kingdom
- 09:40 – 09:50** **Special Address**
Julia Onslow-Cole, Chair of the Board, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 09:50 – 10:20** **Embracing D33: Dubai-UK Collaboration for a Thriving Ecosystem**
Our expert speakers explore business enablement through the D33 Economic Agenda and highlight key initiatives offering incentives, regulatory support and access to partners and resources. While addressing all sectors targeted by D33, including the digital economy, tourism trade, finance and sustainable development, we will bring particular attention to recent plans for supporting manufacturing businesses. What are the levers of growth, and how can the UK and Dubai collaborate to jointly position themselves as global leaders in innovation and drive economic growth?
- Moderator:**
Oli Barrett MBE, Company Director, Connector Unit
- Confirmed Speakers:**
Mohamed Sharaf, COO, Dubai Economic Development Corporation
Mark Rosenberg, Chief Commercial Officer - Commercial & Operations, DP World Europe
Salem Al Shamsi, Vice President – Global Markets, Dubai Chambers

10:20 – 10:35

Future-Forward: Innovation and Growth through Dubai-UK Economic Opportunities

Dive into the future of Dubai-UK commercial prospects and possibilities in this visionary TED-Style from Matthew Griffin, futurist and advisor to global businesses. Exploring the latest trends in AI, digital transformation, and sustainable development, Matthew unpacks how businesses can capitalise on these emerging sectors. Discover how Dubai's ambitious economic agenda, coupled with the UK's innovative prowess, can unlock unprecedented opportunities for businesses, gain insights into the challenges and solutions facing businesses and how often, together is better.

Confirmed Speaker:

Matthew Griffin, Founder and Futurist in Chief, 311 Institute

10:35 – 10:50

Healthy People, Healthy Economies

Both the UK and Dubai prioritize high-quality healthcare and dynamic life sciences industries, with focuses on precision medicine, technology-driven healthcare, and leadership in R&D. Dubai's healthcare market is projected to reach \$6.6 billion by 2025, fueled by population growth, medical tourism, and technological advancements. With over 20 free zones, including the region's largest integrated healthcare free zone, the Emirate actively fosters investment and collaboration in healthcare and life sciences, encouraging partnerships and innovation. In this session, hear how these initiatives position the Emirate as an attractive destination for UK companies looking to expand and grow.

Moderator:

Trish Lynch, Live Events Host and Facilitator

Confirmed Speaker:

Dr. Marwan Al Mulla, CEO of Healthcare Regulation Sector, Dubai Health Authority

10:50 – 11:10

Networking Break

11:10 – 11:30

The Green Frontier: Cultivating Collaboration

In this discussion we consider the business opportunities presented by the green economy and Dubai's ambitious sustainability goals. Join our speakers as they delve into significant potential for joint R&D, and with Dubai's public and private entities to accelerate the development and deployment of cutting-edge solutions that address pressing global challenges such as climate change and energy security. By leveraging Dubai's strategic location, commercial incentives, supportive ecosystem, funding opportunities and forward-thinking policies, we discuss fostering sustainable economic growth and the opportunities for UK businesses expanding in the future-looking Emirate.

Moderator:

Declan Curry, Journalist and News Presenter

Confirmed Speakers:

Nader Al Bastaki, Managing Director – Strategy & Development, Dubai Future Fund District

Jeremy Thomas, Founder, Owner and CEO, Astral Tech

11:30 – 12:00

AI and Advanced Tech: From Idea to Impact

Join experts from both the UK and Dubai in this discussion about the latest advancements, opportunities, and challenges in AI and advanced digital technologies. With Dubai targeting a 40% contribution to GDP from AI by 2031, both markets can benefit from exploring synergies, talent strategies, R&D initiatives, commercial opportunities, ethical considerations, and future trends. Discover Dubai's leading AI initiatives, such as the AI Lab and specialized business toolkits, to understand how businesses can capitalize on these resources and drive growth through collaboration and knowledge sharing. Hear from key players in the AI arena and unlock the potential of AI to create new business opportunities and drive economic prosperity.

Moderator:

Oli Barrett MBE, Company Director, Connector Unit

Confirmed Speakers:

Dr. Juma Al Matrooshi, Director General, Dubai Silicon Oasis

Ammar Al Malik, Executive Vice President - Commercial Leasing, TECOM Group

Alex White, General Manager EMEA, Sambanova

12:00 – 12:20

Opportunities in an Innovative, Robust and Sophisticated Financial Sector

Dubai is home to around 1100 FinTech companies, which represents a 30%+ increase from the previous year. Additionally, investments in fintech in Dubai have soared to \$3.4 billion and are projected to reach \$949 billion by 2030, making it one of the premier fintech hubs globally. Dubai offers a supportive regulatory framework, favorable tax policies, and a drive for innovation to attract foreign direct investment in financial services. With access to cutting-edge technologies, Dubai's thriving financial market presents an ideal environment for global financial institutions to expand and grow. How can UK financial institutions capitalize on Dubai's expanding and diversifying financial sector to drive growth and success?

Moderator:

Declan Curry, Journalist and News Presenter

Confirmed Speakers:

Ali Hassan, Senior Representative – Global Markets, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Authority

Cora McLaren, Managing Director, Head of International Subsidiary Banking, HSBC UK Bank

12:20 – 12:40

Dubai's Real Estate Resilience: A Powerhouse of Growth and Opportunity

Construction and building activities account for over 10% of the UAE's total GDP, a figure set to grow following the recent launch of the Real Estate Strategy 2033. With the objective of increasing real estate transactions by 70% and multiplying the value of real estate portfolios by 20 times to AED20bn (\$5.4bn), the Real Estate Strategy 2033 aims to contribute AED73bn (\$20bn) to the emirate's GDP. The Emirate's population growth along with the focus on tourism and hospitality have further fueled the demand for new infrastructure, including hotels, resorts, and residential properties. This presents a wealth of opportunities for UK construction, real estate and hospitality companies seeking new horizons or to further deepen their activities in Dubai.

Moderator:

Trish Lynch, Live Events Host and Facilitator

Confirmed Speakers:

H.E. Abdulaziz Bin Yagub AlSerkal, CEO Industrial Platform, Dubai Investments PJSC

Majid Saqer Al Marri, CEO Real Estate Registration & Services, Dubai Land Department

12:40 – 12:55

Inside Dubai: A UK Business Perspective

In this high-level conversation our distinguished speaker will share their own experience as a UK company doing business in Dubai. From reasons behind setting up in the Emirate to the practical ins and outs, help at hand, triumphs and any stumbling blocks. Hear how the ecosystem and initiatives are evolving and how UK business leaders can take advantage of all Dubai has to offer entrepreneurs and innovators. There's nothing like a first-hand account to demonstrate the true value of business collaboration between our two markets.

Moderator:

Oli Barrett MBE, Company Director, Connector Unit

Confirmed Speaker:

Jo Malone CBE, Founder & Creative Director, Jo Loves

12:55 – 13:05

MC's Plenary Closing Remarks

13:05 – 14:20

Networking Lunch

Afternoon Programme

In the afternoon, Dubai Business Forum attendees will engage in exclusive bilateral meetings and have the option of “Free Zone Focus” sessions. These will provide participants with an in-depth exploration of the various incentives and initiatives offered by Dubai's sector-specific free zones as well as the role Dubai Chambers plays in fostering Dubai's business ecosystem. Key free zone representatives will highlight how UK businesses and investors can capitalise on the benefits on offer to expand and generate long-term growth and success in Dubai, the region and beyond. These focus sessions provide attendees with the unique opportunity to directly engage with specialized Dubai free zone leaders and get their questions answered on the spot.

Room 1

Facilitator:

Oli Barrett MBE, Company Director, Connector Unit Ltd

14:20 – 14:50

Enabling Growth: Dubai Chambers Global Markets

Learn about Dubai Chambers' strategic initiative launched to support its members in expanding their business into international markets. The Global Markets team facilitates business matchmaking and partnerships, helping companies build relationships with key stakeholders, exponentially unlocking growth potential.

Confirmed Speaker:

Mohammad Alkassim, Director – Investment Attraction, Global Markets Sector

14:50 - 15:05

Networking Break

15:05 – 15:35

Enabling Growth: Dubai Expo City

The transformed site of Expo 2020 Dubai has been repurposed into a vibrant, sustainable, and future-oriented community, home to innovative companies envisioning and bringing the future to life. Join leaders to explore how this free zone can catapult your company's growth in a cultivating environment.

Confirmed Speaker:

Nadim Badran, Director – Commercial & Engagement,
Dubai Expo City

15:35 – 16:00

Networking and Pre-Arranged Bilateral Meetings

Room 2

Facilitator:

Trish Lynch, Live Events Host and Facilitator

14:20 – 14:50

Enabling Growth: DIEZ (Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority)

Discover Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority and its component entities and find out how this unified platform thrive in the region. In this session you'll find out about:

Dubai Airport Freezone

Dubai Silicon Oasis

Dubai Commercity

Oraseya Capital

Confirmed Speaker:

Abdulrahman Shahin Mohamed, Senior Vice President, Property Management & Supply Chain, Dubai Commercity

Abdur Rahim Ghulam Nabi, Chief Advisor, Dubai Airport Free Zone

14:50 - 15:05

Networking Break

15:05 – 15:35 **Enabling Growth: TECOM Group**

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of TECOM Group and its role in Dubai's economy. We will explore why Dubai is an attractive business destination for UK companies, highlighting successful examples of UK enterprises within the TECOM Group ecosystem.

Confirmed Speaker:

Ammar Al Malik, Executive Vice President - Commercial Leasing, TECOM Group

15:15 – 16:00 **Networking and Pre-Arranged Bilateral Meetings**

16:00 **Event Close**