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Report on Projects & Project Management in the UAE

By Mounir Ajam

History Rising in Dubai and the Region

Burj Dubai has been officially announced as the tallest building on earth; this news was announced a few weeks back when the tower height officially crossed the tallest structure and earned this title. This landmark (Burj is the Arabic word for Tower) has been achieved although the tower is not yet complete. The following are some pictures taken from the 134th floor of the tower and it is truly amazing to see some of the construction that ongoing below.

BURJ DUBAI: IT'S OFFICIAL
Iconic landmark is the tallest building on earth



Figure 0: The Metro Project

Figure 1 shows the shadow of the tallest building and the construction below it. The yellow item at the bottom next to the main highway, is the moving equipment that is installing the bridge for the Metro Project that is underway in Dubai.

This specific metro line will parallel the main road linking Dubai to other Emirates and different part of the city / emirate of Dubai.

Figure 2 show another side of the main road (Sheikh Zayed Road) with all the towers that currently exist. These used to be the highest towers in the city and now they are almost miniscule in scale in comparison to the TOWER. What could be seen in this picture as well (top / right half of the picture) we can see the landfill in the sea that is ongoing for the third Palm of the Palms trio of projects. This would be the largest Palm and it would be huge; a truly iconic project interm of size and achievement.



Figure 0: Used to be the Tallest Towers in Dubai

While we are on the subject of big buildings; recently Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, one of the richest men in the world, announced awarding Bechtel International the job of managing the construction of the Mile High structure.

Figure 3 shows the picture of this “Sky Rocket” as it compares to Burj Dubai and some of the other towers that are under consideration or development at this time; Burj Dubai, the tallest building is the “tiny” structure on the right.

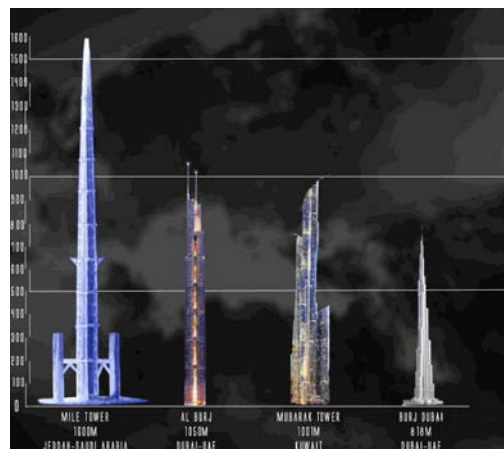


Figure 3 – A Few “Small Towers”

Other News from the UAE

Cityscape, a major exhibit for the real estate industry concluded in Dubai this month. At this event big news was there as usual and many mega projects were announced. Emaar, the developer of Burj Dubai announced new projects in Dubailand to the order of \$16 billion US. Dubai Properties, a member of Dubai Holding announced projects in the \$12 billion US range. Many others have other projects to announce but these are two of the major highlights from this event.

Information released by UAE based research firm Proleads indicates that the construction industry in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have exceeded the US \$1 trillion US. The numbers in the region are being listed at \$1.25 trillion. It is worth noting that this amount is only for civil related projects, buildings, roads, etc. and does not include projects in the Petroleum sector.



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Mounir A. Ajam, MS, PMP, is an International Correspondent for **PMForum** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). He is also chief executive officer of SUKAD FZ-LLC, an Innovation Centre based in Dubai Knowledge Village and with services provided across the Middle East. Mr. Ajam is a PM expert with 20 years of experience in the engineering, construction, oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, and on both large and small projects in various locations in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, UK and USA. Mr. Ajam has an MS in Engineering & Construction Management from the University of California at Berkeley (USA) and a BS (honors) in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston (USA). He received his PMP® certification from the Project Management Institute (PMI®) in 1998 and graduated from PMI's Leadership Institute Masters Class in 2007. He is a past director for the PMI-Arabian Gulf Chapter and lead advocate for a new PMI chapter in the UAE. Mounir lives in Dubai and can be contacted at mounir.ajam@sukad.com. Additional information about Mr. Ajam can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>.

