

## REGIONAL REPORT – UAE - DECEMBER 2007



### Report on Projects & Project Management in the UAE

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#### **It is the Conference Season in the UAE**

The last quarter of the year is a busy period in the United Arab Emirates, and mostly in Dubai. The weather is great, nice and warm with cool breezes starting to come in. It is also known as the Conference Season with so many conferences going on, many with global prominence.

##### **The Dubai Air Show**

A big show in town was the recent Dubai Air Show of global prominence and that takes place every other year in the Emirate of Dubai. The big news here in such a show is always who is getting more contracts, Airbus or Boeing, and who is placing the largest orders for all type of airplanes. The show was concluded with record orders and hot competition as usual.

##### **The Big 5 Show**

The Big 5 is another major show that takes place on annual basis and focus on the construction industry. This event attracts contractors and developers among many others to see the latest in the building and construction industry and equipment.

##### **Construction Week Conference**

The author has the privilege of being invited to this event and it is the first annual event for Construction Week, a weekly magazine published in English from Dubai and that focuses on the construction industry. Various major themes were presented at this 2-days event with the first morning focusing on "green buildings. A recent ruling by the government of Dubai has mandated that starting in January 2008 all new buildings must comply with "green building standards".

At this time there are no standards for green buildings in the UAE, therefore, we are following international standards such as what is advocated by the American Green Building Council and its LEED certification.

The event also featured a presentation by the Chairman of Pacific Controls, a company specialized in controls system. His presentation was about the recently completed headquarter building for Pacific Controls in Dubai, which is rated as the first Platinum Building in the Middle East and 16<sup>th</sup> in the World. The presentation discussed the challenges faced during such development, especially due to the lack of proper construction materials here in the Region.

Other presentations from Emirates Green Building Council and others focused on similar topics about the need for green building. What was interesting here was the data presented about the cost associated with such projects. Based on recent global studies it was shown that Platinum building costs less than 10% more than conventional construction. Whereas Gold and Silver registration is only about 2% (+/-) and just being registered does not lead to additional cost; actually it could save money.

We are sure that in future articles we will highlight the development of green buildings in the UAE. Another article that was published in PMForum addresses a large project in Abu Dhabi that is intended to be the first mixed used development with no carbon emissions.

In coordination of with the conference, the Construction Week Awards were announced, for more information on this please visit: <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/504899-double-whammy-win-for-committed-alec>.



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