

## REGIONAL REPORT – UAE – MARCH 2008



## Report on Projects & Project Management in the UAE End of February 2008

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### PM Profession News

#### Global Project & Process Management Association (GPPMA)

A team of volunteers in the United Arab Emirates continues to work toward establishing a professional association to advocate professional practices in the area of organizational management's two aspects: projects and processes. The Global Project & Process Management Association (GPPMA) registration papers have been submitted to the authorities and everything is set to finalize the registration in March of this year.

#### Contract Management: Concepts, Trends, Approaches, and Tools

Although GPPMA has not been fully registered yesterday, it has conducted its third monthly event on 25 February 2008.

The event's main sponsor and host was Dubai Knowledge Village ([www.kv.ae](http://www.kv.ae)) and the co-sponsor was SUKAD FZ-LLC ([www.sukad.com](http://www.sukad.com)). The speaker was the CEO of SUKAD Mr. Mounir Ajam (who is also the PM Forum Correspondent in the UAE). The event included about 100 professionals from various industries and nationalities and it was quite interactive. The room was at capacity and actually chairs had to be added to accommodate the flow of professionals. This attendance is an indication of the high level interest in



Figure 0: The Audience during the event

the topic and professional development in the region especially that these types of events have been missing from the UAE.

Dubai Knowledge Village ([www.kv.ae](http://www.kv.ae)), the main supporter for GPPMA and where the association is being registered, is the only free zone in the world dedicated to education and professional development and it is part of TECOM Investments.

SUKAD FZ-LLC ([www.sukad.com](http://www.sukad.com)), a project management consultancy and training provider based in Dubai. SUKAD is the emerging leader for project management solutions in the Middle East and its objective is to Simplify Excellence in project management.



**Figure 0: Mr. Mounir Ajam, the Speaker and GPPMA Chairman**

Mr. Ajam is a well known speaker and consultant. He is an active volunteer leader and is currently serving on PMI 2008 EMEA Global Congress Project Action Team. He is also the chairman of the Global Project and Process Management Association.

Prior to, and after, the presentation attendees had a chance to network and meet each other. Many of them indicated an interest in joining the association and volunteering to promote project management.

For more information about the association and future event, please check our temporary webpage [www.gppma.org](http://www.gppma.org) and once the official website is launched it would be communicated to all as well.

Credits: pictures above are by Mr. Hyder Habib of World Media, a company based at Dubai Knowledge Village

## PM Education News

### Boston University in Dubai

This week, a new partnership has brought Boston University to Dubai and a groundbreaking ceremony took place with senior officials from Boston University and His Excellency M. Al Gergawi, Executive Chairman of Dubai Holding.

The university is being established at Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), which is part of TATWEER, one of seven major entities of Dubai Holding. The university will be part of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Centre at DHCC.

The Boston University building at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Medical Centre is due for completion in 2011, and will offer a range of graduate and postgraduate programs in dentistry and allied health sciences.

Credits: Reports is extracted from AME Info

## Dubai Projects News

### **Masdar initiative breaks ground on carbon-neutral city of the future**

Earlier this month, Abu Dhabi (the largest Emirate in the United Arab Emirates) broke ground on Masdar City, the world's first zero-carbon, zero-waste, car-free city. The global milestone event was marked by the laying of a virtual cornerstone by General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and a visually stunning production depicting life in the city.

The significance of such an event is that it is coming from an Emirate (State) that is oil rich and it is an indication of the commitment of the Emirate and country commitment to "green" environmentally friendly facilities and projects.

It is anticipated that the total budget for this city / mega projects to be about \$22 billion (US) and would take many years to complete and it is expected that it would create about 70,000 jobs.

Credits: Reports is extracted from WAM: Emirates News Agency



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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 ([www.sukad.com](http://www.sukad.com)), an Innovation Centre based in Dubai Knowledge Village and with services provided across the Middle East. Mr. Ajam is a PM expert with 21 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.

In addition to his professional expertise, Mr. Ajam is a volunteer leader and his volunteer role includes: currently he is the founding Chairman of the Board for the Global Project and Process Management Association ([www.gppma.org](http://www.gppma.org)) and is on PMI® 2008 EMEA Global Congress Project Action Team. He is a past director for the PMI-Arabian Gulf Chapter and a past member of PMI® Registered Education Provider program Advisory Group. Additional information about Mr. Ajam can be found at <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#5>. Mounir lives in Dubai and can be contacted at [mounir.ajam@sukad.com](mailto:mounir.ajam@sukad.com).