

Wind International Hosts Polycor CEO & CFO in Dubai



Polycor and Wind Officials on visit to Nakheel's The World

Wind International Design & Property Development played host to Polycor Inc., the leading natural stone solution in North America, with close to \$60 million worth of sales under its belt at the end of the last financial year, met with Wind International officials, including Chairman Dr. Azizi.



Polycor, established in 1884, was represented by Messers Bouchard, Chairman & CEO, Belzil, Vice Chairman & CFO, & Fatemi, Regional Sales Director during their visit to Wind International's headquarters in Dubai. They were also treated to a VIP visit to Nakheel's The World by their Wind hosts.



A selection of stones by Polycor

Polycor had already been selected by Wind International as the contractor, which is to undertake marble and stone works for Wind Towers I & II at Jumeirah Lake Towers.

Architects have designs on a tower to dwarf mountains



Fantasy or Reality? A concept drawing of a proposed world record breaker in Japan

Taken from News.scotsman.com

An International competition is under way to design a tower that would be a mile and a half high - nearly five times the height of the world's current tallest building.

At almost 8,000ft, the building would be so high that people at the top would become breathless. Any higher and people would be at risk of developing altitude sickness. One and a half miles equates to 7,921ft, or 2,415 metres, nearly twice as high as Ben Nevis.

Such an extraordinary feat of engineering is likely to cost tens of billions of pounds and take at least two decades.

A key problem would be the amount of side-to-side sway, which could make people inside feel "sea-sick", according to one expert. High-speed lifts travelling at nearly 40mph would be needed to keep a reasonable journey time to the top.

Architects around the world, including Glasgow-born engineer David Scott, the chairman of the United States-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, were asked to submit designs for the structure. Mr Scott, who is also a director of the international engineering firm

Arup, declined to reveal the developers' identity, but said they had already selected a city in the Middle East as the site of the tower.

Details of the competition emerged after The Scotsman yesterday revealed renewed interest in building the world's tallest tower.

The highest planned building is Dubai's Burj Tower, which could top 800 metres. But Mr Scott said one developer was thinking of going far higher. "We have recently been involved in a competition for a 1.5-mile high project in the Middle East," he said. "I think it is technically achievable. It's just, 'Do you want to invest that amount of money on a single site?' "And then there are security and safety issues."

He said while he knew the location of the proposed site, the developers were "keeping quiet for the time being" about the project and he did not want to say where it would be built. Mr Scott said that following a lull in tall-tower construction, things were taking off once again.

"There's been a great resurgence of interest in the iconic nature of tall buildings and increased understanding by designers about how to make these composite structures - most of them involve steel and concrete - work," he said. "And there has been an economic boom in real estate which is fuelling that.

"It's a combination of the technology, the economics and the will to go taller."

The International Society of Mountain Medicine defines high altitude as 5,000ft-11,500ft. At those heights the body has to acclimatise to adjust to the thinner air "over a period of days to weeks".

However, advice on the society's website says: "Practically speaking, we generally don't worry much about elevations below about 8,000ft, since altitude illness rarely occurs lower than this."

Tony Ryan, information officer for the British Mountaineering Council, suggested that putting a gym on the top floor would be a bad idea. "My brother used to live in Colorado at 8,000ft and if I was walking around I wouldn't feel any real difficulty, but if I went for a walk I would notice I was struggling to walk uphill," he said.

Dr Nutan Subedi, an engineering lecturer at Dundee University and an expert on tall buildings, said the competition was probably at the conceptual phase - "an idea as to how it might work". "It's only at the developmental stage. When they start to look at it in detail, when it comes to the real examination of feasibility - that's where the possibilities or impossibilities come in," he said.

"The air will be very thin at 8,000ft and one would have to look at the vibration of the building as well. The movement could make you sea-sick. These are still things that have to be researched."

87% of reclamation work completed in Dubai Maritime City



Taken from menareport

Dubai Maritime City announced that reclamation work for its man-made peninsula has reached 87% of its total reclamation work, in order to meet the January 2007 deadline. Infrastructure work is expected to start in a few months on the reclaimed area and will be completed in stages.

The total volume of reclaimed (dredged sand) material is now over 30 million cubic meters spread over a land area of approximately 216 hectares. The reclamation procedure started in April 2003; this is undertaken using sea-going trailer suction dredgers to recover sand, which is either "bottom dumped" or "rainbowed" by pumping sand from dredgers, or discharged by pipeline into its final resting place.

Commenting on the level of progress of the project, Amer Ali, Project Manager of Dubai Maritime City said: "Reclamation work for Dubai Maritime City is well

underway and runs parallel to the ongoing construction of the peninsula's breakwaters. The depth of sand placed for reclamation is 12 meters from seabed level to finished ground level at +4/+6 meters, which accounts to a total of 18 meters in total."

Three or four compaction rigs are used across the newly reclaimed land to compress the sand. These work incessantly using two 20 meter long steel vibrator probes which are lowered into the ground in order to achieve compression.

Ground improvement works began last December following technical trials to verify treatment methods down to 18 meters, below the finished level of the reclamation area.

When completed, Dubai Maritime City will serve as the world's most comprehensive maritime complex located on a 216-hectare man-made peninsula between Port Rashid and the Dubai Dry Docks, and surrounded by the waters of the Arabian Gulf.

Nakheel in first foreign project



Taken from 7Days

Palm Island and The World developer, Nakheel, is to make its foray into the international market by developing its first foreign project - an international hotel in Djibouti, on the east coast of Africa.

Nakheel Hotels & Resorts has teamed up with hotel management group, Kempinski, to develop the 400 room five-star Djibouti Palace Hotel, which will feature luxury resort facilities including a beach club, retail arcade, and first rate conference centre.

Nakheel chairman, Sultan Bin Sulayem, told 7DAYS exclusively that the budget for the first phase of the project was around \$120 million and that the choice of Djibouti was a natural one for the Dubai-based builder.

"We already have a lot of interests Djibouti, as we operate the ports, we're developing the free zone and the airport, but there was a real problem in that there weren't really enough places to stay, so we're building a hotel," he said. He said the first phase of the hotel was already under construction and was expected to be completed by November 2006, in time to host the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) meeting of Council of Ministers, which will be attended by leading political figures, including heads of state from the 20 member countries.

The hotel will be the first new build five star hotels in Djibouti, and will be run by one of the world's most established hotel operators, Kempinski Hotels and Resorts. Sulayem said the hotel would also include a number of residential apartments and villas, as well as commercial offices and a retail space.

Abu Dhabi set to relax Property Regulations



Taken from Go wealthy.com

Abu Dhabi is all set to liberalize its real estate laws. At present, foreigners can own only leasehold property, not freehold in Abu Dhabi.

"As per the law, foreigners can own property on 99-year lease. There is no change in that law now. But if we plan to change the law, we will announce that," General Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces, said at a property launch. "Abu Dhabi as well as the UAE will see vast changes in the next 25 years due to the huge amount of projects and the growth of the country. Abu Dhabi particularly will see a complete change," he said when asked about his vision for the capital

The emirate is experiencing a huge surge in the property sector and the value of new construction projects to be handed over to contractors is expected to register an increase of 173 percent; from Dh8.6 billion in 2005 to Dh23.12 billion in 2006. The trend is expected to continue with Dh24.59 billion worth of developments in 2007. "The total value of all construction projects announced to date in the UAE is Dh624 billion," said Ahmad Humaid Al Mazrouie, Managing Director of Adnec. In 2005, the UAE dominated the Gulf construction sector with Dh130.6 billion worth of projects under construction accounting for 63.7 per cent of the total value of projects under construction in the GCC states.

Picture of the Week:



Wind Tower II construction site

For the latest progress and pictures from Wind Tower I and II, please visit:

Wind Tower I

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20page.htm>

Wind Tower II

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20pageii.htm>

Note: To click on the above links, hold Ctrl and click with the left mouse button simultaneously

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