

Wind Sponsors Hemophilia Gala Dinner



Wind International, one of the key sponsors and backers behind The Committee of Fundraising for Hemophilia Patients, was delighted with the level of donations and money raised from a Gala Dinner last Thursday in Dubai.



The dinner took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dubai and was well received by donors. Close to \$200,000 was raised through the course of the evening through a series of auctions. The Board of Trustees of the committee, consisting of Doctors Azizi and Mesbah, and Messers Bolurfroushan, Hamidi, Hashempoor, Hooshmand, and Kavianifar expressed their satisfaction with the proceedings and hope to continue activities, which would help fight the disease, in the future.

For more information about the committee and the disease, please visit:

<http://www.windint.com/hemophiliaCommittee/boardofTrustees.htm>

Giant complex to add 29,200 rooms



Taken from Gulf News

A state-owned Dubai company plans to build a Dh100 billion tourist and leisure resort in the city that will feature a cluster of 31 hotels, including the world's biggest, and some 100 theatres presenting live cultural shows.

Tatweer, a unit of Dubai Holding, said the project will boast the largest concentration of leading hotels in the world and help Dubai cope with the 15 million tourists it hopes to attract by 2010.

Called Bawadi, the project will nearly double the current number of hotel rooms through several themed hotels and also develop entertainment centres, shopping malls, theatres, restaurants and convention centres.

Unveiled yesterday by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the project will be spread over 139 million square feet in DubaiLand.

"Tourism as an industry plays a major part in the economic development of this country and this project was instructed to be developed by Shaikh Mohammad about a year ago," Tatweer's chief executive officer Saeed Al Muntafiq said after the unveiling.

The giant project, set up after extensive research on the dynamics of the tourism industry, will also boost tourism-dependent industries such as meetings, incentive travel, conventions and exhibitions as well as the corporate travel business.

Of the total investment needed, Tatweer will spend Dh30 billion to develop hotels and another Dh10 billion on infrastructure that will be raised through its own private equity and debt. The remaining Dh60 billion is expected to come from investors.

The centrepiece of Bawadi will be the world's largest hotel, Asia-Asia, which alone will comprise 6,500 rooms, combining 5,100 four-star and an additional 1,400 five-star rooms. Asia-Asia will be a part of the first phase of development, which includes total spending of Dh12 billion by Tatweer in hotel and infrastructure, and will be completed by 2010. The capacity of Bawadi will be 29,200 rooms, out of which 12,450 will be developed by Tatweer's 12 themed hotels, with another 16,750 rooms developed by independent investors in another 19 hotels.

Together, the hotels are expected to host 3.3 million guests by 2016, which will be more than 21 per cent of the total number of tourists that Dubai expects to receive by that time.

China hits the material mark



Taken from ITP Construction

Anyone who has visited a construction industry trade fair in recent months will have noticed the increasing visibility of the Chinese flag among the exhibitors.

As contractors in the region struggle to meet tight margins, the lure of lower materials prices is making China an increasingly attractive place from which to source building supplies.

From steel to curtain walling and ceramic tiles, China is fast making a name for itself as a manufacturing hub capable of providing international contractors with an

array of materials shipped from its state-of-the-art ports.

But one question mark looms: the issue of quality. While prices may be competitive and lead times feasible, are contractors likely to be hesitant over the quality of Chinese building materials?

Not according to British civil engineer, John Porter. Two years ago he established JPA Group, a mainland Chinese business to assist international contractors to source quality building materials. "China's manufacturing base has grown tremendously in recent years", says Porter, who worked in Hong Kong and China for over 25 years. He says there is now a wide range of high quality construction products made to recognised international standards and available at very competitive prices.



"Almost every building product is being made in China now," he says, adding: "The cost base is very low, with labour-intensive products proving particularly competitive." Up until now JPA Group has focused on European and US clients, but Dubai's construction market is now firmly on Porter's radar. "We're keen to expand our business activities to the Middle East," he says.

"The market in Dubai is very buoyant at the moment and we're very interested to do something there," he adds. Porter's clients tend to be the large international construction companies requiring both civil engineering and building products (his biggest client is Skanska).

"We can source any type of material. For companies that are less familiar with Chinese products, we tend to look at the temporary works materials first; for example, things that don't actually go into the permanent building but things that are necessary to build the structure."

Ceramics is also an emerging sector in the country, and according to Porter, there are around 400 companies manufacturing ceramic tiles in the southern part of China. "Since Dubai doesn't actually manufacture much, it has to import all of these materials. I would imagine that at the moment it is already importing some products from Korea and Eastern Europe as well."

Essentially, the work is done on a consultancy basis. The method of charging is agreed in advance — there might be a sourcing fee, success fee and or a percentage mark-up on the goods, depending on the circumstances and the amount of work involved. "In return, we give factual information, we look for the products, do all the research, and can offer possible solutions," he adds.

And what of the quality issue? Is Porter confident that China's building products can live up to Dubai's demand for not only the biggest but the best? "I've seen China develop over the last 30 years or so and I would say that it now has some excellent manufacturing capabilities."

Quality assurance is a problem in every country, he says, and comes down to putting in place checks and balances to make sure that the final product meets the necessary requirements. And this is a service that Porter says his firm offers: "We will source a suitable supplier, look at maybe six to 10 of them, and then select two or three. "Then we offer the products to the client for it to select from in terms of quality and price," he adds.

While not every building product is cheap in China — timber products, for example, can be quite expensive because it has to import the raw products — Porter says there are gains because the labour costs are so low. "Certainly ceramics, sanitary ware and granite are very cheap."

According to Michael Riley, sales manager at Ceramics City in Dubai, Chinese tiling products are making an increasing impact: "China is among the world leader in tile production and their quality is getting better every year. We're seeing a lot more good products come from this market."

As China battles to make its formidable presence felt within the UAE's construction industry, contractors worldwide are facing massive price hikes within the commodities sector. Copper and aluminium prices have soared recently, and the high price that contractors are now paying for steel shows little sign of letting up just yet. Despite these challenges, the region's construction juggernaut continues to forge ahead regardless.

Nakheel announces completion of infrastructure work at International City



Taken from Ameinfo

Nakheel's International City project, located in the Al Warsan area of Dubai, is progressing on schedule, with 100 per cent of infrastructure work now complete.

The property developer also confirmed that over 75 per cent of buildings at the development will be delivered to customers by November 2006, with the remainder scheduled for completion by 2007.

The completed infrastructure consists of roads around and within the development, street lighting, electricity, water, sewage and health facilities.

\$87.9m Dubai land deals



حكومة دبي
دائرة الأراضي والأملاك

Taken from ameinfo.com

The total value of land transactions in Dubai yesterday reached \$87.9m, according to the Land Department. Land sales amounted to \$44.1m, with the most valuable

single transaction being a plot in Muraqqabat which cost \$7.4m. 16 transactions took place in total yesterday.

Residents on Palm by year-end



Taken from Ameinfo

The first residents of The Palm Jumeirah will move in by the end of 2006, according to Nakheel. A total of 1,350 villas and 2,650 apartments were built in the first stage. Construction has also started on eight of 32 hotels planned, and on the monorail which will link sections of the development.

\$272m Beautyland planned

Taken from Ameinfo

The Al Fahim Group has announced that it plans to invest \$272m in a new development, Beautyland, at Dubailand. The project will be Dubai's first spa and beauty treatment zone and will span some 3.5m sqft. Beautyland will also provide office space and conference facilities as well as a Beauty Museum and Beauty Academy.

Picture of the Week:



Reinforcement for Parking Area

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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