



Aljazeera

الجزيرة

A quarterly Magazine issued by the Department of Seaports and Customs-Sharjah

Issue **88** August - October 2016

Sultan to upload e-books online

Sharjah Police Coordinates with DSPC

SAIF Zone Attracts More Investors from Sri Lanka

Hamriyah Free Zone Showcases Strengths at Automation Expo in Mumbai



A quarterly Magazine issued by the Department of Seaports and Customs-Sharjah

Aljumruk



United Arab Emirates
Government Of Sharjah
Department Of Seaports & Customs

Chairman
Khaled Bin Abdullah Bin Sultan Al Qasimi

Editor
Adel Moustafa Hussien

Editorial team
Safaa Sultan Mania Swed
Raad A. Abdullah

Translation
Raad A. Abdullah

Correspondence
Sharjah Customs U.A.E

P.O.Box. 70
Tel : 06 5026359
06 5026340
Fax : 06 5281747
06 5281997

e-mail: jumruki@sharjahcustoms.gov.ae
website: www.sharjahcustoms.gov.ae

Art production

Valia Abou Alfadel
e-mail: valiaart99@gmail.com
www.valiaart.com



Local Economy 24

41st MidEast Watch & Jewellery Show kicks off

contents

Free Zones 14

SAIF Zone Attracts
More Investors from Sri Lanka

European companies
keen to invest in
SAIF Zone





Highlights

06 Sultan to upload e-books online



08 Sharjah Police Coordinates with DSPC

DSPC News

09 Sharjah Customs Organizes a Technical Workshop on Container Scanning



10 Emirates Airline Presents Special Offer to the staff of Ports and Customs



12 Director of DSPC Honours Customs Officers



Issue 88 August - October 2016



Editorial

The Department of Seaports and Customs recently honoured some of the young customs officers from Creek Customs Centre for their efforts in hindering a smuggling operation of considerable narcotics. Similarly the Department had also honoured another group of customs officers at the Passengers Customs Centre (Sharjah International Airport).

At this point we are not arguing the hazards and the negative impacts of narcotic drugs on lives of the individuals or the community, but to give credit to those recognized young officers for their high sense of awareness, accurate performance, commitment and their broad experience in reading correctly the surrounding environment of the illegal smuggling operation.

Revealing a smuggling-operation is not an easy matter. It requires special skills and an ever developing performance in customs control as smugglers are always improving their methods, a fact which is well noted by customs inspectors who are always ready for them.

-Blessed is he who save a soul from the evils of narcotics.-

Editor



Sultan to upload e-books online

His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, instructed those in charge of his official website to make a full electronic version of each of his books available on the website in both Arab and English. Sheikh Sultan's instructions came in response to the increasing demands by the website users and other readers.



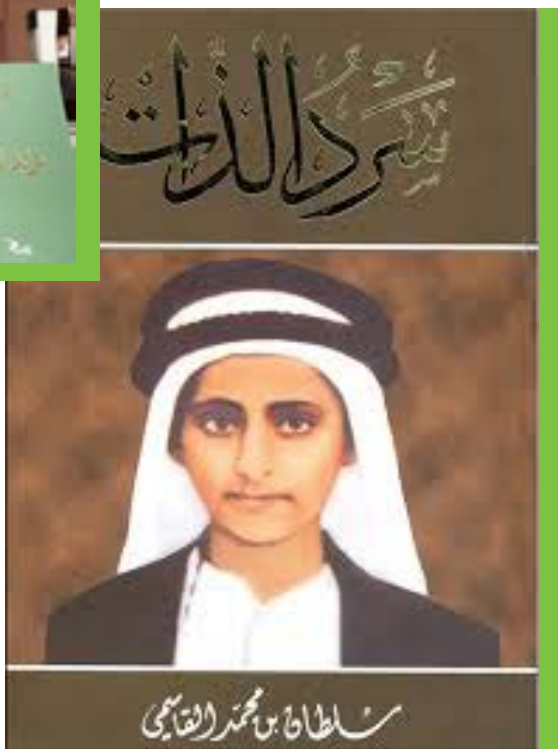
The website includes a wide and valuable range of intellectual, scientific, cultural, literary and historical books, which will be now available in full to enable users to read books in full and browse through them on the website with the possibility of enlarging the page, searching for particular information and marking the page where the user stops, among other features.



The full electronic version of Sheikh Sultan's book "Sard Al-That" is currently available on his website, <http://www.sheikhdrsultan.ae>, and all the books will be available successively.

The website contains interesting information on Sheikh Sultan's early life as well as his education, official, academic and honorary posts he filled and the academic and honorary degrees he was awarded from various countries of the world including Cairo, Paris, South Korea, Japan, UK, Jordan, Germany, Armenia, Canada, Malaysia, Russia, Sudan and Pakistan.

The website also shows the medals awarded to Sheikh Sultan in various fields including culture, sciences, arts, Arab literature and theatre and his interest in the scout movement, humanity and social life. In addition, the website includes Sheikh Sultan's local and external initiatives as well as a range of radio and TV interviews. ●



Sharjah Police Coordinates with **DSPC**



Confirming to the cooperation and coordination between the General Head Quarters of Sharjah Police and other departments of the Emirate of Sharjah, a coordination meeting recently was held at the Head Quarters of Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC). In the meeting, Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of DSPC welcomed Colonel

Ali Salem Al Khayal, Director General of Central Operations and Mr. Eissa Hilal, from National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority. The Meeting reviewed various aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two sides and strengthening all joint services. In attendance was Mr. Jarsh Mohammed Jarsh, Director of Sharjah Creek Custom Centre.●

Sharjah Customs Organizes a Technical Workshop on Container Scanning



Within the course of the Department of Seaports and Customs in adopting the latest technical applications in scanning and inspecting cargoes and providing best services to the customers, Sharjah Customs conducted a workshop on the conceptions, features and capacities of the scanning of containerized cargo. Several customs officers from the various customs centres of the Emirate attended the workshop which was conducted on September 22 2016 at the meeting hall of the Creek Customs Centre. Engineers and technicians of scanning machines producing company reviewed the technical aspects of new scanning system and discussed with the attendants all matters concerned and replied to their questions. The Sharjah Department of Seaports and Customs was one of the first in the region which applied scanning of containerized cargo. It also adopted other scanning systems at all customs centers and terminals including small containers, boxes, parcels, travel bags... etc. ●



Emirates Airline Presents Special Offer to the staff of Ports and Customs

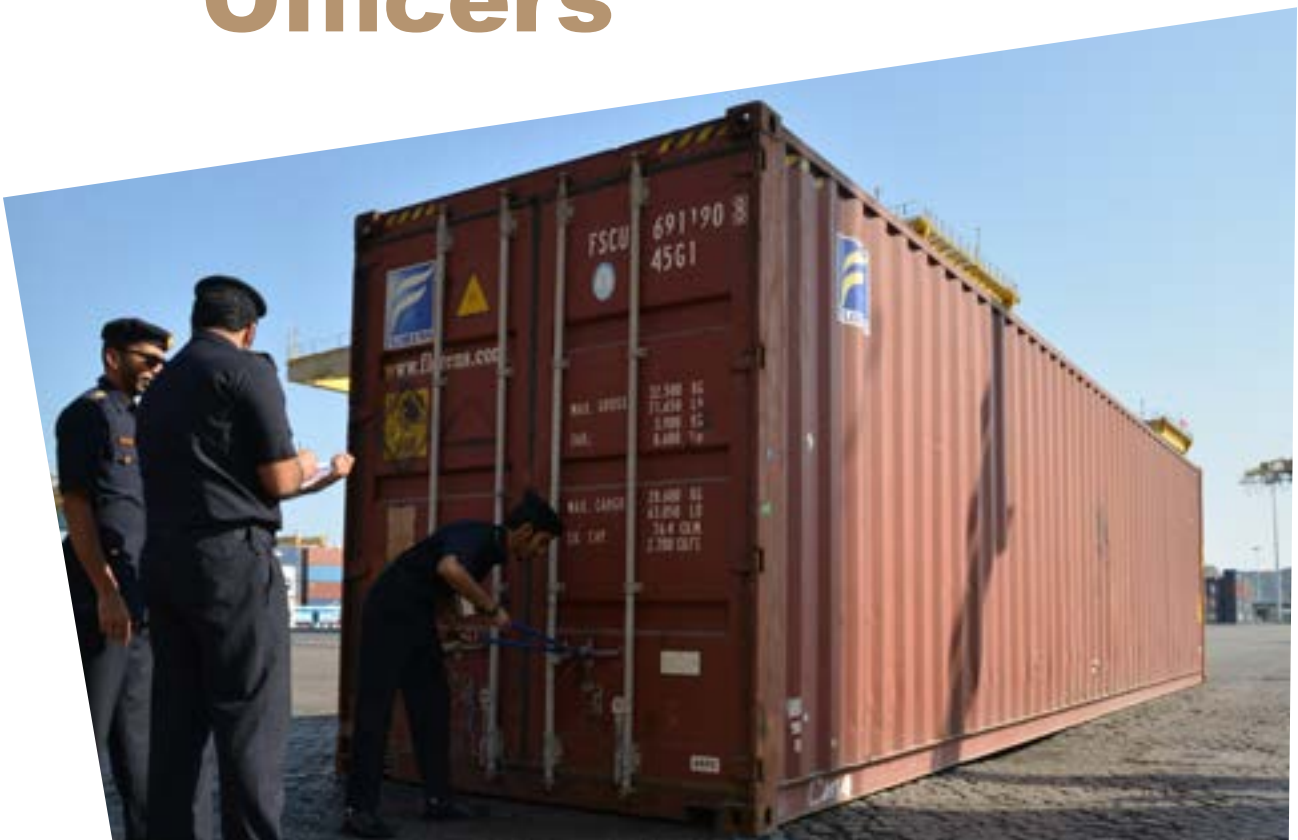


The programme “Waffar,” which is adopted by the Directorate of Human Resources in Sharjah, aimed at improving services provided to the employees of departments of Government of Sharjah



Within the programme of the Government of Sharjah "Waffar"- a special discount programme- the Department of Seaports and Customs hosted, on August 22 2016, a promotion team of Emirates Airline which provided all necessary information to the Department's employees about services and advantages offered to them. The Airline team explained and reviewed services and special discounts rendered, which was welcomed by the employees of Sharjah Ports and Customs Centres. The programme "Waffar," which is adopted by the Directorate of Human Resources in Sharjah, aimed at improving services provided to the employees of departments of Government of Sharjah. It also aims at enhancing the local economy of Sharjah and the national economy of the United Arab Emirates which in return will contribute to sustaining the development of the UAE. ●

Director of DSPC Honours Customs Officers



His Excellency Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of the Department of Seaports and Customs (DSPC) recently honoured three customs officers for their outstanding performance, loyalty and commitment.

Mr. Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Creek Customs Centre attended the ceremony of appreciation which was held on September 25th 2016 at the

meeting hall of Creek Customs Centre.

Al Sarrah praised the dedicated efforts of the officers in the field of combating illegal smuggling and awarded them with appreciation certificates.

He honoured the following officers:

Abdulla Ismail Al Zaronie
Mohammed Ali Abdullah
Issa Abdullah Al Hamadi
Sultan Abdullah bin Saed Al Suwaidi. ●



SAIF Zone Attracts More Investors from Sri Lanka



SAIF Zone offer many opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors from Sri Lanka and the increasing pace of trade between the UAE and Sri Lanka is a positive sign of rapid growth at all levels," said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone) and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA).



Al Mazrouei was addressing a session titled 'International Business Forum – Expanding business globally in association with SAIF Zone' in Colombo which was organized by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) and Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL). "We are interested in Sri Lanka's trade sector and we also want to open doors to SMEs for entrepreneurs from Sri Lanka", he added. "A number of Sri Lankan companies have been interested to venture into Sharjah's free zones and I hope that in 2017, they will set up in our SAIF Zone", he said. Al Mazrouei stressed on the UAE's

close trade relations with Sri Lanka which is a well-known trading hub. According to statistics, UAE is the major trading partner of Sri Lanka in the GCC and the two-way trade has reached \$1.35 billion in 2015. In his speech, Al Mazrouei further emphasized on the importance of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation between the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and SAIF Zone. Upul Jayasuriya, Chairman, Board of Investment said: "Sri Lankans have emerged as important investors within the UAE and Sri Lanka as an important export destination for UAE manufactured goods. BOI and FCCISL is extending our full support to Sharjah

Airport International Free Zone." Sarath Kahapalarachchi, President, FCCISL said: "Concrete steps need to be taken to build a multi-dimensional collaborative framework that leads to sustained economic growth and job creation for both countries, translating into a truly win-win partnership". Thomas Joseph, Business Development Manager, SAIF Zone Authority said: "SAIF Zone has state-of-the-art facilities in addition to tax and duty exemptions, multiple license facilities and easy access to billions of consumers. SAIF Zone houses over 7,600 establishments from 160 countries. ●

Hamriyah Free Zone Showcases Strengths at Automation Expo in Mumbai



The Hamriyah Free Zone Authority, HFZA, has taken part in Automation Expo 2016, India's biggest and South East Asia's second largest automation show, which concluded recently at the Bombay Convention and Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.

The 11th Automation Expo attracted over 850 exhibitors and over 42,000 visitors from many different countries. The four-day exhibition, which was organised by IED Communications Ltd., showcased the best of innovations from the field of robotics, automation, automation systems and automation technology.

"The event, which showcased futuristic technologies and innovation, was an excellent platform for us to network with entrepreneurs and decision makers from various industries, including oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, food processing, chemicals, glass, electrical, electronics and many other automation technology and solutions providers," said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport

International Free Zone, SAIF Zone. He noted that HFZA has registered a record number of manufacturing facilities over the last three years and the free zone now has 324 manufacturing units. "India's automation industry is rapidly growing due to the adoption of newer technologies and HFZA is the best hub for companies to get quick access to over 2 billion customers" he said. "We have highlighted HFZA's advantages to Indian companies and our stand stirred great interest among hundreds of investors and businessmen," said Deputy Commercial Director, Ali Al Jarwan, who represented HFZA at the Automation Expo. Hamriyah Free Zone currently houses over 6,500 companies from across 157 countries. ●

European companies keen to invest in **SAIF Zone**



A delegation of senior representatives of different companies and six countries from Europe recently toured the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone). The tour was part of the UAE-Europe Business Forum that was organised by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) in co-operation with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The six countries were Britain, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Hungary and Lithuania.

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of SAIF Zone and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA), met with the members of the delegation who expressed their expectations for more fruitful co-operation between

A delegation of senior representatives of different companies and six countries from Europe recently toured the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone).

their companies and the SAIF Zone. "We have very strong economic relationships with the companies from the European Union, and through such tours, we seek to develop these relationships and increase mutual trade benefits," Al Mazrouei said during his discussion. "There are numerous promising opportunities in the SAIF Zone

and many incentives an investor can enjoy," he further added. Al Mazrouei introduced the guests to the projects and latest activities in the free zone, and explained the most important services and advantages offered by it. The delegates represented different industries such as architecture, renewable energy, oil and gas, education, fashion and design, IT, food and beverages, tourism, logistics, business services, construction, consultation, and healthcare. According to figures released by the European Commission, the UAE is the seventh biggest export market of the European Union, and the 14th biggest trade partner. It is also the 14th biggest British export market. ●

41st MidEast Watch & Jewellery Show kicks off



Under the patronage of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, the 41st edition of MidEast Watch & Jewellery Show was opened by Sheikh Abdullah bin Salem Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah at Expo Centre Sharjah on September 27th 2016



About 500 exhibitors from across the globe took part in the event that lasted for five days.

Sheikh Abdullah Al Qasimi was received by Khawla Al Mulla, Chairperson of the Sharjah Consultative Council, Abdullah Bin Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), several SCCI's board members, Saif Mohamed Al Midfa, CEO of Expo Centre Sharjah among others and toured the

About 500 exhibitors from across the globe took part in the event that lasted for five days

exhibition pavilions. The high-profiles were also introduced to the latest global developments and exhibits in the watches and jewellery sector.

These included contemporary designs of the world's most luxurious brands of watches and jewellery studded with gold, diamonds and gems. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Salem Al Qasimi praised the participation of prominent watch and jewellery manufacturers and designers and specialists from



around the world who revealed their latest collection in the show.

The show allowed exhibitors to sell directly to the visitors who had the opportunity to see a wide range of jewellery, watches, diamonds, pearls, precious stones and gem stones showcased by the most prestigious renowned brands from around the world.

According to the World Gold Council, the global gold demand has reached 2,336 tonnes through the first six months of the year, led by investment demand —

representing a record 1,064 tonnes. The growing demand has driven the price of gold up 27 per cent this year, marking the best first-half performance since 1980, and the forecast for gold remains positive with the metal expected to trade in the range of \$ 1300-1400- at the end of the year. At the start of 2016, gold was trading at \$1060.

Sheikh Abdullah received a commemorative plaque from the SCCI Board of Directors in appreciation of his generous support and

opening the 41st edition of the MidEast Watch & Jewellery show. Abdullah Sultan Al Owais said: "The MidEast Watch & Jewellery show reflects the leading position of Sharjah in the trade shows and exhibitions industry which aim at promoting trade and commerce in the Emirate of Sharjah and the region."

The trade fairs also aim to support various business sectors that consider Sharjah as a platform to expand into the regional market and access global markets. ●



WCO steps up efforts to deter the illicit trafficking of cultural objects



Illicit trafficking in cultural objects is one of the oldest forms of cross-border crimes. Moreover, for the World Customs Organization (WCO) and its Member Customs administrations it has been identified as an emerging risk due to its growing scale and impact.

The rapid growth in looting, pillaging, destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural objects, particularly from conflict zones, and the involvement of organised criminal groups has garnered increased attention leading to the issue being addressed by different international bodies. For instance, the United Nations Security Council adopted in 2015 two Resolutions (2199 and 2253) that focus on the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. During the last two years the WCO has held a number of high level and expert

level engagements and consultations with other international organisations that have a mandate in this area, namely, United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), INTERPOL, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) and International Council of Museums (ICOM) as well as regional organisations, such as Europol. A number of activities and coordination efforts have taken place along with brainstorming on

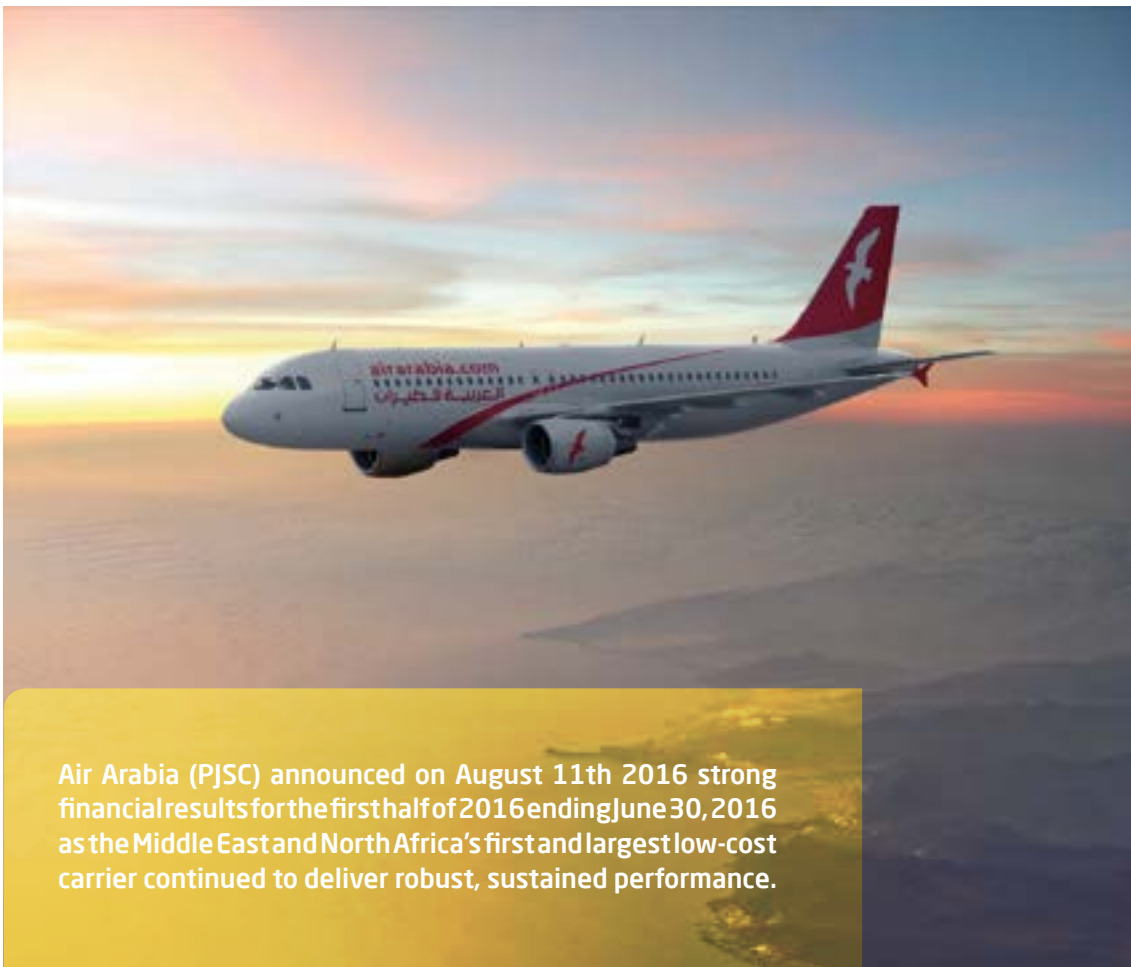


the possible ways to enhance the Customs response to the problem of illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Stemming from these steps, the issue of the role of Customs in preventing illicit trafficking of cultural objects was directly addressed at the WCO Council Sessions on 15 July, where the Directors General of the 180 Customs administrations from around the world unanimously adopted the [WCO Council Resolution](#) on this matter. The Resolution recognises possible linkages between illicit trafficking of cultural objects, money laundering, other criminal activities and terrorism, which move this type of crime higher on the political agenda. It also underlines that international borders still offer the best opportunity to intercept stolen and looted cultural artefacts, thus enforcing the role of Customs as a vital contributor in fighting against this scourge. The benefit of using the [UNESCO-WCO Model Export Certificates](#), enhancing and developing information sharing and closer cooperation at

national, regional and international levels among all stakeholders, including regional cooperation efforts through the WCO's [Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices](#) (RILOs), were underlined. The WCO also encouraged its Members to actively use [ARCHEO](#), a CENcomm-based platform that serves as a communication tool for the exchange of information and to assist in the identification and verification of cultural objects. In particular, ARCHEO was modified to accommodate the latest functionalities and enhance user experience during the expansion of the platform to other enforcement agencies (such as Police) and academia. Having recognised a lack of specific training for Customs enforcement officers in this area, the WCO committed to support its Members through the development of necessary tools and training curriculum in cooperation with partner organisations. In this vein, on 15 July 2016, the WCO, represented by its Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) with the

Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum, education and research complex, represented by the Director of the Office of International Relations and Global Programmes, Ms Molly Fannon. The Smithsonian is one of the globally recognised leaders that have accumulated a wealth of expertise and knowledge on the preservation of cultural heritage. This partnership is particularly aimed at the development and delivery of the training and capacity building programmes for Customs officials around the world; development and enhancement of WCO tools addressing cultural property; information sharing to assist Customs administrations to identify cultural objects that may have been looted or trafficked; and developing joint public awareness campaigns aimed at preventing illegal trafficking of cultural objects. "Customs agents and officials stand in the first line of defense in the fight to stop the illegal trade in cultural heritage," said Molly Fannon, director of the Smithsonian Office of International Relations and Global Programs. "This MOU between Smithsonian and the WCO is part of a growing global partnership between museums and cultural sector organisations with Customs enforcement. We must marry our skills and work together to stop this threat to our global cultural history and heritage." "Through our work we came to an understanding that the only way for the global Customs community to help in safeguarding our common cultural heritage is through partnerships with the global leaders in this area, including museums, academia and research institutions. The Smithsonian combines all these features and we very much look forward to building this unique partnership," said the WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya. ●

Air Arabia H-1 2016 Results



Air Arabia (PJSC) announced on August 11th 2016 strong financial results for the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016 as the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier continued to deliver robust, sustained performance.

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 245 million for the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016, an increase of 3.5 per cent compared to the AED 237 million reported for the same period last year. The company's turnover for the first six months of 2016 reached AED 1.84 billion, compared to AED 1.75 billion in the corresponding period last year, an increase of 5.5 per cent. Marking robust growth in passenger



demand, Air Arabia flew 4.1 million passengers during the first half of 2016 – up 14 per cent on the corresponding period last year. The airline's average seat load factor for the first six months of 2016 – passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – stood at an impressive 79 per cent. Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohamed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "Air Arabia's strong financial results are a testament to the airline's unwavering commitment to delivering on its value-added proposition for customers combined with its operational efficiency and the effectiveness of its wider growth strategy. Despite the continuous pressure on yield margins that airlines are witnessing and the challenges associated with the regional economic outlook, Air Arabia continues to deliver solid financial performance and momentum growth". He added: "We remain optimistic about the outlook of low-cost travel in the wider region as we continue to focus on further expanding our network and operational efficiency as well as leveraging on emerging travel trends by delivering even more value to our customers".

Air Arabia flew over 2 million passengers in the second quarter ending June 30, 2016, increased by 12 per cent compared to the same period of 2015. The airline's average seat load factor for the same period stood at a high 78 per cent. The company's turnover in the second quarter ending June 30, 2016 reached AED 894 million, an increase of 4 per cent compared to the same period of 2015. Net profit during the second quarter 2016 stood at AED 131 million, 14 per cent less than the corresponding period of 2015; this is driven by regional shift in traffic in the second quarter of 2016 due to the month of Ramadan and the excess in capacity available in the market which is affecting airline's yield margins. In April, Air Arabia was named 'Best Low-cost Airline serving the Middle East' at the prestigious Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2016, in recognition of its outstanding performance in meeting the needs of executive travellers. During the first half of 2016, Air Arabia received three brand new airplanes and added new flights to Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina from its main

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 245 million for the first half of 2016 ending June 30, 2016, an increase of 3.5 per cent compared to the AED 237 million reported for the same period last year

hub at Sharjah. In the same period, Air Arabia Jordan expanded its operations by launching a new route from Amman to Riyadh, while Air Arabia Maroc launched two new routes connecting Marrakech to Pau and Fez to Toulouse. Air Arabia today operates flights to over 120 global destinations in 33 countries from five hubs in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and Jordan. ●