

Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum in Lausanne

Press coverage in English

Swiss Ambassador underlines importance of upcoming session of Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum

by Jamal Al Majaida

WAM Abu Dhabi, June 19th, 2011 (WAM) -- Swiss Ambassador to UAE, Wolfgang Amadeus Bruelhart has confirmed the importance of relations between UAE and Switzerland.

In an interview with Emirates News Agency (WAM) he said that the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum was launched in Abu Dhabi in November 2010. "The Co-Honorary Chairmen, H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa al Nahyan, Advisor to the UAE President, and Pascal Couchepin, Former Swiss President, signed on behalf of the trustees a resolution with more than 35 actions. 81 Percent of the actions were implemented in the meantime. In Lausanne the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum will look into the future and adopt an Action Plan for the next 18 months".

He added that the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board under the leadership of Urs Stirnimann, Badria al Mulla and Urs Oberlin work very hard and they will propose the trustees at the Forum in Lausanne the following five objectives for the next 18 months: establishing more framework agreements; creating additional partnerships; exchanging information in the areas of innovation, research and higher education; promoting the development of new business opportunities in the fields of cleantech and environment, healthcare and infrastructure; and supporting projects focusing on culture, sport, arts and tourism.

Regarding the second session of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum in Lausanne this month, and its role to strengthen relations between both countries, especially in the economic, financial, investment, tourism, cultural and information fields, the Swiss Ambassador noted that the forum will include art exhibitions of pictures and historical documents that embody relations between the UAE and Switzerland since more than half a century.

An exhibition titled "Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE in Switzerland, Through the Lens of Noor Ali Rashid - The Royal Photographer" explores Late Sheikh Zayed at work and leisure on his visits to Switzerland, especially to Lausanne and Geneva. Over the years late Noor Ali Rashid accompanied and photographed him. Through his unique perspective, Sheikh Zayed, his family and friends have been preserved in these beautiful photographs and in film footage released especially for this exhibition.

On the occasion of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum in Lausanne, the United Arab Emirates will also be represented by the art exhibition "Colors of the Emirates" with four distinguished young Emirati artists - Muna Abdulqader Al Ali, Khaled Al Banna, Nasir Nasralla, Ahmed Sharif, curated by the Swiss Kurt Blum, Swiss Art Gate UAE.

The second session will also include several workshops, such as, Business Women's Roundtable and the UAE-Swiss Research Day.

"It is great that more than 50 students from different UAE Universities and Higher Colleges will attend the first UAE-Swiss Research day. They will present research projects in energy and environment sector. In the last 12 months 100 students from the Switzerland visited the EPFL Middle East in RAK and Zayed University Abu Dhabi. The young people are the future for both countries and it is important that this exchange happened and the young people are researching for in the field of water and energy. Without water, there is no life, with water, there is life" the Swiss Ambassador concluded.

This article was also published in the following newspapers:

http://www.eseoulpost.com/bbs_news/detail.php?code=gulf&uid=300&start=0&cate=

http://www.djournal.co.kr/bbs_news/detail.php?code=News&uid=110&start=0&cate=

http://eng.arabafrika.net/bbs_news/detail.php?code=News&uid=672&start=0&cate=

Sultan Bin Khalifa opens second meeting of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum

Lausanne, Jun 22nd, 2011 (WAM) -- HH Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Adviser to His Highness the President of UAE, opened here the second meeting of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum.

The opening ceremony was attended by Pascal Couchepin, former Swiss president and other senior officials in the two countries.

In his opening speech, Sheikh Sultan said that the second meeting of the Forum stresses the need to continue to work to achieve the goal of developing cooperation in the areas of technology, health care, higher education and clean energy.

He also said that the Forum will seek to develop cooperation in the fields of media, culture and tourism through partnerships in all areas.

He called for the employment of innovation and invention for the common interest and progress of both countries.

Dr. Sheikh Sultan also asserted that the UAE believes in openness to the outside world and strives to introduce our culture and civilization to others.

The country encourages and supports the efforts to set up strategic partnerships, particularly with developed countries to benefit from their experience and expertise to further promote the comprehensive development of various projects in the UAE, added Dr. Sheikh Sultan.

Obaid Salem Al Zaabi, UAE's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, emphasized the importance of developing bilateral relations between the UAE and Switzerland in various fields.

In his address during the meeting, Al Zaabi said that His Highness President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai are keen to further UAE-Swiss relations which were initiated 40 years ago by Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

He announced that the United Arab Emirates has decided to open an embassy in the Swiss capital of Bern in the near future.

Addressing the meeting, the Honorary Co-Chairman of the Emirati -Swiss Forum Couchepin announced that a plan of action was signed as part of the second meeting of the Forum with HH Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa.

The plan includes the development of a framework for further agreements and creates new partnerships for the exchange of information in the areas of innovation and scientific research and higher education, as well as the promotion of new economic opportunities in the field of clean technology, environment, health and infrastructure.

He said that both sides also agreed to support projects in the areas of sports, culture, arts and tourism.

22 June 2011

http://www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1289994079071&pagename=WAM%2FWAM_E_PrintVersion

Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum holds second event in Lausanne in June 2011

"Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum" intends to hold its second session in the Swiss city of Lausanne on 22-23 June 2011, in the presence of the Co-Honorary Chairmen, HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Adviser to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, and Pascal Couchepin, the Former Swiss President.

The ceremony will notice a number of Swiss and Emirati senior officials and also a delegation of businesswomen from the United Arab Emirates. Obaid Salem Al Zaabi, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations at Geneva headquarters and Wolfgang Amadeus Bruehlhart, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates, will also attend. A number of UAE and Swiss trustees of the "Friendship Forum" will also attend the second session in Lausanne.

More than 50 local students from the UAE Universities and Higher Colleges of Technology will also participate in the activities of the second session of the "Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum", to identify the methods of scientific research within Swiss universities and institutions, also participate in workshops with EPFL Middle East on ways to transfer innovation and creativity into society and business.

The forum will also hold seminars and specialized workshops to exchange scientific research and development of the society and the economy in addition to discussing the prospects for scientific and technical cooperation between the UAE and Switzerland in the field of water and environment, health sector, banking, culture and arts and tourism.

The second session will include an art exhibition of pictures and historical documents that embody relations between the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland for more than half a century, focusing on visits made by late Sheikh Zayed, the Founder of the UAE, to Switzerland and Lake Geneva area.

The Swiss Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates expressed the importance of the Co-Honorary Chairmen and the members of the Advisory Board of Trustees role in supporting the friendship forum's objectives and especially in strengthening bilateral relations between

the two countries and to participate in events organized by both sides throughout the year.

He also said, members of the Advisory Board of Trustees will provide advice to the Organizing Committee of the "Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum" to submitting practical proposals to the Forum's agenda and activities and to developing projects and initiatives that will expand relations in the area of science and research, economic cooperation, trade and tourism, culture and arts between the two countries.

These events are going to be attended by a number of Swiss and Arab journalists.

The first session of the "Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum" was held on 7 November 2010 in Abu Dhabi.

During which Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa and Pascal Couchepin signed a resolution on the establishment of "Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum". The aim of this "Forum" is to develop relations of cooperation between the two countries in various fields of economy, trade, research and science, culture, health and the environment and cleantech.

WAM Abu Dhabi

<http://www.epfl.ae/news/emirati-swiss-friendship-forum-holds-second-event-in-lausanne-in-june-2011>

Sultan Bin Khalifa reiterates importance of UAE-Swiss relations

WAM Lausanne, Jun 21st, 2011 (WAM) -- HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, adviser to His Highness the President of UAE and Co-Honorary Chairmen of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum, has stressed the importance of developing the UAE-Swiss relations in various fields.

In an interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the eve of the second session of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum in the city of Lausanne, Sheikh Dr. Sultan said that the bilateral relations between the two countries are developing thanks to the keenness of the leaderships of the two countries.

He elaborated that the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum endeavours to build a strategic partnership between the two countries in the areas of investment, economy, culture, tourism, sports, higher education, research, environment and health.

Switzerland occupies an important and distinct position in the bilateral relations, which were initiated by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and were developed by His Highness President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said Sheikh Dr. Sultan.

He added that relations between the UAE and Switzerland have witnessed great development in the recent years and the UAE became the first partner of Switzerland in the Middle East at the economic and commercial fronts.

The bilateral trade is growing at an unprecedented momentum and the volume of joint investments have increased in the sectors of renewable energy, health, industry and specialized research, Sheikh Dr. Sultan added.

100 UAE students to join first UAE-Swiss Research Day

Issue related to energy and environment will be discussed during the research projects and inventions presented by UAE students

Abu Dhabi, 20 June: As many as 100 students from different UAE Universities and Higher Colleges will participate in the first UAE-Swiss Research Day to be held under the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum on Wednesday in Lausanne Switzerland.

The issue related to energy and environment will be discussed during the research projects and inventions presented by UAE students with possible solutions.

In addition, the "Masdar City" experience for renewable energy will be presented, as well as the efforts of Abu Dhabi Government to turn Masdar into an international initiative to create sources for clean energy.

The event will be held under the patronage and presence of Dr. Shaikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Advisor to the UAE President, and Pascal Couchepin, Former Swiss President.

The Executive Director of Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum, Urs Stirnimann, said in a statement to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) that during the two-day event a model of the Swiss village being built by Masdar City will be presented focusing on researches, solutions and techniques of renewable energy and is presented to GCC countries starting from Abu Dhabi.

He confirmed the forum's keenness to encourage Swiss companies specialized in energy to participate in this village that specialises in renewable energy researches, solutions and technologies, and then providing them from Abu Dhabi to GCC and Middle Eastern countries.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/100-uae-students-to-join-first-uae-swiss-research-day-1.824035>

Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum releases "Majalis"

WAM Lausanne, Jun 21st, 2011 – The Emirati Swiss Friendship Forum released here today the pilot edition of its magazine "Majalis" giving the business community and the media a comprehensive reference on UAE and Switzerland.

Executive Director of the Forum Urs Stirnimann said that the releasing of the magazine coincides with the second session of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum due to kick off Wednesday in the Swiss city of Lausanne.

In an opening article, Stirnimann noted the importance of the attendance of HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Adviser to His Highness President of UAE in the session along with the Former Swiss President and Co-Honorary chairman of the Forum Pascal Couchepin.

The first session of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum was held on 7 November 2010 in Abu Dhabi, during which Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa and Pascal Couchepin signed a resolution on the establishment of the Forum. The aim of the Forum is to develop relations of cooperation between the two countries in various fields of economy, trade, research and science, culture, health and the environment and cleantech.

21 June 2011

http://www.wam.org.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLocEnews&cid=1289994062510&pagename=WAM%2FWAM_E_Layout&parent=Collection&parentid=1135099399973

Automobile and Touring Club of UAE President, Mohammed Ben Sulayem, to attend Swiss-Emirati Friendship Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland

The Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE President, Mohammed Ben Sulayem, is to travel to Lausanne in Switzerland on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2011 to attend the Swiss-Emirati Friendship Forum. The aim of this forum is to stimulate the bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland for sustainable and long-lasting results through cultural understanding, creative thinking and networking.

Switzerland's knowledge-based economy has a highly developed service sector, led by financial services and manufacturing an industry that specializes in high technology, knowledge-based production. Innovation is a key factor for its development and progress. The economic strategy of the United Arab Emirates forecasts its transformation from an oil-based into a knowledge-based economy.

Mohammed Ben Sulayem commenting on the upcoming forum said, "I would like to thank H.H. Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Khalifa al Nahyan for his support of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship, H.E. Pascal Couchepin, Former President of Switzerland, H.E. Obaid Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative of the UAE to the United Nations Office in Geneva and to H.E. Ambassador Mr. Wolfgang Amadeus Bruehlhart of Switzerland, in appreciation for their efforts in creating this unique event. This is a great opportunity for both nations to learn from each other and share ideas. Innovation is a key factor for the UAE's development and we must move forward and embrace it."

Mohammed Ben Sulayem has been a pioneer in the area of Education and Innovation in sport in the UAE's launching investigative research initiatives via the Institute of Sport Research, as well as introducing the first research qualifications at Masters and PhD level available in the UAE's in conjunction with Ulster University and the Sports Institute of Northern Ireland. Mr Ben Sulayem will be in discussions on the topic of "Innovation and Education in Sport" at the Friendship Forum.

The aim of the Swiss-Emirati Friendship Forum will be to focus on the theme "Transfer of research and development into society and business" by exchanging views about a knowledge-based economies and to discuss innovation in clean technology, energy, design, health, management, hospitality, food industry and sport. It will also offer opportunities for new business and other contacts and open an exhibition about the Late Sheikh Zayed, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland.

The event intends to be held under the Patronage of H.E. Pascal Couchepin, Former President of Switzerland and H.H. Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Khalifa al Nahyan, and Advisor to the President.

21 June 2011

http://www.middleeastevents.com/site/pres_dtls.asp?pid=13611

Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum opens in Switzerland

Lausanne (Switzerland), June 22 (IANS/WAM) The Emirati-Swiss friendship forum that promotes bilateral cooperation was opened here Wednesday.

Former Swiss president Pascal Couchepin and other senior officials of the two countries attended the opening ceremony.

Obaid Salem Al Zaabi, UAE's permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva, emphasized the importance of developing bilateral relations between the two countries.

Al Zaabi said UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan is keen to further UAE-Swiss relations initiated 40 years ago. He said the UAE has decided to open an embassy in the Swiss capital of Bern in the near future.

He said both sides agreed to support projects in the areas of sports, culture, arts and tourism.

http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/uncategorized/emirati-swiss-friendship-forum-opens-in-switzerland_100544830.html; <http://www.newkerala.com/news/2011/worldnews-13069.html>