

WORLD FREE ZONES ORGANIZATION

10th WORLD CONGRESS

23-25 September 2024 Dubai, UAE

ZONES AND THE SHIFTING GLOBAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURES

UNLOCKING NEW INVESTMENT AVENUES

Logistics | Energy | Manufacturing | Access to Finance | Digital



OVERVIEW

As the world's attention has gradually shifted from the pressing concerns of the pandemic, disruptions in supply chains, and conflicts around the world, significant changes have been unfolding in the global economy. Nations, whether emerging or developing, find themselves contending with soaring inflation rates and tightening labour markets, all while dealing with increasingly cautious investors. In response to these challenges, central banks across various regions have been compelled to raise interest rates in an effort to curb headline inflation. This tightening of monetary supply is expected to alleviate inflationary pressures and trigger a comprehensive restructuring of economies on a global scale.

Co-promoting and balancing economies

The process of restructuring economies has diverse impacts at different stages of development. Achieving a delicate balance between economic growth and inflation remains a critical challenge for developed nations. Conversely, emerging economies face higher risks during restructuring due to limited policy flexibility in dealing with obstacles.

Simultaneously, as food and commodity prices continue to rise, restructured economies provide opportunities for resource-rich countries to focus on the growth and development of sectors with value-added commodity exports. These sectors include specialties like Agro and Energy, skills-driven fields such as Finance and Services, geographically advantageous sectors like Logistics and Tourism, and technology-oriented areas like Manufacturing, all of which promise enhanced returns.

Benefits to governments

Governments can leverage these additional revenues to bolster their fiscal capacity, redirect resources towards debt reduction, invest in both physical and digital infrastructure, and bolster their foreign reserves. Special Economic Zones (SEZs), widely recognized as instrumental in achieving these objectives, make it prudent for both developed and emerging economies to establish and nurture such zones.

Policy level interventions

Policy makers have a unique opportunity to create enticing policy frameworks that encourage investments in projects that will stimulate long-term growth. Federal governments, especially those considering the development of economic zones, should allocate their resources judiciously to shape sustainable employment opportunities for their workforce and bolster their participation in global supply chains. Investors in economic zones worldwide can leverage this moment to unlock private investment opportunities, strategically crafting diversified and valuable ventures.

As we reflect on the structural shifts in global fund flows, the rise in sovereign debt, and the evolution of trade networks, it becomes evident that these factors will play a pivotal role in shaping the future landscape of business operations. Now is an ideal time to engage with global partners and associates, coming together to deliberate and discuss key strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing business resilience and diversification.

OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri

Cabinet Member & Minister of Economy

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni

Chairman of World Free Zones Organization, UAE

Martin G. Pedersen

Chairman, IFZA, UAE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jim Hagemann Snabe

Chairman, Siemens and member of WEF Board of Trustees, Denmark

H.E. Gerhard Schröder

Former Chancellor, Germany

PLENARY SESSIONS

1. FUTURE OF LOGISTICS

In an era of rapidly evolving global trade dynamics and supply chain disruptions, the Future of Logistics plenary session delves into the transformative innovations shaping the movement of goods across borders. From the integration of AI and blockchain technologies to the rise of sustainable logistics practices, this session explores strategies to optimize efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance resilience in logistics networks worldwide. Join industry leaders and experts as they navigate the complexities of modern supply chains and chart a course towards a more connected and resilient future.

Expert Speakers:

- John Defterios (Moderator), Former Emerging Markets Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom
- Radu Dinescu, President, IRU, Switzerland
- Dr. Holger Bingmann, Vice President, ICC Global, France
- Hanan AlKhozaimi, Director of Competitiveness and Quality Marine, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE

2. FUTURE OF ACCESS TO FINANCE

Access to finance remains a cornerstone of economic development, particularly in the context of emerging markets and Free Zones seeking to attract investment. This plenary session examines emerging trends in financial technology (FinTech), the role of development finance institutions, and strategies for improving access to capital for businesses operating within Free Zones. Delve into discussions on innovative financing mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, and public-private partnerships that can unlock new sources of investment and drive sustainable growth in the global economy.

Expert Speakers:

- Anjani Trivedi (MODERATOR), Global Business Correspondent, The Economist, United Kingdom
- Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, BADEA, KSA
- Santiago Rojas Arroyo, Regional Director, Development Bank of Latin America & the Caribbean (CAF) Colombia
- Prof. Chi Fulin, President, China Institute for Reform and Development, China
- İsmail Ersahin, Executive Director, CEO, WAIPA, Switzerland

3. FUTURE OF ENERGY

As the world transitions towards a more sustainable energy future, the Future of Energy plenary session explores the opportunities and challenges facing the energy sector within Free Zones and beyond. From renewable energy integration to the electrification of transportation, this session examines the role of innovation and policy in driving the transition towards cleaner, more resilient energy systems. Join industry leaders, policymakers, and experts as they discuss strategies for accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies and navigating the evolving energy landscape.

Expert Speakers:

- John Defterios (MODERATOR), Former Emerging Markets Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom
- Joseph McMonigle, Secretary General, International Energy Forum, KSA
- Eng. Nawal Yousif Alhanaee, Director of Future Energy Department, Ministry of Energy, UAE
- Dr Hasan Shafi, Partner EY Parthenon, UAE
- Corey Gray, President, SCC, Australia

4. FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING

The Future of Manufacturing plenary session examines the transformative trends reshaping the global manufacturing industry and its implications for Free Zones worldwide. From advanced robotics and additive manufacturing to the digitization of production processes, this session explores how technological advancements are revolutionizing traditional manufacturing models and driving greater efficiency and

flexibility. Join leading manufacturers, technology innovators, and policymakers as they explore strategies for fostering innovation, enhancing competitiveness, and driving sustainable growth in the manufacturing sector.

Expert Speakers:

- John Defterios (MODERATOR), Former Emerging Markets Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom
- Badr Al Olama, Director General, ADIO, UAE
- Cesare Zingone, CEO, Member of the Board of Directors, World FZO, UAE
- Steven Spence Marshall, Former Premier of South Australia, Australia
- Andrea Céspedes Marín, Director Special Regimes, Procomer, Costa Rica

5. FUTURE OF DIGITAL

In an increasingly interconnected and digitized world, the Future of Digital plenary session explores the transformative impact of digital technologies on business operations within Free Zones and across industries. From artificial intelligence and machine learning to cybersecurity and data privacy, this session examines the opportunities and challenges presented by the digital revolution. Join thought leaders, technology experts, and policymakers as they discuss strategies for harnessing the power of digital innovation, fostering digital inclusion, and building resilient digital ecosystems for the future.

Expert Speakers:

- Courtney Fingar (Moderator), Founder & Principal Fingar Direct Investment, United Kingdom
- Dr. Jan Michael Mrosik, Former CEO, Knorr-Bremse, Siemens Digital Factory, Siemens Energy Management, Germany
- Hazem Galal, Senior Partner, PwC, UAE
- Dr Akram Nour, Chief of Digital Transformation, ECSZ, KSA,
- Richard Bolwijn, Director of investment research, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

FOCUSED EVENTS

MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Future Role of AI and New Technologies in Global Trade 2.0.

We see a new global trade paradigm emerging with the transformation of global supply chains and digitalization of trade. Trade disruptions and trade wars, global conflicts and crises, and increasing protectionism and sanctions are creating new challenges for international trade and growth. In the meantime, rapid technology advancement and global sustainable development endeavors are generating new opportunities for countries and industries.

How can we seize those emerging opportunities and address those challenges together through international cooperation? How can we maximize the potential benefits of AI and new technologies while minimizing their risks? How can we make trade and AI do better today and tomorrow for global sustainable development and inclusive growth?

How can we leverage the benefits presented by SEZs to stimulate international trade and investment and ward off the threats to the supply chain ecosystem?"

How can we create more secure and resilient supply chains through promoting and building more modern SEZs?"

Keynote speakers

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE

H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA, Ghana

Martin Pedersen, Chairman, IFZA

Speakers:

Karim Refaat, Chairman, The N Gage Group, Egypt

"Harnessing AI and Advanced Technologies for the Future of Global Trade"

Martin Ibarra, President, Araujo Ibarra, Colombia

"How can Ministers of Trade rely on their SEZ to transform their countries, increase exports, and attract the new businesses of the future?"

Moderator:

James Zhan, Chief Advisor to the Chairman, World FZO, UAE

PRIVATE SECTOR & DEVELOPERS/OPERATORS MEETING

Private Sector Approaches to Free Zone Development and Business Recruitment

Overview

Free zones drive economic growth by attracting foreign investment through fiscal benefits, efficient administration, and high-quality infrastructure, sites and property. Investors prioritize factors like policy frameworks, political stability, market access, and labor costs. While some zones excel, others face challenges, leading to complicated investment decisions and potential capital loss. Governments provide vital information on fiscal policies and infrastructure, and the World FZO's Investment Committee supports developers by offering insights into geopolitical risks and business conditions, improving decision-making.

Program

This panel session will explore the evolving role of Free Zones in the global economy covering:

1. Growth industries for FDI and Implications for zone development
2. Enhancing profitability and competitiveness in free zones
3. Navigating the evolving incentives and funding landscape for Zones

The panel sessions will include expert speakers from zones and developers globally who will share their case studies of how to develop successful zones in the context of a rapidly changing industry, regulatory, and geo-political landscape. The sessions will cover some of most pressing challenges and opportunities for Zones worldwide including how Zone development and private sector approaches can attract the rapidly growing industries for FDI around clean tech, AI and reshoring, how the OECD minimum tax agreement will impact Zone fiscal benefits, and how Zone development can be financed in the current macro and geo-political climate.

Topic 1: Growth Industries for FDI and Implications for Zone Development

This session will explore the latest industry trends in FDI and the impact on Zone Development, with specific focus on how Zones can be developed to attract new industries around clean tech, AI, and reshoring.

Topic 2: Enhancing profitability and competitiveness in free zones

This session will explore geo-politics and how zones can adapt to overcome challenges and leverage opportunities to increase competitiveness and profitability through the adoption of best practice private sector approaches to zone development and business attraction, retention and expansion

Topic 3: Navigating the Evolving Incentives & Funding Landscape for Zones

This session explores how the OECD agreement of minimum corporate tax is likely to impact Zones globally and the traditional and innovative financing options for free zone development.

Meeting Moderator

Dr Henry Loewendahl, CEO Wavteq and Senior Advisor to fDi Intelligence, United Kingdom

Speakers

Srikanth Badiga, Director, Phoenix Group, India

Cesare Zingone, CEO, Zeta Holding, Costa Rica

Emeka Ene, CEO, Oildata Energy Group, Nigeria

Holger Schlechter, Chief Financial Officer, IFZA, UAE

Eimantas Kiudulas, Director and Board member, Klaipeda SEZ, Lithuania

Santiago Rojas Arroyo, Regional Director, Development Bank of Latin America & the Caribbean (CAF), Peru

Dr. Holger Bingmann, Vice President, ICC Global, France

Simon Sonoo, VP SEZ, DP World, United Arab Emirates

Yusuf Kilinc, Chairman SEBKIDER & DG Eagean F,Z Türkiye

SEZ IN BRICS COUNTRIES

Objective

The primary objective of this proposed event is to advance the key areas of cooperation outlined in the BRICS SEZ Cooperation Framework. By bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts from BRICS countries, the event aims to:

1. **Promote Awareness and Collaboration:** Increase awareness of the role of SEZs in sustainable and resilient economic development, particularly within the BRICS framework.
2. **Exchange Best Practices:** Facilitate the sharing of successful strategies and methodologies for the management and development of SEZs, with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and localization of industrial production.
3. **Explore New Investment Opportunities:** Identify and discuss potential investment niches within BRICS SEZs, with an emphasis on attracting additional investments in priority sectors.
4. **Support Sustainable Development Goals:** Explore how SEZs can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as low-carbon development, green transformation, and climate resilience.
5. **Enhance Institutional Cooperation:** Strengthen institutional arrangements and create a forum for ongoing collaboration and communication between BRICS SEZs.

Topic 1. Overview: Investment, Trade, and Economy of BRICS+ Countries

Objective: Provide a general overview of the economy and trade of BRICS+ countries.

Topic 2. Panel: Status of Free Zones in BRICS+ Countries

Objective: Present the development of free trade zones in each member country and explore collaboration opportunities.

Topic 3: Conclusions: Strategy for Realigning Regional Value Chains in BRICS+ Countries (20 minutes)

Moderator

Martin Gustavo Ibarra, Senior Advisor, World FZO Board of Directors, UAE.

Speakers

Rashid Ahmed AlTuneiji, Director, international business development & Trade promotion department, Ministry of Economy, UAE.

Michael Labudin, Director of the Association of Clusters, Technoparks and SEZs, Russia

Srikanth Badiga, Chairman EPCES, India.

Lisandro Ganuza, Director World FZO South America, Argentina.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

The global economic, social, and political landscape is fraught with uncertainties that challenge normal business operations. Slowing economic growth, geopolitical instabilities, climate change, energy market uncertainties, continuing high inflation, sanctions, protectionism, resource nationalism, and regime change—all of these, with varying levels of intensity, continue to disrupt the world and increase risks for global industry and trade.

Free Zones (FZs) are not immune, nor can they be insulated from these evolving conditions. FZs must learn to adopt, adapt, and build resilience to weather the storm.

As a precursor to the World FZO's 10th Annual Conference, a Leadership Development Program (LDP) has been organized for September 23, 2024. The primary purpose of this LDP is to enrich the participating Future Leaders of this rapidly expanding industry by sharing in-depth knowledge and industry insights, effectively making them Future-Ready.

This year's LDP will focus on discussing the emerging challenges for the global economy in general and FZs in particular. It will also explore ways to leverage the vast potential of tacit knowledge to ensure business sustainability. Knowledge dissemination will cover not only the current and emerging scenarios but also highlight the impending risks that FZs and their stakeholders must manage.

The LDP aims to bring together domain experts to share their rich experiences and insights. Subject-matter experts will conduct panel discussions that will be interactive, allowing participating delegates to pose questions and make meaningful contributions.

SIDE STREAM SESSIONS

1. S3 UNCTAD

Global Economic Fracturing & Shifting Investment Patterns

Foreign direct investment patterns and global value chains are changing fundamentally. The growth of FDI has lost pace with GDP and trade. There is less investment in manufacturing and more in services. And geographical links and investment relationships are becoming more unstable and affected by geopolitical issues, resulting in a fracturing trend in global FDI.

This session aims to explore the opportunities and challenges of the changing FDI landscape for the future generation of Special Economic Zones, considering the need for sustainability, inclusiveness, and resilience – contributing to the overall theme of the Meeting “Zones and the Shifting Global Economic Structures – Unlocking New Investment Venues”.

Expert Speakers:

Richard Bolwijn, Director, UNCTAD, Switzerland

2. S3 UNWTO

TOURISM FREE ZONES: A real alternative for boost the new developments

International tourism, which moves more than 1.3 billion passengers around the world, was the sector most affected by COVID 19 and is likely to recover in 2024.

TOURIST FREE ZONES, applied to hotel developments, convention centers, theme parks and marinas, are the most modern and efficient incentive to reduce the construction, equipment and operation costs of future tourism projects. Under the coordination of the United Nations- World Tourism Organization, (UN-WTO) countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America will present their benefits.

Expert Speakers:

Martin Ibarra, President Araujo Ibarra, Colombia

Antonio Lopez de Avila, Director for Innovation, Educations and Investments, UN-WTO, Spain

Rizal Edwin Manansang, Secretary-General, National Council for Special Economic Zones, Indonesia

Preston Mendenhall, Group COO and Country, RENDEAVOUR, Kenya

David Gaviria, Director, Baru Tourism Free Zone, Colombia

3. S3 World Customs Organization

Customs involvement and control in FZs

Zones are designated areas with distinct economic regulations aimed at attracting investment, fostering industrialization, and boosting exports. These zones offer benefits (advantageous tariffs, lighter regulation on financing, ownership, labour and immigration, and taxes). The benefits that zones can provide to economies are at risk when zones are used for criminal purposes, illicit trade, IPR infringing goods, etc. The objective of this session is to emphasize the need for Customs involvement in the process of authorization and implementation of FZs, the need for appropriate Customs procedures and controls for the sustainable development of FZs, and to explore solutions to enable Customs, FZ Authorities, other relevant authorities, and the private sector to work together to address current and emerging challenges in FZs.

Expert Speakers:

Yuta Takanabe, Technical Attaché, Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate, World Customs Organization

Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ), UAE

Omran Ali H. Bu Khalaf, Division Director – Customs Affairs, Abu Dhabi Customs, UAE

4. S3 WAIPA & UNIDO

Investment Promotion and Facilitation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Region

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has long been recognized as a key driver of economic growth, prosperity, and competitiveness across countries. Particularly in the Global South, FDI has been viewed as a critical element in promoting sustainable development, given its potential to foster economic advancement. Despite this, FDI inflows have been unevenly distributed, with African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries still struggling to attract FDI. Hence, there is great potential to enhance investment facilitation and promotion efforts, spearheaded by national and sub-national investment promotion agencies (IPAs), thereby accelerating FDI in ACP countries.

To support ACP IPAs in this undertaking and contribute towards a better understanding of their characteristics, emerging strategies and technical assistance needs, the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and its partner, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), conducted a first-of-its-kind joint survey, covering 61 IPAs in total in the ACP region. The empirical insights of this survey were compiled in a comprehensive publication on investment promotion and facilitation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region that was launched during WAIPA's 27th World Investment Conference in New Delhi, India.

The purpose of the session is to present the survey results as well as the insights emanating from its analysis. More specifically, the audience will be given an overview of the state-of-play, challenges, and opportunities of investment promotion and facilitation in ACP countries. Further, a model explaining the realities and complexities faced by ACP IPAs in their work will be showcased and key recommendations and practical (digital) tools to enhance their effectiveness and align their efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be presented.

Expert Speakers:

Stefan Kratzsch, Head of Unit, UNIDO, Austria

Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director, CEO, WAIPA

5. S3 International Road Union (IRU)

Trade and Transit Facilitation: How the global TIR System Enhances Security and Reduces Transit Time, Costs & CO₂ Emissions

For over 7 decades, the global TIR system has been revolutionizing cross-borders trade across the globe.

This session delves into how TIR enables customs authorities to facilitate international trade while upholding strict security at borders. Experts will discuss how streamlined customs processes, express lanes, and digital connectivity not only help transport companies significantly reduce transit times and costs but also contribute to sustainability goals by lowering CO₂ emissions.

Expert Speakers:

Rami Karout, Senior Advisor, Middle East & North Africa, The International Road Transport Union IRU, Switzerland.

John Lucy, Founder & CEO, JL International, UK

6. S3 fDi Intelligence

Powering the AI revolution: SEZs become data centres hotspots

Demand for data storage and processing is going through the roof as the artificial intelligence revolution and digitisation take hold. Somewhat overlooked up until a few years ago, data centres have become one of the hottest play in today's real estate market. Their site selection is determined by a specific set of requirements: land; a lot of power, preferably green power; access to plenty of water for cooling purposes; the need to import, install and maintain very valuable equipment; top-notch connectivity. Free zones are primed to bring together all these factors and success cases already abound, with SEZs the world over able to attract major data centre operators and build a whole tech ecosystem around them. The session will feature representatives of private

data centre companies investing in SEZs, as well as SEZs operators to share both perspectives into the perks and perils of setting up data centre operations in free zones.

Expert Speakers:

Jacopo Dettoni, Editor, fDi Intelligence, United Kingdom

Juan Pablo Rivera, Chairman, Bogota Free Zone, Colombia

Himmath Mohammed, Chief Information Officer, GDH Data, UAE

Daniel Callaghan, VP Business development, Dubai Silicon Oasis, UAE

7. S3 UNIDO / IPTO

Unleashing the Creative Orange Economy Potential through the Establishment of Creative Free Zones

Integrating the orange economy into free zones offers significant benefits by diversifying economic activities beyond traditional manufacturing and serves as a platform to promote domestic investment thus leading to leveraging foreign direct investments. This diversification reduces reliance on a single sector, making free zones more resilient to economic fluctuations. Creative Orange industries, known for producing high-value products, can generate substantial revenue and profits. Additionally, free zones can attract creative talent, enhancing the quality of life and making these areas more appealing to both residents and businesses.

Moreover, free zones can become innovations/talent hubs for research and development in creative industries, fostering innovation and technological advancements. They provide a safe haven for intellectual property rights, encouraging domestic entrepreneurs and MSMEs to invest in their work and attract foreign investment. The development of cultural attractions and hosting of events can boost tourism and local economies. By providing a platform for accessing global markets, free zones can promote exports and facilitate networking between creative businesses and international buyers, further driving economic growth and cultural enrichment.

In brief, the orange economy can play a vital role in transforming free zones into thriving hubs of innovation, creativity, economic growth and social integration. By fostering a supportive environment for creative industries, free zones can attract talent, diversify their economies, and enhance their global competitiveness. Accordingly; the proposed panel themed “Unleashing the Creative Orange Economy Potential” will address and highlight the role of free zones and creative orange entrepreneurs in embracing this growing sector which leverages creativity, innovation, cultural heritage, intellectual assets, diverse industries, social and economic impact, and digital transformation towards driving economic growth, investments and development in this crucial sector. This sector not only contributes significantly to GDP but also fosters social cohesion, cultural diversity, and sustainable development.

The panel will address a number of vital topics/questions as;

What are the defining features of the orange economy, and how can free zones and creative orange entrepreneurs collaborate to harness its potential?

- How can the integration of creative orange industries into free zones diversify economic activities and reduce reliance on traditional sectors?
- How can free zones serve as innovation hubs where creative orange industries can thrive?
- How can creative orange entrepreneurs leverage high-value creative products to drive revenue, profitability and increase foreign direct investment within free zones?
- What strategies can free zones and entrepreneurs use to attract and retain creative talent and innovators?
- How can knowledge sharing and integration among creative professionals and entrepreneurs within free zones drive innovation, competitiveness and access to global markets?

Speakers

Moderator: Dr. Hashim S. Hussein, Head UNIDO ITPO Bahrain

Mr. Felipe Buitrago, Public Policy, Strategy & Management; former Ambassador, former Minister of Culture, Colombia

Tamara Hostal, Creative Orange Economy Entrepreneur - Founder and CEO of ESMOD, UAE.

Ms. Sonya Janahi, Creative Entrepreneur Founder & CEO, SJ Investments, Maya La Chocolaterie / Board Member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bahrain

Mr. Rasmus Wiinstedt Tscherning, Founder and Managing Director Creative Business Network, Denmark

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Day 1

Monday, September 23rd 2024

08:30 - 09:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00 - 09:10	OPENING AND WELCOME <i>H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Chairman, World FZO, UAE, Dr. Samir Hamrouni, CEO, World FZO, UAE</i>	Johara
09:15 - 09:30	INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERABLES <i>Dr. Mohan Guruswamy, Chief Knowledge Officer, World FZO, UAE</i>	Johara
09:30 - 09:50	FZS: EVOLUTION, CURRENT TRENDS AND PROSPECTS <i>Martin Ibarra, President Araujo Ibarra, Colombia</i>	Johara
09:50 - 10:10	DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK TO ATTRACT NEW GENERATIONS <i>Jochen Knecht, CEO, IFZA, UAE</i>	Johara
10:10 - 10:30	ADAPTING TO GLOBAL TRADE SHIFTS: STRATEGIES FOR SEZs AND BUSINESSES <i>Karim Refaat, Chairman, The N Gage Group, Egypt</i>	Johara
10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK - NETWORKING	Networking Area
11:00 - 11:20	FROM SMART CITIES TO SMART ZONES <i>Corey Gray, Chair, Smart Cities Council, USA</i>	Johara
11:20 - 11:40	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF ZONES <i>Dr. Akram Noor, Chief Business & Digital Transformation, ECSZA, KSA</i>	Johara
11:40 - 12:00	NAVIGATING STAKEHOLDER CHALLENGES IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD <i>Dr. Adil Zarooni, CEO, AlZarooni Emirates Investments, UAE</i>	Johara
12:00 - 12:40	PANEL DISCUSSION: UNLOCKING THE POWER OF TACIT KNOWLEDGE <i>Dr. Mohan Guruswamy, Chief Knowledge Officer, World FZO (Moderator), UAE Dr. Akram Noor, Chief Business & Digital Transformation, ECSZA, KSA Dr. Adil Zarooni, CEO, AlZarooni Emirates Investments, UAE Corey Gray, Chair, Smart Cities Council, USA</i>	Johara
12:40 - 13:40	LUNCH	Networking Area
13:40 - 14:00	DESIGNING A PROMOTION STRATEGY <i>Scott Wang, Vice President - Asia Pacific, World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), USA</i>	Johara
14:00 - 14:20	DEVELOPING A GLOBAL PORTFOLIO OF ECONOMIC ZONES <i>Simon Sonoo, Senior Vice President, Economic Zones at DP World</i>	Johara
14:20 - 14:40	FDI TRENDS <i>Dr. Henry Loewendahl, CEO Wavteq and Senior Advisor to fDi Intelligence, United Kingdom</i>	Johara
14:40 - 15:10	COFFEE BREAK - NETWORKING	Networking Area
15:10 - 15:50	PANEL DISCUSSION: FZS: MAJOR CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD <i>Dr. Mohan Guruswamy (Moderator) Srikanth Badiga, Group Director, Phoenix Group, India Kell-Down Hamilton, CEO - Interim, Jamaica Special Economic Zone Authority, Jamaica Preston Mendenhall, Group COO, Rendevour, RENDEAVOUR, Kenya Dragan Kostic, Chairman, Chamber of Economy Piro, Serbia</i>	Johara
15:50 - 16:20	WORLD FZO PRESENTATION <i>Eng. Husam Abdallah, Chief of Strategy & Business Development, World FZO</i>	Johara
16:20 - 16:30	CLOSING REMARKS <i>Dr. Samir Hamrouni, CEO, World FZO Dr. Mohan Guruswamy, World FZO</i>	Johara

A JOURNEY OF
IMPACT, INFLUENCE AND TRUST

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Day 1

Monday, September 23rd 2024

PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING

09:30 - 12:00	<p><i>Dr. Henry Loewendahl (Moderator), CEO Wörtec and Senior Advisor to fDi Intelligence, United Kingdom</i> <i>Srikanth Badiga, Director, Phoenix Group, India</i> <i>Cesare Zingone, CEO, Zeta Holding, Costa Rica</i> <i>Emeka Ene, CEO, Oildata Energy Group, Nigeria</i> <i>Eimantas Kiudulas, Director and Board member, Klaipeda SEZ, Lithuania</i> <i>Santiago Rojas Arroyo, Regional Director, Development Bank of Latin America & the Caribbean (CAF), Peru</i> <i>Dr. Holger Bingmann, Vice President, ICC Global, France</i> <i>Simon Sonoo, VP SEZ, DP World, United Arab Emirates</i> <i>Yusuf Kilinc, Chairman SEBKIDER & DG Egean F.Z Türkiye</i> <i>Holger Schlechter, Chief Financial Officer, IFZA, UAE</i></p>	<p>Majlis Al Salam Ballroom Mina Al Salam</p>
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MINISTERIAL MEETING

15:30 - 16:00	<p><i>Moderator:</i> <i>James Zhan, Chief Advisor Chairman World FZO, UAE</i></p> <p><i>Keynote speakers</i> <i>Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE</i> <i>H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA, Ghana</i> <i>Martin Pedersen, Chairman, IFZA</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Karim Refaat, Chairman, The N Gage Group, Egypt</i> <i>Martin Ibarra, President, Araujo Ibarra, Colombia</i></p>	<p>Majlis Al Salam Ballroom Mina Al Salam</p>
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BRICS MEETING

16:30 - 18:00	<p><i>Martin Ibarra (Moderator), Senior Advisor, World FZO Board of Directors, UAE</i> <i>Rashid Ahmed AlTunaji, Director, international business development & Trade promotion department, Ministry of Economy, UAE</i> <i>Michael Labudin, Director of the Association of Clusters, Technoparks and SEZs, Russia</i> <i>Srikanth Badiga, Chairman EPCEs, India</i> <i>Lisandro Ganuza, Director World FZO South America, Argentina</i></p>	<p>Majlis Al Salam Ballroom Mina Al Salam</p>
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A JOURNEY OF
IMPACT, INFLUENCE AND TRUST

WORLD CONGRESS PROGRAM

Day 1

Monday, September 23rd 2024

18:00 - 20:00	WELCOME RECEPTION	Exhibition Area
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Day 2

Tuesday, September 24th 2024

08:45 - 9:00	WELCOME SPEECH <i>Dr. Samir Hamrouni, CEO World Free Zones Organization</i>	Arena
09:00 - 09:10	DUBAI CHAMBER <i>H.E. Mohammad Lootah, President & CEO of Dubai Chambers</i>	Arena
09:10 - 10:15	FUTURE OF LOGISTICS <i>John Deferios (Moderator), Former Emerging Markets Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom Radu Dinescu, President, IRU, Switzerland Dr. Holger Bingmann, Vice President, ICC Global, France Hanan AlKhozaimi, Director of Competitiveness and Quality Marine, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE</i>	Arena
10:15 - 10:45	NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK	Exhibition Area
10:45 - 12:15	OFFICIAL OPENING <i>H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri, Cabinet Member & Minister of Economy H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Chairman of World Free Zones Organization, UAE Martin G. Pedersen, Chairman, IFZA, UAE Jim Hagemann Snabe, Chairman, Siemens and member of WEF Board of Trustees, Denmark H.E. Gerhard Schröder, Former Chancellor, Germany</i>	Arena
12:15 - 13:15	LUNCH	Networking Area
13:15 - 13:25	DIFC PRESENTATION <i>Ahya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer, DIFC, UAE</i>	Arena
13:25 - 14:25	FUTURE OF ACCESS TO FINANCE <i>Anjani Trivedi (Moderator), Global Business Correspondent, The Economist, United Kingdom Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, BADEA, KSA Santiago Rojas Arroyo, Regional Director, Development Bank of Latin America & the Caribbean (CAF) Colombia Prof. Chi FuLin, President, China Institute for Reform and Development, China Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director, CEO, WAIPA, Switzerland</i>	Arena
14:25 - 15:35	FUTURE OF ENERGY <i>John Deferios (Moderator), Former Emerging Markets Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom Joseph McMonigle, Secretary General, International Energy Forum, KSA Eng. Nawal Yousif Alhanace, Director of Future Energy Department, Ministry of Energy, UAE Dr. Hasan Shafiq, Partner EY Parthenon, UAE Corey Gray, President, SCC, Australia</i>	Arena
15:35 - 16:00	NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK	Exhibition Area
16:00 - 18:00	WORLD FZO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (CLOSED SESSION)	
16:00 - 16:50	BREAKOUT ONE – UNCTAD GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRACTURING & SHIFTING INVESTMENT PATTERNS	Johara
	BREAKOUT TWO – UNWTO TOURISM FREE ZONES: A REAL ALTERNATIVE FOR BOOST THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS	Murjan
	BREAKOUT THREE - WCO CUSTOMS INVOLVEMENT AND CONTROL IN FZS	Johara
16:55 - 17:50	BREAKOUT FOUR – WAIPA & UNIDO INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND FACILITATION IN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC (ACP) REGION	Murjan
	BREAKOUT FIVE – IRU TRADE AND TRANSIT FACILITATION: HOW THE GLOBAL TIR SYSTEM ENHANCES SECURITY AND REDUCES TRANSIT TIME, COSTS & CO ₂ EMISSIONS	Johara
17:55 - 18:45	BREAKOUT SIX – FDI INTELLIGENCE POWERING THE AI REVOLUTION: SEZS BECOME DATA CENTRES HOTSPOTS	Murjan
	GALA DINNER	Arena

WORLD CONGRESS PROGRAM

Day 3

Wednesday, September 25th 2024

08:00 - 08:15	WELCOME REMARKS	Arena
08:15 - 08:30	RENDEAVOUR KENYA PRESENTATION <i>Solomon Mahinda, Executive Vice President, Tatu City SEZ & Founding Vice Chairman of ASEZ, Kenya</i>	Arena
08:30 - 09:45	FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING <i>John Deferios (Moderator), Former Emerging Markets, Editor/Anchor, CNN, United Kingdom</i> <i>Badr Al Olama, Director General, ADIO, UAE</i> <i>Cesare Zingone, CEO, Member of the Board of Directors, World FZO, UAE</i> <i>Steven Spence Marshall, Former Premier of South Australia, Australia</i> <i>Andrea Céspedes Marín, Director Special Regimes, Procomer, Costa Rica</i>	Arena
09:45 - 10:00	NETWORKING AND COFFEE BREAK	Arena
10:00 - 10:15	PRESENTATION <i>Dr. Manuel Francisco Pedro, Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Luanda-Bengo SEZ, Angola</i>	Arena
10:15 - 11:30	FUTURE OF DIGITAL <i>Courtney Fingar (Moderator), Founder & Principal Fingar Direct Investment, United Kingdom</i> <i>Dr. Jan Michael Mrosik, Former CEO, Knorr-Bremse, Siemens Digital Factory, Siemens Energy Management, Germany</i> <i>Hazem Galal, Senior Partner, PwC, UAE</i> <i>Dr. Akram Nour, Chief of Digital Transformation, ECSZA, KSA</i> <i>Richard Bohwijn, Director of investment research, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland</i>	Arena
11:30 - 12:30	BREAKOUT SEVEN – UNIDO/IPTO UNLEASHING THE CREATIVE ORANGE ECONOMY POTENTIAL THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREATIVE FREE ZONES	Arena
12:30 - 13:00	CLOSING REMARKS <i>H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, Chairman, World Free Zones Organization</i>	Arena
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH	Networking Area
14:00 - 16:00	WORLD FZO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Arena

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