

Annual Investment Meeting kicks off on April 9, as global FDI flow to developing economies grow 2% to \$653 bn in 2017

UAE attracts US\$10.3 bn FDI in 2017

Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) taking place at DWTC from April 9-11, 2018, will host a Head of State, 40 ministers, thousands of business leaders from 140 countries

Press Release

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1. Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached US\$1.52 trillion in 2017, according to UNCTAD report
2. FDI flow in to the UAE reaches \$10.3 billion in 2017, up from US\$9.6 billion in 2016, according to the UAE Competitiveness and Statistics Authority
3. More than 40 Ministers, One Head of State, more than 100 heads of investment organisations, 90 speakers are part of more than 1,000 delegates to participate at the three-day conference, exhibition, workshops, etc
4. More than 50 Country Pavilions and 100 Investment Promotion Agencies will offer investment opportunities to a large pool of investors
5. Annual Investment Meeting taking place at the DWTC from April 9-11 will address obstacles to accelerate FDI inflow

Global investment is seeing a bumpy recovery as worldwide foreign direct investment (FDI) flows reach \$1.52 trillion in 2017, according to the World Investment Report published by the United Nations Council on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). FDI to developing economies remained stable, at an estimated \$653 billion, 2 percent more than the previous year.

However, a number of issues relating to FDI, obstacles to investment and development, will be addressed at a three-day mega global event, Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) that takes place at the Dubai World Trade Centre, from April 9-11, 2018.

More than 20,000 investors, financial institutions, institutional investors, delegates, government officials and participants will participate at a series of events – exhibition, conference, country presentations,

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investors hub, investment awards and capacity-building workshops – to help attract investment in specific economic sectors and free zones or special economic zones.

A Head of State, Governments, more than 40 Government Ministers and State Ministers will join a prestigious line-up of business leaders from 140 participating countries including more than 50 Country Pavilions and more than 100 Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) at the AIM, where countries will promote their investment climate and ease in doing business to attract investment.

These government leaders and their IPAs will appeal to the institutional and private investor groups to secure as much FDI as possible from a global pool of trillions of dollars' worth of investment through a series of country presentations and investor match-making meetings.

AIM will be spread across 8,000 square metres of net exhibition space in which participants from 140 countries will promote their investment projects, opportunities, services and attractions.

AIM includes 3-day series of conferences with world-renowned speakers from private and public institutions including high-level officials from the UAE, Russia, China, Georgia, Indonesia, Nigeria, Tatarstan, Portugal, and many more.

The conference will focus on: Driving sustainable development through FDI; Investment in the Fourth Industrial Revolution; How technology is changing the future of productivity and growth; Public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects, Sovereign Wealth and Private Equity Funds and their role in investment, etc.

AIM will host a full-day workshop series that will tackle Emerging technologies and opportunities for investment promotion agencies; How to develop successful city regional economies; The role of chambers of commerce in achieving SDGs and the role of marketing and communications in investment promotion.

Speakers from the most reputable private companies such as Mubadala, Lulu Group, and the Kanoo Group will also be sharing their knowledge on foreign direct investment.

More than 1000+ high officials including 1 Head of State, more than 30 Ministers and State Ministers, and more than 30 Head of International Organisations, Government Organisations, Sovereign Wealth Funds, Chambers, Investment Promotion Agencies will be networking with potential investors and financial institutions to boost investment inflow into their countries to develop industries, businesses and help create employment.

AIM will host large investors including Emaar, Etisalat, Al Majdouie Investment, Jumeirah Group, Dubai Investments, Loukil Holding, Lulu Group, Sharjah Asset Management, Mubadala Investment, and many more.

New investment projects will be launched for the first time through an array of activities including Country Presentations, Exhibition, Investors' Hub, G2G, G2B, and B2B Networking Features, and AIM Startup Innovation Showcase and Startup Competition.

AIM will host more than 40 Country Pavilions and 18 Country Presentations/Investment Destinations will also be promoting investment opportunities in their locations including UAE, China, Georgia, Italy, India, South Korea, Egypt, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Jordan, Botswana, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

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Top focused sectors are Agribusiness and Agriculture, Energy and Mining, Finance and Banking, Infrastructure and Logistics, IT and Telecommunications, Manufacturing, Real Estate & Property, Tourism & Hospitality, and Trade & Industry.

The FDI inflow in to the UAE reached US\$10.3 billion (Dh37.8 billion) in 2017, according to the UAE Competitiveness and Statistics Authority up from US\$9.6 billion (Dh35.23 billion) recorded in 2016. This takes the total FDI stock of the country to US\$128.94 billion in 2017.

Dawood Al Shezawi, the CEO of AIM, said “The UAE’s FDI inflow is a living testimony of how liberal approach and an ease in doing business is helping the UAE attract more investment. The UAE’s FDI stock now exceeds US\$128.85 billion, which is significant and puts the UAE ahead of most countries in the Middle East.

“Additionally, in the real estate sector, Dubai Land Department’s sound regulation that ensures maximum investment protection through escrow account has helped the emirate attract Dh107 billion (US\$29.15 billion) investment in 2017 by 39,480 investors through 52,958 transactions – more than 65 percent of which was carried out by foreign investors.

“Besides, the country’s 45 free zones collectively create a large gateway for trade and investment. In 2017, the UAE’s free zones handled Dh225.5 billion (\$61.39 billion) worth of exports, a growth of 6.6 percent from the previous year, according to the UAE Central Bank.

“The forthcoming Annual Investment Meeting will focus on accelerating FDI flows across the world and explore new ways to boost investment and trade.”

A recent report by Bank Santander, says, the new Commercial Companies Law and a liberal investment regime are some of the main drivers of FDI into the country.

“All seven Emirates have adopted measures to create a more favourable environment for foreign investors. Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi have very flexible rules concerning the acquisition of real estate property by foreigners. The Government of the UAE has also recently passed a new Companies Law. There are currently 18 draft laws that are intended to address a range of issues that are regarded as hampering foreign investment in the UAE.

“These laws notably cover insolvency and arbitration laws, as well as a draft foreign investment law. There has also been talk about removing the obligation that 51 percent of company capital to be held by an Emirati national, as well as about the opening of the banking and insurance sectors.”

The eighth edition of the AIM is all set to be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from April 9-11, 2018, will produce an outstanding investment conference with top-notch global experts, renowned academics and experienced consultants to update AIM audiences with contemporary investment trends in an ever-changing domain of FDI.

UAE Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign Direct Investment	2014	2015	2016	2017
FDI Inward Flow (US\$ bn)	10.82	8.79	9.6	10.3
FDI Stock (US\$ bn)	100.16	108.95	118.55	128.85
Number of Greenfield Investments	334	336	301	

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FDI Inwards (in % of GFCF)	11.8	9.1	9.1	
FDI Stock (in % of GDP)	24.9	29.4	31.8	

Editor's Note:

About Annual Investment Meeting (AIM)

Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) is the world's leading platform for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), aimed at facilitating strategic networking and promoting investments. It is the largest gathering of the international investment community, policy makers, business leaders, regional and international investors, entrepreneurs, leading academics and experts showcasing up-to-date information and strategies on attracting FDI.

It convenes key decision-makers from around the world, bringing together businesses and countries willing to engage in **sustainable partnerships with investors**. It offers a variety of features aimed at facilitating **strategic networking** and **promoting investments** while providing a worthwhile learning experience.

The eighth edition of the Annual Investment Meeting will be held on 9 - 11 April 2018 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The theme is '**Linking Developed and Emerging Markets through FDI: Partnerships for Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Development**'. In a span of three days, an array of activities are staged including a Conference, Exhibition, Capacity Building Workshops, Country Presentations, Investors' Hub, Gala Dinner, Investment Awards, various G2G, G2B and B2B Networking Features, AIM Start-up Innovation Showcase and Pitch Competition.

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