



On this special occasion, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers for the launch of “The GCC Perspectives Magazine.” This groundbreaking publication is a testament to the dynamism and proactive contributions of the region’s business leaders towards achieving our common goal of securing long-term economic stability in the GCC.

I am particularly pleased with this new venture and all other successful programs initiated by FGCCC. I believe that private sector initiatives such as this help increase the impact of the development programs of the UAE and other GCC governments and open new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

In line with this, the UAE implemented a key measure that I believe has led to better cooperation between the public and private sectors. The UAE Government Strategy was launched last year as part of a long-term plan to ensure the socioeconomic sustainability of the UAE. The primary goal of the UAE Government Strategy is to raise the quality of services across all levels of the government. As such, I personally feel that the UAE Government Strategy will have a significant impact on public and private sector cooperation, as by focusing on quality and excellence, the UAE government will gain greater leverage to maximize the business value of its strategic relations with the private sector.

Foreword

Her Excellency, Sheikha Lubna Bint Khalid AL Qasimi,
Minister of Foreign Trade - United Arab Emirates



I would also like to point out that cultivating a strong, independent and forward-thinking private sector organization such as the FGCCC will always remain an important government policy, as it helps strengthen the reputation of the UAE and the entire GCC as business-friendly and secure investment destinations. In this context, I am pleased to announce that foreign direct investments in the UAE have steadily increased over the last years.

In addition, trade volume has achieved dramatic growth rates over the past few years. From our trading partners in the European Union, for instance, total trade exchange grew by 42 per cent in 2008, sustaining a growth trend during the period 2005-2008. Total exports, on the other hand, were up 66 per cent, while imports rose by 40 per cent.

Indeed, with the private sector serving as our ambassador of goodwill – bringing our message of cooperation, prosperity and economic stability to all corners of the world – a great number of investors have been encouraged to take advantage of the excellent business opportunities in the UAE.

I would like to congratulate the FGCCC once again for the launch of this excellent business resource material. Be assured that the government will continue to be highly supportive of all your projects and initiatives that promote and encourage economic growth in the region.

Her Excellency, Sheikha Lubna Bint Khalid AL Qasimi,
Minister of Foreign Trade - United Arab Emirates