

Meeting Details:

Topic: **BusinessConnect Roundtable**

Purpose: Expo 2020 Dubai launched BusinessConnect, a series of workshops to engage the business community and discuss the opportunities available to them as a result of hosting Expo 2020. The inaugural BusinessConnect workshop was opened by Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimi, UAE Minister of State, Board Representative of the Expo 2020 Dubai Higher Committee, and Director General of the Bureau Dubai Expo 2020.

Date: 01/09/2015 | 09:00 – 11:30

Venue: Atlantis The Palm, Silk Ballroom

Attendees:

- H.E. Reem Al Hashimi – UAE Minister of State, Director General of Bureau Dubai Expo 2020
- JUDr. Pavel Foubi – President, Czech Business Council
- Ondrej Soska – Vice President, Czech Business Council
- Representatives of various national business councils in Dubai

Minutes of Meeting:

#	Description
1	<p><u>General Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EXPO 2020 is considered not only a presentation of Dubai, but the whole UAE. All 7 Emirates will participate. The main structure will be formed of 7 branches referring to the 7 Emirates of the UAE. ▪ Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimi pointed out: “...EXPO 2020 will be a phenomenal event...” ▪ EXPO is considered as one of the top world event after Olympics and World Cup and was never hosted by such a small country as the UAE. It is not easy to attract the international visitors – they normally make only 20-30% of the all EXPO visitors. UAE is planning to attract minimum 25 million visitors to visit EXPO 2020, 75% of which should be international. ▪ EXPO representatives are ready to join the Business Council meeting in order to support the initiatives. ▪ National pavilions to follow the guidelines of the EXPO 2020, which will be introduced shortly. ▪ EXPO 2020 will be the first in the Middle East & Africa since 1831
2	<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversity is the key – visitors, partners, countries ▪ Expo 2020 Bureau has already launched a eSourcing portal – on-line procurement system related to the EXPO2020. The organizers are looking for the best of the best, does not matter from which country it will come. All tenders will be released through this portal. ▪ The Bureau is claiming that there won't be any preferred suppliers. Both local and international businesses are welcome. ▪ The Bureau will organize number of workshops and round table discussions focused on specific subject. They will share the working calendars with the Business Councils through the Dubai Chamber. ▪ For the first time ever, every country will have its own pavilion (incl. the smallest countries). UAE will support the developing countries financially and technically. ▪ Dubai has just announced new master development “Dubai South”, which will include the site of EXPO. The pavilions will become part of the development after the EXPO. ▪ UAE is currently considering introduction of special EXPO visa to facilitate the people coming the the UAE for EXPO.

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3	<p>Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EXPO 2020 will start on 20/10/2020 and will last for 6 months▪ Dubai to receive the official flag for the host city in November 2015. Until this moment Milan is the EXPO host city and the UAE cannot talk officially to other governments.▪ The construction site is already opened and leveling works have started already.▪ Majority of the construction will start in 2016 and continue in 2017.▪ The construction of the local pavilions will start minimum 18 months before the start of the event (April 2018).

Created by: Ondrej Soska / VP CBC

Checked by: Pavel Foubik / President CBC

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