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Dubai wins bid to host World Real Estate Congress in 2018

Dubai Business Events and Dubai Real Estate Institute partner to deliver successful bid for annual Congress that will bring world's real estate industry leaders to Dubai

Dubai, UAE: 18 June 2016 – Dubai Business Events (DBE), the city's official convention bureau and a division of Dubai Tourism, in partnership with the Dubai Real Estate Institute (DREI), the education arm of the Dubai Land Department (DLD), today announced that the Emirate will host the 69th World Real Estate Congress in 2018. The annual event organised by the International Real Estate Federation, FIABCI, will make its debut in the Middle East and is expected to attract more than 1,000 real estate professionals from over 60 nations to explore the 'Future of Cities'.

Jointly led by DBE and DREI, and supported by host venue Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, among other local industry partners, the successful bid to host another influential world congress underpins Dubai's strong international reputation as a vibrant and diverse destination for business events. The announcement also boosts the city's growth as a leading global hub for investment, and contributes towards its maturing real estate market that strives on innovative developments and a healthy regulatory environment.

The win marks another milestone for DBE in bidding for and bringing leading business events to the Emirate, acting as platforms for the exchange of ideas, information and expertise, which is helping transform the city into a global knowledge hub. Having grown into the world's most cosmopolitan city, and currently implementing one of the most promising smart city agendas in the world, Dubai offers a unique perspective on the ability to effectively drive economic growth and embrace a higher quality of life through smart and efficient initiatives – a pressing need in today's rapidly urbanising world.

Issam Kazim, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, said: "Dubai being chosen to host the prestigious World Real Estate Congress, and as the first Middle East country to do so, is testament to the city's ambition both as a dynamic real estate market as well as an established destination for staging high-profile conferences. Our successful bid reflects the country's acclaimed top ranking as a global investment haven and the emirate's strengths in attracting and hosting international business events of the highest calibre.

He continued: "This success again demonstrates the strong collaboration with our local partners – first and foremost the Dubai Real Estate Institute – to deliver a competitive and attractive bid

that showcased the holistic leisure and business offering in Dubai. We look forward to welcoming the real estate world to Dubai in 2018.”

Director General of Dubai Land Department, HE Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, said: “Winning this acclaimed event is a testament to the significant strides taken by the Dubai real estate market in recent years, in addition to the continuous efforts made by the government to promote and build a strong commercial environment with the express intention of projecting a prosperous and welcoming image to visitors and investors from overseas. The fact that the Emirate has been chosen as the first city in the Middle East to host this event demonstrates how Dubai has emerged as the pre-eminent real estate hub for the region.

“This World Real Estate Congress 2018 will strengthen Dubai’s economy through attracting business and leisure visitors, and inward investment into the emirate not only from the region, but from across the world, further building towards a continued maturation of the Dubai property market. Today’s announcement also bolsters the Dubai Plan 2021, which aims to build a smart and sustainable city with strong infrastructure capable of supporting economic and social life and contributing to the Emirate’s future growth.”

The FIABCI World Real Estate Congress connects real estate professionals from around the world to discuss themes and trends that are driving the real estate market. It also provides a unique platform for sharing best practices in addressing evolving needs, sharing information and conducting international business. Delegates and FIABCI members represent all industry sectors, including commercial, residential, luxury, retail and industrial.

This year’s World Real Estate Congress was held in Panama City, Panama from 21-26 May under the theme ‘Connecting Development for a Better World,’ which focused on topics including affordable housing, real estate opportunities through globalisation, smart cities and international property ethics.

FIABCI has been working closely with the United Nations since 1954 and is considered to be the only International Real Estate Association to hold NGO special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Dubai Business Events – the Official Convention Bureau

Dubai Business Events (DBE) – the Official Convention Bureau, aims to further develop and increase Dubai's share of the international business events market in order to grow economic development, jobs and knowledge creation in the emirate. DBE’s main goal, as a division of Dubai Tourism, is to establish the Emirate as a premier business event destination by helping organizers of international meetings, incentives, congresses and exhibitions plan and manage every aspect of their event. DBE's service standards are audited by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance as part of DBE's membership of BestCities Global Alliance that aim to deliver the world's best service experience for the meeting industry.

About Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism)

With the ultimate vision of positioning Dubai as the world's leading tourism destination and commercial hub, Dubai Tourism's mission is to increase the awareness of Dubai among global audiences and to attract tourists and inward investment into the emirate.

Dubai Tourism is the principal authority for the planning, supervision, development and marketing of Dubai's tourism sector. It markets and promotes the Emirate's commerce sector, and is responsible for the licensing and classification of all tourism services, including hotels, tour operators and travel agents. Brands and departments within the Dubai Tourism portfolio include Dubai Convention and Events Bureau, Dubai Calendar, and Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (formerly known as Dubai Events and Promotions Establishment). In addition to its headquarters in Dubai, Dubai Tourism operates 20 offices worldwide.