



وزارة الخارجية
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Report
On the Occasion of the UAE's 44th National Day

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The UAE's foreign policy has become a dynamic, effective and successful example thanks to the wise vision of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE built a wide network of strategic relationships and partnerships countries around the world. These relationships have influenced the UAE's national economy, strengthening its presence and position on both regional and international levels.

Since its establishment in the early 1970s, The UAE has pursued a foreign policy based on number of well-established principles, including mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful settlement of disputes, promotion of peace, stability, and security in the regional and international arenas as set forward by the founding father late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. In addition to establishing the principles of dialogue and coexistence between different civilizations, cultures, religions and peoples based on violent tolerance and openness, refraining from confrontation, extremism, intolerance, and tendencies. As well as taking care of the humanitarian dimension providing support and assistance to the people in need, particularly during and after crises, disasters and wars.

The UAE recognizes that the challenges arising through the region and the world are partly due to the absence of the culture of coexistence, the spread of extremism and violence. Therefore, the UAE calls, in various regional and international fora, for the need to develop strategies for enhancing constructive dialogue between cultures, respecting beliefs and religions and spreading the culture of peace in order to challenge the attempts to distort the values of religions and provoke religious hatred.

The UAE supports all regional and international efforts to achieve security and strengthen peace and stability in the region and the world. Hence, the UAE's vital role in this regard is highly commended and appreciated by countries all over the world. The UAE is seen both regionally and globally as an example in promoting values of harmony and coexistence between different cultures and civilizations.

The Development Aid is an integral part of the UAE foreign policy in its relation with other countries. The UAE's aid extends to various regions throughout the world and covers all countries in urgent need of support, whether by providing support to encounter poverty, epidemics or giving aid during natural disasters or facing the scourge of political disputes and armed conflicts

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since its establishment, has represented Emirati society and has been its window to the outside world, where through the UAE leadership views and visions are disseminated, seeking to emphasise the importance of brotherliness between human beings and always calling for the relieving of the suffering of people, regardless of their origin or religion, emphasising the importance of cementing the values of global peace and resolving conflicts peacefully and through dialogue.

Through its various embassies, departments and mission worldwide, and via its ambassadors, representatives, and diplomats, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as a link between the UAE wise leadership, and people around the world. The Ministry is working towards strengthening the friendship and cooperation relationships between the UAE and other countries at various levels of political, economic and cultural fields. MoFA adopts the principles of its leadership which aim to preserve mankind raise its intellectual, ideological and cultural standards, developing the concepts of human evolution and civilization. In addition to supporting the factors of economic and cultural development and renaissance, laying the foundations of peace and brotherhood in the world. These principles would infuse UAE nationals with great respect and appreciation wherever they go outside the UAE, and add brighter signs to the image of the UAE on both regional and international arenas.

On February 10th , 2015, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed that the United Arab Emirates progress and openness to the world is stemming from its Arab and Islamic identity. HH stressed that despite the UAE's small size, yet it has a large impact on the course of world development. The UAE was only a desert in the past, but today it is germinating many good things, it is occupied with high buildings, renaissance and modern landmarks.

In his speech on the second day of the 2015 government summit held in Dubai, titled "We the Emirates", and covering all aspects of modern progress in various fields of the UAE, HH also reiterated that "the UAE citizen is a peaceful and descent person. This in fact has enabled the UAE to make friendships with various nations in the world". HH noted that the UAE's current diplomatic relations extend to more than 187 countries around the world. HH also noted that anyone who comes to live and work in the UAE would enrich his experiences through interacting with UAE people, in the same token the UAE people will also enrich their experience through interacting with him and benefit from his experience.

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, also stressed that the UAE, through its good relations with various countries, have succeeded in building an integrated system for a brighter and better future. HH stressed that based on the positive foreign policy of the UAE, and building bridges of cooperation between the UAE people and various nations have contributed to strengthening the UAE's ability to attract the best people from around the globe. HH pointed to the distinctive attendance of a large number of world leaders in the government summit.

Concerning the prominent role of UAE diplomatic missions abroad, His Highness said, "I should, in this concern, acknowledge that the UAE has successfully established a solid diplomatic relations based on mutual respect with countries. Today the number of our diplomatic missions has reached 105 mission around the world, playing a key role in fostering the cooperation and coordination between the UAE, friendly and brotherly countries, building solid economic,

political and cultural business relationships. These missions with their national cadres are the one who hold the UAE story to the entire world"

In the speech delivered by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, last October at the general debate of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Highness said: "the UAE warned that the risks and threats posed by terrorist organizations, particularly "Daesh" and other groups linked to al-Qaeda, has no certain geographical boundaries, but extends beyond the whole region and pose a threat to other countries and communities."

He applauded the active participation of the UAE in the international community's efforts to help the affected countries to confront these dangers. He emphasized the UAE's commitment to cooperate and coordinate with regional and international partners to deal with extremism and terrorism. His Highness praised in this context, the role played by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif in confronting extremist ideology and renewing religious discourse. HH reiterated at the same time the principal position of the UAE in supporting the Arab Republic of Egypt, considering the achievements of its government within a short period of time as significant steps towards recovery of Egypt and recovery and stability of the entire region.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan explained the situation in Yemen, and expressed his satisfaction about the Yemeni legitimacy operation for restoring the control over Bab al-Mandab yesterday, considering this step as the starting point for ending the coup and the supporters in Yemen. HH reiterated the position of the United Arab Emirates of its continued quest with the international community to restore the political process according to the GCC initiative and its executive mechanisms. As well as its support to the Arab coalition in raising the capacity of the Yemeni people to restore stability in their country. HH expressed the UAE's commitment to support humanitarian efforts to meet the urgent needs of the Yemeni brotherly people.

With regard to Libya, HH expressed the UAE's concern about continued instability in Libya and stressed the need to lift the ban on the elected Libyan government to be able to fight the terrorist organizations and encounter transnational threats.

With regard to the Syrian crisis, HH called the UN Security Council to carry out its primary role in ensuring the political transition of powers, and urged the international community to continue providing humanitarian aid to Syrian people. HH stressed the continued commitment of the United Arab Emirates with its national and humanitarian position in supporting Syrian people and alleviating their sufferings.

HH also reiterated the UAE's solidarity with Iraq, both in its efforts to combat Daesh or in supporting the humanitarian programs. He encouraged the Government of Iraq to make comprehensive equitable and fair reforms accepted by all segments of Iraqi people.

In his speech before the General Assembly yesterday, HH reiterated the UAE's position on the Iranian occupation of the three UAE islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

Concerning the Palestinian cause, HH warned that the feelings of injustice and frustration has emerge due to the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine and its violation of human rights allowing extremist groups to exploit the serious humanitarian situation and communicate extremist ideas among young frustrated people.

Historic Agreement

On 6th May, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union signed, at the EU Council in Brussels, a bilateral agreement under which the UAE nationals are waived from "Schengen" Visa.

The UAE, is the first Arab country to be waived from the requirement of entry visas for the "Schengen" zone countries, where UAE nationals holding diplomatic, special, mission and regular passports can travel to 34 European countries, stay there for 6 months in each year, provided they shall stay for a period not exceeding 90 days per visit.

The agreement was signed by HE Sulaiman Al Mazroui, UAE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Head of UAE mission to the European Union on behalf of the UAE side and HE Ambassador Ailzay Johansson, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the European Union on behalf of the European side.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic missions in Europe have exerted great efforts and conducted complicated discussions over the past three years to obtain a resolution from the European Commission concerning waiver of the UAE nationals of the "Schengen" visa. The UAE achievements and gains due to its wide openness to the world, has resulted in establishing strong strategic political, economic, trade, and cultural partnerships, with most countries in different continents.

This historic achievement reflects the attitude of the world toward the UAE, and its foreign policy. This emphasizes beyond any reasonable doubt that the image is bright and UAE is respected admired and trusted worldwide. Four decades ago the UAE's foreign policy marked with wisdom and moderation, peaceful coexistence and tolerance. It has been built on well-established strategy ensuring UAE's enthusiasm to complying with the United Nations Charter and respecting international conventions, and laws, establishing relations with all countries based on mutual respect and mutual interests.

The resolution also stresses that the support by the leadership to the UAE's objectives towards empowering the UAE Nationals, providing the means for a decent life and well-being for him and his family not only to people within the UAE but also sought to achieve these values to the Nationals outside his country. The best evidence for such trend is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs keenness to exempt UAE nationals from the Schengen visa requirement for entering the Schengen zone countries as the first country to achieve this accomplishment in both Asia and Africa.

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs has offered deepest congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the UAE and to his brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai and to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and their fellow members of the Supreme Council, rulers of the Emirates, and to the people of the UAE on the occasion of European Parliament resolution on waiver of the UAE national from Schengen visa requirements.

He also asserted that this achievement is one of a series of frequent successes witnessed by the UAE in various sectors since founded by the builder of its modern renaissance, late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. It is an acknowledgment by the European Parliament of the positioning and successes achieved over the past years by the UAE, which has become a source of inspiration for many countries in the region.

His Highness also stressed that the resolution is a great achievement for the UAE diplomacy, which proved to be a model for outstanding performance characterized by its vitality and ability to move, influence, and plan integrated work, as well as the ability to achieve the supreme national objectives at within UAE and abroad. His Highness said, "This is not the first time that the UAE diplomatic prove its excellence, where it has played an important and influential role hosting the" World Energy Conference in 2019, by the United Arab Emirates, and Dubai to host Expo 2020, Abu Dhabi to host the headquarters of "International Renewable Energy Agency," "IRENA" in 2009.

HH stressed that this European Parliament Resolution did not come from nowhere or was easily achieved, but it is backed by a wise policy and leadership hard working to build its spotless image inside UAE and abroad. This image has become a title for wisdom, moderation, coexistence, peace and openness to everyone at the same time as symbol of achievement at the domestic level and focused efforts to provide UAE national with services. Therefore, the UAE has reached this progressive position, a model of development experience leading many to emulate and take it as example.

HH also asserted that the UAE is proving day after day that it is actually a homeland of happiness. The UAE nationals are entitled to feel proud with their wise leadership, which spares no effort in taking care of them, whether at home or anywhere else around the world. They should be very loyal to their country, which provides a decent life for their children, compatible with the highest international standards, and always put them on the top priorities of current and future development programs. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said the resolution involves several positive benefits to the UAE nationals as they would have the freedom to travel and mobility in the EU, it will also spare much time, effort and money and end the long procedures for obtaining an entry visa to these countries. The resolution also allows greater opportunities for our students in closely identifying the European universities and choose what suits them for their education.

HH noted that the UAE is keen to establish effective relationships with significant regional communities, particularly the European Union based on solid foundations. This comes in the framework of UAE's active foreign policy that aims to strengthening ties with various countries around the globe, which benefit the supreme national interests and enhance the UAE positioning and presence regionally and internationally.

In the context of strengthening the European - UAE relations, His Highness noted that the EU has opened its diplomatic mission in Abu Dhabi. The friendship group between the European Parliament and the UAE recently been launched. This clearly confirms the great European respect for the UAE and the wise policy of its leadership on the one hand, and ensures the keenness to build bridges of cooperation and coordination with EU in various fields on the other hand. In addition, this shows the appreciation of pioneer UAE development experience at both regional and global levels.

His Highness praised the good behavior of the UAE nationals in European countries where they were the best ambassadors for their country, reflecting how cultural and civilized standards the UAE has attained at various levels. HH noted that this has played a key role in the success of Schengen visa waiver for UAE Nationals project, praising the positive behavior by the UAE nationals and their good morality and respect for the rules and regulations of the host countries and their abidance by the values of tolerance and openness to the cultures and peoples.

His Highness praised the pivotal role of the Friends of the Emirates Group in the European Parliament, and ambassadors accredited to the EU Member States, specialists in MoFA and the UAE Mission in Brussels and all those who contributed to the success of this strategic task.

On 15 and 16 March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the 9th forum for the ambassadors and heads of UAE missions abroad at MoFA headquarters. The forum is held annually under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the presence of His Excellency Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and participation of the leaders of the ministry, ambassadors and heads of UAE representative missions abroad.

The forum dealt with major themes in the political and economic fields, i.e. energy, and public diplomacy in addition to reviewing a number of administrative and consular aspects and matters relating to UAE nationals abroad and development plans for visa offices in the UAE missions abroad.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai attended part of the ninth forum for ambassadors and heads of UAE missions abroad meeting and listened to a number of lecturers in the forum. The forum focused in this round on the issue of extremism and terrorism and ways to combat them, prevent, and fortify our society and people of this alien scourge. Fostering the principles of the true Islamic religion,

which rejects all forms, causes motives, mechanisms and ideology of extremism and terrorist groups disguising in Islam.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum welcomed the idea of the forum and praised HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and all employees for their constructive ideas, which serve the public policy of the UAE and support the cause of the UAE people and humanitarian issues in general. HH stressed that the ambassadors and UAE representatives abroad should be able to deliver the message of UAE leadership, government and people to the countries, governments and peoples of the world. The message content would be that we are a country of peace, coexistence and tolerant people reaching out and shaking hands with all peoples, cultures and nationalities, and only desire the goodness, stability and harmony for all peoples on earth.

HH added , "You, brethren, should take care of your citizens wherever they are, whether in brotherly or friendly countries, help them, whether they are students in classes, businessmen, investors or from patients who travel for treatment and even tourists whose security and safety is you responsible. You should follow-up on their news and conditions until they feel comfortable outside their home country. You should prove that you represent a leadership and government protecting the interests of their people and are keen on preserving the safety, happiness, and stability of its members wherever they are May God help you to serve your country and your people".

On 9th June, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the First Forum for Ambassadors and Heads of Representative Missions to the UAE in Africa, held in Kampala the Ugandan capital, at the presence of HE Reem Bint Ibrahim Al Hashimi, UAE Minister of State.

His Highness said, "These meetings between our ambassadors abroad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials enrich diplomatic ties through exchanging views and ideas, listening to the difficulties encountered by ambassadors and find solutions to these obstacles. The objective is to develop the diplomatic work as we aspire. HH added that" African is the most rapid continent in terms of population growth; it is able to accommodate various types of foreign investments. Due to our geographical proximity to Africa, this is an opportunity to benefit from this strategic links and activate them in several fields. "

HH pointed out that the UAE aims to increasing its diplomatic presence by opening new diplomatic missions in Africa in the future. HH also asserted the significant and influential role played by the ambassador in serving his country's interests. He is implementing the UAE policies and proposing initiatives and ideas that support the bilateral relations between the two countries. He is keen on paving the suitable ground for these relations, via signing important agreements such as avoidance of double taxation agreements, investment protection, air transport, and cultural cooperation etc. His Highness praised the significant role of the

ambassador and his distinguished relations in his workplace, building friendships with officials and looking for cooperation opportunities in order to promote and strengthen bilateral relations with Africa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the second session of "Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate" organized by the Emirates Policy Center in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Atlantic Council in the "Emirates Palace". The forum discussed a number of strategic issues and files, concerning the Arab region in general, the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf states in particular.

The ministry in cooperation with Dubai World, the global maritime operator of the ocean ports hosted a forum for exploring ways to promote trade with Cuba. The United Arab Emirates, with Cuba have, during this first investment forum of its kind, reviewed investment opportunities in the Cuban economy.

The ministry and the Global Green Growth Institute also organized a regional workshop for exchanging knowledge and promoting green growth in the Middle East and North Africa. They discussed green growth issues and share experiences on best practices concerning the development of environmentally sustainable economies through the transition to the concept of green growth. More than thirty experts, government officials, stakeholders, partners and key stakeholders from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have attended the workshop.

On 22nd September, the voting process was completed in 94 polling stations spreading over most of the UAE embassies and diplomatic missions deployed worldwide for the Federal National Council Elections of 2015 outside the UAE. The voting began in the electoral center of New Zealand and ended in the electoral center of Los Angeles.

His Excellency Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee for the election hailed the successful voting process in the UAE embassies and diplomatic missions abroad. His Excellency said, "Although it was the first experience of voting out of UAE, it has received a considerable attention. The participation by members of electoral bodies in different countries around the world was effective. They travelled for a long distances to cast their ballots in a great national scene confirming the unity of the UAE community and its commitment to participate in the elections, which is viewed as a national duty contributing to the persistent achievements of the UAE at all levels. "

Tawajudi "my presence" service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs honored winners of "Guess the country" competition, organized in cooperation with Etihad during the summer period on Instagram account of the service. The competition was conducted in the framework of strengthening the vital and constructive communication with UAE nationals, and encourage them to start registering in Tawajudi "my presence" Service. The service enables the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and its missions abroad to communicate with UAE nationals while travelling, or staying outside the UAE in order to ensure their security, safety and protect them from any obstacles they may encounter outside the UAE. The "Guess the country" competition was widely acceptance and responded to by followers of "my presence" Tawajudi serve official account on Twitter and Instagram the thing that contributed to increasing the awareness of the UAE nationals with the importance of this service and the need to register before travelling.

On 7th of September, the UAE embassies and representative missions abroad has flown the UAE flags at half-mast over their headquarters to mourn, the martyrs of duty and right, brave members of the armed forces, who died while performing their duties with the coalition forces in the "Restore of Hope" Operation led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen. The UAE missions abroad received condolences to the martyrs of duty and right, the mourners had come to offer condolences for the UAE martyrs.

On 26th of August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a report on the occasion of the UAE Women's Day, which comes on August 28 of annually. The ministry noted that the UAE has paid a great attention to the participation of women in the diplomatic corps, where the UAE has let the door wide open for appointment of Emirati women in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as diplomats. MoFA developed measures for them to succeed in carrying their family as well as professional responsibilities, and thereby enabling women to work in the political sphere.

UAE women joined the diplomatic corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, currently, there are four women ambassadors in Spain, Portugal, Montenegro and the UAE Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the Consul General in Milan. Moreover, women assume senior positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well the working in the diplomatic corps in the United Arab Emirates missions abroad.

Last August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued its awareness campaign targeting the UAE nationals wishing to travel or staying abroad, via the travel guidance advice. The campaign coincides with the summer holidays. This reflects the Ministry's keenness on keeping UAE nationals' safe and secure, facilitating their travel, accommodation wherever is their tourist destination is, provide them with support in case of any accidents or attacks against them while staying abroad.

On the 22nd of July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs began applying the second phase of employees health care program, which included provision of healthy alternative food lists. The program aims to encourage and support staff to pursue positive health habits and methods of proper nutrition program. MoFA is keen to provide the employees with best type of health care, hence, it launched the health care program in early last June. The program comes in the framework of the implementation of the national agenda of United Arab Emirates Government and in line with its Vision 2021. It also aims to adopting healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of certain chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

On 3rd June HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs launched the "health care program for staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" in the UAE and abroad. The program aims to provide the staff with highest health care standards and make a quantum leap in the field of public health.

HH also asserted, in a written letter to the staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "that this program comes within the framework of implementing the national agenda of the Government of United Arab Emirates, and in line with its 2021 Vision. The overall objective is to adopt a healthy lifestyle which could reduce the risk posed by certain chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, currently alarming the world."

He added, "As you are on the top of our priorities, and because we believe that you are the basic building block and the driving force in the development process, I am about to approve a health and fitness program in the ministry in cooperation with our strategic partners. The program aims to achieving some of the UAE strategic objectives in order to continue grappling its position within the global competitive system, as the happiest people in the world. This could be done through increasing health awareness among employees to follow the best health practices and prevent some harmful behaviors. "

HH expressed his confidence and conviction in the ministry staff that they will spare no effort in participating and cooperating with the initiative team to make it a success. They will direct their energies to achieve its objectives and work together towards our aspirations locally and globally. HH praised the role played by staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at In UAE and abroad. He appreciated their efforts, dedication and devotion in serving the UAE in its development march, where they are considered the cornerstone.

HH called on all department directors to encourage their employees to conduct the necessary tests in a timely manner.

On 14th of July, HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs received students pursuing the scholarship programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of a ceremony to honor winners of the Foreign Minister Excellence Award.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah expressed his happiness at meeting the students. He pointed out that the meeting was aimed at checking on the students' conditions and following up on their needs, expressing his hope to coordinate and communicate directly with them.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said the Foreign Ministry is keen to support, enable competent people, and help strengthen their efforts through the scholarship programme in order to make the UAE to be a beacon among nations.

He said the Ministry, in cooperation with the General Command of the Armed Forces, launched the scholarship programme with an aim to build a generation of diplomats who are skilled in

diverse and integrated disciplines, have the ability to understand the different and diverse cultures to communicate and have dialogue with them, thus allowing easy integration and dealings with such different peoples. The programme's objective is also to prepare ambitious and hard-working generations who have the ability to further develop and continuously improve. HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, requested the students to meet the expectations of UAE officials and always show high moral known about the UAE people and be more seriously in their studies and loyal to the good performance of their duties.

For their part, the students expressed their happiness at meeting H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, promising him that they will meet the expectations of the country's leadership in their education by reaching the highest academic certificate levels and will continue to participate in the march of progress.

The students expressed their appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for supporting and helping them continue their march of success.

In the ceremony for honoring the winners of first round of Minister of Foreign Affairs Excellence Award, held in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed that excellence has become a key feature of the UAE government and people. Thanks to the support and care provided by the UAE leadership and its tireless follow-up of everything that would elevate the Union's flag, stir vigor and hope in the hearts of the People of the UAE to achieve better progress, prosperity and stability.

HH also stressed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue spreading the culture of organizational excellence. He highlighted that the competition between various departments and individuals enhances the quality of work, realizes government performance standards, contributes to productivity, raise performance level, motivates employee to do their best, and creates a culture of distinction among staff members. He paid tribute to the distinguished winners whether they are individual participants, work teams, departments or missions for their good efforts, both in terms of either winning the award in various categories or participating

Last July, a batch of newly appointed diplomats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took the oath of office before HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry headquarters.

HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan stressed that the UAE under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, spared no effort to pave the ways for UAE nationals to obtain the state of the art technological items. Following the taking of oath of office ceremony HH welcomed the new 69 diplomats comprised of 44 males and 25 females, he congratulated them on this occasion expressing his happiness and pride at meeting them while joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also asserted, during his speech in the Oath Taking Ceremony, that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is keen to recruit qualified UAE nationals who are able to serve their country and represent it either abroad or in the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

HH urged the new diplomats to work, exert efforts, and shoulder their responsibility as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is deemed an interface for the UAE, wishing them success in their work, and urged them to always be up to the expectations of the leadership. HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan also called upon new diplomats to communicate with senior officials in the ministry or the relevant Directors to raise any issue or any problem they may encounter. H.H. also commended the families of the diplomats for their efforts in raising and educating their sons and daughters to enable them to attain academic and practical excellence

He also noted that it is important that all employees should have ambitions and interest in their work and be in agreement with the whole work team in order to create a favourable work environment and promote innovation.

For his part, the new diplomats expressed their happiness by joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressing that they will do their best in order to meet the expectations of His Highness. They will shoulder their responsibilities assigned to them and serve the UAE in international forums.

In the same month HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs' opened MoFA Diplomatic Club. The Club bears the name of martyr," Khalifa Al Mubarak, " UAE former Ambassador to Paris.

The Diplomatic Club is located in the southern side of the main premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the old site of Emirates Diplomatic Institute; the building was built in 1990, which is considered the oldest building in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, unveiled the plaque of the Diplomatic Club and toured the facilities with the attendees,. The club is built on a 2450 square meters area. The building consists of a ground floor containing reception galleries gyms for women and service offices for the Ministry. The first floor includes gyms for men and Arcades while the upper floor offers outdoor majlis.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan praised the support of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the follow-up by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the armed forces and their keenness to honor UAE nationals who have done a lot to this beloved country sacrificing their souls for the sake of the UAE. He pointed out that this generous motion to continue memorizing the prominent national figures is sincere and profound expression of loyalty to that generation who devoted his life in serving and developing the UAE. They were strong voices in international forums defending the interests and causes of their homeland.

His Highness said that the UAE is striving to uphold their citizens; even those who left us. The message of the UAE to them is clear that they are, with their sacrifices, are highly appreciated. HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan noted that the late Khalifa Al Mubarak carried the UAE's

message to the world during his different tenures and made commendable efforts in establishing strong ties with the countries to which he was posted.

For his part, HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, sons and other members of Khalifa Al Mubarak family expressed their appreciation for this generous gesture by the wise leadership and the keenness of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister Of Foreign Affairs naming the "Diplomatic Club" in the ministry after the late Khalifa Al Mubarak, noting that it is a good sign and a great showing what appreciation and gratitude of UAE leadership for its people.

They said that the Naming the building after the late Khalifa Al Mubarak is a clear message by the UAE that the country never forgets the citizens who served it with loyalty.

The building was renovated to serve as a recreational club for the staff that reflects the architectural identity of the main building. The Ministry of Public Works implemented the renovation works at a total cost of AED 10 million.

It worth noting that the building is renovated to serve as a recreational and social club with appropriate environment for the staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A contract for renovating the building was awarded to the Ministry of Public Works to reflect the architectural identity of the existing main building. The renovation works implemented at a total cost of AED 10 million.

On 15th June, Nine departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded ISO 9001 quality management system, the achievement came within the framework of the ministry's strategy to realize its strategic vision, objectives, develop work procedures and improve the services provided to customers of different classes.

ISO certification was awarded to six departments of the Assistant Minister for Political Affairs sector, Studies and Research Department, General Secretariat for Diplomatic and Consular Corps Affairs, and Human Rights Department. The ISO awarded after the external audit team members from "Birovritas" company inspected the applicable system records, and audited the main department's procedures and processes, checked the key performance indicators for conformity with international standards set by the ISO Authority in this regard. With this achievement, the ratio of departments granted ISO 9001 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rises from 32 percent to 59 percent, noting that ministry aspires to qualifying all MoFA departments by the early 2016 to get the ISO 9001 certification.