

NZ – MIDDLE EAST BUSINESS COUNCIL

المجلس التجارى لنيوزيلنده والشرق الاوسط

Newsletter June 2009

NZMEBC Chairman's letter:

The recent event hosted by our friends at Kensington Swan with the Hon. Tim Groser, Minister of Trade was a great success; we have had positive feedback from many who attended as well as from the Minister himself. It was clear that the Minister was well connected to the opportunities for NZ business in the region.

In this newsletter you will see that we have a number of events confirmed or in the process of being confirmed over the next 6 months, despite these tough economic times activity in the region is continuing. Some sectors have been hit hard, others have continued to expand.

The next event is an opportunity to meet and discuss the Free Trade Agreement with the MFAT negotiators. This is a unique opportunity to hear about the progress being made and to hear about the latest round being held in Oman.

Further in the newsletter, we have the details of various members only travel deals to the Middle East, these deals are exceptional, as is the service of our travel partner, and NZMEBC member, Gilpin Travel.

I encourage you to contact the team at Gilpin to discuss your travel needs. This deal is a first here in NZ, and I challenge you to make an approach to Gilpin and test how good these deals are.

One of the staggering facts is that when you book online or DIY travel, there is a 92% chance you are paying too much and not getting the best deal. A new member who has approached Gilpin is saving in excess of \$7000 on their teams next trip to Dubai in June – a good return on the subscription fee. We will shortly have details of an event with Emirates and Gilpin to officially “launch” the new travel deals.

Upcoming events include a workshop on developing business opportunities in the Middle East. We also have extended an invitation to Andrew Ferrier to address the membership about Fonterra's business in the Middle East.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new members including – The Waterman, Gilpin Travel, and Aluart and Innovation Waikato

As you receive this newsletter, I will be on the

way to Dubai and Abu Dhabi for a flying visit, and will report on my trip in the next newsletter.

Iran

The Committee members recently met with Wellington based Iranian Ambassador Rahmani.

The discussions centred on increasing trade between the two countries particularly in food and beverages, education and professional services.

Those members wishing to participate on a proposed delegation to Tehran in October please contact MEBC Secretary.

Egypt

The Egyptian Chapter of the MEBC has been actively working with the Sydney based Commercial office of the Egyptian Embassy. Those members interested in promoting trade relations with Egypt please contact the MEBC Secretary.

NEWS

Taxes, Regulations to Help Build a Tobacco-free UAE –

Source Khaleej Times May 2009

A federal anti-smoking law is expected to increase the price of a packet of cigarettes and unify the emirates' tobacco control policies as the country shows it is serious about curbing tobacco use on World No Tobacco Day.

The region has traditionally lacked coherent rules and education about the dangers of tobacco, according to state news agency WAM, but is now implementing policies in line with a global health treaty.

Qatar could follow Bahrain in scrapping sponsorship system

Source: Gulf News, May 2009

Qatar could be the second country in the Arabian Gulf after Bahrain to move towards scrapping the sponsorship system, its prime minister has said

"The option to scrap the sponsorship system in Qatar has been a subject of study for a long time"

Bahrain in May said that it would on August 1 implement a new labour law that allows foreign workers to switch jobs without the consent of the employers. The move sparked praise by embassies accredited in Manama, international labour organisations and rights activists.

Oman to boost oil output

Source: AME Info – May 2009

Omani oil minister Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Rumhy said the Sultanate will raise its oil production to 820,000-830,000 bpd by the end of 2009. The main reason for higher output would be increased oil output from Occidental Petroleum Corp's Mukhaizna oil field, Al-Rumhy told Reuters.

<http://www.ameinfo.com/198620.html>

Committee News

It is with regret that the Committee of the NZ Middle East Business Council inform you of the passing of Tafadzwa Madondo.

Taf was a founding Committee member of the Council whose energy and enthusiasm was instrumental to the initial development of the Council.

Last November Taf was involved in a motor vehicle accident in Indonesian. An accident he did not survive.

The Committee expresses its condolences to Taf's family and friends and acknowledges the contribution Taf made to the Council.

Gilpin Travel & NZMEBC Partnership

Gilpin Travel have offered fantastic packages for members of the NZMEBC. Find details of the exciting partnership on in the last page of the newsletter.

Committee Member Returns to Auckland

A Dubai based Committee member has returned from living in Dubai.

Shamim Kassibawi has spent the past 18 months living in Dubai and working in the PR industry. She is more than happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Middle East. You can contact her through skassibawi@hotmail.com

Emirates A380 Auckland Launch

On behalf of the committee Michael Vukcevic, Graeme Leversha, and Paul Simmonds attended the inaugural launch of the A380 into Auckland.



Membership fees are as follows –

Individual – \$275 (plus GST)

Corporate large (10 plus employees) \$1,500 plus GST

Corporate small – (2 – 10 employees) \$600 plus GST

Membership forms are available at our web site www.nzmebc.org.nz or email Graeme Leversha <gjleversha@clear.net.nz> greme.leversha@nzmebc.org.nz.

You can return your membership form and cheque to Stewart Germann, Treasurer, NZMEBC, PO Box 1542, Auckland

All the best, on behalf of your executive committee.

Michael Vukcevic

Chairman,

New Zealand Middle East Business Council