

E-Business Journal

We cover the world : Asia/Australia, Africa, Middle East, Europe, America,

February 2024



Mohammad A. Malique
CEO CalTech Group
USA



Mobin Rafiq
CEO Commonwealth
Entrepreneur Club UK



Sher Afzal
CEO Global
CEO's Club



Hoffman Murcia
CEO WTC
Barranquilla - Columbia

CEO Message

**“Whenever you see a successful business,
someone once made a courageous decision.”**

— Peter Drucker, Management consultant and educator

Sher Afzal



Global Ceo's Club Website Analytics (Source Google)

Explorer **Navigation Summary**

Pageviews ▼ vs. Select a metric

Day Week Month

● Pageviews



Users

11,622

New Users

10,240

Sessions

14,073

Number of Sessions per User

1.21

Pageviews

58,880

Pages / Session

4.18

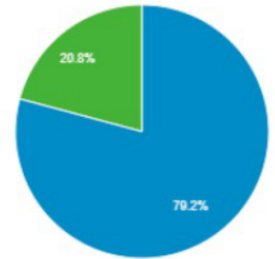
Avg. Session Duration

00:02:45

Bounce Rate

46.56%

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor





WORLD TRADE CENTER®
BARRANQUILLA

AUSTRALIA
ASIA
AUSTRALIA

AI Trailblazers - a partnership between Ministry of Communications and Information, Digital Industry Singapore (DISG), Smart Nation Singapore, Enterprise Singapore and Google Cloud - was an ambitious programme to help up to 100 companies with 100 use cases in 100 days.

Using Google Cloud toolsets, Temus built an AI-powered talent acquisition platform that has reduced time taken to evaluate candidate profiles by 90%. Nanyang Polytechnic also used Google Cloud's AI platform and foundational models to develop an automated system to help lecturers with course content creation. These are just two examples of solutions from the first run of the AI Trailblazers Initiative.

As a result of the success of this initiative, there will be AI Trailblazers 2.0, an expanded initiative that aims to help up to 150 more organizations in Singapore rapidly build gen AI solutions to address their real-world challenges.

Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) is working with industry partners to roll out our National AI Strategy 2.0 to take our AI ambitions to the next level. Beyond creating good and exciting AI jobs for Singaporeans, the focus is also to groom a strong pool of AI talent; drive innovation through research and development collaborations; and encourage greater adoption of AI among businesses and industry.



Alhamdulillah, we earned respect with high diplomacy of people-to-people relationship with full-house capacity at Emara Ole-Sereni's Ballroom with many CEOs, Industry Players, Senior Government Officials from Ministry of Investment and Trade and the Representative from Office of the First Lady of Kenya and a special appearance by Ambassador of Malaysia to Kenya, HE Ruzaimi Mohamad.

High commendations from the Trade Ministry of Kenya and the Representative from Office of the First Lady of Kenya in their respective official speech, recognizing our strategic sharings from both Dr. Rommel Santos on Micro Financing and myself to the Transformation in Agritech for Kenya Food Security policies inclusive for recognizing the Singapore's strategy to Halal Supply Chains which earned both of us an audience to the State House of Kenya very soon.

Bottom line, it's an honour for our vision and wisdom coming from a small nation like Singapore to be appearing in Kenya's National TV and that I am now already doing business in Kenya with Halal Korean Ready-to-Eat products into a Kenyan-Africa strategy very soon.



The Philippine economy grew by 5.9 percent in the third quarter of 2023, bringing the year-to-date growth to 5.5 percent.

Diokno said that for the full year of 2023, growth is expected to settle close to the low end of the government's 6 to 7-percent target.

For 2024, economic managers assume a growth rate of 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent.

"Amid the ongoing strong El Niño and geopolitical and trade tensions, the country's growth is expected to be driven by strong private consumption, supported by the expected return of inflation within the target range, falling oil prices, robust public spending, greater investments lured by the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals, investment-grade credit rating, and the implementation of structural reforms, and increased demand for Philippine exports as supply chain bottlenecks ease," he said.

Diokno said economic prospects will be even better with the alignment of policies between fiscal and monetary authorities, measures to bring down inflation, and greater coordination of all public sectors to implement programs.

He added multilateral organizations also expect the Philippines to be one of the fastest growing economies in 2024.

Medium-term fiscal framework

Diokno said growth this year will also be boosted

by the reconstitution of the Economic Development Group (EDG), the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook, and the implementation of macroeconomic policies, particularly the establishment of the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF).

Under the MTFF, the government aims to further reduce the fiscal deficit-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio to 5.1 percent and the debt-to-GDP ratio to 60 percent.

The share of infrastructure spending is also targeted to be maintained at 5 to 6 percent of the GDP.

"Navigating a post-pandemic world, the Philippines charts a steady course toward fiscal stability as we remain on track to achieving our fiscal targets," Diokno said.



CONTINUED GROWTH. Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno says Monday (Jan. 8, 2023) he expects the Philippine economy to continue to post high growth in 2024. For this year, economic managers forecast growth to settle within the 6.5 to 7.5 percent range. (PNA file photo)

MANILA – Philippine economic growth is expected to remain robust this year mainly driven by private consumption and the continued implementation of structural reforms, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said on Monday.

"While multilateral organizations project a slower global outlook for 2024 at 2.9 percent, the Philippine economy is expected to improve, reinforcing its status as one of the fastest-growing economies in the region," Diokno said in a statement.

A solid ecosystem on EVs is key to attracting more EV-related investments into Malaysia, in line with the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030's mission to increase our economic complexity. However, MITI will not compromise on consumer safety and the development of SIRIM's new certification and testing services for the EV fire blanket shows the government's pro-safety commitment in the EV ecosystem development.

SIRIM QAS' latest certification and testing services for Electric Vehicle (EV) Fire Blanket are part of SIRIM's commitment to support the government's Electric Vehicle Charging Planning Guidelines, as stipulated by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

According to these guidelines, EV charging station providers must ensure that EV car fire blankets are readily available on their premises or location as part of their preparedness to contain any fire-related incidents.



Sirim Launches Certification, Testing On Ev Fire Blankets

Happy Independence Day, Sri Lanka!

Wishing a day filled with pride, unity, and celebration of the freedom that shapes your nation.



MDEC is proud to announce the first agenda of weekly field activity with a site visit of the PEMANGKIN Digital AgTech Initiative by YB Tuan Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Digital; at a 'Red Star' chilli crop farm in Bukit Kapar, Klang. The event was also attended by YB Tuan Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, Chairman of Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC); and Ts. Mahadhir Aziz, CEO of MDEC; officials from Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security Malaysia (KPKM), Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang (LPP), Department of Agriculture Malaysia (DOA), Agrobank and local farmers.

This marks a significant step in the collaboration with REDtone IoT Sdn Bhd, KPKM, LPP, DOA and Agrobank to deploy Digital AgTech Systems, contributing to the empowerment of the agricultural sector.

The Digital AgTech Initiative, a key project under MDEC, aims to boost the transformation and digitalisation of the agricultural sector, focusing on crops, livestock, and fisheries/aquaculture. Over 500 agricultural entrepreneurs/locations have already received AgTech Digital Systems, with more than 28,000 agropreneurs trained nationwide by December 2023. This initiative plays a vital role in increasing digital literacy, skills, and 4IR technology adoption, fostering the growth of digital farmers and enhancing the national Digital Economy.



#GreatNews; congratulations to AirTrunk for signing Malaysia's first Data Centre Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (VPPA) under the Malaysian Government's Corporate Green Power Programme (CGPP)!

This significant milestone not only showcases AirTrunk's commitment to #sustainability and innovation but also reinforces their position as a global leader in the data centre industry. As #Australia's largest data centre operator, AirTrunk continues to pave the way for cleaner and more efficient energy solutions, driving a significant step towards achieving #netzero.

Looking forward to seeing their first data centre in #Malaysia, a hyperscale 150 megawatts facility in Johor Bahru.



and this is our 40-kilowatts project,

As we approach the upcoming lunar new year of the dragon, the dynamic Asia Pacific region is abuzz with activity! Welcome to your quick fix of the luckiest 8 essential trade and investment articles shaping the region!

How To Attract FDI In An Era Of High-Interest Rates – A critical read for emerging markets!

BCG - ASEAN's Triumph: A \$1.2 Trillion Surge in Trade Signals Dominance Amidst Shifting Global Alliances and 'China + 1' Strategy

UN Report Examines the Impact of Digital Trade on Development in Developing Countries

Special ASEAN Investment Report 2023 - ASEAN Secretariat: Global FDI was down in 2022, but remained strong in ASEAN!

How ASEAN Is Building Trust In Its Digital Economy - World Economic Forum

How will 'friend-shoring' impact global trade in 2024? - Trade costs are expected to rise as political proximity increasingly trumps commercial convenience for the US and China.

UNCTAD's January Global Investment Trends Monitor

Singapore Airshow (20-25 Feb): We will be meeting foreign investors, IPAs, business leaders, and network partners throughout the week and attending the Select USA programs. Please message me to arrange a meeting onsite or in Singapore.

BRICS wealthiest cities (number of millionaires):

1. Beijing (China) - 125,600
2. Shanghai (China) - 123,400
3. Dubai (UAE) - 72,500
4. Mumbai - 58,800
5. Shenzhen (China) - 50,300
6. Hangzhou (China) - 31,600
7. New Delhi (India) - 31,000
8. Moscow (Russia) - 30,300
9. Guangzhou (China) - 24,500
10. Abu Dhabi (UAE) - 22,700



Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) jointly organised a Singapore-China Economic Partnership Conference on 1 February 2024 themed "Trade & Investment Opportunities through Enhanced Connectivity".

We are honoured to be joined by the Minister of State for Trade and Industry & Culture, Community & Youth, Ms Low Yen Ling who witnessed the signing of five agreements.

Distinguished experts also gave insightful talks at the conference on a range of subjects pertaining to the numerous prospects for cooperation between China and Singapore. After the conference, close to 200 business leaders engaged in a lively networking session to discuss possible collaborations.

A big thank you to the The Business Times for their comprehensive piece about the Conference and how this platform demonstrates the two countries' steadfast commitment to long-term collaboration in a range of disciplines. Read more here: https://lnkd.in/g_CYGiPb

The second Singapore-China Business Council (SCBC) meeting was also held on the sidelines of the Singapore-China Economic Partnership Conference. Co-chaired by SBF Chairman Mr Ming Yan Lim and CCPIT Chairman Mr Ren Hongbin, the SCBC serves as an important platform for fostering stronger ties and exploring areas of new cooperation between the business

communities of Singapore and China. The meeting brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on emerging opportunities for business collaboration and marked the introduction of new council members.



At the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), we're heartened by the government's reinforced commitment to sustainability in Budget 2024.

The extended Energy Efficiency Grant for manufacturers and the bolstered green loans under the enterprise financing scheme are pivotal steps aligning with our advocacy for more support in sustainable transformation.

By broadening these initiatives to assist more SMEs in adopting eco-friendly solutions, the government is directly addressing a key area we've championed: helping manufacturers overcome the initial hurdles in their green transition.

With global MNEs increasingly focused on reducing their carbon footprint, the expectation extends to their supply chains. We believe Singapore's manufacturing sector is well-positioned to meet these global standards, enhancing our international competitiveness. This shift towards sustainability is not just an environmental imperative but a strategic move to future-proof our industry.

Additionally, our CSO-as-a-Service programme handholds manufacturers in embarking on their sustainability transformation journey and is aligned with the government's initiative to lowering entry barriers for the manufacturing industry.



Singapore is a global node for aerospace manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) with over 130 aerospace global and local companies active here.

At the Singapore Airshow, which is ongoing till Sunday, Team EDB has been meeting with our partners and stakeholders across the ecosystem to share knowledge and identify new opportunities for collaboration. Glad to have met aerospace players from across the globe over the past few days, including Airbus, Boeing, COMAC, GE Aerospace, Thales and homegrown

ST Engineering.

We had fruitful discussions on sustainability, digitalisation and talent, and hope to continue these conversations, as we work together to shape the future of the industry here.

It's been a season of clear skies for Singapore's aerospace industry.

Output recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2022 and continues to grow strongly. Since the last Airshow, EDB has attracted more than 10 new aerospace projects with companies committing to invest more than S\$750m over the next 3 - 5 years.

Team EDB will continue with our efforts to grow the industry and strengthen our ecosystem!



HUAWEI eKit is a sub-brand designed for the distribution business under Huawei. We aim to provide versatile products and solutions for SMEs by leveraging Huawei's over 30 years of experience in ICT and digital transformation. We strive to better serve the digital needs of SMEs, help DPs develop their businesses, and expand opportunities in the SME market. HUAWEI eKit is dedicated to developing distribution products that are easy to buy, sell, install, maintain, and learn.

HUAWEI eKit

Smooth Network Experience

HUAWEI eKit provides reliable network with full Wi-Fi signal for SMBs

Icons: eKit APP, Wi-Fi, Satellites, Routers, MiniFTTO

Order Now

Digitalization for Success

Uninterrupted connectivity with HUAWEI eKit – transforming cafes into digital hotspots

Welcome to China in 5, from the British Chamber of Commerce in China.

Each week, we bring you up to speed with what's caught our eye in the China-sphere in five(ish) minutes. Grab a coffee, take a break, and dive in!

IMF report forecasts slower growth for China this year

What's the background? The IMF's annual report on China suggests a slowdown in growth to 4.6% in 2024, with a drop to 3.5% by 2028 due to "weak productivity and ageing", with a suggestion that structural reforms would be needed to address them. Another area of risk called out was reduction in domestic demand, with suggestions that China's property sector could curtail domestic demand. Higher shipping costs associated with the ongoing situation in the Middle East was also identified as a core risk for trade across Asia.

Fact 1: China's official GDP figures for 2023 showed growth of 5.2% for the year, which leaving aside the pandemic period, was the lowest reported figure in decades.

Fact 2: Broader figures on Asia suggest the region is the most dynamic in the world, with it on track to deliver two thirds of global growth in 2024 despite slowing growth in China and Japan.

Fact 3: The IMF publication attracted criticism in China, with a statement from China's IMF executive director Zhengxin Zhang, calling for a

"more appropriate forecast" to help China "stabilise" confidence "at home and abroad".

The British Chamber of Commerce Sentiment Survey 2023 suggested a muted post-pandemic recovery for China, with optimism rising among businesses going into 2024 but also finding 2023 more difficult than 2022. Regardless of the forecasting for China's economy, many of the risks identified surrounding geopolitical tensions impacting trade, stable supply chains and an ageing population are issues regularly emphasised by our members, with planning around these vital for companies to succeed in the China market.

– Harry Bell, BritCham Policy & Advocacy Manager.

Open oceans allowed a global economy to emerge from the wreckage of two world wars. The freedom for all #containerships to safely ferry goods on the high seas helped lift China from poverty, turn the U.S. into a country of middle-class consumers and cement the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

In the sweep of history, only eight decades separate the present from a past when most #manufactured goods moved by land and a ship was only as safe as the state protecting it. Less

than 500 million tons of dry cargo crossed the seas annually in the 1950s.

The world was dotted with small manufacturers serving local buyers.

Today, container ships carry about 23 times more tonnage, integrating a #globeconomy of mammoth conglomerates targeting whichever customer on earth offers the most profit, soonest. That integration has driven down costs, allowing IKEA to cheaply sell identical sofas in 59 countries and McDonald's to fry Idaho's Russet Burbank potatoes around the world.

Until the 20th century, trading nations competed in blood for the right to ship merchandise to foreign ports; these days, they compete on price and quality - The Wall Street Journal

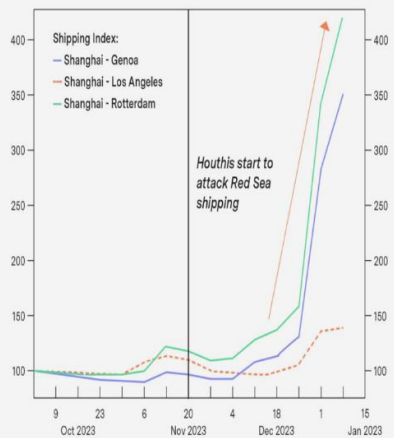
https://lnkd.in/dG_xczkV

Ships handle more than 80% of global goods, according to the United Nations -

<https://unctad.org/rmt2022>

Adding thousands of kilometres around Africa is costly: the incremental costs of diverting a tanker from Asia to Europe via the Cape will cost an extra \$932,905, according to a report by LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group)'s Shipping Research, with an increased transit time of 16-32 days.

Asia-Europe shipping costs spike



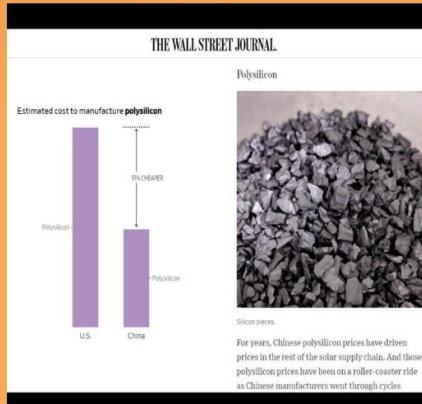
A Chinese four-seat hydrogen internal combustion aircraft prototype completed its maiden flight in Shenyang, #China's Liaoning Province. The aircraft is 8.2 meters in length and is capable of high-pressure gas hydrogen storage of up to 4.5 kilograms.



China has come to dominate every step of the long, complex manufacturing process for solar panels.

Part of the reason for that dominance, built over two decades, is that the cost of everything from electricity to labour is much cheaper there than in places such as the U.S. or Europe.

More recently, the massive scale of China's solar-manufacturing operations has become an advantage, as it attracts talent, research money and ecosystems of suppliers.



Xiaomi, a company known for making smartphones, is getting ready to start selling its first electric car in China. The car is called the Xiaomi SU7 sedan. Before cars can be sold in China, they have to be approved by the government. Xiaomi has applied for this approval.

The Xiaomi SU7 is a big electric car with different options for wheels. It can come with either 19-inch or 20-inch wheels. The car will have special features like a camera on the side of the car that can recognize faces to unlock the car.

There are two versions of the Xiaomi SU7's power system: one with rear-wheel drive and another with all-wheel drive. The car will use a type of battery made by either BYD or CATL. The car will have different versions with varying features, including some with a rear wing that moves.

The interior of the car can come in different colors and will have Xiaomi's own operating system called HyperOS, which is also used in their smartphones.

The Xiaomi SU7 is expected to start being made in large numbers in December 2023, and people will start getting deliveries of the car in February 2024. The cars are being made by another company called BAIC. Interestingly, BAIC also makes cars for Mercedes-Benz in China.

Xiaomi announced its plans to make electric cars about two and a half years ago and has invested

a lot of money into the project. They are now getting closer to making it a reality.



Smartphone-Maker Xiaomi to Start Mass Producing Its First EV SU7 in this Month

The AustCham Singapore team ended a valuable planning session for 2024 with a dinner and discussion with our Patron, His Excellency Allaster Cox, Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, on the government priorities for the year ahead.

It was a pleasure to welcome our newest member of Team Australia, Emily Follett, Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to Singapore, who brings with her experience working in the region, and expertise in trade negotiations and agreements.

We also took the opportunity to thank and farewell outgoing board members Chris Rudd, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Head of Campus at James Cook University Singapore, and Stephen Skulley, Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner at Australian Trade & Investment Commission (Austrade) for their significant contributions to AustCham Singapore.



Pakistan and an American company, Miracle Saltworks Collective Incorporation, signed a deal in Islamabad to add value to Himalayan Pink Salt and boost its exports.

During the signing event, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said the agreement is a big deal for our country's economy.

It shows that foreign investors trust our economic policies.

They're investing \$200 million in this project, which is great for our economy.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar also talked about how important it is to make the most of our mining sector to grow our economy.

He mentioned that Pakistan has made it easier for investors by making rules clear and procedures simple.

There's a Special Investment Facilitation Council set up to help investors.

The Prime Minister assured that Pakistan is ready to support investors and make it easier for them to invest here.

Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali mentioned that a modern plant will be built to crush and pack pink salt for export.

Pakistan has a lot of pink salt reserves, but we're only using a small amount of them.

Currently, minerals contribute very little to our economy, but the goal is to increase this contribution to five percent in the next five years.

He also talked about other minerals like copper, gold, silver, chromite, lead, zinc, and graphite.

Pakistan has more reserves like nickel, lithium, and cobalt that are yet to be explored.



US Company to Invest \$200 Million in Pakistani Pink Salt Industry

Another logistic startup bites the dust after few years of funding hype with a high burn rate to gain customers with speed of light – in a market with declining purchasing power and a shrinking middle class (less than 8%).

Founders and investors keep forgetting that fast pace digitization doesn't work well in an ecosystem where a vast majority of retailers and businesses work in murky waters of an undocumented economy. In an economy where government policies keep shifting every month, regulations have no teeth to protect investment – transparency and accountability in public sector is non-existence – privileges are for the industrial and land feudals and none for the SMEs

Until government and their collaborating elites start thinking beyond their narrow interests – expect more money-losing startups to go under – add to the unemployment and exodus of frustrated youths to overseas.



It's first of February so new whole month ahead and perfect time to start planing your new business moves!

Finland Pakistan Business Summit 2024 takes place on 23 and 25 April, so let's start planning! www.fpbs.fi

And even that we are there for Finland and Pakistan, please let me if you would be interested to join for other countries as well. You're most welcome if you are looking for new business!

If you wonder what Pakistan is all about, I put the links to three videos I did couple of months into comments below. And if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

ike for years, the event is organized by FINLAND PAKISTAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (FPBC) and its partners.



The demand for rice from Pakistan has gone up by 50% worldwide.

India usually makes up 40% of the global rice trade, but the Indian government, led by Modi, stopped exporting rice in July to lower prices within the country.

This move affected about 150 countries, making rice more expensive globally. However, Pakistan benefited from this decision.

The State Bank of Pakistan reports that in the first half of this fiscal year, Pakistan sold 2.5 million tons of rice, earning \$1.5 billion.

Many countries criticized India's decision, and the United Nations even barred Indian exporters from bidding on rice contracts.

On the other hand, Pakistan's rice is now going to different countries, including Russia, Mexico, and Indonesia.

In the first six months of 2023, Pakistan exported \$1 billion worth of rice. With India out of the global rice market, Pakistan is stepping in.

Experts predict that Pakistan might export a record 5 million tons of rice, earning \$3 billion this fiscal year.



plants, facilitated by the Mobile Device Manufacturing (MDM) Regulations introduced in 2021. Additionally, the country initiated the export of locally manufactured handsets, sending 120,000 SEEEO brand mobiles labeled as "Manufactured in Pakistan" to the African market in December 2022.

The Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS), introduced by the PTA, has played a crucial role in promoting local manufacturing and generating revenue for the government. DIRBS has also addressed issues like stolen and non-compliant International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs), blocking 758,113 IMEIs reported as stolen and identifying and blocking 35.5 million non-compliant IMEIs, including 7.3 million duplicate or cloned numbers. Despite economic challenges, these developments showcase the mobile industry's positive trajectory in Pakistan.



Yadea, the Chinese electric bike manufacturer, has expanded its presence in the Pakistani market with the introduction of two new electric models – the Yadea G5 and Yadea RUIBIN.

Priced at Rs. 280,000, the G5 offers a powerful 1200W motor, a maximum speed of 50 KM/HR, and a range of 90-100KM. On the other hand, the more affordable RUIBIN, priced at Rs. 199,000, features an 800W motor, a maximum speed of 45KM/HR, and a range of 80-90KM.

Both models come with 18-month warranty on the graphene battery and a 24-month motor warranty. Prices are inclusive of taxes and dealer commission, subject to potential fluctuations due to exchange rates and regulatory changes.



In the face of challenging economic conditions, Pakistan's mobile industry has demonstrated resilience by producing an impressive 84.4 million mobile devices between January 2019 and September 2023, according to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) annual report. Notably, local companies manufactured 25 million smartphones in the last five years.

The report highlights the establishment of 33 local and foreign companies' manufacturing

CCoE approves amendments to refineries policy.

Another major achievement through the SIFC-Platform. Approval of the amendments to Refineries Policy 2023 to resolve implementation issues of eIRxisting Refineries/Brownfield Refineries, and enable them to undertake major upgradation projects was achieved through SIFC Platform.

Upgradation of Brownfield Refinery Policy will not only bring in investment of \$5-6 Billion but will also result in cleaner environment, friendly fuels & major savings of precious foreign exchange...



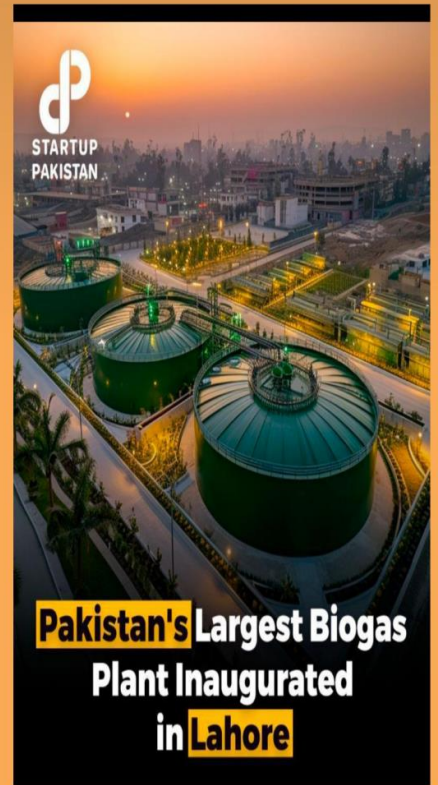
On Sunday, the largest biogas facility in Pakistan was officially inaugurated in Gujjar Colony.

With a capacity to produce 600 cubic meters of gas daily, this compressed biogas plant will utilize 1,600 kilograms of dung each day to generate 16,000 kilograms of organic fertilizer.

The organic fertilizer produced by the plant will be available for use by the Parks and Horticultural Authority (PHA) and local farmers. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, speaking to the media following the plant's inauguration, expressed optimism that the plant would help eliminate the sight of dung on roads while also producing organic fertilizer from it.

Moreover, the organic fertilizer will be sold to the public, generating revenue for PHA. During the event, Provincial Caretaker Minister Bilal Afzal, along with officials from various government departments, were present.

Naqvi suggested launching an extension project for the plant to further benefit local residents.



Al Syed group of companies, founded in 2012 is dedicated to facilitating cross-border trade by providing a platform for manufacturers and suppliers to reach international markets. The company deals in agricultural, and food supply chain products. Additionally, Al Syed Group has broadened its footprint worldwide. They operate in various countries, including UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Pakistan, Mexico, Turkey, Iran, India, Vietnam, Tanzania, and Sudan, with plans for further expansion into the USA, Europe, and Canada. The company's global reach continues to expand.

The Group offers 3 dynamic business models for every individual, investors, suppliers, and buyers to partner with them, enabling and connecting with a global supply chain. This strategy provides efficiency, creativity, and adaptability to the ever-changing face of international trade.

To contribute in the economy of Pakistan, to their maximum growth Al Syed encourages suppliers from Pakistan to export with them through their extremely convenient and easy models, paying special focus to food commodities.

Their commitment to quality and profitability is apparent in its net profitability of almost 35.8% annually across its varied operations. Each country under its jurisdiction manages its profit and loss account, maintaining a positive bottom-line outlook.

Sooner the company is looking forward to entering electronics, sourcing from China, UAE to African markets having huge potential with their

expansion up to 32 – 35 countries in upcoming years.

Al Syed Group's success is built on working together with Partners like Maersk, Air Arabia, Qatar Airways, Retailo, D Freight, Invoice Mate, DHL, Credit Book, Mehmood Group, Seaboard and B&S Group. These partnerships show their strong dedication to making global trade dependable and strong for everyone.



"Al Syed Group" UAE Based Company by Pakistani Entrepreneurs Promoting Exports to 12 Countries

IDP Sri Lanka hosted Sri Lanka's biggest Australia Education Fairs in Kandy with a record number of students participating across the country to meet 35 world-class Australian Universities.

IDP Sri Lanka reported a record-breaking number of participants for both events. The opening ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Monica Kennedy Monica Kennedy - Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner Minister-Counsellor Commercial – South Asia

&

Ms. Aushyani Samarasinghe Director Aushyani Samarasinghe - International Education at Australian Trade & Investment Commission (Austrade)

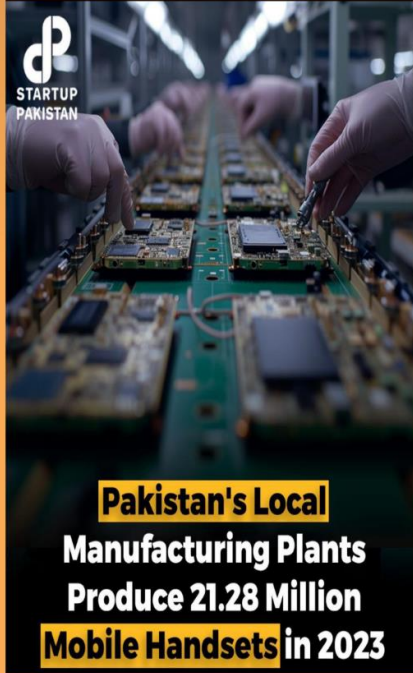


The number of mobile phones made or put together locally dropped by about four percent in 2023 because there were problems with importing parts for the phones due to restrictions on opening letters of credit. However, despite these restrictions, the number of mobile phones brought in from other countries went up during this time, according to official information.

Local factories made or put together 21.28 million mobile phones in 2023, compared to 21.94 million in 2022 and 24.66 million in 2021. But the number of mobile phones brought in from other countries increased from 1.53 million in 2022 to 1.58 million in 2023. Out of the 21.28 million mobile phones made or put together locally, 13 million were older 2G phones and 8.28 million were smartphones.

According to data from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), 59 percent of mobile devices used in Pakistan are smartphones, and 41 percent are older 2G phones. The country spent \$792.612 million on importing mobile phones during the first half (July-December) of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This is a big increase of 118.45 percent compared to \$362.841 million during the same period last year. In December 2023, the amount spent on importing mobile phones increased by 20.16 percent compared to November 2023, reaching \$176.093 million. Compared to December 2022, there was a huge increase of 143.59 percent in the amount spent on importing mobile phones in December 2023.

Overall, the amount spent on importing telecommunications equipment into the country increased by 78.64 percent from July to December 2023 compared to the same period the previous year.



**Pakistan's Local
Manufacturing Plants
Produce 21.28 Million
Mobile Handsets in 2023**

Buna, the UAE-based cross-border payment system, plans to incorporate currencies from India, China, Pakistan, and various African and European countries in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Fahad Al Turki, Chairman of the Arab Regional Payments Clearing and Settlement Organisation (Buna), highlighted the platform's commitment to innovation and collaboration with other payment methods globally.

Buna is currently connected to 108 live banks across 14 countries and aims to enhance economic integration within the Arab region, facilitating real-time, cost-effective cross-border payments. The platform processes thousands of payments monthly and anticipates reaching millions in the coming years



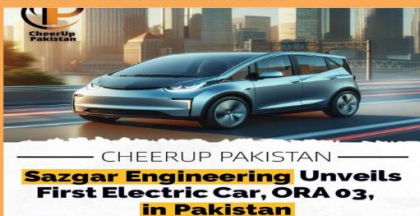
**Chinese, Indian, Pakistani
Currencies to Join
UAE-Based Cross-Border
Payment System**

Sazgar Engineering has brought its first electric car, the ORA 03, to Pakistan. This is the company's first step into the electric vehicle market, adding to its existing lineup of cars. The ORA 03, made by Great Wall Motor (GWM) of China, combines classic and modern designs.

Initially, Sazgar will sell fully assembled ORA 03 cars. These cars come with a powerful lithium iron phosphate battery, giving them a range of 310-400 kilometers per charge. They have a front-wheel drive system powered by an electric motor, offering a maximum power of 105kW and a top speed of 160 kilometers per hour.

The car has many features like LED headlights, electric side mirrors, a panoramic sunroof, and alloy wheels. Inside, there's a mix of red and beige colors, a comfortable steering wheel, adjustable seats, a digital instrument cluster, wireless charging, and a big touchscreen.

Safety features include cruise control, ABS brakes, airbags, and warnings for lane departure and collisions. This launch brings an electric car option with good performance and safety features to Pakistan's car market.



**CHEERUP PAKISTAN
Sazgar Engineering Unveils
First Electric Car, ORA 03,
in Pakistan**

K-Solar (Private) Limited ("K-Solar"), a wholly owned subsidiary of K-Electric Limited, the only vertically integrated power utility company in Pakistan, is pleased to announce financial close of its renewable energy project at Bulleh Shah Packaging (Private) Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Packages Limited - "BSPL").

The 7.36 MW solar project is considered as one of the largest private sector B2B Energy Purchase Agreement with a total cost of approximately Rs 1 billion and term of fifteen (15) years. K-Solar has obtained long-term financing from Faysal Bank Limited ("FBL") to implement the project. The project is in BSPL's packaging unit at Kasur, Punjab, and has been targeted to achieve commercial operations within six months.

The project is a testament to K-Solar's vision to provide green and affordable energy through eco-friendly energy solutions and will generate 10,466 mega-watt hours of clean energy in the first year of operations. It is expected that the project will lead to a substantial reduction of approximately 72,262 metric tons of carbon emissions during the term, significantly contributing to the reduction of the industry's carbon footprint.

Mr. Aamir Ghaziani, the Chairman Board K-Solar, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "Our partnership heralds a new era of sustainable energy, thus paving the way towards a brighter and greener future where we envision a transformative impact for years to come. This project marks a significant moment for K-Solar as

we venture into our first Energy Purchase Agreement and witness the project unfolding into a paradigm shift for the energy landscape. I extend my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders involved – from the esteemed Faysal Bank to our valued customer, BSPL, and other stakeholders who have helped us to execute the transaction. Our collective endeavor underscores our shared commitment to pioneer renewable energy solutions as we lay the groundwork for a sustainable energy future for Pakistan."

Mr. Salman Ahmed Khan, Head of Investment Banking at Faysal Bank, further added, "There is a lot of focus on climate finance globally and now locally as well. We look forward to playing a positive role in fostering green and sustainable practices."

Read More: <https://lnkd.in/dEEmr4NR>



**K-Solar, Faysal Bank and
Bulleh Shah Packaging
collaborate to launch 7.36
MW Solar Power Project**



WORLD TRADE CENTER®
BARRANQUILLA

MIDDLE EAST

In 2023, ADNOC Distribution, based in Abu Dhabi, expanded its service station network by opening 41 new stations in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, surpassing its annual target. The total number of stations reached 840 by the end of 2023, with 597 in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

ADNOC Distribution also acquired a 50% stake in TotalEnergies Marketing Egypt, adding over 240 retail fuel stations and other businesses to its international presence.

In the second half of 2023, nine ADNOC-branded service stations were launched in Egypt to serve local communities.

The company reported an 11.8% year-on-year increase in total fuel volumes in the GCC, particularly in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Retail and commercial volumes also saw growth due to regional economic expansion.

ADNOC Distribution recorded 179.7 million fuel retail transactions last year, and non-fuel retail business transactions increased by 12.9% year-on-year.

Bader Saeed Al Lamki, CEO of ADNOC Distribution, mentioned plans to use their global reach, advanced technology, and customer-focused approach for continued success. The full financial results will be disclosed next month.



Today, I signed an extension to the Memorandum of Understanding with H.E. Mohammad Al Gergawi, UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs, in the field of government development during the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

This signing reaffirms the strong bilateral relations between #Egypt and the #UAE.

Our MoU reflects not only our mutual desire but also our commitment to further enhance institutional capacities and governance in various aspects of government development. From capacity building to institutional skills, we are dedicated to fostering growth and progress.

At the core of our mission is the dissemination of a culture and concept of institutional excellence. We aim to elevate the efficiency of our institutions in alignment with Egypt Vision 2030. It is with great pride that such agreements bring us closer to realizing these aspirations.



Launching the "Balad Hospitality" Group to Boost Tourism in Historic Jeddah.

Balad Development Company, one of the Public Investment Fund's (PIF) companies, has launched the "Balad Hospitality" Group to offer distinctive hotel experiences in the Historic Jeddah area as part of the Balad Development Project.

The Group aims to create three different categories of heritage and luxury hotels with an authentic character, in order to boost tourism in the Historic Jeddah area and make it a global destination for cultural and historical tourism.![Image of Historic Jeddah, Saudi Arabia]

The three categories of hotels include:

- Luxury heritage hotels: which combine authenticity, history, and modern amenities.
- Upscale hotels with an authentic character: which uphold the values of authentic hospitality.
- Modern hotels that offer Balad hospitality: which connect visitors to the place by offering an exceptional and modern experience.

The Group is scheduled to start implementing its projects in the Historic Jeddah area this year, and the first hotel of the Group is expected to open in 2025.



Saudi Arabia's Tourism Minister, Ahmed Al-Khatib, recently claimed that the country achieved its goals under Vision 2030 by welcoming over 100 million visitors last year, sparking discussions on the strategies used to achieve this milestone. Experts interviewed by Asharq Al-Awsat highlighted new laws, regulations, and measures that contributed to the surge in visitors in 2023.

Al-Khatib made the announcement during a forum in Riyadh, where he also set a new target of 150 million visitors under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's strategy. Tourism specialist Mohammad Al Abdul Karim credited Saudi Arabia's plans to boost the tourism sector through Vision 2030 programs, particularly the Quality of Life initiative, for the significant

increase in visitors. He emphasized the impact of marketing efforts, entertainment, sporting events, and streamlined visa procedures in driving tourism growth.

Another expert, Ali Al-Zwaid, highlighted the sector's remarkable transformation since the launch of Vision 2030, citing reports from the World Tourism Organization. He noted Saudi Arabia's leading position among G20 countries in tourism growth and its ranking as the second fastest-growing destination globally in 2023.



The Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority (ADCDA) has announced the activation of 37 new rescue and firefighting points across Abu Dhabi.

The goal is to improve how quickly emergency services can respond to accidents and other emergencies.

The ADCDA wants to make sure people and property in Abu Dhabi are safer. These new points will be in 16 places in Abu Dhabi city, 14 in Al Ain, and seven in the Al Dhafra Region.

Brigadier Salem Abdullah bin Barrak Al Dhaheri, who is leading the ADCDA, said this plan is part of a bigger effort to improve emergency services in the emirate.

They're training more people and getting better equipment to make sure they can respond well to any emergency.

Colonel Salem Khalifa Al Mansouri, who is in charge of the project, said the new points are equipped with the latest technology to work efficiently.

The ADCDA's goal is to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies to keep everyone safe across Abu Dhabi.



What makes the UAE a safe haven in times of crisis?

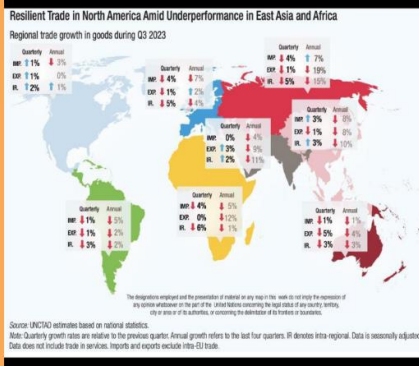
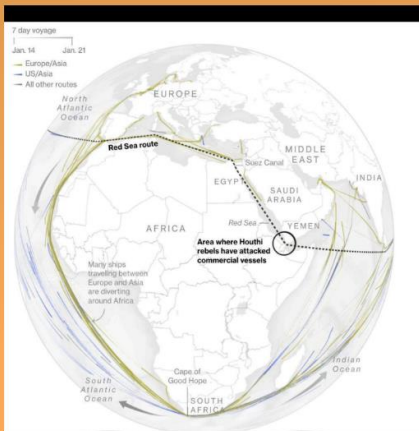
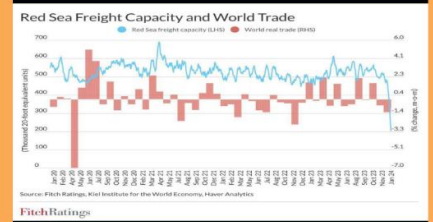
Beyond political stability and economic strength, there are crucial factors contributing to this resilience. For instance, amidst recent disruptions, Dubai's ports emerged as beacons of stability. According to Fitch, Dubai ports weathered the Red Sea crisis and shipping disruptions with remarkable resilience.

While Red Sea ports in Egypt and Saudi Arabia saw a decline in shipping operations, Jebel Ali Port and select African ports experienced an increase in freight traffic. Fitch attributes this to the agility of DP World, which demonstrated the ability to adapt investments amid prolonged disruptions.

Notably, the UAE's proactive approach is evident in its completion of vast infrastructure projects, including advanced road networks and the railway system. These initiatives, fostering prosperity during normal times, fortify the nation's readiness for crises.

The concept of a safe haven extends to trade dynamics as well. While global trade activity witnessed a downturn in 2023, Dubai's non-oil foreign trade soared, surpassing 2 trillion dirhams ahead of the 2025 target date!

The lesson here is clear: opportunity favors the prepared – and the UAE exemplifies this with unparalleled readiness in navigating turbulent waters.



MEDIA BRIEFING

Global Pioneering Business Forum & World Leaders Award
Dubai, April 27th-29th, 2024

Event Overview: The Global Pioneering Business Forum & World Leaders Award, an eagerly anticipated event, is set to take place in Dubai from April 27th to 29th, 2024. Co-organized by esteemed entities, including the Dubai Royal Group, the Arab Business Council, and other national chambers of commerce, this landmark event is poised to bring together global business leaders, unicorn entrepreneurs, and industry elites.

Chief Guest: His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin



Aiming to Make #SaudiArabia an Attractive Destination for Global Capital

- #Riyadh emphasizes growing steps to enhance its status as a global logistical, financial, and industrial hub.

- Saudi Investment Minister, Engineer Khalid Al-Falih, stated that the country is striving to become the go-to destination for global capital.

Collaboration with #SwissFund for Billion-Euro Investments

- Al-Falih revealed cooperation with a #Swiss fund to launch investments in the debt market worth "billions of euros" in zero-emission sectors.

- Collaboration in the #insurance #industry is expected to see significant growth in the upcoming period.

- Announcement made during Al-Falih's speech at a #SaudiSwiss roundtable meeting, with key figures from both countries in attendance.

Saudi Investment Plan

- Al-Falih pointed out that the #Saudiinvestment plan includes maximizing the #infrastructure sector amidst the rise of mega-projects.

- More than \$3.3 trillion will be directed

towards translating work contracts in various sectors including #airports, #factories, and #GreenEnergy networks.

- \$1.8 trillion to be financed by #investors through tenders to attract #GlobalInvestment destinations, aiming for high-quality standards in major projects.

Investments in Healthcare and Life Sciences

- The state allocates \$60 million annually to #healthcare and life sciences.

- Expecting active participation from Swiss companies in the healthcare sector to provide global and regional solutions.

- Aimed at making the #Kingdom a global center for value-added investments in various sectors including healthcare and green energy.

Commitment to Global Center for Value-Added Investments

- Commitment to making the Kingdom a global center for investments in healthcare, #SupplyChains, and energy transformation.

- Efforts dedicated to increasing the private sector's contribution to 65%.

Saudi-Swiss Economic Partnerships

- Strong economic partnerships and deep-

rooted bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

- Relations expected to reach a century milestone by 2027, with Switzerland maintaining strong ties with the Kingdom.

New Investments

- "#Vision2030" aims for an investment volume of \$3.3 trillion by 2030 through various stages.

- Highlighting the investment partnership in energy, mining, and logistics sectors.



Could Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's ruler since 2006, be considered the world's foremost entrepreneurial leader?

Under his governance, Dubai has evolved remarkably into a leading global city, renowned for its advances in finance, tourism, and real estate. The city operates akin to a vast development corporation, with its real estate sector playing a pivotal role in its economic strategy. The government actively shapes this sector, reaping significant benefits.

Key revenue streams for the Dubai government in real estate include:

1. *Land Sales and Leases*: Predominantly owning the land within Dubai, the government capitalizes by selling or leasing it for various projects - residential, commercial, and industrial.

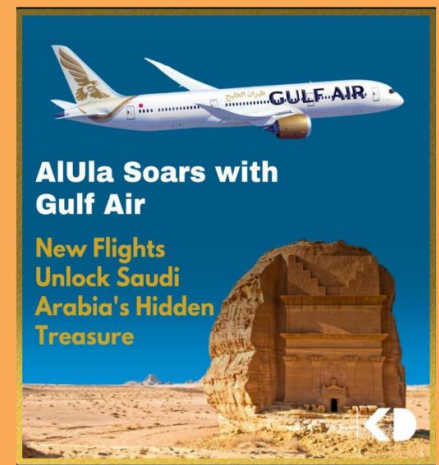
2. *Property Development*: Entities like Emaar Properties, Nakheel, and Dubai Properties, all government-owned, further underscore this strategy.

The transformation of Dubai has been significantly influenced by McKinsey & Company's strategic involvement, encompassing research, analysis, strategic planning, and implementation, all tailored to meet Dubai's unique needs and ambitions. Their efforts have been instrumental in reinforcing Dubai's position as a global hub for business, tourism, and innovation.

While opinions may vary regarding its autocratic governance style, the remarkable development of Dubai under Sheikh Mohammed's leadership is undeniable.



#GulfAir's inaugural flight to #AIUla marks a significant step for #SaudiArabia's #tourism ambitions. The twice-weekly seasonal service connects #Bahrain to the historical and cultural gem, offering convenient access for travelers. This aligns with the Royal Commission for AIUla's (#RCU) vision of transforming the region into a global hub. Increased air connectivity, including recent European and Middle Eastern links, bolsters AIUla's accessibility and supports RCU's goal of attracting two million visitors by 2035. With ongoing infrastructure development and strategic partnerships, AIUla is poised to become a leading tourism and cultural destination.



Details of Foreign Direct Investment in Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

For the first time, the Investment Ministry #MISA has published a detailed report revealing the statistics of foreign direct investment (#FDI) in the Kingdom, adopting a new methodology that ensures the highest standards of accuracy and reliability.

Statistics Methodology

The new methodology is based on an analytical study of the financial statements of companies, focusing on #equity rights as well as liabilities and receivables between local companies and their international counterparts.

Results of Foreign Direct Investment for 2022

- Net FDI flows reached SAR 105.2 billion (\$28.05 billion), marking a 21% increase compared to the previous year.
- Inward FDI flows recorded SAR 122.6 billion (\$32.69 billion), up by 20%, while outward flows were about SAR 17.4 billion (\$4.64 billion), an increase of 12%.

Saudi Arabia's Global RankingThe Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranks 10th among the #G20 in terms of net FDI flows, and 16th in terms of FDI stock for 2022.

Growth of FDI Stock

The FDI stock witnessed a continuous #growth, reaching SAR 762 billion (\$203.2 billion), with a growth rate of 16% compared to the previous year.

Exceeding Strategic Targets

The total inward flows exceeded the national investment strategy targets by 101%, confirming the success of investment policies in attracting investments.

FDI Statistics by Economic Activities

#Manufacturing Industries

- Net flows: SAR 31.7 billion (\$8.45 billion)
- Total stock: SAR 238.8 billion (\$63.68 billion)
- Contribution percentage: 31.3%

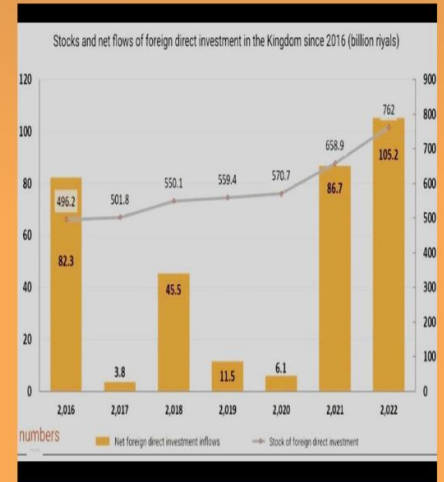
#Wholesale and #Retail Trade

- Net flows: SAR 7.6 billion (\$2.03 billion)
- Total stock: SAR 97.4 billion (\$25.97 billion)
- Contribution percentage: 12.8%

Conclusion

These statistics reflect the Kingdom's

commitment to expanding its economic base and attracting foreign direct investment, highlighting its success in creating a diverse and attractive investment environment across various economics.



Launch of "Alat" Company to Make the Kingdom a Global Center for Electronics and Advanced Industries.

In a significant strategic step, #CrownPrince HRH Prince #MohammedBinSalman, announced the establishment of "#Alat" company. This aims to be a national leader contributing to transforming #SaudiArabia into a global center for #sustainable and advanced #industries, especially in the fields of #technology and #electronics.

Goals and Specializations

"Alat" (which means "Machines"), one of the Public Investment Fund's companies #PIF, focuses on #manufacturing products serving both local and global markets through seven strategic business units, including advanced #industries, #semiconductors, #SmartHome appliances, #SmartHealth, and other modern technologies.

Enhancing Technical and Economic Capabilities

"Alat" aims to enhance the Kingdom's technical sector capabilities, increase its contribution to local content, and support strategic #partnerships with world-leading companies in advanced industries. This leads to the development of the local and regional #economy as a whole.

Driving Innovation and Sustainable Development

By focusing on #sustainable #manufacturing and

using #CleanEnergy sources, "Alat" aims to enhance the #transformation in the global industrial sector and support the strength of local #SupplyChains. This contributes to achieving #NetZero by 2060.

Job Opportunities and Economic Growth

"Alat" is expected to create over 39,000 direct job opportunities in the Kingdom and contribute up to 35 billion Riyals (\$9.33 billion) to the non-oil gross domestic product by 2030.

This reflects the company's efforts in enhancing innovation and localizing expertise.

Commitment to Saudi Vision 2030

The establishment of "Alat" is part of the #PublicInvestmentFund's strategy to diversify the #economy and achieve sustainable growth, in line with the goals of Saudi #Vision2030.

This aims to make significant progress in industrial and technological sectors.

With this significant step, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to cement its position as a leading force in innovation and technology on the global stage, looking forward to a promising future in advanced industries and electronics.



Exceptional Investment Opportunities Worth SAR 240 Billion (\$64 Billion) in the Saudi Supply Chain Sector in Partnership with the United States.

The #Kingdom of #SaudiArabia opens its doors to enticing #InvestmentOpportunities in the supply chain sector, in a strategic partnership with the #UnitedStates of #America. These opportunities, valued at approximately SAR 240 billion (\$64 billion), offer both local and international investors a golden chance to partake in the growing Saudi economy.

➤ Overview of Investment Opportunities:

Identifying 70 #investment opportunities in the #SupplyChain sector in cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States represents a significant step towards enhancing trade and industry between the two countries. These opportunities cover various areas and aim to localize value-added businesses in the Kingdom.

➤ Importance of Localizing Investments:

With the goal of localizing 50% of these opportunities, Saudi Arabia aims to achieve investments estimated at SAR 130-140 billion (\$34.67 to \$37.33 billion) in the next decade. This reflects the Kingdom's commitment to achieving economic independence and reducing reliance on oil.

➤ Focus on Military and Defense Industries:

Revealing 76 investment opportunities in the #military and defense sector highlights Saudi Arabia's strategic role in this vital industry. Investing in this sector promises economic growth and opens new horizons for advanced technology and innovation.

➤ Attracting Global Companies:

With over 250 international companies announcing their headquarters' relocation to #Riyadh, the Kingdom emerges as a global business hub. This move enhances the business environment and contributes to achieving #Vision2030.

➤ Economic and Social Impact:

Investing in the supply chain sector not only brings economic benefits but also contributes to improving the quality of life in the Kingdom by creating new job opportunities and supporting infrastructure and technology.

➤ Invitation to #Investors:

These massive investment opportunities present an open invitation to investors wishing to benefit from the promising economic environment in the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands on the threshold of a new era of growth and development, supported by an ambitious vision and unparalleled investment opportunities.

Ras Al Khaimah launches

'RAK Central' as the largest business district in Northern Emirates !

Ras Al Khaimah's development focus until now had been to push ahead with residential, hotel and resort offerings. Now, it's going all in on offices and a massive business district.

Ras Al Khaimah has launched a massive mixed-use development - RAK Central - that will have Grade A offices and become the 'largest commercial business district in the Northern Emirates'.

To be developed by Marjan, it will be located on Sheikh Mohammed bin Salem Al Qasimi Street and with some eye-catching views of Al Hamra Golf Club and the Arabian Gulf and scheduled to open for 2026.

RAK Central is expected to become Ras Al Khaimah's largest business hub, attracting leading businesses and other entities in the region to set up their headquarters.

What will RAK Central provide?

A substantial 3 million square feet of rented office space and more than 4,000 residential apartments. Plus, there will be three hotels with 1,000 plus keys, multiple parks and retail and entertainment facilities.

RAK Central will usher in a new era of economic

growth for Ras Al Khaimah, with a focus on not only providing international investors with high-value property but also by serving as a hub for all their businesses.

This aligns with the vision of our leadership to strengthen the business ecosystem of the Emirate and serve as the first choice for residence, business and leisure.

We The Private Office of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al-Qassimi for Strategic Alliances and Policies will also be joining this visionary business ecosystem by developing two towers comprising of residential and commercial spaces in the heart of Ras Al Khaimah.



Paving the Way for Construction Sector

Growth: The Public Investment Fund Launches Contractor Financing Program

The Public Investment Fund (PIF), in partnership with the National Development Fund (NDF), has unveiled the "Contractor Financing Program" aimed at bolstering the local #construction and building sector.

This initiative is set to provide diverse and specialized financial solutions to contracting companies, fostering a robust, integrated, and transparent business environment within the sector.

By offering projects designed to enhance the financial flow to these companies, the program seeks to develop a thriving construction industry.

In an effort to maximize economic impact, the PIF has established the General Administration for National Development to encourage private sector participation in the Fund's projects and portfolio companies.

Since 2017, the PIF has been instrumental in founding 93 companies, contributing to the creation of over 644,000 direct and indirect jobs across various strategic sectors [9↑source].

With ambitious goals to increase the real estate sector's contribution to the non-oil GDP to 15% by 2030, the PIF collaborates with 30 stakeholders to address financing challenges within the Contractor Financing Program

These initiatives are part of the continuous efforts to realize Vision 2030, aiming to diversify the national income sources and enhance the private sector's role in the economy.



Great to catch up with De Beers Group CEO, Al Cook in Cape Town during the Investing in African Mining Indaba week.

Recently DMCC (Dubai Multi Commodities Centre) had the honour of hosting Al Cook and De Beers Co-Chairman, Bruce Cleaver at our headquarters the Uptown Dubai and we look forward to welcoming them back as the UAE continues its chairmanship of the #KimberleyProcess #2024 #DeBeers operates in 35 countries and mining takes place in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Canada and Australia.

2011, Diamdel, De Beers' secondary market supplier, opens an office in Dubai after it was licensed by #DMCC to operate in Almas Tower the headquarters of the DUBAI DIAMOND EXCHANGE

2006, #Qatar-based Salam International, which acquired the franchise of De Beers Jewellery in the Middle East, opens the region's first De Beers store in Dubai's Mall Of The Emirates.



Important Statement from Riyadh's Mayor: "Riyadh Will Surprise Everyone With Its Massive Projects.. Our Ambition Is Very High"

In inspiring and impressive statements, Prince Dr. Faisal bin Ayyaf, the Mayor of #Riyadh, emphasized that Riyadh will not hesitate to amaze the world with a series of giant projects that will place the city on the global innovation map across various fields.

During his speech in a panel discussion at the first Global Forum for #SmartCities in #SaudiArabia, organized by the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority "#SDAIA", he highlighted Riyadh's ambitious journey towards comprehensive transformation and how its clear strategies reflect the ambitions of #CrownPrince Mohammed bin Salman aimed at making significant progress in transforming the capital into a smart city.

"We are fortunate to have the elements any city would dream of, and with the leadership of the Crown Prince, who is a major driving force for everything happening in the city.

With the availability of plans, programs, and massive projects, we look forward with optimism that Riyadh will be a role model and an example to follow worldwide," were the words of Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz bin Ayyaf, reflecting a clear future vision and affirming the high ambition driving the city.

Saudi Arabia Invests in Riyadh's Future: Top 10 City Economies in the World

In an ambitious move that embodies Crown Prince's vision to transform the capital, Saudi Arabia plans to increase Riyadh's population from about 7.5 million to 20 million inhabitants, with investments estimated at \$220 billion in development projects over the next decade.

This strategy includes the creation of 20 industrial cities, six of which will be in Riyadh, aiming to empower the private sector and make business operations smoother on a global scale.

These plans strive to position Riyadh among the top 10 city economies in the world, reflecting the Kingdom's leading role in diversifying income sources and growing the global economy.

Riyadh's strategy is a significant step towards achieving this ambition, highlighting the city's vital role in the non-oil economy of the Kingdom.

Riyadh steadily continues its path towards realizing a visionary future, aiming to assert its status as a global center for innovation and sustainable progress.

With announcements like these, it's clear that the world will witness tangible transformations in Riyadh, setting an example in using technology and innovation to shape the future of cities.



How the role of telecoms is evolving in the Middle East

The global telecommunications market is expected to grow to \$2.65 trillion by 2030; the Middle East is no exception to this growth trend.

Emerging technologies are changing the way telecoms operate and making the industry more resilient.

There are many opportunities in the Middle East to help drive sustainable transformation. The global telecommunications industry is undergoing major transformations. Although discussions about digital transformation seem to be dominated by large language models (LLMs) and artificial intelligence (AI) powered software and applications, all of this is underpinned by hard infrastructure – largely deployed by telecoms. This is leading to sustained growth of the industry. Valued at \$1.81 trillion in 2022, the global telecommunications market is expected to reach \$2.65 trillion by 2030.

At the same time, emerging technologies are changing the way telecoms operate, positively impacting resilience of the industry. A survey by Accenture finds that 99% of telecommunications executives believe emerging technologies will help their organizations remain resilient on the global stage. For example, by leveraging new technologies such as AI internally, telecoms can decrease network performance problems and critical incidents by 60% and 35% respectively. Moreover, automation can also help reduce energy costs by 15%, and make the

telecommunications network more economically and environmentally sustainable.



The Middle East has been at the forefront of 5G integration.
Image: Getty Images/Stockphoto.

#UAE non-oil foreign trade in goods and services soared to a historic high of AED 3.5 trillion (approximately USD 952 billion), marking a significant milestone in the country's economic journey. Despite the global decline in international #trade, the UAE's resilience and #strategic partnerships have propelled it to new heights.

Announced by HH. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President Prime Minister of UAE, this achievement reflects the UAE's commitment to excellence and #sustainable growth. At the onset of 2023, #Sheikh Mohammed forecasted a record economic year, and the results speak volumes.

Through comprehensive partnership agreements forged in 2023, the UAE has strengthened ties with key trading partners, resulting in remarkable growth. Trade with the top ten partners surged by 26%, with standout increases of over 103% with #Türkiye, 47% with #HongKong- #China, and 20% with the #US.

As a pivotal player in global trade, the UAE remains steadfast in its economic commitments. As HH said, "Our ethos is simple: we say what we do and do what we say". This unwavering dedication has propelled the UAE to the forefront of international #commerce.

Key highlights from 2023 include:

The top ten trading partners included China, #India, #Saudi Arabia, the United States, #Iraq,

#Japan, #Germany, the #UK, Türkiye, and South #Korea.

These figures underscore the UAE's position as a dynamic hub for trade and #investment, driving economic prosperity for our nation and beyond. Together, let's continue to build bridges, foster innovation, and shape a brighter future.



UAE-based company SkyPower

Global has won a contract from the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) to set up a clean energy plant in DR Congo. The project, called DRC Green Giant, will be built in four phases, with the first phase costing \$200 million (around Dh734 million) and creating 6,000 jobs over several years.

This initial phase of 200 megawatts (MW) is crucial for a larger plan to generate 1,000 MW of solar energy, as part of an agreement with Congo's state-owned utility, Société Nationale d'Electricité (SNEL). The project is expected to be up and running within 18 to 24 months, and it's estimated to have a direct and indirect impact of \$700 million on DR Congo's economy.

President Félix Tshisekedi of DR Congo is aiming for a significant increase in clean energy production, which is expected to stimulate the country's economy by \$2.3 billion and create around 30,000 job opportunities. AFC's senior director, Amadou Wadda, highlighted the importance of partnering with SkyPower, a company with extensive experience in large-scale solar projects, to advance renewable energy access in Africa.

The collaboration aims to support industrialization, local job creation, sustainable economic growth, and the transition to net zero emissions in DR Congo and across Africa. This agreement underscores AFC's role in promoting renewable energy solutions across the continent.



Importantly, non-oil goods exports rose 16.7% to \$120 billion, helping to increase the contribution of exports to UAE's total foreign trade to 17.1%. Re-exports, imports and services trade all reached new milestones, too.

Amid these record numbers, it is the increase in our trade with #Türkiye that perhaps offers the most encouragement. Not only did we more than double bilateral trade in 2023 but, in the last five months of the year, Türkiye received 60% of all UAE exports.

This is a clear demonstration of the power of the UAE-Türkiye Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which was implemented in September – a deal that is providing immediate benefits for both economies. The word "deglobalization" might be dominating policy discussions and think-tank reports, but the principle of open trade remains at the heart of the UAE's mission to build the world's most dynamic economy. Today's figures show why we will not deviate from that path.



UAE's non-oil foreign trade hit record \$953bn in 2023

What does it take to break records?

Sometimes, it takes going against the grain. While the world talks about fragmentation, the #UAE pursues collaboration – and our latest #trade results underline why.

In 2023, the UAE's non-oil trade in goods reached an all-time high of \$710 billion, a 12.6% increase on 2022 – and 34.7% more than 2021. This is in spite of a 5% decline in global trade in H1 2023 and an 8% drop in global exports in Q3, 2023.



Tamimi Markets Company completes the acquisition of Al-Raya.

Dammam – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Tamimi Markets Company (“Tamimi”) announced today the completion of its acquisition of 100% of Al Raya For Food Stuffs Company JSC (“Al Raya” or the “Company”), a portfolio company of Levant Capital and a leading supermarket chain operating along the western half of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The transaction aligns with Tamimi Markets’ national growth strategy and further strengthens its position in the Western region of Saudi Arabia. By acquiring Al Raya, Tamimi looks to leverage the combined strengths of both companies while serving new customers in multiple markets.

Bobby Rajendran, CEO of Tamimi Markets, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, “The Al Raya brand is renowned for its neighborhood convenience and fresh positioning, particularly with its outstanding bakery. We are eager to bring value and efficiency to the Al Raya brand while fostering its continuous growth.”

With an extensive presence across the western region of Saudi Arabia, Al Raya’s 51 supermarkets seamlessly complement Tamimi Markets’ geographic network. The acquisition solidifies Tamimi’s commitment to delivering exceptional services and products to its expanding customer base.

Established in 1991 with its maiden store in

Jeddah, Al Raya has grown into a leading regional supermarket chain, boasting 51 supermarkets spread across more than 20 cities in the Northwest, West, and Southwest of Saudi Arabia.

In 2012, Levant Capital acquired a 75% stake in Al Raya and led the institutionalization of the Company and the development of its independent management team. Over Levant Capital’s investment period, the Company more than doubled its store footprint from 23 to 51 stores and increased its sales area 2.5 times.

“Tamimi Markets”, a Saudi family supermarket business since 1979, now owns 111 stores. With the Tamimi family, the company is on an accelerated growth trajectory across the region. The addition of Al Raya augments Tamimi’s scale and strength in its western operations, propelling its national expansion forward.

“Levant Capital” is an independent financial services firm that is focused on private market investments. Levant Capital has significant experience investing in the consumer sector. In similar transactions, Levant Capital successfully exited its investment in Bayara Group to Savola Foods in 2021, and its investment in the leading Turkish childrenswear specialist retailer Panço Kids to Kuzu Group in 2022.

“anb capital” acted as Tamimi’s sole financial advisor on this transaction and “the Law Office of Mohammed bin Saud Al-Rasheed” in Association with “Baker Botts L.L.P.” acted as its legal

counsel.

“BNP Paribas” acted as sole financial advisor to “Al-Raya” and “Eversheds Sutherland” acted as legal advisor to the shareholders.



أسواق التميمي
tamimi markets

Tamimi Markets Company completes the acquisition of Al-Raya

AFRICA

SA's #manufacturing sector has been on a downward trend for 16 years, eroding its contribution to GDP and leading to a big drop in #jobs.

Statistics South Africa report

<https://lnkd.in/d7TeUgFW> shows #employment in the manufacturing sector fell from 1.18-million in 2017 before Covid and 1.4-million in 2005 when the data series began to 1.09-million in 2021. It lost almost 309,000 jobs in 16 years!

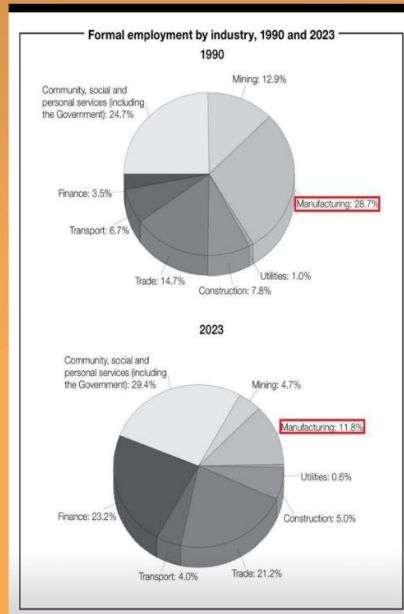
Employment refers to the number of people

#employed by the business who received payment (in salaries; wages; commission, in addition to a retainer, salary or wage; piece rates; or payments in kind) for any part of the reference period.

This excludes independent contractors and consultants; working proprietors, sole and joint owners;

employees paid on commission where a retainer, salary or wage was not paid;

and employees based in South Africa but paid from abroad, e.g. embassy employees.



Condolences to the people of Namibia: President Hage Geingob dies in hospital aged 82 (1941-2024). Namibia's President Hage Geingob has died while receiving medical treatment at a hospital in the capital, Windhoek.

Vice-President Nangolo Mbumba announced that President Geingob had died in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"At his side was his dear wife Madame Monica Geingos and his children," Mbumba said in a statement.

The 82 year old leader had been diagnosed with cancer and revealed his diagnosis to the public last month.

His office announced he would be travelling to the US for treatment, but would return to Namibia on 2 February.

Geingob became president in 2015 and was serving his second and final term in office.

He underwent an aortic operation last year, and in 2014 he revealed that he had survived prostate cancer.

Namibia is due to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in November.

The governing Swapo party, which has been in power since independence in 1990, has chosen Nandi-Ndaitwah as its presidential candidate.

She is currently also Namibia's deputy prime minister.

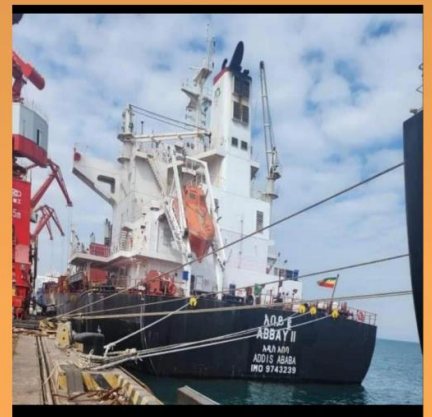


Landmark Moment: Largest Ethiopian Bulk Vessel ABBAY II Successfully Delivers Inaugural Ethiopian Cargo.

On February 01, 2024, our first-ever largest bulk carrier Vessel, ABBAY II docked at Djibouti Port for the first time carrying Ethiopian cargo after she registered and started sailing under the flag of Ethiopia.

ABBAY II has brought 60,000 MT of Fertilizer consisting of two different types (NPS & NPSB) from Jorf Lasfer Port, Morocco. This underscores the country's growing involvement in maritime activities and points to increased capacity for handling larger cargo shipments.

Currently, MV ABBAY II is actively engaged in Time Charter service, efficiently navigating international waters and contributing to the country's foreign currency income through cargo transportation.



ADDIS ABABA – (BORKENA) “Though gasoline-powered automobiles are banned from entering the country, sources say that individuals claiming they ‘haven’t heard of this’ are still importing them.”

Minister of Transport and Logistics Minister, Alemu Sime, made this statement while presenting the performance report of the bi-annual plan yesterday to the Standing Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Transport Affairs at the House of Peoples’ Representatives, as reported by Tikvah Ethiopia.

“The government has decided not to import any gasoline automobiles into #Ethiopia unless they are #Electric. Ethiopia, which does not produce fuel but imports it from abroad using high amounts of foreign currency,” Alemu stated.

Recounting the significance of importing electric-powered automobiles, Minister Alemu stated, “Electricity is abundantly produced in Ethiopia, and its cost is lower compared to fuel.”

“Ethiopia is a supporter of green development and is a country that works hard for that. To reduce air pollution, an electric car is preferable to a gasoline car,” the minister said.

He further said that #ElectricVehicles “are being widely produced in the world and since they operate in urban areas in our country, it is possible to provide charging infrastructure”



Ethiopia's Minister of Transport says importing gasoline-powered automobiles p...
borkena.com • 2 min read

From the 6th to the 9th of February, I am in Cape Town, South Africa, home of Africa Institute of Small Scale Mining (AISSM)

AISSM, Mergence and Investing In Africa Mining Indaba brings together key players in mining and sustainability for a breakfast dialogue on crucial topics and launching a new vehicle, Lean in Sustainability.

As the founder and executive director, I am excited to join board member of AISSM, Andrienne Westman for another important assignment.

The inception of the Africa Institute of Small Scale Mining four years ago was fueled by a challenging experience in Liberia.

Uncovering numerous loopholes in the small-scale mining sector during that time motivated me to make a positive impact.

AISSM has spearheaded various initiatives aimed at shaping and improving the small-scale mining sector

LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY
In Collaboration With **INVESTING IN AFRICAN MINING INDABA**
AISSM
CELEBRATING OUR NEW SOUTH AFRICAN MINING CIRCLE

EXCITING NETWORK LAUNCH BREAKFAST

LAME ESSE LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY COFOUNDER & CHAIR OF ADVISORY BOARD	MARISA BOGARD LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY COCHAIR	FATYAN EL-KHOSSIBI LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY SA LEAD
HUKANI MABE LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY SA LEAD	YOLANDA MARUFO LEAN IN EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY SA LEAD	FAROUK KHALILANI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AISSM
ANDRIENNE WESTMAN HEAD OF NEW MARKET AISSM ADVISORY BOARD	KERUBHA PILAY WIMSA - LEAD	ARADHNA PANDARUM HEAD, JUST ENERGY TRANSITION, IMPACT CATALYST

ON TUESDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2024 | START AT 07 AM - 09 AM | MERGENCE, 2ND FLOOR, CPT

The duties of the First Party, under the terms and conditions of this contract shall be as follows:

- A. To make available the sum of \$40,000,000.00 (Forty Million United States Dollars), as a debt finance investment to the second party.
- B. To confirm that the second party is legally entitled to receive the fund and has procured a Certified SPV/SPE from the approved institution (Federal Capital Savings Bank) an offshore banking institution responsible for incorporating the mandatory SPV for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment).
- C. To ensure that the second party has not been convicted of any criminal offense or does not have a history of financial mis-application or belong to any out-law organization.
- D. To ensure that the authorized project supervisors visit the project site four months after transfer of loan to inspect the project and confirm that the draw down released was used appropriately. And the investors will bear the traveling and hotel expenses.

ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF THE SECOND PARTY

The duties of The Second Party, under the terms and conditions of this contract shall be as follows:

- A.) To purchase a special purpose vehicle (SPV/SPE) that's certified by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates through appointed Project Management Institution (Federal Capital Savings Bank), to stand as collateral structure for the loan disbursement.
- B.) Responsible for the payment of application and notarization charges of all the company documents and collateral papers that will be used as security for the fund.
- C.) To ensure prompt liberation investment portfolio (fund) allocated and transferred by The First Party, is up to the total sum authorized, to be used for the purpose of investment.
- D.) To pay from the date of the disbursement of the loan the

A new achievement for Tunisia in the implementation of the #ZLECAf #AfCFTA agreement: Tunisia's accession to the Pan-African Payment & Settlement System #PAPSSI! The Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia and the Executive Vice President of African Export-Import Bank #Afreximbank yesterday signed the PAPSS accession agreement. They were joined for the signing by the Minister of Trade and the Director General of PAPSS.



It begins: Ethiopia set to become first country to ban internal combustion cars.

Ethiopia spent nearly \$6 billion to import fossil fuels last year — with more than half of that spending going to fuel vehicles. In response, Ethiopia's Transport and Logistics Ministries have announced that automobiles cannot enter Ethiopia, unless they are electric. Last February, the European Union approved a law that would ban the sale of combustion engine cars in its member states from 2035 — joining several US states, Canada, Japan, Singapore, India, New Zealand, and a number of other nations with similar bans already on the books (see chart, below). Ethiopia, however, isn't waiting for 2035.

Ethiopia is trying to ban ICE vehicles now. According to a news update from the parliament, Alemu Sime, the Ethiopian Minister for Transport and Logistics, announced the completion of the nations Logistics Master Plan Monday. Details were scarce, but he has announced that, “a decision has been made, that automobiles cannot enter Ethiopia unless they are electric ones.”



ATTEN: UNA

TIPS ABOUT VISIONAFRIC'S UPCOMING EVENT IN LESOTHO.

AVA2050 Summit 2024

Host Country - LESOTHO

City: MASERU

Date: 1st - 3rd May 2024.

Theme: Unity, Innovation and Prosperity.

EXPECTATIONS

- Paper Presentation
- Plenary Sessions
- Projects Launching
- Art & Exhibitions
- Business Dinner
- High Profile Networking/Collaboration
- Music, Dance, Culture, Tour etc

FEATURING

- Prime Ministers
- Country Presidents

- Diplomats
- Philanthropists
- Investors
- Professionals
- CMDs/ CEOs/ Mds
- Business Men/Women
- Government Officials
- Africans in Diaspora
- Global Media
- Youth & Women etc

Registration Link:

www.visionafric-lesotho.com

For enquiry: support@visionafric-lesotho.com

WhatsApp: +266 5992 2189

Africa is HOME



**UNITY
INNOVATION
PROSPERITY**



**African Vision
2050 Agenda**
AVA2050 | Summit 2024
VisionAfrica Leading the Way

**01 - 03
May
2024**

- | **Day 1 | 01st May**
Celebrating Arts,
Culture, and Vision
Inauguration, Cultural Showcase,
and Local Arts Exhibition.
- | **Day 2 | 02nd May**
Innovation and Collaboration
Panel Discussions, Workshops,
and Industry Networking.
- | **Day 3 | 03rd May**
Economic Growth
and Sustainability
Economic Summit, Community
Engagement, and
Closing Ceremony.





WORLD TRADE CENTER®
BARRANQUILLA

EUROPE

The world's longest suspension bridge, the 1915 Çanakkale Bridge, spans the Dardanelles Strait in Turkey, connecting the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara.

This bridge eliminates the need for a ferry journey, reducing travel time from an hour and a half to just six minutes.

Construction of the bridge, a joint effort between Turkish and South Korean companies, took nearly five years and cost \$2.7 billion.

Linking Gelibolu in Europe to Lapseki in Asia, the bridge carries significant symbolism. Its length of 2,023 meters signifies the year 2023, commemorating the centenary of the Turkish Republic's founding.

Additionally, its towers stand at 318 meters, honoring March 18, the day Turkey remembers soldiers lost during Gallipoli.

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum emphasized the bridge's potential to foster peace and prosperity between East and West, marking a new era.

However, while the Çanakkale Bridge stands as a remarkable feat, experts point out that the lack of bridges across the Amazon River is due to the absence of significant necessity, as its vast width and sparsely populated surroundings do not warrant such infrastructure.



Oman's X2E plans to invest \$1.6bn across alternative fuel value chain.

Omani-Scottish waste to value start-up X2E is lining up projects worth \$1.6 billion across the alternative fuel value chain including biodiesel and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) over the next two years, its Founder and CEO John Jones told Zawya Projects in an exclusive interview.

The company plans to cultivate Camelina - a

drought resistant high oil content seed - to initially make biofuel for marine and road transport applications and venture into SAF production later.

Jones said the business will be vertically integrated with separate entities managing the feedstock cultivation, recycled water production for irrigation, seed extraction, and the refineries producing biodiesel and SAF. Separate investors, partners and technology providers will be onboarded for each of the ventures, he said.

Sayyala, the water company, will treat wastewater with the lowest carbon intensity and cost-effective technologies on the market and give it to the agricultural company FEI for irrigation, it will also deal with the seed oil extraction and high-tech pharma by-products while G2X will manage waste gases and CO2 to power.

"There are separate investors for Sayyala and for FEI, which we can't announce yet, but we are in term sheet [stage]. The initial investment for Sayyala is \$18 million and for the farming venture is about \$3.5 to \$4 million but we're scaling up in a big way. We're looking at an investment of \$1.6 billion in the next two years for the entire value chain from agriculture to biodiesel to SAF," he disclosed.

He said time from build to actual production will take about 2.5 years. "The first capital close is expected in the second quarter of 2024, and we plan to close the rest of the project capital and

engineering by the end of the year. Construction will take another 18 months."

"By next week we're announcing a project with a local oil and gas company to treat produced water into irrigation water for growing Camelina, Canola and cereal crops," he said without elaborating.

The agri-pharma company OMAB is in the formation stage, Jones said.

"Camelina has a 40 percent protein content. The white flesh inside the seed will go to animal feed because it's high protein and the other part will be reprocessed to extract spike proteins for cutting edge dementia treatment. We're teaming up with a pharmaceutical company in Canada to explore this possibility," he said.

X2E is teaming up with Omani carbon mineralisation pioneer 44.01 to permanently store the excess CO2 generated by their processes, Jones said. The gas management venture G2X will capture, process and utilise waste gases to further lower the Carbon Intensity score of the venture.

In June 2023, Zawya Projects had reported that X2E is taking a 60 percent stake in Omani biodiesel manufacturer Wakud to fund the latter's capacity expansion.

The partnership announced a \$650 million investment for two projects in Sohar and Salalah respectively to produce a total of 450 million litres of biofuel and an additional gasification to Ficher

Trophs unit to create SAF using biological feedstock and 15 million gallons of e-SAF.

Overseas expansion

X2E plans to acquire four biodiesel plants globally- one each in the US and Portugal and two in Dubai, Jones revealed without naming the sellers.

The total annual capacity is 75,000 cubic metres (m3) of B100 (100 percent biofuel) with the two plants in Dubai accounting for 30,000 m3, he said.

The total investment is estimated at \$106 million which includes the acquisition capital plus operational extensions to each of the four plants to effectively triple the current total capacity, he disclosed.

Jones added the company is in discussions with landowners in Africa and Malaysia for contract farming of Camelina.



Introducing a new AIKO project - a sustainable organic farm located in the sun-kissed Canary Islands of Spain.

Harnessing the power of our #Neostar 1S modules, this 41.4kW AIKO project is helping the organic farm take full advantage of the region's abundant solar resources and extended hours of sunlight to minimize pollution and slash electricity bills, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

The #Neostar 1S module utilizes our cutting-edge ABC Technology to deliver a top-notch quality product. With its sleek and fully black grids, the module seamlessly blends innovation with visual appeal.

Come to our booth today at Genera in Madrid and see the actual products! Booth: Hall 9 D10.

Kazakhstan to Build Five Cross-Border Logistics Hubs by 2026.

Cross-border hubs are expected to cover the export potential of enterprises in Kazakhstan's regions

There will be five logistical hubs:

an industrial trade and logistics complex in Zhambyl on the Kyrgyzstan border, an international center of industrial cooperation in Turkistan on the Uzbekistan border, a cross-border trade center in West Kazakhstan on the Russia border, a container hub in Mangistau, and a Khorgos border complex on the China border.

The aim is to facilitate cooperation activity in the sphere of warehousing, storage, processing, production of new goods, and their integration into international distribution systems.

The hubs will also provide services of short-term storage, logistics, lease of trading places, pre-sale preparation, consolidation and redistribution of goods by wholesale lots, loading and unloading, and development of transcontinental cargo transportation.

Cross-border hubs are expected to cover the export potential of enterprises in Kazakhstan's regions.

The development of infrastructure complexes in border areas will create conditions for the implementation of industrial cooperation projects,

which will reduce the number of participants in the supply chain, reduce the cost of the product for the end consumer and increase the speed of delivery.



Turkey

European side of Istanbul (Press expres)

URGENT FOR SALE new project with a total of 110 flats

75 pieces. 2+1 (139m2 and 147m2 gross) 35 1+1 flats (75 m2 gross)

It consists of 4 blocks.

A1- A2- B1- B2

Expertise 2000 USD M2 unit price

It is for sale at 22 million USD below its urgent

Plz contact GCC for details





WORLD TRADE CENTER®
BARRANQUILLA

AMERICA

I am Gina González Torres, a coastal woman, with a degree in arts, a degree in curatorship and museum organization, an inspiring and talented visual artist, a citizen of the world, known for her modern pop paintings with a great imprint that explore themes such as folklore, cultural identity, love for the Caribbean region.

Despite facing numerous challenges in her life, she channels her personal experiences into her art in a deeply emotional and expressive way, with her personal stamp of painting her faceless human figures, which led her to earn the title of the cheeky coastal woman, in the artistic spheres, for that absence of faces in those human figures

His work is marked by his soul, territory and ancestors, with intense symbolic roots that reveal his joy and the emotional vitality of his 4 races, Carib, Lebanese, Antioquian and indigenous, as well as his strength in painting. He defied artistic conventions, becoming a reference point for both art and folklore.

Inspiring artists and admirers around the world with his authenticity, passion and originality, his work is a powerful reminder of the power of art to transcend in beauty and to transcend the folklore of his land with creativity and determination.

With more than 100 international exhibitions, winner of international awards, she is dedicated to painting and management from the Sucrea Foundation, an entity that she presides over

Through this foundation he has been organizing the INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ARTISTS IN SUCREA for nine years, where he helps to make local, national and international artists visible, and this event becomes an engine of economy every year through cultural tourism since more than 30 countries attend and are reflected in more than 400 artists who bet on the project.

As a graduate in plastic arts, she also supports children and young people with art workshops

Her message to young artists: "To all of you I say Let's keep exploring, dreaming, believing and creating together. May our dreams continue to weave bridges between our souls and may our encounters in the paintings of my works always be a refuge for the imagination and the heart. Never stop dreaming, I thank you deeply for your support in this artistic journey. Your comments, your criticisms and your support are the fuel that fuels my creativity and my desire to continue painting."



Michelle Vergara Betancourt

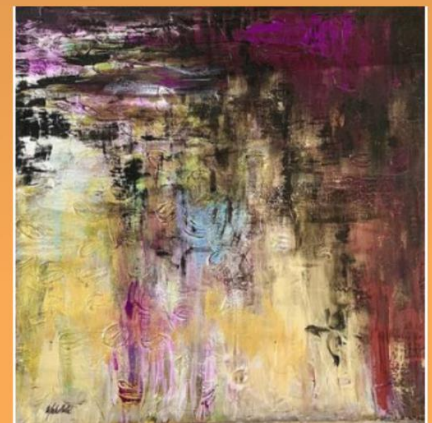
American artist living in Barranquilla Colombia, raised with Colombian parents. She was born in New Haven, Connecticut with proud Colombian nationality. She has a very talented family made of many painters and musicians, also around with an artistic heritage and sensitivity to the arts. Michelle is a fine lady dedicated to the arts. From an early age ed her artistic skills in ballet dancing, playing musical instruments-like the piano, and advancing in her all around studies.

Fashion designs in C.E.N.C.A.B.A.

In her new job, we see texture, various figures, and bold colors; along with a spiritual technique. Her artwork involves religious icons of different cultures, products of an investigating religious process (God) and indigenous religions (gods). Many cultures are shown, as poetic and reflexive, they show potential to support the creative. The cultures invite spectators to create dialogues with their beliefs.

This artist always works in life, transmitting with her spiritual palettes and her joy. In her artistic career, she has worked with various tendencies that are modern and with much modern texture. The tendencies that form are little, but they hold much expression with the strongest of color.

Michelle strives to lengths of fortitude to recapture funds, and help the unfortunate children with their difficulties to study, and now she has a project to help the third age people and taking them to where they can entertain and





WORLD TRADE CENTER®
BARRANQUILLA

ADVERTISE WITH US

Coca-Cola is stripping labels from on-the-go Sprite and Sprite Zero products in a limited trial of "label-less" packaging.

The pilot will see labels temporarily removed from single 500ml Sprite and Sprite Zero bottles and replaced with an embossed logo on the front of the pack, with laser-engraved product and nutritional information appearing on the back of pack.

While existing labels are fully recyclable, it removes the need to separate them from the bottles during the recycling process and reduces the amount of packaging material used overall.

Coca-Cola Great Britain VP franchise operations Dusan Stojankic said: "We want to help create a future where plastic drink packaging will always have more than one life.

"Labels contain valuable information for consumers, but with the help of technology we can now trial other ways to share this information while reducing the amount of packaging we use.

"Going label-less might seem like a small step, but it is one of several ways we are exploring making recycling easier, minimising waste, and minimising the impact of our packaging on the environment."

Shoppers will be able to try the new limited design, which will be sold at eight Tesco Express stores in Brighton and Hove, Bristol, London and Manchester between January and March.

Tesco head of packaging James Bull said: "We want to help our customers minimise the environmental impact of the products they buy, including removing plastic and packaging when possible.

"This trial of label-less packaging by Sprite is a great example of how brands are innovating to provide those solutions."



Coca-Cola removes labels from Sprite bottles in new trial

I have 30 tons copper plates from Zambia for sale

It's 99.98%

90tonnes in total



Embark on a journey with AIKO at #Genera2024, where we are reshaping the landscape of photovoltaics.

Our solar module delivers heightened efficiency and durability, poised to establish unprecedented standards in the industry.

We will showcase our upcoming second-generation product, providing an opportunity to witness the technological innovations of our latest release.

Join us at Booth 9 D10 to explore the world of dependable clean energy solutions, and be part of the conversation that defines the future of photovoltaic excellence.

AIKO

REDEFINING PHOTOVOLTAIC

Neostar Series Gen 2

genera 2024 | Hall 9 Booth 9 D10

SIF
sinfoodfruit2022@gmail.com
000 847220

WE ARE THE AWAKENING OF YOUR SENSES

100% FRUIT PULP

ABOUT US?
SIF is a company in the agroindustrial sector dedicated to the development, production and marketing of excellent quality fruit pulp, founded since 2009.

We are domiciled in the city of Barranquilla and have INVIMA registration. We want to expand to the international market, so we have high quality standards.

OUR PRODUCTS

- CHERRY
- COCOZO
- STRAWBERRY
- BERRIES
- GUANABANA
- LEMON
- LEMON COCONUT
- FLOWER
- TANGERINE
- MANGO
- PASSION FRUIT
- MIXED
- MIST
- ORANGE
- F ROPE
- PINA
- TAMARIND
- TREE TOMATO
- PINK GRAPEFRUIT
- SAPOTE

FIND THEM IN 2 DIFFERENT PRESENTATIONS

Outline specification for
THE 2014 BUILD A321-321

Description Aircraft general data

Description	Value	Manufacturer date
Aircraft type	A321-321	30 Sep 2014
Aircraft name	Current operator	W6
Engine model	V2533-A5	LEJ
Engine operators	Line number	129
APU model	GTCP135-9A	Production number

Weights	Checked	Operational
*Max take-off	306,132 lb / 138,900 kg	205,132 lb / 93,000 kg
*Max taxi	297,033 lb / 135,000 kg	207,033 lb / 93,900 kg
*Max ramp load	163,702 lb / 73,800 kg	162,702 lb / 73,800 kg
*Max landing	174,520 lb / 77,800 kg	174,520 lb / 77,800 kg
*Operational empty	105,998 lb / 48,080 kg	111,955 lb / 50,782 kg
*Manufacturer's empty	95,932 lb / 43,544 kg (Delivery)	95,932 lb / 43,544 kg (Delivery)
Weight variant	WWS1 (AW000-006 from manufacturer)	WWS1 Mod 15726, A321-321L A321-321-3096

Certification basis	Description	Comments
*Aircraft type certification number	EASA_A321A	
*Original type certification number	EASNE	
FAA FAR 23 or 25 compliant (23 is for no foreign operations)	no	
EASA / CS 25 / EU OPS compliant	yes	
*Noise category	Chapter 4	ICAO annex 16 vol 1 per ATR

Interior configuration	number	Description / comments
*Aircraft configuration	Single class	
Total passenger seats	180	To be modified to 230
*Passenger seats first class	0	
*Passenger seats business class	0	
*Passenger seats premium economy class	0	
*Passenger seats economy class	180	Seat M8 - to be adjusted
To flight entertainment system	no	
To flight connectivity (WiFi)	no	
W seat power	no	
Cockpit seats	4	Capt. & 3 rd officer PW 10001-C0810-01, 3 rd co-pilot PW 10800-01-00
Galleys	4	4 th co-pilot PW 2110154-09-00, 2 nd cabin G2, G3 and G4
Galley standard	atlas	
*Lavatories	4	1 forward and 3 at rear of cabin.
Crew rest	no	
Cabin baggage	Single	English
*Cargo compartments	3	Front, Mid, Bulk

If you are looking to import EV bikes & cars from China

Plz contact

And visit website for your understanding
<https://www.jj-ev.com/>

BUSINESS & TAX CONSULTANTS

ZUMIRS & Co

Chartered Accountants
RB/2, 3rd Floor, Awami Complex,
New Garden Town, Lahore
0092-300-8490299
WWW.ZUMIRS.COM



TECH.ADVANCE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Welcome to Tech Advance, where innovation meets security in the dynamic world of technology. As a leading software development company, we take pride in crafting cutting-edge solutions that redefine the way businesses operate in the digital landscape. At the core of our expertise lie three pillars that form the foundation of our success: Blockchain, Cyber Security, and Artificial Intelligence.

In an era where data is the new currency, our commitment to Blockchain technology ensures that your transactions and digital interactions are not only secure but also transparent and tamper-resistant. Whether you are looking to streamline supply chain processes, enhance financial transactions, or establish trust in your digital ecosystem, our Blockchain solutions provide the robust foundation you need.

Security breaches and cyber threats are evolving at an unprecedented pace, making the need for robust Cyber Security measures more critical than ever. At [Your Company Name], we understand the value of your digital assets and are dedicated to fortifying your defenses against cyber threats. Our comprehensive Cyber Security solutions encompass state-of-the-art technologies and proactive strategies to safeguard your data and maintain the integrity of your systems.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way businesses operate by unlocking unprecedented insights, automating complex processes, and enhancing decision-making capabilities. Our AI solutions are designed to empower your organization with the intelligence it needs to stay ahead in today's competitive landscape. From machine learning algorithms to natural language processing, we tailor AI applications to suit your specific business objectives, driving efficiency and innovation.

As you embark on the journey of digital transformation, [Your Company Name] stands as your reliable partner, dedicated to delivering software solutions that not only meet industry standards but exceed expectations. Join us in navigating the future of technology, where security, innovation, and intelligence converge to create a seamless and empowered digital experience for your business.

TECH.ADVANCE

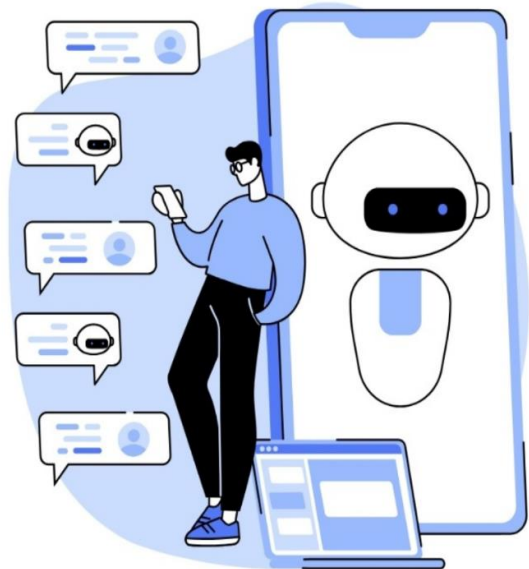


IT SOLUTION TECH. ADVANCE

Sher Afzal
CEO & Founder
Tech.Advance Pvt. Ltd.
www.techdavance.dev
+92-300-8490299

HOW CAN WE USE AI IN EFL?

There are many exciting applications of **AI-Language Models** in the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classroom. Let's take a look at some of them.



TECH.ADVANCE



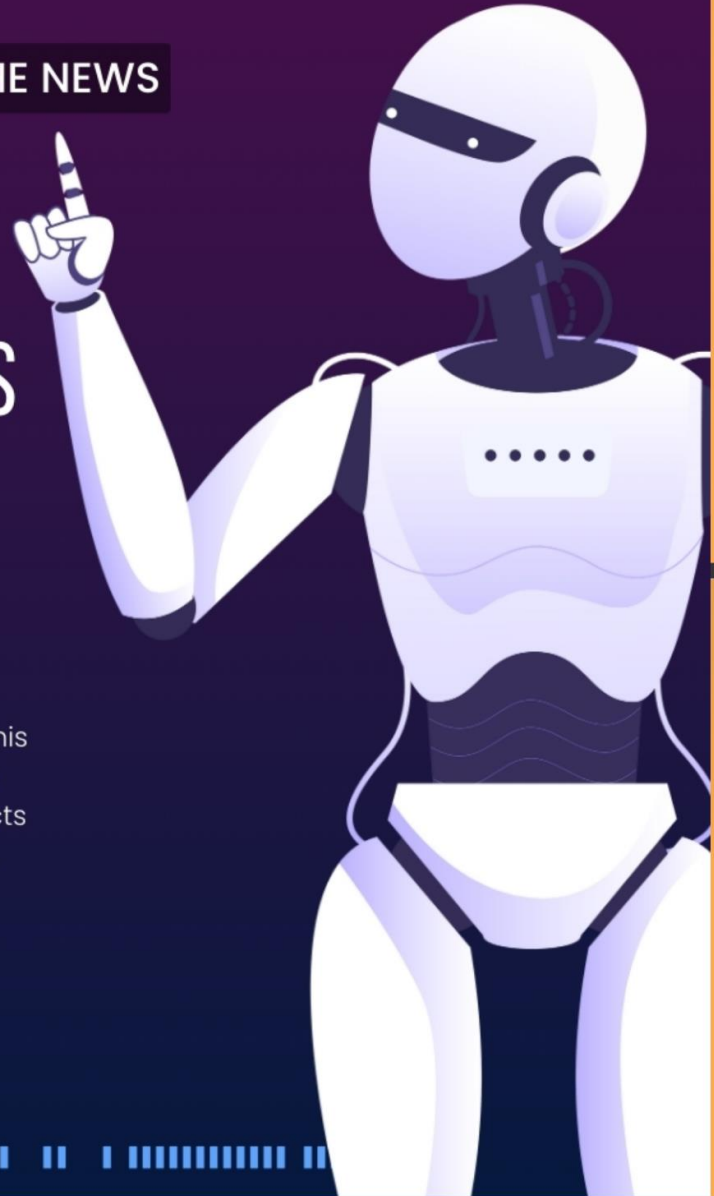
THE NEWS

AI Marketing Tool HELPS BUSINESSES GROW FAST

Artificial intelligence is now being used in marketing to help businesses grow fast. This is done by using algorithms and machine learning to target customers and prospects with the most relevant content and offers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

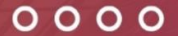
SHER AFZAL
CEO & FOUNDER
TECH. ADVANCE PVT LTD
WWW.TECHADVANCE.DEV.COM
+92-300-8490299



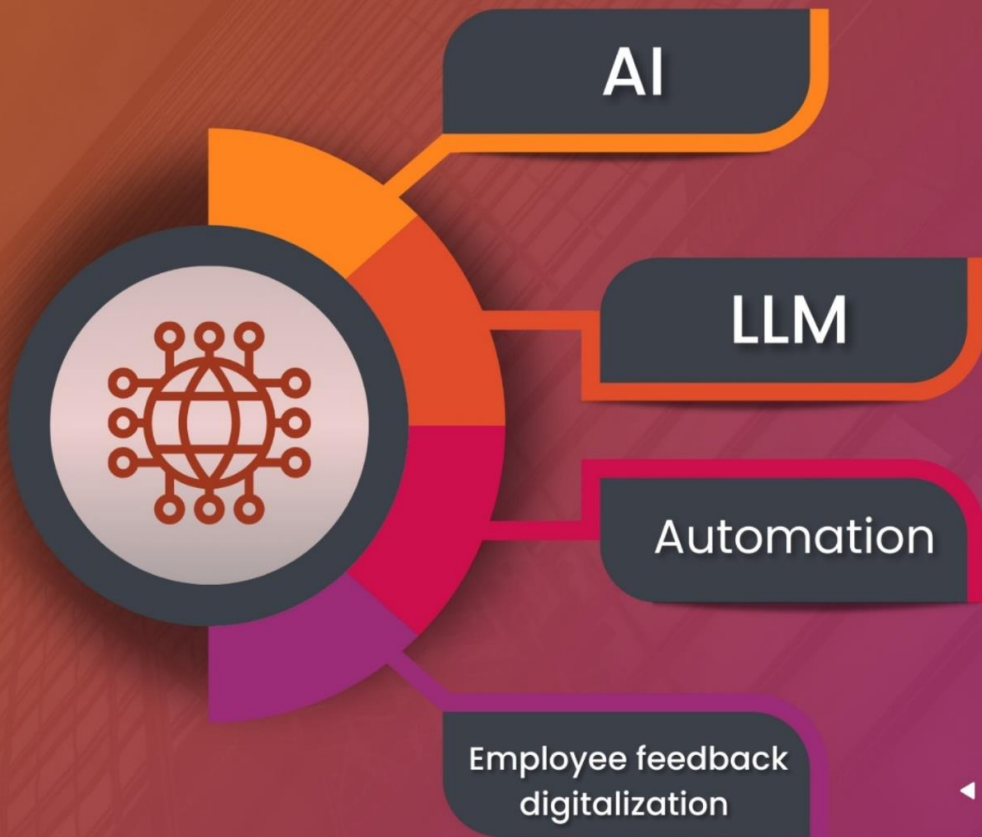
TECH.ADVANCE



Ways To



Digitalize Your Business



Info@techadvance.dev



www.techadvance.dev