

A SHARED VISION OF GROWTH AND COLLABORATION



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His Excellency Shaikh Saoud Ali Almualla

Consul General of the UAE in Hong Kong



Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) make for ideal partners, not just in the pursuit of business and investment opportunities, but also in forging stronger cultural and social exchanges between Asia and the Middle East.

His Excellency Shaikh Saoud Ali M. A. Almualla, Consul General of the UAE in Hong Kong, highlighted the huge potential for closer bilateral ties, especially given the similarities between the two places.

“Much like Hong Kong, the UAE has embraced a vision of growth driven by economic diversification, international collaboration, and an entrepreneurial spirit,” Shaikh Saoud said, adding that the UAE's economic trajectory over the past five decades reflects its commitment to

strengthening international partnerships while enhancing its competitiveness and sustainability.

“The similarities between major international financial centres and trade hubs such as the UAE and Hong Kong are striking, particularly when it comes to their economic dynamism, cultural diversity, and forward-looking ambition.”

He noted that the UAE's foreign policy is firmly focused on long-term economic prosperity, with innovative strategies aimed at diversifying its economy and establishing a knowledge-based, technology-driven future.

“This drive for diversification and innovation mirrors the adaptability and ambition seen in Hong Kong, where forward-

thinking approaches have allowed it to remain at the forefront of global trade and investment,” Shaikh Saoud said.

“In essence, the UAE shares many of the same values and aspirations as Hong Kong: economic ambition, cultural inclusivity, and a vision of continued growth and global collaboration. Both places offer a thriving environment for business and personal development, making them ideal partners in fostering deeper trade and investment ties across regions.”

The UAE is Hong Kong's largest trading partner in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. The Hong Kong SAR Government also opened an Economic and Trade Office in Dubai in 2021, demonstrating



the city's long-standing commitment to developing bilateral relations with the UAE and beyond.

While Hong Kong is regarded as one of the easiest places to do business and is rated as the world's No.1 freest economy in the latest Economic Freedom of the World Report 2024 by Canada's Fraser Institute, the UAE is also enhancing its appeal for foreign investment.

"I would strongly encourage investors to consider both Hong Kong and the UAE as key destinations for business expansion," said Shaikh Saoud.

"Setting up a company in Hong Kong is a relatively simple and efficient process.

"At the same time, I would recommend that Hong Kong investors explore opportunities in the UAE. The UAE has firmly established itself as a leading international financial and trade hub, attracting substantial foreign investment. The recently launched "Invest in the Emirates" campaign highlights the UAE's rapidly

growing innovation ecosystem, which offers comprehensive support to businesses, including funding, favourable regulatory frameworks, and strong government backing."

Comparisons between Hong Kong and the UAE, including major cities such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi, go beyond the realms of trade, finance and investment, explains Shaikh Saoud.

"Culturally and socially, both the UAE and Hong Kong are melting pots of diverse communities, where multiculturalism is celebrated," he says.

"The UAE is home to more than 200 nationalities, living and working together in peace and harmony. Residents of both Hong Kong and the UAE benefit from a rich cultural tapestry, where the fusion of traditions and ideas leads to innovative solutions and a dynamic way of life."

Arriving in Hong Kong in 2021 to serve as Acting Consul General and then taking up his

current post as Consul General a year later, Shaikh Saoud shared his experiences of the city's culture and lifestyle.

"Having lived in Hong Kong over the past few years, I can attest to the unique charm and appeal of this vibrant city. The seamless and dynamic blend of Eastern and Western cultures is one of the aspects I appreciate most about Hong Kong," he said.

"In my free time, I relish exploring the city's diverse neighborhoods and islands, and enjoy indulging in the extraordinary culinary scene. I also enjoy the many cultural events that take place year-round, which provide a window into Hong Kong's rich cultural tapestry. During the autumn and winter months, I take advantage of the beautiful weather to explore different hiking trails and natural wonders.

"Hong Kong is truly a wonderful place to live and work."