

SBF BUSINESS MISSION TO QATAR & UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 29 Jan – 3 Feb 08

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) will be organising a business mission to Qatar and United Arab Emirates from 29 Jan to 3 Feb 08 (dates subject to confirmation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). This is in conjunction with **Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong's official visit to the region**. The two cities that the delegates will be visiting include **Doha** and **Dubai**.

The objective of this mission is to explore business opportunities in these two countries. Highlights of this trip include business forums and business-matching sessions, visits to chambers and business associations and briefings by the relevant ministries and key government agencies. In addition, there will also be networking sessions with key businessmen of these countries. This business mission aims to provide **first hand understanding of the overall market dynamics & emerging sectors and establishing useful business and official contacts**.

Why Qatar?

In 2007, Qatar was ranked the second most open Arab economy at the World Economic Forum. Real GDP growth averaged about 6.8% during the last three years. Qatar has the third largest reserves of natural gas in the world, exceeding 25 trillion cubic meters, though the government is diversifying sources of national income through major reforms to attract more FDI to the non-oil sectors. Due to legislation in 2000, the government has allowed wholly-owned foreign firms to operate in the country. Geographically, Qatar offers businesses a uniquely central location at the hub of the Middle East markets. The government is currently planning 27 mega industrial projects worth USD 60 billion by 2010, and has plans to spend up to USD 100 billion on investment and infrastructure projects by 2012.

Why United Arab Emirates?

The UAE is the world's third-largest re-export centre after Hong Kong and Singapore. Strategically located at the crossroads of trade and commerce between East and West, UAE is in an ideal position to service and access markets that span the Middle East, North and South Africa and the Indian Subcontinent. It is situated in the historical and important marine trade route between the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean and the crossroads of the Gulf, Asian and African markets. UAE is politically stable and has a forward-looking, responsive Government with a progressive, pro-business attitude and a highly developed commitment to the private sector. Foreign Direct Investment had reached AED68.63 billion (SGD26.75 billion) in 2006, up 10.8 per cent from 2005's AED 61.91 billion (SGD24.13 billion).

Business opportunities present in these sectors:

- Tourism & Hospitality ▪ ICT ▪ Oil & Gas ▪ Education ▪ Agriculture ▪ Construction, Real Estate & Facility Management
- Consumer Products, Services & Retail ▪ Water & Environment ▪ Trading

As part of the delegation accompanying SM Goh on his official visit, we seek your kind cooperation & understanding to adhere to the programme that is planned and stay throughout the entire mission in order not to miss out any opportunities to attend business forums and establish relevant contacts. Due to limited availability of seats, registered participants are subject to confirmation by SBF.

Estimated Costs: (*SBF members will receive preferential rates on common costs)

1	++ Air Tickets	SGD\$3100 + taxes (Economy Class)
2	++ Hotel Accommodation (Price per night, incl. Breakfast)	SGD\$700 per night
3	Estimated Common Cost (incl. local transfers, meals, networking, brochures, gifts and other miscellaneous expenses)*	SGD\$2600 (SBF Members) SGD\$3000 (Non-members)

++ Eligible companies can apply to International Enterprise Singapore for double tax deduction for accommodation and air travel costs for up to 2 representatives per participating company. You can apply to this scheme at <http://dtd.iesingapore.com> but companies must make their application at least 7 days before departure.

* Common cost subsidized under IMAP is already factored into the estimated common cost.

For any queries or to register your interest, please contact **Gary Soh** (gary.soh@sbf.org.sg) or **George Chan** (george.chan@sbf.org.sg) at 6827 6847/842.

Ref No: MEAF 013/280108/01W

REGISTRATION FORM - Attn Gary/George (Closing Date: 18 Jan 08)

Fax: 6720 2873/ 6734 0610

Name (Mr/Ms): _____ Designation: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Company: _____ SBF Mbrship No: _____

Please indicate which business sector you are from: _____

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