

# ADGM TIMES

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Monthly Newsletter

Bilateral trade between China and the UAE is projected to reach **\$200 billion by 2030**

## Abu Dhabi Enhances Trade and Investments with China

An Abu Dhabi economic delegation, led by the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), has concluded a successful visit to China, which saw the signing of groundbreaking agreements to further enhance cooperation between government entities and private sector companies in Abu Dhabi and China, reaffirming the emirate's efforts to build and cement partnerships with leading economies and trading partners.

The visit showcased the Falcon Economy's attributes, the ample growth opportunities available in Abu Dhabi, and the emirate's commitment to transformative strategies to address new trends and changes in the global economy.

A strategic cooperation agreement was signed between the Abu Dhabi Government and Shanghai Municipal People's Government, covering wide-ranging areas including business, trade, finance, science, technology, education, culture, health, tourism, and ports. The Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and ADDED will lead efforts and initiatives to achieve the objectives of the agreement in line with the joint communiqués and statements announced by the leaderships of the People's Republic of China and the UAE.

Over the course of six days, the Abu Dhabi economic delegation actively engaged in bilateral meetings with top government officials, key businesses and investors in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. The meetings included His Excellency Chen Jining, Member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party and Party Secretary of Shanghai; His Excellency Yin Yong, the Mayor of Beijing; His Excellency Gong Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai; and His Excellency John Lee, Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

The delegation also explored new opportunities with leading Chinese companies including ByteDance, Xiaomi, Legend Holding, Xiaodong, BYD, CICC, and CATL.

His Excellency Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of ADDED, said: "We are pleased with the outcomes of our visit to China, building on strong foundations to further enhance our partnership by exploring new opportunities in clusters with high-growth potential and emerging industries. The steady and impressive growth of bilateral trade and mutual investments between the UAE and China is a testament to our shared commitment to further strengthen the strategic cooperation, based on mutual trust, collaboration, and a common vision to address global

economy's challenges.

As economic cooperation is a key pillar in cementing relations, we are forging ahead with efforts to build bridges and enhance bonds with key economies, powerhouses, and trading partners around the world, guided by our leadership's collaborative and proactive approach to shaping a better future for all."

In recent years, economic ties between the UAE and China have seen outstanding growth rates; with bilateral trade growing from just US\$2 billion (AED7.4 billion) in 2000 to nearly US\$100 billion (AED 367 billion) in 2023. In the first nine months of 2024, trade between the UAE and China reached US\$74.5 billion (AED273.4 billion) and is projected to rise to US\$200 billion (AED734 billion) by 2030.

Chinese investments in the UAE rose 16 per cent and UAE investments in China soared 120 per cent.

The number of Chinese companies registered with the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry grew by 38 per cent in 2023 and 69.4 per cent in 2024, reflecting the attractiveness of Abu Dhabi to Chinese businesses and investors.

His Excellency Badr Al Olama, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO); His Excellency Rashed Lahej

**"We are forging ahead with efforts to build bridges and enhance bonds with key economies"**

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leading consulting firms; Wind Information, China's leading financial information services provider; and Yicai, a leading Chinese financial media group and provider of reliable and insightful information and analysis of the economy, finance, tech, startups, and entrepreneurs. The agreements aim to introduce Abu Dhabi's investment opportunities to leading Chinese businesses and investors, enhance investment intelligence, support Chinese companies' international expansion, and deepen economic ties between Abu Dhabi and China.

Al Mansoori, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Customs; His Excellency Shamis Al Dhaheri, Second Vice Chairman - Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Chamber; His Excellency Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of the Registration Authority ADGM; and Ahmad Ali Alwan, CEO of Hub71, as well as senior officials and executives from the government and private sector participated in meetings and events organised as part of the Abu Dhabi economic delegation's visit to China.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Forum (ADIF), organised by ADIO and ADGM in Beijing and Shanghai, attracted Chinese investors and businesses to explore opportunities in the emirate and capitalise on its business-friendly ecosystem to grow and expand globally.

During the visit, ADIO and ADGM inked agreements with leading Chinese entities, including Fosun International Limited, a global innovation-driven consumer group; Hejun Group, one of China's

The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI) signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce to promote bilateral trade and mutual investment collaboration and streamline joint efforts to support Chinese companies seeking expansion in Abu Dhabi.

The Abu Dhabi-Shanghai Business Forum, organised by ADCCI, provided a suitable platform for businesses in China and the UAE to build relations and form agreements in B2B meetings.

## ADGM Strengthens Global Network with Participation in iConnections Global Alts 2025

Continuing its efforts to strengthen global ties through international roadshows, ADGM participated in iConnections Global Alts 2025, and held another round of strategic bilateral engagements in the United States (US). The successful roadshow further high-

lighted Abu Dhabi's position as a premier hub for global asset managers across hedge funds, private equity, and venture capital.

Building on the success of its participation in iConnections in 2024 and a series of engagements in New York and Washing-

ton in the fourth quarter of 2024, ADGM continues to see growing demand from top-tier global firms seeking to leverage Abu Dhabi's world-class regulatory environment and business infrastructure.

As part of its engagement during iConnections



# ADGM Launches All-in-One Mobile App to Enhance Connectivity, Elevate Experience Across Financial District

- A comprehensive digital platform aligned with ADGM's commitment to foster an innovative, compliant, and connected global financial hub.
- Streamlined services to support businesses, professionals, residents, and visitors by driving efficiency and collaboration.

ADGM has officially launched its all-in-one mobile App, which is set to redefine how businesses, employees, and residents engage within the financial district. Designed to streamline connectivity, the app provides seamless access to exclusive tools and services, enhancing the overall experience within ADGM's dynamic community.

An all-in-one digital solution for businesses and professionals, the ADGM App offers real-time updates on regulatory developments, compliance calendars, commercial licence renewals, and an exclusive professional networking feature to foster collaboration and unlock business opportunities within the community. For residents and visitors, it provides access to lifestyle features, cultural activities, exclusive offers, and a range of services designed to elevate their experience within the financial district.

“Salem Mohammed Al Darei, CEO of ADGM Authority, said, “As a leading international financial centre, ADGM remains committed to driving

innovation and operational excellence. The launch of the ADGM App is a significant step forward in enhancing connectivity within our ecosystem, reinforcing our dedication to creating a digitally advanced, collaborative environment that fosters growth and progress across all sectors of our community.”

This initiative underscores ADGM's commitment to fostering collaboration, supporting sustainable development, and enhancing engagement across Abu Dhabi's ecosystem. Strategic partnerships with key stakeholders such as Hub71, ADIO, Aldar Properties, The Galleria, and Numou have enabled the integration of key services into the ADGM App, ensuring a seamless, efficient, and enriching user experience.

The ADGM App reinforces Abu Dhabi as a premier destination to live, work, and explore. The ADGM App is now available for download on the App Store and Google Play.



# ADGM Appoints Justice Paul Heath KC as a Judge to ADGM Courts

- Justice Paul Heath KC replaces Justice William Stone SBS KC after he retired as a Judge in late 2024

ADGM Courts, the internationally recognised independent courts of ADGM, announced the appointment of Justice Paul Heath KC as a Judge, effective from 7th December 2024. Justice Heath KC succeeds Justice William Stone SBS KC, who retired on 31st December 2024.



Commenting on Justice Heath's appointment, the Right Honourable Lord David Hope of Craighead KT, Chief Justice of ADGM Courts, said, “We are delighted that Justice Heath has joined the Court. He has extensive experience in cross-border insolvency and general commercial disputes. Since retiring from the High Court of New Zealand, and demonstrating the breadth of his experience, he has conducted numerous international arbitrations as a sole arbitrator and

been involved in both domestic and international mediations, mainly in the commercial environment. His appointment adds to our reputation for providing exceptional judicial services, in support of the increasing number of global financial institutions and companies that have selected ADGM as a jurisdiction that will enhance their chances of future

prosperity and growth.” Justice Heath commenced his practice as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 1978. In 1997, he became a consultant on commercial law matters to the New Zealand Law Commission (a statutory law reform agency) and was appointed a Commissioner in 1999. While at the Law Commission, Justice Heath oversaw the preparation of reports on cross-border insolvency, domestic insolvency issues, arbitration and electronic commerce. He moved to the independent bar in 1998 and was immediately appointed as Queen's Counsel. Primarily in recognition of his work on cross-border insolvency, in 2000 he was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2002, he was appointed as a



Judge of the High Court of New Zealand, and particularly a Judge of the Commercial List and the Commercial Panel. From 2003 until 2017, he sat regularly as an ad hoc member of the Court of Appeal in both its criminal and civil appeal divisions.

ADGM Courts is renowned for its advanced technology driven services, including its unique eCourts Platform, state-of-the-art digital courtroom and ground-breaking blockchain solution for the enforcement of judgments. ADGM's foundation on English Common Law, bolstered by a robust regulatory framework and supported by an outstanding judiciary, reinforce ADGM's reputation as a leading international financial centre.



# ADGM Publishes New Employment Regulations



Global Alts 2025, ADGM participated in a high-profile panel discussion on 'Abu Dhabi: The Capital of Capital'. The session explored Abu Dhabi's rapid rise as one of the world's most talked-about financial jurisdictions, backed by its USD 1.7 trillion in Sovereign Wealth Capital. The panel featured Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at ADGM, Lawrence Paramasivam, Senior Executive Director at the FSRA of ADGM, and Ryan Taylor, Partner at Brevan Howard. Discussions explored the evolution of ADGM's financial ecosystem, its progressive regulatory framework and the increasing interest from global asset managers seeking to establish a presence in the region.

ADGM also conducted 28 bilateral meetings with leading asset managers, private equity firms, hedge funds, family offices, and venture capital investors from key financial markets, including the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and Brazil. The growing interest underscores Abu Dhabi's emergence as a global asset management powerhouse, offering unparalleled opportunities for institutional

investors and financial firms looking to access the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region.

Sharing some highlights from the US roadshow, Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at ADGM, said, "The sustained interest from global asset managers reinforces Abu Dhabi's position as a destination of choice. We are keen to understand the evolving priorities of global financial firms and these engagements open doors and unveiled Abu Dhabi's untapped opportunities. ADGM's reputation for its progressive regulatory framework and business-friendly environment continues to attract global institutions, but beyond that, our focus is to foster international collaborations that drive long-term growth and expand the global financial footprint in the region."

ADGM's participation in iConnections Global Alts 2025 is part of its broader strategy to strengthen global financial partnerships, facilitate cross-border investments, and support the growth of the global asset management industry.

The Registration Authority (RA) of ADGM has published the Employment Regulations 2024 (the "New Employment Regulations"), which reflect global changes in workplace practices, and provide greater clarity to employers and employees with respect to their rights and obligations. Such changes aim to promote and foster best employment practices in ADGM.

Some of the key changes in the New Employment Regulations are amending the definition of 'employee' to enable employers to hire remote employees and to allow for more flexible working arrangements; clarifying ambiguities related to employee entitlements, including part-time employees; clarifying certain requirements regarding obtaining

and cancelling an employee's work permit and visa and expanding obligations and responsibilities related to discrimination and victimisation in the workplace.

Repealing the existing Employment Regulations 2019, the New Employment Regulations will become effective on 1st April 2025, thereby granting employers sufficient time to align their internal policies, employment contracts and other employment-related matters with the requirements provided under the New Employment Regulations.

Commenting on the New Employment Regulations, Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of ADGM Registration Authority said, "We are pleased to announce the publication of the New Employment

Regulations, which reflect our strong commitment to enhancing our ecosystem and ensuring the best regulatory frameworks and favourable conditions for both companies and employees alike. These new regulations come as we continue to expand, grow, and promote innovation in work systems. They will provide the necessary information to the business community while ensuring the protection and stability required for all parties. At ADGM, we are dedicated to strengthening our regulatory frameworks and providing the necessary support and guidance to our community to ensure the sustainability of success and excellence."

## Regulatory Alert: Awareness Regarding Loan Transfer Scams



The Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) of ADGM alerts the community and the public about recent fraudulent schemes in which individuals or entities make false claims on social media that they are associated with ADGM or its staff and promise loans to solicit upfront payments.

**Please be aware that:**

- a) ADGM and its staff do not process or facilitate loan transactions for third parties. Any advertisements or posts on social media platforms or unsolicited communications suggesting otherwise are fraudulent.
- b) Scammers may falsely claim to represent ADGM to deceive individuals into providing personal or financial information or to transfer funds.
- c) If you receive unsolicited communications offering loans or other financial products and services that claim to be from ADGM directly, please act with caution.

**Take steps to protect yourself** by always verifying the identity of any person or organisation contacting you. Official communications from ADGM will always come from verified official channels.

Do not share confidential financial details such as bank account numbers, personal identification numbers (PINs), or passwords with anyone, even if they claim to be from a regulatory authority or an official body.

If in doubt, contact the FSRA directly using the contact details provided on our official website.

The FSRA is committed to maintaining the integrity of financial markets and ensuring a fair and transparent environment for all market participants.

Only firms authorised by the FSRA can undertake Regulated Activities in ADGM.

The FSRA advises the market and investors to not deal with any firm until it is verified that the firm is authentic and has been granted the appropriate Financial Services Permission by the FSRA to undertake Regulated Activities in ADGM.

Anyone with concerns about a website or a firm purporting to be incorporated or registered in ADGM should check ADGM Registration Authority's Public Register. To determine if an entity has a Financial Services Permission to conduct Regulated Activities in ADGM search the FSRA's Public Register.

# Arcapita Expands Regional Footprint with ADGM License and Abu Dhabi Office



Arcapita Group Holdings Limited, a global leader in alternative investments, announces its license to operate from ADGM and the opening of its new office in Abu Dhabi. The launch of Arcapita Investment Management Limited is part of Arcapita's strategic expansion in the region. Stéphane Brown, Group COO, has been appointed as Senior Executive Officer. This significant milestone further solidifies Arcapita's commitment to the UAE market and strengthens its position as a key player in the country's Private Equity and Real Estate investment landscape.

Arcapita has established a strong track record in the UAE, with over \$1.3 billion in total transaction value across its various investments. The firm is one of the largest investors in industrial real estate in the UAE, with approximately \$500 million in industrial real estate assets under management (AUM), and around \$650 million in private equity across various sectors. This expansion allows Arcapita to be closer to its clients, prospective investors, and business partners, thereby enhancing its ability to deliver on its investment strategies in the UAE.

Arcapita's long-standing presence in the UAE is underscored by its successful investments across diverse sectors. The recent investment in NEOPAY, a rapidly growing payment solutions provider,

follows the acquisition of The DataFlow Group, a leading provider of primary source verification. These investments reflect Arcapita's focus on the country's developing fintech sector as well as essential business services, underscoring the firm's commitment to a balanced investment strategy within Private Equity.



The establishment of Arcapita's Abu Dhabi office comes in response to the UAE's growing role as a global financial hub and its continued economic diversification under Vision 2031, which focuses on fostering private sector growth, infrastructure development and financial innovation; areas where Arcapita has a proven track record and can bring its expertise to bear.

Hisham Al Raee, Chief Executive Officer, Arcapita, commented: "Opening our

office in Abu Dhabi is a pivotal step in Arcapita's journey. The UAE is a strategic market with immense potential, and our growing presence here is a testament to our commitment to harnessing the incredible growth opportunities it has to offer. By establishing a stronger foothold in the region, we're positioning ourselves to deliver more value

to our clients and to tap into a dynamic market that aligns with our vision. The addition of our Abu Dhabi office, alongside our Riyadh office, signifies our dedication to being a proactive and engaged partner in the region."

Stéphane Brown, Senior Executive Officer at Arcapita Investment Management Limited, and Chief Operating Officer at Arcapita, added: "The UAE continues to evolve as a global economic leader, and establishing a regulated presence in Abu Dhabi

enhances our ability to further strengthen relationships with investors and partners across the region. We are excited to be able to contribute to the UAE's vision of economic diversification and are confident that our Abu Dhabi presence will play a critical role in identifying and executing strategic transactions in one of the most dynamic economies in the world."

Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer, ADGM, said: "We are delighted to welcome Arcapita to ADGM's thriving community. Their presence underscores ADGM's role as a preferred destination for leading global investment firms looking to expand in the region. Arcapita's expertise in private equity and real estate investments complements ADGM's commitment to fostering a dynamic, innovative, and collaborative ecosystem. We look forward to supporting their growth and contributions to the UAE's financial and economic landscape."

With its proven history of successful investments and deep-rooted involvement in the UAE, Arcapita is well-positioned to contribute to the country's continued growth and development. The new ADGM licensed activity serves as a testament to the firm's commitment to playing an active role in the region's economic future.

# NewVest Expands Presence in the Middle East with New Abu Dhabi Office



NewVest has announced at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week the opening of its new office, located in ADGM. This strategic expansion underscores NewVest's commitment to the Middle East region and its dedication to providing top-tier investment solutions to clients in this dynamic market once the licensing process with ADGM's Financial Services Regulatory Authority has been completed.

In conjunction with the office opening, NewVest has announced that Olivia Jack, Global Head of Marketing and Communications, has relocated to Abu Dhabi to lead NewVest's global marketing and communications operations from the UAE. Olivia brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of NewVest's strategic vision, ensuring seamless integration and enhanced client engagement in the Middle East.

"NewVest's expansion into Abu Dhabi marks a significant milestone in our growth strategy," said Edward Talmor-Gera, CEO of NewVest. "Once our licensing process is complete, our new office in

ADGM will enable us to better serve our clients in the region and strengthen our global footprint. We are committed to delivering innovative investment solutions and exceptional client service."

Ariel Ezrahi, Director of Climate Strategy at NewVest, added, "Abu Dhabi's robust leadership as a key climate finance hub and ADGM's sophisticated regulatory environment provide an ideal platform for NewVest to expand its presence and deepen its connections with investors in the Middle East and beyond. We are excited about the opportunities this new office will bring."

When the licensing process is complete, NewVest's Abu Dhabi office will serve as a hub for the firm's activities in the Middle East, fostering closer relationships with regional investors and partners and a gateway for operations globally. The office will also support NewVest's ongoing efforts to drive energy transition and climate related investment strategies and contribute to the region's economic growth.

# Polen Capital Secures ADGM License, Appoints Regional Head as It Expands Middle East Presence

Polen Capital, a global investment management firm specializing in growth equity and credit, is excited to announce it has received its Financial Services Permission (FSP) to operate in ADGM and has opened an office in Abu Dhabi, solidifying its commitment to the Middle East region as a key pillar of its global growth strategy.

This move underscores Polen Capital's focus on credit, a rapidly growing area of its business, as it responds

to increasing interest from Middle Eastern investors in its credit strategies. Establishing a foothold in one of the world's most dynamic financial hubs strengthens Polen's ability to serve the region's sophisticated investor base, tap into its deep pools of capital, and meet the growing demand for active, high-conviction investment strategies. Abu Dhabi's increasingly prominent role in global finance, backed by a bold long-term vision and a regulatory environment that

fosters innovation, aligns seamlessly with Polen's ambitions for growth and expansion.

Stan Moss, CEO of Polen Capital, commented: "Polen Capital has grown from a single investment vehicle managing \$3 billion in assets to a multi-strategy firm overseeing \$60 billion today. The Middle East, and Abu Dhabi in particular, represents a tremendous opportunity for us. We were especially pleased with how seamless the ADGM

process was, and with our new presence there, we're committed to expanding our footprint and accelerating our next phase of growth while continuing to serve regional investors with outstanding service and deep expertise."

In line with this expansion, Polen Capital had appointed Omar Sultani as Managing Director, Head of Middle East and Central Asia. Sultani will spearhead the firm's regional strategy, strengthening partnerships and driving

growth across the region.

"Abu Dhabi has become a key global financial center, offering an ideal environment for asset managers to expand and innovate," said Omar Sultani. "Polen Capital's track record of disciplined, high-conviction investing resonates strongly with investors in this region, and I'm excited to build on that foundation."

Commenting on the development, Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at

ADGM, said: "We are pleased to welcome Polen Capital to ADGM as they continue their global expansion. Abu Dhabi has become a key destination for leading asset managers, offering a dynamic investment environment and a regulatory framework designed for growth. Polen's presence here reinforces the strength of our ecosystem, and we look forward to seeing them thrive as they bring their expertise to the region."

# ADGM's Numou Expands Financial Access Through Strategic Partnerships with Leading Private Credit Providers

Numou Revolutionizes SME Financing in the UAE with Launch of Innovative Digital Lending Marketplace.

Numou, a subsidiary of ADGM, recently announced a significant expansion of its lending partner network, strengthening its position as a groundbreaking digital lending marketplace. The platform now features strategic collaborations with leading institutions, including the Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development and private credit providers such as Credible-X, Klubworks, and NymCard Payment Technologies. With the goal of transforming the financing landscape for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UAE, this

state-of-the-art platform provides a seamless, fully digital application process, empowering businesses to access a diverse range of financial products while connecting them directly with lenders suited to their unique needs.

With SMEs constituting an impressive 94% of all companies in the UAE and contributing approximately 40% to the national GDP, their role in the economy is vital. Yet, despite their significance, securing adequate and timely financing remains a persistent challenge for many SMEs. Recent data from the UAE



Central Bank highlights the issue, showing that loans to SMEs account for just 9.5% of the total cumulative financial facilities extended to the commercial and industrial sectors.

Recognizing this gap, Numou has introduced a digital platform designed to address these challenges head-on by simplifying the lending process, increasing transparency, and enabling competition among lenders to drive better outcomes for SMEs.

For SMEs Numou, offers a streamlined Application Process: Businesses submit a single, standardized online application that meets the varying requirements of multiple lenders. This eliminates the need for repeated paperwork and physical visits to branches,

significantly saving time and effort.

**Enhanced Transparency:** The platform provides visibility into lenders' interest rates, loan terms, and turnaround times, empowering SMEs to make informed decisions that best suit their financing needs.

**Cost and Time Efficiency:** By fostering competition among lenders, Numou not only reduces loan processing times but also helps businesses secure more favourable rates and terms.

**For Financial Institutions,** it offers an Efficient Credit Assessment: Lenders receive well-organized, standardized applications that streamline their internal credit assessment processes. This minimizes the need for redundant data validation, accelerating approval timelines.

**Partnership Opportunities:** Numou collaborates with lenders to explore innovative financial solutions tailored for SMEs, fostering a shared commitment to economic growth and business development.

To further enhance its offerings, Numou is actively expanding its network to include digital and traditional banks, ensuring SMEs have access to a broader range of financing options and innovative products. This growing network reflects Numou's mission to deliver a one-stop solution for SME financing in the UAE.

As a globally recognized financial centre, ADGM continues to lead in fostering innovation and economic development. Through initiatives like Numou, ADGM underscores its commitment

to addressing the challenges faced by SMEs, ensuring they have access to the capital needed to thrive.

Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at ADGM, said: "Numou exemplifies ADGM's commitment to empowering SMEs as a cornerstone of Abu Dhabi's economy. By leveraging innovation and collaboration, this platform simplifies access to critical financing, fostering sustainable growth and strengthening the UAE's position as a global hub for business and investment."

Khalifa Al Zaabi, General Manager of Numou, "Numou is more than just a digital lending platform—it's a transformative tool for SMEs to unlock their full potential. By bringing together a comprehensive suite of lending options

on a single platform, we're enabling businesses to access the capital they need to grow faster and more efficiently. Numou is also a testament to Abu Dhabi's commitment to supporting the SME sector. It complements various initiatives aimed at enhancing SME access to funding, market opportunities, capacity-building programs, and overall ease of doing business."

In the coming months, the platform plans to broaden its offerings with the introduction of supply chain financing (factoring) and in the future to extend to equity financing. These additions will provide SMEs with even greater flexibility and access to capital, ensuring they can tackle new challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

These future developments align closely with the UAE's

broader vision of fostering a dynamic, diversified economy, where SMEs play a pivotal role in sustainable growth and innovation. By expanding its suite of financial products, Numou aims to solidify its position as the go-to platform for SME financing, supporting businesses at every stage of their journey.

At its core, Numou is driven by a commitment to empowering the UAE's SME ecosystem. By simplifying access to financing and driving economic growth, Numou is positioning itself as a key enabler in the UAE's journey toward a resilient and diversified economy.

To learn more about how Numou can support your business growth, visit [www.Numou.ae](http://www.Numou.ae) or contact [Support@Numou.ae](mailto:Support@Numou.ae).

# Yicai Signs Memorandum of Understanding With ADGM



Yicai, a leading financial news outlet under Shanghai Media Group (SMG), has secured a landmark partnership with ADGM. The agreement positions Yicai as ADGM's primary media partner in China and marks the beginning of a new chapter in fostering professional exchanges across key sectors such as economy, trade, and culture between China and Abu Dhabi.

Yicai, the only business and financial media organization

in China with a comprehensive media portfolio spanning digital platforms, television and radio, newspapers and magazine, will provide regular coverage on Abu Dhabi's policies, industries, and business environment. This commitment is outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of ADGM Registration Authority, and Ms. Li Rong, Vice President of Shanghai Media Group and Chairwoman

of Yicai, at the 2025 Abu Dhabi Investment Forum.

Yicai will also participate in major ADGM forums, including the Abu Dhabi Financial Week, Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum, and Abu Dhabi Investment Forum. The MoU was signed in the presence of H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Member of Abu Dhabi's Executive Council & Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development

(ADDED) and ADGM and, Mr. Fang Shizhong, President of Shanghai Media Group.

The two parties will explore opportunities to co-host events in China and Abu Dhabi, fostering finance and investment dialogue, alongside activities such as forums, visits, training, media exchanges, and cultural engagement, to strengthen industry connections and strengthen mutual understanding.

Commenting on the partnership, Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO of ADGM Registration Authority, said: "We are delighted to partner with Yicai. This collaboration reflects ADGM's commitment to enhancing global connectivity and fostering deeper understanding between our two nations. As Abu Dhabi continues to strengthen its position as a leading international financial centre, such strategic alliances are instrumental in shaping a more connected, innovative, and resilient global economy."

SMG views the partnership with ADGM as an opportunity to enhance information sharing, boost global influence and foster innovation in the financial market, Fang said.

With a global reach of over one billion viewers, SMG is committed to driving systemic media reforms, focusing on the core strategies of "news-driven, culture-oriented, and integration-strengthened" to make the group a more internationally influential, innovative, and competitive multimedia corporation, Fang said.

Li Rong stated that Yicai has always been committed to assisting Chinese enterprises go global and to providing reliable information and professional business connections for multinational companies and institutions developing in China. She believes that Abu Dhabi will serve as a gateway of the Middle East for Yicai to conduct reporting and business development. Yicai also has a strong willingness and professional capability to deeply engage with and support institutions in Abu Dhabi in their business expansion in China.

In recent years, China and the Middle East have drawn closer, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative, forging deeper collaborations in infrastructure, energy,

finance, and technology. The UAE, as a major economic player in the region, has long been an important partner for China in the Middle East.

SMG international media umbrella includes major channels such as ShanghaiEye, Yicai Global, and Dragon TV, with more than 4.8 million global viewing hours annually and over 10 million overseas followers.

Since launching its English-language platform Yicai Global in 2016, Yicai has connected China with the world, helping Chinese companies go global while providing reliable information and business connections for multinational companies expanding into China.

Yicai entered into talks with ADGM last year and is now an exclusive media partner for the 2025 Abu Dhabi Investment Forum, which took place in Beijing on Feb. 18 and in Shanghai on Feb. 20. The forum focused on key areas like finance, trade, infrastructure, technology, and healthcare, exploring investment opportunities between China and the UAE.

# Abu Dhabi Investment Office signs strategic agreement with Fosun International during Abu Dhabi Investment Forum in Shanghai



Abu Dhabi Investment Office signed a strategic partnership with Fosun International Limited, a global innovation-driven consumer group, to accelerate the expansion of Fosun's subsidiaries into Abu Dhabi and the wider Middle East. The agreement, announced at the Abu Dhabi Investment Forum (ADIF) in Shanghai, strengthens economic ties while reinforcing the UAE capital's position as a global

investment hub. Under the partnership, ADIO will provide tailored investor support, streamlined market access and strategic guidance to accelerate Fosun's presence in key growth sectors in Abu Dhabi, including wealth management, fintech, premium residential real estate and healthcare innovation. Fosun International, a global consumer powerhouse with RMB97.84 billion (approximately \$13.4 billion) in

revenue in the first half of 2024 and over 110,000 employees worldwide, operates across pharmaceuticals, healthcare, tourism, insurance and financial services and intelligent manufacturing. By establishing Abu Dhabi as a regional gateway to the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia, Fosun aims to tap into the emirate's dynamic business ecosystem and substantial investor base. His Excellency Badr

Al-Olama, Director-General of ADIO, said: "Abu Dhabi continues to attract the world's most prestigious companies, reinforcing the emirate's standing as a globally attractive investment destination. Partnering with Fosun International underscores our commitment to promoting high-impact investments that drive innovation and accelerate Abu Dhabi's economic transformation. As one of China's most reputable

conglomerates, Fosun's entry into Abu Dhabi will open new avenues of collaboration across diverse industries, further advancing the emirate's vision of robust sustainable economic growth." Beyond corporate expansion, Fosun will collaborate with ADIO to attract global investors and family offices, in addition to supporting the development of Abu Dhabi's economic clusters. Wilson Jin, Senior Vice President of Fosun International, said: "Abu Dhabi's strategic location, business-friendly environment and world-class regulatory framework make it the ideal hub for Fosun's next phase of international growth

and scaling of our subsidiaries. This partnership will allow us to expand our footprint, attract top-tier investors and contribute to the emirate's economic vision." The agreement reinforces Abu Dhabi's position as a global gateway for Chinese enterprises and investors seeking expansion opportunities in the region. With a shared commitment to driving innovation and investment, ADIO and Fosun International aim to create lasting economic impact and growth opportunities across key economic sectors.

# ADDED facilitates business expansion in Abu Dhabi for firms registered in other emirates

Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has introduced new flexibilities to support business expansion and growth across the emirate. New regulations now allow firms registered in other emirates of the UAE, and their respective free zones, to open branches within Abu Dhabi without requiring physical premises for the first year. The decision streamlines business processes and gives firms easy access to the many business opportunities across Abu Dhabi's growing economy. It aims to reflect Abu Dhabi's commitment to fostering a conducive investment climate through ease of doing business, solidifying its position as a thriving hub for investment and growth.



The measure exempts 1,200 economic activities across various sectors from providing a physical premises for one year from the date of their license issuance. The decision supports Abu Dhabi's economic diversification efforts by enabling companies to grow through access to its integrated business ecosystem. It enhances the growth of non-oil sectors, which have increased 59 per cent over the past ten years, with a 6.6

per cent increase in the third quarter of 2024, raising their contribution to Abu Dhabi's total GDP to 54 per cent. His Excellency Mohammed Munif Al Mansouri, Acting Director General of the Abu Dhabi Registration and Licensing Authority (ADRA), an arm of ADDED to develop and regulate the business sector, said: "We are forging ahead with our efforts to support Abu Dhabi's transition to a smart, diversified, and

sustainable economy through various initiatives to enable the business sector to benefit from ample and promising opportunities in the emirate. Our measures support the expansion of businesses by streamlining operations. In addition, we are developing legal and regulatory frameworks to enhance the ease of doing business to achieve the strategic objectives of economic growth and enhance Abu Dhabi's global

competitiveness." "Abu Dhabi has reinforced its position as a leading business hub by attracting many companies and investors, thanks to a flexible and favourable economic environment that supports business setup and growth. Recognised as the fastest-growing startup ecosystem in the Middle East and North Africa, the emirate has expanded the activities available under the Tajar Abu

Dhabi (Abu Dhabi Trader) and Freelancer licences to 1,200 and 100 activities, respectively. This expansion caters to the needs of entrepreneurs and investors from different sectors, enables the launch and operation of businesses that energise our commercial sector, promotes economic diversification, and creates jobs." Owners of licensed establishments in other emirates can apply for a new

branch licence in Abu Dhabi through the unified Abu Dhabi Government Services digital platform TAMM. The process involves submitting the necessary documents, obtaining approvals, and paying the fees to receive the economic licence for the new branch upon receipt of an acceptance notification.

# ADQ signs agreement with International Finance Corporation to advance development projects across emerging markets



ADQ has signed an agreement with the International Finance Corporation to identify and pursue strategic, high-impact development projects across emerging markets globally. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration to mobilise capital and expertise for impactful investments. Under the framework agreement, ADQ and IFC will explore co-investment opportunities in key sectors, leveraging their respective

strengths to drive sustainable economic growth. IFC brings deep expertise in mobilising commercial capital for sustainable investments. ADQ offers proven experience in infrastructure development and supply chain resilience. ADQ and IFC will identify and develop projects that enhance food security, promote agricultural innovation, and strengthen healthcare infrastructure. ADQ and IFC will explore opportunities to work jointly on investments in critical infrastructure such as energy security and sustainability, transport and logistics, and real estate and urban

development to contribute to investee countries' economic resilience, enhance quality of life, and increase connectivity and competitiveness in a dynamic global landscape. His Excellency Mohamed Hassan Alsuwaidi, Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of ADQ, said: "Partnering with IFC reflects our shared commitment in creating lasting value and driving sustainable impact across emerging and developing markets. By combining our strengths and expertise with IFC, we aim to extend the broad expertise of our portfolio companies to new markets. Our vision is

to drive joint transformative infrastructure projects that have the ability to enhance the lives of communities while generating lasting value for local economies." Makhtar Diop, Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), said: "This partnership highlights the crucial role of sovereign wealth funds in fostering sustainable growth in emerging markets. It also underscores the UAE's leadership in driving South-South investments, enhancing economic cooperation, and creating opportunities globally. By combining IFC's global expertise with ADQ's

strategic investments, we aim to mobilize private capital and accelerate transformative, long-term development across key sectors in emerging markets." Established in 2018, ADQ manages a diverse portfolio of more than 25 companies with operations spanning across more than 130 countries. Its investments encompass key economic sectors such as energy and utilities, transport and logistics, food and agriculture, and healthcare and life sciences. ADQ has a track record in building strategic alliances with governments worldwide, leveraging its portfolio companies' expertise

in markets such as Egypt, Türkiye, Greece, Oman, and Jordan. IFC's investments and initiatives are helping millions in emerging markets gain access to electricity, benefit from improved water, sanitation, and hygiene, and achieve greater food and nutrition security. Through strategic partnerships and innovative solutions, IFC continues to drive lasting economic and social impact worldwide.

# Abu Dhabi Strengthens China Partnership with Investment Forum

The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) led the emirate's economic delegation to China as part of ongoing efforts to further strengthen partnerships with leading economies and cement Abu Dhabi's stature as global magnet for talent, businesses, and investments. With bilateral trade between China and the UAE projected to reach \$200 billion by 2030, Abu Dhabi is reinforcing its position as an essential gateway for Chinese investment in the Middle East and beyond. The emirate is already home to many of the 6,000 Chinese companies operating in the UAE across key sectors, including technology, financial services, and energy. The high-level delegation comprised of around 140 senior officials and executives from government and private sector including ADGM, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), Abu Dhabi Customs, Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI), ADNOC, Mubadala, KEZAD, Hub71, and major companies from different economic sectors. During the visit, the Abu Dhabi economic delegation met senior government officials and key businesses

and investors in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong to explore business opportunities and foster strategic relations with Chinese counterparts. The delegation, led by His Excellency Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of ADDED and ADGM, engaged in more than 20 bilateral meetings with top government officials including H.E. Chen Jining, Member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party and Party Secretary of Shanghai, H.E. Yin Yong, the Mayor of

Beijing, H.E. Gong Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai, H.E. John Lee, Chief Executive of Hong Kong. It also met leaders and representatives of both the public and private sectors to enhance cooperation and attract talents, businesses, and investments to grow, thrive and expand out of Abu Dhabi. His Excellency Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of ADDED and ADGM, said: "A rising economic powerhouse, Abu Dhabi continues to build and strengthen partnerships with leading economies and top

trading partners, contributing positively to international efforts to address mega trends and transformations impacting all geographies and industries to ensure a brighter future for our people and the entire humanity" "Our longstanding relations with China are going from strength to strength, as reflected by the growth of bilateral trade and mutual investments over the past few years, and we are doubling down our efforts to take it to the next level by

deepening cooperation and exploring new opportunities in various sectors to create more partnerships. This visit and activities to be organised as part of it underscore Abu Dhabi's commitment to enhancing collaborations with our international partners. We are eager to enable investors and businesses to benefit from ample opportunities provided by our soaring 'Falcon Economy', which is harmonising between advanced technologies, sustainability, human

development, and economic diversification as we accelerate the transition towards the next phase of Abu Dhabi's development". Tofosterdirectengagements between investors and key decision-makers to accelerate partnerships in next-generation industries, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) and ADGM, organised the Abu Dhabi Investment Forum (ADIF) in Beijing and Shanghai from 18 and 20 February 2025. Held under the theme "Invest with Abu Dhabi," the forum provided Chinese investors and businesses a platform to explore opportunities in the emirate, which is one of the fastest-growing economies in MENA. ADIF featured a comprehensive agenda, including keynote addresses, panel discussions, and bilateral meetings from delegates representing various sectors of Abu Dhabi's economy. These experts, including executives from institutions like ADNOC, Mubadala, HSBC, Gulf Capital and more, provided in-depth insights into the emirate's investment landscape, showcasing opportunities in technology, financial services, healthcare and trade.



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Difficulty Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

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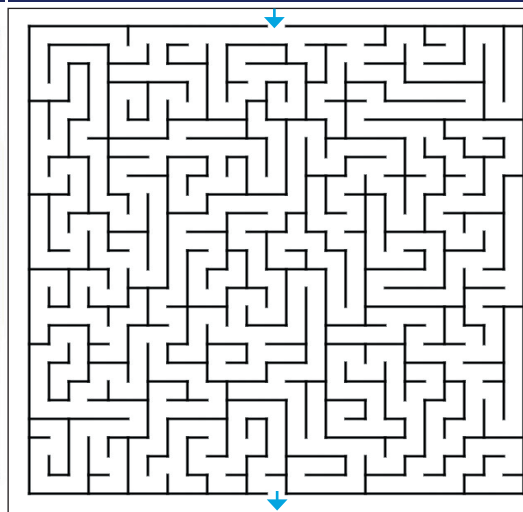
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- PRAYER
- CHARITY
- SUHOOR
- SUNSET
- MOON
- GRATITUDE
- PEACE
- PATIENCE
- MOSQUE
- IFTAR
- RAMADAN

PREVIOUS EDITION SOLUTION

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