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Monthly Newsletter

# ADFW 2025 to Host Leaders Managing Capital Equivalent to Over 50% of Global GDP

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of the Executive Council, this year's largest-ever edition of Abu Dhabi Finance Week (ADFW) - hosted by ADGM, with ADQ as Headline Partner - will gather the world's most influential financial institutions, policymakers, investors, market leaders and innovators from 8th to 11th December 2025 in the 'Capital of Capital'.

The 2025 agenda features more than 60 events, 300+ thematic sessions, and approximately 750+ world-class speakers. This year, CEOs, Chairpersons, Presidents and Founders of organisations that manage over USD 62 trillion in assets worldwide are expected to attend, which is the equivalent of over half of global GDP.

ADFW
ABU DHABI FINANCE WEEK
DECEMBER 08 – 11, 2025

## Engineering The Capital Network

> Commenting on the significance of this year's event, H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of ADGM, said, "ADFW 2025 will mark the next chapter in Abu Dhabi's evolution as a global financial hub, bringing together policy powers, investment titans, and tech pioneers from across the world - all converging in the heart of the 'Capital of Capital'. This edition will transcend geographical boundaries, connecting the global capital network through innovation, regulatory collaboration and cross-sector partnerships. As the world focuses on the future of finance, Abu Dhabi, through platforms like ADFW, is truly engineering it."

Under the official theme **"Engineering the Capital Network"**, ADFW 2025 will explore topics the future of global finance, such as AI-driven innovation, shifting capital flows, institutional partnerships, regulatory evolution, and sustainable and inclusive financial systems.

Ministers from the Government of the UAE are set to speak at the event. The list includes H.E. Suhail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and H.E. Abdullah bin Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi, Minister of Justice; H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister for Foreign Trade; H.E. Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi – Minister of Sports. Speakers taking the stage from Abu Dhabi's economic leadership include H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa – Chairman of DMT & Etihad, and H.E. Mohamed Hamad Al Mehairi – CEO of the Emirates Investment Authority (EIA).

Additional, confirmed speakers include Marc Randolph, Co-founder & Former CEO of Netflix; Oliver Bate, CEO of Allianz; Sergio Ermotti, CEO of UBS; Steve Schwarzman, Chairman & CEO of Blackstone; Bill Winters, CEO of Standard Chartered; Stephen Dainton, President, Barclays; Stefan Bollinger, CEO, Julius Baer; Clare Woodman, CEO – International of Morgan Stanley; and Andres Berger, CEO of Swiss Re. Also expected are Roberto Azevedo, 6th Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); Makhtar Diop, Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation; Shaikha Al Nowais, Secretary General Elect of UN Tourism and Jihad Azour, Director of the Middle East at the IMF.

Speakers from major asset management & sovereign entities and hedge funds, including Dilhan Palay Sandrasegara, CEO of Temasek; Ray Dalio, Founder of Bridgewater Associates; Alan Howard, Co-Founder of Brevan Howard; Jenny Johnson, CEO of Franklin Templeton; David Rubenstein, Chairman of Carlyle; Dmitry Balyasny, Founder of Balyasny; Robyn Grew, CEO of MAN Group; Philipp Hilderbrand, Vice-Chairman of BlackRock; Michael Rees, Co-Founder & Co-President of Blue Owl; Sandro Pierri, CEO, BNP Paribas AM; and Sadek Wahba, Chairman of iSquared.

Meanwhile, speakers from the banking and fintech industries include Brian Armstrong, CEO of Coinbase; Charles Hoskinson, Co-founder of Cardano & IOHK; Joseph Lubin, Co-founder of Ethereum; Anatoly Yakovenko, Co-founder of Solana; Jeremy Allaire, Chairman & CEO of Circle; Star Xu, Founder of OKX and Richard Teng, CEO of Binance.

The official opening ceremony on 8th December will be attended by esteemed members of Abu Dhabi's leadership, as well as leading investment and financial firms and global investors. Alongside existing flagship events such as the Abu Dhabi Economic Forum (ADEF), Asset Abu Dhabi, RESOLVE 2024, Fintech Abu Dhabi, and the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum (ADSFF), many new and returning featured and side events are set to gain traction with attendees.

On the first day, the newly introduced Global Markets Summit will explore macroeconomic factors driving the re-engineering of capital networks, and the CNBC New Energy Finance Forum that will examine the multi-trillion-dollar shift to a new energy system.

Day 2 will feature Asset Abu Dhabi, the Global Financial Regulators Summit, AIMA Private Credit Summit, Infrastructure Summit and International Family Office Congress, which will explore how the global expansion of wealth is reshaping the generational family office sector and creating new investment opportunities.

On the same day, closed-door sessions such as the IMF's roundtable will gather senior economic officials and financial sector leaders to discuss macroeconomic volatility, regulatory shifts, and geopolitical risks.

Day 3 highlights include flagship events such as RESOLVE and Fintech Abu Dhabi, alongside AI Abu Dhabi, which will discuss the convergence of artificial intelligence and financial services. Blockchain Abu Dhabi, meanwhile, will explore themes such as blockchain, crypto, decentralised finance (DeFi), and the disruption of traditional finance, and a Web3 Leaders Roundtable will convene policymakers, institutional leaders, and innovators.

The final day will focus on sustainability and ESG, featuring ADSFF. Additionally, the Second EU-GCC Finance & Investment for Green Transition Forum will convene senior policymakers, regulators, and financial institutions to align on key strategies to finance a sustainable future, while the Women in Finance event is set to host some of the most influential global women leaders within the financial industry, meanwhile New York University Stern School of Business Abu Dhabi will stage their inaugural graduation ceremony.


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ADGM

# ADFW
ABU DHABI FINANCE WEEK
DECEMBER 08 - 11, 2025

# AT A GLANCE

Presented by: ADGM

## Day 1 - 08 Dec

**Abu Dhabi Economic Forum**
09:30 - 13:00 | ADQ Arena

**ADFW OPENING CEREMONY**
09:30 - 13:00 | ADQ Arena

**GLOBAL MARKETS SUMMIT**
13:00 - 18:00 | ADQ Arena

**NEW ENERGY FINANCE**
09:30 - 12:10 | ADCB Stage

**BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE & BUILDING THE NATION**
13:30 - 15:00 | ADCB Stage

**UBS INVESTOR FORUM**
13:00 - 18:00 | Rosewood

**FURTHER NETWORK SUMMIT**
09:00 - 14:00 | Emirates NBD Stage

**GREENWICH ECONOMIC FORUM**
16:00 - 17:30 | Hanwha Boardroom

**CEO GLOBAL GROWTH FORUM**
13:00 - 15:30 | Capital Boardroom

**THE AUDIO FAMILY OFFICE ROUNDTABLE: THE ABU DHABI ADVANTAGE**
13:00 - 15:00 | Hanwha Boardroom

**ADFW OPENING NIGHT**
19:30 - 23:00 | ADFW Promenade

## Day 2 - 09 Dec

**Asset ABU DHABI**
09:15 - 17:50 | ADQ Arena

**WOMEN SHAPING CAPITAL & CULTURE**
12:00 - 14:00 | Exchange Avenue Terrace

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OFFICE CONGRESS**
09:00 - 13:10 | ADCB Stage

**THE ALTS FORUM**
13:30 - 18:00 | ADCB Stage

**A COMING OF AGE, PRIVATE CREDIT IN THE GCC**
16:30 - 17:30 | Hanwha Boardroom

**INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT**
10:00 - 13:00 | Emirates NBD Stage

**PRIVATE CREDIT SUMMIT**
13:30 - 16:30 | Emirates NBD Stage

**UBS INVESTOR FORUM**
12:30 - 15:30 | Rosewood

**Global Financial Regulators Summit**
09:30 - 12:30 | Capital Boardroom

**TRANSFORMATION OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE**
14:30 - 15:30 | Capital Boardroom

**TREASURY & CFO FORUM**
11:30 - 13:00 | Hanwha Boardroom

**GLOBAL HEDGE FUND LEADERS ROUNDTABLE**
14:00 - 16:00 | Hanwha Boardroom

**CLIMATE DRIVEN VALUE CREATION**
16:30 - 18:00 | Capital Boardroom

**ADFW SPEAKERS RECEPTION**
17:30 - 20:30 | Exchange Avenue Terrace

**VVIP DINNER**
18:00 - 21:00 | Private

**CAPITAL VIBES**
16:30 - 20:00 | ADFW Promenade

## Day 3 - 10 Dec

**FINTECH ABU DHABI**
11:20 - 18:15 | ADQ Arena

**RESOLVE**
ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FORUM
10:20 - 15:35 | Emirates NBD Stage

**AI FORUM**
09:30 - 11:20 | ADQ Arena

**BLOCKCHAIN ABU DHABI**
09:15 - 14:25 | ADCB Stage

**RISK4.0 FORUM**
14:30 - 17:40 | ADCB Stage

**WEB3 LEADERS ROUNDTABLE**
14:00 - 17:00 | Capital Boardroom

**STABLE COIN DIALOGUES**
15:00 - 17:00 | Hanwha Boardroom

**THE AI EVOLUTION: FROM POTENTIAL TO PRACTICALITY**
12:30 - 14:00 | Hanwha Boardroom

**TOKENISED EVERYTHING? THE 2026 INSTITUTIONAL RACE TO DIGITISE VALUE**
12:30 - 13:30 | Capital Boardroom

**ADFW EXECUTIVE RECEPTION**
18:00 - 21:00 | Exchange Avenue Terrace

**CAPITAL VIBES**
16:30 - 20:00 | ADFW Promenade

## Day 4 - 11 Dec

**ADSFF**
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FORUM
09:25 - 12:40 | ADQ Arena

**2ND EU-GCC FINANCE & INVESTMENT FOR GREEN TRANSITION FORUM**
12:45 - 14:00 | ADQ Arena

**GtFT - GOOGLE FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT**
09:30 - 16:30 | Private

**STERN AT NYU ABU DHABI CONVOCATION**
15:30 - 19:00 | ADQ Arena

**ISLAMIC FINANCE SUMMIT**
12:00 - 14:05 | Emirates NBD Stage

**2ND EU-GCC FINANCE INVEST-MENT FOR GREEN TRANSITION FORUM: TECHNICAL SESSION**
15:00 - 17:00 | Capital Boardroom

**ADGM PARTNERS RECOGNITION CEREMONY**
10:30 - 11:30 | ADCB Stage

**WOMEN IN FINANCE**
12:00 - 15:15 | ADCB Stage

**ABU DHABI HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE INVESTMENT**
13:00 - 15:00 | Capital Boardroom

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# ADGM Academy and Cyber Falcon Launch the Cyber Arena to Power the Future of Cybersecurity in the UAE


ADGM Academy and Cyber Falcon Cyber Security Services (CF) announced the signing of a landmark collaboration agreement to launch the Cyber Arena in Abu Dhabi. The Cyber Arena will be located in ADGM Academy's offices, serving as a pioneering platform for world-class cybersecurity training, advanced services, and applied innovation, cementing Abu Dhabi's role as a regional and global hub for cyber resilience.

The Cyber Arena will deliver a comprehensive ecosystem of cybersecurity solutions, including:

• Specialised training programmes tailored for cybersecurity professionals, executives, enterprises, IT/OT specialists, and the general workforce.

• Industry-recognised certification pathways, integrated with ADGM Academy's globally respected accreditation frameworks.

• Advanced cybersecurity services, ranging from incident response and penetration testing to SOC-as-a-Service, vulnerability assessments, and rapid maturity evaluations.

• Cutting-edge R&D, including AI-driven defence systems, new methodologies for OT and IT protection, and industrial control system (ICS) resilience.

• Innovation environments, such as cyber testbeds and sandbox platforms for piloting and validating emerging solutions.

In addition to strengthening the UAE's cyber defence capabilities, the Arena will act as a hub for collaboration with universities, research institutions, and start-ups, driving applied research and entrepreneurship in the cybersecurity space. Joint publications, including whitepapers, policy briefs, and industry reports, will further position Abu Dhabi as a centre of thought leadership in the global cybersecurity arena.

Commenting on this initiative, Saif Aldarmaki, Chairman and Co-founder of Cyber Falcon Cyber Security Services, said: "This partnership positions Abu Dhabi at the forefront of cybersecurity excellence, driving innovation while building the talent pipelines required to secure the digital future. This initiative is about shaping a resilient digital ecosystem that empowers the UAE's knowledge economy, fosters global partnerships, and creates opportunities for future generations of cyber leaders."

Mansoor Jaffar, CEO of ADGM Academy and Research Centre, added: "Through the Cyber Arena, we are equipping professionals, enterprises, and institutions with the expertise and tools to stay ahead of tomorrow's cyber challenges—while contributing to a more resilient digital ecosystem for the UAE and beyond. Together with Cyber Falcon, we are ensuring Abu Dhabi remains a beacon of innovation and resilience in the face of an increasingly complex cyber landscape."

# ADGM Courts Collaborate with Wilberforce Chambers to Launch 'The ADGM Book'


ADGM Courts, in collaboration with Wilberforce Chambers, announced the launch of The ADGM Book, an innovative digital publication designed to provide insightful commentary to legal practitioners who have cases before the Court or wish to familiarise themselves with the Courts' practice and procedure.

The online publication, which brings together the ADGM Courts Procedure Rules 2016 and the Court's Practice Directions, was authored by Daniel Lewis and Daniel Jukes, who are both members of Wilberforce Chambers.

To mark the book's launch, ADGM and Wilberforce Chambers held a special event at the Rosewood Abu Dhabi on Al Maryah Island. Guests heard from Lord Hope of Craighead KT, Chief Justice of ADGM Courts, and Linda Fitz-Alan, Registrar and Chief Executive of ADGM Courts, as well as the authoring barristers.

The online publication includes a foreword from Lord Hope, who explained: "Until now, the ADGM Courts Procedure Rules 2016 and the ADGM Practice Directions have enjoyed a separate existence, each searchable on its own under its own heading. Bringing them together in a single volume makes access to them so much easier. That is the service that this book seeks to provide."

He added, "Updating will be another part of the service. This will be achievable in an instant without the delay and cost that would be inevitable if we were to publish this volume in book form."

Commenting on the launch, Linda Fitz-Alan said, "This book is a testament to ADGM and the Courts' commitment to access, clarity, and innovation in the rule of law. It reflects our core belief that modern justice must be transparent, inclusive, and digitally enabled."

Nicholas Luckman, Practice Director at Wilberforce Chambers, said: "Wilberforce is proud to collaborate with the ADGM Courts on producing this important online publication. We hope that practitioners will find the content both valuable and insightful. As a chambers, we have longstanding experience in the Middle East - particularly the UAE - and our barristers' work on this book reflects our continued commitment to supporting the legal profession in Abu Dhabi and across the wider region."

The ADGM Book reinforces ADGM's standing as a forward-looking, globally respected leader in dispute resolution and aligns with its wider mission of delivering world-class judicial services in support of Abu Dhabi's economic vision.

# ADGM Hosts 2nd Global Media Forum to Highlight Abu Dhabi's Growth Story

ADGM successfully hosted its 2nd Global Media Forum, bringing together 25 journalists from top-tier media outlets across the world to gain firsthand insight into Abu Dhabi's thriving economy and ADGM's vibrant community.

Under the theme "Gateway to the Capital of Capital – Inside Abu Dhabi's Growth Story", the forum took place between 28th and 30th October to mark ADGM's 10th anniversary, celebrating a decade of progress that has positioned the centre as one of the world's most dynamic hubs for capital, innovation, and regulation.

Journalists from Bloomberg, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, The Sunday Times, Financial News, CityAM, CoinDesk, Newsweek, The Asset, Asia Asset Management, Finews.com, ESG News, Private Equity International, The Cube, Yicai Global, Annahar Newspaper, Al Iktissad Wal Aamal, Monocle, Semafor, Al Etihad English, Al Ittihad Arabic Newspaper, Economy Middle East, and Citywire joined for the three-day event.

Held across ADGM's financial district on Al Maryah to Al Reem Islands, the Forum commenced with a welcome reception for international media and members of the ADGM community, followed by two days of agenda-driven discussions and panels. Participating media enjoyed exclusive access to ADGM leadership briefings, panel sessions, and immersive networking opportunities with key Abu Dhabi entities. Visiting journalists also enjoyed cultural visits to some of Abu Dhabi's top tourist attractions, such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi and Sheikh Zayed Mosque.

Commenting on the success of the Global Media Forum 2025, Mohammed Al Mheiri, Chief Communications Officer at ADGM, said, "The Global Media Forum is more than an event – it is a platform for dialogue, understanding, and shared storytelling. We created this forum to open a window that helps the world peek into Abu Dhabi's transformation as well as foster meaningful connections between Abu Dhabi Inc., ADGM's vibrant ecosystem and the global media. The engagement we saw during the event confirms the importance of this initiative, especially as ADGM enters its next chapter. As the international financial centre of Abu Dhabi, we remain committed to providing a gateway for capital, talent, and ideas."

Day one of the Forum featured strategic insights from executives from ADGM's Registration Authority (RA), Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), ADGM Courts and its knowledge arm – ADGM Academy. These sessions were followed by a panel titled "Thriving in the Capital", which featured senior executives from Gulf Capital, PGIM, and Ardian who shared their experience of operating within the ADGM community.

On Day two, the programme continued with high-level panels such as "Shaping the Future of Financial Services", "Empowering Abu Dhabi's Digital Economy", and "The Abu Dhabi Advantage", featuring key entities such as Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), the Abu Dhabi Chamber, M42's Abu Dhabi Health Data Services, Hub71, Al Maryah Bank, Numou (an ADGM subsidiary), VentureOne, and Presight. These sessions showcased how Abu Dhabi's institutions are collectively leveraging regulatory innovation, capital strength, and digital transformation to reaffirm the emirate's status as a global economic powerhouse.

Visiting journalists also enjoyed a visit to the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), where they heard about the exchange's buoyant performance and its expanding influence across regional and global markets.

This year's Forum concluded with a celebration to mark ADGM's 10th anniversary, a milestone that reflects its journey from a pioneering concept into a globally recognised, future-focused international financial centre. The gathering on Al Reem Island brought together key partners, government stakeholders, community members and the global, regional and local media to reflect on a decade of impact and future ambitions.

ADGM's 2nd Global Media Forum reaffirmed the centre's role as a trusted, dynamic, and progressive enabler of Abu Dhabi's economic vision. As the Forum drew to a close, delegates departed with fresh perspectives on the emirate's remarkable growth trajectory – one powered by innovation, anchored in collaboration, and defined by a shared commitment to excellence.

## ADGM's FSRA Hosts IOSCO's AMERC Plenary Meeting, Reinforcing Commitment to Global Regulatory Collaboration

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) of ADGM hosted the Africa and Middle East Regional Committee (AMERC) of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) in Abu Dhabi from the 10th to 12th November 2025. This significant gathering of the region's leading securities regulators underscores ADGM's role as a trusted and globally connected financial centre, advancing regulatory dialogue and cooperation across borders. The event hosted the AMERC Plenary Meeting and AMERC Public Conference across the two-day event.

Bringing together 29 IOSCO member regulators from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the closed-door AMERC Plenary meeting on 11th November addressed matters critical to the region's capital markets development, including deepening, diversification and integration, alignment with global regulatory standards, cross-border cooperation and enhancements to supervisory capabilities. The outcomes

*Continued on Page 4 -C5*

# Business Leaders Laud ADGM's Decade of Impressive Achievements

As Abu Dhabi's ADGM marked its 10th anniversary, business leaders hailed its transformation into one of the world's most dynamic financial centres, saying the international financial hub has become a symbol of the UAE's ambition, innovation, and global appeal.

During the celebrations, executives from leading firms described how ADGM's growth over the past decade has redefined the region's financial landscape, offering a world-class regulatory framework, access to sovereign capital, and a thriving ecosystem of asset managers, family offices, and global funds.

Dr Karim Soula, CEO and Co-Founder of Gulf Capital, told Aletihad that Abu Dhabi's rise as a financial hub reflects not only sound regulation but also strong fundamentals.

"ADGM is a great venue to cover Asia, the Middle East, and Africa," he said. "We are licensed in a number of cities like London and Sydney, but Abu Dhabi is our hometown. Our shareholder base is here, backed by the government, sovereign wealth funds, and pension funds. The growth in the wider GCC is remarkable, so it's a good place to be based in and to be investing."

For Soula, technology has become a central part of that story.

"Abu Dhabi and the UAE are leaders in the global adoption of AI, so it's a great place to be and to use AI and technology to improve our operations," he added.

Soula described the milestone as a sign of strength: "ADGM is going from strength to strength. The fact that it is at full capacity is a strong testament to its appeal as a destination."

That confidence was echoed by Hashina Harkati, Senior Executive Officer of Arden Limited and Managing Director at Arden Group, who described ADGM as both a regulatory success and a community of opportunity.

"ADGM is perfect for our business because it allows us, through its robust regulatory framework and unique networking venues, to connect with the most sophisticated financial players and sovereign funds," she said.

Comparing Abu Dhabi to other global hubs, she added: "Abu Dhabi is now attracting players from all over the world. That is shown not only by its political stability but also by its impressive growth pace. The support from the government and the regulator helps us implement our business, network with other players, and source deals, both primary and secondary."

Reflecting on ADGM's decade, she added: "It is already 10 years, but it is also only 10 years, and they have achieved a lot. I am very positively impressed by the skilled staff, their reactivity, and their business-oriented mindset. What made ADGM our home is that it feels similar to other international financial places. It's my pleasure to be part of this journey."

Reinforcing that sentiment, Emira Socorro, Managing Director and Senior Executive Officer at PGIM, said ADGM embodies Abu Dhabi's ability to align capital with purpose.

"For a global asset manager, Abu Dhabi's most distinct asset is its collaborative environment and relentless focus on execution. When we hear the phrase 'Capital of Capital,' it means much more than just a concentration of financial wealth," she said.

"It confirms that the emirate is a place where capital is actively and strategically deployed to build the future, representing the convergence of financial capital, intellectual capital, and execution capability in one cohesive ecosystem," she added.

Socorro said this collaborative energy "enables us to quickly stitch together vital partnerships for initiatives like RealAssetX Abu Dhabi."

*Source: Aletihad*

*Continue from Page 3 -C6*

from these discussions will be reflected in IOSCO's forward-looking agenda, including market resilience, digital innovation, and financial integrity.

The last day of the event, held on 12th November, was open to the public with a high-level conference addressing opportunities and challenges shaping financial markets and regulators across the region. Public panel discussions explored themes such as current market shifts, policy considerations, and innovation in capital markets, with dedicated sessions on Tokenisation and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Sustainability and Financial Materiality, as well as The Rise of Private Credit: Benefits and Concerns.

The AMERC is currently chaired by His Excellency Waleed Saeed Al Awadhi, CEO of the UAE Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA). The meeting also featured welcome remarks by Emmanuel Givanakis, CEO of the FSRA.

H.E. Al Awadhi stated, "Bringing together AMERC regulators in Abu Dhabi marks a defining moment for the region's capital markets. By strengthening cross-border cooperation, embracing cutting-edge innovation, and aligning with global regulatory standards, we are not just keeping pace with the future of financial markets development, but we are shaping it. Our shared ambition, and particularly mine as AMERC's Chair, is clear: to position the Middle East and Africa as a leading, resilient, and investor-focused hub, driving sustainable economic growth, ensuring safety and integrity of financial markets, which contributes to increasing market confidence."

Talking about the high-level AMERC gathering, Givanakis commented, "We are honoured to host IOSCO's AMERC Plenary Meeting and Public Conference in the international financial centre of Abu Dhabi – ADGM. As a jurisdiction built on international regulatory standards and designed to facilitate the growth of the financial services industry in Abu Dhabi, in a progressive, transparent and proportionate way, the hosting of this forum reflects the importance of regional regulatory co-operation and collaboration to advance safe t, efficient, and future-ready capital markets that support sustainable economic growth. With the rapid evolution of the financial landscape, advancement in our regulatory approaches and co-operation is a must. This includes being adaptable and inclusive, while delivering a regulated ecosystem that is credible and trustworthy."

IOSCO is the global standard setter for securities regulation, working to enhance investor protection, ensure fair, efficient markets, and support the stability of the global financial system.

Hosting the AMERC Plenary aligns with ADGM and the FSRA's strategic vision to advance Abu Dhabi's economic diversification, promote international best practices, and position itself as the financial centre of choice for global institutions, delivering on the UAE's ambition to be a hub of regulatory excellence and financial innovation.

# UAE Ranks Among Global Leaders in Digital-Asset Regulation

The United Arab Emirates has emerged as one of the world's most advanced digital-asset markets, according to the Global Digital Assets Report 2025 issued by the Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) in collaboration with Arthur D. Little.

Released during the Singapore FinTech Festival 2025, the study highlights how the UAE's regulatory progress is setting international standards for innovation, investor protection and market integrity.

The findings align with the region's ongoing drive to harmonise digital-asset regulation with global benchmarks. The report links rapid growth in stablecoins and tokenised assets to the introduction of licensing frameworks, sandbox regimes and institutional pilots across Gulf markets, with the UAE at the centre of this transformation.

According to the report, the UAE ranks alongside Singapore and Switzerland in regulatory maturity. Dubai's Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (VARA) and Abu Dhabi Global Market's Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) are recognised for implementing activity-based licensing that connects innovation to investor protection. Saudi Arabia's SAMA and Capital Market Authority (CMA) are developing supervisory regimes for tokenisation pilots and cross-border payment corridors. In Qatar, the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) is progressing frameworks for tokenised-asset applications within existing financial-sector laws.

The study draws on interviews with more than 40 regulators, central bankers and financial executives from Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It finds that investor participation is rising fastest in markets with clear regulatory parameters. GCC jurisdictions are now part of that group, reflecting structured cooperation across the UAE and Qatar to support responsible market development and interoperability.

Sopnendu Mohanty, Group CEO of GFTN, said, "The data shows a region that has moved from aspiration to execution. Behind the numbers is a simple reality: capital follows clarity. The Gulf's regulators are building frameworks designed for longevity, not hype. Their focus on interoperability and real-world tokenisation sets them apart from markets still testing the basics."

Arjun Vir Singh, Partner, Head of Financial Services at Arthur D. Little Middle East, added, "Our collaboration with GFTN reflects Arthur D. Little's commitment to evidence-based insight. The GCC's frameworks demonstrate how clear policy design can accelerate market readiness and strengthen institutional confidence in digital finance."

The GFTN Global Digital Assets Report 2025, prepared in collaboration with Arthur D. Little, was unveiled during the Singapore FinTech Festival (11th to 14th November 2025). It provides a cross-jurisdictional reference for policymakers and financial institutions assessing the evolution of digital money, tokenisation and decentralised finance, and documents how the GCC's structured approach now ranks among the world's most advanced regulatory models, providing a foundation for continued cooperation between regional authorities and global standard-setters.

# Abu Dhabi Sets Its Sights New York, London and Singapore Financial Hubs

Over the last decade, Abu Dhabi has attracted more than 300 financial firms, with a combined $28.6 trillion in assets globally, as the city positions itself as a global "capital of capital."

ADGM revealed it has experienced rapid growth from financial firms over the last three years, increasing from 131 at the end of 2021 to 308 as of H1 2025.

The financial firms that the region has attracted include BlackRock, State Street Global Advisors, PGIM, Nuveen, Carlyle, Apollo, and UBS. The 135 per cent growth over 42 months has made ADGM one of the world's fastest-growing financial hubs in recent years.

ADGM, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last month, noted that it had a record H1 2025, with a 42 per cent year-on-year increase in assets under management and a total of 154 fund and asset managers overseeing 209 funds.

The chairman of ADGM, His Excellency Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, said, "Aligned with the vision and guidance of Abu Dhabi's strategic leadership, ADGM has seen unprecedented growth within its short history and matured into a global financial powerhouse, attracting some of the world's leading financial institutions."

This comes as Abu Dhabi aims to become one of the top five international financial centres globally over the next decade, on par with New York, London, and Singapore.

The government department is focused on key emerging areas in finance, including digital assets and regulation, AI, sustainable finance, and ESG, while also building a robust regulatory framework. It is the only jurisdiction in the region to apply English common law directly.

The city is also pulling out all the stops to lure investors and ultra-high-net-worth individuals to relocate, offering private members' clubs, boarding schools, and revamped private banking services.

"As we look at the next decade, our ambition to make ADGM one of the top five international financial centres globally is stronger than ever. Given what we've achieved so far, what we can build in the next ten years will be even greater," Jasim Al Zaabi added.

Source: CityAM

# ADDED Lead Major Economic Mission to Singapore and India

The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development led a high-level economic delegation to Singapore and India from 17 to 21 November, reinforcing the emirate's commitment to deepening international partnerships and expanding global trade and investment ties.

The mission aimed to advance Abu Dhabi's strategic engagement with two of its most important economic partners, while opening new avenues for sustainable development.

Senior government officials, investors, and business leaders participated in extensive meetings in both countries, focusing on high-growth sectors such as agritech, healthcare and life sciences, advanced technologies, renewable energy, financial services, logistics, and manufacturing.

A series of specialized forums and networking events, organized in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ADGM, and the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), brought together influential companies and investors to explore long-term cooperation opportunities.

The events underlined Abu Dhabi's economic transformation efforts and its growing appeal as a global hub for business, talent, and investment.

The delegation was led by H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, chairman of ADDED, and included more than 100 senior representatives from key government entities and leading private-sector organizations.

Among were H.E. Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, Undersecretary of ADDED; H.E. Rashed Al Blooshi, CEO of the ADGM Registration Authority; H.E. Badr Al-Olama, director general of ADIO; H.E. Rashed Lahej Al Mansoori, director general of Abu Dhabi Customs; H.E. Shamis Al Dhaheri, second vice chairman and managing director of the Abu Dhabi Chamber; H.E. Mohammed Alshaiba Al Sharyani, executive director of the Executive Affairs Sector at ADDED; and H.E. Hareb Al Mheiri, executive director of the Investor Growth Sector at ADIO.

Al Zaabi said: "Singapore and India are among the world's most dynamic, fast-growing economies, and are key strategic partners for Abu Dhabi and the UAE. Our visit aimed to deepen these partnerships by engaging policymakers, business, and investment leaders to create and seize opportunities in various sectors.

"Powered by visionary leadership and an enabling ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship, Abu Dhabi's 'Falcon Economy' continues to soar and accelerate our transition to smart, diversified, and sustainable economy.

"Backed by strong economic fundamentals and a world-class investment landscape, we are doubling down our efforts to further strengthen collaboration with local and international partners in strategic economic clusters including AI, fintech, green energy, life sciences, logistics, and advanced industries."

Singapore and India remain among the UAE's most significant economic partners. Bilateral trade between the UAE and Singapore surpassed $18.5 billion, while UAE–India non-oil trade exceeded $65 billion in 2024, supported by robust cooperation in energy, technology, and services.

Ongoing economic partnership agreements with both countries continue to create new pathways for trade diversification and cross-border investment.

The mission came as Abu Dhabi strengthens its role as a gateway between Asia and global capital. ADGM currently hosts more than 11,000 active licences and over 2,900 operational entities, making it the region's largest international financial center by number of active licences.

Major Singaporean and Indian firms operating within ADGM include Seviora Group and RB Capital/Royal Holdings from Singapore, as well as SBICAPS, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, DSK Legal, Kotak Mahindra Financial Services, 100 Unicorns, 9 Unicorns Global Capital Management Limited, and Cohesion Asset Management from India.

Economic ties with India, in particular, continue to deepen. Active memberships of Indian companies at the Abu Dhabi Chamber reached 17,457 as of September 2025.

In 2024 alone, 3,375 new Indian companies joined; an annual increase of 31.1 percent and a compound annual growth rate of 38.4 percent between 2019 and 2024.

As Abu Dhabi's innovation-driven economy accelerates, a growing number of Singaporean and Indian companies in fintech, healthcare, infrastructure, and education are choosing the emirate as a base for regional and global expansion, drawn by its world-class infrastructure, robust regulatory frameworks, and strategic connectivity.

# As Rivalries Grow, One Financial Hub Seeks to Bridge US, China, India

Rivalries may be deepening between the world's biggest economic powers, but fast-growing Middle Eastern financial center Abu Dhabi aims to seal its place as a hub for them and the rest of the world.

The capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi got a later start on becoming a financial hub than the country's biggest city, Dubai, but it now aims to be one of the top five global financial centers in the next 10 years—alongside such places as New York, London, Singapore and Hong Kong. ADGM is Abu Dhabi's international financial center and its free economic zone.

"We are starting to see the world is more multipolar. You're seeing that in many ways. People are looking for new hubs. We believe Abu Dhabi is that," Arvind Ramamurthy, ADGM's chief market development officer, told Newsweek in an interview in Abu Dhabi. "We are fundamentally open to business. We work with everyone, whoever."

"Since the beginning of the year, I've been to China three times. I've been to India twice, but actually going to India again. I was in New York two weeks ago. I was in London a week ago.... I've been in Japan.... We cover all these markets, and we see the UAE and Abu Dhabi and ADGM being that gateway for those capital flows."

Since starting as a financial hub in 2015, Abu Dhabi now has more than 300 financial firms, which manage a combined $28.6 trillion in assets—not far short of the value of America's entire annual gross domestic product. From 2015 through the end of 2024, it said it had an average annual growth in assets under management of 123 percent.

Beyond the specifics of Abu Dhabi's financial regulatory environment—and some of the world's lowest taxes - selling points include the fact that it has been ranked the world's safest city for nine years in a row and that it is home to three of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds.

Ramamurthy also said that where GMT had been the world's central time zone when the United Kingdom was key to the global economy, that was now shifting in the direction of Abu Dhabi.

"My view is that this is GMT. The zero of the future," Ramamurthy said. "If you look at our kind of positioning between East and West, I've got managers who sit here and start the day covering Japan and who work long hours anyway to actually cover the USA."

The closeness of the UAE to President Donald Trump has underscored its pivotal position in the Middle East and beyond as the U.S. administration seeks to reshape the region with agreements between Arab countries and Israel. The UAE was in the vanguard of the Abraham Accords with Israel in the first Trump presidency.

"The UAE is a critical strategic partner in advancing America's economic security and technology leadership," Under Secretary of State Jacob Helberg wrote on social media this month during a visit.

Like other countries in the region, Abu Dhabi's push to become a major financial hub is driven in part by a need to diversify away from the oil revenues that have been the bedrock of its wealth. Now, it is also becoming a leading player in artificial intelligence.

"Whether you look at the energy transition, you look at what we're doing, for example, in AI and technology, you look at what we're doing across multiple things: health care, life sciences, it's cutting edge," said Ramamurthy.

*Source: Newsweek*

# Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan Announces Evolution of UICCA to 'Frontier25'


Her Highness Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nayan announced that the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA), an Abu Dhabi-based independent nonprofit organisation since 2022, is evolving in its mission to advance climate and sustainability solutions with renewed urgency, rebranding to Frontier25, a climate action advisory.

The announcement was made at the organisation's 'Ideas to Impact' forum, which brought together 250 government officials, business leaders, and green economy experts and advocates in Abu Dhabi to share insights, build connections, and inspire progressive climate action.

Her Highness, the President & CEO of Frontier25 and The Climate Tribe (TCT), established the UICCA guided by her belief in the need for a multifaceted strategy to tackle climate change. By rebranding the organisation to Frontier25, she reaffirms and refreshes this mandate. Frontier25 continues the work of the UICCA with renewed focus, reflecting the urgency of facilitating an immediate navigation to measurable impact. Frontier25 is based in ADGM and is a member of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration.

The name Frontier25 represents the crossing of a threshold, the edge between crisis and course correction. In 2024, average global temperatures rose to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels for the first time. The year 2025 must mark a wake-up call if the UAE and wider world is to meet its net-zero ambitions by 2050.

This year is the turning point to evolve ideas into impact and transform intentions into action. Frontier25 will work to break down silos and convene senior executives and business leaders, academic institutions, think tanks, climate startups, and investors who recognise that climate action is both a risk and an opportunity.

Her Highness Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nayan, said "Our vision has not changed. In fact, it remains as sharply in focus as ever. But now, with temperatures worldwide breaking new records and our region warming at twice the rate of the global average, we need to act with renewed urgency. We need a refined mission for our organisation – one that takes the alliances we have built and the ideas we have nurtured and fast-tracks them to match the scale of the crisis we face."

A Natural Evolution

For three years, the UICCA has been building partnerships, driving collaboration, and delivering results. It has published over 20 market insights reports and thought leadership pieces, delivered over 20 dialogues and signature Policy Hacks, made over 25 policy recommendations to reach net-zero, helped accelerate over 80 climate startups, and expanded the UAE Carbon Alliance to more than 65 members.

Building on the success of UICCA, Frontier25 will support its partners in moving forward with decisive action to advance a shared climate agenda, while remaining independent, nonprofit, and focused on what matters most – driving measurable change. The organisation will continue to grow the green economy through tangible progress, supported by three pillars: evidence-based advisory services, market acceleration activities, and strategic alliances.

Its advisory offering leverages data-driven research and Policy Hacks to create strategic solutions, custom training programmes, and recommendations that can be immediately put into practice. Its Launchpads and Investor and Industry Roadshows support climate startups in establishing a market presence, enabling them to find funding and scale. And its collaborative alliance platforms align governments, investors, corporations, and startups to solve urgent climate challenges.

## Gemcorp signs the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration, Reaffirming its Commitment to Responsible Investment Practices

Gemcorp Capital Management, an asset management firm specialising in providing private capital in emerging markets, has signed the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration, building on its formal collaboration with ADGM since securing its license in 2024.

This milestone underscores Gemcorp's commitment to leverage its decades of experience, financial discipline and local insight to deliver long-term value for investors and sustainable growth across the Middle East and beyond.

The Declaration, spearheaded by ADGM, aligns with Gemcorp's investment approach designed to create long-term value for stakeholders, local communities, and the wider economy.

As a leading financial centre, ADGM has established itself as a global hub for finance and trade, fostering collaboration and innovation at the frontier of investment, and serving as a gateway to emerging markets across the GCC, Africa and further afield.

With a core focus on and on-the-ground presence in emerging markets, Gemcorp structures and manages private capital solutions that make complex markets investable for global investors. Its established offices in the UAE reflect this regional dedication, as the firm continues to deploy capital into sectors critical to economic resilience, energy transition, and sustainable development.

Gemcorp's approach to impact is rooted in investing where it matters the most. Sustainability is integrated throughout the investment lifecycle, with environmental and social management embedded in decision making to shape a sustainable tomorrow. By signing the Declaration, Gemcorp affirms both its commitment to the region and its ability to deploy private capital to advance sustainability and catalyse progress.

Asad Hajiyev, Senior Executive Officer of Gemcorp Capital Management (Middle East) Limited, commented: "This signature underscores our commitment to the communities and economies we impact by providing flexible private capital across global emerging markets. Our mission is clear: to unleash the potential of emerging markets by bridging the funding gap and consistently delivering compelling risk-adjusted returns. Sustainable investment is not a by-product, but integral to what we do. The two are not mutually exclusive – together we drive returns and positive change.

We would also like to express gratitude to ADGM for the warm welcome to Abu Dhabi, continued first class support and engagement, as well as the relentless drive to innovate and enhance the growing ecosystem of 150+ managers operating here."

# Axis Green Joins the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration

Axis Green, an Abu Dhabi–based sustainability and carbon advisory firm, announced its official membership to the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration, an initiative led by ADGM to foster a more sustainable, transparent, and resilient financial ecosystem.

Founded by Andrew Cullen, Axis Green provides integrated solutions across carbon markets, I-REC sourcing, sustainability strategy, and green finance advisory. By joining the Declaration, Axis Green strengthens its alignment with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategy and supports ADGM's vision of positioning Abu Dhabi as a global hub for sustainable finance and low-carbon innovation.

"Joining the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration reflects our shared commitment to turning sustainability ambition into practical action," said Andrew Cullen, CEO & Founder of Axis Green. "At Axis Green, we see ourselves as a carbon concierge; guiding companies through their transition by connecting strategy, sourcing, and structure in a way that drives both impact and value."

Axis Green's membership underscores its role in supporting businesses across the region to prepare for emerging compliance frameworks including CBAM, NRCC, and CORSIA, while accelerating access to verified carbon and renewable energy markets.

The firm operates from ADGM, working with regional corporates, project developers, and investors to deliver credible sustainability outcomes that contribute to the UAE's climate and economic diversification goals.

# DWS secures regulatory approval for Abu Dhabi office

DWS announced the strengthening of its presence in the Middle East with the opening of an office in ADGM, having secured a Financial Services Permission (FSP) from the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) of ADGM to operate as a Category 4 regulated firm.

This latest milestone sees DWS, with over EUR 1 trillion in total assets under management (as of 30 June 2025), establish a regional presence under ADGM's progressive regulatory framework, with end-to-end set-up support from the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), marking a significant step forward for DWS to offer comprehensive investment solutions in the Middle East.

Stefan Hoops, CEO at DWS said: "The Middle East is a strategic growth area for DWS as we look to capitalise on our position as the gateway to Europe, linking clients, markets and opportunities across borders in a region that is highly investible and future-focused".

Abu Dhabi stands out as a key location in a region which has established itself as a global hub for finance, innovation and investment. Joe Kiwan will relocate from Paris to Abu Dhabi to serve as the Senior Executive Officer of the DWS ADGM branch. He will continue in his current role as Head of Coverage for the Middle East & Africa, focusing on regional strategy, client relationships and strategic partnerships.

Arvind Ramamurthy, Chief Market Development Officer at ADGM said, "We congratulate DWS, one of the world's leading asset managers, on receiving their FSP from the FSRA of ADGM. This milestone reflects both the firm's ambition and the strength of ADGM's robust, progressive, and internationally recognised regulatory framework.

He added: "As a leading international financial centre, ADGM offers asset managers a dynamic ecosystem with access to global investors, innovative structures, and a collaborative community that fosters sustainable growth. We are delighted to welcome DWS to our dynamic ecosystem and are confident they will make a valuable contribution to the continued development and diversification of Abu Dhabi's asset management landscape."

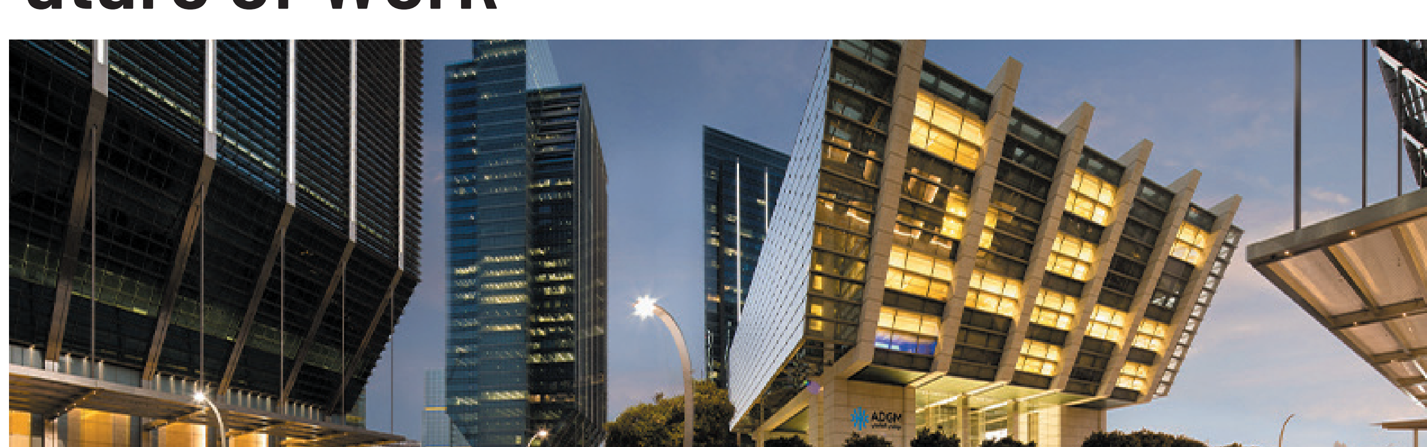
# Sky Hub Launches Regulatory-Ready Office Model in ADGM to Support Abu Dhabi's Future of Work

Sky Hub has launched a new regulatory-ready office model in ADGM to support the growing number of startups, consultants, and international firms entering the capital's financial and innovation hub. Located in the landmark Sky Tower on Al Reem Island, Sky Hub offers a new generation of regulatory-ready offices built around agility, credibility, and connection. Each workspace is designed to help companies set up within weeks, supported by ADGM-compliant lease documentation, legal and administrative assistance, and access to industry professionals and regulatory consultants.

"Abu Dhabi is building an ecosystem where innovation and governance move together," said Muhammad Hassan, CEO of Sky Hub. "Our model enables businesses to enter this market seamlessly, focusing on growth while we handle compliance and operations."

In addition to workspace infrastructure, Sky Hub contributes to ADGM's business ecosystem by hosting networking programs and community initiatives that connect entrepreneurs with investors and advisory professionals. The facility provides modern meeting spaces, concierge support, and secure digital connectivity to enhance day-to-day business operations.

Sky Hub's approach aligns with Abu Dhabi Vision 2030, which prioritizes sustainable economic diversification and knowledge-driven growth.

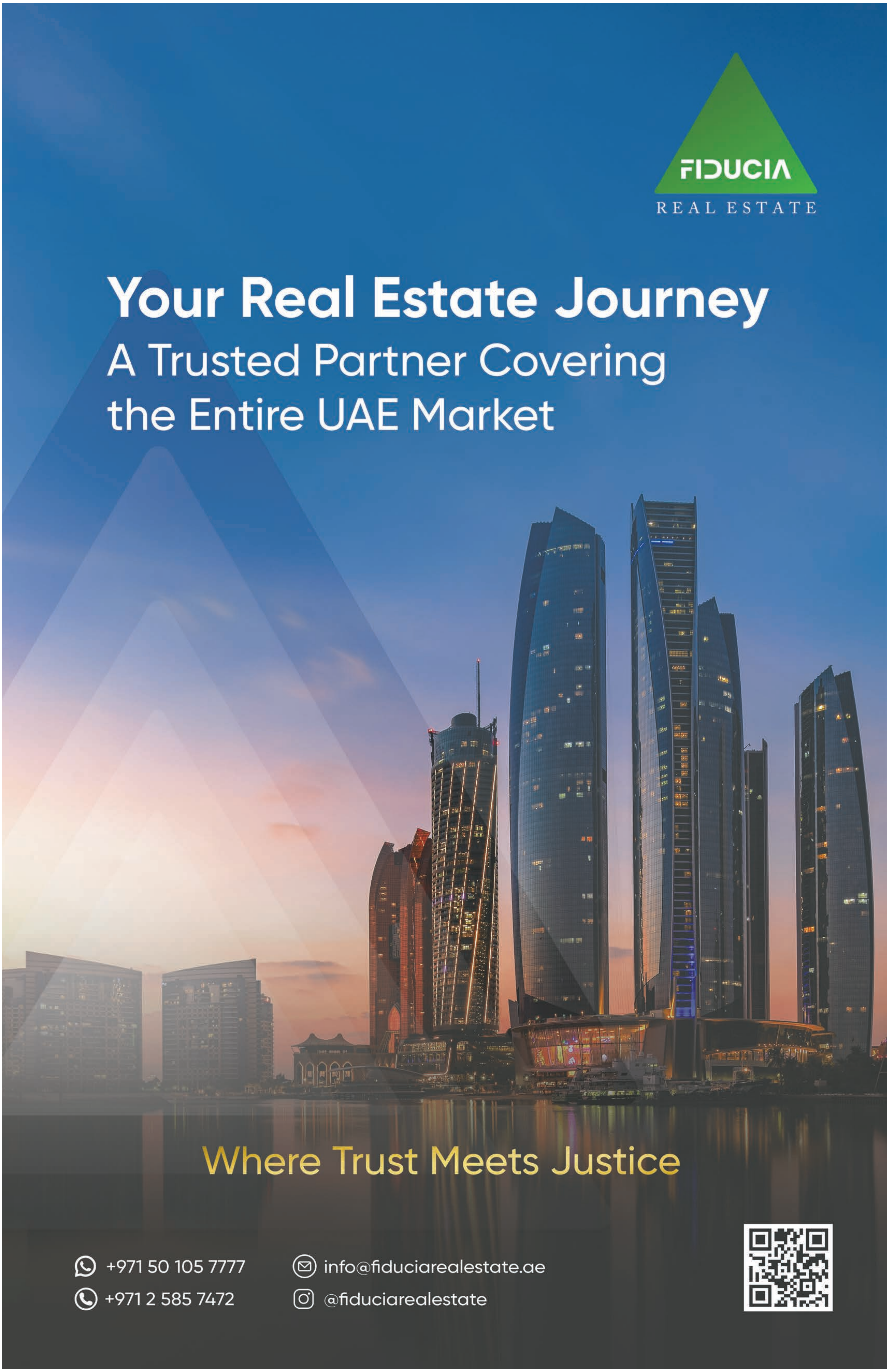


By integrating flexible workspaces with ADGM's regulatory framework, Sky Hub offers a solution that supports both local entrepreneurs and multinational entrants seeking a credible base in the capital.

"We see ourselves as more than an office space provider," added Hassan. "Sky Hub is a platform for ambition — a bridge between global business standards and Abu Dhabi's emerging opportunities."

With expansion plans already underway, Sky Hub is poised to become one of the largest private co-working ecosystems within ADGM, serving a diverse mix of professionals across finance, technology, and consulting. As global interest in ADGM continues to rise, Sky Hub represents the next evolution of workspace — a place where compliance, community, and creativity converge to power Abu Dhabi's future of work.

Sky Hub is a premier provider of integrated workspace solutions, focusing on compliance, community, and innovation within ADGM. Committed to empowering entrepreneurs and international firms, Sky Hub offers bespoke regulatory-ready offices designed for seamless market entry and accelerated growth.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ENGINEERING
ADFW
INNOVATION
CAPITAL
SUSTAINABLE
FINANCE
PARTNERSHIP
GLOBAL
ECOSYSTEMS
LEADERSHIP

### PREVIOUS EDITION SOLUTION

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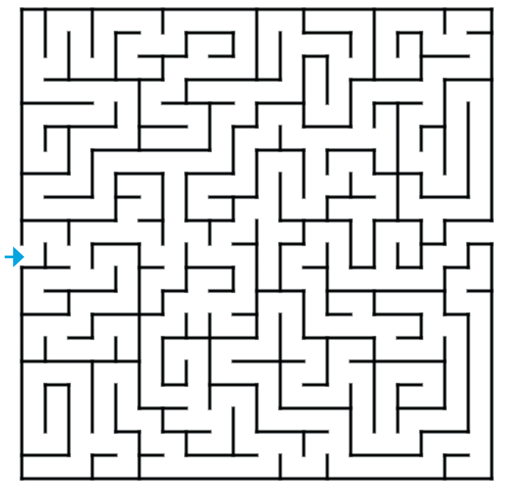
## MAZE





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