

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
وزارة التجارة الخارجية

**Keynote Speech by H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi**  
*UAE Minister of Foreign Trade*

At the International Cablemakers Federation (ICF) Congress Dubai 2008

*Hotel Hyatt Regency, Dubai, UAE*

*October 22, 2008*

**Topic: Keynote Speech for ICF Congress Dubai 2008**



**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A pleasant morning to you all, and welcome to Dubai and today's exclusive Members-Only sessions, which commences with our discussion on valuable Middle Eastern political and economic perspectives. It is a privilege to be speaking to all of you today under this new format, which facilitates a broader view of what has become one of the most important industries for global communications.

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May I take this opportunity to commend the International Cablemakers Federation for again successfully organising this annual Member's Congress. This gathering provides an excellent platform for business leaders; representatives; and renowned experts and specialists to discuss the latest industry trends and issues. We all look forward to this year's productive discussions and their repercussions on the vibrant cable-making industry.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

The UAE epitomizes the global thirst for improved technology, particularly in the communications field; we in fact currently lead the Middle East in terms of mobile phone and internet usage, and our world-famous property developments feature the latest and the best in ICT. Our government continues to infuse significant capital for the construction of advanced infrastructures that ensure swift, convenient and reliable links to public and private information channels.

Dubai remains the standard bearer for nationwide development of the most advanced buildings and facilities. Within its iconic structures reside modern communications networks and power systems using the highest-quality cabling products crafted by your industry. Dubai is a reflection of how the UAE has emerged as a major regional and international market for manufactured building materials such as wiring and cabling.

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**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The UAE remains a favourable destination for global commerce, particularly for manufacturers. World-class facilities, low labour and energy costs, advantageous tax laws and political stability all contribute to maintaining the country's status as a manufacturing haven. The diversification of the national economy towards non-oil growth areas has led to rapid industrial development, which in turn has expanded existing economic segments and continues to create new ones. It has accelerated the development of various industries which rely heavily on wiring and cabling products, from telecommunications and electronics to utilities and construction.

May I point out, that my country shares the ICF's vision of environmental responsibility, fair competition, energy conservation and public safety. Dubai has taken the lead in mandating the inclusion of environmentally-sound practices in all building construction; the rest of the country has swiftly followed suit. The UAE continues to develop and reform policies that enforce a fair and open business environment, develop energy-conscious businesses and citizens, and require public safety as a must throughout the private sector. The ICF and UAE are thus perfect partners for progress and solid champions of corporate responsibility.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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The ICF, whose membership represents the majority of the global manufacturing capacity of the wire and cable sector, plays a pivotal role in the sustained development of its industry. It is an honour to be hosting the activities of an industry organization committed to the highest production, safety and environmental standards. We encourage attendees and ICF members who are visiting our shores for the first time to further explore potential partnerships with Dubai and the UAE, which has evolved as a bastion for business excellence and corporate responsibility.

I would like to thank the ICF for inviting me to speak about the UAE and its key strengths as a business destination especially for cablemakers. I would also like to commend all of the participants here today, for your valuable contributions to this important industry.

**Good day, and please enjoy the rest of the Congress.**

**Thank You.**