

History of Global Business Forum (GBF) Series

- Flagship event of Dubai Chamber which is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.
- Dubai Chamber launched the first Global Business Forum in 2013 with Africa GBF, now one of the top global events on Africa (2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 and upcoming in October 2021).
- The GBF series expanded to include CIS (2016), Latin America (2016, 2018, 2019 and upcoming in March 2022) and ASEAN which will take place for the first time this year in December during Expo2020.
- GBFs are a platform to engage key leaders from the public and private sectors to support bilateral economic and business development

Objectives of Global Business Forum(GBF) Series

- Over the past years, the GBF series has driven high-level dialogue between Dubai and emerging markets that have bilateral trade potential.
- The GBF series seeks to explore potential ties and nurture cooperation between these two regions to boost relations and to support mutual growth.
- To explore the changing dynamics of the emerging markets, examining opportunities to increase business and investment between both Dubai and those markets, and push the boundaries of inter-regional trade.
- The Forums run over a day and a half with a networking reception, taking place at the end of the first day.

Target Audience

An exclusive invite-only event, the Forum brings together a high profile global audience of over 800 delegates which comprises of:

- Top level Government Officials including Heads of State, Ministers, Dignitaries and Policy Makers
- Prominent CEOs operating globally and world-class leaders
- Heads of private banks, sovereign wealth funds, private equity firms
- International organizations and multilateral agencies
- Senior representatives from Investment Promotion Agencies
- Leading local and international media

Since 2013, the GBFs have welcomed:

- **32** Heads of State & Heads of Government
- **140** Ministers and Government Dignitaries
- **9950** CEOs and other high-ranking delegates
- Representation from over **65** countries
- Facilitated over **1800** one-on-one business meetings

Forum Elements

GBF Insight:

- A high-level, curated programme which includes keynotes, plenary and parallel sessions, country/regional and industry focused side sessions. The programme is created in association with The Economist Group (TEG).

GBF Connect:

- A fully comprehensive business matching and networking service which runs over the entirety of the Forum.

Expert Hub:

- Situated in the exhibition/networking area, the Expert Hub will include the countries that are represented/attending the Forum.
- Trading blocs or countries are allocated a space within the hub, placing a representative of their investment Promotion Agency or other rep to provide the audience with practical information about doing business and respective opportunities.

The Expert Hub is only available to Countries within the geographic region of the GBF.

Global Business Forum (GBF) on Africa

13th – 14th October, 2021

Transformation Through Trade

The landmark African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA) came into effect in early 2021, creating the world's largest free trade area—a key step towards Africa controlling its own destiny. As the region prepares for the future, the expansion of trade links and greater inter-connectivity promises a new, more resilient regional economy.

The UAE also responded decisively to the crisis, quickly moving to reopen and adapt for the future. With its proven ability to diversify and adjust its economic model, how has the pandemic shifted priorities? What synergies exist between the UAE and Africa, and how can the relationship between the two regions drive progress to realise a shared vision for the future?

The theme will be explored across three pillars:

- Pillar 1: Reset -** *How can the Continent's countries work together to deliver on the promise of the AfCFTA and enable sustainable growth?*
- Pillar 2: Restore -** *Focuses on Models for innovative, sustainable trade and technology that can reconfigure the Continent's businesses, trade corridors and supply chains.*
- Pillar 3: Definers -** *Will focus on the resilience of the Continent's emerging businesses, the challenges for its workforce and the role of government in providing an enabling infrastructure for business.*

Global Business Forum (GBF) on ASEAN

8th – 9th December, 2021

The New Frontiers

As the frontier for global growth shifts to Asia, Global Business Forum – ASEAN 2021 launches in December to explore the changing dynamics of the ASEAN region, the opportunities for business and investment, and synergies with the UAE that can push the boundaries of inter-regional trade.

With Dubai's reputation as a significant centre for investment across Eurasia and a base for fast-growing bilateral trade, this Forum will exemplify the importance of the Emirate as a hub for ASEAN businesses to access global markets. It will also define how the two regions can nurture links and identify opportunities to boost bilateral trade relations supporting mutual growth.

The theme will be explored across three pillars:

Pillar 1: Drivers - *What, and where, are the new frontiers?*

Pillar 2: Designers - *What, and who, is shaping the change and seizing the opportunities?*

Pillar 3: Definers - *What will determine the outcome – and deliver results?*

Global Business Forum (GBF) on LATAM

23rd – 24th March, 2022

The Theme for the Forum is yet to be confirmed. Once confirmed, it will be shared accordingly.

Post Show Reports

To get an overview on the Forums, we are pleased to invite you to visit the below links for our post-show reports of the previous editions of the Forums on Africa and Latin America:

[AGBF 2019](#)

[GBF Latin America – Panama 2019](#)

Meet the GBF Team

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