

**Banking & Finance**

This session will discuss the implementation of Value Added Tax and potential implications for banking and finance industries. It will also cover how new financial technologies (Fintech) can be leveraged to the advantage of the UAE economy and American businesses operating here. Finally, it will focus on securing UAE's place as the de facto financial center for the region.

**Cyber Innovation**

This session will examine Cyber Innovation areas and their impact on national prosperity, as it is critical to industry, e-commerce, research, education, and government. It will review community collaboration and achievements in 2016 and discuss upcoming activities. This session will also highlight the benefits of shared environments and what is required to properly balance the risks and rewards, understand and communicate threats to security and privacy, and rapidly adapt to any resulting approach to a changing business environment.

**Defense, Aerospace & Security**

This session will discuss challenges and opportunities for the defense, aerospace, and security industries, with an objective of improving linkages between future force capability, UAE defense industrial requirements, and offset obligations, and how they are nested within a UAE National Defense Strategy.

**Education & Professional Training**

This session will discuss how to best re-infuse value in education in order to align with real world needs. The focus will be on the environments of elementary and secondary (grades 6-12), tertiary and post-tertiary (undergraduate and graduate college) and adult learning.

**Energy, Water, Oil & Gas**

This session will discuss the current hydrocarbon price environment. Three years ago, oil prices fell from more than \$100 per barrel to average approximately \$50 per barrel since the reduction. There is a long list of drivers including supply - demand, inventory, world events, alternative fuels, etc. What have been our experiences, how have we adapted and what more can be done?

**Engineering, Construction & Project Management**

This session will give attendees the opportunity to discuss key topics related to the development of general infrastructure systems and to identify ways to advance collaboration between the Private and Public Sectors. Discussions will be focused around the following three topics: Overall Procurement Processes for Government Entities, Alternative Delivery Models (Collaboration between Public and Private Sectors) and Knowledge Transfer between Private and Public Sectors.

**Healthcare & Insurance**

This session will discuss contemporary opportunities and challenges in the healthcare and health insurance sectors. The group will discuss how to support plans to build Abu Dhabi as a hub for medical tourism, establishing a code of ethics for providers that aligns to vision of the Department of Health, pay of outcomes, and the role that pharmaceuticals can play in the management of chronic diseases. At the end of the session, a short list of suggested improvements will be proposed.

**Hospitality & Tourism**

This session will discuss and define the various ways that the UAE government and hotel and tourism attraction operators can help promote increased visitor numbers to the Emirate through promoting a UAE-wide integrated approach to tourism promotion. The session will also discuss a subsidization strategy that is required to elevate some of the pressure of decreasing average room rates and consumer spending in hotels by supporting the tourism sector with lower utility costs. Finally, the session will examine tax exemptions or tax freeze options that should be provided to the hotel industry to meet the decreasing room rates and increasing regional competition due to the limited capacity of Abu Dhabi Airport and airfares into Abu Dhabi, which has become the most expensive in the region.