

SAWALEF

WINTER/SPRING 2016

NEWSLETTER



EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2016

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

Dear Readers,

It's been an exciting start to the New Year! We've expanded to London and Vienna, acquiring the two additional world-class hotels, the Hilton London Wembley and the opulent Hotel Imperial, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Vienna, a historic gem for the portfolio!

Once again, Al Habtoor Motors has excelled in terms of performance and reputation as the Business Unit winner at the Employee Excellence Awards. The iconic Mitsubishi Pajero, UAE's favourite family SUV celebrates its 35th anniversary and the 2016 Mitsubishi Montero Sport is unveiled as a special event in the Dubai desert.

Meet the 'fantastic 10' from the Media and Communications Department and win two signed copies of the Chairman's best-selling book in our new competition.

Start flipping and don't forget to share the newsletter with family and friends...

Michaela

Contents

COMPANY MESSAGE

3 Chairman, Khalaf Al Habtoor

GROUP NEWS

- 4 Emirates Airline Festival of Literature 2016
- 5 Al Arabiya Global Discussions Forum
- 6 Emirates Oasis Villas ready to open
- 7 New and promoted Habtoorians
- 8 Risk Management medical induction seminar
- 9 Holiday celebrations at the AHG

HABTOOR HOSPITALITY

- 10 Imperial Hotel Vienna
- 12 Hilton London Wembley
- 14 HGBRS celebrates first year with the Autograph Collection
- 15 HGBRS wins World Travel Award
HGBRS receives Culinary Award

AL HABTOOR MOTORS

- 17 SpeedFit tyres & batteries promotion
- 18 Iconic Mitsubishi Pajero celebrates 35th anniversary
- 19 Introducing the Mitsubishi Montero

DIAMONDLEASE

- 20 New Oracle ERP Software
- 21 DL participates in Pink Caravan
- 22 Group discount scheme

EMIRATES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

- 23 Year 2 Chess Champion from EIS-Jumeirah
- 24 EIS-Jumeirah celebrated International Day

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- 26 Media & Communications Department
- 28 Rehearsing for the big day
- 29 Reception
- 31 Ceremony at the Al Andalus Ballroom

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

- 27 Michaela Podkovicik

COMPETITIONS

- 16 New competition: Two signed copies of the Chairman's Autobiography
- 25 Winner of our autumn competition – Philomina Pereira

Sawalef Editor:
Michaela Podkovicik

Sawalef Designer:
Gilda Castro Rios

Sawalef is brought to
you by the
Al Habtoor Group
Media &
Communications
Department



Ladies and Gentlemen,

On March 14, 2016, we celebrated top talent from across the Group at the annual Employee Excellence Awards ceremony held at the Habtoor Beach Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection.

I believe it is important to reward and recognise staff that consistently outperform. These are people who are hardworking, motivated and disciplined; attributes which lead to success. I am very proud of them.

I always say that our staff are our biggest assets. This is what makes a company succeed. We are doing exceptionally well throughout all our units, and staff should be recognised for their hard work and commitment.

As a Group we have grown significantly, especially in the past 12 months. In our hospitality division we now have seven hotels abroad, and seven in Dubai – including those under construction. Our real estate division is expanding with debut of the Residence Collection at Al Habtoor City, a new landmark in Dubai. Plus, we are in the process of developing luxury villas at the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club – an upmarket equestrian haven in DubaiLand.

Al Habtoor Motors is number one in the world across most of its brands, and we now have a presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Mitsubishi Fuso. In addition, we recently opened the world's first Bentley Café and Boutique, and soon we will open the world's first iconic Bentley Showroom on Sheikh Zayed Road.

Our schools, Emirates International School, Jumeirah and Meadows each year improve on the last. Many of our students are graduating to some of the world's top universities. This is a great achievement. We are preparing our young people to go out into the world armed with the right skillsets to succeed.

This year I selected three winners for the Chairman's Award. Sunderesh Iyer, Chief Operating Officer, Al Habtoor Investment - Al Habtoor Group. He has been active in the Group's expansion overseas. Maan Halabi, Managing Director, Al Habtoor Group, who has been at the Group for decades, has played a key role across the Group entities. The final winner was Yusef Shalabi, Technical Advisor to the Chairman, Al Habtoor Group. Yusef has been with me since the 1980s, and is one of the best engineers I have ever worked with.

Al Habtoor Motors is a worthy winner for the fourth year in a row. I am very proud of the management team and all the staff across all our network of branches.

Congratulations to all our winners and wishing all of you all successful year ahead.

Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor

Chairman, Al Habtoor Group

GROUP NEWS



Khalaf Al Habtoor in discussion with Isobel Abulhoul, CEO and Trustee of the Emirates Literature Foundation and Festival Director of the Emirates Airline Festival, and Colonel Hareb bin Hadher

Khalaf Al Habtoor honours Emirati poet Mohammed Bin Hadr at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature

Mohammed Bin Hadher, renowned Emirati poet, diplomat and UAE businessman was awarded the Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor Lifetime Achievement Award at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature on March 11, 2016. The award was received by Colonel Hareb bin Hadher, son of the late poet.

Bin Hadher left an indelible impression on his beloved country

through the establishment, with Mohammed Al Murr, of Al Nadwa: The UAE Cultural and Scientific Association. Dedicated to improving the scientific state of the nation, Al Nadwa has branched out into a number of programmes benefiting the next generation of scientists.

Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor, who was a close family friend of Bin Hadher shared an emotional tribute to his

friend, "It gives me great pleasure to honour Mohammed Bin Hadher with this Lifetime Achievement Award. Mohammed's commitment and dedication to literature during his lifetime have greatly enriched both heritage and culture in the UAE. His contributions to Emirati poetry and the country that he so loved continues to live on through his family and his work," said Al Habtoor.



Khalaf Al Habtoor in discussion with Faisal J. Abbas, Editor-in-Chief of Al Arabiya English News



The event was broadcasted live via the mobile app **Periscope**. Start following the Al Habtoor Group today!

Khalaf Al Habtoor honoured ‘Columnist of the Year’ at Al Arabiya Global Discussions Forum

Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor was honoured ‘Columnist of the Year’ by Al Arabiya English News for his outstanding contributions in bridging the communication gap between the Arab world and the West. For over three decades Khalaf Al Habtoor has published his bold positions, insights on global affairs with the ability to influence public opinion at the Al Arabiya Global Discussions Forum held on December 17, 2015 at

the newly opened St. Regis Dubai, Al Habtoor City.

Our Chairman, gave a powerful opening speech to a full room of prominent regional political experts, journalists and dignitaries on the rising threat of extremism and Islamophobia in the West and statements made by U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Al Habtoor highlighted, “We have seen an increase in terrorism by extremists who are falsely using Islam as a cover. They are not Muslims! Sadly, no place on earth is safe from their actions, and this has caused the biggest cross-cultural divide in living memory.”

Congratulations to our Chairman on receiving yet another prominent accolade!

GROUP NEWS



1. Dubai's newest residential community is located in the heart of the city! 2. Great landscaping, a children's playground and community swimming pool

Al Habtoor Group opens new residential community: **Emirates Oasis Villas**

The Emirates Oasis Villas project was announced in December 2013 and is ready to house residents!

The family-friendly villa complex is located in the heart of Jumeirah-Al Thanya offering four, five and six bedroom villas ranging as well as great facilities and amenities:

- 24-hour gated security
- Fully landscaped villas gardens
- Large community swimming pool
- Children's playground
- Running track

- Modern & fully equipped community gym
- Beautiful community landscaping
- Domestic helpers accommodation within all villas
- Practical utility space and storage

Nearby landmarks and amenities include a Waitrose supermarket, Emirates International School - Jumeirah, pharmacy, petrol station, cafés, health and beauty facilities, medical centres and the new Metropolitan Sheikh Zayed Road. More shopping, food & beverage

and entertainment options are within a 2 minute drive at the Mall of the Emirates and Souk Madinat and Jumeirah Beach!

For exclusive previews and more information on rental rates, please contact:

Louay Khoury
Real Estate Manager - AHG
Tel: +971 4 394 1444
Email: louay@habtoor.com

Congratulations

to our 'Habtoorians'!

The Sawalef team would also like to congratulate Atef Mousa on successfully attaining the Certified Human Resources Manager (Level 5) Certification from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.



Congratulations to our 'Habtoorians' who were promoted to new roles in and a warm welcome to new members of the team...

1. **Noura Badawi**, Chief Communications Officer
2. **Joanna Andrews**, Director of Communications
3. **Kamal Naamani**, Managing Director, Hospitality & Leisure Projects UAE
4. **Atef Mousa**, Senior Manager HR & Administration
5. **Malek Mousa**, Chief Procurement Officer
6. **Ekatrina Gerasimuk**, Project Analyst
7. **Faisal Baroud**, Assistant Manager - Real Estate
8. **Dhiaa Aljanabi** joins the team at the Al Farooq Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque and Centre as Cultural Guide and Administration Officer
9. Our Congratulations wishes extend to **Sheikh Fares Al Mustafa**, Imam and Preacher of the Al Farooq Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque and Centre on receiving his doctorate degree in Interpretation of the Qur'an Sciences from Al Azhar University of Cairo.

Risk Management Department hosts annual Medical Induction Seminar



2016 annual medical seminar was attended by nearly 30 staff from across the Group

The Risk Management Department hosted a productive session to discuss the new developments made to the AHG junior staff medical scheme on February 9, 2016 at head office theatre.

The medical induction program is an annual event organised by the Group Risk Management Department in coordination with the Group's insurers, Dubai National Insurance and

Reinsurance and Mednet. Attendees included HR and Finance staff from all units, workshop managers, security supervisors, and workers accommodation camp bosses along with supervisors, who later communicated the seminar's outcome with their colleagues.

Chadi EL Deek, Group Risk Manager shares with our readers, "Health and medical benefits are one of the

essential insurance covers, which we manage every year. However, superior care and attentiveness are required for this policy as its aim is to take care of any health condition, which our staff might experience.

Like with all other insurances, upon renewal of the policy we evaluate the current covers, identify gaps, and enhance with the necessary amendments."

Christmas

Habtooirans celebrate the holidays with a festive lunch



Chairman of the Al Habtoor Group, Khalaf Al Habtoor and Vice-Chairman and CEO, Mohammed Al Habtoor hosted our Habtooirans for a festive lunch buffet of turkey and lamb at the new head office cafeteria. Guests included Sheikh Fares Al Mustafa, the group's senior management, members of the Al Farooq Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque & Centre, Habtoor Hotels and the employees from the Group head office. The Chairman was met with a great applause after he gave a speech on the importance of tolerance and mutual respect between people of different faiths and cultures.

HABTOOR HOSPITALITY



1.The five-star luxury hotel is a cultural and historic gem located in the heart of Vienna 2.The Chairman celebrates cuts the famous Imperial cake celebrating the acquisition of the Imperial Hotel Vienna with Michael Wale - President EAME Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide - and Badria Al Shehi - Charge d'Affairs at the embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Austria.e 3.The officials signing ceremony in Vienna between Al Habtoor Investment and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwid 4.Stylish furniture, marble baths and silk clad walls decorate 138 historic rooms, including 59 suites 5. The historic 1873 Halle&Salon Bar has been transformed into a modern, popular lounge bar



The famous Imperial Torte served at Café Imperial Wien

The irresistible confection has been lovingly crafted at the Imperial Hotel for decades. Legend has it that a kitchen apprentice created the cake in honour of Emperor Franz Joseph I on the occasion of the Hotel Imperial's opening in 1873.

Selected ingredients of highest quality give the Imperial Torte its distinctive aroma - cacao cream is layered between delicate wafers of almond pastry and then covered in fine marzipan and a rich glaze of chocolate. A mouthwatering and must-try treat!



Click on the above to watch Khalaf Al Habtoor's interview for Globo TV

Latest acquisition: Hotel Imperial, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Vienna

The Al Habtoor Group adds one of Austria's most monumental properties to its international hospitality portfolio - Hotel Imperial, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Vienna.

Khalaf Al Habtoor celebrated the latest acquisition at an official signing ceremony with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide and dignitaries from across the world on Monday February 15, 2016.

The Chairman said, "Hotel Imperial is one of Europe's most extraordinary luxury hotels and a premium addition to our growing global portfolio. We look forward to making further improvements to this legendary

property and continuing to provide exceptional luxury hospitality to the next generation of luxury travellers."

The magnificent palace on Vienna's Ring Boulevard and former private residence of the Prince of Württemberg turned into the Hotel Imperial on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition in 1873.

Crystal chandeliers, antiques and marble bathrooms, artwork dating back to the early 19th century decorate more than 138 historic rooms, including 59 suites. The Hotel Imperial offers three food and beverage outlets: Opus Restaurant, 1873 Halle&Salon Bar and Café Imperial Wien which serves

delicious Austrian specialties made with fresh local ingredients.

For decades, the hotel has received international attention thanks to its opulence and impeccable service, welcoming dignitaries and celebrities including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Charlie Chaplin, and Austrian-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph.

The unique location on Vienna's famous Ringstraße, next to the Musikverein Vienna and a short walk from the famous St. Stephen's Cathedral, Hofburg Palace makes the Hotel Imperial Vienna the perfect starting point to explore the Austrian capital with all its historic and cultural sights.

HABTOOR HOSPITALITY

3.



1.



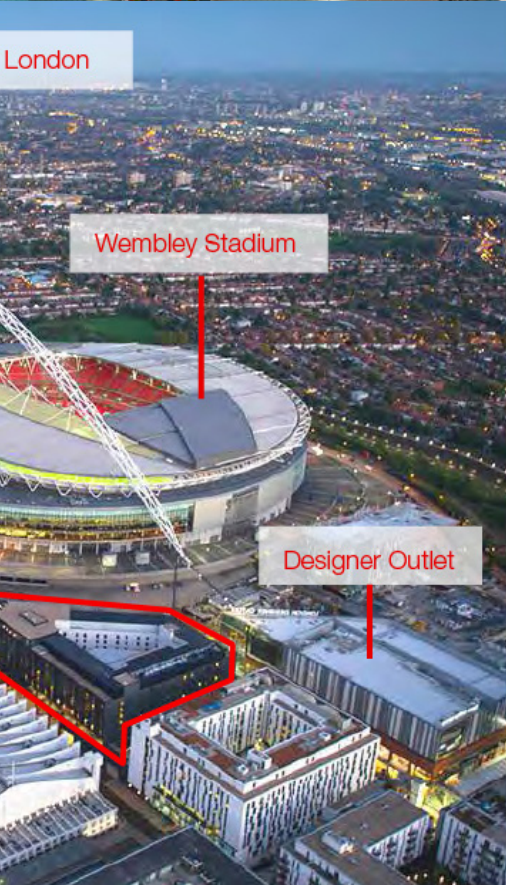
5.



2.



1. Winner of the 2015 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence Award
2. Located next door to the iconic Wembley Stadium, the famous SSE Wembley Arena, the London Designer Outlet with many shops and restaurants
3. The contemporary Hilton London Wembley opened in 2012
4. Spacious rooms and super king-sized beds
5. After visiting the gym, take a dip in the 12m indoor heated pool



The Hilton London Wembley is the Group's first property in the U.K.

Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor, Chairman, Al Habtoor Group, is proud to announce the acquisition of a landmark London hotel – the Hilton London Wembley.

The contemporary hotel, which opened in 2012 features fantastic dining, 343 stylish rooms and 18 suites, plus first-class business and leisure facilities for an unforgettable stay.

With a central location, the hotel is steps away from the iconic Wembley Stadium, the SSE Wembley Arena, the West End theater district and the London Designer Outlet, making it the perfect venue for events, in conferences, first-class shopping and

entertainment. A hop on the metro and you'll be at Central London's Piccadilly Circus in just 30 minutes!

The Hilton London Wembley offers three great dining venues serving a variety of cuisines from traditional British at The Association Restaurant, drinks and snacks at the Icons Bar, and the most spectacular view from the rooftop terrace Sky Bar 9 overlooking the Wembley Stadium. Additional facilities and amenities of the four star hotel include 11 meeting spaces, a 693 square metre Grand Ballroom, 200 parking space, Executive Lounge and Fitness Center with indoor swimming pool.

#HiltonLondonWembley

Next time you're staying in London, book at the Hilton London Wembley

+44 20 8150 8090
lonlw.res@hilton.com

Facebook:
Hilton London Wembley

Instagram:
@hiltonlondonwembley

Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa's 1st Anniversary as Autograph Collection Hotel



The team celebrates with balloons and cake!

The Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection celebrated its 1st anniversary as an Autograph Collection Hotel on February 15, 2016.

The opportunity of being part of Marriott's Autograph Collection has enabled the hotel to accomplish and create a unique lifestyle for each guest dubbed as individualists. Collaboration with Marriott's Autograph Collection, as the first hotel in the Middle East, has

translated into superior guest service and memorable experiences.

"We're excited to celebrate the hotel's 1st Anniversary Celebration with our valued employees, guests and friends in the industry, and look forward to unveiling an exciting line-up of exclusive promotions and events," reveals Fredrik Reinisch, the hotel's General Manager.





The Habtoor Grand Culinary Department takes away seven awards at the Salon Culinaire 2016



World's Leading
Executive Club
Lounge

Culinary Team triumphs at the **Gulf Food Middle East Challenge**

The Habtoor Grand Beach Resort and Spa, Autograph Collection is proud and delighted to celebrate its culinary victory in this year's Salon Culinaire 2016 Gulf Food Middle East Challenge. Our Chefs brought home seven outstanding achievements reaffirming their pledge to achieve culinary perfection!

With flamboyant flare, articulate manifesto and just down right passion for food – the 'Habtoorian' Chefs brought home 5 bronze medals, 1 gold medal and the Food Safety & Hygiene Award.

The Habtoor Grand brings a gastronomic experience that is "exactly like nothing else".

Habtoor Grand's "Executive Club Lounge" wins **World Travel Awards**

The Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection snatches the 'World's Leading Executive Club Lounge' award at the World Travel Awards 2015 held at the Mazagan Beach & Golf Resort in El Jadida, Morocco.

The World Travel Awards are voted for by travel and tourism professionals worldwide, and this accolade recognizes the commitment to excellence which the hotel has strongly demonstrated in the last twelve months, having joined the Marriott International's Autograph Collection. The Grand Club Lounge occupies the entire 25th floor and boasts spectacular views across the Palm Jumeirah from its outdoor terrace. In addition, The Club Lounge has a dedicated kitchen with live cooking stations, a Children's Lounge and two well-appointed meeting rooms, catering to leisure and business travelers alike.



RESIDENCE
COLLECTION

AL HABTOOR CITY



OWN YOUR ADDRESS
ON THE DUBAI WATER CANAL

CALL NOW

+971 (4) 279 8888

800-HABTOOR
(800-422 8667)

alhabtoorcyy.com



First hotel in Hungary to receive **Green Globe Certification!**

The InterContinental Budapest has always been a pioneer in the Hungarian hotelier market in terms of its green commitment. In 2016, it maintains its status as the very first hotel in Hungary to receive Green Globe Certification.

Green Globe Certification is recognized worldwide as an established sustainability certification program. The InterContinental Budapest was first certified in 2013 and has been continually re-certified each year through to 2016.

Congratulations to the InterContinental Budapest Hotel team!

Guests vote **InterContinental Budapest 'Travellers' Choice'** for a second year in a row!

Outstanding service, quality and value! That's how guests described their experience after staying at the InterContinental Budapest, winner of the 2015 and 2016 'Travelers' Choice' award certified by renowned online travel portal TripAdvisor.

A part of the Al Habtoor Group international hospitality portfolio since June 2014, the five star hotel received the honor based on reviews and opinions from millions of travelers, granting the award to only 1% of all the hotels in TripAdvisor's system.

The hotel has made its mark in the

TripAdvisor "Hall Of Fame" following the receipt of the "Certificate of Excellence" for five consecutive years. The InterContinental Budapest also holds two World Travel Awards™, an accolade voted for by travel and tourism professionals worldwide to recognize the commitment to excellence. Plan your next trip to Budapest and stay at the InterContinental!

Facebook:
InterContinental

Twitter:
@InterConHotels



SpeedFit

www.speedfit.me



KEEP DRIVING SAFELY WITH 3 YEARS* TYRE CARE PLAN



INCLUDING COMPLIMENTARY

- ✓ Check and adjust tyre pressures
- ✓ Check and re-balance wheel twice a year
- ✓ Rotate tyres twice a year
- ✓ Repair up to two punctures a year



WITH PURCHASE OF TYRE, TYRE VALVE, NITROGEN & WHEEL BALANCE



TYRES



CAR WASH



SERVICE



OIL CHANGE



BATTERIES



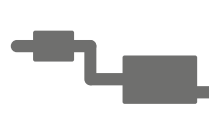
STEERING



BRAKES



SUSPENSION



EXHAUST



PARTS & ACCESSORIES

GENERALTYRE

DUBAI SPEEDFIT

RAS AL KHAIMAH-RAK Mall

WORKING HOURS:

DUBAI: 8:30 a.m. to 5: 30 p.m. (7 days a week)

SPEEDFIT VEHICLE REGISTRATION & TESTING: 7:00 a.m. to 9: 00 p.m. (Sat to Thurs)

SPEEDFIT VEHICLE REGISTRATION & TESTING, Umm Ramool, Dubai, UAE

T: +971 - 4 - 253 1700, F: +971 - 4 - 285 4030

Khuzam Road, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

T: +971 - 7 - 205 8222

*Terms & conditions apply.

WIN

2 signed copies of the 'Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor: The Autobiography'

November marked three years since the launch of our Chairman's autobiography, 'Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor: The Autobiography'. The book has already hit numerous best sellers' lists in the United Arab Emirates bookstores and is available in three languages.

Answer the following question (choose of the options below) for your chance to win one of two signed copy from the Chairman.

Q: In his early days as a businessman, Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor started a venture selling...

- A) Coffee
- B) Camels
- C) Tents
- D) Cars

Hint: Watch the video from the book launch on the Chairman's YouTube channel. [Click here to view](#)

Email your answers to sawalef@habtoor.com by June 5, 2016.

AL HABTOOR MOTORS



1.



2.

1. The future has arrived with the Montero Sports at the entrance of the Platinum Heritage 2. Let's set the sand on fire with the new Mitsubishi Montero Sports.

Introducing the all new Mitsubishi Montero Sport

A new range of SUV was introduced by Al Habtoor Motors, the official dealer of Mitsubishi Motors in the UAE. The special launch event "Let's Set the Sand on Fire" saw the Montero Sport take the road for the first time in the UAE. It was held at the Platinum Heritage, Dubai on February 22, 2016. Guests included Senior Managers from Al Habtoor Motors, delegates from the Mitsubishi Motors Middle East & Africa, and some of the most loyal Fleet Customers.

The event not only included a new experience in the desert with its

remarkable activities, but also gave all guests the opportunity to test drive the powerful Montero Sport in the Dubai desert. With great feedback, test driving the Montero Sport was without a doubt the highlight of the launch event which included wildlife drive, falcon show, camel ride and ayala dance.

Mitsubishi customers and media had a chance to test drive the Montero Sport and experience all the features of the car that included:

- 1- Premium Comfort
- 2- Push Start

- 3- Speed Automatic Transmission
- 4- Paddle Shifters
- 5- 7 Seater
- 6- 7 SRS Airbags
- 7- Rear Differential Lock
- 8- Active Stability & Traction Control
- 9- Super Select 4WD-II
- 10- Hill Descent Control (HDC)
- 11- Off Road Mode
- 12- Ultrasonic Misacceleration Mitigation System (UMS)

Based on the overall feedback received from the press and customers AHM is confident that the Montero Sport will be a game changer on and off the road.

1st Generation 1982-1990



2nd Generation 1991-1998



3rd Generation 1999-2005



4th Generation 2006



1st Generation: 1982-1990 - "A path through uncharted territory becomes a new road" **2nd Generation: 1991-1998** - "One road: eliminating the barrier between on - and off road" **3rd Generation: 1999-2005** - "A fundamental review provides a shortcut to a major leap forward" **4th Generation: 2006** - "Evolution in sensibility: familiar road feel different"

UAE's Bestselling SUV of all time the iconic Mitsubishi Pajero celebrates its 35th anniversary!

Over 100,000 satisfied customers in the UAE. Al Habtoor Motors is proud to celebrate the 35th anniversary for the Mitsubishi Pajero.

The rugged, stylish and dependable Mitsubishi Pajero was brought to the UAE by Al Habtoor Motors when it became the official dealer of Mitsubishi in 1983.

Over the past three and half decades, the Pajero has become the Best Value Japanese SUV and the Preferred Family Vehicle in the UAE.

Back in time...

Four generations of the Mitsubishi Pajero

The first Pajero prototype was unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in November 1973. The Pajero II prototype followed in 1978, five years later.

Mitsubishi's aim was to create more of a recreational vehicle, not just an SUV. In January 1983, the first Pajero made its debut at the Paris Dakar

Rally, taking first place in 1985. To date, the Pajero is the most successful vehicle in the Dakar Rally (winning its class 7 out of the last 10 races, and 15 of the full 32 races).

DIAMOND LEASE

Binoy Sasidharan

Kaladi, Project Manager

- Information Technology gives an exclusive interview and reveals more about the ERP software project to our readers...



The team at Diamondlease in charge of the project.

New Oracle ERP Software at Diamondlease

1. What led to the implementation of the Oracle ERP Software?

To overcome its current IT system limitations and to cater to increased business volume going forward, Diamondlease (DL) decided to implement a new software system in 2014. With help of the AI Habtoor Internal Audit team, DL got on board a Project Manager to lead this critical implementation.

2. Does the project have a special name and when will it be completed?

This landmark project for Diamondlease, named 'DigirevL' based on an in-house project brand naming contest, was kicked-off on January 25, 2015 and is expected to go live in Q3 of 2016.

3. What are the major benefits of the system and how will it improve the operations of the Group?

Oracle E-Business Suite is the most comprehensive suite of integrated, global business applications that enable organizations to make better

decisions, reduce costs, and increase performance.

With hundreds of cross-industry capabilities spanning enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, and supply chain planning. In short, it is a process that allows any organization to have system applications integrated to manage and automate business and back office functions

4. How did you overcome challenges that came your way?

A root cause analysis for the problems being faced in the existing scenario was carried out based on which DL decided to take the ERP route rather than once again going in for multiple applications as it did in the past. This decision also took into account the features of an ERP like stability, consistency (both data & looks), scalability, integrations etc. The biggest challenge was that none of the Tier 1 ERP applications had the modules related to DL's core business - Car Rental & Leasing. More than 20+ products / vendors

were engaged in the evaluation stage, including the Top 3 ERP vendors - Oracle, SAP & Microsoft, apart from the popular regional ERP application companies. Based on the Technical, Functional, Commercial, unique value propositions and other generic parameters evaluated, DL team selected the Oracle ERP & Oracle Partner TransSys as the implementation partner in December 2014.

5. Has the implementation been successful?

At the starting of the Project itself, DL identified the Process / Module Champions from each process / sub-process. These Champions participated in every demo shown by the vendors and gave their feedbacks after each session, which was one of the inputs for finalizing the product / vendor. The objective of this exercise was that these Champions would accept the system and its functionality, take ownership of the system, and transfer that learning & attitude ultimately to the end user.



WAYS OF GIVING



PINK CARAVAN 2016

Pink Caravan, launched in 2011, is a Pan UAE breast cancer initiative that falls under Friends of Cancer Patients' umbrella initiative "Kashf", for early detection of cancer.

The initiative is launched annually under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah and Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Wife

of the Ruler of Sharjah, Founder and Royal Patron of the Friends of Cancer Patients Society (FoCP), International Ambassador of the World Cancer Declaration for Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and International Ambassador for Childhood Cancer for UICC.

Diamondlease are proud to be the official and sole transport providers for the "Pink Caravan Ride 2016".

Diamondlease is associating with this social cause by providing 16 vehicles for use across all Emirates in the UAE spanning different sectors, bringing together schools, universities, corporations, Pink Caravan ambassadors and Royalty.

This year, the "Pink Caravan Ride" took place from the 7th of March thru the 19th of March 2016 and covered a distance of 1,150 kilometres.



Did you hear the news? Diamondlease announces

40% discount

for Al Habtoor Group employees!



Employees will now receive a 40% discount on daily, weekly and monthly car rental rates from Diamondlease LLC.

And there's more! If you refer a friend or relative they'll receive a further 30 % discount from the existing rack rates.*

Visit any of our Diamondlease branches or contact us on +971 4 8852111 enquiry@diamondlease.com for more info.

*Please see attachments for terms & conditions



And the
WINNER
is...



*Congratulations to Philomina!
Our 2015 Autumn issue competition winner.*

Philomina Pereira, Executive Secretary to Managing Director, Admin. Operations and HR will get to enjoy a gift voucher for four to brunch at the Habtoor Grand Beach Resort & Spa, Autograph Collection.

For your chance to win our next great prize, answer this issue's competition question on page 19.

EMIRATES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



1.



2.

1. Ziana Singh winner of the Dubai National Championship for Grade 1
2. Group photo of the participants in the 2016 Dubai National Chess Championship
3. Ziana Singh is only in Year 2 and already holds her first gold medal!

Chess prodigy from EIS-J wins Dubai School Chess Championship

A huge round of applause for Ziana Singh, Year 2 student from EIS-Jumierah, Dubai's National Chess Champion for Grade 1. Ziana will go on to represent EIS-Jumeirah on February 28, 2016 at the UAE National Chess Championships.

Only one champion from each Emirate advances to the National Championships debacle and we are proud that Ziana is one of them!

The Sawalef team wishes her the best of luck!



3.



Celebrating diversity at EIS-Jumeirah with students from 80 different countries from across the world!

Vibrant **International Day** celebrations at EIS-Jumeirah

Families and staff celebrated Internationalism at Emirates International School - Jumeirah on Saturday, February 13, 2016.

The annual event included a colourful array of flags and costumes filled the school grounds, showcasing the diverse nature of our school community.

The event started with a display of dances from around the world including a Parade of Nations. Families then enjoyed the sights, sounds and cuisines from a variety of countries.

Meet the Media & Comm

Al Habtoor Group
**DEPARTMENTAL
AWARD
2016**

WINNERS

Dynamic, passionate and creative ... They're the team working around the clock on the Al Habtoor Group's day-to-day media and communications projects, events, press releases, websites, mobile apps, social media, Al Shindagah Magazine, Sawalef newsletter, and much more!

Get to know the Media & Communications team at the Al Habtoor Group head office...

Noura Badawi
Chief Communications Officer

Marhaba, I am Noura Badawi and I am a Habtoorian from Lebanon. I joined Al Habtoor Group in June 2001 as part of the opening team of the Hilton Beirut Metropolitan Palace Hotel. Since then I have grown within the company. What I love about being a Habtoorian is the opportunity to learn something new every day, to challenge myself constantly, and feel part of a family that grows together and cares for its members.

Joanna Andrews
Director of Communications

Hello, I am Joanna Andrews, a Habtoorian from England. I joined the Al Habtoor Group mid-2012. It was great to be up on stage at the Employee Excellence Awards this year as part of a winning team. We work in a fast-paced department and have a great team that has diverse strengths. You put us all together and we work as one! Being a Habtoorian means being motivated, disciplined and working with a smile!

Gilda Castro Rios
Art Manager

Hola! I am Gilda Castro, Habtoorian from Peru. I joined this Group in April 2011 without realising how many amazing experiences we will go through together and make things happen. I will never regret the decision I took to come to



this country. It's been a blessing to have met so many amazing people throughout these years, learn so much about the culture, country and having achieved so many things in so little time. We have a crazy work schedule but we always try to enjoy it in the end, a Habtoorian always make it happen, right? So, bring it on!

Radwa Wagdi
Media & Communications Executive

Ezycom, I am Radwa Wagdi and I am a Habtoorian from Egypt. I joined Al Habtoor Group in December 2009. I feel good about the work I do, I am proud of my contribution. I learn new things by being positively challenged every day. I appreciate that we are challenged to learn something new every day and everyone is willing to help and to go that extra mile.

Michaela Podkovicik
Sr. Media & Communications Executive

Ahoj, my name is Michaela and I'm a Habtoorian from Canada and Slovakia. I joined as the seventh member of the Media & Communications family nearly 3 years ago.

Communications Department



The Employee Excellence Awards is my favorite event of the year because it's all about teamwork, each year our department is challenged to come up with a programme that is more entertaining and exciting than the year before. I appreciate the diversity of our team, every day I'm learning something new and getting inspired by the people I work with.

Liezl Reamillo
Executive Secretary Community Relations & Communications

Mabuhay, I am Liezl Reamillo-Lumanlan, an 18 year-old Habtoorian from the Pearl of the Orient, Pilipinas. A proud Habtoorian is determined and flexible, may it be to lead or to follow. I am pleased to have both roles in the group as and when needed over the years. I am proud of our strength because of the unique contributions each of us brings with their background and personality.

Inamul Bashir
WebMaster

Hello, I am Inamul Bashir from India, I joined Al Habtoor

Group in January, 2012. I am a proud Habtoorian and I am glad to be part of the Al Habtoor Group where hard work, dedication and creativity is appreciated.

Syed Ghousuddin
Web Developer

Assalaamu 'Alaikum, my name is Syed Ghousuddin, a Habtoorian from India. It has been a year since I joined the Group and apart from my regular work, I get to contribute in other activities in my department, which are outside my comfort zone but has helped me grow professionally. I really enjoy the work that I do here and I look forward to have the same experience going forward :)

Murali Pulappalli
Photographer

Namaste, I'm the newest member of media and communications team. I started working as a photographer 26 years ago and I love my job because I always capture the moment...and lots of Habtoorian smiles!

In the Spotlight



You may know Michaela Podkovicik as the Editor of the Sawalef newsletter... Read more about this year's winner of the Individual Excellence Award and her role in the Media and Communications Department...

Q: When did you join the Group?

A: I joined the Group in early 2012 as Secretary of the Board with the Corporate Governance Department. It was great experience, and I was well briefed on all our business units and their day-to-day operations. My role in the Media & Communications Department is much more dynamic and creative. We work really well as a team, all of our skills somehow complement each other and that really comes through when we're working on new challenging projects with tight deadlines.

Q: Describe your job in 5 words...

A: 1. Eventful ... and that just doesn't include working on Group events :)
2. Experiencing variety ... people, projects and collaborations
3. Staying focused ... on the end goal

4. Keep learning...even while teaching others
5. Staying positive... there is a solution for every challenge!

Q: What did you do before joining the Group?

A: I have a background in International Relations and Commerce from the University of British Columbia and a Masters in International Political Economy and Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Both programmes were very dynamic and competitive and I made some great friends from all corners of the world. I'm really fortunate to have had that experience. I can utilize some of my skills now in my work in the Media & Communications Department, we have an exciting agenda every day which includes working with the Chairman.

Q: What's your favorite movie or book?

A: I have a big collection of Walt Disney movies. But my all-time favorite is the Wizard of Oz, the original 1939 classic directed by Victor Fleming. I love Judy Garland, she's classic!
As for books, I'm old-school and still

love to buy the hard copies, and enjoy reading different genres. I've read the Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry several times bought copies in 3 languages. Recently I enjoyed reading Sheryl Sandberg's book 'Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead', her thoughts on how to reach a work-life balance in today's busy career-driven world were spot on.

Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: I do! I used to play the violin and cello when I was a child/teen. I won several competitions playing solo and duet. I'd love to start again one day and join an orchestra. I'm also a good skier and tennis player. I recently picked up golf and yoga, both help me stay focused.

Q: So what's next for you, any plans for the future?

A: When I do something, I put my heart into it. I'm not a believer in setting stringent plans, you could miss out on unexpected opportunities in life. I am a true believer in that the only way to do great things in life is to love what you do, to be yourself and have the right values - integrity, positivity and respect, for yourself and others.

March
2016

Click here
to view

Al Habtoor Group
**EMPLOYEE
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**CHAIRMAN'S
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**DISTINCTION
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**BUSINESS UNIT
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**DEPARTMENTAL
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**CSR
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**EMPLOYEES
CHOICE
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**MILLESTONE
AWARD
2016**

Al Habtoor Group
**INDIVIDUAL
EXCELLENCE
AWARD
2016**