

SAWALEF

Newsletter



And The Winner Is...

Do Not Miss Our New Health
& Lifestyle Section!

Ten Questions Answered By Anmol Pinto

Corporate News, Photo competition, Events & Much

Alaa El Hussein
Chief Operating Officer
Al Habtoor Group

I am delighted to have been asked to contribute to the Sawalef new issue.

As some of you already know that my family and I spent the last year in Austria. It is a very beautiful country with great natural beauty. Vienna, the capital, has been selected in 2009 as the best city in the world in terms of quality of life.

While in Austria, I took the opportunity to study and had joined an MBA program specializing in professional finance. I must admit it was not very easy to go back to university after being away for so long and having to compete with the wiz kids who grew up on Excel. But all in all, I have done better than I hoped for in my studies.

My family and I lived in one of the nicest parts of Vienna called the 18th district. We had a truly simple life. Whenever, I was not commuting to my university, which is an hour drive from Vienna, I used to drop and pick-up my children from school. I am very happy to see that all my children have managed to learn German quite fast. Unfortunately, and as you might have guessed, I still can not speak any German.

Austria has a very rich history. Few people here might know that one of the dynasties that ruled Austria, the Habsburgs, their fiefdom used to include, France, the Nederland's, Spain and its empire in the Americas. Therefore, one could imagine the wealth the Habsburgs had then that had been reflected in their grand palaces, opera houses and the monuments they left.

In Austria, you could really experience the four seasons. We arrived in late summer of 2008. In autumn one could see how the tree leaves changing their colors before they fall. I used to look outside our windows and see green, white, red, orange, yellow and brown leaves like a beautiful painting of a great artist. Then, winter was really cold and it was mostly snowing. Temperatures used to fall to as low as -10 degrees and below. Therefore, I believe, spring is the nicest season of all, most especially since it comes after a harsh winter.

After all this, we were really delighted to go back to our life in Dubai. I was pleasantly surprised to see all the new developments that were under construction had finished. I am happy to be back on my desk at Al Habtoor Group working with my colleagues. There is a famous Arabic saying "Traveling has seven benefits". Therefore, I truly hope that I managed to reap the benefits of this long journey outside my beloved Dubai.



Alaa El Hussein

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A quick note to our readers:

Welcome to this issue of SAWALEF,

Our newsletter has a new look & new feel now. It's published on seasonal basis & wears different attire every time, in this issue, our group's head office moves to a new state-of-the-art location. We welcome new colleagues & celebrate the return of old ones.

In addition to the regular Habtoor news, we've created new sections on health & lifestyle, talent & other useful information. We enjoyed tremendously working on the "new" SAWALEF; we hope you will enjoy reading it.

Noura Badawi

Al Habtoor Head Office

Sawalef Team:

Noura Badawi
Marissa Grobler
Atef Mousa
Anmol Pinto

Photography by:

Noura Badawi

For feedback and suggestions please email us at:
sawalef@habtoor.com





Al Habtoor Group acquires 100% ownership of Diamondlease

In a recent progress, the Al Habtoor Group is attained full ownership of Diamondlease, one of its group companies engaged in Car Rental & Leasing. The Al Habtoor Group will now retain 100% ownership stake in Diamondlease. The acquirement is seen as a strategic move aimed at building synergies with the Al Habtoor Group.

As a result of direct reporting to the group, Diamondlease anticipates larger achievements with stronger and more effective corporate governance. Established in 1996, Diamondlease offered automotive leasing to customers in the UAE as an alternative to owning and maintaining vehicles.

At present, Diamondlease, an ISO 9001:2000 certified company, expanded to a current fleet of around 9000 vehicles. Diamondlease has successfully grown to be one of the leading car rental and leasing companies within the UAE.

Diamondlease has a wide network of 18 branch locations covering Dubai, Dubai International Airport, The Metropolitan Hotels, Habtoor Grand Hotel, Knowledge Village, Dubai Investment Park, Jebel Ali Free Zone, Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi International Airport, Sharjah and Fujairah. Diamondlease boasts of the largest and best-in-industry service & operations facility in Dubai Investments Park.

Al Habtoor Group Diamond Sponsor of Al Nasr International Tournament

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and the UAE Minister of Finance, President of Al Nasr Sports Club, Al Nasr Football International Tournament hosted Al Karama from Syria, Al Faisaly from Jordan and Piroozi from Iran in addition to the host club, Al Nasr. The competition kick started on 29th August when Al Nasr met Al Faisaly while Al Karama faced Piroozi. On 31st August, the two winners met for the 1st place while the other two teams fought for the 3rd place. The tournament was played on Al Maktoum - Al Nasr stadium, which holds up to 18,000 people.

Out of its commitment to support sports events in the Country, Habtoor Group chose to be the diamond sponsor of the tournament. "Our decision to sponsor Al Nasr Tournament is a result of our continuous commitment to support youths and sports in the UAE. We hope the tournament will be the basis for major events to come in line with the directions

of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai," said Mohammed Al Habtoor, CEO of Habtoor Group.

As an appreciation and thank you gesture for Al Habtoor Group being the diamond sponsor of Al Nasr football championship, HH Sheikh Saeed Bin Hamdan Al Maktoum presented the appreciation award to Mr. Abdullah Al Mazrooei, real estate manager, on behalf of Al Habtoor Group. The eldest football club in the UAE won the championship played on Al Maktoum - Al Nasr stadium over the Iranian Birouzi 2 - 0



The 11th Al Habtoor Tennis Tournament

The Habtoor Grand Resort & Spa Jumeirah, as tradition dictates, will host the 11th Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge for the year 2009. The tournament which will start December 12th with the qualifying round, will end December 19th with the single's final.

Female players from around the world will participate in the much anticipated tournament. Famous players who played and won the Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge include "Jelena Jankovic" in 2003 and "Maria Kirilinko" in 2007



Al Habtoor Group Moves to New Location



In June 2009, the Al Habtoor Group LLC moved its headquarters from Sheikh Zayed road to the Al Wasel road.

The building resembling the "White House" contains 16 offices, 5 fully equipped meeting rooms, 1 board room, and a theatre equipped to accommodate all the headquarter's meetings and conferences. As well as staff lounge / cafeteria, where employees can enjoy their lunch and a relaxed break with their colleagues.

Al Habtoor Group walks into its 5th decade with state-of-the-art offices, high spirits, and plans for further success.

Laurie Voyer Appointed as New Managing Director of Habtoor Leighton

Mr Voyer will officially replace David Savage on 1 October 2009. Mr Savage will relocate to Australia in a senior role with the Leighton Group, a major shareholder of HLG and Australia's largest contracting and project development group. He will remain an Executive Director of HLG. Mr Voyer relocated to Dubai in July this year and has been working through a transition phase with Mr Savage since then.

As Managing Director of HLG, Mr Voyer will oversee the operations of one of the region's largest broad-based construction groups. He has over 35 years' senior management experience in the construction industry, and is recognised as a leader in the industry in Australia.

Prior to relocating to Dubai, Mr Voyer was Deputy Managing Director for Leighton Contractors, the Leighton Group's flagship operating company.

"I'm delighted to have been appointed Managing Director of such a well respected organisa-

tion as the Al Habtoor Leighton Group," Mr Voyer said. "The Group has a well-earned reputation for delivering high quality, large-scale construction projects, and is regarded as an industry leader in this region.

Mr Savage had been Managing Director of HLG since it was established in September 2007 following the merger of Al Habtoor Engineering and Gulf Leighton, the Leighton Group's operating entity in the Gulf region. "It has always been our intention that David would only be in the role until we found a suitable replacement, as he was juggling the dual role of Managing Director of Leighton International (the Leighton Group operating company responsible for managing the Group's investment in HLG)," said Mr Sadik.



"While we are sad to see David go, we are very fortunate to be able to someone of Laurie's calibre to take over the running of the company.

"Under Laurie's management, we expect the Group to enter a new phase of growth, and consolidate its position as the leading construction group in the Middle East and North Africa," Mr Sadik said.

Talent Casting

In the coming spring season of 2010, Al Habtoor Group will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The event will be held in April 2010 and one team from our group will participate in the celebrations. All the group employees were excited to become and be part of the casting held to choose the best entertainment section, even the students at the Emirates International School. The pictures will tell all the details... Very soon, the group will hold a talent night for all our units. The date will be declared later on. Start preparing your talent shows. Don't miss it!!



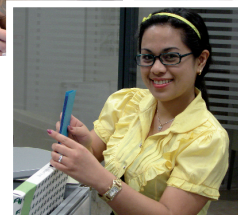
Alaa El Hussein Winner Of Executive leadership Award



As part of the 3rd Al Habtoor Group Employee Excellence Awards, the Executive Leadership Award was introduced this year by the head office as the first reward from the employees to their favorite leader figure.

Elections were held and anonymous votes were submitted to choose the winner based on his leadership skills, knowledge, motivation... The results were really close, but one director got the most votes. Mr. Alaa El Hussein, Chief Operating Officer of Al Habtoor Group, won with 29% of the votes.

Mr. Alaa will be awarded for his win in the upcoming Employee Excellence Awards distribution during the group's anniversary festivities.



Ten Questions with ...

Graphic Designer With Passion For Music...
ANMOL PINTO Under The Spotlight



ANMOL PINTO

Al Shindagah's Graphic Designer, Anmol Pinto surprised the whole group with a recently discovered talent - DJ and producer with less than a year's live experience, Anmol Pinto has surpassed all expectations to become a new contender on the local scene. Anmol answers Sawalef's ten questions...

1. How did you first get into the DJ-ing scene?

(Anmol pauses to recollect) It was xmas 2007 when I first bought a set of small decks and started playing around with it. I didn't think it'd be good at it, I just wanted to try something different. I have always been involved in the music scene but more as a drummer in a band, as I started clubbing more I found my interest in house music increase.

2. Do you think there is a similarity between being a DJ and a graphic designer? and if you had to choose between the 2 jobs, which one would it be?

I think both professions are art forms so they kind of go hand-in-hand. Obviously DJ-ing is more of a public thing and graphic design is more behind the scenes. I don't think I can pick between the two, but if I had to it would be the more successful one. I would always want to be involved in both.

3. So how come you're a graphic designer?

After I left high school I realised the general subjects did not interest me, so my parents suggested I try graphic design and it turns out I like it.

4. Although you are just starting out on this effort with DJ-ing, what is the most important thing you've learned so far?

'One thing I have learnt is that you never going to please everyone. You just have to do your thing and if someone doesn't like it they don't like it. Music has no rules.'

5. What music do you listen to and what music inspires you?

I listen to all types of music, from pop to rock. Anything can influence me, even movies or life in general. Mostly, Indie/alternative music like Snow patrol, Kings of Leon, something chilled relaxes me.

6. What's one of the most romantic songs for Valentine's Day?

I would have to say 'truly, madly, deeply' by Savage Garden. That to me is the epitome of romantic songs.

7. What are your hobbies? I think music takes too much of my time to have any other hobbies.

8. Where do you see yourself in ten years? Married with kids?

Partying all night long? I would say hopefully playing at a very big international music festival.

9. Tell us something about you that no one in AL Habtoor Group knows!

I thought the DJ-ing was it! I wrote a book once when I was a kid, and it got published. It's a children's book. It would have been in the Guinness book of records, if they had a category for the longest book written by a child.

10. If you won a million dirham tomorrow what would you do?

I would spend it on music equipment, that's pretty much where all my money goes

Employee Of The Season

Ibrahim Al Ghawabi Senior Accountant, Al Habtoor Group

Ibrahim joined Al Habtoor Group in December 2007. He is Egyptian, married and father to a Ahmad, his 1 year old son. Ibrahim is chosen as "Employee Of The Season" for the winter season because he is an exemplary employee. He is punctual, efficient, committed and devoted to his job.

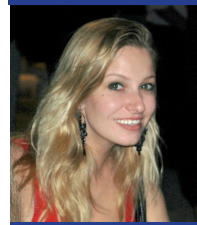
Congratulations to Ibrahim!!!



Helen Hedworth

Executive Assistant - Chairman's Office
DOJ - 28 Feb 2009

From England, Helen loves to travel and. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her dog Milo, & partner Danny, trying new restaurants, and watching movies



Marissa Grobler

Editor in Chief - Al Shindagah
DOJ - 1 Sept 2009

From Namibia, Marissa likes the outdoors and animals and enjoys writing

Noura Badawi Communications Manager

DOJ - 1 Apr 2009

After 7 years with Habtoor Hotels, Noura transferred to Al Habtoor Group. Noura likes playing tennis, "shopping malls" and recently became a fan of photography



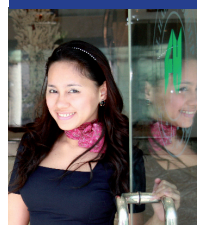
Teresa Panganigan Secretary to the CFO DOJ - 2 Sept 2009

Teresa is a sweet lady that hardly every says no for anything. Teresa is Filipino and always smiling

Nicole Brews Personal Assistant to the CEO

DOJ - July 2009

Nicole likes to read, travel and spend time with family and friends. Nicole is from South Africa



Karen M. Callelro

Guest Relation/ Reception Desk
DOJ - 27 Jun 2009

Karen is Filipino and is warm of spirit, ambitious, eager for action and are driven by a desire to be loved for what she brings to others

John Emerson Maintenance Engineer

DOJ - 10 Oct 2009

John is from Philipines and is working in the Real Estate Division. John has a wife and one child



Staff Birthdays

MOHAMMED FADIL AL MAZROUEI
Director Of Operations 25-Dec

ATEF AHMED MOUSA
Human Resources Manager 28-Dec

MURTUZA FIROZ BHAI DILAWAR
Finance Manager 8-Dec

IBRAHIM AHMED AL GHAWABI
Accountant 22-Dec

MOHAMMED ZAKARIYA MOHAMMED
Accountant 22-Dec

PULAKKAL MARAYANGHATTU IBRAHIM
Driver 1-Jan

VELLICHATHAN K. MOHAMMED KUTTY
Driver 1-Jan

MOHAMMED UMMER
Driver 10-Jan

HAROUN UR RASHEED
Driver 4-Jan

MEDHAT MOHEB
Audit Supervisor 7-Jan

VENKATRAMAN RANGANATHAN
Dir Group Audit 11-Jan

SAIF MOHAMMED AL MAZROUI
Director Of Community Affairs & Communications 12-Jan

MARIA LUZ TIU
Office Assistant 30-Jan

JOSEPHINE GONZALES SALONGA
Sec 20-Feb

JULIET MANSORATE
Telephone Operator 7-Feb

ROWENA ALCANTARA SALVADOR
Sec 10-Feb

SABER ALI PARKER
Asst. Supervisor 15-Feb

Happy Birthday!

Thinking Of Rowena, Get Well Soon!



Rowena Salvador, executive secretary to the director of finance, has been working with Al Habtoor Group for the past 14 years. A few months ago, Rowena was diagnosed with "Acute Diverculitis" and underwent a worrying colon operation.

Rowena is known for her eucharistic service, vast general knowledge and makes a valuable contribution to those in need across the region. Rowena also has a great love for children.

We all wish her a successfull recovery and our thoughts are with her

Policies & Procedures

This section is added to inform all employees of the companies' policies & procedures. Every issue will highlight a different policy.

If you have any questions or clarifications about this policy, please consult with Human Resources department.

On Sick Leave;

The Company will grant sick leave not exceeding 90 days to employees who completed three months of continuous service after the probation period is over and whose illness is confirmed by a medical certificate in any one contract year as follows:

With full salary for the first 15 days
With half salary for the next 30 days; and
Without salary for the balance days

For all other cases the employee will not be entitled to paid sick leave.

Employees must inform their Department Heads on the first day of absence due to illness and submit medical certificate along with sick leave application on reporting to work.

Any claims for sick leave, neither accompanied by the appropriate medical certificate nor approved by the Department Manager, will be treated as leave without pay or treated as leave and record updated.

Official holidays and weekly rest days falling within employee's sick leave shall be considered as part of the sick leave.

AMAZING FACTS

During a 24-hour period, the average human will breathe 23,040 times.

No matter its size or thickness, no piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.

It was once against the law to slam your car door in a city in Switzerland!?!)

Chocolate is good for you – unfortunately, its additives aren't! Pure cocoa powder is full of iron and antioxidants. Add sugar or butter, though, and the calories begin to mount.

More germs are transferred shaking hands than kissing.



Al Habtoor Group through your eyes...

Share your pictures of Al Habtoor with us and with all Sawalef readers. Weather it's funny, serious or artistic, we like to see it all!

STAFF TALENTS

خلاص أنا مسافر

لَحْتُ إبليس وفي يده إستمارة
بقوله على فين
قال لي بَصْ
يا هجره يا إعاره
أنا كُفرت مَلَقِيش معاك سيجاره

ياراجل أنا خلاص
لا بَقِيَتْ وسواس
ولا خناس ولا ليا عيش وسَط الناس

خلاص بقالي سنين عاطل
وانتوا بتعرفوا تقلبوا الحق باطل
وتقتلوا القتل وتسلكوا القاتل
ومفيش مشاكل
خلاص أنا مسافر مهاجر

يا راجل ده أنا بَقِيَتْ أوبسوس بالقلوب
أقول للحرامي إنت مش حتوب
يعني إنت حتعمل كل الذنوب لوحك
وأنا إبليس حشغل إبه
واعظ ولا كمساري في أتوبيس
يا راجل أنا خلاص ...

زمان كنت أقعد أستنر حْد ينسى
يسمي وهو بياكل لقمته
دلوقت صراخه كل أكلكم ملوث
والواحد بيخاف على صحته
ده مفيش ضمير أساسا علشان أموته

عاطف موسى - يوليو ٢٠٠٩

Small steps towards GREEN

AT WORK

1. Practice two-sided printing. And always try to email instead of sending letter or meeting up.
2. Set up a car pool with your colleagues and save fuel, money and reduce pollution, possibly even share parking costs.
3. If you are the last person out, turn off the lights, the AC and even your colleagues' PC. If you are working alone at the weekends, only use the light that shines directly over you.
4. Opt for reusable or biodegradable kitchenware.

AT HOME

5. Turn off the AC when you're out of the home. This includes hotel rooms too.
6. If you have unused boiled water left in your kettle, use it for watering your plants.
7. Order the largest bottled water option for your home.
8. Never leave anything on standby. Electronic devices use energy even when turned off. So unplug everything.
9. Eat your leftovers. Avoid takeaways and their unnecessary waste. Start growing your own herbs and vegetables in pots at home (thyme, tomato...)
10. Eat local and in season fruits

IN THE COMMUNITY

11. Have a swap party. You and your friends can shift through each other's clothes, DVDs, music, accessories and books.
12. Exercise outside. It's far better than driving to the gym and using an electrically powered treadmill.
13. Drive slower. Not only do you use less petrol and emit fewer fumes, but you're less likely to have an accident. Excessive speed is the biggest cause of traffic accidents in Dubai.

The healthy way to... Work at a desk

1. Try to keep your shoulders and upper back in contact with your chair. And follow the basic posture rule - shoulders rolled back down, abs pulled in and up. If your chair reclines too much, or if you find it impossible to keep that position, try perching at the edge of your seat - that will force you to straighten up.

2. Use your armrests! By definition, they rest your arm and shoulder muscles, and also keep you from scrunching your shoulders up by your ears. If yours are adjustable, make sure they're high enough to push lightly on your arms.

3. Raise or lower your seat so your knees and feet are flat on the floor. Wearing heels? Inch your seat higher

to keep your knees at a right angle. For Women; try not to cross your legs!! Crossing shifts your hips to one side and your upper body to the other, throwing your alignment out of whack. If you have to cross your legs, at least switch legs often.

4. Position your computer monitor at eye level. When you gaze straight ahead, your eyes should hit a couple of inches below the very top of your screen. Your body follows your line of sight. So if you're looking down, your head, your shoulders and upper back are going to slope down too. Laptops can be especially problematic. The best fix is to get a computer stand and use a separate keyboard to maintain good wrist alignment. Not an option? Go ahead and keep the laptop on your desk, but tilt the screen back to lessen forward hunching.

Special Offer for All Al Habtoor Staff
 1 FREE Pepsi & 1 FREE Popcorn
 & AED 5/- discount on your Cinema Ticket
 Only at Metroplex

