



16 May 2000 Dubai International Airport Voted Best Airport Middle East

Dubai International Airport has recorded a growth of 10.5% in 1999. A total of 10.7 million passengers passed through the airport as compared to 9.7 million last year. Total aircraft movement during 1999 recorded at 132,708 - an increase of 7.6% over last year.

Executive flights registered at 1,502 in 1999, which is an increase of 13.8% over 1998. The number of airlines operating out of Dubai International Airport remains at 90, serving 130 destinations.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates, commented: "Passenger movement has been growing steadily over the years setting Dubai International Airport on the road to joining the top 20 airports in the world. With the expansion projects, some of which are already complete and the final completion will be around March this year, the Department of Civil Aviation, with the support of the Government of Dubai, aims to build the most important and advanced aviation hub for the future."

Despite the challenges of operating during the expansion programme at the Dubai International Airport, Dubai Duty Free posted a 4.4% increase in sales for 1999, with a total turnover of Dhs.678 million or US\$184.7 million. The award-winning organisation maintained its record of year-on-year growth with a reduced floor space and a reduction in products available for travellers. Increased turnover from the Terminal 2 shopfloor has reflected the increase in passenger traffic through the terminal, and continued growth is expected this year.

Projections for 2000 are positive, with Dubai Duty Free scheduled to begin operating from its new state-of-the-art 5,400 square metre shopping complex in the new concourse from the second quarter of the year. The new shopfloor and enhanced facilities, services and product range will ensure Dubai Duty Free's position as global industry leader.

Dubai Cargo Village has recorded a growth of 10.93% in 1999. Keeping a steady growth in 1999, DCV handled a grand total of 490,843.12 tonnes of freight and cargo as compared to 442,492.65 in 1998.

In December 1999, the Dubai Cargo Village handled 48,764.74 tonnes as compared to 40,153.88 tonnes in December 1998, showing a growth of 21.44 %.

While total imports for 1999 registered at 263,356.73 tonnes compared to 239,489.15 tonnes in 1998 showing a growth of 9.97%, exports for 1999 stood at 211,465.71 tonnes as compared to 190,081.95 tonnes in 1998 showing a growth of 11.27%.

Total transshipment for 1999 registered at 94,323.50 tonnes compared to 78,648.41 tonnes in 1998 showing a growth of 19.93%. Sea - Air freight handled in 1999 stood at 85,517.796 tonnes as compared to 73,870.821 tonnes in 1998 showing a growth of 15.77%. However, the total volume of courier parcels and mail handled during 1999 was 16,020.67 tonnes as compared to 12,960.62 tonnes handled in 1998 showing a phenomenal growth of 27.30%

Experts predict a continuous and big growth in travel demands worldwide - which in the Middle East stands at 6% and is second in the world after China. The Middle East is an attractive market due to Dubai's role as a major business hub and as an up market tourist destination it will attract the lion's share in this market. Today the non-oil sector such as trade, manufacture, assembly, free zones, tourism is being encouraged to attract foreign investments and multinationals.

The Dubai Airport Free Zone which was launched in 1997 has shown phenomenal growth. At the end of 1999, a total of 72 companies had registered at the DAFZ

Dubai Airport Free Zone, an integral part of the Department of Civil Aviation expansion plan,



covers a total area of 1.2 million square metres of space which includes 473,000 sq metres of apron area; 72,000 sq metres of pre-built units or light industrial units for rent; 24,000 sq metres of public facilities such as banks, restaurants, clinic, shopping area; and 104,000 sq metres of land for development.

Taking advantage of the existing advanced and sophisticated economic, commercial and tourism infrastructure in Dubai, the DAFZ has created another source of income for the Emirate.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Department of Civil Aviation and Chairman of Emirates, commented: " The Dubai Airport Free Zone has enhanced the role of Dubai as an excellent platform from where multinational firms, whether service companies or factories have begun building their regional and international relationship for capturing global markets. Standing at the crossroads of the world's busiest routes, Dubai Airport Free Zone provides business access to over 1.4 billion consumers in the Arab world, Asian sub-continent, parts of Africa, Mediterranean and CIS countries."
