The Miracle of the Middle East-Dubai

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I. Introduction

The maps sold in Taiwan still could not find the place called “Dubai” yet in the past few years. But now, over 23 trillion smart money has been invested in this so-called “The New New York.” It is a city full of opportunities. Owing to the belief that “Success belongs to the best,” Dubai prospers from a small town in the desert with no resources to what it is now. It built a canal in 70s, supported businesses to grow in 80s, and started to develop tourism industry in 90s. And now it stands at the top of glory.

Trade and commerce are the keys to the economic prosperity of Dubai. Dubai nowadays has held the dominant position of the trade, finance, tourism and transportation center in the Middle East. Located in the geographic center of Europe and Asia, and with fully established traffic network in the Gulf region, Dubai has the most convenient air, sea and land transportation. The above reasons make Dubai the world’s cargo transshipment center. After all the efforts it has made, Dubai is not the small town it used to be any more.

II. Thesis

1. The geography of Dubai

Dubai is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates, UAE, which includes Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Ummal-Quwain, Ras Al-Khaimah and Fujairah. They share the borders with one another. Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the two biggest and the most important emirates in the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai is on the west of Asia. It is on the verge of Persian Gulf coast and sandwiched between Oman and Saudi Arabia. The Coastal plain is covered with desert. The north of Dubai is close to the Strait of Hormuz, which is significant in its strategical importance because it is the only sea route that connects the outside world and is well positioned as a vital transit point for world crude oil.

2. The climate of Dubai

Dubai has a subtropical desert climate, and most areas are covered with desert. The highest average temperature can even be higher than 40°C and down to 30°C at night. Temperatures are slightly more moderate at the rest of the year. There is very little rainfall in Dubai. It can be sunny days throughout the year. The winter in Dubai is warm and short with an average high temperature around 23°C between December and March, and down to around 14°C at
night. The following table shows the weather conditions in Dubai in the whole year.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average high °C (°F)</td>
<td>24.0 (75)</td>
<td>25.4 (78)</td>
<td>28.2 (83)</td>
<td>32.9 (91)</td>
<td>37.6 (100)</td>
<td>39.5 (103)</td>
<td>40.8 (105)</td>
<td>41.3 (106)</td>
<td>38.9 (102)</td>
<td>35.4 (96)</td>
<td>30.5 (87)</td>
<td>26.2 (79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average low °C (°F)</td>
<td>14.3 (58)</td>
<td>15.4 (60)</td>
<td>17.6 (64)</td>
<td>20.8 (69)</td>
<td>24.6 (76)</td>
<td>27.2 (81)</td>
<td>29.9 (86)</td>
<td>30.2 (86)</td>
<td>27.5 (82)</td>
<td>23.9 (75)</td>
<td>19.9 (68)</td>
<td>16.3 (61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precipitation mm (inches)</td>
<td>15.6 (0.61)</td>
<td>25.0 (0.98)</td>
<td>21.0 (0.83)</td>
<td>7.0 (0.28)</td>
<td>0.4 (0.02)</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.03)</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
<td>0.0 (0.0)</td>
<td>1.2 (0.05)</td>
<td>2.7 (0.11)</td>
<td>14.9 (0.59)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dubai Meteorological Office 2008

3. The history of Dubai

The history of Dubai started in a village in 1799. In 1833, the Bani Yas clan in Al Abu Falasa moved to Dubai from Abu Dhabi without any opposition or resistance from their fellow people. From that time on, the new dependent emirate was formally divided into two emirates from the Abu Dhabi emirate. In 1892, Dubai came under the protection of the United Kingdom by the "Exclusive Agreement," which agreed to protect Dubai against all attacks from the Ottoman Empire.

Dubai is different from any other cities near it. Its government encourages the people to go in for business trade. Dubai once was a city that attracted many foreigner to stay. It had a great discovery in 1966- a 120 kilometer beach line holding petroleum was found then. Dubai even obtained the consent of oil exploitation after that. In 1971, Dubai united Abu Dhabi and other emirates to be the United Arab Emirates.

4. The miracle of economy in Dubai

Before the petroleum was found in Dubai, most of its income depended on trading. It started to export petroleum in 1958. Dubai’s government used the income from the petroleum exports to build up the country and develop tourism. Within 25 years since 1981, all the development of tourism and large-scale constructions are attributed to the money earned from oil sales. The development of the economy exceeded everyone’s reckoning. The following two pictures were taken in 1990 and 2003 separately showing a comparison of
In recent years, Dubai made a great many developments. It is really different from what it was. In the future, Dubai government plans to turn Dubai into the most prosperous city in the future. When it comes to Dubai, everybody will think that it is the best and the most luxurious place in the world. What follows is the introduction of some prominent economic achievements in Dubai.

4.1 Burj Al Arab

“The best representative of Dubai’s trading spirit is the sailboat.” said Tom Wright, who is the designer that designed the hotel in the shape of a sailboat. In 1993, Tom Wright got the case to design the tallest building that could increase the tourism income for Dubai. After long deliberation, he decided to build the hotel in the shape of a sailboat because Dubai had been the port in the Middle East for a long time. The people in Dubai used to trade around the world on little wooden sailboats in the past.

The tallest hotel in the world, Burj Al Arab, with 56 floors and 321 meters high was built in two years’ construction that turned the sea into land. The hotel is so unique from others. It provides the best service that makes all the customers enjoy a luxurious trip.
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4.2 Artificial Island

The United Arab Emirates government decided to develop other industries to increase their revenue because most researchers calculated that petroleum will be used up in the near future. Besides Burj Al Arab, the government planned to build artificial islands so that they can increase revenue by selling them. The Palm islands and The World are two of them that consist of many small artificial islands.

4.2.1 The Palm islands

The Palm islands are composed of Palm Jumeirah, Palm Jebel Ali and the Palm Deira. Palm Jumeirah, following the ideas of Okinawa, Brazil and Venice, has become the biggest artificial island in the world in October, 2007. The end of the palm of Palm Jebel Ali is arranged with boards which were craved with the sentences “Take wisdom from the wise. It takes a man of vision to write on water. Not everyone who rides a horse is a jockey. Great
men rise to greater challenges,” in Arabic. Palm Deira was predicted to be finished by 2015. It then will be ten times bigger than Palm Jumeirah.

4.2.2 The world
The world is a series of artificial islands which are in the shape of the seven continents and situated 4 kilometers off the coast of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was formed by 250-300 private islands.

4.3 Fly Emirates
Fly Emirates the airline, which borrowed money from the government and rented two airplanes from the base of Dubai airport, started to run business in 1985. In the past 20 years, Emirates has never got trade deficit. Keeping up a steady annual economic growth of up to 20 percent each year. This airline made the highest profits on records and became the second biggest in the world. Besides, it became the largest airline in the Middle East in terms of its revenue in 2007.

5. Education
Dubai has been engaged in gaining superiority over other countries in many aspects, including the universities. It adopts a different mode of imported high-quality programs to attract potential academic fellows. With the establishments of Education City and International Academic City, Dubai has revealed its ambition on a long-term development plan that will place universities within industrial clusters to form symbiotic relationships.

III. Conclusion
The Middle East is always referred to as an unstable place, connected with endless civil wars and political turmoils. But unexpectedly, there is a miracle that created the economic boom in the Middle East area – that is Dubai.

Dubai is one of the seven emirates in the United Arab Emirates. Under the competition of major petroleum companies, Dubai has less chance to compete with those companies. But the government refused to give in to this situation. It is devoted to developing tourism industry instead. With consumer-oriented management style as well as top class facilities, it attracts tourists from all over the world.

All the Arabic countries are used to following the Islamic tradition except Dubai. It uses a
very free and open way to attract all the consumers around the world. That is why Dubai has gained the remarkable achievements. From this example, we should be able to realize that as long as Dubai is willing to develop itself, even though it has less natural resources compared to some other countries, there is still a chance for it to achieve its goals and be famous around the world. Dubai now stands for an economic miracle of the Middle East.

IV. Reference

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Picture Reference

The picture of the Dubai hotel
http://www.flickr.com/photos/roc_photo/3103902177/

The picture of The Palm islands and The world
http://xn--ptu03h.net/

The picture of Dubai in 1990
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The picture of Dubai in 2003
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