



Investopia 4th Flagship Edition

# Outcomes Report

St. Regis Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
26-27 February 2025

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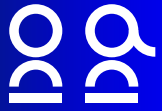


# About Investopia

Investopia is a global platform that aims to impact international economic landscapes by fostering investments and partnerships among global stakeholders in the new economy.

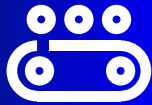
Since 2021, it has been working to fortify the UAE economy as the world's best and most innovative by driving investments that contribute to this vision, improving investment inflow to future-forward sectors by up to AED 550 billion by 2030 and AED 1 trillion by 2050.

## Investopia's Three Key Pillars



### Dialogue

Bringing together business leaders, investors, and innovators to discuss critical topics and opportunities for growth within the global investment space.



### Communities

Streamlining communication between the public and private sectors and investors worldwide, with focus on high-impact sectors.



### Marketplace

Enabling connections, partnerships, and capital flow.



“Investopia 2025 is more than an event. It is a manifestation of strategic vision and a call to action to embrace change, rather than resist it—to turn disruption into direction and risk into reward.”

**H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri**

*Minister of Economy of the UAE; Chairman of Investopia*

[Welcome Remarks](#)

# Introducing Investopia 2025

The fourth edition by Investopia in 2025 was held under the theme “**Harnessing Mega Forces**,” a call to shape global investing and modern financing trends in sectors backing new and sustainable economies, including fintech, artificial intelligence, the circular economy, healthcare, clean energy, renewable energy, and green finance. It also provided a platform for key opinion leaders to share insights on global investment amid rapid change and geopolitical tensions.

## Investopia 2025 Sub-Themes:



New Economic Frontiers



Changing Investment Landscape



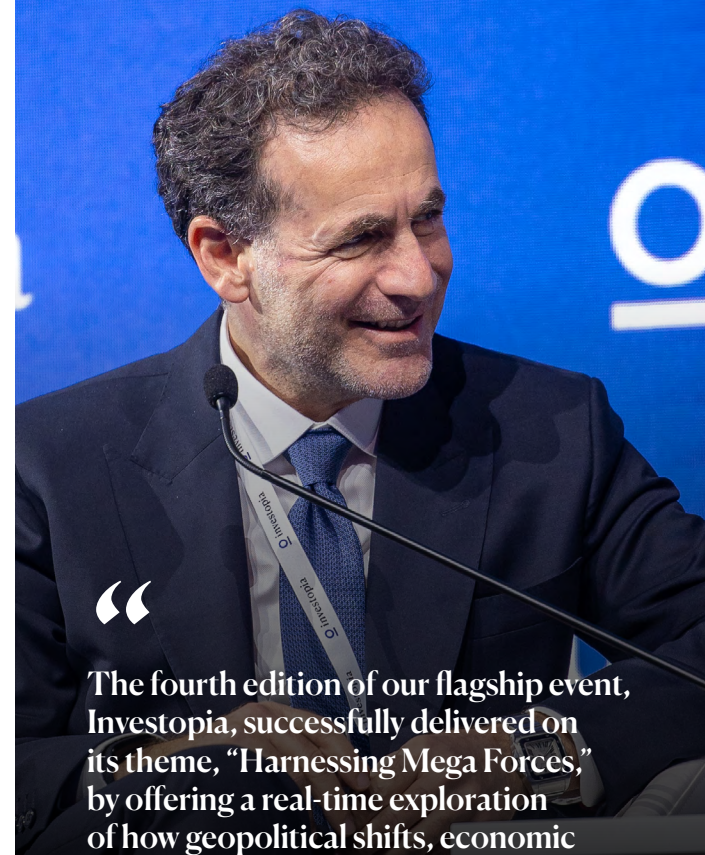
Geopolitics Shaping Economic Policies

## Investopia 2025 also hosted:

The Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Business Forum

The China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit

The Future 100 Forum



“

The fourth edition of our flagship event, Investopia, successfully delivered on its theme, “**Harnessing Mega Forces**,” by offering a real-time exploration of how geopolitical shifts, economic transformations, and technological advancements are reshaping global investment.

”

**Jean Fares**

Senior Advisor to the  
UAE Minister of Economy;  
CEO of Investopia

# Investopia 2025 in Numbers

Investopia 2025 hosted over 100 speakers comprising government leaders, ministers, investors, entrepreneurs, decision-makers, economists, high-net-worth individuals, and venture capital fund representatives from over 70 countries in the presence of over 3,000 participants, delegates, and representatives from leading financial and economic institutions.

 **100+**  
Speakers

 **70+**  
Countries

 **3,000+**  
Participants

 **19**  
Ministers

It was also home to:

**42** Discussion  
Sessions

covering critical topics on new economic frontiers, the changing investment landscape, and geopolitics shaping economic policies.

**15** Discussions with 48  
High-Profile Speakers

centering around the “100 Companies of the Future” initiative.

**50** Founders and  
CEOs

of UAE-based companies coming together for the second meeting of the “Next50” initiative to discuss promising investment opportunities in the UAE.

**16** Roundtable  
Meetings

featuring top leaders, ministers, decision-makers, investors, experts, academics, and media professionals.

**32** Partnership  
Agreements

and memoranda of understanding signings to empower key economic sectors.

**27**  
Partners

**1,086**  
App Downloads

**198**  
Unique Chats

**77**  
Surveys Filled

**9**  
Sponsors



# Featured Speakers: Plenary Sessions



“

The permanent pandemic concept stresses preparedness—if it happens again, we can react with the right tools and measures. It requires corporate vision, financial strength, and shared knowledge worldwide. This “black swan” is a lighter shade of grey.

## **H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri**

*Minister of Economy of the UAE;*

*Chairman of Investopia*

*Black Swans, Grey Swans: Policy and Strategy in an Uncertain World*



“

We at the ministry are the voice of entrepreneurs. We create agile policies to make it easier to navigate the ecosystem. Our focus is to engage youth in the next generation of entrepreneurship.

## **H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei**

*UAE Minister of State for Entrepreneurship*

*Driving the Future: Innovation and Entrepreneurship as Pillars of Economic Growth*



“

There are five main sectors in the UAE that we’re encouraging investment in: Financial services, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, AI, and energy.

## **H.E. Mohamed Hassan Al Suwaidi**

*UAE Minister of Investment, Managing Director*

*and Group CEO of ADQ*

*Unlocking Opportunities and Shaping the Future of Investment in the UAE*

# Featured Speakers: Plenary Sessions



“

Geopolitical shifts, technological breakthroughs, and demographic transformations are changing global growth, but, in the UAE, these are seen as extraordinary opportunities to advance priorities, and for global investors and innovators to grow with us.

## **H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak**

*Managing Director & Group CEO of Mubadala*  
Welcome Message



“

While Abu Dhabi is a rich emirate, giving it an engine for economic diversity means involving the private sector in its development. Consequently, Abu Dhabi seeks the private sector companies with the best technologies and ideas.

## **H.E. Mohammed Al Shorafa**

*Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport*  
Building Tomorrow: Abu Dhabi's Vision for Urban Innovation



“

Countries must focus on new mega projects, as these initiatives can significantly contribute to enhancing global supply chain resilience.

## **H.E. Burak Dağhoğlu**

*President of Investment Office of the Presidency of Türkiye*  
Geopolitics and Investment: Uncertain Terrains

# Featured Speakers: Plenary Sessions



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People in the UAE explore what they can improve. Every few months, they hatch new ideas, reducing bureaucracy in everything from licenses to real estate to airports. They constantly surprise the world with intelligent decisions.

## **Naguib Sawiris**

*Chairman & CEO of ORA Developers*  
Geopolitics and Investment: Uncertain Terrains



“

There is no way to cater to demand for healthcare globally without adopting technology. AI has been changing this. We are looking at a future of free primary healthcare for everyone. It's about democratizing longevity.

## **Shaista Asif**

*Group CEO of PureHealth*  
The Future of Healthcare: The UAE's Path Forward



“

Energy, land, water and chips are the critical inputs to focus on as we move to the next phase of economic vibrancy, and this is where investors can expect returns.

## **David Livingstone**

*Chief Client Officer at Citi*  
The New Capital: Navigating Trends, Flows, and Opportunities



“

Reliability, predictability, and consistency are key characteristics that the UAE boasts, and these will work in its favor to attract entrepreneurs and investors.

## **Alexander von zur Muehlen**

*CEO Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East & Africa, and Germany & Member of the Management Board, Deutsche Bank*  
The New Capital: Navigating Trends, Flows, and Opportunities

# Featured Speakers: Plenary Sessions



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Reminiscent of the gold rush era, this era of AI needs strong infrastructure to get up and running.

**H.E. Mariam AlMheiri**

*Group CEO of 2PointZero  
2PointZero as an AI Enabler*



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As we move forward, the UAE government is transitioning from a geoeconomic policy to focusing on geo-technological advancements. We're establishing a foothold in areas, like cloud computing and AI, which are transforming the global landscape.

**H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash**

*Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President  
Middle East: The New Chapter*



“

The region is taking true leadership in emerging sectors, particularly energy transition, while the AI ecosystem and broader tech services are thriving. This dynamic growth positions the region to capitalize on changed global relationships.

**Rishi Kapoor**

*Vice Chairman and CIO, Investcorp  
What's New in Private Equity: Strategies,  
Opportunities, and Risks*

# Featured Speakers: Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Business Forum



“

A robust framework is vital for strengthening relations, with digital transformation leading the way to overcome economic diversification challenges, unlock distinctive investment opportunities in the energy sector, and fortify food security.

## **H.E. Khaled Al-Senaïdi**

*Assistant Secretary-General for Economic & Development Affairs of the GCC*  
Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Business Forum: Opening Ceremony



“

Corridors are not just roads and railways; they are places of opportunity that connect places, people, cultures, and innovation. Azerbaijan has always been at the heart of connectivity; great silk roads have passed through it for centuries.

## **H.E. Samad Bashirli**

*Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*  
Regional Corridors: Creating Business Opportunities



“

Technology and AI are widely used, especially among young people. However, countries should also educate senior citizens to navigate these advancements. Bridging this gap is not only feasible, but strengthens national empowerment and progresses the economy.

## **Tarek Chérif**

*Vice President of the Federation of Arab Businessmen*  
The New Economy in the Region: AI, Waste Management, and Food Security

# Featured Speakers: China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit



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The UAE is a country where collaboration is possible with everyone. There are no conflicts here—only competition, which drives innovation, which is the key to the future.

## **Jean-Pierre Raffarin**

*Co-Chairman of SIEF & Former Prime Minister of France*  
China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit  
Welcome Address



“

The world is becoming faster and more international. Globalism has been what history has accelerated towards; national boundaries should no longer be seen as obstacles. Collaboration gives perspective—think globally, not provincially.

## **Ray Dalio**

*Founder, Bridgewater Associates*  
Financing Innovation and Growth



“

There is significant expertise and excess capacity in China, especially in sectors like construction and infrastructure, which need connecting to the markets that require them most.

## **William Wang**

*Chief Representative for Middle East & Africa for SIEF*  
Leveraging Cross-Border Investment to Support New Economy Growth

# Featured Speakers: The Future 100 Forum



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SMEs are the backbone of the UAE economy. Through Future 100, we recognize and support enterprises that contribute to the country's sustainability roadmap and economic growth.

## **Sarah Shaw**

*Director of Majra, National CSR Fund  
Future 100: Shaping the UAE's Future Economy*



“

The UAE is well-positioned for growth in AI. We have a dedicated AI ministry, and we are ready to take on more opportunities, cementing our leadership in the AI space.

## **H.E. Ahmad Alwan**

*CEO, Hub71  
Accelerating Future: Transforming Growth Through AI & Emerging Technologies*



“

Historically, we've seen a “copy and paste” approach in the region, with western ideas transplanted here. Now, we're witnessing more unique innovations with global potential—concepts tailored for the region, but with the ability to scale.

## **Tiffany Bain**

*Principal at Dubai Future District Fund  
Investing in Tomorrow: Unlocking the UAE's New Economy Potential*

# The Future 100 Forum's Key Speakers

The Future 100 Forum brought together **29 speakers** from a diverse range of companies, representing industries at the forefront of AI, sustainability, finance, and entrepreneurship. Their expertise showcased cutting-edge innovation, investment strategies, and the future of high-growth sectors in the UAE and beyond.



DIFC  
Innovation Hub

HUB71

ORASEYA  
CAPITAL

MEVP

CISCO

scventures

صندوق حي دبي للمستقبل  
DUBAI FUTURE DISTRICT FUND

ADGM  
Academy

WIO  
BANK PJSC

غرفة دبي  
DUBAI CHAMBER



# Investopia 2025 Partners

Investopia 2025 is the product of the support and cooperation of diverse global institutions and companies that bring extensive knowledge, experience, and resources to the summit.



PUREHEALTH<sup>+</sup>

MUBADALA



standard  
chartered



الصندوق الوطني للمسؤولية المجتمعية  
NATIONAL CSR FUND MAJRA

WIO  
BANK PJSC

EDB

بنك أبوظبي الأول  
FAB1  
First Abu Dhabi Bank

DHL  
INNOVATION  
CENTER

Skykapital

euroatlantic  
business consultancy

SIEF  
中外企业家联合会  
SINO-INTERNATIONAL  
ENTREPRENEURS FEDERATION

EFG  
Consulting

zero  
one  
hundred

## Contributing Partners

Future  
100  
من المستقبل

YPO

calm|cia  
network

carta

Stryber

3iQ

FALCONBRIDGE  
ADVISORS

Middle East  
Economy

## Exclusive Travel Partner

NG9  
HOLDING

## Mobility Partner

شركة الإمارات للسيارات  
Emirates Motor Company

## Technology Partner

SOLAAX

# The Future 100 Forum Partners

## Strategic Partner



## Acceleration Partners



## Community Partners



# Investopia 2025 Agreements: Uniting for Progress

Investopia 2025 saw **32 strategic partnership signings**, uniting key sector leaders, companies, and investors to accelerate meaningful progress. These agreements aim to strengthen high-impact industries and areas—including the new economy, circular economy, advanced technologies, and entrepreneurship—ensuring each collaboration fuels innovation, maximizes impact, and drives shared success.



# Investopia 2025 Roundtables: Blueprints for Growth

Investopia 2025 hosted a series of high-impact roundtables, bringing together global leaders, investors, and policymakers to explore the future of business and investment.

## Day 1

- **The UAE: A Catalyst for Family Office Collaboration**  
*Organized by Falconbridge Advisors, Standard Chartered and Zero One Hundred*
- **Exploiting Untapped Opportunities: Navigating the Future of Wealth Management**  
*Organized by Stryber*
- **The UAE FDI Report** (*Open Session*)
- **Investopia Next50 Meeting** (*Closed Session*)
- **Addressing Funding Gaps in UAE's Climate-Tech Sector**
- **From Niche to Norm: The Future of Impact Investing** (*Closed Session*)
- **Majra: Advancing National Priority Projects**  
*Organized by The National CSR Fund — Majra under the patronage of H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri*
- **Venture Capital Roundtable: Perspectives from Across the Global Landscape**  
*(Open Session)*
- **Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Ministerial Meeting** (*Closed Session*)
- **Navigating Digital Asset Investing**  
*Organized by 3iQ*
- **The Economic Viability of Textile Circularity: Unlocking Market Demand & Investments**

## Driving Sustainable and Profitable Business Models

The first day of roundtables focused on **building resilient and financially sustainable businesses in an evolving market**. A key discussion explored how global family offices can strengthen ties and unlock investment potential in the UAE. The future of wealth management was also in focus, with insights into untapped opportunities and strategies for long-term success. Participants examined the UAE's foreign direct investment landscape, highlighting key sectors and policy directions driving economic growth. The role of climate-tech funding took center stage in another session, addressing financial gaps and potential solutions to accelerate sustainable innovation.

Impact investing was another crucial topic, emphasizing the shift towards profit-driven investments with measurable social and environmental outcomes. The day also included discussions on venture capital strategies, digital asset investments, and the economic viability of textile circularity, offering a comprehensive look at the challenges and opportunities shaping today's investment landscape.



## Day 2

- **Hospitality Majlis at Investopia 2025 – Shaping the Future of UAE Hospitality** *(Closed Session) Organized in partnership with HAMA MEA*
- **Algorithms vs Applications: The AI Investment Perspective** *(Open Session)*
- **UAE Circular Economy Council Meeting** *(Closed Session) Chaired by H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri*
- **YPO Regional Roundtable: Pioneering Investment Frontiers** *(Closed Session)*
- **CAMCA Roundtable: Harnessing Regional Synergies for Global Investments** *(Open Session)*

### Exploring Key Investment Frontiers

The second day of discussions expanded to **explore emerging global investment opportunities across industries**. The hospitality sector's evolution was a major theme, with leaders assessing the future of UAE hospitality, the impact of sustainability initiatives, and technology-driven guest experiences. AI investment strategies sparked debate, particularly on balancing funding between AI developers and adopters to maximize long-term value. The UAE's transition to a circular economy was another focal point, with stakeholders outlining national initiatives to drive sustainability, resource efficiency, and green investments.

The day also featured high-level conversations on pioneering investment frontiers, cross-border collaborations, and the role of innovation in economic development. In a session on regional synergies, participants explored economic integration, trade, and investment opportunities across Central Asia, Mongolia, and the Caucasus, reinforcing Investopia's role as a global platform for fostering collaboration and shaping the future of investment.



# Investopia 2025's Social Activities: Culture, Connection, and Community

Investopia offered attendees meaningful opportunities to engage beyond formal settings and explore key cultural landmarks in Abu Dhabi.

## On Day 1,

the **Investopia Social Tour: Louvre Abu Dhabi** offered an exclusive, guided experience through one of the world's most distinguished museums. Guests explored a world-class collection of art and architecture, gaining insights into the stories behind masterworks that bridge cultures and civilizations.



## On Day 2,

the **Investopia Standard Chartered Run at Louvre Abu Dhabi** encouraged networking in a dynamic and active environment. Designed for inclusivity, the run offered 2.5KM and 5KM options, allowing participants to choose their preferred distance. The route was clearly marked, with on-site amenities including hydration stations and medical support.



## On Day 2,

the **Investopia Social Tour: Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** provided attendees with guided access to one of the UAE's most significant architectural and cultural landmarks. The tour offered insights into the mosque's intricate design, historical relevance, and role as a center of cultural exchange.



# Key Outcomes

## Key Outcomes

# The Future of Investment Lies in AI, Emerging Markets, and Economic Innovation

AI is transforming industries at an unprecedented pace, creating new demand for investment in data centers, energy infrastructure, and critical minerals. Experts emphasized the need for large-scale upskilling programs to prepare the workforce for AI-driven shifts, while regulators and investors explored strategies to balance innovation with sustainability. The evolving trade landscape presents another major frontier, with the Global South gaining prominence in supply chains and financial ecosystems, reshaping global investment flows.

The UAE's proactive investment climate emerged as a central theme, with leaders outlining opportunities in AI, financial services, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing. Competitive regulatory frameworks and sovereign investment vehicles continue to position the UAE as a magnet for capital, while privatization efforts are creating new market entry points. In healthcare, discussions reinforced the economic potential of longevity-focused models, highlighting the shift from reactive treatment to preventive healthcare as a key driver of sustainable growth. The UAE's ambition to lead in global longevity is not just a public health initiative—it is a strategy for long-term economic resilience.



“

We recognize bio-related fields and AI becoming a strategic global direction for Serbia. In the near future, we can be the center of overlap between these two technologies, and we will have completely new fields of application and development.

**H.E. Dr. Jelena Begović**

*Minister of Science, Technological Development, and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia*

*Driving the Future: Innovation and Entrepreneurship as Pillars of Economic Growth*

## Key Outcomes

# Fueling the Next Wave of Growth Through Technology, Urban Innovation, and Resource Security

Securing access to critical minerals was identified as a pressing priority, with industry stakeholders stressing the need for diversified supply chains and sustainable extraction models. Joint ventures and strategic investments are ensuring long-term security in sectors reliant on rare minerals, particularly AI, clean energy, and high-tech manufacturing. Urban development also stood out as a major frontier for growth, with Abu Dhabi's vision for smart cities presenting new opportunities in AI-driven mobility, infrastructure investment, and sustainability-focused real estate. The integration of AI into real estate is reshaping investment strategies, with luxury developments, green building initiatives, and data-driven market insights setting new industry standards.



“

Nickel, needed for electric cars, will require the market to double in the next few years... The future is extremely metal-intensive generally, and one of the core reasons for this is electrification.

### Phillip Clegg

Managing Partner of Orion Abu Dhabi  
Securing the Supply: Investments in  
Critical Metals and Minerals



## Key Outcomes

# Capital Is Driving Complete Market and Industry Transformation

Government officials, business leaders, and investors outlined a future where capital is not just fueling growth but actively shaping economic landscapes. The new investment paradigm demands agility, cross-sector collaboration and a new approach to risk.

UAE decision-makers emphasized that the country is shifting from merely attracting investment to strategically selecting investors who align with its long-term vision. Sovereign wealth funds, private equity, and capital markets are playing an increasingly proactive role in scaling AI, technology, and sustainability-driven sectors. Meanwhile, private equity leaders identified MENA's growing SME sector and private credit expansion as major opportunities but stressed the need for deeper liquidity and stronger exit strategies to sustain long-term investment flows.

African and European markets were also a focal point. Government representatives from Nigeria and Togo highlighted regulatory reforms making their economies more competitive for foreign capital, particularly in digital trade and renewable energy. Meanwhile, Cyprus and Monaco are leveraging their strategic locations and investor-friendly policies to position themselves as financial hubs bridging the Gulf, Europe, and beyond.



“

Over time, there's been a prevailing narrative that private equity deals live in the mid-market segment. In reality, it's about a demand-supply mismatch. There's always supply—but how many investors globally are truly investing at scale?

**Jad Ellawn**

*Head of the Middle East, Brookfield*  
What's new in Private Equity:  
Strategies, Opportunities, and Risks

## Key Outcomes

# Entrepreneurs and Investors Are Using Capital to Create Long-Term Change

Entrepreneurs and family business leaders spoke to the generational shift reshaping traditional industries. With family enterprises contributing 60% of GDP in the region and 70% globally, emerging leaders are prioritizing AI, venture capital, and innovation over legacy sectors. In parallel, philanthropists and institutional investors discussed how impact-driven capital is transforming philanthropy, integrating business discipline and scalable models to maximize long-term social and environmental returns.



“

You can be profitable while doing good. It is now a much more complex equation, with philanthropy needing to be held accountable, too, its impact measured through KPIs.

**Baroness Ariane de Rothschild**

*CEO of Edmond de Rothschild*  
Capital for Good: The Future of  
Philanthropy



## Key Outcomes

# Strategic Agility Is Key to Navigating Economic and Geopolitical Uncertainty

Geopolitical dynamics are redrawing trade and investment landscapes. The UAE is a key beneficiary of shifting global capital flows, bolstered by proactive free trade agreements (FTAs) and accelerated economic diversification into technology, finance, and renewable energy. Leaders emphasized that regional stability and strategic positioning are making the Gulf a preferred destination for investment, while Turkey's infrastructure push and Egypt's IMF-backed reforms are reshaping their economic trajectories.

Emerging markets are also taking center stage in global trade, gradually reducing reliance on Western economies. While some countries are adapting swiftly through trade diversification, others are struggling to realign. Policy experts underscored the importance of strategic agility in navigating grey swan events—foreseeable but high-impact disruptions that could include geopolitical conflicts, economic crises, or technological upheavals. The UAE's forward-thinking investments in AI, talent development, and regulatory adaptability were cited as crucial in preparing for these uncertainties.

With rising global debt risks, speakers warned of potential economic shocks, emphasizing that a soft landing will require gradual interest rate adjustments and careful financial policy shifts. In an increasingly complex global order, cooperation over competition remains critical—particularly in AI governance and economic regulation. Positioned between major global powers, the UAE was recognized as a diplomatic and economic bridge, leveraging its neutrality to foster sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships in an evolving world.



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The biggest shift happening right now is the redefinition of trade. Whether globalization will change is a key factor, and how trade evolves will be crucial.

### **Roberto Hoornweg**

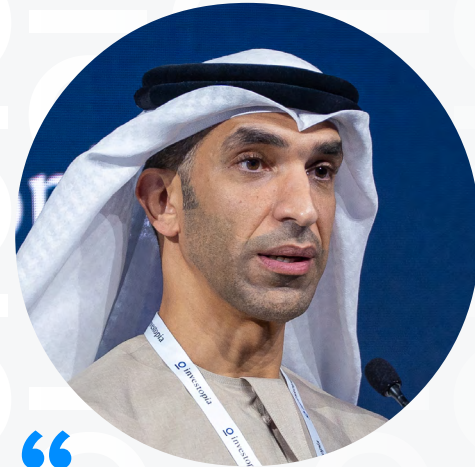
*CEO for Europe, Americas, Africa and Middle East at Standard Chartered*  
Geopolitics and Investment: Uncertain  
Terrains

# Key Outcomes from The Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Business Forum

**The Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Business Forum** brought together senior economic leaders, government officials, and business representatives to chart a new course for trade, investment, and innovation in the region. Regional collaboration remains key to sustaining long-term growth, with plans set in motion to strengthen economic corridors, enhance trade facilitation, and integrate emerging technologies into key industries in the coming years.

Trade corridors were highlighted as essential for economic resilience, with representatives from national ministries and economic bodies emphasizing the need for strategic investments in infrastructure, digital trade, and green energy. Officials from the UAE, Azerbaijan, and Tunisia outlined efforts to modernize trade agreements, expand logistics networks, and establish digital investment platforms to attract global partnerships. Mauritania announced new initiatives to capitalize on its strategic location, including railway and energy corridor developments aimed at accelerating trade flows across Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Leaders from the business and financial sectors stressed the importance of transitioning to a new economy driven by AI, food security, and circular waste management. With a young and tech-savvy population, the region is well-positioned for digital adoption, yet disparities in infrastructure and regulatory frameworks must be addressed to unlock its full potential. Representatives from the private sector and economic organizations emphasized AI's role in enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable resource management, calling for targeted investment in training, infrastructure, and policy development.



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Developing infrastructure is not enough if countries are closed off. There must be changes in legislation, policies, and agreements to ease the movement of goods and people.

**H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi**

*UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade*  
Regional Corridors: Creating Business Opportunities

## Key Outcomes from **The Arab, Central Asia & Azerbaijan Ministers' Meeting**

Ministers from Arab countries, Central Asia, and Azerbaijan convened in a **special ministerial meeting at Investopia 2025** under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Chairman of the Presidential Court, to strengthen economic ties and advance investment cooperation. Building on the Doha Declaration 2024 and aligned with the theme “Towards Sustainable Cooperation and Partnership”, discussions focused on strategic partnerships in energy security, supply chains, digital transformation, and green economy initiatives. Leaders outlined opportunities for investment in renewable energy, mining, petrochemicals, and AI-driven sectors, reinforcing the region’s role in shaping future economic landscapes. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route and expanded trade networks were highlighted as critical infrastructure projects to enhance connectivity and facilitate commerce, with participants emphasizing the need for strong logistics and trade networks to accelerate regional economic integration.

The meeting also emphasized climate action, water resource management, and sustainable development, aligning with the leadership of Egypt, the UAE, and Azerbaijan in hosting COP27, COP28, and COP29. Ministers called for stronger multilateral cooperation, deeper engagement in global economic forums, and enhanced private sector participation through a shared investment database. Discussions also highlighted the importance of academic and educational exchanges to strengthen cultural and economic ties. Additionally, cooperation in healthcare, poverty reduction, and economic inclusion, including efforts to empower women, youth, and people of determination, was recognized as essential for long-term prosperity. The next edition, set for 2027 in Central Asia or Azerbaijan, will build on these commitments with concrete results and recommendations.



# Key Outcomes from The China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit

**The China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit** underscored the growing importance of economic collaboration between China and the Arab world, with Abu Dhabi emerging as a central hub for investment and innovation. With \$87 billion in bilateral trade and rising Chinese investments in the UAE, it reinforced the value of long-term partnerships that transcend transactions, focusing on knowledge-sharing, cultural exchange, and sustainable development.

Officials, entrepreneurs and investors emphasized the need to foster deeper financial and technological ties, particularly in AI, robotics, and infrastructure. Discussions highlighted the potential of a joint UAE-China development fund to facilitate co-investments, accelerating growth in high-impact sectors. Experts stressed that while advanced technologies are crucial, focusing on fundamental market needs can unlock larger economic opportunities, ensuring sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Summit also spotlighted the future workforce, emphasizing skill-based hiring, continuous upskilling, and adaptability as essential for navigating a rapidly evolving digital economy. AI's disruptive impact was acknowledged, with leaders advocating for policies that integrate AI ethically while preparing businesses and workers for inevitable transformation.

Education and entrepreneurship emerged as critical enablers of long-term prosperity, with universities in China and the UAE strengthening academic and business ties to equip the next generation with global exposure, innovation-driven learning, and cross-cultural business acumen. As regional partnerships deepen, collaborative investment strategies and technological advancements will shape the future of economic growth between China and the Arab world.



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We gather in Abu Dhabi, a city of vitality and innovation, to further deepen economic cooperation between China and the Arab world, and explore new opportunities for development.

**Tony Dong**

*Chief Representative, SIEF*  
China-Arab Entrepreneurs Summit  
Opening

## Key Outcomes from The Future 100 Forum

The second edition of **The Future 100 Forum**, held at Investopia 2025, reinforced the importance of a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in advancing the UAE's future economic sectors. This year's forum unveiled the Future 100 2024 list, recognizing the most promising companies shaping the nation's future economic landscape. It also celebrated innovation with the CISCO Innovation Lab Award, recognizing visionary startups dedicated to advancing the future through creative, tech-driven solutions, and launched the Future 100 Report 2024, available for download on Investopia's website.

During the Future 100 Forum sessions, discussions centered on key themes shaping the UAE's entrepreneurial and investment landscape. Experts, government officials, and industry leaders explored artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, SME growth, innovative investment strategies, and financial models. Additional discussions focused on expanding SME access to funding, strengthening the role of business incubators and accelerators, and the increasing significance of female entrepreneurs in driving economic and social impact. Participants examined AI-driven risk assessments, fintech-driven financial solutions, and sustainability-focused business models, highlighting their potential to enhance SME competitiveness in the evolving economy.



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We built an ecosystem for Future 100 winners to thrive. Future 100 is part of our vision to propel the UAE economy, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship on the path to a AED 3 trillion economy.

**H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei**

*UAE Minister of State for Entrepreneurship*  
Future 100: Shaping the UAE's Future Economy

## Key Outcomes from The Future 100 Forum

Overall, the forum's sessions were rooted in the UAE's efforts to accelerate high-potential sectors. Government-backed initiatives are providing startups with regulatory support and investment incentives, and public-private partnerships are creating pathways for emerging businesses to scale innovation and drive economic expansion. The forum also emphasized the Future 100 initiative's role in positioning SMEs for regional and global expansion, with sustainability emerging as a core focus. With a 43% rise in sustainability-focused startup applications, the discussions underscored the UAE's efforts to integrate entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability into a cohesive economic strategy that is also aligned with the UAE Green Agenda 2030.

As ecosystem leaders explored the urgent need for inclusive SME financing, they called for AI-driven risk assessments, fintech solutions, and gender-focused capital allocation. Across every discussion, a clear message emerged: investment strategies are no longer just about returns—they are about resilience, adaptability, and shaping the economies of the future.



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Since its inception in 2018, the CISCO accelerator program has been supporting the UAE's transition to a digital economy and looks to harness the power of digitization for sustainable development.

### **Mohamad Al Tajer**

*Small & Medium Business Sales Leader  
for Gulf, CISCO*

CISCO Digital Innovation Program Award:  
Recognizing Excellence in Innovation

# Announcing the 2024 Future 100 Forum Companies

At Investopia 2025, the Future 100 Forum unveiled the Future 100 2024 list, recognizing the UAE's most promising companies driving innovation and economic growth. Being part of this prestigious list grants businesses enhanced visibility, access to funding, and opportunities for growth within the UAE's future economy sectors. The initiative accelerates growth and grants year-long publicity and engagements that help SMEs attract investments and scale their businesses on regional and global levels.

The full Future 100 List 2024 is available at [future100.ae/en/future-100-list](https://future100.ae/en/future-100-list)



# The Forum in Numbers

6

MoUs Signed

215

Direct Participants  
(excluding guests and delegates)

100

Future 2024  
Companies Engaged

3

MoUs Witnessed

38

Future 100 Partners  
Engaged

29

Speakers Engaged

700+

Delegate Registrations



# Looking Ahead – Investopia 2026

Investopia's next edition, set for March 31 to April 2, 2026, will convene global leaders, investors, and entrepreneurs to shape the future of economic growth, reinforcing the UAE's position as a global hub for new economic initiatives.

Against a backdrop of shifting investment landscapes, Investopia 2026 will spotlight the forces redefining global markets, from AI and fintech to circular economies, space, e-commerce, and healthcare. It will focus on unlocking investment opportunities in these rapidly evolving sectors while addressing economic challenges and the evolving role

of sovereign and mega investment funds in financing development initiatives. It will also emphasize the critical role of SMEs and entrepreneurship, fostering a global ecosystem that enhances access to capital, innovation, and market expansion.

With an expanding international footprint, Investopia 2026 will build on the momentum of its Global Investopia series across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Strengthening its role as a key link between advanced and emerging economies, it will drive impactful investment, accelerate sectoral transformation, and shape the economic frameworks of the future.

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The image features a large, semi-transparent blue circle in the center, which serves as a backdrop for the 'investopia' logo. The logo consists of a stylized 'O' with a horizontal line through its center, followed by the word 'investopia' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The background is a photograph of a modern building with classical architectural elements, including columns and arches. Several flags are flying on tall poles in front of the building: the United Arab Emirates flag, a white flag with the 'ST REGIS' logo and 'SAADIYAT ISLAND - ABU DHABI', and another UAE flag. Vertical banners with the 'investopia' logo are also visible. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

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