Comments on the Expo 2020 in Arab News, Sep 29 2021

Dr. Nasser Saidi's comments appeared in an Arab News article titled "How investment in Expo 2020 will pay off for UAE economy, burnish Dubai brand" on 29th September 2021.

The comments are posted below.

Independent economists are taking a rather more cautious view of the long-term economic legacy.

"The 25 million expo visits may be a tad too optimistic during an ongoing pandemic," Nasser Saidi, a regional economics expert and Lebanon's former economy and industry minister, told Arab News.

But he recognizes the achievement of staging the event at all after such an unprecedented slowdown in travel, trade, and tourism during 2020.

"Little did anyone envisage the scenario within which the expo would eventually take place," he said. "Expo 2020 will be the first global mega-event to be held permitting physical entry of visitors, after the Tokyo Olympics went ahead without spectators.

"A successfully run event will boost Dubai's and the UAE's image as a global frontrunner in safely hosting large-scale events during the pandemic era. The expo will act as a stepping-stone for potential investors to buy into Brand Dubai and move businesses and families into the country."

Staging such a huge event is a costly and demanding exercise, although no detailed up-to-date figures on the actual cost are available from the organizers.

"Hosting such mega-events is usually found to be a strain on

country or city budgets," Saidi said.

"The economic case for hosting such events is based on the increase in economic activity, the rise in tourists and spending, building the intangible Dubai brand, as well as other qualitative and social impacts, like strengthening trade and business with global counterparts.

"Plus the feel-good factor, which is more important during a pandemic when trying to return to normal."

Interview with Al Arabiya (Arabic) on UAE's new projects & Expo2020 Dubai, 5 Sep 2021

In this interview with Al Arabiya, Dr. Nasser Saidi discusses the UAE's rollout of 50 initiatives to boost economic diversification and propel UAE into its next phase of growth as well as the upcoming Expo2020 Dubai (and beyond).

<u>Watch the interview</u> and read the article (in Arabic) that was published on 5th September 2021, and is posted below.

السعيدي: هذه القطاعات الأكثر

"استفادة من "إكسبو 2020

السياحة والتجارة والاستثمار ستستفيد بجانب قطاع النقل والاقتصاد الرقمى

أكد رئيس شركة ناصر السعيدي وشركاه، الدكتور ناصر السعيدي، أن من أهم انعكاسات استضافة الإمارات لإكسبو 2020 التوسع بالبنى التحتية، مثل شبكة النقل، والاقتصاد الجديد والرقمي سيكون بارزا ليفتح مجالات جديدة في التجارة العالمية

وأضاف السعيدي في مقابلة مع "العربية" أن التركيز على علامة دبي في هذه الـ 6 أشهر بدءا من أكتوبر المقبل، بما يعكس انتعاش اقتصاد الإمارات، ودبي تحديدا عن طريق السياحة والنشاط التجاري والاستثماري.

وأشار السعيدي إلى إنفاق حوالي 7 أو 8 مليارات دولار وفق أرقام أولية وصولاً إلى 10 مليارات دولار على هذه الاستضافة، وقد ساهم بها القطاع الخاص، وسيعطي دفعة للاقتصاد، تعود بشكل إيجابي على إيرادات الدولة.

واعتبر أن الحزمة الاقتصادية المطلقة في دولة الإمارات، ستضاف إلى الأثر الاقتصادي المتوقع من إكسبو 2020 الذي سيبدأ خلال أقل من شهر، حيث تتوقع دبي استقطاب 25 مليون زائر خلال فترة المعرض وذلك رغم . تحديات كورونا

وتوقع السعيدي أن الوصول إلى 20 مليار دولار من إيرادات إكسبو 2020 والذي سيكون الأول الذي يقام في المنطقة العربية، ليستقطب الكثير من الزوار من الصين، لأنها استضافت آخر نسخة منه في شنغهاي.

Bloomberg Daybreak: Middle East Interview, 22 Apr 2019

In the 22nd Apr, 2019 edition of Bloomberg Daybreak: Middle East, Dr. Nasser Saidi speaks to Yousef Gamal El-Din about Oman's growth and risk outlook (following S&P's downgrade) as well as Dubai's growth prospects.

Watch the interview on Oman below.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2019-04-22/oman-risks-de
scending-deeper-into-junk-video

The original link to the full episode (Dr. Nasser Saidi speaks from 29:15 to 34:19):

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2019-04-22/bloomberg-day
break-middle-east-full-show-04-22-2019-video