

Work Starts on Substructure of Wind Tower I

During the past week, tower cranes for the start of construction were in the process of being installed. Excavation for their installation started a few days ago, and the necessary staircases have been installed. Over the next few days, or so, the tower cranes will be installed and then we will be ready to go from there for the sub and superstructure of the tower.

At the same time, in the latest development, machinery for the substructure is currently being installed at the construction site. The delivery drill machine is being installed, and demarcation for piling is currently being undertaken since 27/6/2006.

To view a short movie on the construction, please click on <http://www.windint.com/movies/DrillMachine.wmv>



Industrial City hits a century



Taken From Gulfnews

Dubai Industrial City (DIC), launched in late 2004 as part of the government's efforts to create a strong manufacturing sector in the emirate, has attracted 100 companies and sold 120 land plots to real estate developers.

Investment in about 100 industrial units is projected between Dh3 billion and Dh5 billion so far, said Khalid Al Malek, senior vice-president for industry and knowledge at DIC developer Tatweer, a division of Dubai Holding.

The estimated cost of developing commercial and residential units on the land already leased is about Dh1.2 billion.

Al Malek said manufacturers based within the industrial zone would benefit from strong demand for their products from the region's booming economies.

DIC is focusing on key sectors like machinery, steel, mineral products, food and beverages, and chemicals.

"There is a need for goods produced within the region to support growing economies of the Gulf. The construction sector will continue to develop and manufacturing is to here stay," Al Malek told Gulf News in an interview.

He said DIC is being developed as a township rather than an isolated manufacturing zone.

Other components of the industrial city include a logistics park, academic cluster and residential areas.

Construction of facilities will begin in six months while delivery of land plots will start either in July or August.

Dubai will spend Dh5 billion each in two phases on layout the DIC infrastructure.

Al Malek said DIC was a strategic initiative to diversify Dubai's economy as the industrial parks and free zones launched in the past were designed to provide logistics and light manufacturing facilities.

Several companies based in the Al Quoz industrial area are moving to DIC to take advantage of the low cost of land.

"Al Quoz has become a commercial area and it is costly for companies to operate from there. The infrastructure in Al Quoz is good for warehousing facilities, it does not suit manufacturing," Al Malek said.

He said the growing cost of living in Dubai was a source of concern but DIC would take steps to keep living cost lower.

Though Dubai lacks sufficient technically-skilled manpower and has scarce raw materials to become a manufacturing powerhouse, Al Malek believes the DIC project would succeed because of its export focus on neighbouring countries.

Land sales reach \$18.2m



حكومة دبي
دائرة الاراضى والاملاك

Taken from Ameinfo

Land transactions in Dubai on 02 June 2006 totalled \$18.2m, with sales accounting for more than \$13.1m of

this, according to the Land Department. Six sales were recorded yesterday, with the most valuable being a plot in Al Barsha-1, which was sold for \$6.7m. The Muhaisanah-4 area was the most active in terms of sales.

Dubai to spend Dh74b on transport system



Taken From Gulfnews

The Dubai Government will spend Dh74 billion to boost to its road network and public transport system.

A strategic plan was unveiled on Friday that will put in place modern and integrated road network and public transport system and cater to the existing and future development requirements in the emirate until 2020.

The highlight of the Dubai Strategic Plan is a multi-tier public transport system that includes expansion of Dubai Metro in addition to introducing tram services.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has reviewed the plan and has given his consent for its implementation, WAM reported.

Mattar Al Tayer, Board Chairman and Executive Director of the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), briefed Shaikh Mohammad on the plan and gave detailed presentations on Dubai's transport policies until 2020 and sources of funding the project.

Of the Dh74 billion outlay, the government will spend Dh44 billion on road infrastructure and Dh30 billion for the integrated public transport system.

The plan includes construction of new roads with a total

length of 500km, more than 95 new interchanges and improving the existing road network in Dubai.

Low-cost housing remains a distant dream in Dubai



Taken From Zanyya

The building boom gripping Dubai holds a plethora of offers for modern living, with prices to match. Rental apartments at Festival City start at Dh5,400 per month, one-bedroom apartments at Jumeirah Beach Residence are selling for Dh1 million, while two-bedroom apartments at Dubai Marina are topping Dh1.5 million.

There's just one thing missing: affordable housing for Dubai's low-and middle-income workers.

According to local property agents, Dubai rental prices have risen 20 to 30 per cent in the last year. Property agent Farooq Ahmad said apartments in Karama and Bur Dubai, have jumped Dh10,000. Apartments renting for Dh25,000 to 30,000 in 2005 now cost Dh35,000 to 40,000.

Mohammad Irshad, a property agent with Eagle Properties, said virtually all of the new housing coming to market is high-end, leaving many workers scrambling. Often families share apartments, with one family per room in the more affordable neighbouring emirate of Sharjah. Others chose to return to their home countries, said Irshad.

One resident feeling the crunch is Judeson Simethi. He and his wife both work to pay for their studio

apartment in Sharjah. With his wife going home to India for five months, Simethi will now spend 80 per cent of his wages on rent. Facing bankruptcy, he must now find a roommate to share his one room apartment while his wife is away.

He frets that prices could rise further, and recently his friend's rent in Sharjah was doubled overnight. With transport and housing costs rising but wages remaining constant, he said, "It's almost becoming harder on a day-to-day basis."

Mohammad Sultan Thani, manager of the information section at the Dubai Land Department, acknowledged the rising prices and said the government's position is to let market forces alleviate the problem. "I think there is a need for affordable housing, but who will take that case I don't know."

One recently announced affordable housing development will be built in Ajman because land prices are too expensive in Dubai.

Amir Ameen, director of Star Giga Establishment, said the land price in Ajman for his Goldcrest Dreams project was around Dh40 per square foot compared with about Dh150 in Dubai.

The four buildings will house 1,600 apartments when completed in 2009, and cost Dh285,000 for a one bedroom apartment and Dh416,000 for two bedroom apartments.

Ameen said he still hopes to build low-cost housing in Dubai, and is negotiating to buy land at affordable prices.

BOT 2006 in Dubai



Taken From Ameinfo

The Build Operate Transfer 2006 conference in Dubai, taking place later this year at the Emirates Towers, is to look at the relationship between the public and private sectors in developing civil and industrial infrastructure projects. The conference will bring together government

and private sector representatives in order to discuss how BOT project frameworks can be used in the UAE.

Picture of the Week:



*Staircase Installation in Wind Tower I
Construction Site*



Demarcation for Piling

For the latest progress and pictures from Wind Tower I and II, please visit:

Wind Tower I

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20page.htm>

Wind Tower II

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20pageii.htm>

Note: To click on the above links, hold Ctrl and click with the left mouse button simultaneously

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