



We truly excel through partnerships

The strategic plan EDB launched in April 2021 has shown some real results. We've had the highest growth in the Bank's total financing, the largest number of jobs created, the strongest growth in SME financing, and the most notable contribution to the nation's industrial GDP impact on record. Since we embarked on our mission to enable businesses of all sizes in national priority sectors, we've seen significant industrial growth and a surge in economic impact. But let me say first and foremost that the support of our Board of Directors, talented employees, and our partners played a critical role in our success. To Excel through Partnerships is one of our core values at EDB that underpins our vision and guides the work we do. The third edition of EDB Connect which we held in Sharjah last week, showcased this value and exemplified the power of strategic partnerships in driving sustainable economic development. Driving economic diversification and industrial advancement is a priority we all share – a priority that requires combining our experiences, resources, and expertise across public and private sectors. To realize the UAE's economic vision, strategic partnerships remain essential. The recent impact results and the key highlights of EDB's work in April which you can read about in the next pages, are evidence of our strategic focus on economic impact as well as putting the value of partnership into practice.

Ahmed Mohamed Al Naqbi
Chief Executive Officer



HIGHLIGHT STORY

EDB CONNECT . SHARJAH

EDB's Forum Highlights Role of Strategic Partnerships in Sharjah's Economic Growth and Diversification

Held under the theme of "Fostering Strategic Partnerships to Shape Sharjah's Sustainable Economic Landscape," the day's agenda for EDB Connect in Sharjah featured several networking activities and focused discussions that delved into the power of integrating strategic partnerships into one ecosystem that unlocks opportunities for investments, entrepreneurship, and innovation, contributing to a resilient, diverse, and forward-looking economy.

In his welcome address, H.E. Ahmed Mohamed Al Naqbi, EDB's CEO, highlighted that EDB Connect brings together partners and stakeholders as well as industry leaders from the public and private sectors to foster collaboration and nurture strategic partnerships that align with Sharjah's economic aspirations and the broader goals of the UAE. He explained that EDB's partnerships in Sharjah have been instrumental in advancing projects that contribute to the economy.

For his part, H.E. Mohammed Juma Al Musharrakh, CEO of Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) described their collaboration with EDB as a crucial component in supporting the growth of key industries in Sharjah. He added that Sharjah's diverse free zones and public-private partnerships also provide an ideal ecosystem for businesses to establish and thrive.

EDB's total financing across emirates amounted to AED10.4 billion since 2021 and in Sharjah alone the Bank's financing reached AED837 million, 64% of which supported the manufacturing sector and 16% enabled renewable energy projects.

EDB Connect is a series of forums organized by EDB in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technologies' "Make it in the Emirates" initiative. The Sharjah edition was the third, following two successful editions in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

[Read More](#)



PANEL DISCUSSIONS

EDB Connect – Sharjah Edition included three focused sessions which explored how federal and local efforts, along with dynamic public-private partnerships, can foster an ecosystem that attracts businesses and investments and highlighted the role of strategic partnerships in driving economic growth and innovation, as well as the mechanisms supporting entrepreneurs and driving the emirate's emergence as a leading incubator for startups and SMEs in the region.

PANEL ONE

Driving Sustainable Growth: Nurturing an Attractive Business and Investment Environment in Sharjah:

The session featured speakers from the UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology, Ministry of Climate Change & Environment, Ministry of Economy, Sharjah Department of Economic Development. Moderated by Shaker Zainal, EDB's Chief Business Officer, the panel delved into strategies and initiatives from key local and federal entities for nurturing an attractive business and investment environment in Sharjah.



PANEL TWO

Partnering for Impact: Role of strategic partnerships in driving innovation and economic growth:

Moderated by Abdullah Al Hamed, Vice President mSMEs at EDB, the session brought together panelists from Etihad Credit Insurance, Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park, the Department of Agriculture & Livestock, and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development. The speakers focused on the role of strategic partnerships in driving innovation and economic growth and reflected on the shared values that underpin effective partnerships.



PANEL THREE

Empowering Entrepreneurs: Sharjah's Journey to Becoming a Regional Startup and SME Incubator:

This session was moderated by Neeraj Gandhi, Senior Vice President, Product Development (mSMEs) at EDB and featured speakers from Sharjah Entrepreneurship Centre (Sheraa), Invest In Sharjah, Sharjah Foundation to Support Pioneering Entrepreneurs (RUWAD), and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Panelists highlighted their experiences and strategies to empower entrepreneurs and provide comprehensive business incubators for startups and SMEs.



PARTNERS AWARD CEREMONY

Concluding the day, a special award ceremony was held recognizing key stakeholders and strategic partners that work together in Sharjah.



SIGNING CEREMONY

First-of-its-Kind Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing and CPG Unveiled

In a strong showcase of the power of partnerships for industrial and economic growth, EDB, Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa) and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) signed a mutual agreement to launch Sheraa's Center of Excellence (CoE) for Advanced Manufacturing and Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG). The center aims to foster innovation and growth in the UAE's manufacturing sector, providing startups and entrepreneurs with mentoring, market access, research support and financing opportunities.



ECONOMIC IMPACT: CONVERSATIONS FROM EMIRATES DEVELOPMENT BANK

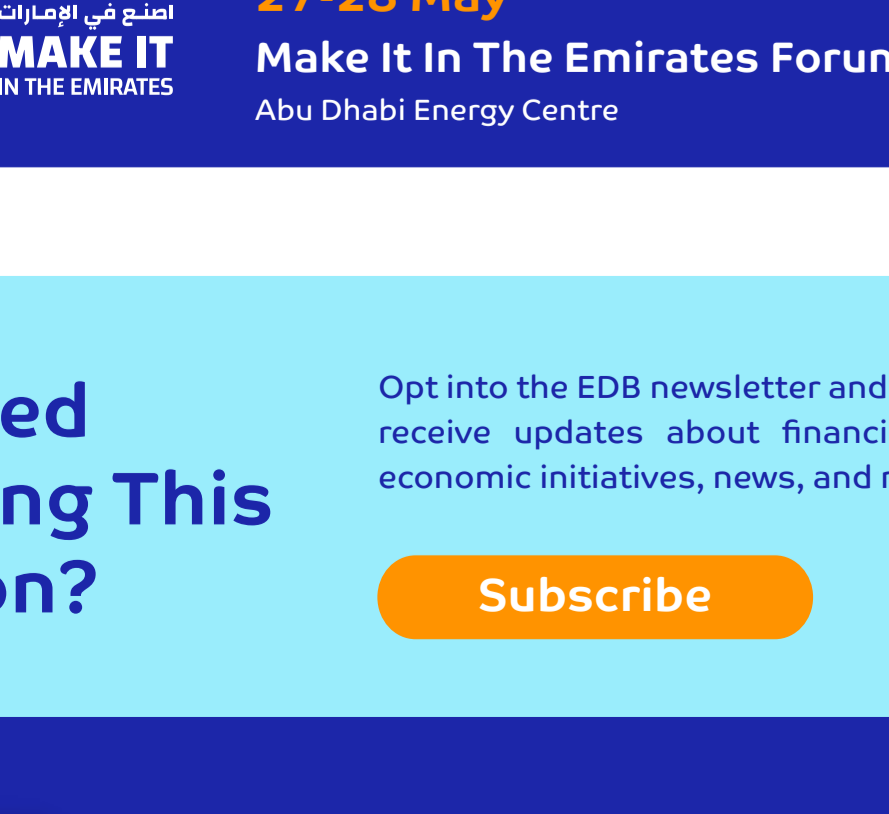
In the second season of this conversation series, EDB's CEO His Excellency Ahmed Al Naqbi hosts thought leaders and key economy changemakers in the UAE for insightful discussions that promote public-private sector partnerships to drive economic growth.

Season 2, Episode 3

A Conversation with Ahmad Alwan, the CEO of Hub71, Abu Dhabi's global tech ecosystem who discusses Hub71's role as an enabling body that drives the growth and scale of tech startups and innovators in the UAE, the region and the world. He highlights the various programs and support mechanism provided to tech startups from ideation to scale up and maturity as well as access to markets and investment partners.



GREAT WINS



EDB has won the prestigious 'Best Industrial Financing Bank' award by International Finance, which recognizes the Bank's pivotal role in financing and enabling national industries that propel future growth. This remarkable achievement underscores EDB's commitment to driving the UAE's economic growth and industrial transformation. The Bank acts as a key enabler of the UAE's Industrial Development Strategy and therefore focuses on boosting advanced manufacturing and driving in-country value across key national priority sectors.

EVENTS WITH PARTNERS

EDB participates in the Sharjah-Albania Business Forum, hosted by SCCI

The event took place at the headquarters of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI). The forum highlighted avenues of cooperation, investment prospects and innovative solutions to enhance trade relations and facilitate bilateral partnerships between the business communities of Sharjah and Albania across diverse economic sectors. EDB presented its wide spectrum of innovative financing solutions to drive economic growth and investments in national priority sectors.

EDB signs MoU with AAAID

EDB and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID) recently joined forces in a significant move to enhance the UAE's food security sector. The MoU, inked by our CEO, H.E Ahmed Al Naqbi, and H.E Dr. Obaid Saif Al Zaabi, Board Chairman at AAAID, is designed to bolster agricultural projects and streamline financing processes. This collaboration not only underscores our commitment to sustainable development but also highlights its proactive approach to fostering economic impact through strategic partnerships.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23 May
FINANCE Finance Middle East Magazine hosts webinar with H.E. Ahmed Mohamed Al Naqbi

27-28 May
MAKE IT IN THE EMIRATES Make It In The Emirates Forum
Abu Dhabi Energy Centre

Enjoyed Reading This Edition?

Opt into the EDB newsletter and be the first to receive updates about financing solutions, economic initiatives, news, and more.

[Subscribe](#)

We Want to Hear From You.

Feel free to reach out to us on marketing@edb.gov.ae or through any of our social media channels.

Have a Business Inquiry?

Large corporates
>AED 250M turnover wib@edb.gov.ae

Contact Us

SMEs
<AED 250M turnover edbbusinessfinance@edb.gov.ae