

Date: January 24, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Dubai Chambers - Level 2
Attendees: 24 Pax

ATTENDEES

Maha Al Gargawi (Dubai Chambers)
Mohamed Khalid Bin Sulaiman (Dubai Chambers)
Rami Muhanna (Dubai Chambers)
Omid Mahboubi (MENA Cloud Alliance)
Abdulla Hasayen (AWS)
Ali Shabdar (Zoho)
Andrew Grenville (Level-0)
Aziz Mohamed (Cisco systems)
Ezzat Sayegh (Cloud for Work)
Fionnuala Morris (Kyndryl)
Mark Beaumont (Du)
Majid Heshmatian (Independent Contributor)
Miguel Villalonga (e& Etisalat)
Mohammad Bin Sulaiman (Moro Hub)
Mohammed Owais (PwC)
Nadim Hasbani (Microsoft)
Philippe Jarre (Mindware)
Rasheed Al-Omari (VMware)
Mark Beaumont (Independent Contributor)
Selim Abid (Snowflake)
Selim Edde (Google)
Siddharth Gupta (HPE)
Sandor Fulop (Orixcom)
Yazeed Maso (Vectra AI)
Carl Roberts (Hederaa)
Dhrupad Mathur (SP Jain University)

COMMENTS FROM CHAMBERS

Dubai Chamber's Maha Al Gargawi discussed the purpose of the Business Group and the assistance it will receive from Chambers in sustaining Dubai's Cloud ecology. Additionally, she reiterated the possible influence the group can have on policy proposals and regulatory improvements regarding cloud through submissions to the Executive Council by Dubai Chambers.

For instance, a white paper with appropriate justification from the Group can potentially be presented to Dubai leadership.

Mohamed Khalid Bin Sulaiman explained the processes through which the Group will be formed and gave organisations 90 days to internally discuss and make a decision on whether to join the Group officially. He also presented several success stories from previous Business Groups and Associations, and made suggestions encouraging members to contribute and be active so that the Group can accomplish its objectives.

Omid Mahboubi reiterated the importance of the initiative and the significance of being invited by the government of Dubai to participate at the highest level in elevating the local cloud market. He added that they had carefully selected participants from the most important parts of the ecosystem, and that the Group could create impactful works. Omid also shared his vision of becoming the best-performing and most influential Business Group among the 100 Groups, vowing to carefully design and moderate the work streams within the Group.

THOUGHTS AND REMARKS

- Is this only a Dubai initiative or is it possible to have more nationwide or even perhaps region-wide impact?
- Can we make Dubai a role model for regional markets to follow?
- The importance of existing a Cloud First policy?
- Can we gauge the impact of recommended policies to justify those suggestions? Maybe a policy sandbox is a good path to choose?
- Over protectionism is a problem when it comes to data. What can we do about it?
- It is important to collaborate with other Business Groups and initiatives as cloud computing is relevant to every single other Business Group.
- Can we add sustainability goals to the Group's missions?
- The importance of education, certification and awareness in general not coming from a single provider but coming from us as a group.
- Being proactive and reactive when it comes to policy and regulation.
- Choose very few narrow topics to focus on so that we can meaningfully achieve our goals as a Business Group
- EU brainstorming sessions and projects as a model.
- The importance of instilling a sense of urgency around the work that we do so Dubai won't leave behind other economies in the region.

NEXT STEPS

- Group to gather for a brainstorming session to identify focus areas
- Documents to be shared with the potential founding members to internally discuss