

JOINT PRESS RELEASE



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First Gulf Maharashtra Business Convention, MahaBiz 2010 Dubai, to be held in Dubai on 23rd and 24th April, 2010.

First Gulf Maharashtra Business Convention titled as “MahaBiz 2010 Dubai” is being organised by Gulf Maharashtra Business Forum (GMBF) in Dubai, on 23rd and 24th April 2010, Shri. Sandeep Kadwe, Convenor of MahaBiz 2010 Dubai and founder of GMBF announced at a press conference held at MACCIA office in Mumbai, on 20th Feb. 2010. It will be a two day conference with exhibition on the sidelines, where over 250 delegates are expected to participate from GCC and India mainly. Dr. Sunil Manjarekar, Co-Convenor, **MahaBiz 2010 Dubai** said GMBF is soliciting support and participation from all industry organisations, Govt of Maharashtra, Government agencies, delegates and entrepreneurs across India and Maharashtra. Shri. Shriram Dandekar, Vice President of Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA) announced support and cooperation of MACCIA for MahaBiz 2010 Dubai. Shri. Dandekar also offered to work on common initiatives with GMBF to support the entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and members of MACCIA, to do business with GCC region. Some participation of delegates from US, Far East and Europe may also be seen in MahaBiz 2010 Dubai, besides large participation of delegates from India and GCC. Raja Rani Travels Private Limited (RRTPL) are official travel partner for this event. Dr. Sunil Manjarekar also announced support and participation from Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) for this event.

The press conference started with blessings from Jyotirbhaskar, Kalnirmaykar Shri. Jayant Salgaonkar. Mrs. Meenal Mohadikar, Past President of MACCIA and

committee member of Maharashtra Economic Development Council (MEDC), said this is a welcome initiative by GMBF, which shall give excellent opportunity to delegates to visit UAE and see the development themselves, while networking with local entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities.

Shri. Sandeep Kadwe also announced that in future, GMBF expect cooperation from business councils, associations, companies, entrepreneurs and Govt of Maharashtra in building Maharashtra Udyog Bhavan in UAE to increase the communication between GCC and Indian entrepreneurs. He suggested MahaBiz conference can be held at every alternate year in one of the GCC country to maintain the continuity.

Shri. Vithal Kamat, Chairman of MEDC and Chairman of Kamat Group of Hotels stressed the need to have such an infrastructure, which will reduce the efforts and increase efficiency of doing business with GCC. Shri. Kamat also mentioned that MahaBiz 2010 Dubai is a very welcome initiative, at most appropriate time, which will project Maharashtra as a progressive state within GCC. He said tourism and hospitality industry in general in Maharashtra shall certainly gain by increased awareness amongst GCC residents and citizens about Maharashtra as destination to visit for business and leisure purpose and offered his support for the same.

Shri. Abhijeet Patil, Chairman of Raja Rani Travels Private Limited explained the package offered by RRTPL for this event and invited the delegates to get in touch with RRTPL for any support they may need. The package offered is INR 39,900/- per person for 3 nights and 4 day tour to Dubai which includes registration fees, airfare, visa and hotel stay in Dubai. The press conference was attended by Mr. Oren Henriques and Mr. Vivek Kolhatkar from GMBF, other dignitaries from MACCIA and entrepreneurs. For further details and registration please visit www.mahabizme.com.

GMBF was set up in 2004 as networking platform for assisting entrepreneurs in UAE to achieve their professional and business objectives. During last 5 years, several hundred entrepreneurs, professionals and businessmen of Maharashtrian origin benefited from the activities, meetings and seminars organised and represented by GMBF across GCC and India. The proposed “MahaBiz 2010 Dubai” is expected to

consolidate links of industry and business community related to Maharashtra and help in improving the trade and commerce between India and GCC. GMBF is also actively seeking participation of local business community as well as government officials from Maharashtra and UAE alike to make this convention successful. GMBF has already received interests from industries such as Pharmaceuticals, chemicals, engineering, IT, entertainment, SME, travel and tourism, education, trading, agriculture and food processing etc.

More than 2,000 entrepreneurs, professionals and businessmen are currently working in various industries within UAE and this number may exceed over 5,000 across GCC. This does not include the salaried employees working with several organisations. Current recessionary trend affected many Indian businesses, though the situation is improving now. GMBF suggests this is a trying time for the entrepreneurial ventures though it also presents several business opportunities in certain sectors. The proposed convention is aimed at providing a networking opportunity for entrepreneurs to identify and enable these opportunities.

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