



Dubai's unique factors can attract any global event

MAG GROUP FOUNDER BELIEVES EMIRATE HAS EVERYTHING IN PLACE FOR EXPO 2020

DUBAI

By **ZAHER BITAR**
Senior Reporter

Moafaq Al Gaddah, the founder of MAG Group, one of the premier corporate entities in the UAE, believes Dubai's set of unique factors can attract any global event. He believes that there is no doubt that Dubai will host the Expo 2020.

"Dubai has proved again and again to the whole world its unprecedented capacity for achievements and new developments... In my reckoning there is zero possibility of Dubai not winning the bid.

"Hosting the Expo 2020 will be a great chance for the whole world to come and look at the city's model of evolution and coexistence — which has not been apparent anywhere else — as well as to experience first-hand Dubai's genuine achievements.

"Dubai is the most desirable destination and everyone likes to come here; certainly the Expo 2020 will come to Dubai.

Achievements

the other contending cities, Al Gaddah said: "Dubai is always in a race with time. In a very short time Dubai has put itself on the world economic map with its achievements.

"It is the city that will be able to make a difference when it comes to hosting the Expo events."

It is built into the city's DNA to make use of every single opportunity, and it doesn't believe in wasting any time.

"Decide, achieve, follow up and sustain, this is Dubai's policy," he added.

Competition

Comparing Dubai's credentials with the other bidders, Al Gaddah said that while the social, economic and educational infrastructure is there in each city, Dubai has a special model.

"Any country might be able to host Expo 2020 — that is not the point. It is most important how this event will be hosted and what can be achieved both prior and post the event.

"Dubai is not only a strong evolving market; it is not only a global business hub; it is not only a logistic and service centre; it is not only a cosmopolitan



Zarina Fernandes/ Gulf News

Moafaq Al Gaddah

education, manufacturing and maritime.

Al Gaddah witnessed the enormous leap by the UAE and Dubai over the last three decades. "In my 35 years in the UAE, the successful evolution of the emirates didn't take place by chance. Ambition and use of every single opportunity have played key roles in this.

"Through these decades Dubai was not only able to mark spectacular achievements, it did so by building global confidence in its capabilities. This is another advantage that would allow the city to win the bid."

out giving up or be reluctant even for a second.

"Dubai put me on the right track. I was growing as the UAE kept growing."

Frontrunner

"Today, Dubai is very ambitious and persistent in its bid to win and it is the frontrunner for Expo 2020."

"It is not because everyone wishes to come to Dubai — it is because Dubai was built for everyone. Dubai is home for everyone."

According to him, the city is a unique example of co-existence. "Dubai was built in a way to facilitate living and doing business."

Everyone who lives in the UAE, whether Emirati or expatriate, has the freedom to think and develop. "Wherever there is growth there is freedom, and this is what we have in the UAE."

He said that Emiratis have played a major role in these achievements. "Their open mindedness, adaptability, cooperation and acceptance to others have been major factors in taking their country forward. Personally I feel that I