

Marine Security Cooperation Conference Opens

25 May 2009

ABU DHABI – UAE Foreign Minister His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and French Foreign Minister Dr Bernard Kouchner, inaugurated here today at the UAE Armed Forces Officers Club, the two-day Marine Security Cooperation Conference.

The inauguration of the high profile marine security conference was attended by the UAE State Minister of Foreign Affairs, a number of diplomatic corps and senior Armed officers from both UAE and France. The conference is held under patronage of President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and French President Nicholas Sarkozy.

Shaikh Abdullah announced in his inaugural speech at the conference that the UAE and France will sign a memorandum of understanding, whereby UAE diplomats will be appointed in the French diplomatic missions in the countries where there are no UAE diplomatic missions”, adding that the relations between the two countries are historic and covering political, economic, military, technology and cultural areas as well as strategic cooperation between the two countries.

He added that the UAE is a major economic partner to France in the Middle East- the French investments are over Dh3 billion in the UAE and there are also UAE investments in France.

Shaikh Abdullah said the marine security conference, which is being attended by high profile marine security experts, grabs international attention. He welcomes the visit of French President, which will be commenced today.

“The UAE deems this cooperation as a cornerstone of its foreign policy because it beefs stability and development in the region”, he added.

Shaikh Abdullah lauded the UAE-French cultural relations, citing Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Louver Museum Abu Dhabi, as well as UAE contribution in face-lifting of the historic complex buildings in France.

He referred to the visit of President Sarkozy last year during which many agreements were signed, among others, the cooperation agreement for development of the applications of nuclear energy. The UAE has set a strategic plan in line with future renewable energy strategies in the country.

Shaikh Abdullah noted that the UAE was exerting greater efforts to host the International Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) in Abu Dhabi city.

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