



# Bridge Federation of Asia & Middle East



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**BFAME Head Quarters, Karachi, Pakistan**  
**ZONE - 4 CONFERENCE OF WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION**

Member National Bridge Organizations (NBOs) ■ BAHRAIN ■ BANGLADESH ■ INDIA ■ JORDAN  
■ KUWAIT ■ PAKISTAN ■ PALESTINE ■ QATAR ■ SAUDI ARABIA ■ SRI LANKA ■ SYRIA ■ UAE

**Zone - 4 Representative of World Bridge Federation: Mazhar Jafri**

*Presidents Emeriti : Mazhar Jafri & Ghassan Ghanem*

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**N.R.K. MOORTHY**  
Vice President  
**BAHJAT AL MAJALI**  
Vice President  
**AHMED AL MIDFA**  
Vice President  
**D. P. SENAWERA**  
Treasurer

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

**BFAME Circular #1 of 2017**

To the Presidents of BFAME members NBOs of:  
Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan,  
Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria & UAE.

Dear President,

## **19<sup>th</sup> BFAME Zonal Championships – 2017**

### **DUBAI IS THE VENUE (3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April-2017)**

**Wishing you all a Happy New Year with Season's Greetings.**

I feel great pleasure in announcing that finally Dubai is the venue city for the next BFAME Championships. The MOU and Agreement between the UAE Bridge Committee and BFAME were signed in Dubai in November 2016.

Thus, UAE becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> country in our zone to earn the honor of hosting the prestigious BFAME Championships. The duration of the 19<sup>th</sup> BFAME Championships shall be of nine (9) days in view of expected greater number of teams, starting from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> till Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Holiday Inn, Al Barsha Hotel, Dubai.

The top two winners in Open, Women and Seniors category will earn the right to represent their respective countries in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bermuda Bowl, 21<sup>st</sup> Venice Cup, 9<sup>th</sup> d'Orsi trophy besides participating in the 11<sup>th</sup> Transnational Open Teams in Lyon, France from 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Finding an affordable hotel in Dubai, was not an easy task for the organizers. As per recent survey, Dubai has the most expensive hotel rates in the Middle East and second most in the world. This hotel has a convenient location on Sheikh Zayed Road, within walking distance from the Mall of the Emirates and about half an hour metro journey from airport to the nearby Sharaf D.G. Metro station.

Dubai is well connected by non-stop direct flights from all the member countries of our zone, the frequency of which does not warrant any extra day of stay. However, the city beckons tourists to stay a day or two more to enjoy its culinary delight and bargain shopping.

Apart from a few English and Arabic newspapers, the electronic media offers many TV channels and radio stations, in addition to availability of hundreds of satellite channels.

Telecommunication services are of high international standard offering 4G along with high speed broadband Internet, available at all major public places, keeping one well connected.

Weather in Dubai should be quite comfortable in early April, with an average high of around 33 Celsius, as compared with the ensuing harsh summer temperatures.

For those living in or visiting Dubai from our zone, will not feel being away from home, as the cosmopolitan immigrant population which constitutes a major portion often speak and understand the language of one's home country, whether it is Arabic, English or any other regional language.

Dubai, with its diversified economy, has emerged as a global city and business hub of the Middle East. The emirate's Western-style model of business drives its economy with the main revenues now coming from tourism, aviation, real estate, and financial services in addition to oil revenue. Dubai has recently attracted world attention through many innovative large construction projects and sporting events. The city has become iconic for its skyscrapers and high rise buildings being home to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa and the only 7-star hotel in Burj Arab. As of 2012, Dubai is the 22nd most expensive city in the world and the most expensive city in the Middle East. In 2014, after Geneva Dubai was rated as one of the best places to live in the Middle East by U.S. global consulting firm Mercer. UAE also has the largest man-made seaport in Jabal Ali.

Dubai's lure for tourists is based mainly on shopping, as of 2013, Dubai was the 7<sup>th</sup> most visited city of the world based on air traffic and the fastest growing. Dubai has been called the "shopping capital of the Middle East" with more than 70 shopping centres, including the world's largest Dubai Mall.

Dubai Creek Park also plays a vital role in Dubai tourism as it showcases some of the most famous tourist attractions in Dubai such as Dolphinarium, Cable Car, Camel Ride, Horse Carriage and Exotic Birds Shows. Dubai has the world's largest flower garden and state of the art health care.

Moreover, the Expo 2020 has also created various social enlistment projects and monetary boons to the city targeting the year 2020. Such as initiating the world's largest solar project, the real estate upsurge, to focus on the GDP growth and to make Dubai a "Happy Dubai" for the people of the city.

Dubai has all modes of transportation one can think of, from highways to metro rail network, public buses and taxis, monorail, tram and waterways which include the newly opened Dubai Water Canal.

Dubai forms a hub being the 7<sup>th</sup> busiest airport by way of passenger and cargo traffic. Dubai could easily be termed as the gastronomical capital in the Middle East. It has practically all international fast food chains plus a wide variety of fine dining.

Dubai is no way behind in entertainment, there are scores of cinema complexes and international celebrities from Hollywood and Bollywood virtually performing round the year. Sporting events like Formula One racing, boating, tennis, cricket, football and desert safari in addition to twice a year shopping festivals offering bargain sales, are attractions which are hard to stem the tourist influx.

The organizers seem to be determined in making this event a grand success and a truly memorable and enjoyable one for all the participants. The latest electronic technology will be in use which will enable bridge enthusiasts around the globe to view the matches LIVE on BBO.

**The Holiday Inn Al Barsha Hotel Dubai is offering us spacious deluxe rooms at US \$125/- or (AED 455/-) net per night on BB basis Single Occupancy Single Room and US \$140/- (AED 505/-) net per night on BB basis for Twin Occupancy Double Room, inclusive of all applicable taxes and breakfast. An additional AED 150/- will entitle you to be upgraded to Club Class Floor with many additional facilities.**

However, complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water will be available for players and officials throughout the championships. Similar arrangements are being made for transportation to selected destinations in and around the city. Daily newspapers and free wi-fi are added facilities. The UAE Bridge Committee shall arrange complimentary welcome pick-up from airport.

With international cuisine through its various restaurants at subsidized rates, this hotel provides all the services a busy traveler might need, as well as some which you may not expect. The hotel wishes to extend their warm welcome in experiencing their services.

**Venue Hotel:** Holiday Inn Dubai – Al Barsha, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, UAE  
**Phones:** + 971 (04) 323 4333 or Toll Free 800 4642  
**Fax:** + 971 (04) 323 4334  
**E-mail:** [nisha.pujari@hialbarsha.com](mailto:nisha.pujari@hialbarsha.com)  
**Website:** [www.hialbarshadubai.com](http://www.hialbarshadubai.com)  
**Reservation Link:** [Bridge Festival](#)

The hotel has provided us with a special Reservation Link for making online room reservations. In case of any need, you may contact Ms. Nisha Pujari, Groups Sales Coordinator on +971 4 704 0755 or on her cell # +971 52 352 8426 or alternatively Mr. Amr Mekky. Your flight details may be communicated in due course.

The UAE Bridge Committee is keen to host a record number of countries in all the three categories and it is fervently hoped that your NBO, besides other BFAME member NBOs will participate in the forthcoming 19<sup>th</sup> BFAME Championships in Dubai, UAE, through your representative Open, Women & Senior Teams, Officials and other players desirous of playing the Friendship Pairs.

Entry Fees details:

- Any one Open, Women or Seniors Team would be US\$ 2,000/- per team.
- Combined Entry fee for any two teams from the above would be US\$ 3,500/-
- The combined Entry Fee for all three teams would be US\$ 5,000/-
- A cash discount of US\$ 300/- per team is being offered to teams occupying a minimum of two rooms at the venue hotel till the qualifying round robin matches.

**Your NBO's positive response, through e-mail, phone or fax at the earliest, (latest by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017) indicating the intention to participate in the various events of this championships will be highly appreciated, as it shall assist the organizers in finalizing the format and other related Championships arrangements.**

I hope that national trials for selection of teams to represent your country are in process, and if not, please hold them as early as possible so that you can send their names, photographs, passport details (scanned copy to be attached with e-mails) and convention cards latest by **15<sup>th</sup> March'17** to any of the following addresses.

**Vice President & Secretary BFAME**

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**UAE Bridge Committee**

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You could now proceed with your hotel room and airlines flight reservations. Dubai is well connected by the national airlines of all the member countries with adequate flight frequencies.

While it is desirous from the convenience point of view that all participants stay at the venue hotel, there will however, be no restrictions if any player seeks an alternate budget accommodation which are available nearby. However, those who chose not to stay at the venue hotel, would not be able to avail the cash discount of US\$300/- per team in their

entry fee, applicable to each team on occupying a minimum of two rooms up to the qualification period.

The final format and playing schedule of the 9 day 19th BFAME Championships (3<sup>rd</sup> April' 17 to 11<sup>th</sup> April' 17) will be decided after confirmation of number of entries from member countries. Meanwhile, it is proposed as follows:

- Day 1 - Opening Ceremony in the afternoon followed by Hi Tea and Friendship Open Pairs
- Day 2 to day 7 - Open, Women & Seniors Qualifying Rounds.  
Double Round Robin (R/R) of 16-board matches, 3 per day if 7 to 10 teams, total of maximum of 18 matches for 6 days.
- Day 8 - Semi Finals. (16x3=48 or 16x4=64 boards)
- Day 9 - Finals. Prize giving over Victory Banquet.

The Championships are to be conducted by efficient and competent BFAME technical personnel. Mr. Waleed El-Menyawi from Egypt and Mr. Ihsan Qadir from Pakistan, both on WBF Directors panel will be conducting the entire operation with their team which shall include, duplication of boards, managing the Bridge Mates and telecasting of matches LIVE on BBO. Apart from Mr. T. C. Pant from India, as the Chief Bulletin Editor and In-charge of Electronic Line-ups, Mr. M.B.V. Subrahmanyam, would also be available as a director.

Vu-Graph operations would be to project BBO transmissions for the audience locally.

The organizers are expecting a sizeable participation in the Friendship Pairs for which special Visa facilities are being arranged.

The hotel is offering the services of Visas at AED 500/-, but it could be arranged through your travel agents or airlines at a slightly lower cost. In case of any difficulty you may contact Amr Mekky for assistance.

With best wishes and warm regards to you and your colleagues in the executive committee of your NBO, we look forward to **hearing your positive consent of participation (the names to be provided in due course) at your earliest, preferably by 15<sup>th</sup> February'17. Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate in contacting the undersigned or Amr Mekky.**

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of Ashok K. Goel  
President, Bridge Federation of Asia & Middle East

M. Azwerul Haque  
Vice President & Secretary