

PRESS RELEASE

Majid Al Futtaim and The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) join forces to boost opportunities in retail education

***Retail academy and federation initiatives will help launch and advance retail careers
In the UAE***

Dubai, March 5 2014: Majid Al Futtaim, the leading shopping mall, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East and North Africa is set to boost educational support for the growing retail sector in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), by joining forces with the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) to establish a retail academy and industry consortium.

The initiative will be undertaken by the Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation, a private independent entity specialised in charitable and philanthropic educational and healthcare activities in the UAE, and HCT's commercial arm, the Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training (CERT).

The aim of the retail academy will be to help launch and advance retail careers of Emiratis, while also supporting the country's fast growing retail sector, which now accounts for 20% of the UAE's non-oil GDP and employs 20% of the workforce. HCT/ CERT and Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation will work together to leverage support of leading international academic institutions to help develop the first national level institution providing best in class education and training for the sector.

To support the retail academy initiative the Foundation and HCT will seek to establish a retail consortium, made-up of leading retailers, education institutions, in addition to chambers of commerce and government representatives, to provide guidance for industry skills training and ensure long term sustainability of the academy.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop these initiatives further was signed today in by Dr Tayeb Kamali, Vice Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology and Dr Najib Al Khaja, Board Member and CEO of Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Dr Najib Al Khaja, said: "Increased consumer confidence and a rise in tourism growth are helping to drive the UAE's rapid emergence as a global retail destination. We recognise that there is a need to develop formal educational opportunities and provide vocational training in the retail sector and believe these exciting initiatives will help to ensure the UAE has a future pool of well-trained retail talent is able to fill the growing demand from retailers."

Dr Tayeb Kamali thanked the Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation. He said: "This partnership will result in empowering our graduates with the knowledge, skills and confidence to contribute effectively to our nation and its growing diversified economy and lead them to successful future careers in retail. This is an example of the strong links between HCT/CERT and industry partners which result in career-oriented programmes to meet the specific needs of our modern society and also provide the highest quality educational opportunities for young people throughout our nation, so that they can become valuable members of their communities. We are pleased to be working closely with the Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation and it is through collaborations such as this that we are able to give students an unparalleled advantage in the workplace."

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About Majid Al Futtaim

Founded in 1992, Majid Al Futtaim is the leading shopping mall, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

A remarkable business success story, Majid Al Futtaim started from one man's vision to transform the face of shopping, entertainment and leisure, and to create great moments for everyone, every day. It has since grown into one of the United Arab Emirates' most respected and successful businesses spanning 12 international markets, employing over 26,000 people, and achieving the highest credit rating (BBB) among privately-held corporates in the Middle East.



Majid Al Futtaim owns and operates 17 shopping malls, 11 hotels and three mixed-use communities in MENA, with further developments underway in the region. This includes Mall of the Emirates, City Centre malls, and also 4 community malls which are in joint venture with the Government of Sharjah. It holds exclusive rights to the Carrefour franchise in 19 markets across MENA and Central Asia, operating a portfolio of over 50 hypermarkets and over 50 supermarkets in 12 countries.

Majid Al Futtaim operates 92 VOX Cinemas screens and 17 Magic Planets across the region in addition to iconic leisure and entertainment facilities such as Ski Dubai and iFly Dubai among others. Majid Al Futtaim is parent to the consumer finance company issuing 'Najm' credit cards, a fashion retail business representing international brands such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Juicy Couture and Halston Heritage and a healthcare business. In addition, it also has a joint venture operation with Dalkia and has recently expanded into food & beverage in partnership with Gourmet Gulf.

About the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT)

Founded in 1988 with four colleges, the Higher Colleges of Technology have grown to be the largest of the higher educational institutions in the UAE, gaining a well-respected reputation for innovative learning. Over 20,000 students attend 17 modern men's and women's campuses in the cities of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Fujairah and the western region cities of Madinat Zayed and Ruwais.

HCT offers a wide range of English-taught programmes in the Faculties of Business, Education & General Studies, Engineering Technology & Sciences, Foundations, Health Sciences, Arabic & Emirati Studies and Computer Information Sciences & Applied Communications. These programmes are all relevant to the UAE's fast growing and evolving economic sectors and embody HCT's Learning by Doing philosophy. All programmes and courses are designed in consultation with business and industry leaders to ensure that the skills students learn are job-relevant and to high standards. They are constantly monitored to ensure they are at the cutting edge of industry standards and technological change. Visit

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