

Foreign Jobs Times

Every Friday, September 27, 2019

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UAE remittances decline due to slow down in employment

Remittances from the UAE fell nearly eight per cent in the first-half of 2019 as both the quarters saw a decline due to a slowdown in employment, official data showed.

Central Bank data revealed that remittances fell from Dh87.92 billion in H1 2018 to Dh80.96 billion in the corresponding period this year. First-quarter remittances fell from Dh43.5 billion to Dh38.4 billion while second-quarter saw remittance declining from Dh44.42 billion to Dh42.55 billion.

"The annual growth rate of outward personal remittances during April-June 2019 was recorded at negative 4.2 per cent, a significant reduction compared to the growth for the same period in 2018 of 8.8 per cent. The slowdown in outward personal remittances is in line with the slowdown in employment," The Central Bank said.

A total of Dh33.046 billion thereof were transferred through money exchange companies and the rest from the banks operating in the country.

The highest destination country for outward personal remittances during April-June 2019 was India at 37.2 per cent. This high share is in accordance with the significant share of expats from India working in the UAE.

According to the latest UAE population statistics published by the Global Media Insight, 59.5 per cent of the expat population in the

UAE originate from South Asian countries, and expats from India account for 27.5 per cent of the total expat population in the UAE.

Among the major markets, remittances to India accounted for

10.5 per cent, followed by Bangladesh. Rajiv Raipancholia, CEO and managing director of Orient Exchange, said there was an increase in the number of transactions over the last two

months after Indian rupee

suddenly depreciated. "In the past few days, transactions and volume increased as people started to remit their savings." Commenting on the outlook for the second-half of 2019, Raipancholia sees growth in outward remittances but it largely depends on how the Asian

will be flat. If Asian currencies continue to depreciate, we can expect growth. but if they appreciate, there will be flat growth," he told in an interview. Raipancholia believes that the



Dh15.8 billion of the total, followed by Dh4.4 billion or 10.5 per cent to Pakistan, Dh3 billion to Philippines, Dh2.7 billion to Egypt, Dh1.6 billion to the UK and Dh1.57

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Courtesy by Khaleej Times

Hiring and terminations of expatriates in Kuwait go hand-in-hand at MoH and MoE

The Health Ministry (MoH) and the Education Ministry (MoE), which together hire the largest number of expatriates in the public-sector, have been urged by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to draw up a list of names of expatriate employees they can terminate at the end of the year without affecting services.

In line with this directive, the education ministry is understood to have prepared the names of 450 personnel and the health ministry has added 300 more for termination by the end of the year.

Teachers in English, Computer Science and Literature, as well as elderly administrative staff at MoE will be

among those to be terminated first at MoE, as these are subjects where expatriate teachers can be replaced by Kuwaitis.

In MoH, the axe is likely to fall on senior administrative staff, as well as elderly doctors and nursing staff. Both ministries have confirmed that those to be terminated will be notified before the end of the year, while

teachers will be intimidated before the end of the school year.

Ironically, even as the two ministries were busy drawing up a list of expatriate employees to terminate, it has been reported that they were also busy hiring new expatriate employees.

Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Development Affairs at the MoE, Fahd Al-

Ghaiss, said that 67 newly-recruited teachers arrived from Jordan and 12 more are to arrive from the same destination soon, while 58 teachers were recruited from Tunisia had arrived, with 39 more are set to arrive soon. Meanwhile, the MoH is allegedly busy trying to recruit hundreds of nurses from India and elsewhere.

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Kuwait Iqama renewal to go online

KUWAIT: The interior ministry is planning to launch online residency renewals next month, starting with expats holding article 18 residency permits, whose number is over three million.

The move allows the renewal of an expat's residency and that of his wife, children and maids online without the need to go to residency departments.

Sources said with the support of the economic committee at the Council of Ministers, the electric link between the interior ministry, manpower authority, civil information and health ministry is complete. The new system will provide expats several online services, most notably residency renewal, while another service will be introduced later to issue visit visas for parents, spouses and children online. -Al-Qabas

Saudi decision to waive fees to impact over 700,000 expats in industrial sector

Saudi Arabia's decision to bear the cost of fees for expatriate workers on behalf of industrial institutions will impact near 712,902 non-Saudis working in the manufacturing and mining sectors, the latest official statistics show.

According to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics, there are 644,590 non-Saudi workers employed in the manufacturing sector, and 68,312 in mining and quarrying sector, at the end of the first half of 2019.

Earlier this week, the Saudi government announced the waiver of fees on non-Saudi



workers in the industrial sector for five years, starting October 1, 2019, as it aims to stimulate the sector and lower the operating costs.

The Saudi kingdom identified the industrial sector as a key area for development and diversification of the economy away from oil in its economic

overhaul plan Vision 2030. One of its programs, The National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP), aims to draw private sector investments worth \$427 billion over the next ten years. Read more here:

The Saudi authorities aim to alleviate the high unemployment levels among its young

population, as the kingdom faces double-digit jobless rate which dropped to 12.3 percent in the second quarter of 2019, from 12.3 percent in the earlier quarter. In the first quarter of 2018, the unemployment rate reached a record high of 12.9 percent, the highest since 1999. Read more here:

Courtesy: by Zawya

Half a million tourism jobs in Oman by 2040

Muscat: The Sultanate's Tourism sector is expected to create half a million jobs in Oman by 2040, leading travel and tourism officials in the country have said.

Tourism is one of the key areas targeted for expansion by the government under the Tanfeedh programme for economic expansion.

CEO of Omran, the tourism development arm of the government, Peter Walichnowski said that tourism was part of the country's priority towards expansion.

He said, "We have a national priority for the diversification of the economy, and one of the key pillars of diversification is tourism."

"Omran works very closely with the Ministry of Tourism, in execution of the 'Oman Tourism Strategy' as part of Vision 2040. This was prepared by the ministry and consists of the roadmap for what companies like us are doing to help implement this strategy."

"The first step is the creation of 500,000 jobs by 2040, and also to increase investment in the country with about OMR 19 billion of investment. We also aim to increase tourism's contribution to Oman's GDP from six to 10 per cent which is closer to what the international norms are."

"We also aim to develop the local economy and local SMEs by

creating over a thousand businesses, and this is important, because in most developed economies, SMEs contribute about 80 per cent of the GDP, but in Oman, it is only about 15 to 20 per cent," he added.

In addition to this, tourism is also expected to contribute upto OMR3 billion to Oman's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2028. According to NCSI's (National Centre for Statistics and Information) data, tourism contributed only 2.6 per cent to Oman's GDP in 2018, and 2.7 per cent in 2017.

In the same context, CEO of Oman Airports, Aiman Al Hosni, "We had 75,000 people in this sector in 2016, and hopefully in 2040, we will have half a million staff. This number will also serve job seekers, God willing. We had OMR 1.7 billion in the tourism sector in 2017, and we will have a forecasted OMR 3 billion contribution in 2028, so there is a good growth story."

Walichnowski and Al Hosni were speaking at a tourism and transport seminar titled 'Oman – the heartbeat of Arabia', which was organised by the Modern College of Business and Science to spread awareness of the various tourism development activities that the Sultanate had set up to help develop and improve the sector.

Dean of the Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS), DrKhalfan Al Asmi, said, "Tourism



has the potential to be Oman's second major earner after oil, with a healthy contribution to our GDP. This sector also has the potential to generate thousands of jobs each year for graduates, and provide financial security for them, either as business owners, or as employees in the sector."

"Oman is one of the safest countries in the world. It is politically stable, and it is a nation whose people are very tolerant. It has beautiful beaches, with the longest coastline in the Arabian

Peninsula, with a length of 1,700km. Its unpolluted marine ecosystem attracts thousands of

divers every year, and its rugged terrain makes it perfect for hiking, and its deserts make it very peaceful for campers. The Khareef in Salalah is a big success for all of our regular visitors," DrKhalfan Al Asmi added.

Tourism is one of the five areas of high potential selected for growth by the Oman government under the Tanfeedh plan. The other four are mining and energy, agriculture and fisheries, transport and logistics, and

manufacturing.

The plan aims to strategically shift the country away from its long-standing dependence on oil and gas as sources of revenue, and increase the flow of income from other sectors in the country.

Walichnowski went on to add that while the government did have plenty of investment and interest in developing tourism in the country, there needed to be more contributions from the private sector as well.

"Worldwide, tourism is expected to contribute about 12 per cent to a country's GDP, and it is not hard to forecast why Oman sees tourism as one of the key sectors for growth. Fundamental to this strategy are five important criteria that need to be achieved to show that this strategy is a success.

"What it says is that today, the government has a heavy hand in this sector, so there needs to be a move in this sector from an entirely government run enterprise towards a rise in private enterprises," Walichnowski added.

"This rings true for all successful tourism initiatives in countries all around the world. Finally, our aim is to improve the quality of life and strengthen local pride and identity, internationally for Oman," he said.

Qatar would welcome everyone to enjoy the first FIFA World Cup in the region: Al Thawadi

Everyone will be welcome in Qatar to enjoy the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East in three years' time, said Hassan Al Thawadi speaking on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The Secretary-General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Hassan Al Thawadi, said Qatar 2022 will be a tournament for everyone – whatever their background. Al Thawadi was speaking during the 2019 Concordia Summit, held on the sidelines of UNGA. He was taking part in a question and answer session titled 'Sport's Transformational Power: The first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East'.

The session was hosted by NBC's Ayman Mohyeldin.

"Everyone will be welcome in Qatar – this will be an inclusive tournament," said Al Thawadi. "It's the first World Cup in an Arab, Middle Eastern country and that's a great opportunity. We don't all necessarily share the same point of view but our differences should not separate us – we should appreciate our differences. Our humanity is the commonality

between us.

"Throughout history people have constantly visited Qatar and felt safe. It is a welcoming nation and we will host a welcoming tournament."

point of view, the region is together. People are supportive of the World Cup.

"We recently opened up a volunteering forum and over 200,000 people from the region



Al Thawadi said Qatar 2022 was already uniting the region – three years before the big kick-off and despite the ongoing political blockade.

"Politically, there are issues, and my country is currently subject to an illegal blockade. But if you look at it from the people's

expressed an interest in taking part, including many people from blockading states.

"We also launched the logo for our tournament a few weeks ago, which we projected onto iconic buildings in cities across the region. The support and reaction were just invigorating and a

significant portion came from blockading nations. It confirms the vision we have – sport is a unifying platform and nothing is more powerful."

Al Thawadi went on to say that Qatar is determined that its tournament will leave a lasting legacy well after the final whistle on December 18, 2022.

"For me, the measure of success will be in 2025 and 2026,

when you look at young people and see that they have directly or indirectly benefitted from our hosting of the World Cup. Success will be finding individuals where this tournament has bettered their lives."

Another area being boosted by Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup is social development, including reforms to Qatar's labour market, said Al Thawadi. "Before 2010, Qatar

committed to worker welfare reforms but when the spotlight came [from the World Cup] it served as a catalyst to accelerate those reforms. Since then, we have cooperated with international organisations and made extensive progress in areas such as health and safety and

others.

"One area we are very proud of is the reimbursement of recruitment fees, which many migrant workers are forced to pay in order to move abroad to a job which will support their families. We coordinated with a number of our contractors and they have agreed to reimburse any worker who says they paid recruitment fees – irrespective of whether there is a paper trail. We are on track to reimburse around \$20m to workers by 2021 – including many who are not engaged directly on World Cup projects. That's an example of the legacy we want to leave."

In addition to his appearance at the Concordia Annual Summit, Al Thawadi also held bilateral meetings with numerous figures and organisations from public, private and civil society, including Centre for Sports and Human Rights, Red Cross/Red Crescent, International Rescue Committee, World Economic Forum and Uber.

The Concordia Annual Summit, which launched in 2011, takes place on an annual basis in New York City on the sidelines of UNGA. It convenes the world's most prominent business, government and non-profit leaders to examine the world's most pressing challenges to identify avenues for collaboration, foster dialogue and enable effective partnerships for positive social impact.