



Strengthening Cooperation on Railways, Smart Cities, and Hydrogen Energy through Follow-up Talks of Korea-UAE Summit

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- *Korea dispatched a bid support team to the UAE led by Minister of the MOLIT on Feb. 26th*
 - *Discovered new fields of cooperation such as railway construction and systems of signaling & telecommunications, and discussed plans for concrete cooperation*
 - *Discussed ways on strengthening hydrogen powered city and mobility cooperation as a follow-up to the summit diplomacy*
 - *Actively introducing Korea's excellent smart technology to provide optimal urban services in Abu Dhabi*

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) announced that the bid support team led by Minister of the MOLIT visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 26 to 27 February to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in the energy and infrastructure sectors between the two countries.

The visit was aimed at crystallizing the results of President Yoon Suk Yeol's state visit to the UAE last year, and was promoted to discuss projects for specific outcomes and seek further cooperation to expand cooperation not only in previous infrastructure cooperation such as construction and plants, but also in new industries such as smart cities, clean energy infrastructure, including hydrogen, and railway construction.

The UAE is a key partner in the construction and infrastructure sector, ranking second in cumulative overseas construction orders, and the two countries have a special strategic partnership in various fields such as energy, defense, and health, centered on nuclear power plants. In particular, the two countries have strengthened the foundation for accelerating all-round cooperation through the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) (Oct. 2023) and the expansion of Korean-UAE air service (Oct. 2023), as well as the UAE's investment of USD 30 billion in Korea, which was the result of the Korea-UAE summit in January last year.

Based on this cooperation, the MOLIT dispatched the bid support team to the UAE to strengthen the follow-up results of the summit diplomacy.

First, during a meeting with UAE Minister of Energy & Infrastructure H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei (26 Feb.), Minister Park agreed to expand the scope of cooperation to new industries, including the construction of public transportation infrastructure utilizing clean energy such as hydrogen, and explore practical cooperation measures like joint entry into third countries, based on the strong cooperation between the two countries centered on the construction and infrastructure of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.



In addition, it was evaluated that the joint research and cooperation project** between the two countries to create hydrogen cities under three memorandums of understanding* (MOUs), including the 'Cooperation on Hydrogen Production, Storage, Transportation, and Utilization in Cities' signed on the occasion of the Korea-UAE Summit last year, is proceeding smoothly, with the local demonstration process in the UAE beginning in earnest.

* 3 MOUs signed between the MOLIT and the Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure, UAE (15 Jan. 2023)

- MOU for cooperation on hydrogen production, storage, transportation, and utilization in cities
- MOU on Smart Infrastructure Cooperation
- MOU for future mobility and transportation cooperation

** (Overseas technology development project for hydrogen-based public transportation infrastructure) 2021~2025, total project cost of KRW 34 billion (government expenditure of KRW 22 billion), domestic demonstration for 3 years, followed by UAE demonstration for 2 years

Moreover, the UAE requested that Korean companies with excellent technologies in the fields of railway construction, signaling & telecommunications systems, etc. would actively participate in the UAE railway market, and we introduced Korean companies with relevant technologies and agreed to work closely to identify specific cooperation projects.

In a meeting with Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology (26 Feb.), the two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral energy and plant cooperation and expand cooperation in the field of hydrogen energy.



We actively supported the participation of Korean companies in projects ordered by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, including the Ruwais LNG terminal (USD 1 billion), and asked for special attention to ensure the smooth progress of major projects under construction by Korean companies.

Also, the MOLIT plans to discuss strategic cooperation plans and specific cooperation projects in the field of hydrogen energy infrastructure during exchanges such as high-level visits from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

On the other hand, Minister Park met with H.E. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa Al Hammadi, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport (27 Feb.), and discussed bilateral cooperation on mobility innovation, smart services in the infrastructure sector, and urban development projects.

The Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities is in a direct partnership for the implementation of technology development project on constructing hydrogen fueling stations (R&D)* in the UAE, and the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation to ensure the success of the joint research project as the local demonstration has recently begun in earnest.

* (Overseas technology development project for hydrogen-based public transportation infrastructure) 2021~2025, total project cost of KRW 34 billion (government expenditure of KRW 22 billion), domestic demonstration for 3 years, followed by UAE demonstration for 2 years

Chairman Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa shared the goal of providing optimized services in each field of infrastructure in Abu Dhabi and expressed high interest in our mobility innovation technology. In response, the two sides discussed ways



to introduce our excellent smart technologies into the construction of infrastructure in Abu Dhabi.

Here, Korean startup companies that participated in the bid support group also had the opportunity to introduce their smart technologies, including drone data, big data platforms, and establishing logistics systems, directly to the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport.

Additionally, in connection with the new urban plan of Abu Dhabi, which is scheduled to be unveiled by the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, companies from both countries agreed to explore ways to cooperate in future projects on urban development public-private partnership.

Furthermore, the bid support team met with CEO Shadi Malak of Etihad Rail, the UAE's national railway developer and operator (27 Feb.) to discuss the participation of Korean companies in the UAE's railway network construction project and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

In particular, the bid support team introduced in detail the competitiveness of Korea National Railway and Korean companies in the railway sector, and discussed with Etihad Rail on how to participate in railway network construction projects, including the construction of high-speed rail in the UAE. MOLIT plans to secure a bridgehead to enter the railroad sector in the Middle East region by arranging various exchange opportunities between the two countries in the future.

Meanwhile, Minister Park met with Korean entrepreneurs at a meeting with companies in the UAE and listened to business promoting trends and difficulties.



"As a salesperson for the Rep. of Korea, I will try to maximize opportunities for bilateral exchanges and cooperation to help Korean companies actively participate in the UAE market for our national benefit, and will provide customized support measures to meet the needs of companies," stated Minister Park at the meeting.

Adding, "Through this visit, we were able to confirm the willingness of the two countries to cooperate in various fields such as railway systems, smart city development, and hydrogen infrastructure, in addition to the infrastructure and plant sectors that Korean companies have been focusing on." and "We will continue to strengthen the G2G cooperation platform with the UAE and provide full support for the government and the private sector to work as a team for creating tangible results".