

News

<u>News Bulletin</u>
Emirates
Arab World
International
Sports
Business
Special Reports
Archive
Weather

Markets

Dirham Rates Share Prices Emirates Market Abu Dhabi Market Dubai Market International Oil Prices

⊁your Weather

Abu Dhabi	42 <u>26</u>
Dubai	40 <mark>28</mark>
Sharjah	42 25
Ras Al Khaimah	42 26
Umm Al Qaiwain	41 26

Make WAM your homepage

Add WAM to Favorites

WTA award is a crown of Abu Dhabi's efforts to develop

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ADTA Director Abu Dhabi, June 2,2007(WAM)-- Mubarak Hamad Al Muhairy, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA) has welcomed the worldwide recognition of his outfit, which has been awarded the "Best Promotion Board" and the "Best New Tourism Destination" awards by the World Travel Aw (WTA).

He said the winning of such a prestigious award which is being granted annually best achievements realised in the world's tourism industry, came to crown the unstinting efforts of the ADTA, which was founded in 2004 to promote and mark Abu Dhabi's tourism industry worldwide.

"The two awards which have been received on Wednesday by ADTA's officials in party held in the emirates palace came at a time when Abu Dhabi's Tourism indus has made a tremendous achievement, reflected in the over 1.3 million tourists that visited the emirate in 2006 with the visitors spending 2.5 million nights, which represent a rise of 40% compared to the figure recorded in the previous year," Al Muhairy elaborated..

"Our winning of the "Best Promotion Board" and the "Best New Tourism Destina awards is another recognition by international tourism institutions of the great eff being made by the ADTA to boost Abu Dhabi's position among the world's leadir tourism destinations," he added.

He pointed out that the two awards reflect Abu Dhabi's great potential as an international tourism destination for business and recreation tourism. "It also re-a the increasing recognition of Abu Dhabi by international travel and tourism bodie said, adding that the achievement was the result of ADTA's proactive presence in international tourism events and the fruit of its exerted promotional campaigns in targeted tourism markets.

He said Abu Dhabi's tourism sector, in the past few years, had witnessed a major reflected in the high rates of hotel occupancy with the average rate standing at 84 2006, up from the 78.4% recorded in the previous year. The growth rate, he said, at 7.6%, adding that there was also a high increase of visitors to Abu Dhabi in 200 putting the figure at 1.345 million tourists. The figure represents a rise of 12% compared to 2005.

He said ADTA also intensified its activities both at the local, regional and interna levels. These activities include the organising of the Abu Dhabi Golf Championsl early this year, sponsoring of classical music, opera and the showing of the "Chic Fever" drama recently, as well as the organising of the Gulf Incentive Tourism Exhibition and Conference, which is the first of its kind in the region.

Touching on the participation of Abu Dhabi in exhibitions abroad, Al Muhairy sa still the major objective of ADTA to market and promote Abu Dhabi as one of the world's best tourism destination and to put the emirate at an enviable position on tworld tourism map, adding that Abu Dhabi had made a giant stride in that regard.

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